



Highlights

4/6/2023

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

The Theme for April is
Resistance



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 9th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Easter Sunday

~An All Ages Service~

9:30 Egg Hunt - More Info below

You are invited to come wearing a **festive** hat or bonnet!

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

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

Masks are required throughout the service

--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

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of **Alberto Araoz**. He died peacefully at the Woburn Nursing Center on Wednesday. There will be an informal memorial gathering soon with a more formal service to follow; look for an announcement. Our condolences are with his wife, **Zareen**, and their family in this sad time.

Best wishes are with **Carol Delaney** as she prepares to relocate to North Carolina in early May. You will be missed!

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

Come join the Adult and Youth choirs for the singing of the Hallelujah chorus. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:50 am to rehearse this triumphant piece.

We look forward to seeing you there!

From the Pandemic Planning Task Force

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and staff met Tuesday, March 28th, to discuss our mask-wearing guidelines, given the decrease in Covid state-wide. We want to acknowledge and respond to inquiries from our congregants concerning wearing masks at worship and in committee meetings.

As we will continue to have multi-platform Sunday worship services, and out of an abundance of care and respect for families with small children, we ask that you wear masks while the children are in the sanctuary. Once the children have gone to their classrooms, masks are optional. We will continue this practice through the program year, June 11th, and meet again in early June to discuss protocol for our summer services.

The PPTF and staff also recognize that our children's and youth programming needs are distinct from worship. Decisions about how to manage programming will be made according to the needs of each situation. Staff will aim to consult with those involved when making these decisions. We

encourage covenant groups and committees to wear masks upon arrival and then decide amongst yourselves if they are optional.

We continue to strive to do our best to protect ourselves and one another while preserving the bonds and connections that nurture us as a congregation.

In gratitude,

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and Staff of W. U. S.

pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org



We Believe in Dog Walks Again!

We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells in the warm-weather months. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.

We next gather on Saturday, April 15th. We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway **at 10 am** and start walking around 10:05.

Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come:

heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

Please also send your cell number if this is your first walk so we can reach out to you if you are not at the starting point when we are about to begin.

--SAVE THE DATE--

Sunday, April 23rd, 12 – 2 pm



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

**April
23rd at
Noon**

This workshop will introduce the basics of caring for your dead, yourself, at home and will cover natural/green methods of disposition. Martha Dallas, a Life-Cycle Celebrant, will share resources for those who expect to die and be laid to rest in Massachusetts and will provide basic guidance for putting your own green deathcare plans in place.

**Winchester Unitarian Society
478 Main Stret, Winchester 781-729-0949**

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.

Please sign up to attend. In-person attendance limited to 20.

[Click HERE to register.](#)

Additional opportunity to attend will be via Zoom.

Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Associates at WUS

What Issues Are Important to You? Climate? Racial and Environmental Justice? Transportation?

A chance to speak up for your values—

On Sunday, **April 30th, 12 to 1** after morning worship

State Senator Jason Lewis will join us to listen to the issues of importance to our community and discuss legislative priorities in the current session.

Come, listen, and make your voice heard!

Sponsored by the Social Action and Outreach Committee

Summer Services

This year's summer services will begin on Sunday, June 18th, with the last summer service on Sunday, September 3rd. With some exceptions, these services are led by lay members of the congregation, who, over the years, have shared wonderful, moving, and thought-provoking reflections with those in attendance (and via livestream). If you are interested in leading such a service, please see coordinator Martin Newhouse at church or contact him at mnewhouse9@gmail.com. You would give a 15- to 20-minute reflection (a bit shorter or longer is o.k. too) on a topic that relates in some way to our Unitarian Universalist values and principles (broadly construed). You would have help planning and carrying out the rest of the service. Please consider sharing your wisdom, passion, and/or life experiences with us in a supportive and meaningful context.



Walk to Benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Saturday, April 22nd,
11am - 1:30 pm @
Boston University
Join Us!

As shared in worship on April 2nd, we are organizing a team to raise money to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This effort is in memory of our own Brenda Martino who died this past Fall and to support her mother, Ginger Hanson, who is walking in the AFSP Out of the Darkness walk in June in Washington DC.

Contact Rev. Heather with questions about the walk at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org.

You may join the team and/or contribute to the team [here](#)

Our new WUS t-shirts include an adaptation of Brenda Martino's 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." Those who are joining the walking team are encouraged to order a t-shirt so we can carry Brenda's words with us...but order soon so it arrives on time! Order through this link: [WUS Shirts](#). Your shirt(s) will be mailed to you.



Is WUS Your Spiritual Home?
Consider Becoming a Member

If you resonate with the values of Unitarian Universalism and the ministries of the Winchester Unitarian Society, if you have found

friends and a sense of purpose here for you or for you and your family, if you attend worship and programs regularly, pledge and give of your resources and plan to serve the community in some way, perhaps it is time to make your affiliation official by signing the Membership Book! **There will be a Signing Ceremony in worship on May 14th.** Contact Rev. Heather or Membership at membership@winchesteruu.org for more information. (The ceremony is sweet and painless - we promise!)



Your Help Needed

If you have only been a Coffee Hour Refreshment Volunteer once this year (or perhaps not even once this year) would you please consider volunteering? There are sign-up sheets on the refreshments table at Coffee Hour or you can

text Donna Reed at 781-626-1785. Let her know what week you can do it and she will add you to the schedule.

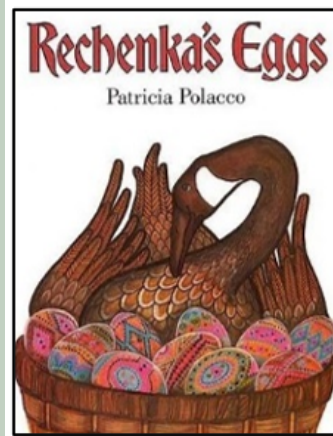
Thanks to everyone who has volunteered! It is so lovely to have nice snacks to share after the service!! Many hands make light work!

Religious Education

This past Sunday, kids in the Bell Choir performed Beethoven's Ode to Joy along with an orchestra of guest musicians for Music Sunday. In the first reflection, Music Director John Kramer talked to the kids about Beethoven and how the ideas of enlightenment, which were such an inspiration to the Founding Fathers of our country, inspired Beethoven in his work. He invited the kids to try to listen to music in their heads, like Beethoven had to when he lost his hearing in his 20s.

In RE, Spirit Play heard a story about Rechenka's Eggs, based on the story by Patricia Polacco about a goose, a woman who paints beautiful eggs, and how to recognize miracles. In Neighboring Faiths, we reflected on our

experiences during our visit to Temple Shir Tikvah, our time with our guests, and our readings. Then we played a game and had a snack.



This Sunday, April 9th: NO RE Classes for K-6 or OWL

Join us this Sunday for an Easter Egg hunt before our all-ages Easter service! We'll gather on the lawn near the Bell Tower Terrace at 9:30. We'll have different colored eggs for different ages (toddlers through age 10). Breakfast items, coffee, tea, and juice will be provided. Come join us for the fun! (See tinyurl.com/wusegghunt for more information.)

Our all-ages Easter service will focus on being good stewards and caring for the earth and its many miracles! We'll talk about miracles and how to recognize them in our First Reflection. John Kramer will break out the accordion for some fun singing. Then everyone will receive a gift to take home!

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!

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

Please sign yourselves up for the canoe trip by April 21st! We're thrilled to announce that the trip is a go! Please head over to the sign-up form so that we can register everyone and start planning: <https://forms.gle/ArNG7z9muYfka7eX8>.



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

Thanks to everyone who came out last Sunday for our meeting. It's always fun to be together. There is no meeting this Sunday because of Easter, and the following because of April vacation. We're looking forward to having another regular meeting with everyone next on Sunday, April 23rd, 6:30-8 pm per usual.

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

We had an awesome time with everyone last weekend at the meeting! This Sunday there's no meeting because of Easter, then no meetings on 4/16 or 4/23 because of the trip. We look forward to seeing WUSYGers not going on the trip at our next regular meeting on 4/30 from 4:30-6:30.

WUSYGers going to NE Connecticut should join us on the 16th at 10:30 am for worship, then we'll have lunch together and head out. We'll be back by 7:30 pm on Friday.

Also please bring your permission slips and final deposits ASAP (both were due two days ago).

**Building
Beloved
Community**

**Resource
by
Resource**



Some wisdom from YW Boston (ywboston.org)

“People often experience discomfort when engaging in social justice work, because it challenges long-held beliefs and we realize we have benefited from the harm done to others, even when we were not directly responsible.

To understand why diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts can feel unfair, even when they are not, we must first understand **oppressive systems**, **intersectionality**, the difference between equality and equity, and the origins of **inequitable systems**, including how they manifest today. Let's dive deeper.."

Sandy Thompson for the Racial Justice 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

Sponsoring Organizations:
 The Winchester Conservation Commission
 The Winchester Cultural District
 The Griffin Museum of Photography



Aberjona River Day

Saturday, April 22, 2023, Earth Day
9 AM - 12PM, rain or shine

Meet at the SW corner of Mystic Valley Parkway and Main St.
 across from the Unitarian Church



Environment and Community Service

- Pick up trash and/or
- Cut back and remove invasive plants
- Sign up to let us know you're coming

<https://forms.gle/KQEW5LueDpSoRnhU7>

The Winchester Conservation Commission is once again sponsoring its annual effort to improve the habitat, environment and water quality of the Aberjona River. The Winchester Cultural District and the Griffin Museum have commissioned two found art sculptures, a herring and a heron - by Winchester resident & sculptor August Westner and photographer & conceptual artist Stefanie Timmerman, respectively. Both animals are native to the Aberjona River. Clean up and fill up these found art sculptures with the trash from your efforts.

We need your help to make the most impact!

- Wear clothing that covers your legs, feet, and arms
- For invasives work bring pruners / loppers. (We will have a few tools available)
- For trash pickup work, bags and gloves will be provided
- Bring friends and family
- Join us anytime between 9AM and 12PM.
- Parking at Winchester Middle School nearby

Questions? evreeland@winchester.us
 Elaine Vreeland, Conservation Commission Agent



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

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