



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

July 2018

WORDS on the WIND

By The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Summer in Wisconsin encourages us to celebrate beauty, with its lush greens, its heavy wet earth, and its warm late nights of laughter. Beauty is a balm to my soul, a healing ointment that reminds me life is full of wonder. It returns me to the present moment with awe-struck breath at the dew on the dragonfly's wings, or the quiet melting orange of dawn.

Over the summer, the Religious Education Transition Search Team is seeking to add to the beauty of our community. We have not found the right candidate for a full-time Interim Director of Religious Education, so we are adapting. We are now looking for a part-time Religious Education Coordinator and planning to do RE Interim work with Religious Education interim consultants.

Thus, we are now searching for the right person to coordinate our Religious Education program next year—a person who is familiar with Unitarian Universalism and our church, and has strong teaching and administrative skills. Because this position is only for next church year, and the person will not be able to apply for the long-term Director of Religious Education position the following year, this one-year part-time Religious Education Coordinator position is open to members and friends of First Church.

Do you know a teacher who wants a break from the school system, or a parent or former RE Committee member who would love part time work next year? Are you the right person? If you have ideas about a great candidate, please see the job on our [uumilwaukee.org careers](https://uumilwaukee.org/careers) <https://uumilwaukee.org/careers-first-church/> and email me a cover letter, and resume with the subject line "RE Coordinator" at Jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org. You can also email me with any questions or ideas of great candi-

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

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

COMING ON SUNDAY!

**One Service and Religious Education
10:00 a.m.**

July 1

**"Music: Comforting the Afflicted
and Afflicting the Comfortable"**

**Katie Dahl, Pulpit Guest & Musician
Worship Associate Amanda Panciera**

Door County singer-songwriter Katie Dahl has made a name for herself nationwide as a songwriter whose work delves deep into the life of the heart as well as the life of the country. Here, she considers the question of what music's role can and should be at a time of political turmoil. Is the role of a song (in the words of humorist Finley Peter Dunne) "to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable"? Dahl will talk about the role of music in eras like the 1960s as well as at the present moment.

July 8

"In the Eye of the Beholder: Thoughts on Beauty"

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

**Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode
Worship Associate Robert Szymanski**

Where do you find beauty? What do you feel like when you encounter beauty? How do humans decide if something or someone is beautiful? Beauty can be inspiring, healing and life-giving, but beauty can also be dangerous, leading people to chase an impossible ideal of appearance, resulting in eating disorders and other illness. Seeking and noticing beauty can be a healthy spiritual practice that connects us to gratitude. The Rev. Joe Cleveland wrote "The more I practice looking for beauty, the more I am ready for it, and the more beauty I find".

(Continued on page 7)

1342 North Astor Street · Milwaukee, WI 53202

Telephone: 414 273-5257 · E-Mail: office@uumilwaukee.org · www.uumilwaukee.org

Dena's Digressions

Finally, summer! Summer is such an easy time to bask in the beauty of the natural world, a season when Milwaukeeans spend as much time as possible outdoors, a time when everyone should be happy. Yet, there is always someone who has suffered a loss and is grieving, someone who hesitates or is just unable to join in the celebration of summer. Let's keep an eye and an ear out for those who are in a grieving process. They may need our love and attention even more than usual when life seems beautiful to everyone else.

I know there are many people in our congregation who are grieving significant losses of loved ones. The sorrow does not go away overnight. To you, I want to say that beauty heals and it's OK to let the beauty of the world bless your eyes, anoint your hands and wash over your body and spirit. Allowing beauty to heal you does not diminish your loyalty to and memory of your loved one. It's OK to be sad and notice beauty at the same time. The following words by Mark Nepo may speak to your reality.

Yours,
Dena

Adrift

Everything is beautiful and I am so sad. This is how the heart makes a duet of wonder and grief. The light spraying through the lace of the fern is as delicate as the fibers of memory forming their web around the knot in my throat. The breeze makes the birds move from branch to branch as this ache makes me look for those I've lost in the next room, in the next song, in the laughter of the next stranger. In the very center, under it all, what we have that no one can take away and all that we've lost face each other.

It is there that I'm adrift, feeling punctured by a holiness that exists inside everything. I am so sad and everything is beautiful. ~ Mark Nepo

(Word on the Wind continued from page 1)

dates! This is an opportunity to work with our amazing children and youth, our fabulous Religious Education staff, and to serve the community at a moment when we need the right person to run the Religious Education program during this transition time.

As you know, I will be on vacation followed by study leave in July, experiencing the lavish beauty of our world. If you need help with office-related matters, please contact our Office Coordinator, Shari Wright. If you need pastoral care, please contact our Associate Minister, Dena McPhetres (if it is an emergency, call the emergency pastoral care line: 414-216-3113). The only emails I will be answering will be emails related to the RE Coordinator. Other than that, I will see you all in August!

In gratitude,
Jennifer

July 2018

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATE:

We seek to support each other as we journey together through life's mountains and valleys, through our personal and common sorrows and struggles. When you need a listening ear, because of:

- a recent illness
- an upcoming surgery
- divorce
- life transitions
- job loss
- death of a loved one...

A Pastoral Care Associate is ready to be helpful, if you choose. Contact Jane Peterson, Pastoral Care Associate Coordinators, at email fuspastoralcare@gmail.com.

PASTORAL CARE PROVIDER:

When you need a helping hand, if:

- you have a new baby and need a meal (or two or three)
- you break your leg and need a ride
- you are coming home from being in the hospital and would appreciate a meal

A Pastoral Care Provider is ready to be helpful, if you choose. Contact Heather Hansen, Pastoral Care Provider Coordinator at email fuspcprovider@gmail.com.



2017-2018 Annual Meeting Report

By Jeremy Koenen, Secretary

Congregation President Julie Bock present a summary of the approach that was taken to form the Ends Statements. This included engagement with the church in visioning through the Nested Bowls, and the Board then had a workshop where it distilled those many details down to a list of ends. The next steps will include drafting operational goals in conjunction with the staff in the upcoming year. This was Julie's final year both as President of the congregation, as well as a Board member.

Nominating Committee Chair Patricia Witt introduced the candidates for the Board of Trustees. A vote was taken and unanimously approved the slate of Jane Peterson, Melinda Vernon, and Mark Bender for three-year terms. Chris Aiken was approved by the Board to join for one year in filling a vacant seat. Pete Koneazny, Holly Patzer, and Julie Bock are leaving the Board. Patricia reported the Nominating Committee conducted 40 one-on-one connection interviews with individuals throughout the congregation. Patricia introduced the two candidates for Nominating Committee, Michelle Boehm and Laura Ehlers for three year terms. A vote was taken and the slate was unanimously approved. There was recognition of departing members of the Nominating Committee, JoAnn Bishop and Don Weimer. Finally, there was recognition of continuing members Patricia Witt, Joe Schuller, Kathy Porter, and Beth Bender.

Finance Committee chair Noreen Gilbertsen presented the financial condition report. Noreen gave special recognition to Tom Briscoe for acting as Treasurer of First Church. There was a walkthrough of the 2017-2018 budget. Highlights included that the income net of operations was below expectations by \$125,000, and the 175th anniversary brought in an additional \$185,746. Additional stress was given on needing to increase pledges to balance the budget. Total income forecasted for 2017-2018 will be targeting a smaller deficit than the prior year. Assets were presented as \$1,891,000 for the church. The totals were as of the end of April 2018. Numbers in the annual report are the prior church year's finances. Noreen replied to a question that excess funds received go into the general fund.

Stacy Koenen presented for the Stewardship Council. Feast for Funds was bid on by 207 individuals, 134 winners, of 1028 bids, raising \$25,650. They are still looking at improving the interfaces for bidding on the website. A special overview was given of the Income Opportunity Team, which is helping to investigate additional income

streams for the church. Two informational sessions titled "Our Financial Future 2018" were hosted that focused on income streams.

The pledge goal for the 2018-19 church year was \$735,000 (average increase of 5%), which was not met with the current amount pledged being \$700,000. Over half of the membership increased their pledges, and over 40% increased between 5% and 10%.

Elizabeth Lentini and Dave Becker presented on behalf of the Krug Gift Acceptance Team (KGAT). Teams are formed for bequests over \$50,000 to make recommendations on how the funds are to be allocated, and to its use. The members include Gordy Mueller, Lianna Bishop, and Holly Patzer (departing the team coinciding with her departure from the Board), as well as staff representatives The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom and Director of Administration, Jean Johnson.

KGAT's recommendation accepted by the Board is that 30% of the money (\$255,000), is for short-term needs to help cover the gap between income and expenses. It is projected to bridge expected gaps for the next 7 years, based on the current version of the predictive model. 50% of the money (\$425,000) is dedicated for medium-term needs, defined as visioning, programmatic initiatives. 20% of the money (\$170,000) is dedicated for long-term needs, which are not yet defined. Three projects are already approved for immediate funding in support of the ends statements; hiring four choir intern scholars for a year; hiring a social justice intern for a year to help focus and work with us on accomplishing social justice ends; and finally growing our means of remote accessibility by members and others to attend or experience sermons and other events happening at First Church. These are for the 2018-2019 church year, constituting 5% (\$20,000) of the total medium-term funds.

KGAT will be releasing an application for church members to request or recommend projects for funding by the Lu Krug bequest. The team will then take those recommendations and assess them, presenting recommendations to the Board that are feasible and aligned with our Ends Statements for funding with the Lu Krug bequest.

The Reverend Dena McPhetres highlighted that a group of 10 new pastoral care associates has been selected, who will begin serving after the October commissioning ceremony. We recently filled the social justice intern position with an individual from Marquette University. The intern will work 10-12 hours a week for a 9-month internship, serving as the Social Justice Council coordinator, as well as community en-

(Annual Meeting continued on page 4)



agement coordinator.

Rev. Dena outlined the history and impacts that Chalice Circles have had on individuals and the community. This coming fall will launch a new evolution of chalice circles, called Theme Circles. They are meant to deepen and support the spiritual journeys of participants in community with each other, and in connection with the church's monthly worship themes. A celebration is planned to celebrate the history of Chalice Circles, and the new Theme Circles.

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom acknowledged great amount of change that has happened within the church. She detailed that we are using the predictive model to help transition into a pledge sustained congregation over the next 7 years. Since that was not reached, a raffle is being considered for next year to help cover the pledge gap. Six staff members departed over the church year, and five have been on boarded.

Special recognition was given to Beryl Aschenberg for her contributions to the church. A search team composed of incoming RE chair Sarah Richards, Board member Maria Dorsey, and Personnel Committee member Sarah Stehly are working with The Rev. Jennifer to find an interim director of religious education, which is planned as a one-year role.

Comments and questions from the congregation included: request for a flowchart to help detail who and where members go for specific questions; air conditioning is being investigated as a possibility for the sanctuary; encouragement for members to attend General Assembly in Kansas City this year; request to expand the verbiage in the ends to highlight gender and economic differences; request to address the church's status of divesting church finances from fossil fuels; recognition that music at the church has been wonderful this year; comment about the success of leadership transition in the past year; encouragement of adults and youth to attend Midwest Leadership School; recognition of the staff that contributes visibly and behind the scenes at the church.

A New Year Begins for the Board of Trustees

Michelle Naples

Congregation President 2018-19

Hello, friends! I am so pleased and honored to step into the role of President of our congregation during my third year on the Board of Trustees. My husband, Tom LeBel, and I joined First Church six years ago and never have I felt more connected and held by any community as I do here at this point in time. What I want you to know about me is that I love this church and who we are and who we can become together. I offer my commitment and dedication to work hard on behalf of our congregation.

I hope that you might get to know me a little bit better through my reflections in the Chanticleer on the month's theme. For starters, July's theme of Beauty makes me think of our First Church value of Wonder. The moments when I am truly struck by beauty, whether it be the reward of a stunning view after reaching a mountain summit or the unexpected gift of noticing something special in something familiar, I am filled with a sense of wonder and awe and feel connected to the greater whole. After listening to the many stories that were shared as part of the visioning workshops that the Board held this past year, it seems that many of you may have similar experiences.

Speaking of visioning at First Church, it has been an exciting year with the work that the Board has undertaken with the congregation to develop First Church's Ends that describe what difference we are here to make and for whom. We have wasted no time in jumping headlong into the work ahead in the new church year. The Board, along with the staff Executive Team, participated in an all-day retreat in June, facilitated by our church's consultant from Unity Consulting. The retreat focused on establishing a process for monitoring progress on the Ends and working to develop a comprehensive policy-based governance system. Good stuff, right?

Memorial gifts received: The Church has gratefully received Memorial Gifts from the following people in memory of Claude VanderVeen: **Paula & Keith Anderson, Julie Bock & Matthew Byrnes, Mary Brenzel-Chavez & David Chavez, Richard Claxton & Noreen Gilbertsen, Mary Kay Flynn, Candice Haight & Craig Ranger, Juliet Hills, Beverly Katter, Cathy Kaye, The Rev. Andrew Kennedy & Lois Wesener, Lisa & Peter Koneazny, Sally Lewis & Kathy Rivera, Gordon Mueller, Patricia & Max Scharmach, Carl & Jackie Vanderveen, Bettie Zillman.**

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 (withholding the amounts), along with the memorialized person's name, are recorded in our permanent Church Record Book.



Get Involved with Social Justice

Social Justice News Available on First Church Website

By Bruce Wiggins

Have you noticed the change in format on our First Church website, www.uumilwaukee.org. Two Social Justice items are posted on the website which are also highlighted below. Check the News and Views tab on our website to see current information. Much more Social Justice news and reports on events are also posted on First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Facebook page. Keep checking for news and reports of events as First Church members, friends, and staff are engaged in our community.

May Day March in Waukesha in Support of Immigrants Standing on the Side of Love

First Church members were among thousands involved in the May 1 March in Waukesha, organized by Milwaukee immigration rights group Voces de la Frontera. The marchers gathered to demand that Waukesha County Sheriff Eric Severson not turn his deputies into ICE agents, participating in a program that grants it authority to enforce federal immigration laws.

Rev. Jennifer Speaks at Poor People's Campaign Rally

Rev. Jennifer and Terry Wiggins led the way at the Poor People's Campaign action in Madison on June 4. Terry organized the whole event and Rev. Jennifer led a prayer.



Poor People's Gathering June 4, 2018

The theme was Environmental Devastation and inspiring speakers rallied the crowd. Following speeches, the group entered the capitol building to register issues at the Governor's Office and to share stories of environmental devastation in the state on the topic of water. There are many, unfortunately, because we all depend on water for life. The video of Rev. Jennifer is about five minutes. The video of the whole event and the inspiring speakers is a little over an hour, available on the Facebook page of First Church friend Dan Folkman, who made the videos.

"Are You Willing..." Campaign Inspires and Challenges

By Tree Moore, Co-Chair, Earth Justice Ministry

For the last four months we have asked what more we are willing to do to honor, protect and love our planet and all of its creatures at this critical time. Our team of Tree Moore, Barbara Richards, Ro Hanus, Terry Wiggins, Megan Berger, Kathy Smith, Pat Parcell, and Nancy Spransy took turn "womaning" our table, writing monthly four-page pamphlets filled with practical, innovative suggestions for conserving and protecting the basic elements—water, earth, air, and fire. Shari Wright, Office Coordinator, was generous with her time and skills in designing our pamphlets.

In March we considered ways we can use less water as well as keeping it clean. Prof. Val Klump from UWM gave us important information on the condition of the Great Lakes. Several folks have reported back that they've cut their showering to once a week and still smell good!

April featured earth including food, gardens, compost, etc.

Barbara Richards charmed the children with worms, and adults with instructions for building a worm bin. The composting drew a fair amount of curiosity.

In May, keeping our air clean was the focus, stressing reduction of transportation. The air travel was targeted as significant in reducing carbon to our sky.

In June the element of fire forced us to look at our dependency on fossil fuels including plastics. Bruce Wiggins and many partners in coffee hour did magic by whipping cream without electricity. Folks gave us lots of ideas on staying cool without air conditioning. We hope to increase our use of solar panels to generate electricity.

Are we willing to change our habits? Are we making a difference? We decided to create this campaign without a tally of results. Because we love our world we hope our efforts will inspire everyone to make a difference.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PLAYTIME NEWS

July 5-21

Bob Balderson is performing in Optimist Theater's King Lear at the Marcus Center Peck Pavilion from July 5 through July 21. See <https://www.optimisttheatre.org/king-lear.html> for details. FREE!

July 7

John Stano performs July 7 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Coffee House on Chestnut and Pine, 492 N. Pine Street, Burlington WI 53105. See <http://www.burlingtoncoffeehouse.com> for venue info.

July 15

John Stano performs July 15 from 4:45 - 7:30 p.m. at Bastille Days in Milwaukee.

Summer

Lead Music Director **Alissa Rhode** wrote the score for the world premiere musical "Dairy Hairs" which is currently being produced by Northern Sky Theater in Door County, WI. The show runs through August 25. Visit <https://www.northernskytheater.com/shows/> for more details.

Contemplating Poetry

This Summer

*People turn to poems for some kind of illumination,
for revelations that help them to
survive, to survive in spirit, not only in body.— Denise Levertov*

This weekly gathering will use a "listening to, responding to, and resting with" practice of experiencing poetry. The focus will be our own internal responses, so don't worry about "getting poetry" (or not) – just come and listen for what resonates... maybe illuminates.

Summer Tuesday mornings June 5 - September 21

excluding July 3.

Time: 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Questions? lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org or

Katy at JPhil777@aol.com

Please join Lynne Jacoby and Katy Phillips on any Tuesday mornings this Summer. Drop-ins welcome.

All About Youth

By Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

July Happenings for youth include.....

- We have four youth attending Midwest Leadership School in mid-July in Decorah, Iowa: Sam Mulvey, Jonah Roth, Clarity Saigh and Adena Saigh.
- Our monthly Summer July meeting will be on Sunday, July 15 starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Reeb Room and we will be experiencing Chinese T'ai Chi Ch'uan Movement Meditation with Deb.
- Friday, July 27 starting at 7:00 p.m. through Saturday, July 28 at 9:00 a.m. we will be having a Summer Youth Overnight Lock-In for all youth enrolled in grades 9-12 in the fall of 2018.
- Saturday, July 28 is our team building event for all 2018 Mission Trip Youth at the Landmark Lanes for bowling fun starting at noon.
- Saturday, July 21 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Young Room at church is our Youth Steering Committee Retreat where we will plan our 2018-2019 youth events for the upcoming church year.



July 15

"That Time the Rabbi Spiked the Punch"

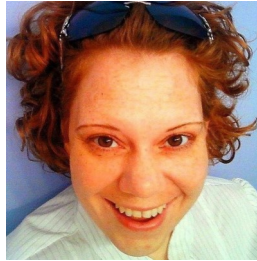
The Reverend Misha Sanders

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Pulpit Guest Worship Associate Jason Ludtke

Did Jesus choose the theme of his first miracle to show everyone how much value he placed on having a good party? Maybe it was deeper than that. Maybe not. Let's have some fun talking about it!

The Reverend Misha Sanders is a recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, and was ordained by her home Church, Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford, Illinois, in May. The Rev. Misha will begin a hospital chaplain residency this fall, and will continue residing in Woodstock, Illinois, with her fabulous teenager and a menagerie of four-legged family.



July 22

"The Road Seen, and Then Not Seen"

The Rev. David Schwartz

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Worship Associate Rollie Hanson

The poet Mark Nepo writes, "To Journey without being changed is to be a nomad. To change without journeying is to be a chameleon. To journey and to be transformed by the journey is to be a pilgrim." We are a pilgrim people and a pilgrim church. As individuals and as a community we journey together, and are transformed by the road we travel—sometimes with ease and grace, sometimes with resistance and loss.

The Rev. David Schwartz serves as Senior Co-Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Chicago along with his spouse Rev. Teri Schwartz, where they've been since 2013. He also serves part-time as minister to the Beverly Unitarian Church on the Southwest side of Chicago. He lives in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood with Teri, their two elementary-school-age kids, and four cats.

July 29

"Seeking Justice, Needing Beauty"

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Jayme Dawicki, Guest Music Director

Worship Associate Bob Balderson

What is beauty's role in a broken world? Louie Schwartzberg, who spent thirty years doing time-lapse photography of flowers blooming, said "beauty is nature's tool for survival, because we protect what we fall in love with." In her book, "On Beauty and Being Just," aesthetics professor Elaine Scarry writes, "beauty assists us in the work of addressing injustice." Today we'll explore the connections between beauty and the work for social change.

How To Reach Us

TELEPHONE: (414) 273-5257

FAX: (414) 273-5254

E-MAIL: office@uumilwaukee.org

WEBSITE: www.uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202

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

SENIOR MINISTER

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 201

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 202

MINISTER EMERITUS

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

STAFF

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION Jean Johnson
jean.johnson@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 203

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TBD

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR Lynne Jacoby
lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 205

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR TBD

OFFICE COORDINATOR Shari Wright
shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 207

R.E. ADMIN. ASSISTANT Lillian Schley
re.admin@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 210

YOUTH COORDINATOR Deb Solis
deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 209

FACILITIES MANAGER Tom Schroeder
tom.schroeder@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 206

FACILITIES ASSISTANT Jim Spice
Andre Singley

MAINTENANCE WORKER Art Sims

LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR Alissa Rhode
alissarhode@me.com

CHORAL DIRECTOR Tristan Strelitzer
tstrelitzer@gmail.com

RESIDENT ARTIST Jack Forbes Wilson
jackforbeswilson@aol.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers:

President: Michelle Naples
Vice President: Mark Bishop
Secretary: Jeremy Koenen
Treasurer: Tom Briscoe

Members:

Chris Aiken, Mark Bender, Omega Burckhardt, Maria Dorsey, Jane Peterson, Melinda Vernon



FINDING YOUR MINISTERS THIS SUMMER

Jennifer will be on vacation June 25 – July 15 and on study leave July 16 – August 5. Jennifer will be back in the office August 6.

Dena will be on vacation July 14 – 22, August 10 – 19 and on study leave June 21 – 29 and August 28 – 31.

For pastoral care emergencies, please call 414-216-3113. Dena or Jennifer will either answer or return your call ASAP.

SUMMER BUILDING HOURS

Please plan your evening and weekend meetings according to the following schedule.

Evening & Weekend Summer Schedule

Monday	4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday	4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Thursday	closed
Friday	closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Daytime

Note that this summer the office will be closed on Fridays.

Although the office is covered Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., staff is reduced and we could be away on an errand so please call the office before stopping by to be certain someone will be in.

