



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

April 2018

WORDS on the WIND

By The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

What does it mean to be a people of Emergence?

It has been a long and sometimes hard winter. I know our community is especially tender with two recent surprising deaths of prominent lay leaders, Tom Thaney and Claude VanderVeen, as well as many other illnesses and losses. I know I am ready for a thaw from the cold and am looking for signs of an emerging spring.

In March, Claude excitedly pointed out the growing snowdrop shoots in our garden. He was thrilled to see these emerging signs of coming spring poking their green noses out of the earth. Seeing the ground begin to thaw and little bits of new life rise brings hope. It reminds me that every season has its cycle, and even though the spring comes and goes, new life will emerge again.

What new thing feels possible in your life?
What is emerging in the lengthening days?
What is opening up in our congregation?

After a long fall of listening and winter of work, our Board is emerging from writing mode with a group of new Ends that will guide our ministry as a congregation. The Board will share these with the congregation at a Breaking Cookies, Building Community session on April 15. They will share their process with you, what they heard you say in hundreds of conversations they distilled and then discerned into eight (8!) Ends. These eight Ends are statements about who we want to become as a community, what we want to do with our ministry, and what difference we want to make in which people's lives as a result of our ministry.

(Please see "Word on the Wind" on page 2)

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

COMING ON SUNDAY!

Two Services & Religious Education

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

April 1, 2018

"Roll Away the Stone"

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom

Artist in Residence Jack Forbes Wilson

Worship Associate Bob Porter

Director of Religious Education Beryl Aschenberg

On this Easter Sunday, we will explore the wildness of emerging from oppression, control, stagnation, and loss. We will mine the traditional Easter story for modern-day meaning, wondering how a story of deep oppression and loss turned into one of wildness, freedom, and hope. How does chaos become a community? How can empowerment emerge from oppression? How can loss fertilize new life?

April 8

"Allowing the Soul to Emerge"

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Worship Associate Robert Szymanski

Director of Religious Education Beryl Aschenberg

Parker Palmer says the soul is a shy thing and requires time and space to emerge. Allowing may be as much a part of the soul's emergence as pushing. How might you let go and let your soul come forth in its own time? What space will it take in your own life for your soul to unfold?

Sunday, April 15, 2018

"I Could've Had a V-8: Aha Moments and Other Epiphanies"

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Awakening to Emergence

By Julie Bock

Congregation President 2016-2018

We talk a lot about the rebirth of the spring season (for those in the northern hemisphere). Many world religions have themes of renewal and reawakening, symbolizing the re-emergence of life after a time of death, darkness, or hibernation. Emergence is a more subtle idea. Emergence is a phenomenon whereby larger entities arise through interactions among smaller or simpler entities such that the larger entities exhibit properties the smaller/simpler entities do not exhibit (Wikipedia).

Emergence brings complexity. Emergence allows for the building greater systems. Emergence alludes to interdependence. Emergence is synthesis. Emergence is creation.

We can see this process in how our societies have developed from small city-states to nations. The culture growing in size and complexity that is responding to the organizational and safety needs of its members. Spiritually it looks like pausing and creating room for new thought, belief, and hope to enter and take root.

In fact, this is the process we have been undertaking for the last year at First Church with our visioning work for the creation of our Ends. Your Board of Trustees started the preparation for this journey last June. After all of our listening, deep thinking, and discernment on all the thoughts you shared with us; now we have our congregational Ends to present to you.

I hope you can attend the Breaking Cookies, Building Community session on April 15 at 12:30 p.m. to see what our work has wrought and if it resonates with your dreams. Although it isn't required we'd love it if you'd RSVP at <http://bit.ly/OurEnds>. If you need childcare for this session, please RSVP so we can schedule childcare. There will also be tabling during coffee hour on April 8 and 15 for further information.

(Words on the Wind continued from page 1)

The Krug Gifts Allocation Team is creating a process for our members to connect their ministry at First Church to the Board's Ends, and propose ministry projects that would make the Board's Ends come true. To learn more, plan to come to the Board's Breaking Cookies, Building Community session on April 15 at 12:30 p.m. in Max Otto Hall.

Holding each other in love and compassion, I know we will emerge as an even stronger, more inspired community!

With love, *Jennifer*

Dena's Digressions

By The Rev. Dena McPhetres

On my walk today, I found evidence of spring's emergence--swelling buds on a magnolia tree, a song sparrow's voice of celebration, snowdrops blooming, dog poop melting into the garden. Emergence reveals both the beauty and messiness of life.

What is emerging in our city, our church, your personal and professional life? Is it messy, beautiful, and transitory? Is it something you know is there, but can't quite put your finger on? Something you see out of the corner of your eye or hear a familiar strain of music you can't remember the name of? This time of year challenges us to trust that new life will emerge and to practice noticing it.

This time of year in my professional life, I notice new ideas and emerging leaders. Applications and proposals for new Worship Associates, Pastoral Care Associates and summer services get sifted and selected. The potential these new leaders and ideas bring are tender and promising.

After being your "rock" through the long years of Senior Minister Transition, I notice my "rock" identity rolling away and new life in ministry emerging. I'm moving with a planning team to create Theme Circles--small groups that will replace and significantly deepen what many of you know as Chalice Circles next fall. Theme Circles will offer space to deepen the experience of worship themes, reflect on their movement in our lives, and engage in different yet simple spiritual practices each month. Stay tuned for the upcoming big reveal!

Yours,



**Go to Page 5 for more
information on the Board Ends
Event coming April 15.**





Heritage Society

First Church's Heritage Society recognizes those church members and friends who have included First Church in their wills and estate planning.

Current Heritage Society members:

Judy Anderson,	Loren Leys
Paula Anderson	Chris Linder
Christian Becker	Kate Marrs
Jo Ann & Mark Bishop	Pat McFarland
Rod Botts	Robert Moore
Cheri & Tom Briscoe	Ellyn & Mike Newman
Paul & Suzanne Carter	Janet & Marlowe
Susan Comstock	Nortrom
Steven Culver	Mimi Notestein
Jill Erickson	Barbara Patterson
James Ford	Patrick Patterson
Judith Ford	Bob & Kathy Porter
Jerry Frederickson	Tom Radoszewski
Scot Henry	Lisa & Michael Radtke
Sally Heuer	Kathy Rivera
Liz Irwin Moore	Max & Pat Scharmach
Nelson Kading	Dale Skaggs
Adele Kaferly	Nancy Spransy
Linda & Mike Katz	Robert Szymanski
Drew Kennedy	Kit & Melinda Vernon
Tina Keppel	Don Weimer
Lisa & Pete Koneazny	Lois Wesener
Hank Kulesza	Bruce & Terry Wiggins
Lynda Lambert	Ted Wiley
Michael Lewis	Bettie Zillman
Sally Lewis	

Should you be included in the list above? Have you included First Church in your planned giving, but First Church isn't aware? Would you like to become a Heritage Society member?

Please use the First Church website to let us know that you have included First Church in your future financial plans. Check the box on your annual pledge card or Contact Lynne Jacoby at lynn.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org. Gifts can be by will, trust, retirement assets or life insurance (listing First Church as a beneficiary), or charitable gift annuities. Details are on the First Church website under Stewardship. Would you like more information about becoming a Heritage Society member or discussing the options for this? The Heritage Society workgroup would be happy to discuss this with you. Feel free to contact any of us through the First Church Directory.

Membership Musings

By Lynne Jacoby

"Each of us is meant to have a character all our own, to be what no other can exactly be, and do what no other can exactly do." William Ellery Channing, Unitarian Minister 1780-1842.

I used to think about divine purpose much like I do original sin, as in nope! No way. But then I became a youth-group advisor and as I got to know the teens they all seemed so bursting with courageous creativity, and not only lovable but also so interesting that at some point I pretty much thought of each of them 'Wow! This kid has so much unique self, I can't wait to see where it leads them.'

Then the obvious dawned on me... wait! Why would these teens be different than any of us? (and what the heck happens to us anyway?). Which isn't to romanticize youth, or bemoan pressures to conform - but more my growing curiosity about that unique spark in all of us; young, old, you, me, everybody.

I also used to think of church, even my UU church, as where I went to learn how to be a better person generally - a path that if I could just learn the way of (and the discipline to stay on!) I'd be good. I do still get stuck in lines... the blueprints of reason's philosophies perhaps, rather than the black and white boundaries of literal belief, but still. Lines.

Little by little though I'm understanding spiritual growth as living closer to my own, unique, best self. A more creative process, than seeking the right map. Like all creative endeavors (from the co-creating covenantal community! to writing Chanticleer blurbs...) there are techniques and practices that help, role models to learn from, and tons of preparing the ground for a possibility. But at some level one does just have to - kiss it up to faith. Hold the unknowable. Wait and see.

Trust the process, the seed, the mysterious spark within - to do its work. Let that which wants to emerge - emerge.

Many Many Thanks

To the many who increased their pledge 5, 10 percent or more, thank you so much. To those who gave what they could, thank you so much also. We depend on each of us participating in the Stewardship of this congregation at the level we can, which is part of what makes this community so beautiful.

For those who have yet to let us know what support they can commit to next year, please let us know, ASAP! And give your fellow members on the Pledge Team and Finance Committee a break - We really do depend on all of us to help support, govern and create a budget for this community! Please simply email me at lynn.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org. *Thanks again!*



MEMBER REFLECTION STORIES

JEFF AND JERRI PEARCY



Jeff and Jerri Percy are members since April 1992.

Jeff Percy thinks that one of the gifts the Reverend Jennifer brings to First Church is an "openness to the sacred." Jeri enjoys the opportunities for community service that are "built-in" to First Church programs.

NANCY SPRANSY



Nancy Spransy is a member since January 1985.

Nancy Spransy is thankful for the chance to learn how a church operates while learning much about herself along the way.

April 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 175th 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!





Breaking Cookies Building Community

Join us for the Reveal of our Congregational Ends.
All are Welcome.

We listened, we distilled, and then we created these 8 statements that we believe captures what we heard you telling us about your dreams for First Church. These Ends are statements about who we want to become as a community, what we want to do with our ministry, and what difference we want to make in which people's lives as a result.

Please come and let us know how these resonate with you.

When: April 15 at 12:30

Where: Max Otto Hall

Although not required, feel free to rsvp at <http://bit.ly/OurEnds>.

Need child care? Register during Coffee Hour on April 8 or 15.

uumilwaukee.org



CULTIVATE YOURSELF

First Church Spiritual Retreat

By Rollie Hanson

The First Church Spiritual Retreat in Communal Silence is coming this fall September 28 to September 30. Registration will start in April and run through most of May. So I wanted to tell everyone a little bit about it.

With spring in the air, it seems a little a bit unfair to ask you to start thinking about our Spiritual Retreat in the fall. So let's talk about the here and now, the busy lives we lead, the hustle and bustle of deadlines, getting everything done and still have some downtime. Do you ever feel like the song, like you're working 8 days a week? The Retreat will give you a chance simply stop for a brief period of time with whatever you have been doing or planning to do. For me, it has been a time to measure and weigh things in my life without the day to day distractions. To contemplate joys and pains and to grieve losses. It has been a chance for me to check me out in a beautiful setting about 35 miles from Milwaukee.

The Spiritual Retreat in Communal Silence starts on Friday evening and ends Sunday at noon at the Cedar Valley Retreat near West Bend. This is a Retreat Center on 100 acres with trails and great natural beauty. I did my first retreat 3 years ago and have gone back every year since.

The retreat is an opportunity to stop whatever you're doing or planning to do and give you a chance to step out of the normal day to day routine and take some time for thought and renewal. There is no try there, just do and in doing less you can do more, for yourself. It is spiritual, it is communal and we gather in silence for a few hours out of the 525,000 minutes of the year. And we gather in love. Even if you're not working 8 days a week, you will find the Retreat an incredible life experience. Think about it. Come join us, I am sure you will find it most worthwhile.

Spiritual Direction Groups at First Church

Are you interested in being part of a monthly contemplative group experience? Do you want to dedicate time to noticing the sacred in your life? Do you yearn for a place where people listen deeply to what is said, without judgment, and hold you and your spirit as you talk? Do you welcome a place where you can sit with others in sharing as well as in silence?

Join us for an informational meeting to learn about Spiritual Direction Groups available at First Church for the 2018 – 2019 church year. We will meet in Max Otto Hall on Sunday, April 22 at 12:10. A second meeting may be scheduled later in the church year, depending on available space in the groups, and will be announced as part of the electronic announcements.

We will spend about an hour providing information about these groups. We will offer an experiential glimpse of a spiritual direction group, share our group format and covenants, highlight our intentions for the next church year, describe how you can become a group member, and answer any questions you may have.

Who we are: Candice Haight and Diane Horne are members of First Church who completed a 3-year spiritual direction formation program in 2013. We have facilitated spiritual direction groups for the past five years, and are interested in continuing to offer this rich experience to members of First Church who are open to this type of group.

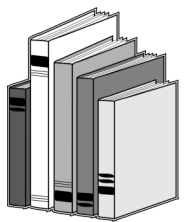
If you are interested in learning more about Spiritual Direction Groups but cannot make the informational meeting, please feel free to contact either Candice Haight or Diane Horne by May 31.

Book Tower News

We are expecting to have two new books at the Book Tower which are related to this monthly theme of "Emergence."

First is "Testimony, the Transformative Power of Unitarian Universalism" edited by Meg Riley. "A dynamic collection of personal stories from people whose lives have been changed dramatically by Unitarian Universalism." The second book is "Start Where You Are" by Meera Lee Patel. This is an interactive journal designed to "help readers nurture their creativity, mindfulness, and self-motivation."

Hopefully, the book "Justice on Earth: People of Faith Walking at the Intersection of Race, Class and the Environment," co-authored by our own Rev. Jennifer, will be on our Book Tower shelves by then! Be sure to check us out!





ENJOY CELEBRATIONS

Are You Willing to Kneel and Kiss the Ground?

By Tree Moore

Many years ago, when I was committed to the pleasant tradition of sending and receiving Christmas cards, one contained unusual news. My friend Mary Applehof wrote that she was experimenting with a pile of garbage along with a handful of worms in her basement. Initially it was mostly a smelly mess. Not sure quite what she was doing, she kept playing with various variables: moister, dryer, warmer, more paper, different kinds of worms. Those squiggly creatures slowly became miracle workers transforming waste into quality black soil. The following Christmas card told of her success. Mary's excitement over this humble experiment spread. She began teaching her techniques; running workshops and eventually writing a bestseller, *Worms Eat My Garbage*. Use of the term vermiculture spread. Mary was even given the curious title of the Worm Queen of the World.

There was no fairy godmother. Mary was no King Midas. However the story demonstrates what one individual with curiosity, persistence, imagination and passion can create, in this case, out of a pile of garbage.

This month the "Are You Willing?" . . . campaign focuses on the element "earth" which includes soil, compost, gardening, landscaping, and food. There are numerous ways we might consider changing the status quo of our personal lives vis a vis earth; e.g., for food we commit to buying local and organic. For landscaping, we could adopt the Victory Garden Initiative motto of "Move Grass, Grow Food". To grow the food we need to grow the soil, hence the need to compost, perhaps with a worm bin?

Seriously consider these possibilities and visit the "Are You Willing?" table for fresh ways of thinking or new conversations about your relationship to earth.

As Rumi said, "There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground."

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/>.

Common Ground Celebrates its 10 Year Anniversary on April 29

On Sunday, April 29, Common Ground will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary, artfully dubbed TENacity and we want you there! In those ten years, substantial things have been accomplished.

This is what we have done with the support of so many of you at First Church: Common Ground has successfully taken on the foreclosure crisis and continues to serve as a catalyst for neighborhood development. The Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative was launched with over 56,000 enrolled. Weaknesses in public education have been reduced, and youth employment has been fostered. And Common Ground is engaged in ongoing efforts to reduce gun violence and improve water quality, the environment, and public safety.

Has the past decade been one of unbridled success? Of course not. Inevitably, when a community organization speaks truth to power, power does not always yield meekly. But that is the strength of our organization. We shake off disappointment, and jump right back into the battle. And all the while we learn. We improve our skills, build relationships, and continue to equip ourselves to fight the good fight. Please mark your calendars now to reserve the date, April 29, Sunday afternoon, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. (plan to arrive by 3:00) at the Italian Community Center, 631 E. Chicago St. to join over 1,000 Common Ground members and friends. We are stronger when you show up. Please look for the "FUSM" signs as we will be sitting together. Child care will be provided. And, there will be cake!

Please, no maybes! Take the kids along and invite your friends and neighbors. Please confirm the number that you will be bringing by responding to bikehead5@yahoo.com.

Your Common Ground Core Team:

Lynn Connolly, Larry Krolkowski, Rod De Pue, Russ Langford, Mary Ann Fisher, Cathy Startt, Jerry Fredrickson, Mary Ann Steger



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: About Easter

When it comes to Easter, I'm pretty lighthearted. I've always been more of a "Flowers that bloom in the spring, TRA LA!" type of gal than one who dwells on the darkness from which we've come, and the deeper themes of resurrection. Easter is my turning point after the winter cold, the embodiment of life and hope in pastel colors of new growth.

My early spring memories are more rooted in the Jewish celebration of Passover. As a child, I was made to understand that it was the grown-ups obligation to tell the story of liberation from generation to generation and that one day, it would be my obligation to tell the story as well. The Passover Seder itself is a tool, each item on the plate a reminder of a piece of the story: heartache, bitterness, sweetness, and renewal. How appropriate for this season.

Unitarian Universalist children hear all sorts of messages when the calendar comes around to this time of year. We do not live isolated lives; so how do we respond to traditions and beliefs of our friends and families? Respectfully, I say, "With open hearts and open minds." Share in the traditions, find what meaning you can, and develop your own rituals that celebrate what most speaks to your spirit.

On Sunday, April 1, we will be celebrating Easter and spring at all of our First Church Services. Children in 1-8 grades are invited to join their parents for the first portion of the service. Afterward, those children will adjourn to the Young Room on the lower level where we will have a wonderful variety of ways to celebrate and find meaning in both the season and the seasonal holidays. Older children and youth are welcome to stay for the full service. Younger children are welcome to participate in age-appropriate activities in the Early Childhood class and Nursery.

In Faith, *Beryl*

Children and youth in religious education to vote On Share the plate recipient!

*We believe each person should have a vote
about the things that concern them.*

~UU Principle (Children's Version)

Our children have two terrific choices for their April 15 Religious Education "Share the Plate" vote:

1. Express Yourself Milwaukee, an organization dedicated to bringing music, theater, dance and visual arts to children in Milwaukee's inner city, thereby teaching valuable life skills like teamwork, confidence, and self-expression, and offering both joy and hope for the future. <http://www.expressyourselfmilwaukee.org/>
2. Project Q: The Youth Center of Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, an organization that creates a safe space for 13-24 year old lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning teens to explore topics of relevance, to learn new skills, and to socialize.

The concept of Share the Plate and the organizations chosen to be put to a vote will be introduced on March 25 during Children's Chapel (and Youth Programming during class time); voting will take place in RE classes on April 15. The organization with the most votes will receive our church's donations from the May offering plate collections.

Share the Plate is a bold program of radical generosity. Giving away 50% of our weekly collection allows our church community to significantly deepen our social justice mission by connecting us to the people and organizations that are shaping our world in ways that align with our congregation's mission and values.

More information about these organizations will be provided in "kid friendly" language to both children and parents in the weeks ahead. Limited classroom time will also be used to help inform the young people of their options. I invite parents/ guardians to take some time to research these groups before April 15, and talk your child through the pros and cons of supporting each one with their vote. This is a great opportunity help children learn that their vote and voice can truly make a difference! Questions? Contact our DRE Beryl Ashenberg, at 414-273-5257 or email at ber-



COME AND SEE OUR YOUTH IN ACTION

All About Youth....

By Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

Our April church theme is "Emergence" which comes from the Latin emergere, to bring light. At our inspiring March Youth Service, Chalice Lighting words were shared by the Rev. Jane Rzepka. I find her words below to be equally inspiring in terms of thinking about what it means to be part of a people of emergence.

"Transformation means complete and total metamorphosis... And certainly, some of us may be ready to embrace that...But I think that most weeks I am like a lot of our parishioners—not all, but most—when I say that I'm not looking for a religion that tells me from the get-go that I need a complete overhaul. I'm looking for a religion that first and foremost welcomes me as I am, a busy, flawed, often bewildered person who is doing her best in a complicated world...we're not talking semantics here; we're talking about a foundational theological statement: Are you good enough to walk into Unitarian Universalism as you are, or do we need you to change into something other than you are? Can't have it both ways. I take the side of welcoming you as you are...That's the Unitarian Universalist theological position. Inherent dignity. Inherent worth. Our theology says you need not be transformed first. Come as you are and be blessed." - the Rev. Jane Rzepka

April Youth Happenings at First Church:

- YRUU youth group Sunday morning topics are:
- April 1- Multigenerational Service for Easter
- April 8- Membership at First Church with the Reverend Dena and Lynne Jacoby, Membership Development Coordinator
- April 15- Gender Fishbowl
- April 22- Interpersonal Communication/Mental Health
- April 29- YRUU picnic/YSC elections and Welcome freshmen into YRUU

A Youth's Perspective

By Celie Koneazny

Taking up a leadership role in our church as well as the Unitarian Universalist community has been one of the biggest and most important aspects of my life thus far. I took the opportunity to go to Midwest Leadership School, lead lock-in's, lead youth group, speak in front of this congregation, join the Youth Steering Committee, and attend youth conferences. These youth conferences, lovingly referred to as "CONS" are a weekend long retreats that youth groups of UU congregations all around the country plan in order to unite youth groups from around their district area. The goal is to take a topic, most recently "CONspiracy", and plan activities and a worship surrounding that topic while building meaningful, powerful relationships among different congregations. Three of the four youth from this congregation attended their first CON in March and two of them are graduating seniors this year which means they won't have the option to return to another CON. While at CON, they were given the opportunity to "bridge" and both stated that they wished they had gone before because of the friendship, bonding, and learning that comes with the CON experience. One of the biggest things I've come to take away from CON, Midwest Leadership School, and meeting with other congregations is that being connected to the UU community as an adult will feel more difficult if you haven't been exposed to different UU experiences while you are young.

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 fundraising tradition. Or email Youth Program Coordinator, Deb Solis with your intention to donate, or to ask questions deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org.



Scholarships Available to Attend General Assembly While Staying in Milwaukee

Want to participate in General Assembly, but not travel there? You can attend remotely, via the internet. First Church will pay the registration fee for you to attend as an "off-site delegate."

GA this year is June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri. You can attend these sessions from Milwaukee if you want to. General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. First Church is allocated 16 member-delegates. The GA Theme this year is "All Are Called".

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. GA in Kansas City will dive deeply into questions of mission for our Association, congregations, communities, and for each of us as individuals.

What Can You do as an Off-Site Registrant?

- Watch all events that happen in the General Session Hall: worships, business meetings, and the Ware Lecture
- Watch and ask questions in live sessions including workshops and business sessions
- Propose amendments in the live business sessions, participate in debates, and vote
- Participate in an online chat room to build community and share ideas with other off-site registrants.
- Watch video of additional workshops within one day of each event.

Applications for these First Church scholarships are due April 8. See Bruce Wiggins for details.

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 in the Sanctuary. 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 of members to the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee, 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.

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATE (PCA) INFORMATION SESSION SUNDAY

"Through serving as a PCA, I have learned that being a compassionate presence for someone going through a hard time is invaluable," comments by Anjum Alden, current PCA.

Are you interested in learning more about becoming a Pastoral Care Associate?

Come to the Information Session Sunday, April 8 at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in Max Otto Hall. Current PCAs will describe what is involved and answer your questions. This informal conversation will help you decide if you'd like to apply for this important ministry role at First Church. Applications are due April 15.

YOGA SESSIONS OFFERED AT FIRST CHURCH!

Teacher: Morgan Engels

Nine Mondays: April 9 – June 11
(no class on May 27, Memorial Day)

Cost: \$90 members / \$108 non-members

Ten Wednesdays: April 11-June 13

Cost: \$100 members / \$120 non-members

Join us for gentle yoga classes, offered at two different times for your convenience. The use of props makes this practice accessible to everyone and allows students to work at their own level; all are welcome. Payment required at registration. Visit the RE Table in March to sign up, or get our mail-in registration form or check on our website event page.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH- April 2018

"What do you love about Spring?"

Share your thoughts this month at the Question of the Month bulletin board, located on the upper level in the main hallway. This project is meant to spark a dialogue between the generations... please take the time to post your response, and if you have a young person in your home, encourage them to share theirs too. Then- start talking!





Consider Becoming a Pastoral Care Associate!

Since 1997, First Church has offered a Pastoral Care Associates Program which trains and commissions members of our congregation whose talents, experience and skills enable them to respond to fellow members in times of need. This one-to-one lay ministry is designed to complement, not replace, the pastoral care that our ministers continue to provide. This is ministry of "being" rather than "doing", a ministry of presence and quiet listening. (Our Pastoral Care Providers program is a ministry of "doing" by providing meals, and rides.)

Who is a Pastoral Care Associate?

- A warm, caring and accepting person who can respect confidentiality
- An honest, authentic person who has grown through the challenges and pain of their own life
- An active, interested, accessible member of First Church who is willing to take risks, is ready to grow and learn and can accept uncertainty, rejection, and ambiguity

Being a Pastoral Care Associate is as much about growing and becoming this kind of person as it is about being this kind of person. The ongoing training involved in the program is designed to facilitate this development as well as to foster a strong sense of group support among the Pastoral Care Associates.

For Whom is Pastoral Care Given?

- Families with a new baby, foster or adopted child
- Members facing an important life transition, surgery or chronic illness
- Those experiencing job loss, divorce, terminal illness, the death of a friend or family member, or other crisis.

Is Training Provided?

Training focused on cultivating a listening presence and helpful approaches to outreach will be provided by PCA Lead Trainer, Laurie Petersen, and PCA Coordinator Jane Peterson, both of whom are experienced PCAs themselves. The training is also guided by our Associate Minister, Dena McPhetres. All Pastoral Care Associates **must participate** in all of the following training sessions, which will take place at the church on Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

September 22 & 29
and
October 13 & 20

What is the Time Commitment?

Following the training, if interested in proceeding, each Pastoral Care Associate is available for a minimum of two visits per month, unless they are out of town. PCAs also attend monthly meetings with the other Associates for ongoing support and learning. Pastoral Care Associates serve for three years.

What is the Selection Process?

If you are interested in serving as a Pastoral Care Associate, please complete an application online on our church website by midnight Sunday, April 15. Selected applicants will be interviewed by Laurie, Jane, and Dena during the month of May. Approximately ten people will be selected for the training. All applicants will be informed if they have been selected by the end of May. Toward the end of the training, there will be a "taking stock" discernment to decide whether you still wish to commit to becoming a Pastoral Care Associate.

Please contact the Rev. Dena McPhetres at
dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org
or 414-273-5257, ext. 202 with questions.



EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

APRIL 6



First Friday Films April selection is *Chasing Ice* Sponsored by Terry Wiggins.

When it came to climate change scientist and adventurer James Balog was a bit of a skeptic. However, he decided to go on a near impossible journey of gathering justifiable proof of how our very planet's climate is changing, which both opened his mind and challenged him many ways, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

The award-winning and called "hauntingly beautiful," audiences of *Chasing Ice* will share Balog's inspiring, frightening, mystical, and challenging experiences as he faces struggles with frigid temperatures, faulty equipment, and internal strife, ultimately finding rewards on a mission that is at turns moving, informative, frightening and entertaining.

Terry Wiggins of Earth Justice Ministry will follow up *Chasing Ice* with a discussion with no doubt will be very lively and interesting.

Film date April 6. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., film showing promptly at 7:00 p.m. Snacks and childcare provided for free.

APRIL 14
GONG MEDITATION

Join us Saturday, April 14 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Max Otto Hall for Preston Klik's Ocean Of Devotion Gong Meditation, a gentle-but-dynamic, 90-minute acoustic journey as beautiful to the eye as it is to the ear, heart, body, mind, and spirit. Experience the sound wash of a 36-inch Heart Gong, crystal bowls, Tibetan bowls, ocean & water & thunder drums, smaller gongs, and chimes. OCEAN inspires deep inner journeying in a community context as attendees are bathed in multiple octaves of inspirational sonic vibrations while they sit or lie comfortably on cushions. Cost is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Register online at <https://gongmeditation.bpt.me> or call 1-800-838-3006.

APRIL

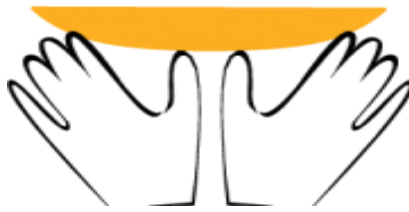


- Patricia Witt will sing with the Milwaukee Choristers spring concert, "Celebrating Our Songs" Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Schwan Hall at Wisconsin Lutheran College, 8815 W. Wisconsin Avenue. See MilwaukeeChoristers.org for ticket prices and sales.
- John Stano performs live at The Coffee House, 1905 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Saturday, April 28 8:00 p.m.-10:15 p.m. \$5 donation; doors open at 7:30 p.m. Go to <http://www.the-coffee-house.com> for more info.
- First Church members Mary Ann Beaumont, Penny Egan, and Valerie Pogue will perform with the Plymouth Chorale at its spring concerts on Saturday, April 28, at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m. The programs are held at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Street, Milwaukee. The public is invited.



Share the Plate

By Dawn Blackmore



Milwaukee Riverkeeper is our April Share the Plate recipient. Serving Southeastern Wisconsin since 1996, Milwaukee Riverkeeper's mission is to protect, improve and advocate for increased water quality, wildlife habitat and sound land management in the Milwaukee River Basin. They work to ensure that people from all walks of life can enjoy the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic River Watersheds. They are also a licensed member of the Waterkeep Alliance, which is an international coalition working toward clean water.

Milwaukee Riverkeeper places a great deal of importance on connecting citizens to our waterways and making them places that are swimmable, fishable, accessible and enjoyable to all. In partnership with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), they have recently launched a new Adopt-a-River Program. Through the program, Milwaukee Riverkeeper hopes to bring new communities and

groups down to the river's edge to help clean up, protect and revitalize the watershed. Much like the Adopt-a-Highway program, the Adopt-a-River Program will allow companies, organizations, and groups to adopt sections of the river along the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic rivers as well as the Inner Harbor and nearshore of Lake Michigan and keep them clean. To learn more about this organization or how you can become more involved, please visit their website at www.milwaukeekeeper.org. Cash collected in the plate will be shared 50/50 between Milwaukee Riverkeeper and First Church. To donate only to Milwaukee Riverkeeper, please write a check directly to Milwaukee Riverkeeper and we will mail it to you. Parents and guardians, please talk with your children how even small donations help.

UU+ Study Group Schedules Spring Meeting

By Nancy Pajewski

The UU+ Study Group has expanded its discussion of the work of liberal Biblical scholar Bart Ehrman. We will meet to discuss Ehrman's latest book, *The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World*, on Tuesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. The book is available through the public library system. All are welcome to the discussion, especially those who have not attended in February and March. Contact Nancy Pajewski or Chris Linder for more information.

FIELD TRIP SAVE THE DATE

On May 25, the Earth Justice Committee is planning a field trip to the Chiwaukee Prairie Nature Area in Kenosha County. You will see a fascinating collection of spring native plants in bloom.

The Chronologically Gifted (TCG) affinity group

Some Chanticleer readers may not be familiar with The Chronologically Gifted (TCG) affinity group – what we do, who we serve, and why we exist. So here are answers to those questions.

On the last Sunday of the month (except for June-August), we convene in Lake Park for Musical Mondays with food and music. We are a lively group of people "of a certain age", 60ish and older and we meet in Max Otto Hall for a potluck luncheon to get to know each other more deeply and sometimes enjoy a brief informative program. Our purpose, simply, is to support one another. As the young folks say, we have each other's backs, and we are men and women, gay and straight, married and single, all looking for ways in which to make this stage of life rich with friendships and fulfilling spiritually. We like to have fun, too.

So bring your favorite baked bean dish, or favorite brownies, and join us for the April 29 TCG potluck immediately after the second service. I'll bet you'll be glad you did!



GETTING TOGETHER

Come Visit Our Affinity Groups!

From the Rev. Dena McPhetres

Stop in, meet new people and make new friends! Visitors are especially welcome. If you have an idea for starting a new group, contact the Rev. Dena at 414 273-5257, ext. 202 or dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org.

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.

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 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.

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! For more information about SWANS, contact Barbara Collignon at or Jeanne Durnford.

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. For book information and outlines of additional material, contact Nancy Pajewski .

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 more information, contact Susie Seidelman or Yalanda Ludtke at 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 Nortro.



Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director, accompanied by Jack Forbes Wilson

Rollie Hanson, Worship Associate

Director of Religious Education Beryl Aschenberg

A sudden realization may seem surprising and special, but it emerges from what is already there. Epiphanies can be scientific breakthroughs, philosophical discoveries, or a realization in which we understand something more deeply or from an enlightening perspective. It's the sudden emergence of clarity from something we've been thinking about for a long time. The "aha!" moment that can never be taken back. If you have a personal story of a significant "aha!" moment you'd like to share, please send it to me by April 11.

April 22

"Life's Wholeness Calls Us"

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Worship Associate Jason Ludtke

Director of Religious Education Beryl Aschenberg

The climate crisis we are in now has been emerging for a long time. The urgency of now was created by decades of ignoring warnings, but even more, by centuries of centering individual experience and profit while ignoring the broader context of life. What would it be like to expand our understanding to include the wideness of the whole earth and broader humanity? What emerges from the fullness of being, and the whole of life?

April 29

"Who Do You Want to Become?"

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Worship Associate Bob Balderson

Associate Minister Dena McPhetres

There is a relationship between who you are now, and who you are becoming. In the process of visioning our future as a community, we are calling ourselves into our hoped-for becoming, even as we live together today. How can knowing who we are helping us become who we long to be? What must we know about ourselves in order to unfold towards our hope?

FRAGRANCE-FREE ZONE – First Right Side Three Pews

A number of our beloved members and guests have fragrance sensitivities which limit their access to and participation in congregational life at First Church. We can help welcome people and accommodate this invisible disability by not using scented personal products like perfume, cologne, scented aftershave, fragranced hair products (natural and synthetic), essential oils, and scented lotions when coming to Sunday services and church activities.

As a welcoming gesture to provide access to our shared space, we've set aside the first three pews on the right side of the sanctuary for people with fragrance sensitivities and their loved ones. Please leave these seats available for folks with fragrance sensitivities and do not sit near them if you know you are wearing scented products. We recognize it is impossible to create a completely fragrance-free public space, yet people find that having a designated area to sit helps both physically and psychologically. We hope you will join us in welcoming all our members and friends to First Church by providing more access to our shared worship space!

How To Reach Us

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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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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

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SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

April 8

**“Environmental Politics in Wisconsin:
An Insider’s View”**

Presenter: Former State Senator Gary Goyke
Chair of the Clean Wisconsin 501 C 4

Former State Senator Gary Goyke, long time Wisconsin political operative and voice of the Clean Wisconsin citizens action group, will offer his insights on the spring elections’ implications for Wisconsin’s environmental protection programs.

April 15

**“Turning the Corner:
Understanding Conscious Aging”**

Marjorie Nixon, LCSW, Presenter
UWM Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

This talk is a reflection exploring the unexamined, self-limiting stereotypes and assumptions about aging in order to help ourselves make better choices for life affirming actions and beliefs. We will address self-compassion for coping effectively with change, worry, and stresses associated with aging. We will reflect on what has given heart and meaning to our lives, how that informs our intentions for our aging and enhances our sense of connection.

April 22

**“Get the Lead Out: Neither Bottled Water
nor Flushing is the Answer”**

Brenda Coley, Co-Executive Director & Kirsten Shead, Manager, Water City Program, Milwaukee Water Commons
Milwaukee has a serious problem with lead in our drinking water. Long-term, we must replace 70,000 lead laterals that bring lead-leached water to Milwaukee homes, many in low-income communities. This could take decades and hundreds of millions of dollars. We can’t stand by while our most vulnerable communities are at risk of lead poisoning. Milwaukee Water Common’s Drinking Water Initiative has a simple, cost-effective interim solution -- water filters!

April 29

**“Blueprint for Peace: A Public Health Approach
to Violence Prevention”**

David Muhammad, Violence Prevention Manager
City of Milwaukee Health Department

The Office of Violence Prevention provides strategic direction and oversight toward reducing the risk of violence through linked strategies in partnership with government, non-profit, neighborhood and faith organizations. The Blueprint for Peace, November 2017, focuses on six broad goals: stop the shooting, promote healing and restorative justice, support children, youth and families, promote economic opportunity, foster safe and strong neighborhoods, and strengthen the coordination of violent prevention efforts. Mr. Muhammad will explain the project’s foundation and early outcomes.

