



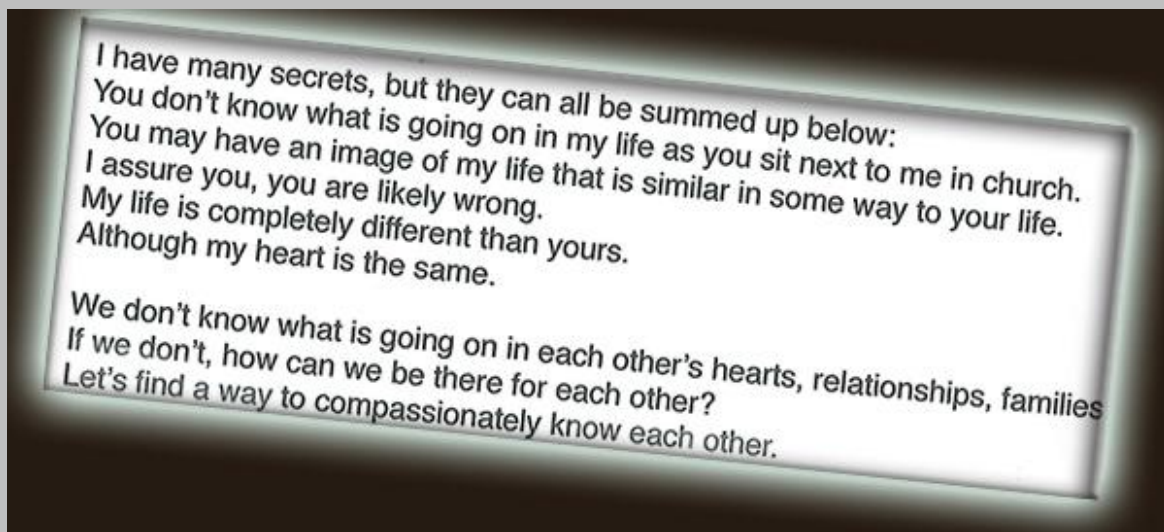
Highlights

3/23/2023

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

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 26th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Noticing as a Spiritual Practice



WUS member **Marcy Tompson** draws from her experience as a therapist to consider the power of truly noticing the world around us. What would it be like if we had the capacity to be fully present to our everyday relationships? Growing in gratitude often begins with noticing. Let's explore this possibility together...

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

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 3/22/23

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

As of March 20th we have collected 82 pledges totaling \$322,154. We have reached 70% of our participation goal and 81% of our financial goal.

We're happy to see that most folks are increasing their financial support of WUS this year, and we send our sincere thanks to everyone who has already pledged generously!

If you are among the 30% of our community members who have not yet pledged, we will send out helpful, personalized reminders this 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



LOVE IN ACTION - MARCH PART II

Sunday After Worship, Chapel
 (Note New Location)

If you are not attending the Rummage Sale meeting or Parents' Listening Session, you are invited to join Sam, Brenna, Rev. Heather and the RE kids in making no-sew quilt blankets to companion the beds made on the 18th. You only need to know how to tie a

knot! Share the Warmth of WUS!

Contact Rev. Heather if you plan to join: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org



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.



This Friday
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.

Friday 24 March
5:00 – 7:00pm
 Downstairs at Metcalf Hall
 Winchester Unitarian Society
 478 Main Street, Winchester

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!

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

<p>Winchester Unitarian Society 478 Main Street Winchester, MA For information or directions, call (781) 729-0949</p>	<p>Suggested Donation: \$20 adults \$15 seniors \$ 5 students www.winchesteruu.org</p>	<p>For information about this live concert and the streaming option visit: https://www.winchesteruu.org/news/concert-series Handicapped accessible</p>
--	--	---

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.

Update from:
Gardens For Good (G4G)
Growing food locally for our neighbors in need

"We're getting closer to our big work weekend on April 1st and 2nd where we'll be spreading compost and installing fencing where new vegetable gardens are being created or existing ones expanded. We need lots of helpers that weekend, so if you have any time free, please join us and spread the word with your networks!"

Put your LOVE IN ACTION
WUS Day of Service Event
EXPANDED HOURS: Anytime SATURDAY, APRIL 1,
or SUNDAY, APRIL 2 (RAIN DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 8)

Possible activities now include preparing garden beds, spreading cover crop seeds, and putting up fencing. Please go directly to this link below in blue and sign up, even if you can't join us during the work weekend in April.

[LINK TO SIGN UP](#)

If you have not already heard, here's the back story 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

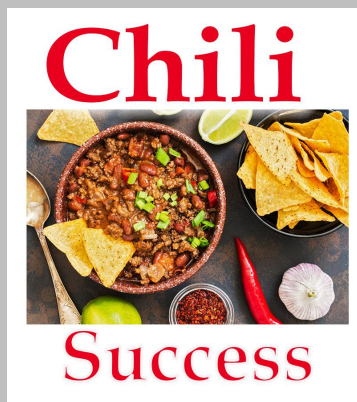
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED BUT HAVE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU SIGN UP, PLEASE CONTACT: [Patty Shepard](#) or [Mayra Rodriguez Howard](#). Thanks.

Interested but can't make it that weekend? Please be in touch as we are 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

Return of the Chili Cook-Off Was a Success!

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who contributed to help make our Chili Cook-Off such a success on Sunday! Together we raised over a thousand dollars to help subsidize costs for our youth's upcoming Service Trip to help people facing food insecurity in northeastern Connecticut. Congrats again to our Cook-Off winners: Mike Pidacks, Larkin Gardinier, and grand prize winners Larkin, Ryan McDowell, Rebecca Vernaglia, and Riley Simpson. Special shout-out to YAC members, Sophia "Super Sophia" Sid, and our perpetual Chili Cook-Off Champion James Pidacks for all of their help to make this event happen.



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!

--SAVE THE DATE--

Sunday, April 23, 12 – 2 pm

**A Workshop about Home Funerals
and Green Burial**

Led by Martha Dallas, a Life-Cycle Celebrant, who will share resources for simple, green-minded practices for those expecting to be laid to rest in Massachusetts and who wish to put their own green deathcare plans in place.

Email notice **next week** to include link to Google form for **pre-registration**. Workshop attendance limited to 20, with additional space via Zoom.

Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Associates at WUS

Save the
Date!



*Photo: Mural in the Unitarian
Universalist Church of Annapolis
sanctuary*

A Faithful Conversation About Neuroscience And Bias

An Evening with Dr. David Rose & the Rev. Anne Mason

Tuesday, April 25th, 7 pm

WUS Sanctuary and livestreamed via www.tinyurl.com/wuslivestream

FREE but donations to a racial justice organization (TBD) are welcome

Religious Education

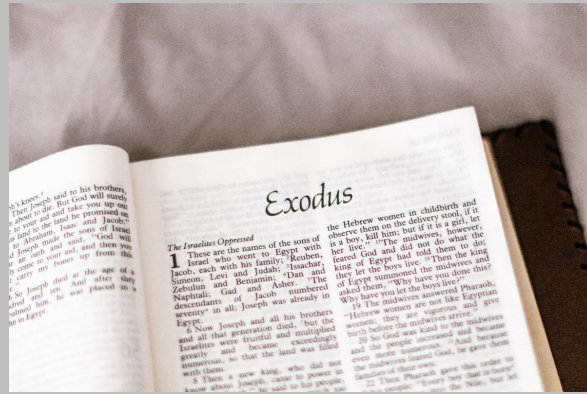
This past Sunday Reverend Heather told us a story about a plant. She received a Peace Lily that she wanted to keep healthy. She asked the kids what they wanted to keep healthy. She asked the kids what they would do. They had lots of great ideas, such as, "Ask my mom! She's good with plants!" and, "Water it!" Reverend Heather told them that, while she definitely gave it sunshine, water, and fertilizer and it was still alive, it wasn't the same. She showed the plant to the kids, which has some black leaves and doesn't look nearly as healthy as it did when she received it. She explained how she'll have to tend to it more carefully, and that, just like that plant, other people need care and attention to become healthy and happy.



In RE, we had a rowdy hall full of Spirit Play and Neighboring Faiths classes as well as the youth groups setting up for the chili Cook-Off! Spirit Play heard a story about a magic seed. In Neighboring Faiths, we played a game about "going with the crowd," and then did some reading on Judaism and brainstormed some questions for our guests for next week.

This Sunday, March 26th: RE Classes for K-6

Spirit Play. This Sunday, the Spirit Play class will hear a story about the Jewish holiday of Passover. This story explores the lives of the Jewish people when they were slaves in Egypt and how Moses guided them to freedom.



Neighboring Faiths. This Sunday, Neighboring Faiths will welcome two guests. Our first guest is Barry Glass from Temple Shir Tikvah. Barry does a lot of work with TST social justice projects. I'll interview Barry via video and then show it to the kids on Sunday. Our second guest is our own Martin Newhouse. Martin grew up practicing Judaism and now attends WUS year-round. He also honors his roots when he attends Temple Shir Tikvah for holiday celebrations. The kids came up with questions for both of our guests, and they'll also be able to ask Martin any other questions they have in the moment on Sunday. We should have an interesting class, we'll play a fun game and, as always, have a snack.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)



Photo by [Jesse Cason](#) on [Unsplash](#)

OWL class this Sunday, March 26th, will be on Contraception and Safer Sex. Classes will be at the usual place and time.

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 in with us in building a strong RE community!

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!



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

We're holding a Love in Action church-wide event this Sunday, March 26th, after church to try to make quilts for our RE service project. 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! Meet with your kids in Winsor for lunch at 11:45. Kids will go to the chapel for quilt-making, while adults head to the parlor for the listening session. After the session, adults are welcome to come pick up their children or stay for the last half-hour to make as many quilts as we can!

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>.)

***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.



***Neighboring Faiths Visit to Temple 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>.

Listening Session for Parents of Young Children this Sunday, 12-1 pm

The Standing Committee is hosting listening sessions to hear your joys and concerns regarding WUS congregational life. They would like to hear directly from the parents of young children about what you appreciate about current adult and child programming and how we might improve our offerings and live our values.

We are planning this session for this Sunday, March 26th, from 12-1 in the Parlor. There will be chili and mac and cheese and other food available for you and your children in the Winsor Room (just past the kitchen) from 11:30-12. At 12, parents will go up to the Parlor to share their thoughts, while kids will join Sam, Brenna and Heather in the chapel to make quilts.

JUSYG: Junior Youth Group (7th & 8th Grades)

Thanks to everyone who came out last Sunday to help make our Chili Cook-off such a success. We're looking forward to having another regular meeting with everyone this Sunday, 6:30-8 pm, per usual. JUSYG members and their families are also encouraged to join us at the All-Ages Spaghetti Dinner tomorrow night!

WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group (9th-12th Grades)

Awesome job at the cook-off last weekend everyone! We did it! Tomorrow night we have our sleepover, starting with the All-Ages Spaghetti Dinner at 5 pm, then just WUSYGers from 7 pm until noon on Saturday. We will serve a big brunch on Saturday morning, too. On Sunday there will be a regular meeting from 4:30-6:30. If you're going on the Service Trip, please try to attend all of our upcoming meetings! Also please bring your permission slips if you haven't already gotten them to Sam.

**Building
Beloved
Community**

**Term
by
Term**



Having a shared understanding of terms used in justice and equity work is important.

Last week we quoted Prof. Kimberle Crenshaw's comments on colorblindness. Crenshaw is well-known for having

developed the concept of **intersectionality**. In a 1989 paper identifying multiple factors of advantage and disadvantage she asserted that identity markers do not operate independently and, in their overlapping, may reap benefits as well as enact oppression.

In March, Women's History Month, we can see how intersectionality plays out in women's lives. Being white, speaking English as a first language, and having a college education reap benefits, while being a Black woman may invoke discrimination. Imagine adding other identity markers such as disability or immigrant status.

Stay tuned for next week's article on how to use this concept to build beloved community!

—Gloria Legvold, for Racial Justice Team Planning Group

General Assembly 2023

Whether you are new to Unitarian Universalism, or have been a life-long UU, General Assembly is a chance to experience our faith on a whole new level! Winchester Unitarian Society is a member of the larger UU Association (UUA) and each year there's a 5-day conference of congregations with workshops on everything from youth programming, worship, governance, social justice, Green Sanctuary, hospitality, membership and so much more. Check out the website www.uua.org/ga. and see for yourself! It's hybrid, with both in-person (in Pittsburg, PA) and virtual options. This year, we'll be electing a new President of the UUA. Winchester can have 5 delegates to vote on issues, topics and elections on behalf of the church. So far, Claire McNeill and Patty Cameron have expressed interest in serving as WUS delegates; please let Standing Committee know if you are interested in serving and they will select the 5 delegates. sc@winchesteruu.org If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either Claire or Patty.

Patty Cameron

WUS Member **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

For most things, except those that require fossil fuels, **Reusing even better than Recycling.**

Extend the life and utility of your clothes and some other things this Saturday.

From Phil Coonley

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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@winchesteruu.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

