

## Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, May 10, 2026

### May's Theme is "Awakening Curiosity"

**Livestream Attendees:** To notify our Tech Deck of a broadcast issue, email [checkingin@winchesteruu.org](mailto:checkingin@winchesteruu.org) or call the WUS Office  
- 781.729.0949

### Centering Thought

*"We don't stop playing because we grow old;  
we grow old because we stop playing."*

- George Bernard Shaw

### Gathering Music

John Kramer

### Invitation to Greeting

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

*In person attendees: Note that the congregation will be briefly visible in the livestream. If you do not want to be seen, please sit in the back pews, marked accordingly. Livestreamers: Please let us know who you are and what's on your mind by sending an email to [checkingin@winchesteruu.org](mailto:checkingin@winchesteruu.org)*

### Ringling of the Bell

### Community Welcome and Announcements

Peter McEntee

*You may also review weekly announcements at [www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings)*

### Invocation

"Entering the Bright World" by Shari Woodbury

### Chalice Lighting

### \*Hymn #91

*Mother of All*

Gray Hymnal

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## First Reflection

Brenna Mayer

**Blessing**            *The Light Within*, John Kramer

*As children and teachers leave for Religious Education, the community is invited to sing them on their way!*

May the light within you shine before you, everyday, everyday.

May the light within you shine before you, guide your way,  
guide your way.

May the love we share surround you and chase your fears away.

May the light within you shine before you, this we pray,  
this we pray.

**Prayer**                    “Blanket Fort Prayer” by Helen Rivers

**Kindling of the Light**            *Nocturne*, Amy Beach

*This is the time in our service where we light a candle for a joy or a sorrow that is sitting on our heart. For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.*

## Silence

**Hymn #8**                    *Mother Spirit, Father Spirit*

Gray Hymnal

*Please remain seated*

**Reading**            excerpt from Bossypants by Tina Fey

**Anthem**            *They Are Mother*, Jennifer Lucy Cook

WUS Adult Choir

**Second Reflection**    “Play Is Essential to Life”

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

## Offering

This week's share-the-plate recipient is **Louis D. Brown Peace Initiative**. Louis D. Brown was a 15-year-old sophomore committed to making his community of Dorchester a more peaceful and just place. Louis was caught in a fatal crossfire shootout on his way to a Teens Against Gang Violence meeting near his home in December of 1993. His Mom, Clementina Chéry co-founded the Louis D. Brown Peace Initiative to honor his legacy and continue the peacemaking work he led. More than 30 years later, the Initiative continues to provide support to families impacted by murder in Boston and in cities across the nation. Their signature Mother's Day Walk for Peace, being held today in Dorchester, is an annual 5K walk and fundraiser to support mothers and families of murder victims. To date, it has hosted over 500,000 families.

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically. **Text GIVE to (781) 230-6690**, used the QR Code or visit [www.tinyurl.com/wusgiveonline](http://www.tinyurl.com/wusgiveonline) Please write or type the date of your offering in the memo line or comment field.



## Offertory

*Healing Power, Carla Bley*

**Affirmation of Shared Ministry** *Those who wish to do so are invited to join in the unison Affirmation.*

We gather not for ourselves alone, but to use our common power to build the Beloved Community within and beyond these walls.

We create and reaffirm this covenant this day - to make justice flourish, to practice compassion amidst difference and to embody transformative love.

## \*Hymn #301

*Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky!*

Gray Hymnal

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Eternal Feminine, William Bolcom*

## Extinguishing the Chalice

*Please read together the words for extinguishing the chalice*

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

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### Serving Today

Ushers & Greeters: Sara D., Lua Spencer, May D., Kim Foley,  
Deb Walsh, Lisa Spencer & Devon McClurken

**Flower Dedication:** *The altar flowers today are given by  
Larry Banks "In memory of Elinor and Herb Judd and Florence and Sam Banks,  
and in honor of Mothers everywhere".*

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share  
a personal concern with an attentive listener.

Today's PCA is Sheila Rudolph-Correia 781-570-9169  
or at the pew closest to the candle table  
immediately after the service

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, *Interim Minister* ♦ John Kramer, *Director of Music* ♦  
Peter McEntee, *Worship Associate* ♦ Sam Wilson, *Director of Youth and  
Children's Ministries* ♦ Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education  
Coordinator* ♦ Jason Tran, *Livestream Coordinator*

### **WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members**

Gordy McIntosh (Chair), Kim Foley (Vice Chair), John Keller, Chuck Khuen,  
Ryan Levering, Sheila Puffer, Liz Scott, Marcy Tompson,  
Matt Wilson, Ginger Hanson (Clerk), and Judy Murray (Treasurer)  
Contact your Standing Committee via [SC@winchesteruu.org](mailto:SC@winchesteruu.org).

## Music Notes:

Jennifer Lucy Cook writes of *They Are Mother*: “When I was working on the words for this piece, I consulted with my friend Reverend Alex Reegan, who is a trans man and interfaith minister, to create a text that embodies the energy of the feminine divine that is present in any gender. I chose to use they/them pronouns, which capture both the nonbinary and the nonsingular mystery and grandeur of the divine creating force, and by doing so, welcomes everyone into the work.” We think she did a masterful job of this. Other music today is by mothers, spiritual mothers, and in honor of the eternal feminine.