



THE

# CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

*nurture. engage. inspire.*

May 2018

## WORDS on the WIND

By The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Our First Church community is entering our May theme of creativity in the midst of change. By now, you have probably heard that our long-time Director of Religious Education, Beryl Aschenberg, is leaving her position at First Church at the end of this church year. Beryl has dedicated herself to the religious education of our children and youth for over 17 years, and she will be missed by people of all ages.

Beryl's work to build a multi-tiered, multi-generational RE program at First Church has been a gift to this community, one of many she has given. I am grateful for her work, everything she has created, and all the lives she has touched. I am looking forward to honoring Beryl's service to First Church at an all-ages celebration on Saturday, June 2, and sending her forth into the next phase of her career and her life with our community's blessings in a goodbye ritual during Flower Communion services on Sunday, June 3.

First Church will now need to get its creativity flowing as we discern the future of religious education here. Where do we want to go in our next phase as a community?

An Interim Director of Religious Education can help us navigate through this transition. Trained in transitions and change, Interim DREs help congregations identify their values, resources, and needs in religious education, and then use that information to chart a path forward. Our next step will be to put together a search committee to look for an Interim Religious Educator who can begin working with us this summer.

*(Please see "Words on the Wind" on page 2)*

Theme: What Does It Mean to Be A People of  
**CREATIVITY?**

## COMING ON SUNDAY!

Two services & religious education  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

May 6

**"Coloring Outside the Lines: Tradition & Innovation"**

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

**Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer with Jack Forbes Wilson**

**Worship Associate Jason Ludtke**

**New Member Welcome and Recognition today!**

Coloring outside the lines means that there are lines within which we can stay or go beyond. In worship and community life, those lines are tradition. Today we'll explore the creative tension between tradition and innovation as it influences our practice of creativity. Please join us to welcome our newest members!

May 13

**"Born and Reborn Again: Creation Ongoing"**

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

**Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode**

**Worship Associate Amanda Panciera**

**Child Dedication Ceremony today!**

The process of coming alive is ongoing. We are physically born, and then we are reborn again and again in the process of creativity as we are inspired by and shape each other throughout our lives. There are no creators without companions--whether known or unknown. Parenting is a process of creation ongoing. When was the last time you created (or helped create) something that you hope will outlive you? Join us for the joyful and always poignant Child Dedication Ceremony today as we celebrate Mother's Day.

The just-released Boards' Ends (page 4) can help guide us in this process:

- How can we value, develop and celebrate the gifts that come from authentic connection across difference in the future of religious education at First Church?
- How can we generously give and receive support, connection and care during the joy and challenge of change?
- How can we create accessible, courageous, and innovative welcome in religious education to people who might find a sense of belonging and a spiritual home with us?

I hope you will join me in using this time to do the work of grieving Beryl's leaving, to say goodbye well, and then to open ourselves to the creative process of discerning First Church's religious education future. As always, joy and woe are woven fine in the fabric of life.

With love, *Jennifer*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR: NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING!

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee on Sunday, May 20 at 12:30 p.m. Election of members to the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee will take place (see page 6).

Members are eligible to vote if they signed the Membership Book 60 days prior to the meeting date and have made a financial pledge or contribution of record in the past year. A list of voting members is posted on the bulletin board in the walkway 15 days prior to the meeting.

In addition to the election, we will hear about the financial condition of First Church. Please show your support of the church and its work by attending this once-a year event!

Child Care is available, please sign up at the Member Services Table so that adequate care can be arranged for your child. A reception will follow.

*Creativity can be described as  
letting go of certainties*  
- Gail Sheehy

### CREATIVITY

BY Julie Bock

Congregation President 2016-2018

There are naturally creative people in the world; they knit, they sing, they dance, they write, they paint, they build things, etc. In some ways I envision their inner perspective is a constant flinging of themselves outside their comfort zone.

I do not consider myself a terribly creative person. Fourteen years of chorus, 6 years of ballet, and countless blobs that may have started out as a dream of a scarf reinforce my belief. Let's not even address my aversion of trying to "make art."

But what I do is lean into change. I know that the only thing I can be certain of is uncertainty. I have worked at and continue to work on letting go, because hanging on due to fear is never a good thing. People grow. Circumstances transform. Human beings ability to adjust to the ever-changing environment is what has allowed us to grow and flourish, as individuals and communities. And it is not always easy.

On April 15 your Board of Trustees presented the first reveal of our Ends work. While the weather did not cooperate, never fear there are lots of ways to learn about the Ends (see page 4). As a reminder, the Ends will be our 'True North' of our congregational energy for the next 3-5 years. **They are a BIG DEAL!**

The next formal time we will be viewing and talking about the Ends will be at the Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 20 at 12:30 p.m. I hope you will attend and take this opportunity to learn more about all the changes that have taken place and the work your fellow congregants have volunteered to First Church this year.

Also, saying goodbye is not easy. The leaving of Beryl Aschenberg as the Director of Religious Education, who has taken our Children's as well as Adult RE programs through transformation and growth, is difficult. Beryl's vision of youth inclusion and empowerment changed how Sunday school happens at First Church. Her commitment to Adult RE has informed and improved our lives. After 17 years of service to this congregation, growing apart is challenging to acknowledge. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I gratefully appreciate Beryl's deep service and wish her well in her new and future endeavors.

And First Church will lean into creativity and change as well during this time. I have faith that although transitions are generally not easy and often unwelcome, as a spiritual community we will find our way through with imagination and love.



## Splinters from the Board

By Pete Koneazny

Exciting news! The Board accepted the Krug Gift Acceptance Team ("KGAT") and recommendation for a three-tier process for use of Lu Krug's \$850,000 bequest. We have allocated 30% (\$255,000) will be for the "short-term" use, supplementing year-to-year operating funds. 50% (\$425,000) will be for "medium term" projects to occur over the next 1-8 years, while 20% (\$170,000) will be set aside for "long-term" needs. See the KGAT article on page 5 to read about the three Board-approved pilot projects that demonstrate how First Church can use Krug Bequest medium-term funds to realize the Board's Ends.

The Board planned for the April 15 roll out of the Congregational "Ends" that resulted from last fall's congregational visioning sessions. The Board also reviewed the Rev. Jennifer's extensive work, outlining multiple plans for staff compensation. The Rev. Jennifer's reported near completion of staff job descriptions, the hiring of a new facilities assistant (Andre Singley), a projected increase in our annual pledges and that Sunday service attendance has been tracking slightly below last year's numbers, but still above the interim years.

The next Board meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on April 24 and May 15. Minutes of the March meeting are posted on the First Church bulletin board in the central corridor and on the church website. Members of the Board of Trustees welcome your thoughts and concerns at any time. Our pictures are posted in the central corridor and we wear yellow name tags. Our contact information is listed in the front of the member directory.

## Pledge Drive

To date we have over 2/3s of our pledges in, and over half of those INCREASED! their pledge commitments this year - which is extraordinary - thank you! - And thank you to everyone who continues to support this community - we absolutely depend on all of us giving what we can - and every gift makes a difference here.

If the remaining pledges come in at the same rate of increases (folks are being gently reminded by a corps of volunteers as I write) - we will be a little closer to a pledge sustained congregation, but not at our goal of raising over-all pledge commitments 5%.

Having spent the last nine months getting to know this community, working with an incredible pledge team, and hearing from many of you about what this church means to you; I have learned a lot about the commitment, passion, and generosity here. It makes me confident that working together with the Stewardship Council; we will find a way next year to make up the difference. And working together with all of you, we will meet our goal next year.

I want to thank you again for your generosity and deep commitment to the First Church community. I especially thank the hard working, creative, patient and inspirational 2018 Pledge Team; Tony Panciera, Dianna Dentino, Fred Gutierrez, Jessie Moffat and Susan and the late Tom Thaney. I couldn't have been luckier in my first year here! - Lynne Jacoby

## Membership Musings

By Lynne Jacoby

Yesterday after the Board's unveiling of our future direction there was as much buzz about how well Julie Bock, Michelle Naples and David Becker presented, as there was about the ends themselves - which made me smile; and hope! That they were hearing it too.

It reminded me of a conversation I had with Dianna Dentino a couple weeks ago when she noted how affirmed she felt getting an appreciating email from a fellow member for her pledge team work, how important it felt. I told her my own story, how a youth at my old church had calmed my nerves about a new role I was considering by reminding me "... this crowd? This is an easy crowd ...they want to like you here."

I believe this is true at First Church as well. We are an easy crowd; you do not have to be perfect to try a role here, we want to like and be pleased by each other - and therefore we very often are! (I love how that works!) I see how we appreciate each other here, but do we tell each other enough?

Julie, Michelle, and David were awesome, and maybe are very experienced and nonchalant about presenting, but maybe not. In fact let's not assume that ushering well is easy (although our Ushers make it look so), or offering a new idea in committee isn't unnerving sometimes, or that showing up to teach a class of Kindergarteners is as simple as a,b,c for any of us.

By June some of our members will be ending their tenure in a certain role, and others will be thinking about stepping up, some quite nervously, so it is a good time to think about the individuals you've noticed serving and send them a 'thank you' or 'well done' or a 'this is what I think you do that is awesome'. Affirming each other is an important ingredient to this co-creating thing, - and like every single other element of our community -- it really does take all of us to manage it.



# ENDS REVEALED

*We gather together to: nurture, engage, inspire.*

**At the heart of First Church,  
we value:**

Wonder

Authentic  
Connection

Love

Justice

ENDS STATEMENTS

**We, the people of First Church build community  
where we:**

1. Value, develop, and celebrate the gifts that come from authentic connection across difference, emphasizing racial, ethnic, and generational difference.
2. Recognize power differences and challenge injustice where it arises.
3. Follow the leadership of people most affected by injustice, partnering to move the Milwaukee community toward justice.
4. Generously give and receive support, connection, and care in times of joy and challenge.
5. Promote Unitarian Universalism and our shared values in the world.
6. Open ourselves to wonder, making ourselves vulnerable and available to find meaning, inspiration, and transformation.
7. Create communal experiences celebrating our interconnectedness.
8. Create accessible, courageous, and innovative welcome to people who might find a sense of belonging and a spiritual home with us.

## **WHAT ARE YOUR MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE BOARD'S ENDS?**

Everyone on a ministry team, both staff-led and member-led, is invited to begin engaging with the question:

## **WHAT MINISTRY MEANS WILL YOUR TEAM USE TO ACHIEVE THE BOARD'S ENDS?**

In listening to over 250 of our members last fall, the Board developed eight Ends for our ministry at First Church. These are the outcomes we will see if our ministry together over the next several years is successful. Ministry is the Means we use to get to the Ends. Now, it is time for the ministry teams of our congregation to answer the question: How will we achieve these Ends together?

Each ministry team should begin to consider how your work could achieve one (or a couple!) of these Ends. Where does your ministry at First Church fit in the Ends? What are the next steps for moving the work of your team towards the Ends we dreamed together?

In June, First Church staff will be working with our Ends consultant, Laura Park of Unity Consulting, to learn how to set up processes for answering these questions in staff-led ministry teams. In the fall, we will have opportunities for staff-led and member-led ministries to engage with these questions and begin aligning our Means with our Ends.

In the meantime, we invite you to sit with the Ends and begin thinking about the relationship between your First Church ministry's Means, and these collective Ends. Which of these Ends does the work of your team connect with? What are your team's first steps of the journey towards our shared outcomes?



# Lu Krug Bequest

## Exciting Opportunities to Fund First Church's Mission and Ends!!

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In July 2017 First Church received a generous \$850,000 bequest from the estate of Lu Krug, a long-standing lay leader in our congregation who died on August 17, 2016. You may be wondering what decisions have been made about the use of this money, and what process has been put in place to ensure it is handled responsibly.

### FORMATION OF KGAT

In September 2017 our Trustees formed a "gift acceptance team" to make recommendations to the Board on the gift's allocation and use. Members of the Lu Krug Gift Acceptance Team (KGAT), represent various constituencies within our congregation and bring significant congregational leadership experience: Senior Minister, the Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Director of Administration Jean Johnson, Holly Patzer (Board of Trustees), Lianna Bishop (Senior Minister's Committee on Ministry), David Becker (Investments), Gordon Mueller (Finance Committee), and Elizabeth Lentini (congregation).

### OVERALL ALLOCATIONS

In March 2018, the Board approved KGAT's first recommendation, an overall allocation of the bequest among short-term, medium-term and long-term uses. This recommendation, which followed established Board guidelines for bequests of more than \$50,000, was as follows:

- 30% (\$255,000) for short-term needs (supporting our operating budgets and capital maintenance over the next seven years);
- 50% (\$425,000) for medium-term needs (funding visionary programmatic initiatives to implement our ends over the next 1 – 8 years); and
- 20% (\$170,000) for long-term needs (e.g., Memorial Trust Fund)

### OUR FIRST PROJECTS HAVE BEEN FUNDED!

For many of us, the most exciting aspect of the Krug bequest is the opportunity to fund projects with the money set aside for medium-term (1 to 8 years) funding for visionary programmatic initiatives to implement our ends. We think the first projects in this category, being funded for a one-year trial period, show just how exciting and innovative these projects can be:

- Four Choral Scholars (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) from area colleges to support and uplift our choir and deepen our communal experience of inspiration and transformation in our worship services;
- A part-time social justice intern to support First Church social justice initiatives; and

- Equipment and technology to provide live streaming (and full video archives) of our Sunday services to broaden access to our services and promote Unitarian Universalism.

### WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT FIRST CHURCH?

Full details (and application forms) about the funding process going forward will be available no later than May 30 on the Church's website and at the Member Table on Sundays, but here are highlights of the process for funding projects going forward.

- Proposals will be accepted from any member of our congregation (though preferably will be developed in conjunction with a staff member and an existing committee or task force working in the relevant subject matter area).
- There will be at least two funding "rounds" when applications for funding may be submitted - one during the 2018-19 church year and a second during the 2019-20 church year. Depending upon results of the first two rounds, a third round may also be conducted.
- The preliminary application form will ask for general information about the project and will be reviewed for feasibility and connection to the Board's recently crafted Ends Statements and Four Values, and First Church's Mission Statement.
- Applicants whose preliminary applications meet these basic guidelines will be asked to submit a second, more detailed application, due in early 2019.
- Applicants whose preliminary applications do not meet these basic guidelines are free to re-apply for funding in a future round.
- KGAT expects to make its recommendations for the first round of funding to the Board of Trustees in the spring of 2019.

Again, more detailed information (including a detailed timeline and copies of preliminary application forms) will be available on our website and the Member's Table in the Common Room after both services by May 30.

We look forward to seeing what bold and creative ideas you have to make a difference at First Church!



**VOTE!**

## BOARD AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

The candidates below will stand for election at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 20, 2018.

### **Nominees to serve a three year term on the Board of Trustees:**

#### **MARK BENDER**

Mark Bender is a father, husband, huge nerd, and user experience design consultant. He joined First Church with his wife Beth in 2011. They came seeking religious education for their two sons and found a deep affinity in belief and aspiration. Mark served as a member of the Marketing Committee and then became truly engaged as a member of the Senior Minister Search Committee. He now serves on the Income Opportunity Team, focusing on data analysis and facilitating conversation around Church revenue. Mark designs useful technology solutions for complex problems through researching, analyzing data, imagining, drawing, and facilitating healthy collaboration. Mark is thankful to have found a faith community united in accomplishing together what we cannot do alone.

#### **JANE PETERSON**

Jane Peterson joined First Church 15 years ago with her partner Ellen Krueger. They were thrilled to find a welcoming, dogma-free church which encouraged them to grow spiritually and contribute to the community. Since then, Jane has served as an usher, Pastoral Care Associate, and PCA Coordinator, choir member, and Feast for Funds Committee member and Chairperson. Ellen and Jane host many Feast for Funds events and Jane enjoyed participating in Chalice Circles and Circle Suppers. She also volunteers at the Urban Ecology Center. In 2011, she retired from her position as the Health Officer of the North Shore Health Department. She spent most of her career in public health, which fulfilled her desire for public service and “fighting the good fight” in her work and life.

#### **MELINDA VERNON**

Melinda Vernon and her husband, Kit, have been members of First Church since 1984. She has enjoyed serving the church in many capacities including a previous term on the Board in the 90's (one year as President), Chair of two Intern Search Committees and an Associate Minister Search Committee and as Co-chair of the Social Justice Council. Over the years Melinda and Kit have especially loved getting to know other First Church members through Circle Suppers. Before her retirement, Melinda's career spanned clinical work and administration in the fields of mental health, geriatrics and disability services. Melinda and Kit have two adult children and seven grandchildren. When not spending time with family, Melinda loves traveling, gardening, spending time in the natural world and making a difference where she can.

### **Nominees to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee:**

#### **MICHELLE BOEHM**

Michelle Boehm, a marketing and communications professional, has been a member of First Church for 14 years, having contributed to the church as a Pastoral Care Associate, a Pastoral Care Coordinator and member of the Board of Trustees. Michelle has also participated in the Marketing Committee and the Senior Minister Search Committee for Rev. Jennifer. Michelle looks forward to serving First Church as a member of the Nominating Committee so that she may continue to help the church fulfill its mission to nurture the spirit, engage the mind and inspire action.

#### **LAURA EHLERS**

Laura Ehlers' first service at First Church was Drew's last service. She says she was very moved by the history of First Church he described and inspired to continue attending by all the efforts made by him and others. Laura first volunteered as a floater for Religious Education classes, and the next year volunteered for the Religious Education committee. She joined the church as part of Jennifer's first Journey to Membership group. Laura works as a paraprofessional for Milwaukee Public Schools at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning, but says she is “still trying to figure out what I really want to be when I grow up.”

You will be voting for positions vacated by the following individuals listed below.



#### **The Board Members vacating their position:**

Julie Bock  
Holly Patzer  
Pete Koneazny  
Joyce Harms

#### **The Nominating Committee Members vacating their position:**

Jo Ann Bishop  
Don Weimer



## MEMBER REFLECTION STORIES

BARBARA & RICHARD (DICK) WEISS



Members since October 1966

Barbara and Dick Weiss like the search for individual spiritual truth that is encouraged at First Church. As a Presbyterian, Barb said she felt like a hypocrite reciting a creed she didn't fully believe in. "Here it's OK when somebody's saying something you don't agree with," she said.

MELINDA & CHRISTOPHER (KIT) VERNON



Members since October 1984

Melinda and Kit Vernon are excited about The Reverend Jennifer. "We think she's going to be terrific for the church," Kit said.

JO SCHMIDT  
(NOT PICTURED)

Member Since November 1990

"A friend mentioned First Unitarian. Long story short, I walked in the door, attended a service and knew I had found my spiritual home," Jo Schmidt says.

May brings new "Reflections" from three of our 25 plus year members of what belonging to First Church has meant to them and highlights of their experiences. Their full stories are on display in the Common Room. This project, brought to you by the Membership Committee, was part of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of First Church. Dave Umhoefer and Jim Carse conducted the interviews and wrote the stories. Rikki Thompson took the photos and Cheri Briscoe designed the display. Enjoy!

### Celebration of Lu Krug's Life and Generosity on Flower Communion Sunday, June 3

As previously announced, this past summer First Church was the recipient of a very generous \$850,000 bequest from the estate of Lu Krug, a long-standing lay leader in our congregation who died on August 17, 2016.

Please join us to celebrate and commemorate her life and generosity at both services on Flower Communion Sunday, June 3. A cake will also be served in the Common Room after each service.





# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## For Children and Youth

By Beryl Ashenberg, Director of Religious Education

*"We can tell our values by looking at our checkbook stubs."* By Gloria Steinem

### RE-Flections

*What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.*

—T.S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"

I began my work with First Church in the summer of 2001. I came to you with an open heart, and you welcomed me into the life of the congregation with open arms. Little did I know then how much I would come to love the people of this church. I have had the privilege of watching scores of children learn and grow through the Religious Education program, witnessed teens as they grounded themselves in this good faith, journeyed with adults as they challenged themselves to dig deeper, and to explore their values and their way of being in the world. It has been a good seventeen years.

As you may know by now, I have submitted my resignation to the Rev. Jennifer and the Board of Trustees, effective June 7. I know that this faith community is in good hands, and believe that my leaving at this juncture will provide an opportunity for the congregation to look at the religious education program with a fresh perspective as you lean into the vision of the newly developed Board Ends Statements. I have recommended, and Jennifer and the Board agree, that an experienced Interim Director of Religious Education will be helpful in guiding the congregation to identify its core religious education values, understand its current religious education identity, and dream about its religious education future. This specialized work is especially relevant after a long-tenured, beloved, religious educator leaves the faith community. I am confident that the congregation will move forward with grace and intentionality as religious education and faith development flourishes in the years ahead. By advertising the availability of an interim DRE position

now, it is likely that you will have one in place by the end of summer.

In the meantime, I am still with you through the first week of June, and we'll have plenty of sweet moments to say our farewells in person. I hope to do everything I can to prepare for Children's RE programming and a vibrant new Adult RE and Spiritual Development program beginning in the fall. You will continue to have the support of Lillian Schley, who has been a magnificent addition to the RE staff this year as the RE Administrative Assistant. And of course, Deb Solis will continue to provide wise guidance to our Youth and Youth Advisors as the Youth Programs Coordinator. I have secured the leadership of Mariah Groshek and Lindsey Porters once again for the upcoming RE Summer Program, and they plan to continue their roles as leads in the Early Childhood class and Nursery in the Fall. A curriculum has been chosen for Children's RE for the 2018-19 church year, and we are now seeking a full contingent of volunteers to serve our children and youth. If you wish to honor my legacy here at First Church, it would mean a lot to me too and to our young people to have you step up and volunteer to serve as a teacher, class assistant, youth advisor, or Children's RE Committee member in the Religious Education program next year.

I am proud to have been a part of the First Church story! Please help me write a good ending. I look forward to seeing you and your children at the Farewell Celebration of my service to First Church on Saturday, June 2 at the church. Watch for details, coming soon!

In faith, with love,

*Beryl*

### Early bird RE Registration begins on May 20!

Early registration helps tremendously with our Religious Education program planning and allows us to staff our program in ways that best serve the needs of your children. We are therefore offering an EARLY BIRD incentive to those who register their children before July 1. Parents and guardians may register in person at the RE Table or online at the church website [www.uumilwaukee.org](http://www.uumilwaukee.org) beginning May 20. Scholarships or other arrangements are easily available for those for whom payment might present a hardship; please contact our DRE, Beryl Aschenberg, by email or at 414-273-5257 ext. 204 to discuss options.

### RE volunteer appreciation day in RE classes on May 6

Parents-please make an effort to have your kids with us on this day as children create gifts and messages for both their class leaders and assistants! Watch for an email the week prior with more information!

### Where do the children play?

Our kids are welcome to play out on the deck off of the Common Room, and in the church courtyard during Coffee Hours -with adult supervision, please! Adults who are out appreciating the warm weather are encouraged to enjoy the children's high spirits... and help create the village we aspire to!





## **Mandatory OWL Parent Orientation Meeting coming up on May 23.**

If you are a member at First Church and you are a parent of a youth who will be in the eighth grade in the fall of 2018 please consider having them joining our Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. All interested parents must attend one of two offered parent orientations before their youth will be permitted to participate in this comprehensive and highly acclaimed, age-appropriate, sexuality education program. For more information, please contact Youth Program Coordinator, Deb Solis at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org). The first session will take place on Wednesday, May 23 from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. and the second session happens on Sunday, August 12 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

## **Volunteer in our Sunday Religious Education Program: Choose to make a difference!**

It is NOT too early to start thinking about working with our UU children in Religious Education classes next year- in fact, it is critical that we have our volunteers in place before our summer program begins in June. Being a Sunday School teacher means learning at least as much as you teach. It means taking a printed curriculum and making it yours so that in turn you can make it belong to the children you are exploring with. Working with our children on Sundays allows you to learn from them and with them.

Who can teach or assist in our RE Classes? YOU! We hope that at least 50% of our volunteers are people that our youngsters don't see every day. Young adults, LGBT folk, senior citizens, people of color; singles; parents of older children; college students, men – we'd love to have you join us on an RE Class team.

That leaves 50% of our volunteer staff. PARENTS are also needed to be in relationship with our children at church. We understand that you need "a break". Perhaps you can alternate years in the classroom. Or you can choose to "assist" one year and "teach" another. The curricula we use these days is very user-friendly, and there is a lot of support to make it possible for you to spend less time in preparation. What is it worth to you to INVEST in the future of our children?

Next year our focus in the RE program will be on forging a UU Identity while learning about other religions. You don't have to be an expert. The curriculum will walk you through the lesson plan, and if you have any questions, the RE Staff and your Children's RE Team Liaison are here to help! I hope you will join us.

## **All About Youth....**

By Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

On April 8 Reverend Dena McPhetres and Membership Development Coordinator, Lynne Jacoby joined our youth to talk about Youth Membership at First Church which youth may consider starting at age 16. One of our active activities was a Spectrum Exercise where we asked the youth to place stickers on a poster board with six subjects related to membership. The six subjects were: Beliefs, Helping Instinct, Social Action Preference, Response to Awe & Wonder, Spiritual Practice and Current Theological Leanings. Some of the findings of this exercise showed:

- Most of our youth believe that everything is up to humans to decide using free will.
- Most of our youth are in the middle of the spectrum of doing something for someone else and listening to someone share their feelings.
- Most of our youth are activists and prefer to do something to make a difference in the world.
- Most of our youth are in the middle of the spectrum of shouting with awe and responding in silence.
- Most of our youth are in the middle of the spectrum of reading something inspirational and actually physically moving in meditation.
- Our youth's current theological leanings include: Agnostic, Atheist, Buddhist, Humanist, and Naturalist.

Our youth are extremely informed, insightful and in touch with the world and with their identity/place in the world. I am so proud to be working with these incredibly remarkable young people making a difference in the world and within our denomination.

### **DO YOU DO DELICIOUS?**

Sign-Up Begins Mid-April For  
Gourmet Dessert Auction Donations!

Mark your calendar for the annual Youth Group Dessert Auction on Mother's Day, May 13. Cakes and pies and truffles... Oh my! It's not too early to begin thinking about what you will contribute this year. Sign up at the RE table April 22-May 6 to donate a baked good for this fun Mission Trip fund-raising tradition. Or email Youth Program Coordinator, Deb Solis with your intention to donate, or to ask questions [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 4**



Hard to believe but May is here and First Friday Films ends another successful season with its May selection *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America*.

Long before America thought of going green, Frederick Law Olmsted was coming up with creative and inventive ways to cultivate the idea of "environmental ethics" into our urban communities and outdoor landscapes. He was very influential in shaping our public parks system and his influence can be felt today and continues to shape us personally, culturally and politically.

*Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America* will be sponsored by Cheri Briscoe. Ms. Briscoe is a member of the Sierra Club and is a chair of Milwaukee County Parks Advisory Commission. Film will be shown May 4. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., with film showing promptly at 7:00 p.m. Free snacks and childcare provided.

**MAY 24**

### MICAH CELEBRATION

**Make a Joyful Noise for Justice!** Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) is a multi-racial, interfaith organization committed to addressing social justice issues that impact people in the Greater Milwaukee area. First Church is 1 of 32 congregations that support MICAH's work with annual pledges and congregational volunteers for "feet on the ground" action.

Join us on Thursday, May 24 for a fundraising anniversary bash as MICAH celebrates 30 years of "doing what is just" in Milwaukee!

St. Sebastian Church, 5400 W. Washington St. is the location. Tickets are \$30.00 and may be purchased in advance by contacting Bob Monahan (r\_monahan@ameritech.net) or Pete Koneazny (pkonez@ameritech.net). Food and beverages are ala carte from one of the fun and fabulous Milwaukee Food Trucks arranged for the occasion. These businesses are graciously donating 5% of what they make at the event. Once you've purchased your food, head inside to a banquet table to eat and socialize from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Live performers and an awards ceremony will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

**JUNE 8 & 9**

### PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE



**PrideFest Milwaukee** is an exciting community experience produced each year by the non-profit organization Milwaukee Pride, Inc. PrideFest is a celebration of the culture and accomplishments of our local LGBTQ+ community, a time for needs, and issues to be communicated, and for networking and support to be shared! It's also three days of fun music, comedy, food, self-expression and family-friendly activities on June 8-10, 2018.

This year, the SE Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations are planning to participate at PrideFest via a booth in the Health and Wellness Commons alongside our many Milwaukee-Area LGBTQ+ affirming faith communities. We're partnering with the Queer and Allied Faith Leaders of Milwaukee (QAFL) to host a part of the festival where attendees can know they are "blessed and beloved." UU Church West's The Rev. Suzelle Lynch and Intern Minister Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson are planning the UU presence at PrideFest, and would love to have your help in our booth – contact The Rev. Suzelle to offer your assistance and find out more: (262) 782-3535 ext. 12 or rev.lynch@uucw.org. You can find out more about PrideFest here: <http://pridefest.com/>.

Pride Parade will start off on Sunday, June 10, 2:00 p.m. on S. 2nd St. near Lapham Blvd. in Milwaukee. We need a Parade Coordinator this year if we are to take part – contact The Rev. Suzelle at UU Church West to volunteer! The Parade Coordinator will take responsibility for communicating with interested participants from all the local UU congregations and will be on site at the parade to marshal our group.

Join us in continuing our UU tradition of celebrating people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, linking communities, generations and diverse groups at Pride!



***First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee without the UUA is like our local Public Radio Station (WUWM) without National Public Radio (NPR)***

By Bruce Wiggins, Denominational Affairs Coordinator

On April 14, our First Church Board of Trustees revealed draft “ends statements.” There are 8 goals. Guess what? Our national association, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) can help us achieve our goals. In fact, the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee without the UUA is like our local Public Radio Station (WUWM), without National Public Radio (NPR), which provides support and programming for local stations across the country.

The UUA has over 40 e-newsletters that you can sign up for. They cover many aspects of life in our church. So, the newsletters can help us do what we want to do. Here are some newsletters you can sign up for:

- Faith development
- Church technology
- UU outreach
- Religious education
- Youth ministry
- Young adult ministry
- United Nations
- UU World weekly (news magazine)
- Justice Issues – among them:
  - Environmental justice
  - Love resists
  - Reproductive justice
  - LGBTQ+ justice
  - Side with Love
  - Immigration justice
  - Voting rights
  - Health justice

The subject matter is not clear from some newsletter titles. For example:

- Blue Boat Blog is for youth and young adult ministries.
- Side with Love is a public witness and advocacy campaign to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Love Resists is a joint campaign of the UUA and the UU Service Committee (UUSC) to provide financing, technical assistance, and organizing support bolstering grassroots resistance led by vulnerable populations, such as Black Lives Matter.
- Just Acts is a justice action newsletter.

You can have fun searching the UUA website [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) to find various resources. Search for “email lists” or a particular subject, then sign up for the newsletter you want.

**Convenience: comfort, curse, or both?  
A tale for the "Are You Willing?"  
campaign.**

By Tree Moore

I moved to Milwaukee two years ago, driving my old pickup truck across the country. Out of my concern for reducing fossil fuel use, driving my vehicle as little as possible was a high priority, so I vowed that I would only use it to transport bulky loads. In the fall of 2016, I decided to put the truck in a friend's garage for the winter, avoiding shoveling, salt, parking fees and car insurance. As an enthusiastic proponent of public transportation, I did well without a car, only occasionally asking for favors. In addition, I took the opportunity to be part of a wider circle of society. I'd gotten quite skillful at starting conversations with other passengers, especially grandmothers. We grandmothers love to talk about our grandchildren!

In April 2017, I took my truck out of hibernation and was seduced by convenience. After eight days I realized that I had not ridden the bus once during that time; rather my truck had been utilized for lots of GOOD reasons.... heavy rain, big shopping trip, lost track of time so I needed to hurry. It was SO easy, that I hadn't even noticed. I had conveniently ignored the fact that the estimated cost of owning a vehicle was \$20 to \$25 a day, along with using gas, polluting the air, adding to traffic, and possibilities of accidents.

This April I have again taken my truck out of storage. So far, I am being very aware of my choices around driving -- only twice in eight days. My intention is to use it only once a week. May I remember the consequence and curse of convenience and get back on the bus. It is imperative we honor the interdependent web of all existence by driving far less.



# GET Published!

**A Great New Way to Submit Announcements and Chanticleer Copy!** Office Coordinator Shari Wright, Communications Coordinator Angelica Dudenhoefer and I are excited to announce that we've developed two extremely helpful web forms for leaders to submit copy for weekly announcements and the monthly Chanticleer!

Beginning this month, we ask all of our congregation members, team leaders, and staff to use our Announcement form and the Chanticleer form. You can find links to these forms via our website home page. Go to the link to all our forms located at the bottom of the page in the plum colored footer, right side. Links are also listed below.

Using these forms will ensure that all your communications are received and forwarded to the correct staff. You will also receive a confirmation that we've received it. Shari will continue to organize the layout for the announcements (and

electronic announcements) and the Chanticleer, and your submissions will also be forwarded to Angelica who is the back-up in the submission process to get timely and effective announcements to our congregation.

We are committed to helping you with communications for your events, so if you have questions about the form or how to prepare your announcements, feel free to contact shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org.

Link for the announcement form on the uumilwaukee website: <https://uumilwaukee.org/announcement-submissions/>

Link for the Chanticleer form on the uumilwaukee website: <https://uumilwaukee.org/chanticleer-submission/>

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## QUESTION OF THE MONTH – May 2018

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON OUR “UU QUESTION OF THE MONTH** People of all ages are invited to contribute their thoughtful responses to a monthly question posted on our bulletin board in the main church hallway. May's question is:

“What is your favorite way to be CREATIVE?”

### Join First Church members for a tour of Chiwaukee Prairie on Saturday, May 26.

It is one of the largest prairie complexes in the state, and the most intact coastal wetland in southeastern Wisconsin. It contains an exceptional diversity of plants and animals. This ecological jewel was recently declared a Wetland of International Importance. The outstanding spring plants are worth a trip to see.

We will leave in carpools about 9:30 a.m. from First Church, to go 50 miles south to Kenosha. Let us know if you can drive; we will share expenses.

Please sign up now at the Social Justice Table in the Common Room, or you may sign up by contacting Janet or Bernice. The trip is sponsored by the Earth Justice Ministry, and the sign-up deadline is May 20, 2018.

For more information on the Chiwaukee Prairie trip contact Janet Nortrom or Bernice Popelka.

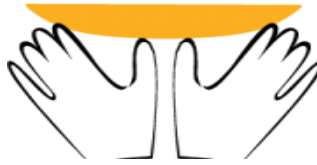
## SIGN UP FOR THE MAY 13 DEDICATION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN:

A Dedication of Parents and Children is scheduled for our Mother's Day service. This simple ceremony is the UU version of the traditional Christian “baptism” or “christening,” though the meanings we attach to it are significantly different. The ceremony is a public declaration by the parents to dedicate themselves to faithfully nurturing and supporting their children. The congregation recognizes your child's original blessing, and we dedicate ourselves to nurturing your child and you. Because of the promises, our congregation makes to the family during the ceremony, child dedications are available only to members of the church. If you are interested in having your child dedicated on May 13, please pick up a Dedication brochure from the pamphlet rack and talk to a staff member at 414 273-5257, or fill out the online form by Sunday, May 6: <https://uumilwaukee.org/child-dedication-form/>.



# Share the Plate

By Dawn Blackmore



The May Share the Plate Recipient is chosen by RE children every spring, the children in our Children's Religious Education Program vote on an organization they would like to see receive donations from Share the Plate. Project Q, a program of the MKE LGBT Community Center, was voted to be our May Share the Plate recipient. Their mission is to "build safe space serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allied youth ages, 13 to 24." Project Q currently serves over 700 youth annually through a wide variety of programming.

In addition to providing a safe space, Project Q offers programming that includes social events, workforce/job skills development, leadership and life skills activities, community

service projects, arts-based activities, addiction education and healthy relationship education. They have a drop in hours of operation as well as staff available for individual appointments. If you are interested in learning more about this program and the MKE LGBT Community Center, please visit [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org).

Cash collected in the plate will be shared 50/50 between Project Q and First Church. To donate only to Project Q, please write a check directly to MKE LGBT Community Center with "Project Q" in the memo line and we will mail it for you. Parents and guardians, please talk with your children how even small donations help.

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## Share the Plate Seeking Nominations

The Share the Plate committee plans to meet in late May to begin selecting recipients for the 2018-2019 church year. But we have a problem. There are currently only two organizations pending our consideration. We need some fresh nominations!

If you work with or support a local non-profit organization then Share the Plate may be able to magnify your impact. Check the nomination criteria page to ensure your organization is a good fit with our program, view a complete list of past recipients and submit a recommendation for a nomination on the [uumilwaukee.org](http://uumilwaukee.org) website, Share the Plate committee page (<https://uumilwaukee.org/committees/share-the-plate/>).

Please submit your nominations by May 20 to be considered during our May committee meeting. Contact Bob Monahan or Nancy Spransy with questions.

## Sunday Morning Forums: Welcoming Topic Ideas and People to Join Us!

Do you keep thinking of really good forum presenters? Did you attend a lecture recently and think, "This could be a forum!" Well, we can help you. The Sunday Morning Forum Group welcomes and encourages new members.

If we didn't have the wide range of interests and networking talents as we do currently, the forums could become static and lack the spark of new ideas. We are lucky to have vibrant and hard working members right now, but can always find room for a few more. Did you know that 'independent', anecdotal research indicates Forums were an important doorway to First Church for many of our current members? We maintain a balance of subject areas: politics, social change issues, the creative arts and culture, local happenings. The Sunday Morning Forums have continued for over 40 years at First Church because of a dedication to quality programming.

Here's the basics:

- We meet at church twice a year; usually early June and mid-August.
- Each Group member brings 1 – 2 topics/presenter's names to suggest for the coming series.
- Choices for topics are made together and then individually we are on our own to schedule, guide and host our selected Forum Presenter. Helpful support is always available from the Group Coordinator.
- Each group member is assured that at least one of their suggestions will be selected.

Don't let another Sunday Morning Forum Series begin without your input, contact Lorraine Jacobs.



# GETTING TOGETHER

## **Book Discussion Group**

Second Sunday of the month  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

We gather once a month to discuss a chosen book. You can find our book list on the church bulletin board and website. We welcome all readers. For more information, contact Chris Linder.

The next UU Book Club meeting will be on Sunday, June 3, 2018. We will be discussing "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance.

There will not be a Book Club meeting in May because most the Sunday dates have holidays or other events scheduled.

The Annual book choosing meeting will be on Sunday, June 24, 2018, at 11:15 after the summer service. Everyone is welcome. You are invited to recommend 2 or 3 books which you have read and think will lead to good discussions.

## **Buddhist Study Group: Gathering Waters Sangha**

First and third Wednesdays of the month  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We explore Buddhist teachings and ideas, practice meditation, followed by tea, cookies and fellowship. All are welcome! For more information, please call or email Steve or Jeanne Lowry

## **Chancel Choir**

Every Thursday  
7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

All singers high school age and up are invited to join our weekly choir rehearsals. Please contact our Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer at [tstrelitzer@gmail.com](mailto:tstrelitzer@gmail.com) with your name and voice type.

## **The Chronologically Gifted**

Last Sunday of the Month  
12:15 p.m. Potluck Lunch

We foster activities and relationships that allow members age 60 and older to live and age well by offering meaningful, creative, healthy engagement through the arts, education, relationship building, mutual support and fun! For more information, contact Sharon DePue.

## **The Forties and Fifties UU Network (FFUUN)**

FFUUN is a group of First Church members who are '40 to 50-somethings' seeking social connections with others. For information on current activities, please contact Laura White or Scot Henry or visit [www.facebook.com/ffuun](http://www.facebook.com/ffuun).

## **Pagan Celebrations Group**

Pagan rituals honor the natural cycle of the earth and celebrate the seasons. For more information, please contact Kathleen Miezio or Nick Davia.

## **SWANS Group**

### **(Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social)**

First Sunday of the month

Go out for lunch after the second service. Join us once a month for lunch and other social events. Newcomers are always welcome!

Jeanne Durnford and Juanita Mast have invited the SWANS to have pizza in their apartment at St. John's on the Lake, Sunday, May 6th, starting at 12:45.

They will order pizza from Zaffiro's and we will share the cost depending on how many accept the invitation. Jeanne will also make lemonade. What could be nicer? They can accommodate up to 20 so the first 20 SWANS to respond will be accepted. So, please RSVP to Barbara Collignon by April 29. You may add a

## **Come Visit Our Affinity Groups!**

From the Rev. Dena McPhetres

### **Check out new Dates and Events Listed under the Groups**

preference for kind of pizza. Plan to car-pool with a friend. You can park in the St. John's parking lot facing the lake.

## **UU Parenting Group**

Second Sunday of the month  
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

We share helpful parenting resources, do fun family activities together, and discuss a variety of topics including positive discipline, creating healthy habits, and the unique challenges of raising UU children. For more information contact Stacey or Brook Worzella.

## **UU+ Study Group**

Second Tuesdays of the month  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

We gather to deepen our knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and to continue our spiritual journeys through reading and discussion. We will meet on May 8 to discuss The Triumph of Christianity by Bart Ehrman. Contact Nancy Pajewski for more information.

## **Unitarian Universalists Under Forty Doing Activities (UUUFDA)**

First Sunday of the month  
12:30 p.m. Potluck Brunch

UUUFDA encourages social camaraderie among the under-forty crowd at First Church, in service of contributing to a strong, joyful and fun church community. Join us for our monthly brunch and other activities. For information, contact Susie Seidelman or Yalanda Ludtke at [uuufda@gmail.com](mailto:uuufda@gmail.com).

## **WomanSpirit**

We meet to empower women and join in spiritual quest through social justice, music, ritual and friendships. For more information, contact Janet Nortrom.



May 20

**"Learning and Living Religion"**

**Religious Education Sunday Multigenerational Service**

**Beryl Aschenberg, Director of Religious Education**

**Dena McPheters, Associate Minister**

**RE High School Seniors**

**Jack Forbes Wilson, Artist in Residence**

"RE Sunday" is filled with ritual. The little ones come forward- eager or timid- to receive giant erasers which represent the community's acceptance of their mistakes. Eighth grade students are recognized for the commitment to exploring their lives as values-consistent, whole human beings in relationship with others. Our high school seniors step to the podium to speak their truths and allow us to bear witness. We reach out with our hands and hearts to remind them that they are loved as we send them out into the world as young adults. Children of all ages participate in worship, and adults contribute music or words to celebrate this generation of children. It is the village in fine form! Please join us for a joyful closure to our 2017-18 Religious Education classes.

May 27

**"We've Come This Far by Faith"**

**The Rev. Darrick Jackson, pulpit guest**

**Resident Artist Jack Forbes Wilson**

**Worship Associate Bob Porter**



How do we survive in this changing world? What gives us the strength to keep going, no matter the struggle? We will honor those who have served in the military during this service on Memorial Day weekend.

The Rev. Darrick Jackson is the Interim Associate Executive Director of UU Ministers Association. He is also an affiliated faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School and one of the authors in the book "Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry." Darrick is involved denominationally as Treasurer of DRUUMM (the UU ministry for people of color). He is also the treasurer and Workshop Leader for Healing Moments (a ministry for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's). In his free time, Darrick likes to knit and to be involved in theatre. He is married to James Olson, a United Church of Christ minister and lives with their two cats, Merlin and Morgana.

**Pride Service Planning Invitation**

**Do you identify as LGBTQ?**

If you're a member or friend of First Church and would like to join the Rev. Dena and Worship Associate Lisa Gies to plan the summer worship service for June 10, please contact Dena at dena.mcpheters@uumilwaukee.org. We'll need to get together with our ideas during the first half of May. The topic for the service is "Sexual and Gender Identity as a Blessing."

# How To Reach Us

**TELEPHONE: (414) 273-5257**

**FAX: (414) 273-5254**

**E-MAIL: office@uumilwaukee.org**

**WEBSITE: www.uumilwaukee.org**

**1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202**

*Administrative offices are staffed Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., but individual staff members have varying hours. Please contact them directly to set up an appointment, as staff members are rarely available for drop-in appointments.*

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**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

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**The Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy, D.Min.**

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SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

May 6

“Lloyd Barbee: Milwaukee Changemaker”

Daphne Barbee, author and daughter of Lloyd Barbee

Daphne Barbee’s recent book is a collection of her late father’s writings, providing insight into his life journey. In October 2000, Lloyd Barbee, along with friends Vel Phillips and Ruth Zubrensky, spoke at a Sunday Forum, “Two Steps Forward, One Back” regarding lack of housing, school and economic equality in Milwaukee. Ruth and Vel have both been invited to join Daphne on May 6th. We come full circle in welcoming the wisdom of these vital, intelligent Milwaukee activists.

Host: Joan (Chris) Christopherson-Schmidt

May 13

“What Does It Feel Like to be Perceived as Unacceptable”

Anthony Gayfield, Licensed Counselor with Reach Comprehensive Mental Health Care Clinic

Using a holistic treatment approach this clinic fosters spiritual growth in self-esteem, psychological well-being in emotional difficulty and dignity in personal relationships within work or community. Mr. Gayfield will explain his perspectives on the unique spectrum of mental health challenges facing the African-American population, including: historical influences, our views of each other, commonly accepted images of minority people and a religious perspective on socio-economic stratification.

Host: Juliet Hills

