



THE

# CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

*nurture. engage. inspire.*

November 2018

## Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Memory is a beautiful and strange thing: a mixture of love and loss; nostalgia and regret; truth and fiction. Remembering shapes who we are and who we are becoming. Our brains create stories out of data, making many of our memories into narratives. Sometimes, however, memory arrives in staccato bursts, punctuating the present with beauty or trauma. Other times, memory floats slowly like a leaf on the sea, washing back and forth, unmoored from linear time.

Memory is both singular and plural, individual and collective. In church this month, we will weave together Religious Education memories from church members, creating a shared narrative. The meaning we make of our past will launch us into our future, as next month we explore hopes, dreams, and needs in Religious Education. Also this month, the Krug bequest team will read your project proposals, seeing where our shared dreams might take us.

May we continue to hold one another in care this November, as the holiday season descends in all its complexity, and our piece of the earth cools with the waning sunlight. As the leaves and temperatures drop, hold your hearts dear, love one another, and remember you are enough.

With love,  
Jennifer

### MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

## Memory?

## SUNDAY SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

NOVEMBER 4

### “Memory as Time Travel”

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Cami Thomas, RE Coordinator

Beth Monhollen, Worship Associate

Memory is a vehicle we board to travel through time, stopping at our favorite destinations to re-live significant events, describe them to others, and tell stories about what those memories mean to us.

Aging, “chemo-brain,” and dementia make time travel challenging, especially to recent memories. Who are we without memory?

NOVEMBER 11

### “Memory Creates Community”

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Cami Thomas, RE Coordinator

Bob Balderson, Worship Associate

New Member Ceremony

While eye-witness testimony is notoriously unreliable, we still depend on narrative as central to knowing. When we remember together, however, we begin to weave individual narratives into a collective story of what happened, making the collective memory into history.

Through story-telling, we create truth, pass on tradition, and become a community. Join us in this service where we explore collective memory, and how shared stories create community.

*(SUNDAYS, continued on page 11)*

## November's Theme: Memory

by Michelle Naples  
Congregation President 2018-19

Having joined in 2012, I am relatively new to First Church in the grand scheme of things (considering our 176-year history). My husband and I first discovered First Church as a result of attending a social justice forum. Soon after, we began to attend Sunday services. One of the most common conversation topics, as we starting meeting people here, was (and still is), "How did you find First Church?" which inevitably leads to sharing of memories of first experiences here. Through those stories, we began to really connect to this community.

Over time, we have heard many more stories from different perspectives about significant events in our church's history. These memories reveal what we as a people have cared about, the challenges we overcame, and who we were to one another and the wider community. They provide context to understand who we are today and portend what could be possible in the future, together.

It is also fitting during this month of Memory to honor Janet Nortrom for the receipt of the Clara Barton Sisterhood Award that she received earlier this year. Congrats and thank you, Janet!

Finally, thanks to everyone who completed the Congregational Survey. You provided valuable information that we will use as a reference point and guide our efforts.

## Splinters from the Board

by Maria Dorsey

As the church year is in full swing, the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting on September 25, 2018, focused on the process the BOT will be taking to develop our governance policies. The BOT will continue to develop the process over the next few months, and policy governance will be on our agenda during our January Board retreat.

Rev. Jennifer presented the staff's interpretation of our church's Ends 1-4, and after a lively discussion we agreed to continue the discussion at our October board meeting, where Rev. Jennifer will present the staff's interpretation of Ends 5-8.

On September 25, the Board rolled out what will hopefully become an annual church survey to help us understand whether we are making progress over time in realizing our congregation's vision as articulated in our eight Ends. We hope everyone had an opportunity to take the survey, and we will

compile the data and report back to the congregation at a later date.

Rev. Jennifer presented the Senior Minister's report, highlighted by the anti-racism team hosting its first "Conversations Across Difference." It was also reported that during our RE transition, six sessions will be offered to the congregation to reflect on the history of our church's religious education program.

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

## Janet Nortrom, Winner of Clara Barton Award

by Melinda Vernon

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that our long-time member, Janet Nortrom, is a 2018 recipient of the Clara Barton Award. The Clara Barton Award is awarded annually by the UUA to women aged 80 and over who have made exceptional contributions to their congregations and communities.

In their nomination, the UU Women's Federation noted some of Janet's accomplishments. Within our church, Janet's touch has been felt in all corners. She has served in many capacities including on the Board of Trustees, two terms as a Pastoral Care Associate, and as a dedicated RE teacher. In the broader denomination, Janet has been a member of the Southeast Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations (SEWUUC) board, was President of the Central Midwest district board, and was a Board member of the International UU Women's Federation for five years. And if that isn't enough, Janet has been active in many community causes including immigration rights, Black Lives Matter, the League of Women Voters, and the American Association of University Women. Space simply does not allow us to list many of Janet's accomplishments.

Janet was recognized at a breakfast during the General Assembly in Kansas City last June. Now please join the Board as we honor Janet and bask in her accomplishments at a reception during Coffee Hour after both services on November 4, 2018.



# Memory and Hope

by Lynne Jacoby  
Membership Development Coordinator



The minister in my previous church liked to refer to us as a “community of memory and hope.” I liked the sound of it, but mostly I took it as one of those phrases ministers get attached to, until I read the history of that church, rich with narratives of the congregation’s dedication, decisions, and, yes, conflicts too.

By the time I finished reading, the ministers and lay folks, named and unnamed, were no longer just folks from years past. They were *my* ministers, *my* community, and *my* people.

As differently as they thought about some things, and as ridiculous as some of their conflicts seemed (really? I kept thinking, they fought about that?), I fell in love with those spiritual ancestors. Human and as fallible as we are now, I was connected to the people who built our churches, denomination, and ideals, to the ones who rebuilt and renovated the structures, and re-imagined our free liberal religion. I was woven into our faith of continuous revelations, into our communities of memory and hope that we each found when we needed it.

I had a similar experience last spring when you told your stories about a long-time member, Claude Vanderveen. I fell a little more in love with you all, listening to the fellowship shared as you told of specific incidents. I felt how Claude had helped shape this community - by being Claude! He continues to shape us by your memories of him.

I find it hopeful, if humbling, to be a part of a community that began further back than I can see, and that will have a future beyond what I can know. Probably, in our continuously unfolding truths, our spiritual descendants will wonder what the heck we were thinking sometimes! Still, who they become will be built on who we are today, an interdependent web of generations.

As Lisa Koneazny, chair of the Heritage Society, noted last month, we have a unique opportunity to give to this community’s present and its future via a designated estate gift. The UU Congregation at Shelter Rock is offering a 10% match to any legacy gift to a UU congregation between January 2017 and June 2020. If you are interested in remembering First Church in your will, contact the Heritage Team or me at [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org) to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity to build our future.

## Let’s Give a Shout-out

Kudos to the Heritage Society Team for organizing the Getting Your House in Order series starting November 1. From your enthusiastic response, it is clear that providing that information about financial, legal, and spiritual end-of-life planning will address a real need in our community.

Many thank to;  
Lisa Koneazny  
Jill Erickson  
Chris Linder  
Mike Newman  
Linda Presto  
Melinda Vernon



# Sacred Earth, Inspiring People

by Tree Moore and Bruce Wiggins  
Co-Chairs, Earth Justice Ministry

We of the Earth Justice Ministry (EJM), out of love for our sacred earth and all of its creatures, including humans, wish to inspire action that addresses present and future needs. We know that folks already have full lives, so where to squeeze in another relevant activity? This is a time for serious, thoughtful choices.

The latest IPCC report from the United Nations, released last month, said that changes to our climate are happening much more quickly than previously projected, and we are rapidly approaching a point when climate changes will snowball to make our planet unsuitable for life as know it.

This report is based on science and the latest observations. Maybe your response is wanting to run and hide . . . even though there is no place to hide.

Cornell West, noted writer and philosopher, has written: "We are at a crucial crossroad in the history of this nation. . . . Do we have the intelligence, humor, imagination, courage, tolerance, love, respect, and will to meet the challenge? . . . None of us alone can save the nation or world.

"But each of us can make a positive difference if we commit ourselves to do so."

Here are some projects, proposals, and areas of interest that EJM members are working on this year:

- Book discussion on Jennifer's book, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*, led by Bruce Wiggins
- Proposing the installation of more solar panels on the church roof, led by Mark Mueller
- Sustainable businesses, led by Amy Monahan
- Worm Composting with kids in RE, led by Barbara Richards
- Bee the Change (Bees project), led by Barbara Leigh
- Citizens Climate Lobby, led by Pat Parcell
- Interfaith Earth Network, led by Terry Wiggins

If you want to participate in one of these worthwhile efforts, contact the project leader to discuss how you can help.

If you have ideas for another project, let EJM group leaders Tree Moore or Bruce Wiggins know!



## The Blood is at the Doorstep

by Kenyatta Yamel

On Sunday, November 11, at 12:30, the Black Lives Matter Committee will show the film *The Blood is at the Doorstep*. If you haven't seen this important film (or even if you have), please join us for this free screening, featuring a Q&A with Maria Hamilton. Bring your friends.

The movie tells the story of the movement that arose after Maria Hamilton's son Dontre was killed by a Milwaukee Police officer on April 30, 2014, in Red Arrow Park in downtown Milwaukee. As we learn how Dontre's family's embraced activism in response to their loss, the movie also looks at the pattern of police killings over time in the Milwaukee area. The Black Lives Matter Team here at First Church grew out of efforts of church members in support of the Hamilton family's Coalition for Justice, and Maria's Mothers for Justice United.

This event is co-sponsored by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Since its inception after the Sandy Hook Elementary mass shooting, Moms Demand Action has mobilized mothers across the country to become the largest grassroots movement working to reduce gun violence. The initiative is a program of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention advocacy organization in the country, with more than 4.5 million supporters.

For more about joining, volunteering, finding a local chapter, or donating, visit their website at [momsdemandaction.org](http://momsdemandaction.org). They can also be found on Facebook at [/MomsDemandAction](https://www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction) and on Twitter at [@momsdemand](https://twitter.com/momsdemand).



## **Getting Your House in Order** **Preparing for the End of Life**

Join us for this valuable three-part educational series sponsored by the Heritage Society Team. All sessions will be held at the church. The cost is \$15 for the series. Register online at [www.uumilwaukee.org](http://www.uumilwaukee.org) or contact First Church at 414-273-5257 for late registrations. 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 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.

## **UUFDA Finance Seminar** **Basic Investing & Retirement Planning**

Sunday, November 18  
12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Come learn from economics professor and First Church member Don Weimer about investing and how to start (or continue) to plan for retirement. This laid-back session is ideal for anyone who wants to learn the basics, increase their understanding, and test their knowledge about financial planning. For more information, contact Don Weimer, Angi Krueger, or Erik Islo.

## **Annual Fair Trade** **Holiday Bazaar**

Sunday, November 25  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The Social Justice Council is proud to present the 13th Annual Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, with proceeds benefiting Walnut Way.

Even in today's uncertain economic times, there are purchases we need to make! We challenge you to think about the dollars you spend. Where do those dollars end up? Rather than boosting the bottom lines of large corporations, the Fair Trade movement focuses on making sure workers around the world get a reasonable living wage for their work. We will feature items from Four Corners of the World (5708 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee), a Fair Trade gift shop on the west side of Milwaukee.

Invite your friends and family. Volunteers are needed on that Sunday, November 25, to help with setting up, cashiering, and cleaning up after the bazaar. Sign up at the Social Justice Table. If you have any questions, email Nick DaVia.



## RE-flections

by Cami Thomas  
Interim Religious Education Coordinator

Autumn is a time for harvest. A time to reap the benefits of what you have been sowing and tending to all year. As nature begins to cool us off and slow us down, we can reflect on the good work and joyous times we've had over the summer. Pausing to commit these experiences to our memories.

Now, the holiday season is upon us. Cold and sometimes dreary, autumn and winter remind us that we have each other. As we prepare for feast and celebration of all types, let us remember those people who are no longer with us. Let us remember the recipes they passed down to us, the games they taught us to play, the lessons they tried so hard to teach us.

May we continue to pass along our memories and our traditions to our little ones. May our little ones receive those great gifts with joy and enthusiasm. And may our ancestors live on through the children.

In service to you,  
Cami

## The November Child Dedication Service

On November 18, a Dedication of Parents and Children will take place during both services. This simple ceremony is the UU version of the traditional Christian "baptism" or "christening," though the meanings we attach to it are significantly different.

The ceremony is a public declaration by the parents to dedicate themselves to faithfully nurture and support their children. The congregation recognizes your child's original blessing, and we dedicate ourselves to nurturing your child and you. Because of the promises our congregation makes to the family during the ceremony, child dedications are available only to members of the church.

If you are interested in having your child dedicated on November 18, please pick up a Dedication brochure from the pamphlet rack, call Shari Wright at 414 273-5257, or fill out the online form by Sunday, November 11 at <https://uumilwaukee.org/child-dedication-form>.

## All About Youth

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

### Hogwarts Castle Returns To First Church in November

Saturday, November 17

Get ready to join our YRUU youth group and immerse yourself in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at our YUULE Ball on Saturday, November 17, from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The youth will host a dance in Max Otto Hall. We ask you to come in costume, representing your favorite Hogwarts House, to dance the night away with fellow Unitarian Universalists.

The youth group will provide Harry Potter-themed snacks, music, and other assorted magical entertainment – if you promise to bring your best dance moves!

The cost is \$35/adult, or \$20/child (ages 10 and up).

Signups for this 2019 Mission Trip fundraiser take place during Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 28, November 4, and November 11. Childcare will be provided.

Any questions contact Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator, at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org).

### More November Youth Happenings

- November 9-11: a Youth *CONFERENCE* (Conformity) will take place in Hinsdale, Illinois, at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale.
- November 11 (10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.): All Mission Trip 2019 youth interviews will be held in the Murray Room with trip advisors.
- November 17 (5:00 – 9:00 p.m.): Welcome to our annual Mission Trip fundraiser extravaganza. The fantastic Harry Potter-themed YUULE Ball!



# HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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## Good Neighbor Bags

Collection of items for our Good Neighbor Bags program has begun. We are consulting with organizations that honor the dignity of people experiencing homelessness. Be on the lookout for an announcement about what items we are collecting. Good Neighbor Bags will be assembled during Coffee Hour on November 18.

## The Giving Tree

On November 25, The Giving Tree will kick off! This year we are partnering with United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. United Way will connect us to an organization that serves people in need of donations for holiday gifts. The organization in need gives us tags with gift wishes on them. We hang those tags on our Giving Tree at the RE Table during Coffee Hour. You choose a tag, purchase the gift, and bring the gift back to the RE Table. We make sure the gifts get delivered to the organization! Help spread some holiday cheer . . . and grab a tag starting November 25.

## The Mitten Tree

This year, The Mitten Tree will donate outerwear to two different organizations. We are currently collecting donations of coats, hats, scarves, socks, gloves, and of course mittens! The collection box is at the RE Table during Coffee Hour. The time to donate is now, as the cold weather is already upon us. Look for an announcement about the organizations that will receive these items.



## Interchange Food Pantry Expands Service Area

Interchange Food Pantry has decided to become an independent food pantry, providing monthly food to any Milwaukee County residents who walk through our doors. We are excited about this new policy and look forward to serving those in need throughout our community.

Background: Since 1971, when our church, along with a group of neighboring churches, founded the pantry, we have provided free food once a month to guests residing in our neighborhood area (zip codes 53202, 53203 and 53211, plus 53233 since last year).

Hunger Task Force (HTF) traditionally supplied us with about one-third of this food at no cost through a federal emergency-food program. To ensure equitable distribution, HTF requires all partner pantries to serve only people living within the pantry's designated service areas (with certain exceptions such as first-time, homeless, and migrant guests).

Shifting Needs: In recent years, we have noticed increasing numbers of guests visiting our pantry from needy neighborhoods outside our official service area, including more than 10 times the number of children. HTF initially allowed us to serve these "outside guests," but now they require us to adhere to our contracted area if we wish to keep our partnership.

Reluctant to turn away over 450 people per month, particularly so many children, we've decided to go independent!

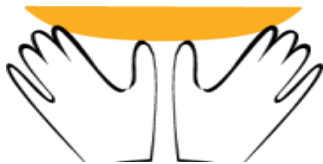
Please help! There is a call for canned fruit, raisins, and shelf-stable milk! The pantry needs to find new sources for donations of foods previously received from HTF (particularly canned peaches and pears, raisins, and shelf-stable milk), so please consider bringing these items to the food pantry baskets in the Sanctuary foyers and in the hall outside the Sanctuary.

The coming pickup date is November 21.

For more information, please contact Beth Bruch or Bryna Goeckner

Many thanks on behalf of those who will receive your generous donations.





## Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

The Wisconsin Justice Initiative (WJI) Inc. is our November Share the Plate recipient. Formed just under three years ago, WJI's mission is "To advocate for progressive change in the Wisconsin justice system by educating the public about its real-life impacts, and partnering with other organizations to achieve more just outcomes." Through education, advocacy, investigation, and reporting, WJI identifies unfairness in the Wisconsin justice system and takes action to address it.

Recently, WJI brought to light the failure of judges to inform defendants about community service options instead of defendants being jailed for failure to pay fines. The WJI helped persuade the City of Milwaukee to hire an attorney to advise municipal court defendants on this issue.

In another project, WJI compiled and publicized statistics on racial and geographical disparities in second marijuana possession arrests. Their results showed that the majority of people charged with the offense in Milwaukee County are black men arrested north of I-94 in Milwaukee. To learn more about the work WJI does, visit <https://www.wjiinc.org>.

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

## Memorial Gifts Received in Memory of Andrew Agacki

The Church has gratefully received Memorial Gifts from the following people in memory of Andrew Agacki:

Mary Ann Beaumont  
Jo Ann & Mark Bishop  
Rod & Sharon DePue  
Thallis Drake  
Jill Erickson & Jerry Fredrickson  
Bill Frink  
Connie Georgenson  
Bruce Hansen  
Jeff Harsch & Lisa Larson  
Leslie Kalkhof  
Beverly Katter  
Cathy Kaye  
Chris Leadley  
Robin Leenhouts  
Sally Lewis & Kathy Rivera  
Janet & Marlowe Nortrom  
Philip & Mary Reykdal  
Patricia & Max Scharmach  
Joan Schmidt  
Nancy & Dick Spransy  
Jacki Zandi

Memorial gifts made to the church are usually in lieu of flowers being sent to a bereaved family or to a funeral home. It is a meaningful and tasteful way of acknowledging someone's death. The church acknowledges each contributor with an appropriate note both to the contributor and to the family of the deceased. The names of all contributors (withholding the amounts), along with the memorialized person's name, are recorded in our permanent Church Record Book.

## Have Fun & Help to Deck the Halls

by Tom Schroeder, Facilities Manager

The time is approaching to decorate our Sanctuary for the holiday season. To help you get in the holiday spirit, please join us Tuesday, December 4, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., for some great fun working together, as well as sharing in a little holiday cheer. We'll hang green garlands, red bows, and white lights, and set up the large Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.

Please note: we need some folks who can climb ladders and are interested in learning to make bows. We also need a few folks with strong backs to lift the tree over the pulpit rail and onto its stand behind the pulpit rail.

Contact me at [tom.schroeder@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:tom.schroeder@uumilwaukee.org) or call me at church at 414-273-5257, ext. 206, to let me know if you'd like to help out. It's going to be great fun!

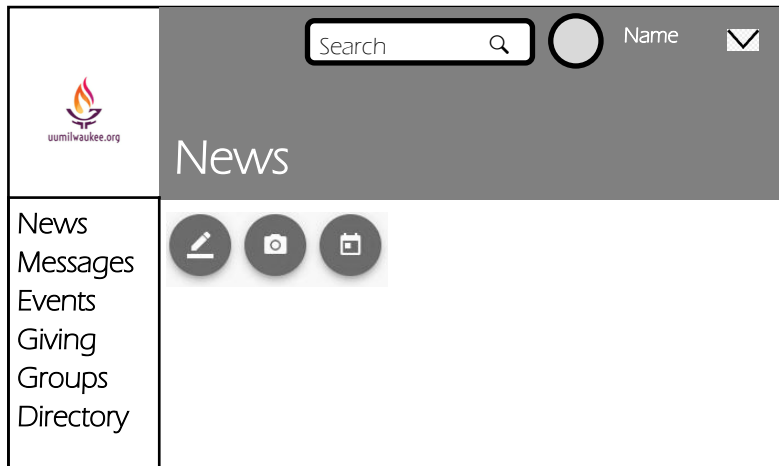


# Explore Your MyFirstChurch Profile

Go Online to [uumilwaukee.org](http://uumilwaukee.org)

Every member and contributing guest of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee can log-in to the Member Portal. Go to your web browser and visit [uumilwaukee.org/Members/MyFirstChurch](http://uumilwaukee.org/Members/MyFirstChurch) Member Portal.

If you had an account on the Member Portal prior to the summer of 2018, you will need to reset your password with the “forgot my password” option. If you need help with any part of the process, contact Shari Wright, Office Coordinator, or Lynne Jacoby, Membership Development Coordinator.



The above image is a view of your home screen on the Member Portal. Explore these features to learn more about your profile and the connection possibilities with other First Church members.

**YOUR PROFILE.** In the right-hand top corner of the screen, look for your name with a drop-down arrow ( ▾ ) and click on the arrow to see your profile. You can upload a profile photo, update your contact information, and change privacy settings.

**NEWS.** If you are part of an active group using the Member Portal, you can see information from leaders of your group.

**GIVING.** In this section view, change or print your contribution history and current or past pledge. You can make a contribution online; click +Give.

**GROUPS.** Every member is a member of a group called Active Members. You can also search for information about other groups and request to join.

**DIRECTORY.** This directory is a list only of members who have an account on the Member Portal. If you are looking for member contact information, use the search box in the upper right corner to find people by their first or last name.

The Member Portal is operated by the same company, ACS Technologies, that we have used for many years. Your Member Portal is also known as Realm. For more information, contact;

Shari Wright | [shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org) | 273-5257 ext. 207

Lynne Jacoby | [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org) | 273-5257 ext. 205

## MyFirstChurch MEMBER PORTAL FEATURES

- ✓ Easy access on any computer or on your smartphone
- ✓ Member addresses, phone and email
- ✓ Profile photos! (upload yours)
- ✓ Communicate with your groups
- ✓ Find new groups to join
- ✓ See events
- ✓ View a statement of your contributions or pledge
- ✓ Donate online (or through the Mobile App available)
- ✓ Click to email a member
- ✓ Tap to call (on mobile)
- ✓ Find address on map
- ✓ Use the group leader resources to connect with your group and the community



# GETTING TOGETHER

## AFFINITY GROUPS

**Stop in, meet new people and make new friends!** Visitors are especially welcome.

If you have an idea for starting a new group, contact The Rev. Dena McPhetres at 414 273-5257, ext. 202, or [dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org](mailto: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.

### **The Chronologically Gifted**

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

We foster activities that allow members age 60 and older to live well, offering meaningful, creative, healthy engagement through the arts, education, relationship building, and fun! For more information, contact Sharon DePue.

### **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. Contact Nancy Pajewski for more information.

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### **Buddhist Study Group: Gathering Waters Sangha**

First & 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.

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### **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.

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### **SWANS Group (Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social)**

First Sunday of the month

Join us once a month as we go out for lunch after the second service, and other social events. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact Barbara Kloman or Camille Johnson.

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### **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](mailto:tstrelitzer@gmail.com) with your name and voice type.

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### **Unitarian Universalists Under Forty Doing Activities (UUUFDA)**

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

UUUFDA encourages social camaraderie among the under-forty crowd at First Church, contributing to a strong, joyful and fun church community. Join us for our monthly brunch and other activities. For more information, contact Erik Islo or Angi Krueger at [uuufda@gmail.com](mailto:uuufda@gmail.com).

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### **WomanSpirit**

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

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### **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 topics like positive discipline, creating healthy habits, and the unique challenges of raising UU children. For more information, contact Stacey Thieme or Brook Worzella.



(continued from page 1)

## SUNDAY SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

NOVEMBER 18

### “Traditions Create Memories”

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

George Bledsoe, Worship Associate

Jack Forbes Wilson, Resident Artist

Multi-Generational Thanksgiving Service

Child Dedication Ceremony

Join us for a tender and celebratory Thanksgiving service for all ages, as we reflect on the interconnections between traditions and memories.

Children will be dedicated, and we'll celebrate Director of Administration Jean Johnson's twenty years of service to First Church!

NOVEMBER 25

### “Working Towards Hope”

**Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Pulpit Guest**

Beth Monhollen, Worship Associate

Karen Beaumont, Guest Organist

We struggle to find hope in a world where hard work and integrity does not create a flourishing life for all humankind. Deeply rooted in our American values is the belief in a work ethic that one should and can work their way through any hardship. Being of use is an ethic we share and often our identity and worth are wrapped up in the products of work. Let us examine the human need to believe in hope, our relationship with work and our ideals as Unitarian Universalists, who aspire to uphold the worth and dignity of every person.



Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson is a candidate for the ministry in her final year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. She spent fifteen years as an art educator in Wisconsin's public schools, and worked as Youth and Young Adult Coordinator for the Central Midwest District of the UUA. She then served at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford, Illinois for five years as Program Director. She is now intern minister at Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield.

Kimberlee lives in Kenosha with her husband The Rev. Erik David Carlson, minister of Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist, her five-year-old son Miles, and two felines Amelia and Oliver.

## 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.*

### SENIOR MINISTER

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### MINISTER EMERITUS

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

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### Board of Trustees

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Vice President:	Mark Bishop
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Chris Aiken, Mark Bender, Omega Burckhardt, Maria Dorsey, Jane Peterson, Melinda Vernon



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## SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

November 4

### **“Woodland Pattern Book Center”**

Presenters: Jenny Gropp & Laura Solomon, Co-Directors

Woodland Pattern Book Center is a nonprofit literary arts organization dedicated to the discovery, cultivation, and preservation of contemporary literature and the arts. It has long been a cornerstone of the Riverwest neighborhood, serving over 17,000 people annually. The organization supports the work of writers and other artists from Milwaukee and beyond, and offers a space for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather, learn, create, perform, and build relationships that cross racial, generational, and other perceived barriers. New directors Jenny Gropp and Laura Solomon invite you to hear their plans for the organization's future.

November 11

### **“#CLOSEMSDF Campaign”**

Presenter: Mark Rice, JustLeadership  
USAMilwaukee Campaign Coordinator

Mark Rice manages the #CLOSEmsdf Campaign to shutter the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF). Built in 2001 to accommodate Milwaukee's horrific, racist system of community supervision, MSDF holds people accused of crimeless rule violations in excruciating conditions. Mark will speak about why it's time to close MSDF, de-incarcerate Wisconsin, and re-invest resources to build safer, stronger, and healthier communities.

November 18

### **“Disparities in Birth Outcomes for Black Women in Milwaukee”**

Presenter: Sabrina Foulks-Thomas

The “Birth in Color Initiative” (BICI) led by Sabrina Foulks-Thomas, the first African American Certified Professional Midwife licensed in Wisconsin, aims to confront racial disparities in birth outcomes for people of color in our community by varied methods, including mobile midwifery clinics to provide accessible, quality prenatal care to anyone in need. Also, the organization is raising funds to reduce financial constraints faced by families seeking to give birth at home or in a birthing center.

November 25

### **“Learning, Coping, and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver”**

Presenter: Marty Schreiber

Former Wisconsin Gov. Martin J. Schreiber will share lessons from his decade-plus journey as a caregiver for his wife, Elaine. Author of *My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping, and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*, Gov. Schreiber will candidly describe his challenges and missteps, and highlight how compassion and humor provide comfort to both caregiver and the person with dementia. His honesty and practical advice will inspire other caregivers to find patience, courage, and love.

