



THE CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

March 2018

WORDS on the WIND

By The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

March includes Spring Equinox when the hours of dark and light are evenly balanced. It can be a good time to reflect on equanimity. Is balance a state of stillness or dance? In yoga balance postures, first I sink into balance through movement, then the movement stills into breath, and then eventually into movement again. What is the relationship between movement and stillness as you find your balance?

As a community, we have the opportunity to find our balance together—like acrobats who fly the air or shift drivers who give each other breaks. When people work together, they have to experiment to find their give and take in each moment, their balance of talents in the dance. No one person can lead or follow all the time, nor can communities be solely composed of leaders or followers. We must learn to move and flow with the rhythm of our own lives in the context of the rhythm of the people. Sometimes the balance is in flow, sometimes it is in ebb, sometimes movement, sometimes stillness.

Our Board is in the midst of articulating Ends from the visions you shared with them this fall. These Ends will set the direction for us to move together as a congregation. At the same time, our Pledge Team and Visiting Stewards are leading us in the stewardship of our mission, gathering the resources to fulfill our dreams. It is a pleasure to witness the dance of the different parts of the congregation, moving in the rhythm of the whole, finding balance. What is your role in this rhythm?

With love, *Jennifer*

Theme: What Does It Mean to Be A People of

BALANCE?

COMING ON SUNDAY!

Two Services & Religious Education

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

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Annual Youth Service

"Change: Practice What You Preach"

Music: Jack Forbes Wilson, Resident Artist

This year's annual youth service will include songs, testimonials, and readings from our youth to follow our theme of Change: Practice What You Preach. The youth group is challenging you to take action for standing up for what you believe in! In this New Year, the youth have resolved to start fighting back while raising awareness on three subjects they feel passionate about diversity: the environment, and immigration. It will be an inspirational service you don't want to miss!

Sunday, March 11, 2018

"Balance as the Pendulum Swings"

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Worship Associate Diane Horne

The Rev. Don Foerster wrote that our lives swing like pendulums between and among polarities; that we swing between the desire "to serve the cosmos that commands us to become more" and the longing to "be our genuine selves, content with what we are." How does the balance between outer pull and inner need show up in your life? Are you saving the world or savoring it? What kind of practice would help you feel more in balance with yourself, or more content with where you are now? Join us in this service that will explore personal practices for paying attention to each moment and listening to what is calling you

(Please see "SUNDAYS" on page 15)

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Dena's Digressions

By The Rev. Dena McPhetres

The healing power of one-to-one listening simply cannot be over-estimated. To be truly heard by another human being is rare in our fast-paced lives. Those of you who have received the calm presence and deep listening of a Pastoral Care Associate when you were feeling out of balance - - grieving or ill, suffering divorce or job loss, recovering from surgery, dealing with a difficult transition -- would likely join me in affirming the value of this quiet listening ministry. And the PCAs in turn value the honor of being present with you. Here are some things our current PCAs say about their ministry:

- "Through serving as a PCA, I've learned how many people appreciate a listening ear and how caring the PCAs are the members of our church and of each other." – Jane Peterson
- "I've learned to become a better listener. In most cases, the people I've called upon need someone to talk to especially if they have lost a loved one." – Gordie Mueller
- "I've changed since serving as a PCA. I feel my reflections are on a deeper level. I take more time to draw conclusions. My interactions

with people are on a better level. I want to take more time to know the people I care about." – Michele Burke.

Every three years, we invite members of our congregation to apply to serve a three-year term as Pastoral Care Associates. If you feel called to the ministry of compassionate listening, please consider applying to become a Pastoral Care Associate. Look for upcoming Information Sessions to find out more or ask me or any of the current PCAs (their photos are on the wall at the entrance to the Common Room). Pick up a flyer around the church or visit our website to read answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Mandatory training is provided over a series of four Saturdays next fall. Application forms are available on our website, due by midnight on April 15. Applicants will be selected for interviews, references contacted and background checks completed, as we consider this position of service to the congregation with the greatest care.

Yours,



Dancing with Balance

By Julie Bock

Congregation President 2016-2018

If your life is like my life it is often overbooked. The multiple demands on my time insistently clamor for my attention. I bet simply reading those two sentences produced a list instantaneously in your mind. And as a reminder, most of those demands emanate from something that started out as joyful.

So, what do we do? I heard strongly during the Board's listening sessions for our Ends process - which is still rolling along. More news to come in March! Now many of you come to First Church to find your balance. Our community gives freely of its time and talent as well as its treasure in support of all of us. Our Ministers and lay leaders inspire us to think and act in ways where we can find a balance for ourselves and our world.

But what if you don't know where to even start on the daily din screaming in your life? Or the things you have tried have been unsatisfactory to you? It isn't a coincidence that January's theme was Intention and February's Perseverance. Dancing with Balance is never easy and is different for everyone. I leave you with something that helped me. I was in a training with Tony Schwartz in 2010 where he addressed imbalance from the perspective of energy rather than time management. He had a quiz on energy that assessed body, emotions, mind, & spirit. My score indicated I was a mess. But the specifics of the questions gave me the direction for a change. I did 2 simple things: I vowed to get 7+ hours of sleep and do more regular exercise. For me, those are powerful tools for creating more balance in my life.

"You can't start with imbalance and end with peace."
– Ani DiFranco

FINANCIAL FUTURE EVENTS

March 4 and 11

What does it cost to operate a church? Where do my pledge donations go? How are bequests allocated? Who's making decisions about how our money is used? What does it take to fulfill this church's vision? Join us to explore these questions and more! This session will be held on two different Sundays. Refreshments will be served.

March 4 after second service, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in Max Otto Hall

March 11 after the first service, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor

You don't need to register in advance to attend these sessions. Childcare is available and does require sign up ahead of time. Please contact Holly Patzer to sign up for childcare or for questions.



Splinters From the Board

By Mark Bishop

On January 23, the Board of Trustees (BOT) held its monthly meeting covering a number of important items including final preparation for the Board visioning retreat held on January 27 and 28. The BOT has been energized around the process and is excited to share the results with the congregation when finalized. Noreen Gilbertsen, Finance Committee Chair, shared the 2nd Quarter Financial Reports noting positive results for income and expense management. In addition, our unrestricted fund balance is very strong as a result of the Lu Krug bequest. The Reverend Jennifer presented a number of items in her Senior Minister Report to the Board, most notably Reverend Dena's return from Sabbatical. In addition, she updated the BOT on the Lu Krug Gift Acceptance Team's recommendation and the follow-up from by the Finance Committee and the Investment sub-team. The recommended allocation of the bequest is to utilize 30% of the \$850,000 to address short-term cash flow needs of the Church for the next several years; 50% of the bequest to support items emanating from the BOT's Ends process; and the remaining 20% to be added to the church's long-term endowment. The Rev. Jennifer provided the Trustees with an overview of the Stewardship Council's upcoming pledge drive. She also noted that reflections of 25 year plus members called the "First Church Stories Exhibit" will be displayed in the Common Room beginning in February.

The Board's next meeting will be February 27 at 6:00 p.m. As always, you can find the minutes of our meetings on the First Church bulletin board and on our church website. We encourage you to find us after the church services to introduce yourselves. Don't know who we are? Our pictures are on the wall outside the church offices. We wear yellow nametags and are available during Coffee Hour. Our contact information is in the front of the member directory.

STEWARDSHIP

Now More Than Ever

To many of us, it seems that suddenly our world has shifted into reverse. We had believed, even during the many years of a polarized political system, that there existed an underlying positive regard for each other, a basic sensibility of respecting and valuing one another. We believed, despite the red and blue fights, that society continued to move toward a greater humanity, toward the truth that we are ultimately one people. But we suddenly find ourselves in a new reality, fashioned by our top leaders, a reality in which the new rules of engagements are to denigrate, belittle and discredit those who are regarded as different from us. Immigrants are regularly derided as criminals, burdens to society and threats to our security. Racism has been given a legitimate standing, as when social justice and hate groups have recently classed and our leaders pronounce that it is wrongdoing on both sides. Racist leaders have emerged and coined new phases for old hates, such as the "alternative right". While we cope with these changes, women across the country reveal a dark societal secret, in place over many decades, of harassment and abuse. The same story, different only in detail, is repeated by women from all parts of the country, and we know there is more of the story to come.

In contrast to the values of this new reality, Unitarian Universalists believe that every person has inherent worth, that we embrace all people, and that we strive for justice, equity and compassion as the means to build human relations. And we come to First Church to find each other in community, to regain our spiritual balance, and to be reminded by our leaders of who we are and to make meaning of what is happening. We come to First Church to find clarity, conviction, and direction.

To sustain and strengthen First Church we ask that you consider increasing your annual contribution by 5% - 10% toward a goal of a pledge supported the congregation.

By Fred R. Gutierrez

2018 Pledge Information

Pledge Timeline:

The FY 2018/19 budget for First Church will be determined by the commitments we make now. Please help make the Finance Committee's job easier by turning in your pledge by March 18th.

How to Pledge?

Bring a filled out pledge card (received in the mail) to the March 18th service and join in the Stewardship Celebration Sunday. Mail, or drop your pledge card at the Membership Table attention: Pledge Team. Fill out a pledge form on-line at: uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/stewardship/pledge-drive/

Contact Lynne Jacoby Membership Development Coordinator, 414.273.2575 x 205 or by email to lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org.



Reflections: Stories from our 25+ year members

This month the Membership Committee features a new round of 25 plus year members as part of the Reflections project. Be sure and check out their full stories on display in the Common Room..

CAROL AND BOB DIGGELMAN



Carol and Bob Diggelman have been Members since January 1974. Carol and Bob think Reverend Jennifer is the right minister for the times. They were impressed by Jennifer's post-election sermon on grief and action. "She touched most of the right things," Carol said.

DIANNE LINK



Member since February 1989
"Many people who have known me a long time say, 'You go to church?' Now I look at it as part of my identity," Dianne says.

PHIL AND MARY REYKDAL



Members since March 1976
Phil and Mary Reykdal have attended a few General Assemblies. Mary was a pastoral care associate (PCA), inspired by a visit she received from a PCA while in the hospital.

Memorial gift received: The church has gratefully received Memorial Gifts from the following people in memory of Charles Gottschalk: **Janet & Marlowe Nortrom, Patricia Scharmach, Theodore Scher, Katherine Marrs, William & Kathleen Frink, Thallis Drake, Roderic Botts.** The church has gratefully received Memorial Gifts from the following people in memory of Tom Pajaweski: **Janet Nortrom.**

Memorial Gifts made to the church are usually in lieu of flowers being sent to a bereaved family or to a funeral home. It is a meaningful and tasteful way of acknowledging someone's death. The church acknowledges each contributor with an appropriate note both to the contributor and to the family of the deceased. The names of all contributors (but no amounts), along with the memorialized person's name, are recorded in our permanent Church Record Book.



An Invitation

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, 2018

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.



Want to Become a Worship Associate?

Apply By April 1!

What Are We Looking For?

Our most recent Worship Associates have said the experience deepened their spiritual lives and connected them more deeply to their fellow First Church members. Worship Associates engage in reflection on meaning, purpose, and the life of the congregation. Worship Associates help develop Sunday themes for worship in quarterly meetings with the Ministers, Music Staff, and Program Staff. At these meetings, we delve into personal and communal understandings of monthly themes like “Hope,” “Intention,” and “Welcome,” and then identify topics for each of the Sunday services of the month. The program includes training for Worship Associates on pulpit presence, how to deliver readings, logistics, and creating the container for the shared experience of the worship service.

We want members who are moved and inspired by worship and want to contribute to the congregation’s depth of experience in the service. We are looking for people who want to engage in philosophical and theological reflection about meaning and purpose. We are looking for poise, for a diversity of age, ethnicity, and gender, and for people with public speaking ability or experience. We also look for people who are deeply committed to the church and its values.

How to Apply

Please submit your application **by April 1, 2018**, through the website at <http://uumilwaukee.org/ministers-and-leaders/worship-associates/>.

Service Commitments

Worship Associates will begin serving at worship services in September 2018, with the first Worship Associate meetings four months prior on Sunday, May 6, from 2:00-5:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 20, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Attendance at the first meeting is required in order to serve as a Worship Associate. The other WA meetings will be held during the 2018-19 church year, typically in August, October, and January. Worship Associates make a commitment to serve for two years, including during the summers. Worship Associates will support the Ministers in leading worship about once every two months; covering both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on the date they serve. You can also pick up a paper application from the Office Coordinator and return it to Jennifer’s mailbox.

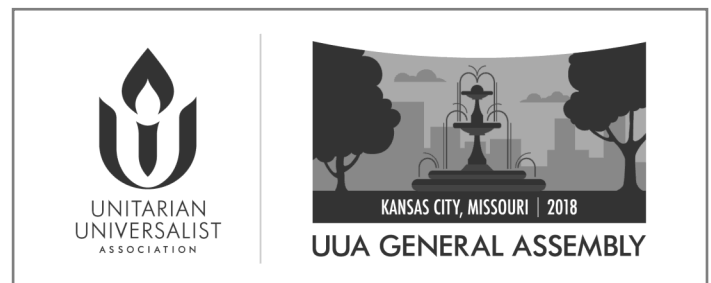
Have a Blast in Kansas City at General Assembly

Deadline for FUSM General Assembly Scholarship
By Bruce Wiggins

Contact Bruce Wiggins for information on a scholarship through FUSM. Applications are due March 5.
Other deadlines come up:

- **IMPORTANT**—Registration for housing and for General Assembly (GA) opens March 1, and then registration fees going up May 1.
- Applications for financial aid through the UUA are accepted March 1 through March 31.

Blues, baseball and barbecue – and maybe some jazz. These are KC attractions to some of us. Plus GA learning and growing personally, and helping UUism grow. See the GA website for more info on the themes this year and also info on KC: <https://www.uua.org/ga>. The website also has info on GA programming, financial aid and other items of interest. See Bruce Wiggins or Janet Nortrom if you want more information about how terrific and energizing the General Assemblies are.



Get Involved in SOCIAL JUSTICE

Keep Up with Social Justice at First Church

See the at bulletin board in Common Room and consult Social Justice table during Coffee Hour

Attend 4 Tuesday luncheons in March Sponsored by Interfaith Conference

In these troubling times, many of us are looking at how to make a difference. Whether it is through service or advocacy or social change, whether you are looking to work on specific issues or building coalitions. First Church members are active in a variety of issues and causes. The members of our Social Justice Council are pictured on the bulletin board in the Common Room next to the bookstore. Come and talk with any of us and visit us at the social justice table during coffee hour.

The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee is sponsoring luncheons at First Church on each Tuesday in March at 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Common Room. The overall title of the series is: “The Danger of Silence: Using our Voices, Hands, Feet, and Pocketbooks to Effect Change.” The series of 4 dates are;

- **March 6** - The Fierce Urgency of Now, Peter Bakken, Ph.D., Coordinator for Public Policy, WCC; Bruce Wiggins, Chair, First Unitarian Society Social Justice Council; Astar Herndon, Stat Director, 9 to 5 Wisconsin
- **March 13** - Human Trafficking: Sex & Labor, Jeana Geraci, Executive Director, Benedict Center; Mariana Rodriguez, UMOs Program Manager, Latina Resource Center
- **March 20** – Homelessness, Amy Rowell, Manager of Community Relations, Guest House; Rev. Karen Hagen, Pastor, Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church; Tim Baack, President/CEO, Pathfinders
- **March 27** - Lead In Our Water, Kristen Shead, Water City Program Manager, Milwaukee Water Commons; Robert Miranda, Founder & Community Advocate, Freshwater for Life Action Coalition

Cost: Series of 4 for \$55 or \$15 for individual luncheon/lecture. For more information and registration, visit the ICGM website {www.interfaithconference.org}, the Social Justice Table and pick-up a flyer talk to Dianna Dentino.

By Bruce Wiggins, Chair, Social Justice Council

Wisconsin UU Social Justice Network Needs Milwaukee Representation

A group of UUs is starting to form a social justice network in Wisconsin. It will be like the networks in our neighboring states of MN, IA, IL, and MI. Organizers see the benefits of creating a network of UU congregations and being a voice of UUs in the state, particularly in Madison at our state government. If you are interested in joining or helping, contact Paul Stafford (his contact info is in the church directory.)

Chalice Lighter's Winter Call through March 31

By Bruce Wiggins

Chalice Lighter grants are funded by small donations from individuals like you, donations that are pooled together to help congregations from across our large MidAmerica Region of the UUA with specific growth projects.

The MidAmerica Regional Chalice Lighter Committee (made up of representatives from all three of the former UU districts in MidAmerica) is pleased to announce the results of the winter 2018 Regional Chalice Lighter call:

- **The Beacon UU Congregation in Troy, Michigan** is replacing the old, single pane, energy inefficient windows in their historic building. This will save money and conserve energy while making their sanctuary and meeting spaces safer, warmer and more inviting during the cold months in Michigan. This renovation will help to promote and nurture growth and prosperity year round, in a warmer, more comfortable and welcoming space.
- **The Community UUs in Brighton, Michigan** hopes to recruit a full-time professional minister to join their staff in the summer of 2018. Their purpose is to grow in capacity and serve more members and friends. The congregation has a current strategic plan to fund and hire a full-time professional minister and has a ministerial search team in place and ready to go.

For this Winter Call, please donate by **March 31, 2018**. To donate and find out more about Chalice Lighters, see the MidAmerica Region website: <https://www.midamericauua.org/programs/chalice-lighters>.



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

Generosity and stewardship can be spiritual values for people of all ages. Children can develop a lifelong habit of generosity and support for their ideals, particularly when they see that being modeled by their parents and other beloved adults. At First Church, we are actively seeking to invite our young people into a conversation about what it means to be stewards within our faith. These are also conversations that can happen at home.

How might you introduce that theme? One way is to share information about the causes which you support and how you support them. Don't be afraid to talk about money and the importance of its mindful use. Many years ago I learned of a nifty little bank called the "Moonjar Money Box." Each of the banks consists of three moneyboxes (Spending, Saving, and Sharing), a passbook, and information that will help parents to teach their children good financial management skills. I've also seen piggybanks online that include sections for those elements, with an additional space built in for investing. Both these products are easy to find online if you are interested, or with a little ingenuity, I suspect that many families could figure out how to create their own compartmentalized financial tools for children.

During the weeks ahead, church stewardship will be a focus of our *Time for All Ages* portion of the church service. This is an opportune time for adults to speak with children about how the church functions because of the generosity of its members, and to let them know why and how you choose to support our religious community. Additionally, on March 15, our 1-8th Grade classes will be introduced to the church's Share the Plate program and will focus attention on both general stewardship and on learning about the three organizations from which they will choose to receive 50% of the church's offering during May services. Children also have a weekly opportunity to make an offering to support the current Share the Plate recipient at the table in the Common room during Coffee Hour.

Don't wait until your children are adults to talk with them about your values and how money and generosity fit in. You will be giving them a foundation that will enrich their lives for years to come.

In faith, with love,

Beryl

Share the Plate RE Vote!

Introduced March 25 during RE

Share the Plate is a bold program of admirable First Church participants 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. Our children and youth have been offered the responsibility to choose the recipient of our congregation's donations for the month of May. The concept of *Share the Plate* and the organizations have chosen to be put to a vote will be introduced on March 25 during Children's RE class time. We hope your children will join us to learn about this important program, and how their stewardship matters in our community.

Voting will take place during our RE program on April 15.



COME AND SEE OUR YOUTH IN ACTION

March Youth Happenings at First Church:

- Annual Youth Service- Sunday, March 4- **CHANGE: PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH** (See *A Youth's Perspective* column in this Chanticleer for more details about this inspiring annual event at First Church.)
- March 9 through March 11 Youth CON happens in Du-page, IL with 3 youth and their chaperones attending.
- March 25 is Part Three in our *Hearts on Fire* series for our graduating high school seniors with Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom facilitating.

A Youth's Perspective

By Jonah Roth

Come join us for our annual and always highly anticipated YOUTH SERVICE on Sunday, March 4! The Youth Service is put together *entirely* by the teens in the YRUU program, and is our chance to truly express what is important to us, which is especially fitting for this year's topic: **Change: Practice What You Preach**. With this, we will explore what specific actions we can take to make a change in our community and our world. Specifically, we will focus on environmental issues, racial issues, and immigration issues, including discussion of the Black Lives Matter movement and the DACA program. This will involve a diverse, creative selection of testimonials, readings, skits, and music—all coming together to create a service unlike any other. Come experience firsthand what we, as our youth at First Church are truly passionate about.



EASTER SUNDAY FOR FIRST CHURCH CHILDREN

On Sunday, April 1, we will be celebrating Easter at both Services. Children in 1-6th grades are invited to join their parents for the *Time for All Ages* during the first portion of the service. Afterwards, those children will adjourn to the lower level, where we will have a wonderful variety of ways to celebrate Easter and spring. Older children and youth are welcome to stay for the full service. There will be no youth group or OWL that day. Younger children are welcome to participate in age-appropriate activities in the Early Childhood class and Nursery.

Follow Us on Facebook or Twitter!

Go to www.facebook.com/uumilwaukee and "like" our page! It's a quick, easy way to get reminders or minute updates on sermons and other church events. You can also find us on Twitter, at @uumilwaukee. See you online!



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.

March Question:

What do you do to bring "FUN" into your life? What do you do to bring "PEACE" into your life? What do you do to bring "KNOWLEDGE OR UNDERSTANDING" into your life?



ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FROM SWASTIKA TO JIM CROW

Presenter: Dr. Fran Kaplan.
Thursday, March 15, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
\$10 members & non-members.
Location: Jewish Museum Milwaukee.
1360 N Prospect Ave (2 blocks east of the church)

This documentary tells the little-known story of Jewish refugee scholars who escaped Nazi persecution by fleeing to America, and when faced with anti-Semitic sentiment at mainstream American universities, were hired for positions at historically black colleges and universities in the then-segregated South. Dr. Fran Kaplan, who recently retired from her work at America's Black Holocaust Museum, will facilitate a talkback session. Afterwards, we'll have a private tour of the *Allied in the Fight: Jews, Blacks and the Struggle for Civil Rights* exhibit.

Registration deadline: March 11. Sign up on Sundays at the Religious Education Table, or print off a registration form to mail in with your payment.

Adult RE Sanctuary Reflections:

Stillness, Awe, and Belonging
March 18, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Do you long for a deeper exploration of the Service/Sermon themes as they resonate with your life experiences? Once per month, we will be gathering at the back of the sanctuary for a guided discussion of just that! Depending on the size of the group Reflectors may be partnered with another person, or a small group or whole group discussion could ensue. Please join us!

FREEDOM SEDER

In what has become a bridging tradition in cities across the nation, intergroup Seders bring together African Americans, Jews, and others to share this ritual meal to discuss and celebrate the shared values of justice and liberation found in the Exodus story. In breaking bread together (or matzah in this case) and engaging in meaningful dialogue, a strengthening of communal understanding and respect can be fostered and celebrated. Participation by our members and friends of our congregation is part of our community partnership with Jewish Museum Milwaukee. This ritual celebration is recommended for Adults and for children ages 10+.

RSVP ONLY EVENT – NO WALK-INS

Adults \$10 | Students (18 and under) \$5

RSVP Deadline: Thursday, April 19

Location: all Saints Catholic Church, 4051 N. 25th Street

Register online at [https://](https://jewishmuseummilwaukee.org/events/freedom-seder/)

jewishmuseummilwaukee.org/events/freedom-seder/.

Registration includes a meal of BBQ chicken, candied sweet potatoes, greens, cornbread, apple cobbler and beverage, a Ritual Seder plate food to share and a customized Haggadah to take home.

We're Looking Good...

With a new brand launching this month.

We are excited to announce that we have a new look. It's welcoming, cheerful, and warm. We designed it to reflect who we'd like First Church to be in the future. It will welcome new members to our community while strengthening our current one. It reflects what we believe in, our mission, and what we stand for. This new brand is an important next step in increasing our visibility to aid in creating an inclusive, liberal faith community.

We have been on a journey to update our branding for a while. We want to sincerely thank everyone who has helped us create our new look. You will see it roll out over the next few months going into next year. We have big, exciting plans and are eager to reach out to the Milwaukee area. Thank you for being a part of this new chapter in First Church's meaningful history. Check out our new **CHANTICLEER COVER**.



EARTH JUSTICE

Are You Willing to Protect the Miracle of Water?

By Tree Moore



In Starbucks at Red Arrow Park, I was reading the Nature Conservancy magazine, while giving my old legs a break from skating. The article reported the restoration of the Colorado River Delta in 2014 after 15 years of being a dead zone. After one controlled release of water from the Morales dam, life was clearly returning. Without warning, I began to weep convulsively. Surrounded by people, I gained control over my emotional outburst. Nonetheless, the intensity of my sorrow spoke of my soul's longing for such news! Bittersweet: awareness of the death of many river deltas as well as a joy over this rebirth.

May we who live in the wet world of the Great Lakes, honor our precious liquid by being vigilant protectors. When our city

chooses to send billions of gallons from Lake Michigan to Waukesha, and now possibly Racine to Foxconn/Mt. Pleasant, may we hear the alarm of eventual abuse and scarcity. We must find ways to protest loudly! Our water is already being polluted with lead, salt, plastic, oil, acid rain, algae, invasive weeds. Now is the time to act, cleaning up what has been spoiled and conserving what remains still healthy.

Are you willing to look closely at your community's usage of water and/or examine your own? And strive for positive change. Come to the table for the "Are You Willing?" campaign of Earth Justice Ministry during coffee hour to explore and commit, in the name of water, our March focus.

Peace Activist John Dear—April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Earth Justice Ministry is thrilled to bring John Dear to our church. He will discuss his new book, *They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change*. In this work, the author connects the way of active nonviolence to solidarity with Creation showing how our global epidemic of violence and war contributes to catastrophic climate change. He shares his own personal journey from Manhattan to the high desert of New Mexico where he lives off the grid on a remote mesa. He shares his experience as pastor in the mission church at Yosemite; encounters with New Mexican indigenous women who live at one with the earth while resisting nuclear weapons production at Los Alamos; his experience at Standing Rock in North Dakota, resisting the pipeline; and his reflections on the work of environmental leader Bill McKibben and the monumental encyclical by Pope Francis on the environment, *Laudato Si*. He concludes with suggested steps forward into conscious, mindful solidarity with all creatures and Mother Earth through active, steadfast nonviolence.

Dear has been arrested in scores of nonviolent civil disobedience actions against war, injustice, and nuclear weapons—from the Pentagon to Livermore Laboratories in California. In 1993, he was arrested with three others at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina, for hammering on an F-15 nuclear-capable fighter-bomber. He was jailed, tried, convicted of two felony counts, served eight months in jail and a year under house arrest in D.C. Joan Baez said, "John Dear has been arrested in the cause of peace and human decency more times than anyone else I know. I am honored to consider him a friend."

Dear has been nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize including a nomination in 2008 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Earth Justice Ministry Asks You: Consider CSA

By Bruce Wiggins

CSAs help address climate change and food security. Receive farm-fresh local vegetables and support local farmers and attend Local Farmer Open House March 10.

"CSA" stands for Community Supported Agriculture. You can subscribe, meaning you purchase a share of the farmer's harvest and conveniently get boxes of farm-fresh vegetables directly from your local CSA farmer. Some farmers also offer meat, eggs, honey, and flowers. Many farmers are now experimenting with new ways to meet consumer demand, other than the standard approach of supplying a box a week of whatever is in season. Some are allowing you to order what you want that week, for example. And some are offering partial shares for smaller households.

CSA farms have been undersubscribed the past couple of years, so your support of local farming will help preserve a local farming economy and support family farms in southeast WI. Your food is fresher and tastier than when shipped from long distances, and the reduced shipping cuts carbon emissions.

On March 10 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., attend an open house at the Urban Ecology Center-Riverside to meet farmers, find out about their CSA subscription options including drop-off locations, and ask about their farming operations.



EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH



MARCH 2

As our 2017/2018 film season continues First Friday Films is proud to announce its March selection. *We Are Superman: The Transformation of 31st and Troost* sponsored by First Unitarian's Bruce Wiggins.

We are Superman is an inspirational documentary on how anyone can make a difference. In this film, individuals and organizations join forces to improve 31st and Troost, a blighted area in Kansas City, Missouri. What seems impossible becomes very possible as these ordinary, yet remarkable people bring positive change to a community that others ignore. A discussion will follow after *We Are Superman* is shown and we look forward to a lively dialogue. Mr. Wiggins is the perfect sponsor for this film. He has been an activist in various communities throughout his life. He is a huge advocate for social justice in all forms and was once at the helm of Milwaukee Urban Gardens, or MUG for short. We look forward to having you for our films' audiences always bring so much to our showings and after film discussions. *We are Superman: The Transformation of 31st and Troost* will be shown March 2. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and the film starts at 7:00 p.m. promptly. Free snacks and child-care provided.

MARCH 18

Ostara Spring Equinox Ritual

UU Pagans invite you to the festival of Ostara, the Teutonic Goddess of the Dawn. Her symbols were the egg and basket and Ostara means East. At the Equinox, day and night are balanced as the days get longer after a long, cold lonely winter. Our ritual is based on ancient Latvian folk customs. We will decorate eggs and throw them into the flowing waters of the ancient ravine in Lake Park. This ravine path was used by native people to go to Lake Michigan. Activities include scaring winter spirits, pussy willow whipping, and circle dancing. Please bring your Inner Fool and wear green. Also bring a potluck dish on Sunday, March 18. Gather at 3:00 p.m. to decorate eggs in the Community Room under Bartollota's (3133 E. Newberry Blvd.). Ritual in the Ravine at 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Karin Lorenz.

MARCH 18

Play Time
News

Isabella Lozier and Emma Boehm will be singing with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony's Bach Ensemble on March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut Street. Tickets will be available at the door: \$12 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors.

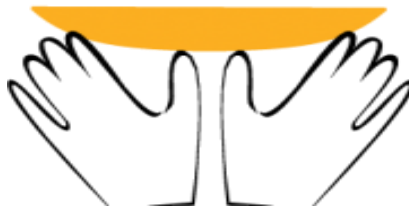
Mary Buchel will play various roles in *Macbeth* at the Underground Collaborative, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., March 22 (PWYC), 23, 24, 30, 31 at 7:30 p.m. March 31 at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$12; Students with valid ID \$10. More info at <https://www.voicesfoundrep.com/>.

Preston Klik's Ocean of Devotion Gong Meditation, a gentle-but-dynamic 90-minute acoustic journey, returns to the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Saturday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Max Otto Hall. Cost is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Register online at <https://gongmeditation.bpt.me> or call 1-800-838-3006. Space is limited; advance reservations strongly encouraged.



Share the Plate

By Dawn Blackmore



Planned Parenthood Wisconsin is our March Share the Plate recipient, chosen by the young adults in our Youth Program. Every year our youth nominate and vote on a recipient for the Share the Plate program. Planned Parenthood has many clinics in the Milwaukee area, as well as national offices and international partners. As stated on their website: "Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide. For nearly 100 years, Planned Parenthood has promoted a commonsense approach to women's health and well-being, based on respect for each individual's right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning."

Planned Parenthood Wisconsin reflects the diverse needs of our communities. It currently provides affordable quality and confidential health care to 60,000 people each year in their 22 health centers across Wisconsin. From March 20-

22, Planned Parenthood Wisconsin will be hosting their 7th Annual "Safe Healthy Strong" conference. This conference hosts local, national and international speakers and explores social and reproductive justice, inclusive resources, and adopting innovative methods of communication and how to make systemic changes to positively impact local communities. For more information on this conference or to find out more about Planned Parenthood Wisconsin, please visit plannedparenthood.org.

Cash collected in the plate will be shared 50/50 between Planned Parenthood and First Church. To donate only to Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, please write a check directly to them, and we will mail it for you. Parents and guardians, please talk with your children how even small donations help.

Book Sales Tower News

By Joann Bachar

In March, we eagerly anticipate receiving copies of the book *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment* that the Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom co-edited and contributed a chapter too! We will be scheduling a book-signing celebrating the publishing of the book. The UUA Bookstore says, "This highly anticipated anthology presents a powerful and penetrating look at environmental justice from some of the key thinkers and activists in Unitarian Universalism today." It explores how issues of oppression in our society intersect with and contribute to ecological devastation. Watch for news in the e-announcements and at the Book Tower.

As part of our new Book Tower procedures, we try to offer new books each month that relates to the Sunday Services themes. For March, the theme is "balance." We offer *Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, co-edited by Jerrie Kishpaugh-Hildebrand and Shirley Ann

Ranck. This vibrant collection of 23 essays demonstrates the many expressions of nature-based spirituality and the ways they feed the souls of so many and bring us into harmony and balance with our natural environment.

Another book that addresses balance was new last month. *A Year of Spiritual Companionship: 52 Weeks of Wisdom for a Life of Gratitude, Balance, and Happiness* by Anne Kertz Kernion leads you through an exploration of everyday spirituality, combining the wisdom of spiritual luminaries, life lessons, and insights from social science and neuroscience. Bring more awareness, love, and gratitude into your life, keeping in touch with your deepest beliefs and most authentic self.



GETTING TOGETHER

Come Visit Our Affinity Groups!

From the Rev. Dena McPhetres

Come visit our Affinity Groups! **Stop in, meet new people and make new friends!** Visitors are especially welcome. If you have an idea for starting a new group, contact 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. At our next meeting on February 11, 2018, we will discuss *Writing on the Wall* by Kareem Abdul-Jabar

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.

S.W.A.N.S. 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

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.



now.

Sunday, March 18, 2018

"Into the Synthesis"

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Tristan Strelitzer, Choir Director, accompanied by Jack Forbes Wilson

Worship Associate Amanda Panciera

When we come together in community and in the larger society, we can make choices about how to be together. Do we want to compete for status, value, and resources? Is living in the community and in the world necessarily a zero-sum game, where some people win and others lose? Or is there a third way, beyond binary choices and into synthesis, interconnection, and win-win-win? Please join us as we explore how we intend to be together on this Sunday when we will celebrate the close of our stewardship month with a ritual of throwing our lots (pledge cards) in together. Remember to bring your pledge cards!

Sunday, March 25, 2018

"Lessons from Weebles"

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Worship Associate Rollie Hanson

Director of Religious Education Beryl Aschenberg

Do you remember the jingle "Weebles wobble, but they don't fall down" used to advertise the annoyingly predictable egg-shaped children's toys that wobble when touched, but always come back upright? Could it be that human beings are just as predictable – that being out of balance is part of being in balance? We used to say that First Church is a place to find and keep your balance. I believe that movement, even if wobbly, is an inherent part of finding and keeping our

Have You Ever Dreamed of Standing in the Pulpit of First Church?

- Do you have insights that would help us achieve our mission to *nurture the spirit, engage the mind, and inspire action*?
- Do you have an important and thought-provoking topic that you would like to share with the congregation?

If you said **yes** to either (or both) of these questions, you might consider submitting a proposal to conduct a summer service. If this opportunity interests you, please visit the First church website at <http://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/groups/sundays/summer-service-proposals-form/> and submit the proposal form. You will be asked to outline your sermon topic, your public speaking experience, and how your topic relates to UU values and the mission of First Church by **April 1, 2018**. The Pulpit Guest Team will review your proposal and let you know our decision before May 1. Contact Diane Duffey with any questions.

Thank you for your interest!

How To Reach Us

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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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SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

March 4

“The Iditarod: Alaska’s Famous Dog Sled Race”

Mary Beth Petersen , World Traveler, Public Speaker

Everyone has heard of the Iditarod, but few are aware of the logistics for this thousand-mile annual event known as “The Last Great Race On Earth”. World traveler Mary Beth Petersen’s slide program documents every aspect of this great wilderness race typically run in minus 20 -40 degree F weather. Dog lovers and endurance sport enthusiasts will especially enjoy this program. Host: Christian Becker

March 11

“Clean Open Government in Wisconsin. Where? When?”

Jay Heck, Director of Common Cause Wisconsin

Jay will be speaking on the lack of judicial transparency in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the threat of a constitutional convention and redistricting reform. Wisconsin's case for redistricting reform is currently on the US Supreme Court's docket. Common Cause in Wisconsin is a non-partisan, non-profit citizen's lobby affiliated with National Common Cause, focusing on campaign finance, ethics and lobby reform, open meetings law and other issues concerning the promotion and maintenance of "clean," open, responsive and accountable government. Host: Jerry Fredrickson

March 18

“ Impacts of Climate Change on Seasonal Transitions”

Mark D. Schwartz, Phenoclimatologist

Distinguished Professor, Geography, U.W.-Milwaukee

Phenology is the study of recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, especially their timing and relationships with weather and climate. Plant phenology can be measured in multiple ways on the ground, by satellite sensors, and other instruments. These data provide tangible evidence of the impacts of climate change on the biosphere. Citizen scientists help record crucial information through online resources provided by the USA National Phenology Network. Prof. Schwartz research is focused on phenology and detecting climate change. Host: Terry Hansen

March 25

**“Milwaukee’s Westlawn Gardens,
a Choice Neighborhood Initiative”**

Paul Williams, Choice Neighborhood Initiative Coordinator

The City of Milwaukee Housing Authority received a Federal Grant for Choice Neighborhoods Implementation. On the northwest side, Westlawn Gardens became the initiative’s focus, using urban design and sustainability innovations along with best practices toward improving quality of life for residents of the surrounding neighborhood. The amenities where people want to live, learn, work, shop and play were all examined and improved. Learn of the process used for area residents in reaching full potential as a sustainable, green community.

