



THE CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Journey is about movement and being, travel and arrival, discipline and allowing. To be a people of journey, we must let go of expectations and also hold on to destination. This month, how do we balance driving to where we want to be with allowing the present moment as it is? Where are you living in the tension between goal and surrender?

Our Worship Associates (WA) help guide us on our journey as a community—acting as navigators, storytellers, and creators of access roads to our themes. We are looking for several new WAs to join our team. If you want to help co-create worship and reflect on themes with the ministers, staff, and other WAs, please consider submitting a WA application today! See WA article on page 3.

In March we also wrap up our pledge drive. Our pledge team, under the capable leadership of Fred Gutierrez and Lynne Jacoby, has led us on the journey of taking the BOLD STEP to become a pledge-sustained congregation, closing the gap between our operating income and expenses. I hope you will celebrate and commit to this congregation by answering their call to increase your pledge this year, joining me and other leaders who are boldly increasing our own pledges.

As we move into this lion-and-lamb portion of winter/spring, may you be emboldened and supported in your life's journey by our community of journey.

Love,
Jennifer

March 2019

SUNDAY SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

MARCH 3

Annual Youth Service

"Why are You You? Where Did We Come From? Where are We Going"

Jack Forbes Wilson, Resident Artist

Zoe Gulbranson, Worship Associate

The youth service is an exploration into the individual identities of the youth group, how they have come to be, and what we are choosing to do with them in our future. The service will include the different aspects of who we are, the importance of pronouns and our sexualities, and the journeys we have been on in order to get us where we are at the moment and where we want to go.

MARCH 10

"We're All in This Boat Together: Stewardship Ritual Celebration"

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Cami Thomas, Religious Education Coordinator

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Julia Oschwald, Worship Associate

It is common in Scandinavian churches to have a church ship hanging from the ceiling of the sanctuary as a visual representation that the congregation is all in this boat together. Journeying together might take more time and group coordination than going solo, but we can go further with more support. Together, we can pull our oars with greater strength, spell each other when we get tired, and sing songs along the journey. Join us for this exploration of what it means to share the journey of life with a community, and remember to bring your pledge cards for our annual stewardship ritual celebration.

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

Journey?

(SUNDAYS, continued on page 11)

March's Theme: Journey

by Michelle Naples
2018-19 Congregation President

"Travel isn't always pretty. It isn't always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that's okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind." – Anthony Bourdain, chef, travel documentarian, and storyteller.

These words from the late Anthony Bourdain resonate with me. Bourdain's topic here was travel, but one can imagine substituting "life" or "love" or other pursuits for "travel" as a kind of journey. The ultimate value of journeys of all sorts is not necessarily about arriving at a particular destination or state of being, but rather the moments, experiences, insights, connections, and shift of perspectives that transform us and others in the process.

First Church is a community that nurtures our spiritual journeys and transformation. Serving on the Board of Trustees is part of my spiritual journey and is shaping me in meaningful ways. There are so many different opportunities at First Church that we can engage in that impact our spiritual well-being and growth, whether it be related to the business and administration of the church, worship, religious education, social justice, caregiving, music, fellowship, or fundraising.

Speaking of fundraising, I hope you are as excited as I am about the prospect of the pledge drive this year. Our goal is to close our gap and help us achieve a pledge-sustained operating budget so that we can generously support the mission and vision of First Church as defined by our Ends. We need one another in this.

I also wanted to take a moment to welcome the new members to First Church. I was pleased to meet some of you during Coffee Hour after the February 3 new member ceremony. I'm so glad that your paths have brought you here to continue your journey as part of this spiritual community!

Tangible Gifts of Belonging

by Jane Dorweiler
Pastoral Care Provider Coordinator

At times, some of the simplest acts of kindness speak volumes. A meal for someone recovering from surgery, or for a couple adjusting to the delightful yet overwhelming demands of a newborn. A ride to the doctor when your broken ankle precludes driving. While immensely appreciated by First Church members in need, giving these gifts can warm our own soul. That enhanced sense of belonging provides tangible benefits all around.

Please consider adding your name among the ranks of our Pastoral Care Providers (PCPs). The demand isn't immense, and you only say yes when the request fits your schedule. But having a few more PCPs would make it much easier to match providers with those in need, even matching individuals geographically whenever possible.

The results of our recent congregational survey suggest that we feel successful meeting our End to "Generously give and receive support, connection, and care in times of joy and challenge." At this time, there are only about 2% of First Church members who have volunteered through our PCP program, indicating a willingness to be called upon to aid fellow members in times of need. We are extremely grateful to these individuals, but many of them have been registered PCPs for years. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but despite the dedication of these PCP volunteers, we do still have PCP needs that go unmet. I am convinced that an infusion of some new blood would dramatically improve our ability to successfully help our members in need. Many hands make light work.

If you are retired or self-employed, you may have much greater flexibility to help with rides to doctors' appointments. If you enjoy cooking a big batch of comfort-food, but get tired of having the same leftovers for a week, make that favorite when someone else is also in need of comfort. Or pack a couple servings into a freezer container for future needs.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit uumilwaukee.org/welcome-first-church/pastoral-care or e-mail fuspcprovider@gmail.com. If you are ready to get started, please e-mail fuspcprovider@gmail.com and indicate "meals," "rides," or "either." You will receive an e-mail whenever there is a need, requesting that you reply if you can fulfill the need. It's that simple. You will make someone's day, and probably your own as well.



News from Your SJ Intern: Reflections on Teaching Black People Matter

by Claire Keyes
Social Justice Intern

When our Religious Education Coordinator Cami Thomas asked me to help with teaching Black People Matter this winter, I was thrilled to step-up. As the Social Justice Intern, talking about race is a key component of my job description. Unfortunately, my job title and description did little to ameliorate the intense feeling of anxiety that fell over me the night before my first day of teaching.

I had some experience talking about race before, as I facilitated numerous discussions about race while working at the Service Learning Program at Marquette. But the key difference there was that I was talking to college students and young adults. When you talk with college students and adults about race, you can easily plan for the conversation and know what to expect. You usually have the “reverse racism is real” person, the “but I’ve worked hard too!” person, and the “I don’t see color” person in the room, and as a facilitator, you can plan how to respond. The issue is, none of this knowledge prepared me for talking with children about race. That’s just a different discussion. My recipe for discussions about race with adults, featuring a little bit of enlightenment, a whole lot of anti-racism work, and a dash of personal reflection, would not be adequate for first and second graders.

I did not realize the recipe needed to be altered until I walked into the classroom on that Sunday in January, sat down in a chair, and saw five young faces staring eagerly at me. It was in that moment that I realized that when talking to children about race, it is not so much about what you say (while that is important), but just the fact that you are saying it. Children have a curiosity and openness unlike adults, which means that the conversation needs to be more reflective, introspective, and open, rather than focusing on deeply analyzing the systemic racism present in our society (kids can learn about that at a later date). So after two weeks of talking with first and second graders, I have a new recipe, featuring openness, dedication, and most of all, a willingness to listen and learn.

In Solidarity,
Claire

Want to Help Develop Worship? Apply to be a Worship Associate by March 15

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Worship Associates (WA) help lead our Sunday worship services, collaborating with the ministers to reflect on the meaning, purpose, and life of the congregation. Worship Associates help develop Sunday themes for worship in quarterly meetings with the ministers, music staff, and program staff. At these meetings, we delve deeply into personal and communal understandings of monthly themes like “Hope,” “Intention,” and “Welcome,” and then identify topics for each of the Sunday services of the month. Then individual Worship Associates work one-on-one with the ministers to prepare individual Sunday services by selecting readings or telling a personal story related to the theme of the service. The program includes training for Worship Associates on pulpit presence, how to deliver readings, how to write a compelling story, and how to create the container for the shared experience of the worship service.

What are we looking for?

We want members who are moved and inspired by worship and want to contribute to the congregation’s depth of experience in the service. We are looking for members of diverse identities who want to engage in philosophical and theological reflection about meaning and purpose. We are looking for members with poise and public speaking ability. We want members who are deeply committed to the church and its values.

Service commitments and applications

Please submit your application by March 15, through the website at uumilwaukee.org/ministers-and-leaders/worship-associates. Worship Associates will begin serving at worship services in September 2019, with the first Worship Associate meetings four months prior on Sunday, April 28, from 2:30-5:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 2, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. The other Worship Associate meetings will be held during the 2019-20 church year, typically in August, October, and January. Worship Associates make a commitment to serve for two years, including the summers. Worship Associates will support the Ministers in leading worship about once every two months, covering both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on the date they serve.



Supporting our Values

by Lynne Jacoby
Membership Development Coordinator

Over 20 years ago, the church I was a member of jumped on-board the Unitarian Universalist Association's small group ministry initiative by asking members to step up and start one. It was before covenant groups or chalice circles or theme circles, so there were no formats, structure or materials; they just understood we needed more opportunities to connect in smaller groups. I thought the same thing so I decided to start one.

Except I was afraid to start one alone, so I recruited a co-leader, Scott. Arts and Spirituality, we called it and advertised, and nine people showed up. It took three more meetings for us to come up with what we would do together, and hours of angst in between for me, trying to figure out how to facilitate consensus.

I have been thinking of the journey of that group lately. Despite the shaky start, we had a good run for three years. Every other month a different member would bring their art, or passion and a way to share it with the group. And every other month a different member would find an economically accessible arts-related event we could attend.

I learned and or experienced everything from English Country dancing to improv, to how the different design elements in houses of worship reflect different theologies. But what I learned that actually changed my behavior long term came from Jill.

Jill was, quite frankly, a headache for me as a "leader," and not only because her job as an on-call masseuse for hotels meant pinning her down to lead one of our gatherings was impossible. She also went off topic often, was constantly calling with questions we'd gone over, and seemed more passionate about voter machine fraud (who knew then how right she'd be?) than art or spirituality.

We finally did gather in Jill's apartment near the end of our second year. And, in her painting flooded, tiny living room she led us in what I now understand was my first experience of appreciative inquiry. Why was art important to us? She asked, did we think artists were important to the world? Questions like that. And then she asked how much we had spent on original art or artisan work in the past year.

As a group we were stunned. A few of us had been to live performances, or bought novels, of course. By the time Jill finished explaining some ways to support artists at different price points, from student art shows to artist co-opts, my journey towards more conscious spending into what I valued had begun.

We Need One Another

First Church's Annual Pledge Season is Here!

by Dianna Dentino
Pledge Team

With the kickoff of every pledge drive we are reminded to take a moment and deeply reflect on the value of our beloved community. I invite you to join me in that reflection now. To slow down and consider this time, this place and our beloved community space.

It humbles me to realize that my family has been attending The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee for a generation now. As I sit here remembering, the words that come to me are: heartfelt gratitude and connection.

I remember the support of the former Families Committee, entering the world of parenthood, and rich Religious Education years for our children, and for John and I, as teachers. The insights and knowledge Our Whole Lives (OWL) gave our children when navigating the complexities of relationships, and the opportunities the Youth Program gave them to enter a larger world, created lifelong friends, and developed their own passion and agency for social justice.

For John and I, "Building Your Own Theology," Interfaith events, committee work, Chalice and Theme Circles, Sunday Forums, creating Feast for Fund events, attending Circle Suppers, celebrating births and honoring friends who have passed, and listening to the weekly inspirational sermons with magical music accompaniment, only begins to scratch the surface of how our lives have been enriched here.

This community also keeps us connected with our larger world. Days when that world feels burdensome, dark and heavy, this community steps up-to-the-plate. We create action groups to educate, empower, and tap into our collective agency to move, again, towards that more just and equitable world we know is possible.

This precious community has provided my family with steady soulful substance for twenty years. It has consistently shown-up for us, through good and challenging times. Is that true for you?

John and I will increase our pledge by 10% this year. I invite you to consider "upping-your-pledge" to a stretch as well. The transition from our strong and capable senior minister, Drew Kennedy, is behind us, and our new, intelligent and inspiring senior minister Jennifer Nordstrom is guiding us toward the future. I hope our beloved community will take a bold step to become a pledge sustained community. To do so, we need one another.



Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for Adults

by Deb Solis
Youth Program Coordinator

Please join facilitators Liz Hopkins and Shannon Widlansky for an Adult OWL Course informational meeting on Saturday, March 16, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. This meeting is open to any adult First Church member who is interested in participating in the class. An overview of the curriculum will be presented, and we will be discussing particulars about participation to help you decide if this course is for you. Classes will be held beginning in April. More details will be provided at the meeting. Childcare will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Summer Service Proposals Wanted

by Kristine Hansen
Pulpit Guest Team

Do you have a compelling message for our spiritual community that would nourish, engage, and inspire? During the summer, church members have the opportunity to create a worship service and deliver their own sermon. Worship helps us reflect on the meaning of our lives, what matters most, and how to align our actions with our core values. It is intended to help restore and sustain people's faith.

The Pulpit Guest Team is actively seeking proposals for summer worship services led by church members. To apply, fill out the form on our website, taking care to fully describe your topic, what materials you will draw upon, how your topic relates to Unitarian Universalist values and our First Church mission, and indicate your experience with public speaking. A limited number of spaces are available and selections are made by the Pulpit Guest Team. We will notify you of our decision by early May.

The Rev. Dena McPhetres works individually with speakers to prepare their service. Proposals are due by April 1. To apply go to uumilwaukee.org/committees/pulpit-guest-committee. If you have any questions, reach out to Pulpit Guest Team members Kristine Hansen, Tom LeBel, Laura White, or Keith Anderson.

Chalice Lighters Build Unitarian Universalism in our Region

by Bruce Wiggins
Denominational Affairs Coordinator

Winter 2019 Chalice Lighter Call

The Unitarian Universalism Chalice Lighter program helps fund the specific growth projects of individual congregations by pooling together donations from Unitarian Universalists across our MidAmerica Region. Thanks to the generosity of Chalice Lighter donors, we have been able to consistently fund projects from all corners of our region since the 1980s.

For the Winter 2019 Chalice Lighter call, the MidAmerica Regional Chalice Lighter Committee has chosen to fund growth projects from two congregations:

1. The Headwaters Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bemidji, Minnesota is seeking funds to build a Peace Center to serve as both a gathering space for the congregation and a means to connect with the community. They believe that creating a welcoming space for all — especially learning spaces for children — will encourage individuals and families to join their fellowship. They also aim to include as many environmentally sustainable features into the building as possible.
2. The Michael Servetus Unitarian Society in Fridley, Minnesota, has for the past year and a half been actively exploring new buildings in hopes of moving out of their current home, which they've outgrown. Their hope is to move into a space where they can realize their mission and dreams. They want to engage the services of Stewardship for Us (stewardshipforus.com) to help them make their intention to move to a new building a reality by providing consulting and capital campaign support.

Both congregations are UUA Honor Congregations, which means they have made their full requested financial contribution to both the UUA and MidAmerica Region. And they have made a commitment to increase the number of Chalice Lighters within their congregations.

To donate to this year's Winter Call, please visit www.uua.org/midamerica/giving. Make your donation by March 31, 2019.



WISDOM's March 26 Madison Action Day

by Paul Geenen

On Tuesday, March 26, the Coalition For More Responsible Transportation (CMRT) and WISDOM will be lobbying Senator Alberta Darling for a \$36 million increase in transit spending in the state budget, an expenditure more cost-effective than highway expansion. Senator Darling is one of the leaders of the Joint Finance Committee and has a crucial role in crafting the state budget.

Highways have played a significant role in racial segregation by creating physical barriers that segregated our African American community. Most job growth in Southeastern Wisconsin is in our suburbs and in Waukesha County, unreachable by public transit.

The transportation sector is our country's largest emitter of greenhouse gas. Improving access to clean transportation through transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure reduces carbon emissions.

Our seniors depend on the MCTS bus system to attend our church, cultural events downtown and shopping. Riders in Whitefish Bay and Shorewood are directly impacted by MCTS plans to reduce service on route #14.

The City of Milwaukee was gerrymandered out of Senator Darling's district, giving her less of an incentive to respond to Milwaukee's citizens. Senator Darling needs to hear from her constituents in Whitefish Bay, Fox Point, and Mequon that the next state budget should contain an increase of \$36 million for transit.

Join us on March 26 to travel to Madison and be part of 1000 or more WISDOM members advocating for social justice. WISDOM is a statewide organization composed mostly of religious congregations working on issues of social justice. MICAH, of which First Church is a member, is a member of WISDOM. The cost will be \$35.00 which includes transportation, meals and a t-shirt. For more information contact Paul Geenen or Bob Mo-nahan.

For more information about the event go online to wisdomwisconsin.org/madison-action-day-tuesday-march-26. To register, download the registration form for Milwaukee, MICAH.

New Sanctuary Movement Vigils

by Patricia Geenen
Immigration Action Group

The first Tuesday evening of each month, a small interfaith group gathers at Ascension Lutheran Church (1236 S. Layton Boulevard) to show our solidarity with immigrants and refugees in Milwaukee. In January representatives of our congregation's Immigration Action Group led the vigil. After a chalice lighting and reading, we heard a song by Martin Juache, coordinator of the New Sanctuary Movement, and discussed a passage from the Bible describing the flight of Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt. The parallel between the flight to avoid King Herod's murder of infants and the caravans of Central American refugees heading north to flee the murderous gangs and oppressive governments in their native countries was obvious.

A key feature at these gatherings is the testimony offered by immigrants whose families have been disrupted by the harsh ICE enforcement practices of the current administration. We heard about ICE officers pretending to be police and pushing their way into homes to remove a father in handcuffs in front of his children. One tactic used by ICE is to match car registrations to unlicensed drivers to identify and locate undocumented immigrants and remove them to detention centers. Hard working families who have lived in Milwaukee for years are devastated by these tactics.

After we heard an immigrant's testimony, the group declared its support of the family and strategized practical steps we might take to help, such as writing to legislators, appearing in court, and working to change Wisconsin's restrictive driver's license law. Martin then read the names of local immigrants who have been detained or deported, and we responded with "présente" after each name to signify our solidarity. A closing prayer completed the vigil.

To learn more about the first Tuesday New Sanctuary vigils, or join the email list of the Immigration Action Group, contact Pat Geenen or Birger Pahl.

(continued from page 12)

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

March 31

"Progressive Socialism: The Return of the Common Good?"

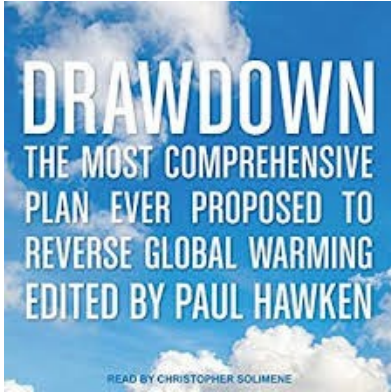
Presenter: Derek Beyer, Founder/President
Democratic Socialists of America-Milwaukee Chapter

After graduating from Nathan Hale High School in 2000, Beyer served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. He got his teaching degree at UW-Milwaukee and works as a teacher in MPS. Inspired by the campaign of Bernie Sanders, Beyer became interested in Socialism and studied the career of Frank Zeidler, former Socialist mayor of Milwaukee, credited with cleaning the city of corruption and graft. In 2016, Beyer founded the Milwaukee Chapter of Democratic Socialists of America, with current membership of 250.



Drawdown, Global Warming Solutions Book Discussion

by Pat Parcell
Earth Justice Ministry



Are you ready to educate yourself on the top 100 ways to reverse global warming?

As a follow-up to Bruce Wiggins' January 13 Forum talk on the book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, I will lead a six-part discussion group to delve into the subject matter more deeply. Through exploring

the book, we will gather a great deal of knowledge about the 100 current and future strategies for reducing global warming. Please come and explore this important book with us!

Six Tuesday evenings, March 5-April 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at First Church.
For more information call Pat Parcell.

Books are available through your local library or book stores.

Join a UU Service Learning Trip to the Dominican Republic

by Bruce Wiggins
Denominational Affairs Coordinator

Are you interested in doing a service learning project this June in the Dominican Republic with other Unitarian Universalists? Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW) in Brookfield has been doing service trips to Latin America for 15 years. This year, the trip is June 21–30, 2019. You will be able to fully immerse yourself in the daily life of the Dominican people, help to empower a community in need, learn about another culture, and practice your Spanish. House repairs will be the service part of the experience and there will be ample time for reflection on the experience plus some time for rest and relaxation with your fellow travelers. UUCW works with a group named Bridges to Community to set up the project in the host country.

Minimum age is 14 years. For information including costs and details of the travel dates and times, contact the UUCW organizer Andy Boerner by March 3. Andy says that service learning trips like this have been life-changing for people.

Global Warming: a Matter of Intergenerational Justice

by Terry Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry

Here are some recent examples of why it is.

1. Dr. Natasha DeJarnett, research coordinator at the National Environmental Health Association, said that “Eighty-eight percent of the burden of climate change falls on children.”
2. Twenty-one plaintiffs, ages 8-19 in 2015, (the youngest of whom is a Unitarian Universalist) are participating in a lawsuit against the President of the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others. In *Juliana v. the United States*, they argue that the federal government, by denying climate change and/or failing to act on it by reducing carbon emissions, has deprived these young people of their constitutional right to freely pursue their lives and liberties. In short, the government, in failing to be proactive about climate change, has denied their very futures.

Recently, attorneys filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to prevent the federal government from issuing new leases and permits for exploring for, and extracting, fossil fuels on federal lands or offshore, or issuing approvals for new fossil fuel infrastructure.

3. You may have seen a video of the Greta Thunberg, passionate Swedish 16-year-old who is raising awareness of global warming. She grabbed the world's attention when she spoke outside the Swedish Parliament, and when she spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos. “I want you to feel the fear I do. . . . And want you to act. I want you to behave like our house is on fire. Because it is.”

Let us ask ourselves, what would it mean to take young people seriously? How, as Unitarian Universalists, are we called to respond to them and the crisis they face?

Earth Justice Ministry encourages your support of the Green New Deal and the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.



Used Book Sale Returns

by Nancy Pajewski

Readers, rejoice! The annual Used Book Sale will fill the Common Room the weekend of March 29-31 with hundreds of fiction and non-fiction books chosen by the most discriminating readers – you, First Church members.

The sale is open to members and friends only from 5:00-8:00 p. m. the evening of Friday, March 29, so members have first choice of books. Members and the public can shop from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, and 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 31. You can buy a whole bag of books for only \$10 during the final hour of the sale, 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Sunday. All proceeds benefit the church.

You may bring your donations of books, DVDs, and CDs to church beginning on Sunday, March 3, to the designated table in the Common Room. This is a great opportunity to downsize your collection and make room for new titles on your reading list. Sorry, no textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, or tapes.

We are also looking for volunteers to help sort and arrange books on Friday morning and to check out customers and keep the tables of books organized on Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday. Contact Nancy Pajewski if you want to volunteer.

Indulge your curiosity and engage your mind at the Used Book Sale March 29-31. We'll have children's books and adult titles ranging from cookbooks and travel to politics and mysteries.

Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

Every spring, our Religious Education Program youth members choose an organization to receive Share the Plate donations. Pathfinders, an organization that serves approximately 7000 youth annually, was voted to be our March Share the Plate recipient. Their mission, "Empowering youth in crisis to make positive choices" is carried out through a wide variety of programming from providing temporary shelter for the homeless, service centers for homeless and runaway youth, counseling programs for the sexually abused and assaulted, and other mental health crisis interventions.

Since the mid-1970s, Pathfinders has been providing support and care for low-income people with mental health needs. Since then, they expanded by providing a youth shelter for homeless and runaway youth, counseling for youth in crisis. Today they are committing to broaden services for youth experiencing sexual exploitation and trafficking as well as housing for youth aging out of the foster care system. To learn more visit www.pathfindersmke.org.

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

Watch Sunday Services Online and Share with Your Friends!

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

We know you all want to be in church on Sundays, to connect with and support your community, to feel the music in your blood, and to drink all that delicious coffee. But for those days when you cannot make it for some reason, you can now watch the service live as it is happening, or later on, watch a recorded version at any time. This is also a great way to watch a sermon that moved you a second time, or share it with those friends you wish had been with you in church! You will see a posting on our First Church Facebook page with a link to YouTube for the livestream. Or, you can go directly to our YouTube channel for both the livestream and recorded versions of the Sunday Worship Associate Story and the Sermon.

These First Church videos are already getting attention! The top post on First Church's Facebook page is Worship Associate Julia Oswald's story, "Hell in the Hallways" from January 27. The post reached 1,499 people and resulted in 236 clicks, 35 reactions/likes, 14 comments, and 7 shares. Sharing the videos that moved you is one of the best ways to spread our message and reach people who might find a spiritual home at our church.

To view upcoming videos from Sunday services, visit our First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Facebook page or YouTube channel. Or, you can visit our website and click the Facebook and YouTube icons in the upper right-hand corner of the page. On Facebook, LIKE the page, and on YouTube, subscribe to the channel to get up-to-date information.



Subscribe to www.youtube.com/channel/UCwWGfBuaOJdJjAeqx5LE2Eg



Like the [First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Facebook page](#).



All About Youth

by Deb Solis
Youth Program Coordinator

Annual Youth Sunday Service, March 3

"Why Are You, You? Where Did We Come From? Where Are We Going?"

The annual youth service is developed and presented entirely by the First Church youth group, and it is the time where youth get to truly express what is important to them. This year the youth will explore the individual identities of the youth group members, how they have come to be, and what they are choosing to do with those identities in their future. The service will include inspiring readings, music, testimonials, and stories. This is truly a service you do not want to miss!

Upcoming Youth Events

- March 8, 9 & 10 – March Youth CON in Brookfield, Wisconsin at Church West with four youth and their chaperones attending.
- Sunday, March 17 and Sunday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m., congregational members are invited to join the youth group and participate in their discussion on Unitarian Universalism history.
- March 31 is part three of our *Hearts On Fire* series for our graduating high school seniors with Religious Education Coordinator Cami Thomas facilitating.

A Youth's Perspective

by Ehlona Walker

After their pilgrimage to escape religious persecution to what is now the United States, many of our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors began their life in Boston, Massachusetts with radical thoughts and ideas. Today, Massachusetts exists still as a home to many Unitarian Universalists but also functions as our own holy place to return to one day. Unitarians were quite powerful back in the day. Our first few presidents were Unitarians and Universalists and many were people who set history in motion. In fact, many of the churches in Boston were once owned by Unitarian congregations.

I was able to visit Boston in October of 2018 and there is something magical about walking down the beaten cobblestone paths that lead to connections to our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist ancestors. It is beautiful to walk into Arlington Street Church and attend a service with fellow youth by your side and witness our ancestor's ideas carved into the wall. Our ancestors were radical people with new ideas and the youth in our congregation are radical youth needing to know what we once were; to walk down streets Emerson, Thoreau, and many others once did. Youth are our past, present, and future and a pilgrimage gives us a chance to see our past, present, and future.

Meet Gus Pointer Mace!

by Andrea Cornwall
Youth Steering Committee Member

Gus is a fairly recent addition to the youth program at First Church. He became involved in religious education as an eighth-grader while attending the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program, which included a lock-in. Gus found the energy of the space very special and grew close with other OWL participants. Gus is a freshman at Ronald Reagan High School and currently serves on the First Church Youth Steering Committee as the ninth grade representative.

Gus finds one of the most meaningful things about YRUU is the intelligence, political and social consciousness, and thoughtfulness of the other youth. He deeply enjoys their conversations that delve into fascinating topics. Last year, Gus had an in-depth experience with Unitarian Universalist principles, learning more about their meaning and intent when he illustrated a series of posters that are now posted around the church. This experience, in turn, helped shape some of Gus's moral and political beliefs.

Gus is passionate about writing and art. A current project is a scripted fiction podcast involving supernatural shenanigans, LGBTQ themes and slight horror called "Night Stretch." It's available on iTunes and Spotify. Gus writes, edits, produces, casts, and performs sound effects. Gus is also very interested in psychology and hopes to pursue this field in college, one day, setting up a psychiatry practice in order to further an interest in helping people.

John Stano CD Release Celebration Concert

by Alissa Rhode

The First Church Music Program is proud to present UU singer-songwriter John Stano in an evening of original acoustic music on Saturday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we celebrate the release of his studio album "Digging Out in the Heartland," plus a live record "John Stano Live at the South Shore Farmers Market."

John Stano is an award-winning singer-songwriter, poet, educator, and multi-instrumentalist whose original songs include themes of social and environmental justice, spiritual matters, and life's big questions. John's trademark sound is a distinctive blend of acoustic and slide guitar, harmonica, and expressive vocals rooted in blues and roots music history and performance styles.

No charge to attend, an RSVP is preferred. Please register at <https://johnstanocdrelease.bpt.me>



GETTING TOGETHER

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.

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 who are 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. For more information, contact Nancy Pajewski.

Tuesday, April 9, we will talk about *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why* by Biblical scholar Bart Ehrman.

Buddhist Study Group: Gathering Waters Sangha

First & Third Wednesdays
of the month
6:30-8:00 p.m.

No matter what your level of interest or practice in Buddhism, you are invited to check out our Gathering Waters Sangha. After a brief check-in, we discuss a book related to Buddhism for an hour, then do a 15-minute group meditation, and finally, socialize for a bit. The book we just started at our last meeting is Norman Fischer's *Training in Compassion*. For more information, please contact Jeanne Lowry or Steve Lowry.

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.

Unitarian Universalists Under Forty Doing Activities (UUUFDA)

UUUFDA encourages social camaraderie among the under-forty crowd at First Church, contributing to a strong, joyful, and fun church community. For more information, contact Erik Islo or Angi Krueger at uuufda@gmail.com.

SWANS Group

(Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social)

First Sunday of the month

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

WomanSpirit

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

Chancel Choir

Every Thursday
7:15-9:00 p.m.

All singers who are 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.

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.



MARCH 17

“Speed Bumps, Flat Tires and Unexpected Waystations”

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director
George Bledsoe, Worship Associate

What if the obstacles in front of us aren't in the way of our lives, but instead are our lives? Speed bumps have their reasons. Getting a flat tire on a road trip becomes part of the trip and a story to tell. Being stuck is not necessarily bad – it's where the inner journey is most active. If we're lucky, unexpected waystations appear just in time to shelter us before we move on.

MARCH 24

“Closer to Fine”

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Cami Thomas, Religious Education Coordinator
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director
Mark Richards, Worship Associate

In every hero's journey, there is tension between the plan and reality, risk and reward. At the outset of a great journey, you know there will be mountains and valleys, mentors and monsters, trials and triumphs. But when we are reading a book or watching a movie, we get to witness the excitement of danger from the safety of our couches. In real life, we might prefer our journeys to be finite and not too risky, rather than epic adventures. We explore the epic adventures of real life when our questions sometimes point us in crooked directions, and risky, uncertain journeys.

MARCH 31

“Sometimes You Pick Your Journey; Sometimes You Pick Your Team”

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Cami Thomas, Religious Education Coordinator
Jack Forbes Wilson, Music Director
Bob Balderson, Worship Associate

Not all of our journeys through life are voluntary. Sometimes you get to pick your journey, other times you get to pick your team. When you find yourself on a journey, not of your own choosing, who do you surround yourself with? Join us for this service that explores unexpected and uninvited journeys, and how the people who journey with you can help carry you through.

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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SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

March 3

"Mass Incarceration in Wisconsin"

Presenter: Prof. Michael O'Hear, Marquette University

Wisconsin's prison population has been at a historically high level for more than a decade, and is poised to reach new highs in coming years. Professor O'Hear will explore the causes of mass incarceration in Wisconsin and consider whether current imprisonment levels might be reduced without harming public safety. Several promising policy reforms could bring down the prison numbers and lessen burdens on taxpayers and families. A nationally recognized authority on criminal punishment, Professor O'Hear teaches criminal law and related courses. He is an editor of the Federal Sentencing Reporter and author of many scholarly articles on sentencing, criminal procedure and other topics.

March 10

"Relativity and the Twin Paradox"

Presenter: Dr. Vincent Smith, Particle Physicist

Dr. Vincent Smith is a British particle physicist who has done experiments at FermiLab in Illinois and at CERN, the super collider in Switzerland. He will explore, with audience participation, the "Twin Paradox," a prediction of Einstein's Special Relativity Theory that predicts a twin who travels away from Earth and returns will age more slowly than one who stays at home. Dr. Smith makes physics interesting and enjoyable, and claims to have "discovered the Higgs Boson with the help of 7,000 colleagues." Feel free to ask him why the Higgs Boson is called "the God particle" or any other physics question.

March 17

"Words Across Cultures"

Presenter: Edith Moravcsik, Prof. Emeritus, UW-Milwaukee

Does English have words for everything? Do words from other languages always have English equivalents? A brief survey around the globe will show how very different languages can be in their vocabularies. An example: Jale (Papua New Guinea) has only two words for colors; Nuer (Sudan) in comparison has ten words to distinguish hues of cattle. A native of Hungary, Edith has taught linguistics at universities in Europe and the U.S., including at UW-Milwaukee for more than 30 years. She is now retired.

March 24

"CORE El Centro: Natural Healing Center"

Presenter: Pat Bogenschuetz, Development Director

Founded 2002, CORE El Centro is a not-for-profit natural healing center for underserved and low-income clients, offering a healthcare option to those who otherwise have little access to programs focused on wholeness and the healing energies of natural therapies. All healing services (acupuncture, massage, reiki, meditation, dance, yoga, exercise, children's activities, nutrition education, and programs to deal with cancer, trauma, children's wellness, and more) are provided in Spanish and English, on a sliding-fee scale. In 2017, CORE El Centro served more than 4,500 clients.

(March 31, continued on page 6)

