



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

October 2018

Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Like many of our people, when I need a safe place, grounding, or connection with self or spirit, I head to our congregation's sanctuary. On the day after the 2016 election, I sat there in the quiet breathing, re-interpreting my call to ministry for this time. Sometimes I go there to prepare for meetings, or to grieve. I go there to renew my connection to sacred beauty, and watch the sunlight stream through the quiet afternoon air, warming the wooden pews with the orange and yellow light of our stained glass.

Sanctuary originally meant a holy place, set apart. Through custom, it grew to also mean a safe place, a place of refuge. This month, as we explore in worship, religious education, and groups and teams what it means to be a people of sanctuary, I hope we will ask ourselves what it means to create sanctuary within our own hearts, for each other, and for the world beyond our walls. How are we creating holy space and refuge for our own vulnerability? How do we create sanctuary for one another? And how do we offer safety and welcome to people in the wider world who might find a sense of belonging here?

This month, I hope to create sanctuary for my own heart, for you, and to move towards creating refuge for people in the world beyond our walls.

With love,
Jennifer

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

Sunday Services & Religious Education

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 7

"All Your Heart Longs to Set Down"

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer

Worship Associate Julia Oschwald

RE Coordinator Cami Thomas

Every Sunday, we welcome people into our beautiful sanctuary and community by saying "we welcome all your heart longs to set down." Sanctuary is a refuge, a respite, a place where we can set down our burdens and gain renewed strength to pick them up again. When times are tough, I remind myself that I carry my sanctuary within—an oasis of wholeness that is always there, even when outer conditions are frantic, scary or burdensome. How do we create inner sanctuary for all the parts of ourselves, even the parts we don't like?

OCTOBER 14

"Inviting the Whole of People"

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom

Guest Speaker Christopher Sims

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

RE Coordinator Cami Thomas

Worship Associate George Bledsoe

Church should be a sanctuary for our people, a place where our authentic selves are welcome. What does that mean when people come to church bringing differences of culture, race, and ethnicity? How do we create refuge for the whole of people? How do we embody our Unitarian Universalist values in our welcome, our worship, and our communal practice? Please join us in this worship service with guest speaker Christopher Sims, a Unitarian Universalist lay leader of color from Rockford, IL, who travels the country sharing his poetry and wisdom with UU congregations.

(SUNDAYS, continued on page 11)

Dena's Digressions

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres

"What's happening with Adult Religious Education?" is a question members ask, especially those who remember the golden days of many adult classes, workshops and learning opportunities that engaged your mind, nourished your spirit and offered a place for you to make some of your closest friends. I'm excited to welcome adult programs into my portfolio this year.

But first, some background. Before and during the Interim Senior Ministry years, when Adult RE registration waned considerably, our former Director of Religious Education, Beryl Aschenberg, put the program on hiatus for a year, then gathered a small group of members to dream and vision what might come next. Last church year, Lisa Gies, Anne Maedtke, Diane Horne and Kristi Davis-Gutierrez entered into long conversations about what engages their minds, nurtures their spirits, and dreamed of possibilities that might serve our congregation well. They leaned into the spiritual development side of being whole adult human beings and yearned for more programming in this area. I joined their work this summer and together we decided to simply name this area of ministry Adult Spiritual Development.

Why? We are catching up with the shift that happened over the last decade across our UU movement that moved away from the 'school' model of religious education and toward the 'development' model. Pedagogy and design of adult programming in UU congregations has not abandoned the mind, but integrated intellectual engagement with spiritual concerns as we apply our learning to our daily lives.

If we widen our view, there is already so much our congregation offers that falls into the realm of Adult Spiritual Development. Theme Circles begin this month. Our robust Sunday Forum lecture series continues. The Heritage Society offers "Putting Your House in Order" in November. The annual Silent Retreat happened in September. Spiritual Direction Groups began in September. Yoga classes are ongoing. In addition, several of our Affinity Groups offer a place to engage your mind and nurture your spirit: Book Discussion Group, Buddhist Study Group, Pagan Celebrations, UU+ Study Group and WomanSpirit.

This winter, Lisa Gies will offer a workshop on Deep Listening, Jeanne Lowry and Gordie Mueller will facilitate Owning Your Religious Past, and Deb Solis and her volunteers will offer the adult version of Our Whole Lives this spring.

I've had a passion for adult spiritual development my whole career, teaching several classes a year at my previous congregation, and I look forward to discovering how our program may grow in the future. When way opens after I'm done training our new team of Pastoral Care Associates, training in our new Social Justice Intern and have launched our new Theme Circle program, I'll be able to turn more of my attention and creativity to more possibilities for Adult Spiritual Development.

Yours, Dena

News from Your SJ Intern

by Claire Keyes

Hello! I am extremely passionate about social justice and can't wait to meet more members of the congregation. I have developed my passion for social justice throughout my time studying at Marquette University. I am currently in my senior year at Marquette, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Social Welfare & Justice.

For myself, I am most drawn to and passionate about racism and race-related issues. I am drawn to this issue, because I think race is at the core of almost all social justice issues and injustices. Additionally, living in Milwaukee, I have seen segregation, discrimination, and prejudice firsthand, within my community, which has ignited a passion for change within me.

I think what I am most excited about for this internship is discovering how faith can be used as a base for social justice work, and how Unitarian Universalism incorporates social justice work as spiritual development. I've gained experience in social justice and community work through my time working with both the Service Learning Program and Office of Community Engagement at Marquette.

Some of the organizations I have worked with include the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee Center for Independence, and the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin. At the Service Learning Program, I worked to develop relationships with community organizations, as well as facilitating reflection sessions for students around various social justice issues, such as community violence, classism and much more. I also work at the Office of Community Engagement, helping to develop a mutually beneficial relationship between Marquette and the community.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

In Solidarity,
Claire Keyes



October's Theme: Sanctuary

by Michelle Naples

Congregation President 2018-19

Sanctuary is typically defined as a place of refuge or safety. I'm sure we can all conjure up images of physical spaces that for us fit this literal definition. When I think deeper about what makes these spaces a sanctuary, what comes to mind is people I might be with there with whom I find safety, comfort, and strength.

I wonder how we can truly create sanctuary that is inclusive and welcoming and serves a greater purpose. In this vein, I recall remarks by members Celie Koneazny and Amanda Panciera at the September 2 service, "The Pews Aren't Meant to Be Comfortable." I gleaned from their reflections that church should be a place that provides comfort but is not comfortable, meaning that instead of being complacent and fighting to preserve our status quo, we should embrace our differences and come together to challenge ourselves and others to fight injustices where they arise. In so doing, we will bolster strength from each other as we work towards our shared vision for social justice as articulated in several of our Ends.

As a reminder, the deadline for applying for funding for programmatic initiatives in service of the ends from the Lu Krug bequest is fast approaching (October 15). Also, please check out the article on our first annual congregational survey and have your say about where First Church is at in our journey. Thank you!

Our First Annual Congregational Survey is Here!

by Michelle Naples

Your response is needed to First Church's first annual congregational survey! I assure you, this is not just any old survey. The information you provide is of critical importance to the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team (Reverends Jennifer and Dena, and Church Administrator, Jean Johnson). It will inform our understanding of whether we are making progress over time in realizing our congregation's vision as articulated in our eight Ends.

We know that working to achieve our Ends is a journey. This year's survey will tell us where we are at right now with our Ends so we will be able to look back and gauge how far we have come in a year, two years, and beyond. It will ground our ongoing practice of measuring our progress and identifying areas in which First Church needs to dedicate additional time and resources.

Please respond at www.uumilwaukee.org/survey after September 25. While completing the survey online is the preferred method, you can stop by the membership table during Coffee Hour on September 30, October 7, and October 14 to fill out a paper copy. The last day to complete the survey will be October 16. The Board of Trustees will share a report on what we heard by the end of the year.

Thank you in advance for completing the survey. The brief 10-15 minutes that it takes is time well spent!

"This is No Time for a Casual Faith"

Notes from General Assembly, 2018

by Terry Wiggins

"This is no time for a casual faith," Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, declared as she reflected on the spiritual challenges of confronting American white nationalism.

In her sermon, she talked about how it has "been a time of enormous heartbreak and challenge and urgency, a time when we are called to bear witness to so much pain—and to make room in our bodies and our spirits to hold so much of our own pain. It is time to acknowledge the past we are coming from and to do the work that enables us to create a new story and a new way of being."

Shortly after she moved to Boston, faith leaders were called to show up in Charlottesville to fortify the effort to stop white supremacist violence from descending there. She didn't hesitate, even though being in Charlottesville was terrifying and traumatic. All who were there still hold the trauma of that day. Several UUs were injured on the streets, and Heather Heyer was killed.

Police failed her assumption, namely, that they were in the business of protecting her. She knew that not everyone gets to make this assumption. This disparity brought into sharp relief the reality of the racism and broader system of white supremacy deep in our nation.

"And two things are absolutely clear to me. Number one, this is no time for a casual faith or a casual commitment to your values, your community, your congregation, your soul, and your faith. And number two, this is no time to go it alone or to think that we are in this alone."



A Sanctuary of Liberal Democracy

by Lynne Jacoby

“Many people entertain attitudes in favor of freedom, but socially effective freedom requires participation in associations that define or redefine freedom and that attempt to articulate or implement that freedom in a specific social milieu.” — Unitarian Universalist theologian, ethicist, and democratic socialist James Luther Adams (1901–1994).

A brilliant idea for our New Member curriculum proposed by Cheri Briscoe on the Membership Team reminded me of this UU article <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/the-reclamation-liberalism>. Published years ago (but perhaps more relevant now than ever) I remember thinking at the time “very cool, I not only practice spirituality and covenantal community at my church, I practice Democracy as well!” But I did not really get it, not at the time, not until I joined a committee myself.

Which makes sense because Liberal Democracy (not to be confused with Liberal Democrats), unlike Direct Democracy, takes more than voting, argues the author Rev. John Weston. It takes practice.

Liberalism is designed on the premise that minority perspectives are not always protected fairly by majorities, not even by well-intentioned majorities. It also suggests that majorities do not change and grow without opening to a broad range of influences.

At First Church we vote on a few major decisions, but most are made throughout our wide range of groups (from the Board to the Youth Group Leadership Team), and we adhere to term limits. So really it is our by-laws, and all our volunteers who protect our democracy, define our liberalism. This is not the most expert or efficient way to run anything! But it is our institutional mechanism to create wide distribution, and regular re-distribution, of power.

Group decision-making is no one’s favorite pastime, but it is where we practice listening, consensus building, compromise, and good communication skills (all of which require a lot of practice!). And it is also where we practice remembering that the dense individual across an issue from us is the same sensitive soul who sent us a beautiful sympathy card, and then... maybe we are the dense one! We practice how to step up without stepping on toes, and how to step back through disappointment; and understand that unexpected complexity can arise on any given issue, opposing views might both be true, and how to move forward considering all these things.

Liberal democracy is messy, imperfect and imperfectly practiced by us, but according to Rev. Weston “intermediary democratic institutions” (like First Church), where people get this kind of hands-on practice, are disappearing. This is a problem — because sharing power peacefully is not an instinct, it depends on trust. And trust, like faith, is built on our experiences and our practices.

Let's Party!

Susie & Laura's Feast for Funds Story

by Susie Siedelman and Laura Maker

We both love having people over and entertaining, so Feast for Funds was a really enjoyable way to help out First Church and have a heck of a good party, to boot. We spent a while deliberating the theme and arrived at one complimenting something we already do every year - making an absolutely gigantic quantity of homemade pork ramen stock. So truth be told, we were able to fit this around our lives in a very easy way, and it also gave us a good excuse to try some new things.

The party we hosted last year was a very memorable night for us and it felt wonderful to make such a special evening for our guests. This combined with the service we were giving to church was a real highlight in our own personal journey of stewardship of this church and its community. Participating in Feast for Funds, whether as a donor host or attendee, is a wonderful opportunity to build the community we want to be part of. We will absolutely host again, and look forward to that opportunity to serve our church, our community and our own spirits.

We hope this will inspire you to host or attend an event, or donate an item or service to Feast for Funds. Host form and donations will be accepted online and at Coffee Hour from September 23 through October 14. Auction bidding is October 27 through November 4.



ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Getting Your House in Order

Preparing for the End of Life

We are offering a three-part educational series sponsored by the Heritage Society Workgroup. All sessions will be held at the church. The cost is \$15 for the series. Register at the Heritage Society table during Coffee Hour or register online at <https://uumilwaukee.org/event/getting-your-house-in-order/all> on October 14 and 21. Childcare will be provided with advance notice.

Session 1 "How do You Wish to Die?"

Thursday, November 1, 2018

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Brett Twente, M.D.

Do yourself and your loved ones a favor by making your wishes known. Issues related to advance directives such as "Living Wills" and "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care" will be discussed along with medical issues involving care transition and hospice. Dr. Twente practices Internal Medicine as a physician at a Ascension-Columbia St. Mary's clinic on North and Prospect and at Luther Manor Nursing Home. He has been a member of First Church for eight years.

Session 2 "Legal Issues When Facing Mortality"

Thursday, November 8, 2018

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Ruthmansdorfer, Attorney

If you do not make your own will and estate plans, you can be assured the state will make them for you at the time of your death. This session will help clarify a variety of legal and financial issues related to wills, estate planning and financial power-of-attorney. Attorney Elizabeth Ruthmansdorfer is a 2003 graduate of Marquette University Law School, and is a shareholder at Moertl, Wilkins and Campbell, S.C. She specializes in the practice of lifetime and estate planning, which includes wills, trusts, special needs trusts, probate and trust administration, tax planning and preparation.

Session 3 "Spiritual Aspects of Preparing for Death"

Thursday, November 15, 2018

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Rev. Dena McPhetres

By considering now how you wish your death to be handled you can assert a degree of control over your destiny and help those who survive you navigate through a difficult time. In this session we will discuss such issues as how you might talk to family about your wishes, disposition of your body, and considerations in planning for a funeral or memorial service. The Rev. Dena McPhetres is a life-long UU who was ordained in 1997 and has served as our Associate Minister for nine years.

Theme Circles Begin This Month

For those who signed up for our new Theme Circles program, the first monthly meetings will occur during the third week of this month (Monday, October 15; Tuesday, October 16; and Thursday, October 18).

You will be receiving additional information soon about details of those gatherings, along with any advance resources.

If participants have questions or need more information, please contact the Rev. Dena McPhetres, dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org.

Thanks for your participation! We look forward to hearing more about your experiences with these monthly deep explorations of spiritual matters, centered around our monthly themes. For October, it's "Sanctuary."

Registration Open for Fall Yoga

Fall sessions of yoga begin soon on the following dates: Mondays September 24 - November 19 at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. and Wednesdays September 26 - November 21 at 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Both run for 9 weeks and cost \$99 for members/\$117 for non-members. Sign up at the RE Table after Sunday services (please be prepared to pay with cash or check) or online at <https://uumilwaukee.org/events/category/adult-religious-education/>.

These yoga classes, led by instructor Morgan Engels, are suitable for all levels, and are modified to suit the participant's individual needs. The poses and stretches are designed to nourish the joints, ligaments, tendons and fascia, and open and release areas in need of stretching.

Morgan will be away for training this winter, so after the fall session the next classes will begin January 7 and 9, 2019. Morgan will be offering drop-in classes on December 17 and 19, 2018. A good stress relief for the winter holidays!



Wake Now Our Vision - WNOV

by Lisa Koneazny

The UU Congregation at Shelter Rock has announced an exciting call for planned giving. They are offering a \$5 million grant to match new legacy gifts (commitments made 1/1/2017-6/30/2020). These gifts must be directed to one or more of the WNOV partner institutions, a UU congregation or fellowship. A cash match will be made for 10% of the gift's estimated value - up to \$10,000 per donor. If a legacy gift has already been identified, Shelter Rock will match all increases at the same rate.

This does not include immediate cash gifts. It is intended to promote legacy giving – gifts that are received upon death.

This offer is an incredible opportunity that will benefit the following organizations:

UUA

UUSC

Meadville Lombard Theological School

Starr King School for The Ministry

Church of the Larger Fellowship

UU Ministers Association

A UU Congregation

Complete details on how to identify gifts and identify grant recipients are available at www.wakenowourvision.org.

If you have not included any of the above groups in your estate planning or if you are considering increasing your gift – now is the time! Your designee will benefit both now and after you are gone.

Information will be available at the Member Services table. Contact a member of the Heritage Society workgroup with questions, or you may contact Laura Randall at (617) 948-6511, or email lrandall@uua.org with questions.

UU Women's October Luncheon

by Janet Nortrom

All women are invited on Saturday, October 27, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to a luncheon in the Common Room. Come to meet and enjoy some of the outstanding women of our church.

Attending will be popular violinist Kari Gunderson, Choral Scholar Autumn Schacherl and renown Professor Angela Sorby, Marquette University Poet.

The SWANS and WomanSpirit are hosting this event. Space will be limited so sign up early. The fee is just \$3.50, sent to WomanSpirit c/o Janet Nortrom, 4332 N Woodburn St., Shorewood, WI 53211.

UU Women's Connection Fall Retreat

at the DeKoven Center

by Janet Nortrom

"Story as Medicine"

October 12-14, 2018

Listen to Mary Grace ("M.G.") Bertulfo, author and community activist. Her topic is "Story as Medicine – What stories serve to heal the world? How can stories focus your fire within?" You'll hear stories, voices of nature, and 16th-century women shamans from the Philippines.

Register now at <https://www.uuwomensconnection.org/10-conferences/107-fall-retreat-2018>, or call Janet Adams, 815-727-1948. Scholarships are available or call Janet Nortrom for more information.

Buy your Fruits and Nuts this Month!

by Bruce Wiggins

Each year the Southeast Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations (SEWUUC) sells delicious chocolates, nuts, dried fruits and snacks. It's been the main vehicle for raising funds to purchase spots on local public radio stations. This advertising generates hits on www.sewuuc.org which in turn directs visitors to individual congregations.

But, back to those delicious treats! Check out the milk chocolate and dark chocolate options, nuts coated in chocolate, chocolate Equal Exchange bars, chocolate covered pretzels – there seems to be a theme here! In many cases our prices are lower than what you would pay even when buying in bulk. Don't forget about the salty snacks and dried fruit too – truly, there is something for everyone. Think about giving a bag or two as a special gift at the holidays, a gift for your employees, a thank-you to new clients throughout the year. Of course, order for yourself, too!

The order form is available at the Member Services table during Coffee Hours, on the church website, on the table in the front hallway at church, or by contacting Bruce Wiggins by email or phone (contact info in the church directory). Orders need to be turned in by Sunday, November 4. Distribution will begin in early December.

SEWUUC thanks you for your support. We know you will enjoy all the treats!



Gratitude for a Generous Bequest from our Beloved Claude VanderVeen

by the Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Over the summer, the Board of Trustees and the staff learned that our beloved Claude VanderVeen generously gave a \$27,000 bequest to First Church. Our bicycle-riding, earth-loving, dearly passionate Claude was a leader in this congregation for 21 years. He died unexpectedly in March of 2018, and is deeply missed. By including the church in his will, Claude has planted even more of himself here at church. According to the Board policy, the bequest will be included in the general operating funds of the church, which nurture the ministries of the community Claude so loved—ministries like the choir, maintaining the garden, and running small groups where our members are able to engage deeply with one another.

May Claude's generosity be an inspiration to us all, that we, too, may live with passion, courage, and dedication to our community. If you would like to learn how to include First Church in your will, particularly now that the UUA will be matching new legacy gifts up to 10%, please connect with Lisa Koneazny of the Heritage Team, or sign up for the estate-planning session of this fall's "Getting Your House In Order" series this November (see the Chanticleer article on page 5).

Tom Thaney Fund for the Arts

by Sue Thaney

Since Tom's death in late February his fund for the arts has continued to grow. The current amount is over \$7,000 due to generous donations from family, friends, and First Church members. The first funded project is already in process. Deb Solis has reported high interest and enthusiasm from our youth who will be working with Tia Richardson, local Community Artist of the Year, to develop and create a wall mural in the lower church level. Watch for more information and updates!

The Tom Thaney Fund for the Arts will be sustained by the family so that the amount of \$2,000 per year is made available. Donations will always be accepted!

THANK YOU to our members who have donated. If your name has been omitted, please contact the office.

Paula & Keith Anderson
Sally Heuer
Jim & Cathy Startt
Rod Botts
Rev. Andrew Kennedy & Lois Wesener
James Greene & Michael Karl
Bob & Kathy Porter
Christina Keppel
Mark & JoAnn Bishop
Sally Lewis & Kathy Rivera
Rose Spice Kopischke
Janet & Marlowe Nortrom
Rod & Sharon DePue
Laurie Petersen
Jerry & Jill Fredrickson
Jane Peterson & Ellen Krueger
Beryl Aschenberg
Ken & Deb Solis
Nancy Pajewski
Dianna Dentino & John Gielow



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

RE-flections

by Cami Thomas

Religious Education Coordinator

On September 15 we held a workshop with Interim Religious Education Consultant Michele Grove. Michele guided us on a journey through the heritage of religious education here at First Church. It was a very powerful and valuable experience. Our journey started by taking stock of who was in the room and how long they had been coming to First Church. We took some time to reflect and share stories about triumph and challenge. Michele helped us to realize how the transition we experience in our own lives affects how we navigate the transition in RE. Additionally, we looked at how the city, nation and globe affects how we navigate this transition as well.

Many times throughout the day we were given an interval line with two extremes on either end and we had to place ourselves on that line. What we learned is that options are usually presented as dichotomies when they are really dualities. For example, one of the options was which is more important: A solid curriculum map for structure (being one end of the line) or focusing on relationships as the curriculum (being the other end of the line)? While some of us stood at opposite ends of the spectrum based on our perspectives and needs in that moment, we all agreed that both were vital to have a good program.

There were three things in particular that I took away from that Saturday. First, there is a very rich history that needs to be documented and shared about the development of children's religious education at First Church. Second, religious education is a complete experience from birth to death. We need to find ways to honor that and name that throughout church programming. And lastly, I see the congregation opening itself up to wonder and exploration of what could be possible for religious education here at First Church.

We do need to collect more stories to inform this work of transition. Keep an eye out for communications on how you will be able to contribute your stories to our heritage.

In service to you,
Cami

Up and Coming Events!

Teacher Chat

October 14 from 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Max Otto Hall
Our first Teacher Chat of the church year is near!

Teachers and assistants in all religious education programs are expected to attend. We will have brunch and go over important topics regarding our transition in religious education.

Again, we call on volunteers to assist us with set up/clean up and food dishes.

Please stop by the RE table during Coffee Hour to sign up!

Good Neighbor Bags

Collection of items for our Good Neighbor Bags program will begin soon. We will be consulting with organizations that are honoring the dignity of people experiencing homelessness so that we may follow their example. Be on the lookout for an announcement about what items we are collecting.

Questions about what Good Neighbor Bags is all about? Visit us at the RE table for more information!

Mark your calendars

Our Youth Forum will take place this year on Sunday, October 21 in Max Otto Hall. The youth would like to extend an invitation to congregational members to be present at this forum to receive details about their mural project with Milwaukee Artist of the Year, Tia Richardson.

The youth will be deciding on the theme(s) for this mural and Tia will be leading the design process. YOU— the First Church community — have the opportunity to assist in painting this mural that will be displayed on the lower level at First Church.

If interested be sure to attend the Youth Forum on Sunday, October 21!



All About Youth

by Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

Youth Group October Happenings

- Sunday, October 7 is our monthly Youth Steering Committee (YSC) meeting in the Murray room from 10:40 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 19 is our first OWL lock-in at church from 6:00 pm. until 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 21 is our Youth Forum in Max Otto Hall starting at 10:10 a.m. right after the All Church Emergency Evacuation Drill.
- Friday, October 26 starting at 6:00 p.m. through Saturday, October 27 at 9:00 a.m. is our second YRUU Lock-in for this church year.

2019 YRUU Mission Trip:

Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge

Since the summer of 2004, our church youth group has been participating in an annual trip to work for Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge. Collegiate Challenge is Habitat for Humanity's program that provides opportunities for students from youth groups, high schools and colleges to spend a week working on construction, demolition, restoration, and/or clearing out abandoned homes, in partnership with a Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

Not only do we help people in need, it's also fun! Participants have the chance to improve their construction skills, connect with new people in a new place, and put our faith in action by making a real difference in Habitat for Humanity's work of eliminating substandard housing.

Participation in our annual Mission Trip to Battle Creek, Michigan is open to all youth age 16 and above who are registered for YRUU. All questions or concerns may be sent to Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org.



A Youth's Perspective

by Celie Koneazny

The goal of our 2018-2019 YRUU youth group is to promote a sense of community among the youth as well as between the youth group and the adults of this congregation.

We spent our Ingathering Sunday in September getting to know each other through different forms of ice breakers and games. Through these games, we hoped to get the new youth more comfortable with the members from past years and learn a little about each other.

We went through policies and hopes for the year as well as gathering information from each member of youth group which included their specific talents, which we will look at when formatting our Youth Service next spring.

Meet Ehlona Walker

by Andrea Cornwall

Ehlona is a junior at Brown Deer High School, and has been involved in religious education at First Church since the 7th grade. She's incredibly active in church life and has been involved in everything from babysitting our younger kids and participating in Mission Trip, to stepping up to leadership roles such as Luminary Leader, GA youth rep, THRIVE youth leader, and this year as a vice-chair on the Youth Steering Committee.

Ehlona has also attended Summer Seminary School, Midwest Leadership School, and Chaplaincy Training. Her incredible engagement, as well as the intense emotion she felt while participating in Reverend Jennifer's installment, have led to Ehlona's feeling of a call to ministry. Following high school, Ehlona plans to pursue a psychology degree and a graduate degree in divinity, and perhaps become a parish minister.

Ehlona says the youth group at First Church has given her the opportunity to "truly reflect on what we believe and what we want to believe in." She also feels that UU principles have changed her perceptions, and that particularly the BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists) has taught her "to use loving kindness in the face of hurt."

Ehlona is passionate about amplifying the voices of youth of color, and she hopes to facilitate this through worship and chaplaining this year at General Assembly, as well as within our church.



GETTING TOGETHER

Come Visit Our Affinity Groups!

by the Rev. Dena McPhetres

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

Book Discussion Group

Second Sunday of the month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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

Buddhist Study Group:

Gathering Waters Sangha

First and third Wednesdays of the month

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We explore Buddhist teachings and ideas, practice meditation, followed by tea, cookies and fellowship. All are welcome! For more information, please call or email Steve or Jeanne Lowry.

Chancel Choir

Every Thursday

7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

All singers high school age and up are invited to join our weekly choir rehearsals. 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

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 Kloman or Camille Johnson.

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 Thieme 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.



OCTOBER 21

"And A Time To Every Purpose... But How Do We Know What Time It Is?"

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom
Artist-In-Residence Jack Forbes Wilson
Worship Associate Jason Ludtke

Immortalized in the hit song by The Byrds, Ecclesiastes claims there is daytime to every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, a time to die, a time to dance, a time to weep. But as a people who want to give welcome, sanctuary, and affirmation to each other, to ourselves, and to others, how do we know what time it is? How do we know when it is time for comfort, or time for challenge? Join us in this service where we explore the balancing act of providing sanctuary for self and others.

OCTOBER 28

"The Container for the Holy is a Cauldron"

The Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom
Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode
RE Coordinator Cami Thomas
Worship Associate Beth Monhollen

In the Torah, the holiest place of the temple is a place of awe and terror. As Unitarian Universalists, we often think of the Holy as love, welcome, and invitation. What can we learn from the Talmudic understanding of the Holy as overwhelmingly awesome? How might this understanding of the Holy help us relate to death?

October Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

The Washington High School Home Field Advantage campaign sponsored by Common Ground is our October Share the Plate recipient. Guided by its mission to "organize people to build power in our communities and solve issues that affect each of us," Common Ground is working to secure donations to upgrade the outdoor athletic facilities at Washington High, located in the Sherman Park neighborhood. Due to budget cuts, the outdoor athletic facilities including the football field and basketball courts at the high school are deteriorating and have fallen into disrepair. Repairing the field will allow students to participate in athletics at their own school, foster a multi-generational outdoor recreation space for thousands of students and community members, increase public safety, send a message that the neighborhood matters, and continue to foster the Sherman Park neighborhood revitalization Common Ground has created. The goal is to raise \$500,000 towards the \$1.2 million estimated cost of the project. Milwaukee Public Schools has offered to match every dollar raised in 2018 up to \$500,000. With only three months left in the year, every dollar counts toward meeting that goal. To learn more about the campaign and organization, visit: http://www.commongroundwi.org/whs_homefieldadvantage.

Cash collected in the plate will be shared 50/50 between the Home Field Advantage campaign and First Church. To donate only to Home Field Advantage, please write a check directly to Common Ground Home Field Advantage with "Washington High School" in the memo line, and we will mail it for you.

How To Reach Us

TELEPHONE: (414) 273-5257

FAX: (414) 273-5254

E-MAIL: office@uumilwaukee.org

WEBSITE: www.uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202

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

SENIOR MINISTER

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 201

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 202

MINISTER EMERITUS

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

Staff

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION	Jean Johnson
jean.johnson@uumilwaukee.org , ext. 203	
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR	Cami Thomas
camithomas@uumilwaukee.org ext. 204	
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	Lynne Jacoby
lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org , ext. 205	
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR	TBA
OFFICE COORDINATOR	Shari Wright
shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org , ext. 207	
R.E. ADMIN. ASSISTANT	Lillian Schley
re.admin@uumilwaukee.org , ext. 210	
YOUTH COORDINATOR	Deb Solis
deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org , ext. 209	
FACILITIES MANAGER	Tom Schroeder
tom.schroeder@uumilwaukee.org , ext. 206	
FACILITIES ASSISTANT	Jim Spice Andre Singley
MAINTENANCE WORKER	Art Sims
LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR	Alissa Rhode
alissarhode@me.com	
CHORAL DIRECTOR	Tristan Strelitzer
tstrelitzer@gmail.com	
RESIDENT ARTIST	Jack Forbes Wilson
jackforbeswilson@aol.com	

Board of Trustees

Officers:

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

Members:

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



Sunday Morning Forums

OCTOBER 7

"We Got This"

Presenter: Andre Lee Ellis, Founder

This grassroots program, in the Milwaukee neighborhood of 9th and Ring, began with a crew of young boys cleaning up their neighborhood and learning about gardening. The program blossomed as more boys showed up on Saturdays to help and earn \$20 for the day. The boys are met by positive role models from their neighborhood to assist with the work. Community activist Andre Lee Ellis, recipient of the 2016 Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award, believes we can heal negative habits and stereotypes. He is expanding the reach of his program by reaching out to young people anticipating release from the Juvenile Detention Center.

OCTOBER 14

"Oak Leaf Trail: Where Adventures Begin"

Presenter: Cheri Briscoe, Sierra Club member,
Milwaukee County Trails Council member

Discover adventures in nature, history, and culture via our 124-mile Milwaukee County Oak Leaf Trail system, serving a diversity of users: hikers, runners, bikers, dog walkers, and more. Cheri Briscoe will guide you on a visual tour of some favorite Milwaukee County Parks along the trail. You will learn about Park Friends groups and the creative ways Milwaukee County Parks accomplish so much, despite tight budgets, through cooperation and grants with other government entities.

OCTOBER 21

"Catch up with the YRUUs"

Presented by our youth group members

Why are there bagels at church on Sunday mornings? Do our sleepy-eyed, "zombie" teens only come to church for youth group? Come to this Forum to learn about our church's youth and their many activities, from fund-raising bagels to CONS, lock-ins, and youth-led discussions in the Reeb room on Sunday mornings. The YRUU Group changes every year, with some familiar faces and some new ones, leading to ever-changing, interesting perspectives on the YRUU experience. The presenters will share details about their recent Mission Trip to Michigan and their unique goals for this year.

OCTOBER 28

"Turning the Corner: Understanding Conscious Aging"

Presenter: Marjorie Nixon, LSCW

This talk is a reflection on aging, exploring our self-limiting stereotypes and assumptions, to help us make better choices for life-affirming actions and beliefs. We will address self-compassion to cope more effectively with change, worry, and stresses associated with aging. We will consider what gives heart and meaning to our lives and how to enhance our sense of connection. We are the creators of a New Vision of Aging. This program is very appropriate for family and those approaching aging, as well as for those who work with the aging population.

