



THE CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

September 2018

Words on the Wind

By The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

We begin the 2018-19 church year gathering our visions for the future. As a people of vision, we dream, plan, and organize to make our visions real. This year I will prioritize implementing our Board's Ends; supporting the Board as they further their work on Policy Governance; furthering our congregation's stewardship efforts; collaborating with our Religious Education lay leaders and staff members to discern the future of faith formation at First Church; and, as always, creating sustaining and transforming worship.

Within the framework of the Soul Matters' monthly themes, at First Church, we choose our worship topics collaboratively, with worship staff and lay worship associates together exploring what it means to be a people of each monthly theme. We discuss the theme's meaning in our personal lives, in the life of the congregation, and in the world, then choose weekly worship topics from our discussion. Our 2018 – 2019 Worship Associates team is: Jason Ludtke (co-chair), Beth Monhollen (co-chair), Bob Balderson, George Bledsoe, Julia Oswald, Mark Richards, and Natalie Quinton.

Below are the monthly themes we will use to guide our reflection and meaning-making this church year. "What does it mean to be a people of...?":

September: Vision
October: Sanctuary
November: Memory
December: Mystery
January: Possibility
February: Trust
March: Journey
April: Wholeness
May: Curiosity
June: Simplicity
July: Desire
August: Honesty

Lovingly looking forward to another year together, *Jennifer*

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

Coming on Sunday!

Final summer service & religious education
10:00 a.m.

September 2

"Pews Aren't Meant to be Comfortable"
Amanda Panciera & Celie Koneazny
Worship Associate Bob Porter

During this spring's Youth Service, our young voices challenged us to examine our practice, our social-justice activity, and our contribution to the status quo. Some congregational feedback stated that this made them uncomfortable. Explore how we are being challenged by today's youth and whether First Church is a place to get comfortable.

Join Us For Ingathering
Two services & religious education
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 9: Ingathering
"Pandora Got a Bad Rap"
The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director
Worship Associate Natalie Quinton

In visions, possibilities are unveiled. In Hesiod's telling of the story of Pandora, opening up the box of the unknown unleashes terror. But if we reconsider the story as one of opening up the box of life's possibilities and the womb of the future, then maybe more than just hope flies out. On this celebratory Sunday when our community gathers in for the return of the two-service church year, join us as we explore the possibilities in our communal life, step back to see the whole picture, and witness the gifts of being together.

(SUNDAYS, continued on page 15)

Dena's Digressions

By The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Over the years I've served as your Associate Minister, I've often heard members say "I wish there were more young people in our church" and "social justice is the lifeblood of our congregation—how can we get more people involved?" Hiring our first Social Justice Intern is an important step we are taking toward making those wishes come true! Since we have never had a Social Justice Intern, I'd like to describe the position and responsibilities, so our visions and expectations might successfully meet reality when Claire Keyes joins our staff in September to work part-time for nine months.

The Social Justice Intern will fulfill both the roles of Community Engagement Facilitator and Social Justice Council Coordinator. The Community Engagement Facilitator role is new and will help the congregation to build and strengthen relationships in Milwaukee through a mission-focused, faith-based, action-reflection process of engagement. Our SJ Intern will connect with each of our social justice groups, build relationships and facilitate an action-reflection model of learning that views social action as spiritual development, something members of our Social Justice Council said they yearn for. Our intern will also affirm the present capacity for community engagement in our groups and explore ways to deepen that capacity.

The Social Justice Council Coordinator has been an important lay leadership position at First Church for many years. Several of you have served in that role, laboring hard in the vineyard of meeting agendas, budgets, communications and church

systems, including the ongoing effort to "herd cats!" Most recently, Bruce Wiggins did an outstanding job leading and facilitating our SJ Council the last two years. This leadership role is the hardest to fill from our membership. So much administrative work is involved and so little hands-on social action! The opportunity for an intern to fill this role seems like a smart thing to try, so Claire will also serve as our SJC Coordinator.

I encourage you to welcome Claire, a senior at Marquette University, and make room for her to establish her authority and grow her leadership skills among us. She is young (which we want!); she is passionate about social justice (which we value!). She will bring new ideas and approaches (which we say we want, but often struggle to accept). She is a digital native and probably doesn't use much paper. Claire has strong interpersonal skills, knowledge of Milwaukee social justice organizations, and is a good communicator and organizer, savvy beyond her years. I think you'll like her! Please read her introduction elsewhere in this newsletter.

Let's see where this vision of a quarter-time Social Justice Intern leads us in the months ahead.

Yours, *Dena*

Meet our new Social Justice Intern

By Claire Keyes

Hello! My name is Claire Keyes and I'm really looking forward to working with First Unitarian as your Social Justice Intern 2018-2019. I'm a senior at Marquette University, studying Psychology and Social Welfare & Justice. I worked at the Service Learning Program and Office of Community Engagement, helping to facilitate relationships between Marquette and the surrounding community. I am passionate about social justice issues and hope to continue this work by earning my Master's in Social Work in the future. I grew up in Wauwatosa and in my free time enjoy being outside with my family and dog, Reilly. See you at Ingathering!



General Assembly Attendees Honored to Witness Jennifer's Final Fellowship

By Bruce Wiggins
Denominational Affairs Coordinator

Twelve First Church members and staff who attended General Assembly this year were thrilled to attend the Service of the Living Tradition and witness the Rev. Jennifer's receiving her Final Fellowship. We will be honoring this significant achievement at the two Ingathering services on September 9. Please join us that day to celebrate the beginning of the new church year as well as to celebrate this milestone with Jennifer and her Committee on Ministry.

What is the Fellowship process?

One of the many services provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is screening and credentialing aspiring clergy to be sure they are qualified. It is an extremely rigorous and time-consuming process. It takes years to go from Aspirant to Preliminary Fellowship to Final Fellowship. It is somewhat akin to obtaining tenure at an academic institution. It is crucial in our denomination for an individual to obtain this credential as a minister. While each congregation calls its own minister in our system of polity, the UUA is making sure that each minister has professional competency, training, and experience.

Quite a few candidates for UU ministry fret over the interviews and questions they must answer at their meetings with the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Each candidate must verbalize what they see as their calling as well as demonstrate competency in multiple areas of ministry. "Final Fellowship" means the minister has gone through the entire process and achieved the final credential from the UUA.

Over the last two years, the Board of Trustees and the Senior Minister's Committee (COM) on Ministry has followed the UUA requirements for assisting Jennifer to achieve final fellowship. The Board and COM completed an extensive evaluation of Jennifer's performance and submitted it to the UUA.

You can read more about the fellowshiping process on the UUA website: <https://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/becoming>



Celebrate Rev.
Jennifer Nordstrom
Final Fellowship on
September 9 with a
ceremony and wor-
ship service; party to
follow at Coffee Hour.

Realizing our Vision Theme

By Michelle Naples
Congregation President 2018-19

If I were to choose a single word to describe the role of the Board of Trustees, "vision" would be a top contender.

Given this topic, I would be remiss if I didn't call attention once again to the visioning process that was the focus of the Board during the past year and resulted in the development of our Ends State-ments. If you were one of the 250 people who participated in a visioning workshop, you will recall that they focused on our vision for the future and what difference do we want to make and for whom. As part of this process, participants discussed their wishes for what loving and grace-filled courage could inspire us to create together—within ourselves, among the people of First Church, and beyond the walls of the church out in the world. Participants also worked together in teams to translate their shared wishes into a visual representation (in the form of a magazine cover) depicting their desired vision for First Church ten years in the future.

In this way, the Board facilitated a forum that tapped into the ideas and dreams of the congregation for the future. Indeed, it is the Board's job to listen to and link with the congregation on whose behalf we govern. Look out for announcements about upcoming opportunities to provide your say about where First Church is in our journey.

Welcome to the new church year! I look forward to the strides we will take towards realizing our vision together.



Vision Matters

By Lynne Jacoby

A long time ago, so long ago the Grateful Dead were still touring, I had a conversation with a fellow waiter at a restaurant a couple of blocks from the Boston Garden. The Dead and their accompanying colony of Deadheads had moved into the neighborhood for a few shows, so we had to navigate through individuals selling t-shirts, incense, friendship bracelets, and weed, as well as those simply straight-out asking for our contributions to their fandom, on our way to work.

Kevin, a friend, as well as a constant debate adversary, was offended by the whole scene, and what seemed to enrage him most was the peace-and-love paraphernalia that accompanied the invasion. He'd come in detailing every impolite, oblivious, or down-right obnoxious thing he had clearly looked for among the tie-dyed invasion (each example of hypocrisy) as well as general comments about laziness and road-trip hygiene. "Hippies!" he sneered, "are no more peace-loving than anyone, it's just another empty uniform."

I couldn't argue Kevin's observations (cynicism is so difficult to argue I've found, the burden of proof seems to always lie with idealism), but I did note "That all may be true, but I will still always prefer a hippie's uniform to, say, that of a skinhead's." Even back then I understood that vision matters.

I did know what Kevin meant, and understood a bit where he was coming from. A hard worker, Masters-level educated and super smart (which he was a bit inclined to let you know), Kevin still found himself caught in the wave of young people leaving their home during Ireland's depression. Poking holes in the professed values of the apparently job-less and carefree Deadheads asking him for cash on his way to waiting tables in Boston was a reaction waiting to happen. (Which may be all the more reason why having a vision matters.)

But, inevitable as hypocrisy may be when talking about us human beings and our ideals, to me, it's still a small price to pay for having them.

I see the Board's Ends Statements that unfolded from our envisioning process last year as acknowledging the importance of vision in this community. By articulating specific ways we might act and look if we inhabited our mission and values fully— and then focusing attention, planning, creativity, priorities, and accountability towards moving forward in these areas—we are holding our vision of who we want to be as front and center of our work together. Which is all to say that even if we cannot always live into our proclaimed values as Unitarian Universalists, if First Church had a uniform, I'd be proud to wear it.



Heritage Society Name Tag Stickers

By Jill Erickson

Members of the Heritage Society (those who have included First Church in their estate planning gifts) are invited to stop at the Member Services Table in the Common Room to pick up a Heritage Society Sticker for their name tag. The Mexican tradition of "Dia De Los Muertos" — a joyous remembrance and celebration of loved ones who have passed — inspired the design for the festive iconic image on the stickers.

Can you help complete our 2018-19 Usher Team?

By Cheri Briscoe

We need one more Head Usher for the 9:00 a.m. service, 2 more Ushers for the 11:00 a.m. service, and 1 more Usher for the 9:00 a.m. service.

If you are looking for a way to do something for our church and don't have time for meetings and planning, this is the job for you. You can become part of our 45-member Usher Team for 2018-19. It's also a nice way to meet lots of UUs without feeling lost in the crowd. Because there are so many team members plus a few subs, your commitment is quite flexible. Please give Cheri Briscoe a call.



GET ACTIVE WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE

Do Black Lives Matter?

By Kenyatta Yamel

The Black Lives Matter to WI UUs (BLM2WUU), of which we are a founding member, is organizing a series of 3 lectures, "Do Black Lives Matter? The Hidden History Behind Today's Headlines." The free public lecture series by Mr. Reggie Jackson is about the history and current impacts of the devaluation of Black lives. Mr. Jackson, who has been head griot of America's Black Holocaust Museum, is an engaging speaker, known for his ability to connect history and current realities. You won't want to miss this opportunity for in-depth learning about the history you never heard in school but which shapes our society today and affects every one of us in very different ways. Suitable for youth in middle and high school. Invite your family and friends.

The series will be held October 13, October 27, and November 13 at the Parklawn Assembly of God located at 3725 N. Sherman Blvd. In addition, participants will be invited to participate in a "deeper dive" to learn more about what they can do to change the conditions that undervalue African Americans. The first lecture is Devaluation of Black Americans in the political system. This will be timely with the upcoming elections. The second lecture concerns science and medicine, and the last is about the justice system. We hope people will be informed and empowered to take action.

C'mon Home to Eat

By Tree Moore, Co-Chair Earth Justice Ministry



Yes, we have no bananas—at least those of us who pledge to eat locally grown food during September. By local, we mean within a 100-mile radius of Milwaukee. We hope some will discover what Lake Michigan provides. Some of us could pick up a fishing pole, finding ourselves sitting patiently on a harbor pier or wading into the Milwaukee River.

We want this challenge to help us become aware of our present food system, with its serious drawbacks, as well as discover the abundance of food and drink that surrounds us. The Earth Justice Ministry will support folks with lists of local food sources. There will be five exceptions to eating local: tea, coffee, salt, sugar and cooking oil. Perhaps we could substitute corn or another local grain for rice. We do not wish to create a sense of deprivation, so when you absolutely need a non-local item, do your best to choose things from locally owned businesses, family farms, and organic farms.

Eating local can accomplish these significant goals:

- We support a healthier environment because our food is not transported thousands of miles from field to table.
- If our choices are organic, the soil is enriched rather than depleted.
- We support local farmers and local economies.
- When we buy from a farmers' market, we can meet the farmer.
- Many Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms encourage subscribers to visit the farm, help harvest, and meet the cows.
- We further our relationship to the Earth, developing a sense of belonging.

We are in the sacred process of coming home, where we can nourish our bodies, celebrate the beauty and love of this wondrous world! Sign the pledge at the Social Justice table during Coffee Hour and share your experience.

Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice

By Terry Wiggins

On September 8, Milwaukee is hosting the People's Climate Rally and March: Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice! Across the world, tens of thousands of people will march into the streets to show our elected leaders that we demand action on climate change and economic justice.

In Milwaukee, we're hoping to emphasize several issues including the need for climate and economic justice, lead pipe removal, transit access and more. Will you join us? Our planet, livelihoods, and democracy are under attack—it's time for bold leadership to reclaim our future.

September 8, 2018

Gather at Noon; rally and march from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Zeidler Union Square

301 W Michigan St., Milwaukee

We are calling for a 100% clean energy economy, for family-sustaining jobs, and for justice for everyone in this country. We need you to join us. Our democracy, our livelihoods, and our future depend on a climate movement that reaches all corners of this country. To change everything, it takes everyone — and with your help, we can build a sustainable world for generations to come. First Church's Earth Justice Ministry is a partner in organizing the rally and march.



What's Next for Our Congregation's Vision and the Board's Ends?

By The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Now that the Board of Trustees of First Church articulated our congregation's vision into eight Ends (Read more about that process in Congregation President Michelle Naples' article), we move to the next step of determining what those Ends mean, and how we can make them real.

Right now, Reverends Jennifer and Dena and Director of Administration Jean Johnson are in the process of interpreting the Board's Ends, answering the questions:

1. What do these Ends mean operationally?; and
2. How will we know if we make sufficient progress in realizing them?

Our congregation's staff team and ministry teams are asking:

1. Which of these Ends are ours to realize?
2. Where have we already seen these Ends happening in our congregation?
3. What can we do together to make these Ends even more real?

We invite everyone to join us in asking these questions, in your staff-led teams and your member-led ministries. To which of the Board's Ends does your work in the congregation connect? What might you and the people you collaborate with do to make the Ends real?

Check out the ENDS statements on Page 10.

Funding for First Church's Vision

Reminder: Applications for Lu Krug Bequest Funding for First Church's Mission and Ends are Due October 15.

A portion of the incredibly generous bequest received by First Church from the estate of Lu Krug has been designated by our Board of Trustees for the funding of visionary programmatic initiatives to implement the Board's Ends Statements over the next 1–8 years. Lu, who died in August 2016, was a long-time member and lay leader at First Church.

While there is no limit on the amount you may request, only a portion of the bequest will be awarded during the 2018–2019 church year, and a second round of applications may be solicited during the 2019–2020 church year. However, the Board, in its sole discretion, may change the amount available at any time.

Full details and the preliminary application form are available on the Church's website and at the Member Table on Sundays. The application form asks for general information about your proposed project and will be reviewed for feasibility and connection to the Board's recently crafted Ends Statements and Four Values, and First Church's Mission Statement. Applicants whose preliminary applications meet these basic guidelines will be asked to submit a second, more detailed application, due in early 2019.

Proposals will be accepted from any member of our congregation, though proposals will preferably be developed in conjunction with a staff member and an existing committee or team working in the relevant subject matter area.

From the KGAT Team

Memorial gifts received: The Church has gratefully received Memorial Gifts from the following people in memory of Tom Thaney, who established the Tom Thaney Funds for the Arts, **Paula & Keith Anderson, David Berndes, Rod Botts, Walter Cannon, Julie Carter, Christine Conley, Jill Geisthardt, John Graettinger, James Greene & Michael Karl, Scot Henry, Thomas Jackson, The Rev. Andrew Kennedy & Lois Wesener, Christina Keppel, Sally Lewis & Kathy Rivera, Janet & Marlowe Nortrom, Laurie Petersen, Jane Peterson & Ellen Krueger, Brian Schreiber, Ken & Deb Solis, James & Catherine Startt, Jennifer Thaney, Susan Thaney.**

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



Religious Education For the Whole Community

Welcome to the Religious Education Neutral Zone: Please join us on Saturday, September 15 from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. to learn, reflect and discern with professional Interim Religious Educator, Michele Grove.

This year of transition in religious education is a time to consider the history, present, and future of faith formation at First Church. Whenever change occurs, William Bridges teaches us that there is an ending, a time in the neutral zone and then a beginning. Each of these three stages makes up all transitions including those that happen within congregations. Unitarian Universalists have employed interim ministers to guide congregations through the unknown waters of the neutral zone since the 1980s. Now it is evident that other areas of congregational life including religious education own similar transitions and benefit from interim work. This congregation is in the midst of an important transition, and intentional interim religious education work will help us build a solid direction.

Michele Townsend Grove, a trained and practicing interim religious educator (2006 to the present), will serve as our consultant and guide. She will visit us a few times this year and work with our congregation as we explore our religious education history, unique identity, core values and religious education vision. It promises to be an important time that will enrich every aspect of congregational life.

On Saturday, September 15, Michele will be with us to begin

this work beginning with an honest look at our religious education history. We will honor it, celebrate it and mourn when needed.

The entire community is invited to be a part of this interim time. Religious education is part of who we are as a community, including our children and youth, our parents, and all our adults. We want everyone in our community to have the opportunity to reflect on our religious education program and values. It is important for our Religious Education staff and our Children's Religious Education team to hear many different voices and ideas, so please join us.

Sincerely,
Children's Religious Education Team Chair, Sarah Richards
Religious Education Coordinator, Cami Thomas and
Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom

Connecting with Church Members on Facebook

We've created a new group on Facebook for First Church members and friends to share news directly with each other. This is a place to exchange info of interest about church-related programs, to connect socially and spiritually, and to share items of social justice activities important to us in Milwaukee. We welcome your news, photos, and comments.

Find the group via the First Church business page (where we continue to do "official" posts as before). Once you click on the JOIN button for this closed group and receive confirmation that you are in the group, you can post directly without having to submit items to the staff to post. So join in the conversation with the 85 people who are already connecting on our Facebook group.

Search Groups for this group:



First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee FB Group

85 members · 2 posts a day

Milwaukee, Wisconsin · This UU Milwaukee group is administered by First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee (aka First Church);...

[+ Join](#)



Religious Education For Children and Youth

RE-flections

By Cami Thomas, Religious Education Coordinator



As I venture into what it means to guide volunteers and children in developing a spiritual identity, I am constantly returning to the idea of it takes a village to raise a child. Parents, caregivers, teachers, mentors, peers, and others influence our children daily. We don't always have control over what they might be exposed to out in the world. However, I posit that there are two ways in which, at least here at First Church, and possibly in your extended villages, we can have some peace of mind knowing our children are in good care within the village. First, as Unitarians, there are the seven principles that ground the work of RE in values-based thinking and acting. The second way is through our relationships with each other. I present to you a model by Dr. Degruy* that identifies three relationship roles adults have with children. The first relationship is a parent/guardian whose role is to guide and protect the child. The behavior or response the children give to this role is compliance and acceptance. The second relationship is a mentor whose role is to motivate and nurture the child. Children respond to that role with appreciation and acknowledgment. And finally, the instructor role

which is to honor and respect the child. Children respond to this role with aspiration and intention. As coordinator of CRE, I support my volunteers in methods that cultivate honor and respect of our children. I want volunteers to understand their role and relationship with our children. Additionally, we want children to come to RE with possibility on their minds. We don't teach them what to think, we teach them to be inquisitive, discerning, and daring! If you'd like to learn more about Dr. Degruy's model please reach out.

In service to you, *Cami J. Thomas*

*Dr. Joy Degruy shared this model in her workshop "Trauma and Resilience" on July 24, 2018, in Milwaukee, WI. Although the model is intended for use in a racial equity context she also states this holds true for most children.

A New Year of Religious Education (RE)

By Lillian Schley, Religious Education Administrative Assistant

RE for the church year begins September 9, on Ingathering Sunday. Grades 1-7 are invited to join together to welcome in a new year of RE and make vision boards for their school year. This activity is part of the First Sunday's program, which will continue on the first Sunday of each month this fall. First Sunday activities will be inspired by the month's worship theme and led by Cami Thomas.

This year in RE, grades 1-4 will be together in one classroom. This is a great chance for kids in different grades to get to know each other, and for 3rd and 4th graders to be leaders for their younger classmates. This year, grades 1-4 will be learning about other cultures and religious traditions by celebrating holidays from around the world! This program is a lot of fun for both teachers and students and has been a favorite in the past.

Grades 5-7 will be starting with a unit on UU history and identity, including learning about the founders of Unitarianism, and how beliefs on evolution fit into the UU faith. Class for grades 1-7 is offered at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services, along

with RE for K4 and K5, and playtime in the nursery for ages 3 and under. The high school youth group, YRUU, meets at 9 a.m., and OWL for 8th graders meets at 11 a.m. 8th graders not taking part in OWL are welcome to join grades 5-7 at either service.

RE happens each year through the hard work and commitment of many volunteers, and we want to thank everyone who will be teaching and assisting in the classrooms this year! More volunteers are still needed to make RE happen. This is a year of transition for RE, and as a volunteer, you can be part of steering us into a new chapter. Please consider signing up as a teacher for grades 1-4 at 9:00 a.m. or grades 5-7 at 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. We're also looking for a nursery and early childhood assistants at either service. Contact Lillian Schley at RE.admin@uumilwaukee.org to sign up, or if you'd like to learn more about the responsibilities involved.



All About Youth....

By Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

The Vision for Unitarian Universalism as created through the Gathered Here process in 2012 states: We Unitarian Universalists (UUs) envision a life filled with compassion for all, shared in a beloved community and lived in a just world. We commit ourselves to pursue this vision faithfully, passionately, and humbly. We invite all who share our vision to join us in this spiritual journey.

Here at First Church, as I work closely with our incredible youth, we too share this UU Vision and are encouraged to engage on this spiritual journey. Our youth see this church as a place for spiritual growth, development, connection, and action. They truly believe our mission and nurture their spirits, engage their minds, and inspire action within and outside of the church walls. We look forward to a year of sharing our vision together within our beloved First Church community.

Youth Group September Happenings

We are planning on engaging in an art project with local Community Artist of the Year, Tia Richardson, to develop and create a wall mural in our lower church level. This project is made possible through the most generous donation on behalf of our beloved church member Tom Thaney.

- Our 2018 Mission Trip to Battle Creek, Michigan was a great success and the ten youth and three advisors who participated extend their heartfelt thanks to the congregation for their support!!
- Our 2018-2019 Youth Steering committee team is in place and planning youth events for the coming church year. Our team consists of Matthew Finco and Celie Koneazny (co-chairs), Ehlonia Walker (vice-chair), Youth Members: Jonah Roth, Clarity Saigh, Sam Mulvey, Simone Pointer-Mace, Zoe Gulbranson, and Adena Saigh, and Nick Davia (YRUU advisor representative) and Andrea Cornwall (Adult-at-Large Member).
- Our first YRUU Lock-in for the church year happens on Friday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. through Saturday, September 29 at 9:00 a.m. The theme is Community and Team Building.
- Our first YSC meeting for the church year happens on Sunday, September 9 at 10:40 a.m. in the Murray room at church.

A Youth's Perspective

A thank-you letter from Midwest Leadership School Youth participants

Dear Members, Staff, and Visitors of
the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee,

Thank you all for supporting us in our adventures. We agree that this has been an incredibly valuable part of our path to leadership. None of these unforgettable experiences and amazing connections would have been possible without you. We would like to personally thank Deb, Beryl, Jennifer and everyone else who contributed to making this trip possible. We hope to carry these lessons back to our church, and with us for the rest of our lives.

Thank you!

Clarity Saigh
Jonah Roth
Adena Saigh
Sam Mulvey



OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) FOR GRADES 4-6

We are excited to announce that this fall at First Church we will be offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades 4-6! OWL is a comprehensive, developmentally age-appropriate sexuality education program. Over 10 sessions, this program will introduce key topics like values, body image, gender and sexual identity, peer pressure, and healthy relationships, with sensitivity and inclusiveness.

Please join facilitators Crysta Jarczynski, Bruce Wiggins, and Youth Program Coordinator, Deb Solis, for a Parent Information Meeting on Sunday, September 16 in the Young Room from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will provide more detailed information about this program and answer any questions you may have.

Some notes about participation:

- ☞ The 10 sessions will take place on Sundays this fall from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. starting October 7.
- ☞ There will be a Mandatory Guardian/Child Orientation Meeting on Sunday, September 30 with Crysta and Deb from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- ☞ Children are encouraged to attend ALL sessions. This is important for both content and group dynamics.
- ☞ There will be no class held on November 25.





First Unitarian SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE

NURTURE THE SPIRIT • ENGAGE THE MIND • INSPIRE ACTION

ENDS STATEMENTS

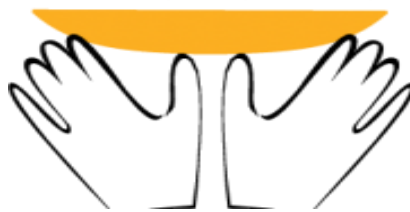
We, the people of First Church
build community where we:

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



WONDER • AUTHENTIC CONNECTION • LOVE • JUSTICE





September Share the Plate

By Dawn Blackmore

The Adult Learning Center (ALC) is our September Share the Plate recipient. Serving Milwaukee since 1979, ALC's mission is to "provide motivated adults with basic education, life-long learning opportunities, and resources to transform their lives and contribute to their communities, in the spirit of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles of social justice."

The ALC offers both traditional large group classes and one-to-one tutoring for students to gain the basic academic skills they need to earn their G.E.D. and go on to obtain successful employment and/or additional degrees in higher education. Classes focus on math, reading, writing and computer skills. Alicia Donner, a First Church member and volunteer, explains their work further: "The majority of our students are persons of color and over 90% live below the poverty line. By providing them with educational opportunities, we are transforming the lives of the entire ALC community: students, volunteers, and staff. This can be illustrated by the dedication of our volunteers—some of them have been volunteering with the ALC for over 30 years! Watching our students blossom with self-confidence while they are at the ALC or return to show off their diplomas from MATC and UWM after they've graduated has changed my life." If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the organization, please visit <http://alcmilwaukee.org>.

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

UU Church West is Hiring

UU Church West is hiring a part-time Community Builder to assist with engagement and retention of church members and visitors. They are looking for a warm, positive person to implement their membership procedures and support their small group and congregational live activities. See more information at <http://uucw.org/open-position-community-builder-part-time/>

DONATE SUNDAY'S FLOWERS AND TAKE THEM HOME AFTER SERVICE!

The 2018-2019 Sunday Sanctuary Flowers Program provides an opportunity to dedicate flowers for a cause, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a life event. Your dedication message will be printed in the Sunday's announcements. A beautiful arrangement will be displayed in the sanctuary for both Sunday services.

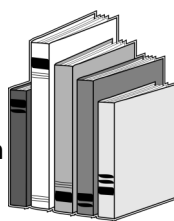
If you would like to generously provide flowers (which you can take home with you after 2nd service) please fill out a form found on our website, contact our office assistant Shari Wright at 414-273-5257 ext. 207 or at shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org, or visit the Member Services Table during Coffee Hour.



Shawl Ministry Gathering By Connie Georgenson

The Shawl Ministry group will resume monthly meetings on Sept. 9 (Ingathering Sunday) in the Anthony Room from 12:30 to 2:00. Members of this group knit or crochet shawls, lap robes and baby blankets for church members with newborn babies, serious health issues, the death of a loved one, or other crisis. These creations are given by the ministers and the Pastoral Care Associates. Bring your yarn, needles and a snack and join us as we create and share ideas for patterns. We always welcome new members! For more information contact Connie Georgenson or Patty Agacki.

Book Tower News By Jo Ann Bacher



The Book Tower Committee has been busy making our Book Tower more accessible and has four new books to help our community in its search for positive growth and change. In addition, we are looking forward to the return of the Used Book Sale the weekend of March 29 - 31, 2019.

The new books are:

- *Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities* edited by Sarah Lammert, a variety of essays showing innovative ways to make congregations more relevant.
- *Turning Point: Essays on a New Unitarian Universalism* edited by Fredric Muir. These critical essays "show a way forward from an isolated, individualistic church to an inclusive, multicultural Beloved Community."
- *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone* by Brene Brown. This book is a *New York Times* bestseller that "challenges everything we think we know about cultivating true belonging."
- *Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People's History* by notable UU author John A. Buehrens.

Circle Supper Registration in September By Sam Mueller

Circle Suppers are a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and deepen existing friendships in a casual setting. Participants will be scheduled to dine with a different group for each dinner. Sign up as a pair, individual, or substitute. Each pair/individual will supply an element of the dinner: main dish, salad, or dessert; the host provides the beverages and hors d'oeuvres. The four suppers will be November 17, January 26, March 23 and May 18. Registration will be online and in person at the Membership Table from September 14 through 30. We hope you will join us!

Book Discussion Group Reading List 2018-2019 By Chris Linder

Sept. 9, 2018: *Driftless* by David Rhodes. This fictional story of a small Wisconsin town where people work hard is intimate, funny, wise and generous - an unforgettable story of contemporary life in rural America. (Leader: Chris Linder)

Oct. 14, 2018: *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. This is a post-apocalyptic novel set in the American Midwest after a deadly virus kills almost everyone on earth. It explores the spiritual heights and depths of small bands of survivors as they build the future. (Leader: Nancy Pajewski)

Nov. 11, 2018: *Darktown* by Thomas Mullen. Set in 1948 Atlanta, this mystery stars "the Negro Police." The police department's rules for the first black police officers make their jobs difficult and dangerous, but they still uncover a woman's murderer. (Leader: Cheryl Butterfield)

Dec. 9, 2018: *The Collected Stories of Carolyn Wobig* by Carolyn Wobig. This collection of short stories is primarily focused on women in transition or facing change. Carolyn Wobig is a Wisconsin author. (Leader: Jo Ann Bachar)

Jan. 13, 2019: *Bluebird, Bluebird* by Attica Locke. A black Texas Ranger solves the murders of a black man from Chicago followed within days by a local white woman. Local law enforcement, in the small east Texas town, does not see a connection between the deaths.

(Continued on page 13)



Feb. 10, 2019: *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin. This novel begins in 1969 when four siblings are told by a fortuneteller on what date they will die. Then the story follows each person's life until their death. (Leader: Bill Frink)

Mar. 10, 2019: *Nightblind* by Ragnar Jonasson. The setting for this thrilling mystery is a village, so small no one locks their door, in northern Iceland. The victim is a police officer. (Leader: Susan Comstock)

Apr. 14, 2019: *The Perfect Weapon* by David E. Sanger. This nonfiction book is about information technology and its destructive potential. It is comprehensive, very readable, and current (published in June 2018). (Leader: Mary Stefaniak)

May or early June, date TBD: *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton. The subtitle of this memoir is "How I found life and freedom on death row." Anthony did not have competent assistance at trial. After 15 years he got assistance from the Equal Justice Initiative and after another 15 years he was released.

**Getting Your House in Order:
Preparing for the End of Life
By Melinda Vernon**

Coming in November: a three-part educational series sponsored by the Heritage Society Workgroup.

Death is not something we care to spend a lot of time thinking about yet it is certain to happen to each of us; the only thing we don't know is when. By considering now how we wish our death to be handled and communicating those wishes to others, we can assert a degree of control over our destiny and help those who survive us navigate through a difficult time.

On Thursday, November 1, Brett Twente, M.D. will discuss medical aspects of end of life, including levels of care, hospice and the importance of advance directives such as "Living Wills" and "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care."

On Thursday, November 8, Elizabeth Ruthmansdorfer, Attorney at Law will help us understand a variety of legal and financial issues related to wills, estate planning, and financial power-of-attorney.

Finally on Thursday, November 15, Rev. Dena McPhetres will engage us in a discussion of spiritual aspects of planning for death including issues around how to talk to family about our wishes, disposition of our body, and considerations in planning for a funeral or memorial service.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this important series. All sessions will be held from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the church. The cost is \$15.

More information and registration will be available in early October.

More Events

**September 22 & 23
Doors Open Milwaukee**

First Church is participating in this two-day event. Doors Open Milwaukee is a chance to see buildings in Milwaukee the public does not often have a chance to see, sponsored by Historic Milwaukee, Inc.

First Church is a featured site for Doors Open Milwaukee Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. We need 20 people willing to be docents for a two-hour shift Saturday or one-hour shift on Sunday afternoon to tell people about our building. It is fun to share our church! We will provide scripts for those who volunteer. You can ask questions or sign up to volunteer by emailing Nancy Spransy. Come, join us in the fun!

November 17

Jack Forbes Wilson Performs at Next Act

Dumped on Thanksgiving Day by her fiancé, Mary stumbles back into the dating world, where "romance" ranges from weird and creepy to absurd and comical. Over the course of an epic year of mismatches, Mary's cynicism grows. Luckily, the charm and innocence of a five-year-old boy unexpectedly bring her a new outlook on life and love. The playwright's directive was to mix in lots of music with the story. "The Twelve Dates of Christmas" starring Kelly Doherty and Marcee Doherty-Elst, with Jack on keyboards, premiers at the Next Act Theatre this fall.

Lois Wesener has reserved 40 tickets at a discounted price of \$35 for the 4:30 show on Saturday, November 17. For those who wish, dinner plans after the show will be arranged. Send Lois a check, you can find her address in the church directory. Do it soon - 18 of the tickets have already been paid for!



GETTING TOGETHER

Come Visit Our Affinity Groups!

From the Rev. Dena McPhetres

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

Book Discussion Group

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

First Meeting is September 9
We gather once a month to discuss a chosen book. You can find our book list on the church bulletin board and website. We welcome all readers. For more information, contact Chris Linder.

Buddhist Study Group: Gathering Waters Sangha

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

First Meeting is September 19
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. Contact our Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer at tstrelitzer@gmail.com with your name and voice type.

The Chronologically Gifted

Last Sunday of the Month
12:30 p.m. Potluck Lunch

The First Potluck is September 30
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.

Pagan Celebrations Group

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

SWANS Group

(Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social)
First Sunday of the month
Go out for lunch after the second service. Join us once a month for lunch and other social events. Newcomers are always welcome! For more information about SWANS, contact Barbara Colignon at or Jeanne Durnford.

UU Parenting Group

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

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

UU+ Study Group

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

We gather to deepen our knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and to continue our spiritual journeys through reading and discussion. On October 23 we will watch and discuss Bill Moyers' interview with author Margaret Atwood, part of his On Faith and Reason video series. Contact Nancy Pajewski for more information.

Unitarian Universalists Under Forty Doing Activities (UUUFDA)

First Sunday of the month
12:15 p.m. Potluck Brunch
First Potluck is October 7

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 Nortrom.



September 16
“Sins of Omission: What Are We Not Seeing?”
The Rev. Dena McPhetres
Music Director Alissa Rhodes, Lead Music Director
with Stas Venglevski, accordion
Worship Associate Mark Richards

Sight and vision are different. It's not what we look at that matters, it's what we see. Vision is a focus that eliminates other possibilities; vision sets a direction toward a destination. I love that about vision, but how often do I consider my sins of omission in pursuit of a vision? This week brings the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, a day of at-one-ment with all we are: our accomplishments and failures, intentional and unintentional. What are we not seeing about ourselves?

Sunday, September 23
“The Sculpture Is in the Stone”
The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
Jack Forbes Wilson, Artist-in-Residence
Worship Associate TBD

In the apocryphal story of Michelangelo, he described his creative process of sculpting as simply “chipping away all the marble that doesn't look like David.” Sometimes visions, creative or otherwise, come to us already fully formed. Join us in a service that explores creativity, curiosity, and realizing visions.

Sunday, September 30
“Like a Feather on the Breath of God”
The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director with Kathy Collisson, cello
Worship Associate Bob Balderson

The 12th-century Christian polymath, Hildegard von Bingen, was a composer, a writer, a theologian, a scientist, and a mystic. She is recognized as the founder of scientific natural history in Germany and was an Abbess in the Catholic Church. She preached publicly, which was extremely unusual for a woman at the time. She recorded her visions in books, drama, and liturgical poems and songs. Join us in this service that explores the intersections of mysticism, science, love of the natural world, and social forces in the life of an extraordinary 12th-century woman.

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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MINISTER EMERITUS

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

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Sunday Morning Forums

September 9

“Lead in the Water & Related Health Factors”

Presenter: Kevin Engstrom

Dir. of Environmental Health/16th Street Community Centers
Kevin Engstrom will bring data and ideas to tackle the problem of lead in the drinking water of many areas of Milwaukee. He has proposed a pilot program to fully abate the homes of 1,000 new births in Milwaukee to prevent lead poisoning of children. His research has found that paint, soil contamination, plumbing, fixtures, and lead laterals all play a role in lead poisoning, and he is convinced that complete abatement is the best solution.

September 16

“The Hop – Connecting Milwaukeeans to Each Other
& a Brighter Future”

Presenter: Ashley Booth

HNTB Engineering Consultants, led The Hop team.
The streetcar is here! Thanks to The Hop, Milwaukee is easier to navigate, neighborhoods are more connected, and your destination is just a quick hop away. Milwaukee’s new, modern, fixed-transit network will help attract investment, business, and talent while creating jobs and improving quality of life. Ashley Booth led the design of The Hop and will speak to how the system will create a more connected city and spur economic development.

September 23

“Overpass Light Brigade & The People’s Bandwidth”

Presenter: Prof. Lane Hall, UW-Milwaukee (English & Film Depts.)

The Light Brigade is a group of community activists who meet on a bridge to hold lighted letter panels to communicate major concerns in our city, state, and country. People are drawn to the lighted letters, the camaraderie of a “bridge party,” and the coverage in social media. The idea has spread around the world. Professor Hall, a founder of the Brigade, will talk about its roots in Wisconsin activism and use in varied collaborations and campaigns.

September 30

“The New Land: Milwaukee's Changing
Immigration Landscape”

Presenter: Barbara Miner, journalist & photographer
Milwaukee prides itself on its ethnic heritage of Germans, Poles, Italians, and Irish. But in the 21st century, immigrants such as Latinos, Somalis, Eritreans, Burmese, Russians, Hmong, Indians and Saudis are playing a role in transforming the region. Given current policies and rhetoric from Washington, questions abound about the future of immigration. Barbara Miner will explore issues of whether Milwaukee will embrace the city’s new immigrants or dwell on its past.

