



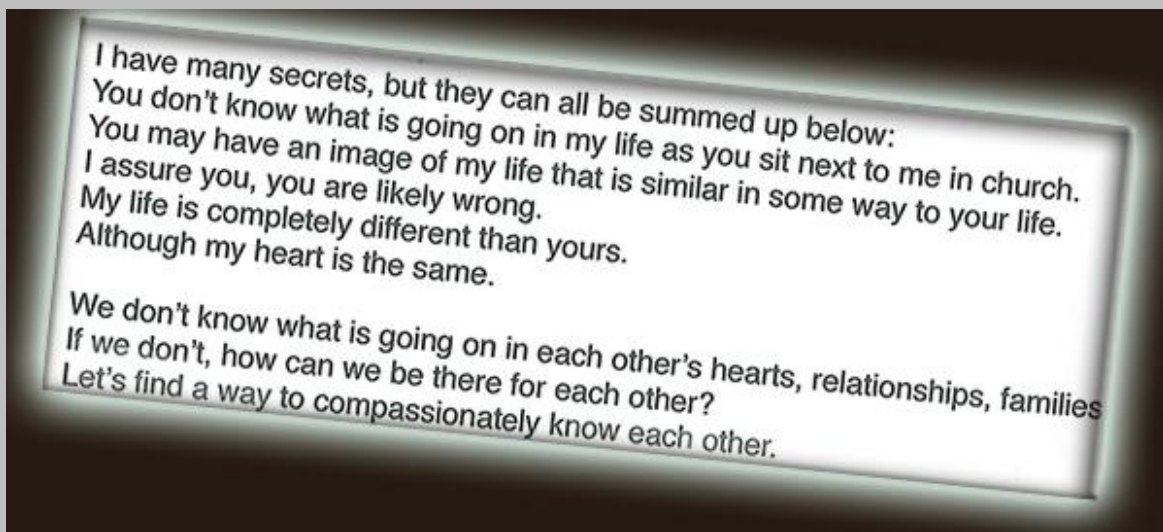
Highlights

3/16/2023

[\(link to today's full issue of Highlights\)](#)

The Theme for March is

Vulnerability



In 2009, Rev. Heather invited members and friends of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church to take part in a 'Post Secret' project. They submitted secrets on postcards, to be included in a service reflecting on these submissions and those submitted to <https://postsecret.com/>. This message of this particular secret was meaningful at CLUUC in 2009 and is meaningful to us at WUS now in 2023. #vulnerability

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 19th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

The Gardener's Guide to Justice

WUS has a long partnership with the UU Urban Ministry. This Sunday, the UUUM Executive Director and Senior Minister, the Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, leads us in worship, asking the question "How do the lessons from tending, trying, failing and trying again teach us to keep moving our justice work forward?" **Come to worship hungry as the Chili-Cook Off follows immediately afterwards!**

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

Come to the WUS Sanctuary (478 Main Street, Winchester).

Masks are required until the children leave for Religious Education activities

--VIRTUAL ATTENDEES--

On Sunday at 10:30 am, click here to connect with the livestream from the Sanctuary: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSlivestream>.

The **Order of Service** for Virtual Attendees can be found on our website under the listing for this service.

Livestreamers are encouraged to send an email to checkingin@winchesteruu.org.

We know where you are streaming from but don't know who you are!
We want to hear from you!

More information about the worship services can be found on the [website](#).

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

Update on **Alberto Araoz**: Alberto is now in Lahey Hospital. If you would like to have a card delivered to Zareen and Alberto, please bring it to worship this Sunday and give it to Rev. Heather. A blank card will also be provided for attendees to sign.

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your minister and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources. Contact the office, **781-729-0949** or office@winchesteruu.org.

Congregational News

Renewal and Growth: Pledge Progress Update 3/8/23

As the pledge drive winds down, we continue to be optimistic that we will raise 7% more than we did last year and reach \$400,000.

As of March 13th, we have collected 73 pledges totaling \$282,104. We have reached 62% of our participation goal and 71% of our financial goal.

We send our sincere thanks to everyone who has already pledged generously!

If you are among the 38% of our community members who have not yet pledged, we will send out helpful, personalized reminders in the coming week. We're assuming that these reminders will go to the folks who don't closely read these updates!

For information on the WUS budget and pledge drive, visit www.tinyurl.com/WUSPledgeInfo.

To pledge online visit www.tinyurl.com/WUSPledgeFY24.

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.” Robert Louis Stevenson

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

John Healey
Liz Scott
Claire McNeill (Liaison to the Standing Committee)
Bradley Steele, Treasurer



WUS SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!

We are delighted to again offer WUS t-shirts so we can celebrate our community pride! Order on-line through this link: [WUS Shirts](#)

Many different styles, colors and sizes are available. Your shirt(s) will be mailed to you .

A portion of all sales benefit the WUS operating budget.

On the back, we remember WUSYG Alum, Brenda Martino, with an adaptation of words she inscribed on a mural while on the West Virginia service trip: "May our love be like a circle...no beginning and no end." Brenda embodied the expansive love of WUS and Unitarian Universalism. We carry on in her spirit.



We Have an Announcement!

We Welcome Your Feedback on Announcements...

We have been experimenting with a new approach to announcements this year:

Announcements are scrolled as slides 15 minutes before worship begins and 5 minutes afterwards. Attendees can access the announcement slides outside of worship via www.tinyurl.com/wushappenings

Verbal announcements are reserved for events and initiatives impacting the whole congregation (e.g., Pledge Drive, Rummage Sale, fundraisers)

How is this working for you? For your committee or leadership group?

Please complete this short feedback form:

www.tinyurl.com/wusannouncementfeedback

A reminder about how to submit an announcement:

A GoogleSlide should be emailed to Richard Dorbin by **Wednesday at noon** for inclusion on Sunday: richard.dorbin@winchesteruu.org

If you do not know how to use GoogleSlides (and have made an earnest effort to learn,) email Richard your text and image(s.) All images should be free of copyright infringement. (Note: Rev. Heather is willing to teach anyone how to use GoogleSlides.)

Text should be SHORT as the slide will be projected for 15 seconds at a time. **URLs are highly discouraged.** If you must include a URL, it should be "tinyurl-ed" with an easy-to-remember alias.

Most of our information is shared through *Highlights* so the slide should direct people there for detailed info. We encourage everyone to review *Highlights* each week to keep up-to-date about the many good things happening at WUS!

March's Love in Action Event is Interfaith!

This Saturday,
March 18th



9 am - 11 am

We will join leaders and volunteers from the First Congregational Church in Winchester building beds for families in need. All ages are welcome. **If you wish to participate, contact Rev. Heather by 5 pm on Friday: heather.janules@winchesterruu.org**

March 19th!

Return of the Annual Chili



Cook-Off

This Weekend! Sign up now!

This Year's 16th Annual Cook-Off Will Feature:

- Competition with categories for beef, other meat, and vegetarian/vegan chilis plus a category for mac 'n cheese
- Facepainting for kids
- A 50/50 raffle

All food is FREE with a suggested donation of \$20.

This year's Chili Cook-Off will take place as a Fundraiser for WUSYG's upcoming service trip to northeastern Connecticut and a fundraiser for JUSYG. It is a community-wide event for families and all-ages, featuring chili and mac 'n cheese competitions, with prizes for winners from various categories.

If you'd like to enter the competition or contribute something else, please sign up here: <http://bit.ly/wuschili>

For more info about what exactly to bring/when/where, plus the label to print and bring with your chili/mac 'n cheese, please go here: <http://bit.ly/chililabel>

Break out the Parmesan cheese and
ready yourselves for the

Spaghetti Dinner



Fun is on the menu – at the Winchester Unitarian Society

Spaghetti Dinner!

Please join us for this special all-ages, family friendly event. ALL are welcome! With **Bingo, Banathlon* & Board Games** it's sure to be fUUn for all-ages!

We'll have regular and gluten-free pasta, meatless sauce and meatballs on the side, salad, garlic bread, and Hoodsies. Childcare for babies and toddlers will be available at this event.

RSVP by March 20 at <http://evite.me/sUq41d3fMs>

Sponsored by the WUS Fellowship & Membership Committees
?'s: sophia.sid@gmail.com

* a Banathlon is a triathlon with bananas, also known as FUN!

Friday
24
March

5:00 – 7:00pm

Downstairs at Metcalf Hall
Winchester Unitarian Society
478 Main Street, Winchester

The Winchester Unitarian Society Proudly Presents:

Kemp Harris

and Band

Friday
March 31ST
8:00pm



"Kemp writes with honesty and heart. The stories and situations in his songs touch us all and makes us think. As his latest CD shows, he creates an experience for the audience that is personal and moving."

- Ron Olesko, WFDU

"Kemp Harris is a thief, a tease and a heartbreaker. He knows too much. And it's all right there when he sings... beautifully there. He'll take your breath away."

- NPR, 'On Point'

www.kempharris.band

Winchester Unitarian Society

478 Main Street
Winchester, MA

For information or directions,
call (781) 729-0949

Suggested Donation:

\$20 adults

\$15 seniors

\$ 5 students

www.winchesteruu.org

For information about this live concert and the streaming option visit:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/news/concert-series>

Handicapped accessible

Our final concert in this year's concert series takes place on Friday, March 31st, at 8 pm. We are pleased to welcome back Kemp Harris and his band to our sanctuary. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for an uplifting performance that will include rhythm & blues, soul, storytelling, and so much more.

SAVE THE DATE!

Put your **LOVE IN ACTION** WUS Day of Service Event

SATURDAY, APRIL 1st, RAIN DATE SATURDAY, APRIL 8th

Help us prepare gardens for the new local community project:

Gardens for Good (G4G) **Growing food locally for our neighbors in need**

Come help prepare garden spaces for planting for this new community project. This may include shoveling and spreading compost, turning soil and, possibly, adding fencing to keep out pests.

If you have not already heard, here's the backstory about this exciting new local community project:

"The basic premise of this project is to take a small portion of the abundant available suburban lawns and convert them into food production for our local food pantries. This will address several needs: First, increasing the availability of fresh, local, healthy food to the diets of pantry patrons. We would like to emphasize regenerative growing practices to increase awareness for growing food in an ecologically sustainable way that recarbonizes the soil. We would also like to foster a more communal effort in food production that is for purposes other than for personal consumption.

We're recruiting landowners who are interested in sharing yard space and volunteer gardeners to work these garden plots.... We're coordinating with the Council of Social Concern, the En Ka Food Pantry and other local pantries to determine what fresh produce needs their patrons would be happy to receive. Adrienne Altstatt, the farmer at Wright Locke Farm, will design the gardens and coordinate the gardeners. " from Fred Yen, 12/5/22

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING IN THE FUN IN ANY WAY
OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR APRIL LOVE IN ACTION EVENT
PLEASE CONTACT: [Patty Shepard](#) or [Mayra Rodriguez Howard](#)**

**We will have more details in the coming weeks but would
love to know of your interest in this event now! Thanks.**

Interested but can't make it in April? Please be in touch as we are still looking for volunteer gardeners, ranging from experts to novices, to help out during the entire growing season.

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." – Alfred Austin

Religious Education

This past Sunday we read a story called *I Color Myself Different* by Colin Kaepernick. It was a lovely story about embracing difference and talking about it honestly and openly. In the story young Colin learns about his identity as a person of color and who inspired him.

In RE, we had our regular classes for the first time in a while. The Spirit Play class heard a story about how one snowflake – or one person – can make a difference. In Neighboring Faiths, we explored what the word "religious" means to each of us and what kinds of places and activities we think of as religious.

This Sunday, March 19th: RE Classes for K-6

Spirit Play. This Sunday, the Spirit Play class will hear a story called "The Magic Seed." This story explores how sometimes we might judge another person too harshly and that we all have made mistakes and deserve mercy, understanding, and forgiveness.

Neighboring Faiths. This Sunday, Neighboring Faiths will start to study Judaism in earnest. We'll look at our World Religions book for some information and also do some fun games and have snack.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

OWL class this Sunday, March 19th, will be on Unintended Pregnancy Options. Classes will be at the usual place and time.

Photo by Richard Lee on [Unsplash](#)

Other RE Happenings

Below are lots of other things happening with RE outside of Sunday morning RE classes. Please take a look below and join with us in building a strong RE community!



Chalice Lighters: March 19th through June 4th

We STILL need chalice lighters for Sunday mornings! All kids are welcome to try their hand at lighting the chalice on a Sunday morning at the start of worship. I've created a sign-up for you to put your name in on any Sunday. If you aren't sure, I can show you how it's done anytime. It's a great way to contribute to Sunday morning worship services. You're welcome to bring a

friend or family member with you for moral support, too, if that helps. Here's the link to the sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948AFA92FA0FACF8-chalice>.

Family FUUn Nights: April 7th, May 5th

Our next Family FUUn Night will be Friday, April 7th, from 5 to 7. We'll enjoy a meal together, and then kids will go off to do some fun activities and adults will gather in the parlor for coffee and conversation.



Build-a-Quilt Winter Service Project: March 26th

We have only made three quilts so far for our winter service project for both RE classes. We're now holding a Love in Action church-wide event on March 26th after church to try to get these quilts made. While parents are taking part in the Listening Session for Standing Committee from 12 to 1, kids and other adults will be busy making quilts!



Build-a-Bed is a nonprofit organization that enlists groups to make beds for children who don't have them. (Here's a great video about the organization: <https://www.abedforeverychild.org/about-us>.) FCCW will be holding the event at their church on March 18th, where they will use the materials from

Build-a-Bed to construct beds. FCCW let us know that they have 6 more slots open if a family or two would like to join them in making beds on the 18th.

Please let Brenna know if you're interested in attending the bed-making at FCCW (from 9 to 1 on Saturday, March 18th) or taking a quilt home between now and March 26th.

WUS Spaghetti Dinner: Friday, March 24th

The Membership Committee is inviting all RE families along with all other congregants to a WUS Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, March 24th. Come with your family and enjoy letting someone else cook for once! Kids' activities will be on offer after dinner, so parents have a chance to be regular adults and finish a sentence or two in conversation with other adults. Plans include a special churchwide bingo game, *banathalon* for kids and youth, and board games for all! Look for an invitation from Membership to come to you soon with more details.



Neighboring Faiths Visit to Shir Tikvah: Friday, March 31st

As part of the Neighboring Faiths curriculum, we'll be studying different faith traditions within the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. With each unit, we'll be visiting with our neighbors at one of their typical worship services. Our first visit will be to Temple Shir Tikvah to

experience a Friday night Shabbat service. The service starts at 7:30 pm. We'll plan to arrive at the temple by 7 pm so that we can enter, check in with our host, and find a seat before things begin. Some parents have expressed interest in joining together for dinner beforehand. More on that to come. However, for now, **please put Friday, March 31st, on your calendar** for the first of three visits we'll be making to our neighbors.

Aberjona Canoe Trip and River Cleanup Spring Service Project: Saturday, April 29th (rain date of Saturday, May 6th)

As our RE spring service project, we're inviting families to grab a paddle and join Brenna, George "Woody" Wood, and Phil Coonley (two of whom are experienced canoe trip coordinators) on a group canoe trip down the

Aberjona River. We'll learn a bit about river ecology, see lots of great wildlife, and pick up trash in the river along the way – to leave it better than we found it! We'll provide canoes, paddles, and life jackets, but let us know if you have any to share as well! We'll have more details as we get closer. For now, we're hoping to gauge your interest so that we can be sure to have enough canoes, paddles, and life jackets. Click on this link to let us know your interest for this amazing trip: <https://forms.gle/ZrYXDKNLMef5RHP37>.



JUSYG: Junior Youth Group (7th & 8th Grades)
AND..WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Society Youth
Group (9th-12th grades)

This Sunday is the Chili Cook-Off, which is a fundraiser for both JUSYG and WUSYG. All youth are asked to come and help out from 10:30-1 pm. We went over the details at our last meeting. Families are also asked to help support the event by cooking chilis or providing cornbread, desserts, etc., for the event. Please see sign up links above. There will be no regular meetings for both groups this Sunday

**Building
 Beloved
 Community**

**Concept
 by
 Concept**



Have you ever heard someone say, "I do not see color." Or, maybe, "I am colorblind. I do not see race."

Kimberle W. Crenshaw, Columbia University civil rights scholar, in her 2022 induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences said: “I cannot shake off the worry that the attacks on knowledge, and on our very democracy have reached unimaginable heights in part, because of the unfinished work of grappling with our nation's racial history, and our profound discomfort in talking about it, We are at the point where the **colorblind sweet spot** has created a bitter harvest. Racism has been a route through which anti-democratic politics have become mainstream.”

She continues, “Of course, the resort to being silent about endangering conditions would make little sense in the context of, say, the toxic consequences of substances built into our physical infrastructure, like asbestos or lead...And it makes no more sense to suppress vital knowledge about the toxic dimensions of our history.”

This crucible of discomfort operates on both sides of political partisanship. By those “...who wax nostalgic for the time when freedom was enjoyed by only a privileged few, but it is also shared by all too many who are truly horrified by our past...and who choose to deal with our nation’s ugliness by ignoring it.”

Denying the residual distortions of our racist history on our shared community infrastructure deepens divisions. Colorblindness has never been a “sweet” alternative.

—Gloria Legvold, for the Racial Justice Team Planning Group

Chris Weigand has offered to prepare taxes for a limited number of members. This is aimed at people for whom it is challenging to get their taxes prepared. Chris has been working as a volunteer tax aide at the Andover Senior Center for the last couple of years. There will be no charge. If you would like help, please email Chris at weigandcd@gmail.com or call 781-856-2264.

Beyond the Congregation

UU Mass Action's

Annual Advocacy Day!

Virtual

Advocacy Day 2023 will be **March 28th, 2023!**

*****RSVP HERE!***** by **March 15th!**

Join your fellow UUs in speaking to your state legislators about our priorities.

Day of Agenda:

Virtual Community Gathering on **Zoom**: 11 am

12 pm Optional Lunch Meet Up for Groups

1:00 - 2:30 House Meetings Window

2:30 - 4 Senate Meeting Window Or Action Hour

Please click here for more details.

Dear UUs,

The UUSC will hold Justice Sunday this year on March 25th, 2023. This year the focus will be: Faithful Solidarity with Asylum-Seekers.



Support UUSC and fair-trade farmers from March 1st through May 1st by using code **UUSC23** when you order from Equal Exchange online or over the phone with our Customer Service team at 774-776-7366. **10% of what you purchase during this period will be contributed to the UUSC for its Justice Sunday related programs.**

Unitarian Universalism calls on its membership to extend a welcome to neighbors, near and far. Join the UUSC as it explores what it means to put our UU values into practice by being in faithful solidarity with asylum-seekers. Here are **UUSC Justice Sunday Resources** for your congregation.

**Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
(781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org**

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890

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