



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

June 2018

WORDS on the WIND

By The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

In Unitarian Universalism, we understand each person is born an original blessing. At the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, when I served as Assistant to the Director of Religious Education, every Sunday the children would sing the song:

It's a blessing you were born
and it matters what you do,
what you know about God is a piece of the truth,
and you don't have to do it alone.

I love this summary of Unitarian Universalism, and our understanding of the unique blessing each person brings into the world. It is up to us to decide whether we want to use our gifts to bless the world. In our religious community, we work to do that together, encouraging one another to choose to bless the world and coordinating our unique gifts into teamwork to do it well.

This June, as flowers finally bless us with their beauty, and the sun blesses us with longer days and warmer nights, may you both notice all the blessings surrounding you and choose to bless the world in return. And you don't have to do it alone.

Love,
Jennifer

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

COMING ON SUNDAY!

June 3

Giving and Receiving Blessings: Flower Communion

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom

Choir Director Tristan Strelitzer

Worship Associate Alexis Fielek

Director of Religious Education Beryl Aschenberg

Associate Minister Dena McPhetres

Join us for the annual First Church Flower Communion service, where we will consider the blessings we give and receive in community. This year we will include a ritual of gratitude for Lu Krug's enormous financial gift to First Church, and a ritual of gratitude for Beryl Aschenberg's enormous gift of service to First Church. Our community overflows with blessings! Remember to bring a flower to share your unique blessing in our ritual of giving and receiving flowers; flowers will also be available if you forget.

Summer Services and Religious Education

One service only at 10:00 a.m.

June 10

"Gender & Sexual Identity as a Blessing"

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Resident Artist Jack Forbes Wilson

Worship Associate Lisa Gies & First Church Members

Join us on Pridefest weekend to honor the blessing of diverse gender and sexual identities. In a world with so much shame, misunderstanding and judgment, the blessing of acceptance feels like a balm. Rachel Naomi Remen wrote, "By making a place for wholeness within our relationships, we offer others the opportunity to be whole without shame and become a place of refuge from everything in them and around them that is not genuine."

"SUNDAYS" continued on page 11

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Dena's Digressions

Our Chalice Circle Small Group Ministry program is in the process of evolution. Many of you have participated in Chalice Circles over the last 20+ years--as facilitators and members of circles and on the steering committee. Chalice Circles have transformed people's lives, supported personal and spiritual growth and fostered meaningful connections between individuals who had never encountered each other previously in our large church.

However, over the last several years, participation in Chalice Circles was in serious decline. We've often had more facilitators than needed for the number of people participating in circles. Although the steering committee and I tried a variety of strategies over the past several years to keep our small group ministry program robust, people voted with their feet. We think the decline in participation is due to 21st century lifestyles which constrain people's ability to make a commitment to attend a circle twice a month for two hours at each meeting.

So, after consulting with who was left on the Chalice Circle steering committee and our Membership Development Coordinator at the time, Cheri Taylor, we decided it was time for a change. When I returned from sabbatical this winter, I convened a staff-led team of experienced Chalice Circle participants to explore the next step in the evolution of Small Group Ministry. This fall, we will launch Theme Circles, which retain much of the best of Chalice Circles and add a deeper element.

Our First Church Theme Circle mission is "to deepen and support the spiritual journeys of participants in community with each other and in connection with the church's monthly worship themes." Here is what some members of the Theme Circle planning team said about their trial experience:

"Theme Circles will be a natural evolution of Chalice Circles, offering participants an opportunity to engage more deeply with our Sunday Service theme of the month. Theme Circle members will have access to extensive resources such as readings, films, music, art, books, TED talks and YouTube videos on the month's theme. Members can select the resources that interest them, which will be, of course, different for everyone. We will come together once a month for two hours, prepared to share and learn from each other, as well as to know each other in some depth, resulting in a more engaged and interconnected First Church community." ~ Robert Szymanski

"I like Theme Circles because I received an extensive list of resources several weeks in advance of the gathering and I could choose how much time I wanted to devote to the different choices. This brought the theme deeper personally and made hearing the Sunday sermons more meaningful. In addition, I learned from others in the group about how that theme personally related to them." ~ Jeanne Durnford

"Theme Circles seems like the natural progression of the former Chalice Circle program into a potentially far deeper small group spiritual experience. Just reading these materials has "rent my soul" (if an atheist has a soul)! I had forgotten how powerful the benefits of the Chalice Circle program were for me; how meaningful and necessary to a balanced life." ~ Bronze Quinton

I recognize that change often involves a sense of loss and that honoring the history of a beloved program can help with transition. Our Theme Circle planning team will host a celebration in late August for all those who have participated in Chalice Circles over the years. We'll honor the history and your stories of Chalice Circles and share our enthusiasm and more information about Theme Circles. Stay tuned!

Yours, *Dena*



Blessings...

Time is
Too slow for those who wait,
Too swift for those who fear,
Too long for those who grieve,
Too short for those who rejoice.
But for those who love,
Time is eternity.
Hours fly, flowers die,
New days, new ways pass by,
Love stays.
by Henry Van Dyke

It has been my joy to serve as your President these past two years. I am so grateful for the opportunity to grow, for the support of the excellent Board of Trustee members I have served with these past 3 years and the dedicated staff who have eased my way and made me look good... THANK YOU! You are all blessings to our First Church community.

It is my honor to introduce you to the 2018-2019 Board of Trustee's slate of officers; elected May 20th at the brief (4 minutes!) BOT meeting after the Annual Meeting:

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

Julie Bock
Congregation President 2016-2018

Splinters from the Board

By Mark Bishop

As this church year is winding down, the Board of Trustees meeting on April 24, 2018, focused on a number of items as we prepare for the 2018-2019 church year. The Board reviewed and approved the third quarter financial report noting very positive results year-to-date. A draft version of the budget for next year was discussed with a number of variables considered particularly as it relates to where pledge revenue will be. In addition, the Nominating Committee's Slate of nominees for 2018-2019 was approved. Planning and preparation for the Annual Meeting to be held on May 20th was also finalized.

The Rev. Jennifer presented the Senior Minister's report highlighted by a number of community connection activities, most notably, First Church's hosting of a well-attended public event featuring Nobel Peace nominee Father John Dear who spoke about his book, *They Will Inherit the Earth*, which uses non-violence as a frame to advance climate organizing.

The Board discussed and carefully reflected upon the feedback received from the "Ends" Breaking Cookies Building Community session. After considerable discernment, the Ends as originally presented to the Congregation were approved.

Minutes of the April meeting are posted on the First Church bulletin board in the central corridor and on the church website. Members of the Board of Trustees welcome your thoughts and concerns at any time. Our pictures are posted in the central corridor and we wear yellow name tags. Our contact information is listed in the front of the member directory.

Celebrate

Farewell Celebration For Beryl

It is time for us to say goodbye to our beloved Director of Religious Education, Beryl Aschenberg. Beryl has lovingly served First Church for 17 years, bringing passion, creativity, organization, ritual, and so much more to our children's, youth, and adult religious education programs. Soon, the Follen Community Church in Lexington, MA will be fortunate to have our talented credentialed religious educator join their staff! So, before she leaves Milwaukee, let us gather to honor and thank Beryl for the important contributions she has given our congregation. Join us on Saturday, June 2 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. in the Common Room for an ALL age's celebration!

There will be plenty of time throughout the afternoon to socialize and enjoy savory hors-d'oeuvres and cake that will be

catered. Members and friends are also invited to bring a dessert to share. We will have activities for children guided by some helpers so all of the young ones are invited to the party!

Program:

2:00-2:30 Socializing
2:30-3:00 Formal program with speakers
3:00-3:45 More socializing
3:45-? Formal program with surprises, music, and ritual
4:30-5:00 More socializing

Beryl would love to gather one more time in celebration with the First Church babies, children, youth, and adults. Please come to bid her a loving farewell and best wishes as she embarks on her new journey.



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.

Why do we need you to be an usher?

By Cheri Briscoe

Ushers are the friendly people who greet members and guests each Sunday, give us an Order of Service, and answer our occasional questions. They also pass the plates for Sunday offertory and straighten up the pews for the next service so everything looks nice and tidy.

Our Head Ushers count attendance, assign ushers to their locations, manage little crises when necessary and a few other details.

We are revising our Usher system to make being an Usher more flexible next year (as our current system has been a little anemic). We are looking to recruit 8 Head Ushers, and 32 Usher/Greeters, so it is a smaller commitment – but attending to a very important part of our Sunday Services. We will also make sure a contact list of ushers and schedules is distributed to make it easier to recruit a sub when necessary.

With this plan, the Membership Team is asking Usher and Head Usher volunteers to sign up for one Sunday a month for the year, but with the tools to find a substitute when necessary, so no one is tied to commitments that most of us simply can't guarantee.

Being an Usher is a perfect way to volunteer, and meet lots of fellow UU's too, without a big time commitment or a monthly meeting to attend. It's also a great job for new members to dip their toes a bit more into this community. Another bonus? Sometimes your Usher turn drags you to a service you would've skipped otherwise... only to realize, you were really glad you came. How good is that?!!! Lucky you!

You'll need one training for the "job" with multiple opportunities to get trained. WE NEED YOU! Contact Cheri Briscoe, Usher Team Chair, to sign up and answer questions.

Membership Musings

By Lynne Jacoby

A year ago this morning I first walked into First Church having just flown in to interview for your Membership Development Coordinator position. Today also marks the 56th birthday of my brother Hank, who died suddenly three years ago.

The year has been like that (and I guess life is too) - times I can hardly believe how lucky I am to have landed here, and so so lucky about the people I get to work with. When I begin reciting the names in my mind 'Susan, Tony, Lisa, Holly, Sue, Tom...' and all who contribute just in my corner of this community; it's like reciting a litany of blessings, of unearned gifts...

But there have been losses to hold as well. The community I left and its proximity to family, my dog who died in December, and Tom Thaney and Claude Vanderveen, both of whom I was just beginning to know; and now Beryl, a new colleague moving on. And fierce moments of loss of confidence, when all I could count were things I'm failing to do well here... and moments too when all I could see were frustrations! (Jean can attest to the occasional curses that drift from my office!).

And finally, as a participant of the anti-racism work at First Parish, there is my growing understanding of so many of 'my blessings' as privilege; not just denied to others unjustly, but sometimes gained at their expense. A hard edge to luckiness that isn't easy to hold.

But life is like that. And still there is Paula, Lynn, Jessie, Fred, Chris, Kathy, Don, Cheri, Jim and... so many more... in my litany. I am lucky to have landed here, among you - who are doing your best to hold both gift and loss, vulnerabilities and frustrations, and privilege and its' responsibilities yourselves; while counting life's blessings as a community - again and again.



Get Involved with SOCIAL JUSTICE

IMMIGRATION ISSUES ACTION GROUP—MOVING FORWARD

By Lorraine Jacobs

Prior to 2015, Sunday Forum presenters brought facts about immigration and border crossing to our congregation. A group formed, we learned about Immigration together. Some were immersed in careers or volunteer experiences and others, like myself, began at ground zero. In March 2015 we became a Social Justice interest Group.

By Kitty Willkomm

After 5 years of building awareness and encouraging action, I am leaving a leadership role to attend to my own action direction. Now others will lead. I may commit to Thursday Vigils or assist area Sanctuary Church sites. I leave with an appreciation for the partnership of co-chair, Kitty Willkomm, and with encouragement and support received from group members. The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom and the Rev. Dena McPhetres were strong partners with us. My conviction is to engage in solidarity with neighbors who live in confusion and fear through government policy.

I also believe it's time for new leadership in our fight for the rights of people who come here because they live in horrible economic conditions, fear war or other violence, or desperately want better opportunities for their children. I leave with a great appreciation for my co-chair. Our group membership has increased, and we worked through the sanctuary discernment process when it seemed that providing a "safe space" just might keep a family together. I will also continue to show up, to participate in group actions, and hope for a time when no child marches with a sign saying, "Have You Seen My Dad?"

We have been planning for the transition to new leadership. The team includes; Birger Pahl, Pat & Paul Geenen, Cheryl Butterfield with Kitty Willkomm and Lorraine Jacobs, advisory. An Immigration Google Group was established and will be ready for use by early summer. Goals with tasks are being readied. The Immigration Issues Action Group looks toward 2018-19 with energy.

COMMON GROUND KICKS OFF JOBS CAMPAIGN • CAN YOU HELP?

Inspired by the 1,200+ person turnout at the Ten Year Anniversary Assembly held on April 29, Common Ground is launching a Jobs Campaign to assist those Milwaukee area residents who are unemployed or underemployed to find jobs or better jobs.

The first step in any new campaign is research. So here's where you may be able to help: Do you know people who work in human resources, temporary workforce or training agencies, are company CEOs, are unemployed or underemployed, and/or returning citizens? Could that person be you, a neighbor, relative or friend? They do not necessarily have to

be First Church members.

If you know of people who you could refer to us to speak with, please send their contact information to Jerry Fredrickson. A member of our Common Ground core team will then make arrangements to meet with them. Any contacts you could provide would be greatly appreciated!

Your Common Ground Core Team,

George Bledsoe, Lynn Connolly, Rod DePue, Mary Ann Fisher
Jerry Fredrickson, Russ Langford, Larry Krolkowski
Cathy Startt, Mary Ann Steger

THE CELEBRATION OF FIRE

By Terry Wiggins

June is busting out all over. The sun is gifting us with its precious, nourishing solar energy. For this last month of the "Are You Willing...?" campaign, FIRE is our planetary element, not only to honor but to celebrate!

How have I known fire in my life? I would like to share some memories with you: As a child, there were kerosene lamps blessing our summer cottage evenings with their glow. Along came birthday cakes with candles--exciting for a little girl. As an enthusiastic girl scout, there were wonderful evenings singing around a campfire. One campfire song comes to mind:

Rise up O flame, by thy light glowing
Show to us Beauty, Vision, and Joy!

Lightning has always fascinated me. In my 70's I lived in the woods for 3 months. I attempted to create fire through friction: difficult . . . a spark now and then. Recently I lived in a poorly insulated cabin during a Wisconsin winter. I learned to "bank" the fire so that when I awoke there were enough live hot coals to quickly create heat in a frigid room.

The fierce flame dance of fire has enriched all our lives with its warmth, light, and beauty. Fire is also a key element in the industrialization of our world. For me, fire also represents passion; the passion that moves in our hearts, inspiring joy and love for all of us and our earth.





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

For Children and Youth

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

RE-Flections

By Beryl Ashenberg, Director of Religious Education

It is time for me to say farewell. It has been a great privilege to serve the First Church community these past seventeen years. My experiences with you have prepared me well for the next part of my journey as a credentialed UU religious educator as I accept the invitation to join the staff team at Follen Church of Lexington, MA as their new Director of Faith Formation. I hope to see many of you at the send-off party on June 2 at church, so I can thank you in person! Please bring your children- it is important for them to learn to say goodbye well. (My last lesson here.)

If you were witness to this year's RE Sunday Service, you heard our High School Seniors speak to the importance of our church in their lives... how it has helped ground them, and frame their beliefs in a way that allows them to live out their values in the world. I encourage you to think about your part in the "village" it takes to raise UU kids and to offer your special self to the children of First Church in the next year. Please help build that special "UU Connection"!

As of this writing, we have openings in:

9:00-10:15 a.m. RE classes

- Teaching positions available: 1-2 grade, 3-4 grade, 5-6 grade, and 7-8 grade
- Class Assistant positions available: Early Childhood; 1-2 grade; 3-5 grade, 6-8 grade, and "floating" assistants (fill in where needed).

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. RE classes

- Teaching positions available: 1-2 grade; 3-4 grade; 5-7 grade
- Class Assistant positions available: Nursery; Early Childhood; 1-2 grade; 3-4 grade; 5-7 grade, "floating" assistants (fill in where needed).

Let's show your new Interim DRE how we provide for the religious education of our young people and are working to create a future for Unitarian Universalism! S/he can't do their important work without volunteers in the classroom ready to be with the young people. I would so appreciate your assistance in making this transition easy on the kids and on my successor. You can volunteer at the RE Table on Sunday mornings, or contact Lillian, the RE Administrative Assistant, at any time at 414-273-5257 ext. 210 re.admin@uumilwaukee.org.

Thank You!
In faith, with love,

Beryl

Have you registered your children for 2018—2019 Sunday School yet? Early bird fees available until August 1.

It is time to make a decision about which RE Session your children will be attending in the year ahead. If you have not yet registered your child (ren) for 2018-19 church year please visit our website at www.uumilwaukee.org for class information and for ONLINE registration!

Alternately, you may download a registration form, or request it by email from Lillian at RE.Admin@uumilwaukee.org. The completed form and check payable to FUS may be sent to:

First Unitarian Society
Attn: Lillian
1342 N. Astor,
Milwaukee, WI 53202



INTERVIEW WITH CELIE KONEAZNY

By Lisa Noble

The Youth Steering Committee (YSC) provides direction and support for the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). As a way to connect the youth and the congregation, the adult member at large will be interviewing one of the youth each month for the Chanticleer. This month, I interviewed Celie Koneazny.

Celie shared that she was not very involved during 9th grade Pillars class, but upon entering youth group in the 10th grade, she decided to step out of her comfort zone and take a leadership position (secretary of the YSC). She made friends, enjoyed the planning and found out she could be a leader. She said, "I realized that I could be useful and have a place in the church." She agreed to attend a week at Midwest Leadership School (MLS) that following summer. Although nervous going into this experience, she said it was "amazing...I made such good friends and learned to come out of my shell." After MLS, she realized that she had ideas, wanted to be heard and influence people. She stepped up in youth group in 1st grade to become Vice Chair of the YSC.

Celie is looking forward to going on the mission trip this summer. She feels it will be a great opportunity to get to know everyone better, find out what they think and what they want from youth group. She wants to be able to work effectively with the group and "make things happen." When asked her thoughts about the relationship between the youth and the larger congregation, Celie agrees with others that the youth and the adults don't have to be separated.

As her sister Kaetryn, the outgoing co-chair, moves on to college, Celie is ready to step up, spread her wings and take on all the challenges and opportunities that this new leadership role has to offer. I have had the pleasure of watching Celie grow over the past 3 years and the transformation has been AMAZING!

All About Youth...

By Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

SUMMER RE FOR TEENS!

Eighth-Twelfth Grade Youth

Sundays, June 17, July 15 and August 19

Join Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator in the Reeb Room on the third Sunday of each month this summer to experience three different forms of movement meditation. June 17 is Iyengar Yoga, July 15 is Chinese T'ai Chi Ch'uan and August 19 is Guided Meditation. (In case some of you didn't know, this is what Deb does when she is not working with the youth at church.)

Also, YRUU youth will be hosting a lock-in for ninth through twelfth graders starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 27 to Saturday, July 28 at 9 a.m.

MANDATORY OWL PARENT ORIENTATION SESSION

If you are a member at First Church and you are a parent of a youth who will be in the eighth grade in the fall of 2018 please consider having them join our Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. All interested parents MUST attend a parent orientation meeting before their youth will be permitted to participate in this comprehensive and highly acclaimed, age-appropriate, sexuality education program. If you were unable to attend May's session, the next available session has been scheduled for Sunday, August 12 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Youth Program Coordinator, Deb Solis at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org.

SUMMER YOGA

Morgan Engels, Instructor

Mondays, July 9- September 10 (9 weeks - no class on Labor Day)

Cost: Members \$99/Non-Members \$117

- And/or-

Wednesdays, July 18- Sept. 12 (9 weeks)

Cost: Members \$99/ Non-Members \$117

With practice, Yoga provides enhanced balance, openness, and strength. Use the breath and body to focus the mind, release tension, enhance self-awareness, find a state of peacefulness, and deepen your spiritual consciousness. These classes are about releasing knots in the body, mind, and spirit to live fully in the moment. All levels are welcome. Morgan is flexible with you taking one of her classes at Saffron Studio if you need a make-up.

Drop-ins are welcome at an additional cost of \$15 per session.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PLAYTIME NEWS JUNE 1

Joe Bree will be at Razor for Bay View Gallery night Friday, June 1 with his original paintings and skate decks available for viewing/purchase. 2349 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. 6:00-9:00 p.m.

JUNE 7

Joe Bree also had a painting selected for display in the upcoming Modern Landscape exhibition at Redline Milwaukee gallery and he will be at the opening reception Thursday, June 7 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at 1422 N. 4th Street. This juried group exhibition celebrates contemporary perspectives of landscape artwork.

JUNE 18– AUGUST 25

First Church's Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode is the composer of a new musical premiering this summer at Northern Sky Theater in Door County, Wisconsin. Dairy Heirs: The Family Farming Moo-sical (book by Joel Kopischke & Eva Nimmer; music by Alissa Rhode; lyrics & story by Joel Kopischke) runs June 18 through August 25 in the amphitheater at Peninsula State Park. For show schedule, tickets and info, go to <https://www.northernskytheater.com>

JUNE 14

John Stano performs with Kaia Fowler live June 23 from 8:30-11:00 p.m. at the Cafe Carpe, 18 W. Water Street, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. Cost is \$10.00. Call 920-563-9391 to reserve, or go to <http://cafecarpe.com> for more information.

GUEST HOUSE JUNE 16

First Church will be providing food and servers for a summer meal at the Guest House on Saturday, June 16. The Guest House provides shelter to 86 men each night, and over 400 individuals each year. The menu will include hamburgers and brats, buns, beans, corn, fruit, and dessert. If you can help, please sign up at the Social Justice table or e-mail Mike Newman at Mike771@aol.com

PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE JUNE 8 & 9



PrideFest Milwaukee a celebration of the culture and accomplishments of our local LGBTQ+ community, a time for issues to be communicated, and for support to be shared! It's also three days of fun music, comedy, food, self-expression and family-friendly activities on June 8-10.

This year, the SE Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations are partnering with the Queer and Allied Faith Leaders of Milwaukee (QAFL) to host a PrideFest booth where attendees can know they are "blessed and beloved." UU Church West's the Intern Minister Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson is organizing our booth – contact Kimberlee Tomczak to help: (262) 782-3535 or carlsonkimberly@gmail.com. You can find out more about PrideFest here: <http://pridefest.com/>.

Pride Parade will start off on Sunday, June 10, 2:00 p.m. on S. 2nd St. near Lapham Blvd. in Milwaukee.

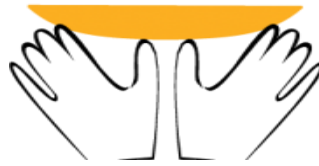
We also invite you to the Communitywide Ecumenical Gathering Celebrating Marriage Equality on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., hosted here in the sanctuary at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. We are excited to welcome Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw, the minister at Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church in Hartland, who will share an inspirational message that evening.

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



Share the Plate

By Dawn Blackmore



One Hope Made Strong (OHMS) is our summer Share the Plate recipient. One Hope Made Strong, run by Ezzard White, is a vocational instruction program that has been operating out of various churches and other locations in the city of Milwaukee for the past nine years. Their vision is “to empower young at-risk males and females with the tools they need to gain meaningful employment in the electrical industry.”

OHMS offers courses in job readiness, electrical fundamentals, circuits, general drafting and print reading, building structures and foundations, carpentry, plumbing, and HVAC. OHMS seeks to increase the number of skilled trade workers

in Milwaukee and decrease the high unemployment of African American and Hispanic men and women through their program.

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

New Announcements and Chanticleer Submission Forms!

By Director of Administration Jean Johnson

We are excited to present helpful web forms for leaders to submit copy for announcements and the Chanticleer! These forms will ensure receipt by the correct staff and a confirmation email to you. Office Coordinator Shari Wright continues to organize the layout with me as the back-up in our process to create effective communications to the congregation. If you have questions about the forms, please contact shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org.

Note that we will discontinue using the old email addresses for submissions this summer. So please try out the web forms now.

It's handy to find links to these web forms on the church website. Go to the bottom of any web page. Look in the plum colored band, and click the Forms link found on the right side. There are lots of other great member resources (like the MyFirstChurch member portal log-in) in that area too!

Announcements web form link: <https://uumilwaukee.org/announcement-submissions/>

Chanticleer web form link: <https://uumilwaukee.org/chanticleer-submission/>

Janet Nortrom Honored by Clara Barton Sisterhood, UUWF

By Kari Gunderson & Julie Bock

So many of us give ourselves to the church in so many ways, noticed and not noticed. Can you identify the members who have served in these ways?

1. A member of the church for 47 years, she has served on most of our boards and has been Vice President of the Board of Trustees.
2. This member has taught religious education classes for more than 25 years, served twice as a Pastoral Care Associate, and worked on both the Sesquicentennial Committee and the 175th Anniversary Committee.
3. This person, a UN envoy, attended the April leadership school in the New York City United Nations office, then was instrumental in bringing director Bruce Knotts to our church two years ago, got him involved with the annual Greater Milwaukee UN event, meeting with Mayor Barrett and other city officials.

All of these people are Janet Nortrom, who has done much more for Black Lives Matter, the 2016 Women's March and more dedicated activities than we can name here. She is being nominated by our church for the prestigious national UU Clara Barton award. More info at: <https://www.uuwf.org/clara-barton-sisterhood/>



GETTING TOGETHER

Come Visit Our Affinity Groups!

From the Rev. Dena McPhetres

Check out new Dates and Events Listed under the Groups

Book Discussion Group

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

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

This evolving group has been meeting for a very long time-- well, practically forever--and interested members come for the books they want to discuss. We hope you will join us for this "choosing" event and for the discussions to come.

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

Buddhist Study Group: Gathering Waters Sangha

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

Buddhist Study Group invites you. Have you ever wondered what Buddhism is all about. Have you ever tried to meditate but you're not sure if you're doing it "right"? The Gathering Waters Sangha at First Church invites you to join us one time, two times or whenever you want to. Currently, we are accessing the book, "The Hidden Lamp" – stories from twenty-five centuries of awakened women. No need to buy the book – we read a short selection and commentary, followed by a discussion, wherever it may take us. We won't be meeting on July 4 (the first Wednesday in July) so we'll decide in June which dates we will meet

that month. We don't meet in August. Jeanne and Steve Lowrey are the contacts.

The Chronologically Gifted

No June meeting

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 or Cecile Langford.

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)

Next event is June 3 at Knickerbockers. Go out for lunch after the second service. Join us once a month for lunch and other social events. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Barbara Collignon 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 Theime or Brook Worzella.

Unitarian Universalists Under Forty Doing Activities (UUUFDA)

First Sunday of the month
12:15 p.m. Potluck Brunch

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

WomanSpirit

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



June 17

"Chanting Service"

The Rev. Dena McPhetres
Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer
and Julie Thompson, Guest Musician
Worship Associate Bob Porter

Back by popular demand; join Rev. Dena, Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer and guest musician Julie Thompson for a contemplative journey into Chanting. We will teach chants and sing them together, between lengthening moments of silence. Discover the blessing of letting go to the deepening and meditative motion of chanting. All are welcome, no singing talent required!

June 24

"Blessings and Curses "

The Rev. Sara Goodman, Pulpit Guest
Worship Associate Rollie Hansen

Sometimes what we see as a curse ends up being a blessing and sometimes what hope will be a blessing ends up a curse. Join the Rev. Sara Goodman for a meditation on opposites and expectations.

The Rev. Sara Goodman, former Assistant Sabbatical Minister at First Church, is returning to First Church. The Rev. Sara is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary and originally from San Diego. She, her husband Shawn, and their son Jamie live in Madison, and will soon be moving to Mahtomedi MN, where Sara will begin her new position of Assistant Minister for Programs at White Bear UU Church!

SIT AROUND SINGING WITH KATIE DAHL

Following her July 1 service as our pulpit guest, musician Katie Dahl will lead a singalong event from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Max Otto Hall, where we will gather and sing together from Rise Up Singing: The Group Singing Songbook. Since 2016, Katie has been leading similar community gatherings at the Unitari-

an Universalist Fellowship of Door County (see news coverage here), and this is our chance to "Sit Around Singing with Katie Dahl in Milwaukee"! Suggested donation \$5.00-\$15.00 and all are welcome.
<http://www.katiedahlmusic.com>



How To Reach Us

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WEBSITE: www.uumilwaukee.org

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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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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

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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



First Church Summer Building Hours (Start June 4)

As activity at the church winds down in the summer, so does staffing! Some of the staff members work reduced hours and many take their vacations during these months. So, beginning June 4, 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 pm., 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.

Please note that the church building will be closed on June 14 & 15 because staff will be away at their annual retreat all day. Thanks!

Director of Administration Jean Johnson





First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
SUMMER SERVICES 2018
One Service Only at 10:00 a.m.

JUNE THEME: BLESSING

- June 10 **“Gender & Sexual Identity as a Blessing”**
The Rev. Dena McPhetres & church members
- June 17 **“Chanting Service”**
The Rev. Dena McPhetres, Tristan Strelitzer & Julie Thompson
- June 24 **“Blessings & Curses”**
The Rev. Sara Goodman, Pulpit Guest

JULY THEME: BEAUTY

- July 1 **“Music: Comforting the Afflicted & Afflicting the Comfortable”**
Katie Dahl, Pulpit Guest & Musician
- July 8 **“In the Eye of the Beholder: Thoughts on Beauty”**
The Rev. Dena McPhetres
- July 15 **“That Time the Rabbi Spiked the Punch”**
The Rev. Misha Sanders, Pulpit Guest
- July 22 **“The Road Seen, and Then Not Seen”**
The Rev. David Schwartz, Pulpit Guest
- July 29 **“Seeking Justice, Needing Beauty”**
The Rev. Dena McPhetres

AUGUST THEME: HERE & NOW

- August 5 **“Don’t Borrow Trouble”**
The Rev. Dena McPhetres
- August 12 **“In the Footsteps of Gandhi: Achieving Nonviolence in a Violent World”**
Monica Kling, Member
- August 19 **“Don’t Show Up Empty-Handed: Unlearning Lessons from a Southern Childhood”**
Beth Monhollen, Member
- August 26 **“Between Here & Now & Forever”**
The Rev. Dena McPhetres
- September 2 **“Pews Aren’t Meant to be Comfortable”**
Amanda Panciera & Celie Koneazny, Members



First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
**2018 Summer Religious Education
for Children & Youth**

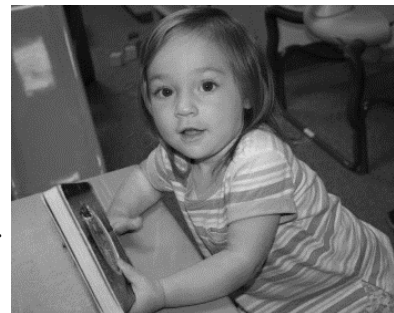
**Sundays, June 10 - September 2
10:00-11:00 a.m.**



SUMMER FUN SCIENCE CAMP

K5-Seventh Grades: Mariah Groshek, Leader

Get ready to get messy and creative! We'll be delving into one of the Unitarian Universalism sources this summer: "Science and reason." We'll experiment with an array of concoctions, potions and notions, while exploring values such as kindness, collaboration, and friendship. If your kids think slime is the coolest, bring them to church for summer fun!



***EARLY LEARNERS* GROUP**

1-5 Year Olds: Lindsey Porter, Leader

Little ones will have age appropriate games, stories, and occasional outdoor fun to keep them occupied while their parents or other adult person attend the service. Five year olds are welcome in either class — we'll let them and their adult decide!

NOTE: There is no need to pre-register for Summer RE programs, and there is no cost. All children in Seventh grade or younger must be signed in each Sunday by an adult. Children in the Early Learners class through Second grade must be picked up by their adult; older children will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. to join their family.



SUMMER RE FOR TEENS!

**Eighth – Twelfth Grade Youth
Third Sundays, June 17, July 15 & August 19
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

Join Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator, in the Reeb Room to experience three different forms of movement meditation:

June 17 - Iyengar Yoga

July 15 - Chinese T'ai Chi Ch'uan

August 19 - Guided Meditation

ALSO- Watch summer announcements and emails for info about our YRUU lock-in for 9-12 graders on Friday, July 27, 7 p.m-Saturday July 28, at 9 a.m.

