



# THE CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

*nurture. engage. inspire.*

June 2019

## Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

The Shaker song tells us “Tis a gift to be simple, ‘tis a gift to be free,” and liberty-loving complexity-filled Unitarian Universalist hearts surge. Sometimes when technology, capitalism, and humanity twist and turn this world towards exponential complexity, the song of simplicity calls.

Rather than solely a material endeavor, spiritual simplicity can invite letting go and surrendering to the essentials of the present. What is truly essential in your mind, your life, and the world? What would it be like to focus primarily or even solely on those essentials?

As a congregation, one of our opportunities to simplify is to focus our shared ministry on making progress towards our Ends. The Board’s work on Policy Governance simplifies our governance process by clarifying the expected outcomes of ministry (the Ends), putting limits on the means by which we achieve those Ends (limits like safety, asset protection, and financial condition), and then encouraging our shared ministry to pursue those Ends outcomes. It simplifies by providing focus (the Ends) and rules (the limitations), and then let us go forth and share ministry together!

This summer, I hope you get to have the simple joy of some human connection, beauty, time outside, and love. I will be pursuing these joys as well, and am out of the office from June 18 – July 31. I look forward to seeing you again in August!

With love,  
Jennifer

## SUNDAY SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**TWO SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

JUNE 2

### “When Simplicity Brings Abundance”

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choir Director

Cami Thomas, Religious Education Coordinator

Kari Gunderson, Worship Associate

Multigenerational Flower Communion

Clearing out the excesses of one’s life can paradoxically create abundance, allowing us to sink into the deep essentials of human connection, natural beauty, and love. In the closing Sunday of our two-service year, we will gather together to celebrate the simple beauty of life in our multigenerational Flower Communion service. Remember to bring a flower with you to share during the ritual, but of course, we will have flowers available as well!

## SUMMER SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 A.M.**

JUNE 9

### “Simplicity Takes Practice”

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Jack Forbes Wilson, Music Director

Julia Oswald, Worship Associate

There is nothing simple about simplicity. It takes practice to resist the wider culture’s values of materialism, status, and over-commitment. It takes community to support our endeavors to simplify life, whether that involves letting go of possessions, activities, relationships or lifestyles that obscure what is most important. What is most important? And how do we practice living from that source when life is so complex?

*SUNDAYS, continued on page 11)*

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

**SIMPLICITY ?**

## Dena's Digressions

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres

We have a joke around the office, "It's First Church: it's complicated!" I used to marvel at how many layers, policies, procedures, processes, and the sheer number of conversations it took to make decisions and get things done around here. Now that I've become familiar with the complexity of a large organization, it can still surprise me when a seemingly small gesture melts my heart with its kindness. Or when what seems like an offhand comment or quickly written email causes harm.

We are simple beings in many ways, living in a complicated and complex world. What does it mean to be a people of simplicity? I hear us seeking meaning together, sifting the wheat from the chaff, discarding most surface chatter to engage each other at a deeper level. Indeed, that's what a couple of you told me recently this community does for you. It matches your desire for deeply significant relationships. And that the practice of deeply significant conversations and relationships is so important and satisfying, that it surprises you when folks want to stay on the surface.

The surface can be so seductive and seemingly safe. But what do surface complications obscure? We'll explore the theme of simplicity in June.

Join us this month for summer services and religious education at 10:00 a.m. only, beginning June 9. Dive into your own exploration of the essence of life. Come be in community and support each other to go below the surface for a simpler and deeper connection.

Yours,  
Dena

### June Event Listing

Event articles In this edition of *Chanticleer* can be found on the page listed below. Please see the article for more information.

June 1 - Earth Justice Retreat, Page 5

June 1 - Circle of Support, Page 5

June 7,8 & 9 - Pride Fest, Page 8

## Splinters from the Board

by Melinda Vernon

By the time this report is published the church year will be rapidly drawing to a close. We hope we will be enjoying consistently warm weather. It certainly did not feel like spring when the board held their meeting on April 23, 2019.

Noreen Gilbertsen presented the third quarter financial report with results largely on the budget for this point in the church year. Expenses have been kept down and 2019-20 pledge commitments are encouraging to date.

Noreen also introduced a draft of the 2019-20 budget projecting a deficit of approximately \$125,000. The biggest unknown is what our gain/loss on investments will be.

Rev. Jennifer presented three scenarios for staff increases as the Board requested at the March meeting and, after discussion, the board approved salary increases of up to \$20,000. The board voiced their desire to close the salary gap for employees earning less than Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) fair compensation guidelines and those earning less than \$15 per hour.

The Board approved new policies and changes to our bylaws required by our move to Policy Governance. Hooray! Both are the result of many months of work on the part of staff and board members with guidance from our UUA consultant. By the time you read this, we hope that many of you will have heard the presentation on our new policy governance model at the annual meeting. Copies of the new policies and bylaws are on our website for your perusal.

Rev. Jennifer made the happy announcement that a new Director of Religious Education (DRE) has been hired. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson comes to us with a wealth of experience as a DRE and is poised to take our RE program to new heights.

Michelle presented a draft agenda for the annual meeting as well as a tentative slate of officers for the new board.

The dates of August 2-3, 2019 have been finalized for a board retreat where we will discuss how we can move effectively into policy governance.

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



## Tis a Gift to be Simple

by Lynne Jacoby  
Membership Development Coordinator

Sometimes when I am out on the Urban Ecology Trails by my home and my mind is busy chattering away (or busy whining in some terrible rut of frustration), I'll remember my intent is to be there. Present, in the woods. And if I can remember this, I have a very simple mantra that often works in shifting the stubborn gears of my brain. "Where's Lynne?" I'll ask breathing in, breathing out. "Right here" I answer breathing in, breathing out. Over and over.

I'll begin to look around then, noticing the vivid greens of early spring, the many reds on one Cardinal, the deep texture of bark beneath a finger and tenderness of leaves unfurling. My own inner nine-year-old nudging me to jump up on a fallen log to walk atop it, balancing and smiling. Where's Lynne? Right here. In the woods and of it.

Sometimes when I am at our worship service, but not really, because my mind is busy with what I have to, or should do, or should say, or how I might... I'll remember my intent is to be there. So I'll breathe the question "where's Lynne?" and breathe the response "right here."

I'll begin looking around then and notice you in the pews around me. You who have been right beside me in the planning and implementing of the projects I get so worried about; and you who gave me a felt heart at General Assembly. You who saw no one was greeting one Sunday and jumped right on it; and you who sent me a sympathy card when my dog died. You who saw a need long before I did and organized a whole team, and you who...

Noticing I am suddenly in this community, and of it too. Of the past, future, across the world, all of humanity balancing, breathing, smiling, right here.

Sometimes it is so simple, if I can remember.

## One Last Article

by Michelle Naples,  
Congregation President, 2018-19

Dear friends,

It has been my joy and privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees for the last three years. Serving in the role of President this past year has been a particularly rewarding experience for me. I have deepened my love for First Church through my service. I am so grateful to members of the Board of Trustees, staff, and members and friends of First Church who make our Ends come more and more true every day. It has been a special honor that my time on the Board coincides with Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom's tenure with First Church. The time has flown, and I am amazed by all that has been accomplished during the past three years. And I look forward to what's to come. The future is bright and in excellent hands!

At our Annual Meeting on May 19, we elected three new Board Members to serve a three-year term:

Jane Cliff  
Dianna Dentino  
Mark Miller

I am also pleased to introduce you to the 2019-2020 Board of Trustees' slate of officers elected May 19 at the brief Board of Trustees meeting after the Annual Meeting:

President – Mark Bishop  
Vice President – Mark Bender  
Secretary – Dianna Dentino  
Treasurer – Tom Briscoe

All my best,  
Michelle Naples



# Thanks for A Successful Pledge Drive and a Step Towards Sustainability

by Fred Gutierrez  
Pledge Team Chair  
and  
Lynne Jacoby  
Membership Development Coordinator

As of May 11, 2019, our pledge total stood at \$696,434, and we project a final 2019 Pledge Year total of \$725,000. Our starting point was \$686,000, so reaching \$725,000 represents a 6% increase overall. The final budget amount, per the Finance Team's built-in hedge for adjustments (that happen every year) will reflect a 3% shrinkage for this projection.

Our aspirational goal this year was to close an operating budget gap. We fell short of this bold goal, but we were also interested in communicating the need for increasing pledge income for our long-term sustainability. The team felt strongly that the transition to Jennifer's leadership is now complete and now is the time to take on, as an entire community, the responsibility of the financial health of our shared spiritual home. An amazingly large number leaned into our aspirational goal, and we have many people to thank for our progress towards it this year.

- We made a special appeal to the lead contributors and those in leadership roles of our congregation to take a 'Bold Step' with us financially and in action; so many responded so readily we can't name them all, but we are appreciative!
- Additionally, we asked the following people to help specifically and Andrew Boddy-Spargo, Michelle Boehm, Cheri Briscoe, Mari-ah Carey, Alexis Fielek, Lisa Koneazny, Cheryl Maranto, Beth Monhollen, Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Ron Oshima, Sarah Richards, Tom Radoszewski, and Dale Skaggs all supported our efforts this year with time and skill. We are blessed at First Church by the willingness and talents within our community.
- We thank you, our fellow members and staff. We thank the 38 who needed to decrease their pledge for 2019, but who want to continue to support our community how they can; the 166 who maintained their ongoing commitment and generosity for next year; and the 182 members who collectively increased their pledges from \$377,000 to \$439,000, a \$62,000 gain that represents an amazing 16.5 % increase within this group.

Thank you so much for taking a bold step with us!

Fred Gutierrez, Chair, and Lynne Jacoby, Membership Development Coordinator, on behalf of the 2019 Pledge Team: Dianna Dentino, Elizabeth Lentini, and Sue Thaney.

# Space and Funds Available to Attend General Assembly "Off-site"

by Bruce Wiggins  
Denominational Affairs Coordinator



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

You can now attend General Assembly (GA) remotely. GA is our annual national UU conference, and it's always inspiring plus eye-opening.

This year, it's being held in Spokane, WA, June 19-23, and an unprecedented amount of the programming will be live streamed. All can view the opening celebration, the many worship services, the general sessions (business meetings), and Ware Lecture without registering. Visit [www.uua.org/ga/off-site](http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site) If you want to participate (remotely) in the business of the Assembly. You can register to be an off-site delegate. As a delegate, you will be able to vote as part of the democratic process we use in our UU model of governance.

We have two individuals who will be off-site delegates this year, Janet Nortrom and Jeanne Durnford, and we have funds left to register two more. See Bruce Wiggins, Mark Bishop, or Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom if you are interested in this possibility. You might also consider joining with Janet or Jeanne to view some of GA. Each has been to multiple GAs and can fill you in on some of the background to what is going on.



## **Spring Forward and Back Earth Justice Ministry's Mini-Retreat, June 1**

by Bruce Wiggins  
Earth Justice Ministry Chair

Are you very concerned about the crisis facing the web of all existence of which we are a part? Want to do something about it? After all, there's hope through action.

This is the time! Come on June 1 to the Earth Justice Ministry's spring mini-retreat and picnic lunch. ALL ARE WELCOME! We'll start gathering (with food and coffee) at 9:00 a.m., start on our agenda at 9:30 a.m., and wrap up at 1:30 p.m. We'll discuss our past year's efforts and look ahead to start planning what we'll do next year.

The place: the Club Room in the North Tower of Yankee Hill apartments, 626 East State Street (State and Van Buren Streets, only a few blocks from the church). It's one block from the Cathedral Square or Jackson stop on The Hop, one block from the 15 bus, along with the 30 and 33 bus going right by there. There's a patio so we can enjoy some "outdoorsiness," weather permitting.

We're looking for everybody who is interested in participating in earth justice/environmental justice to join us. We'll supply drinks and snacks, but we ask that you bring your own main dish/lunch, such as a salad or sandwich, and tableware (cup or mug, plate, utensils, and napkin) so we can avoid disposables. We'll supply snacks and drinks.

Please try to remember to RSVP to Bruce Wiggins or Tree Moore, Co-chairs of the Earth Justice Ministry (they're listed in the church directory) so we can plan refreshments. Come even if you are not able to RSVP.

## **Circles of Support Informational Meeting**

by Paul Geenen

Join us on Saturday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m., in the Young Room, for an informational meeting on Project Return's Circles of Support program. Project Return helps men and women leaving prison make a positive and permanent return to our community. Circles of Support is a program for ex-offenders that targets previously incarcerated men and women, allowing them to share their stories as a form of emotional therapy and offering a venue for their voices to be heard. Ex-offenders, as peer leaders, lead these conversations. Today, there are five groups, including two at Hephatha Lutheran Church and St. Ben's, and plans call for expansion to 30 groups. The ELCA and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are supporting this effort, and the organizers are recruiting other faith organizations.

One way that First Church members could get involved would be to host a meal at Hephatha and participate in a discussion with the six members of a Circles of Support group. Both guests and hosts would discuss an open question as a way to connect in a limited way. Members of First Church would have the opportunity to meet a few members of our African American community who are working hard to overcome tremendous obstacles.

Please contact Paul Geenen if you have questions or would like more information.

## **Volunteers Needed at the Interchange Food Pantry!**

by Beth Bruch  
Interchange Food Pantry Chair

Interchange has seen a steady increase of guests visiting our food pantry since January. We need volunteers to help out for a 2.5 hour shift, Monday through Saturday. Help is needed on pantry days, shopping at Feeding America, and stocking our shelves. Hours available are Monday through Friday starting at 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed on Saturday from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Children are always welcome (under age 16 need to be with an adult). To learn more about volunteering opportunities, please contact George at [ifpmilwaukee@gmail.com](mailto:ifpmilwaukee@gmail.com) or 414-551-2184.



# Meet our Choral Scholars

by Tristan Strelitzer  
Choral Director



Thanks to the funds from the Lu Krug bequest, we have had the opportunity to hire four choral scholar interns to sing with our choir for rehearsals and services. The program provides music majors from colleges (or recent graduates) the opportunity to gain experience singing in a church setting while our church and choir benefit from having strong singers in each of our sections.

Pictured on the left are the choral scholars. From left to right are Nicole McCarty, Autumn Schacherl, Chris Johnston, Adlai Kim. Their bios are below.

## **Soprano – Nicole McCarty**

Nicole McCarty holds a bachelor's degree in music education from UW-Whitewater and is currently working towards her master's degree in vocal performance from UW-Milwaukee. Previously, Nicole has performed with the Wisconsin Chamber Choir in Madison where her most notable solo performances were in "Quia Respexit" from Magnificat (Bach) and Et Exultavit from Magnificat (Zelenka). Nicole has previously been cast as Princess Winnifred in Once Upon a Mattress, Marian Paroo in The Music Man, Celia Peachum in Threepenny Opera, Gwendolen in Ernest in Love, Hope Cladwell in Urinetown, and Barbarina in Le Nozze di Figaro.

## **Alto – Autumn Schacherl**

Originally from Galesville, WI, Autumn Schacherl is a lyric mezzo-soprano with a natural and sincere stage presence. In 2018, she was a featured soloist with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee jazz band for their winter concert. In August, Autumn presented a cabaret concert, which featured music from Edith Piaf, Kander and Ebb, and the Gershwin's, among others. In 2016, she was Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* and Rosie in *Cabaret*. at the Student National Association of Teachers of Singing auditions. In 2015, Autumn received a third place award. Ms. Schacherl earned her bachelor's degree in vocal performance in May 2017 from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and is currently working toward her master's degree in vocal performance at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Autumn is a student of Dr. Tanya Kruse.

## **Tenor – Christopher Johnston**

Christopher Johnston is a Freshman Music Composition and Technology major at UW-Milwaukee. This major will prepare him for a career as, hopefully: a composer, an Audio Engineer, or a Producer. He is a member of the advanced Concert Chorale at UWM where he sings Tenor I. Chris has sung for several years: he performed in musicals throughout Middle School and High School, and he was an avid member of his High School Choirs. Recently, he performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra as a member of the choir when they performed the soundtrack of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

## **Bass—Adlai Kim**

Adlai is a bass-baritone and a first-semester sophomore at UWM. Although he is relatively new to the singing world, he recently won third place in his division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) student auditions in both the Wisconsin and Chicago districts.



## All About Youth

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

One of my favorite parenting books is William Martin's *The Parent's Tao Te Ching*. This book is not another translation of the classic *Chinese Tao Te Ching*, written more than 2,500 years ago with accredited authorship to Lao Tzu. Advocating patience, compassion, simplicity, and parental awareness, these ancient lessons allow parents to quietly reflect on their own selfhood, then to see and respond to their children's authentic selves. This is a book that I have found most helpful in raising my only son, Kyle, who grew up in this church and attended religious education programming until he graduated from high school in 2011. Below is one of my favorite texts I wanted to share with you as summer is approaching and you plan for plenty of family time together.

### Make the Ordinary Come Alive

Do not ask your children  
to strive for extraordinary lives.  
Such striving may seem admirable,  
but it is a way of foolishness.  
Help them instead to find wonder  
and the marvel of an ordinary life.  
Show them the joy of tasting  
tomatoes, apples, and pears.  
Show them how to cry  
when pets and people die.  
Show them the infinite pleasure  
in the touch of a hand.  
And make the ordinary come alive for them.  
The extraordinary will take care of itself.

### Upcoming Youth Events

- June 2 Mission Trip 2019 notarizing meeting in the Reeb Room at 10:45 a.m.
- June 9 Youth Steering Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Reeb Room.
- June 23 YRUU youth group monthly summer session starts at 10:00 a.m. in the Reeb Room. The topic is Science in Religion.
- June 29 Youth Steering Committee retreat in the Young Room from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## Register Your Children for 2019-2020 Sunday School

### Early Bird Discount Available until August 1

Registration is open for religious education (RE) during the 2019-2020 church year! Visit our website at [www.uumilwaukee.org](http://www.uumilwaukee.org) to register online and pay fees with a debit or credit card. You may also pick up a paper form at church and mail the completed form with a check payable to First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee to:

First Unitarian Society  
Attn: Lillian Schley  
1342 North Astor Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Feel free to contact Cami Thomas at [camithomas@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:camithomas@uumilwaukee.org) to set up a scholarship or payment plan. We never turn families away!



## WomanSpirit

by Janet Nortrom

"WomanSpirit" at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee is one of our connections to the National Unitarian Universalist Woman's Federation. We pay an annual membership fee that alerts us to our Central Midwest District Women's Connection, who sponsor Unitarian Universalist (UU) women's retreats in June, August, and October. The former Mid-American Woman and Religion gathering have disbanded this year in search of new leadership, and provided a fall reception hosted by the First Church Board of Directors.

We reach out and welcome women of all genders, practicing mutual support, personal growth, and spiritual enrichment. We give financial help when needed. We provided service hospitality on different levels. We gave household gifts and school supplies to women in need at Sojourner Truth House and St. Benedicts.

Many of our members attended the fall woman's conference held at the De Koven Center in Racine. One of our members, Kathleen Miezio, joined the UU Women's Connection board this year and shared some of her good cheer with us.

During fall 2018, we had a wonderful Autumn Luncheon highlighting several of our creative women of the church. Kari Gunderson played her keyboard to accompany choral member Gul Afshan while she sang Indian songs. Kari also played her wonderful violin. Our UU member and poet, Professor Angela Sorby, shared some of her poetry along with some of Mary Oliver's poems. About 35 women enjoyed a luscious lunch along with meeting women of our church and being entertained.

Janet Nortrom was awarded the UUWF Clara Barton Award at the General Assembly by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation. The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee provided a fall reception in her honor, hosted by the First Church Board of Directors.

We continue to collaborate with many women's groups, working on voting registration with the League of Women Voters, immigration concerns, march with the Jericho churches to protest the "Wall" and help immigrants become citizens. We support Black Lives Matter with our UU groups. We work for equal pay and Title 9 with the American Association of University Women. We help award women in the Soroptimist International group, providing money and goods to girls and women in sex trafficking support groups. We continue to support women attending conferences and the General Assembly who share their wisdom with our church members and the greater society.

Leadership and ideas are always welcome.

With joy and determination,  
Janet Nortrom

## Register for the UU Women's Connection Spring Retreat May 31-June 2

There's only a few days left to register for "Calming Waters in Turbulent Times," UU Women's Connection Spring Retreat, May 31-June 2, at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, IL. (Save the dates for the summer and fall retreats.) For more information and to register, visit [www.uuwomensconnection.org/10-conferences/108-spring-retreat-2019](http://www.uuwomensconnection.org/10-conferences/108-spring-retreat-2019).



## Join Us For "Blessed at Pridefest" June 7, 8, and 9

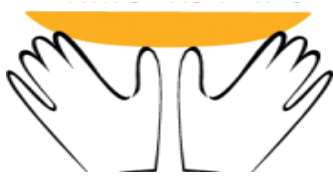
Volunteers are needed to welcome and invite PrideFest attendees to be blessed by local religious leaders from a variety of faith traditions! "Blessed at PrideFest" will have a fun photo station, a blessing booth, and information on churches and congregations that welcome the LGBTQ+ community as a part of our booth. Come have some fun at PrideFest, and help us make this happen by signing up to help out at [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48acaf28a2f94-blessed](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48acaf28a2f94-blessed). You can find out more about PrideFest at [pridefest.com](http://pridefest.com). Questions? Contact [blessedatpridefest@gmail.com](mailto:blessedatpridefest@gmail.com).

## Join Us For Milwaukee Pride Parade Sunday, June 9

For the past several years, UU Church West in Brookfield has organized the Unitarian Universalist presence in the Milwaukee Pride Parade, which steps off at 2:00 p.m. at South 2nd Street, near Lapham Blvd. in Milwaukee. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/2GGRYbZ> and be prepared to put on your rainbow gear (optional)! If you have any questions, contact Brianna Laux Kocis at [brianna@uucw.org](mailto:brianna@uucw.org).







## Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

The Grand Avenue Club (GAC) is our summer Share the Plate recipient for the months of June, July, and August. Serving Milwaukee since 1991, the programs at Grand Avenue Club “successfully help people experiencing mental illness to achieve recovery through work, education, and community life.” According to their website, the GAC’s mission is to “provide adults in Milwaukee County who have experienced mental illness pre-vocational, employment, educational, housing, recreational, and cultural opportunities so that their lives will be more productive and satisfying.

GAC offers adults who experience mental illnesses an array of opportunities 365 days a year. Program participants are members of a community at GAC. It offers them a place of belonging where they can take part in meaningful work and create and maintain meaningful relationships. GAC members work alongside a small but dedicated staff to run the GAC and are involved in every aspect of work. Members are paid for their work at the Club, and are assisted in acquiring housing, achieving their educational goals, and offered opportunities to participate in the cultural happenings in Milwaukee. For more information, please visit their website at <https://www.grandavenueclub.org>

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

### In Memoriam

#### Jan Gottschalk

March 8, 1923 – May 5, 2019

Jan Gottschalk died peacefully Sunday afternoon, May 5, 2019, at her home, in between a phone call with her daughter Ardis and her daughter Erica arriving to pick her up for a family dinner. She was 96 years old, and was a member of our congregation since 1954—for over 65 years!

A memorial service will be held here at First Church on Saturday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m., with Rev. Dena McPhetres officiating and a reception following in the Leenhouts Common Room. We lit the Candle of Life in Jan’s honor at both worship services on Sunday, May 12, 2019.

Memorial donations can be made in Jan’s honor to the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee or the charity of the giver’s choosing.

### In Memoriam

#### Daniel Joseph Steffen

April 5, 1944 - January 7, 2019

We were sorry to recently learn of Daniel’s death. He experienced a massive heart attack in late November and was cared for at Froedtert Hospital for many weeks. He was a member of First Church since the late 1990s. A memorial service was held at Church and Chapel Funeral Home in Waukesha on January 23. We will light a Candle of Life in Dan’s honor on Sunday, June 9.

Memorial gifts in Dan’s name can be mailed to the Cardiovascular Center of the Medical College of Wisconsin, Attn: Office of Development, 8701 Watertown Plank Rd. or PO Box 26509, Milwaukee, WI 53226. Such gifts in Dan’s name may also be made online at [www.mcw.edu/departments/cardiovascular-center-heart/giving](http://www.mcw.edu/departments/cardiovascular-center-heart/giving).

A donation in Dan’s name can also be made to the Friends of Retzer Nature Center in the form of a check or via an online donation at <https://friendsofretzer.org/donate/>.



# 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](mailto:dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org).

## **Book Discussion Group**

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

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## **Buddhist Study Group:**

### **Gathering Waters Sangha**

First and 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.

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## **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](mailto: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 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.

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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 and other social events after the second service. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact Barbara Kloman or Camille Johnson.

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## **UU Parenting Group**

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.

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## **UU+ Study Group**

Second Tuesday 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.

## **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](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.



## SUMMER SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 A.M.

JUNE 16

#### "Pete Seeger Songfest"

**Jim Scott, Special Pulpit Guest, Musician, and Composer**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director with combined choirs!

Javier Dorantes, Worship Associate

Multigenerational service

Peter Seeger was an American folk singer and social activist. He would turn 100 years old on May 3, 2019. Composer/guitarist Jim Scott, who knew Pete for many years and collaborated on projects with the folk legend, leads the congregation singing many of Pete's well-loved songs: "If I Had a Hammer," "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," along with many more powerful songs.

Pete got the world singing through the years of the Labor, Civil Rights, and Peace movements. Along with some history and context from Jim, it's an opportunity to raise our voices for the causes Pete championed, and remember the great contributions to our American heritage Pete made in his 94 years of life.

This multigenerational service for families and everyone will run 75 minutes.

JUNE 23

#### "Live Simply So That Others May Simply Live"

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Jack Forbes Wilson, Music Director

Mark Richards, Worship Associate

Our consumer choices impact people, earth, and other beings in ways we may never know. But we do know that we live in a global village and everything is interconnected. Gandhi recognized those interconnections and the finite resources on earth. He suggested and chose to "live simply so that others may simply live." For those who are free to choose a simple life, what does it look like and how does it help those who are simply struggling to live?

June 30

#### "Joy in my Heart"

**Beth Monhollen, Member**

Jack Forbes Wilson, Music Director

George Bledsoe, Worship Associate

The world and our work in it can sometimes feel hopeless. With music and poetry and inspirational leaders from the past as our guides, let's explore how to seek child-like joy in present moments; how to embrace joy even in dark hours; and how to be compelled by joy to revolutionize ourselves and the world.

Beth Monhollen, a member of First Church since 2013, has served on a variety of committees, is an OWL facilitator and Worship Associate. In her day job, she is an advisor for undergraduate students at Alverno College. She finds joy in her husband, her rescued pets, her many nieces and nephews, her circle of family and friends, the waxing and waning moon, and in poetry—her favorite art form. She wishes joy for each of you.

## HOW TO REACH US

414.273.5257

office@uumilwaukee.org

www.uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202

*Administrative offices are staffed this summer Monday through Thursday, 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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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.**

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### Board of Trustees

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## First Church Summer Building Hours (Starts June 3, 2019)

by Director of Administration Jean Johnson

As activity at the church winds down in the summer, so does staffing! Some of the staff members work reduced hours and many take their vacations during these months. So, beginning June 3, please plan your evening and weekend meetings according to the following schedule.

**Evening & Weekend Summer Schedule**

Monday	4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday	4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Thursday	closed
Friday	closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Daytime**

Note that the office is closed on Fridays. Although the office is covered Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., staff is reduced and we could be away on an errand, so please call the office before stopping by to be certain someone will be in. Thanks!

