



# THE CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

September 2019

## Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Gathering in and returning to our two-service church year brings a whirlwind of expectations:

- What will we create together this church year?
- Who will we become?
- What do we expect of each other?
- What do we expect of ourselves?
- What do we expect of the world—of time, place, and given circumstances?

It will be a big year. The given circumstances of our lives have a big, hefty feeling. Children in cages without toothbrushes or soap. Hate crimes on the rise. Empowered and organized communities responding to pain and creating change. New babies. Lost loved ones. An election. Beauty. Life. Art. Death. The moral universe arcing in our weathered hands. What do we expect in this heft? Where in the hugeness of life becoming itself do we land with our specific hopes and dreams? How are we hoping to grow communally?

Studies have shown that human beings are terrible at predicting how we will change over time. When we look back on the past, we can see drastic changes in ourselves and our lives now compared to five or ten years ago, but we usually predict that five or ten years from now we will be basically the same. But we will change, as individuals and as a people. May we use our expectations to shape that change towards our best hopes and our most beautiful growth. May we approach that unfolding future with an open sense of expectancy, rather than control.

(Please see "Words on the Wind" continued on page 2)

## SUMMER SERVICE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 1

### "Rebellion: An Act of Spirituality and Love"

Ehlona Walker, Member

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Mark Richards, Worship Associate

The sacred idea of rebellion begins in our hearts, in the soles of our feet, and the centers of our palms. This work is hard, but it is necessary. In the space of beloved community, we will explore how we can best hold rebellion in our hearts and minds to combat today's modern society and the forces of hate.

## SUNDAY SERVICE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TWO SERVICES at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 8

INGATHERING SUNDAY

### "We're Expecting"

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Dale Skaggs, Worship Associate

People use the phrase "we're expecting" when they are planning to have a child. What are we birthing together as a people? Join us for this Ingathering Sunday, where we will celebrate coming together, introduce our new staff members, and explore what we expect to create in the world.

(Sunday Services continued on page 15)

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

## EXPECTATION?

This year at church, we are welcoming three important new staff people: our new Director of Religious Education Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson; our new Social Justice Coordinator Cesar Cornier; and our new collaborative pianist Teresa Drews! I hope you will join me in welcoming them on Ingathering Sunday and be part of creating community with them.

While rigid expectations can create disappointment, expectant hope can open us to change as it unfolds, and remind us of our own power to mold that change. We cannot control the future, but we can be part of shaping it, working in concert with so many others who dare to build the Beloved Community.

With love,  
Jennifer

## Theme: Expectation

by Mark Bishop,  
Congregation President

Expectations...I am sure that each of your Trustees entered the recent Board retreat with differing expectations. For those beginning their last year of service, the expectation likely was further progress on our Policy Governance journey. Our new Trustees, I'm sure, expected to absorb as much as they could to be ready to contribute fully to serving First Church over the next three years. Our focus at the retreat was to position us to take the next step in Policy Governance — that being how and what to monitor to help ensure that we are progressing towards our stated Ends. My expectations were definitely exceeded. We had great energy, fantastic ideas, and thoughtful dialogue as we discerned how best to ensure linkage with all of our sources of authority within the Congregation as well as how to monitor progress/compliance with our newly implemented policies. We will keep you all informed on our progress throughout the church year.

There was one last and very much unexpected bit of incredible news shared with the Board at the retreat - the very generous bequest from Bettie Zillman. We are forever grateful to members like Bettie who choose to leave a legacy and help support the church's mission well after they are gone. We are truly blessed.

## An Extraordinary Gift from Bettie Zillman

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom  
and the Board of Trustees

We were recently humbled to learn that our beloved Bettie Zillman left First Church an incredibly generous bequest of \$278,588. Bettie was a member of First Church for 40 years and left behind many friends here after her death on March 8, 2019. Bettie was 94 years old when she died, and still fiercely independent, proud, and dignified. She loved this congregation dearly and has left an enormous legacy here.

Bettie loved film, theater, architecture, and travel. She traveled a great deal, often guided by her love for architecture. She took the bus to all the Milwaukee museums for their exhibits, had season tickets to the Milwaukee Rep and several other theaters, and was an avid Milwaukee Film Fest member. Bettie worked as a schoolteacher in her working days, and though she never married or had children, her friends were her family. She went to Villa Terrace Café Sopra to listen to music on Sunday mornings in the summer, to Lake Park on Monday evenings for music, and would regularly attend Early Music performances. She loved baseball and attended games regularly. At First Church, she was an usher and a member of the Order of Service and Chanticleer assembly crew.

The church's bequest policy recommends we consider short-term, medium-term, and long-term needs when we receive a large bequest like Bettie Zillman's. Current thinking is that we will integrate this bequest into the gift acceptance process already underway with the Krug bequest. The Board, Krug Gift Acceptance Team, and executive staff all have more discernment to do, particularly about how our financial plan and our Ends implementation plan will support one another.

Bettie's legacy gift to First Church will help the community she loved flourish and grow long after she left it. We hope Bettie's generosity inspires more of us to invest in our own legacies, here at First Church and out in the world. If you are interested in giving a legacy gift to First Church, please contact Lisa Koneazny of the First Church Heritage Society.

Thank you, Bettie! Your legacy lives on in us, your community.

With gratitude,  
Jennifer and the First Church Board of Trustees



## Expectations and Service

by Lynne Jacoby  
Membership Development Coordinator

The organization I used to work for ran a small special needs school that served youth who had average or above-average IQs, but whose learning, behavioral and/or emotional disabilities had made it impossible for them to succeed in traditional educational settings. One of the elements of the program was a service requirement for the school community.

This service requirement was not part of the behavior modification system or the socialization curriculum or designed to teach good citizenship or character building or anything like that. It was part of the therapeutic element of the school – designed to help students experience their power to contribute beyond scholastics and, frankly, beyond themselves. A tool towards healing disconnection and helplessness instilled by a perceived failure by helping students embody that what they did mattered – and so they themselves mattered.

In the welcome I send to new visitors of Unitarian Universalism I note that one of the things our tradition has in common with (the liberal strains) of many traditions is that we believe that what we do in this world matters. I also like to think that the fact that we do not tie this to an expectation of a heavenly afterlife does not mean that we do not understand that service beyond our own interest is as much about saving ourselves as helping anything else.

Which doesn't make it any easier belief to practice, given how large and complicated the world, how much there is to do, how humanly vulnerable we are, and how many distractions, defenses, and false structures of control we can unwittingly lose ourselves in. But to believe in the dignity and worth of each of us is to try and practice the expectation that what we do matters beyond our own life. That regardless of tangible results, measures, movement, appearances or how tiny we can sometimes feel, what we do matters. We each matter.

## Welcome

### New Social Justice Coordinator Public Ally Cesar Cornier

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

With great enthusiasm, I would like to welcome to First Church our new Social Justice Coordinator, Cesar Cornier! Cesar comes to us through the Public Allies program. Cesar impressed me with his deep passion and commitment to social justice and his extensive knowledge of structural injustices. He is smart, kind, driven, and has a warm sense of humor. I feel very lucky that he will be coordinating our social justice work at First Church this year, supporting the Social Justice Council, our social justice teams, and our Anti-Racism Team. You can meet Cesar in person at Ingathering Sunday, and read his written introduction below!

#### From Cesar

Hi, my name is Cesar Cornier and I'm excited to be the new Social Justice Coordinator at First Church! I have always been passionate about helping those in my community, and realize that many people are still being discriminated against and marginalized today. I am eager to use my experience in social justice and outreach to help create a more equal and empowered community.



My mother has been a big influence on how I became involved in social advocacy. At a young age, I helped distribute food to low-income families through Centro Hispano. Doing this inspired me to create my own clothing drive, which I organized this past winter. Recently, I was a part of a docuseries in partnership with the National Institute for Civil Discourse, a bipartisan project geared at civic engagement and finding common ground, on how we can use dialogue to help bridge divides in the country.

As a musician and actor, I use my platform to speak on behalf of those who feel they are being silenced. I genuinely believe things need to change, which is possible when we unite to help each other. The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee caught my attention because of its sincerity to help minorities and other marginalized groups. Being a Latino from the south side of Milwaukee, I've seen first hand the damage done by institutionalized racism and want to do my part in educating others. I am blessed to be in this position, and cannot wait to meet you all!



## Earth Justice Ministry Will Advance

### What Earth Justice Issues

### Are You Passionate About?

by Bruce Wiggins  
Earth Justice Chair

Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) does not retreat, we affirm life and all existence, so we advance! We'll be holding our "Fall Advance" to consider our activities for the coming year on Saturday, September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We'll meet in the community room at Yankee Hill North Tower, 626 E. State Street (State and Van Buren Streets), where there is a patio for being outdoors, weather permitting. It's easily accessible by bus and the Hop, which along with carpooling, are the best ways to get there. Parking is difficult as street parking in the neighborhood is usually scarce and it's mostly limited to two hours, so you may want to take public transit.

We'll consider activities for the coming year, which might include:

- Reducing plastic use at church and in homes
- More educating about pollinators
- Building soil and composting
- Installing more solar panels
- Continuing to address lead in Milwaukee
- Advocating for the Green New Deal at the local and federal level
- Building connections with youth and young adults
- Ideas YOU are passionate about

In August, Governor Evers announced a goal of 100% clean energy by 2050 in our state. And our Milwaukee city and county governments both passed a local "Green New Deal" which aims at 100% renewable energy by 2050 and 45% by 2030 along with addressing racial and income inequality by creating a new labor market of green jobs. We need to be sure these agendas advance!

Earth Justice Ministry activities this year will be those we have people and energy to undertake, so join us to do what you care about. We encourage you to attend even if you don't normally participate in EJM activities. And please bring a friend! For more information, contact Tree Moore or Bruce Wiggins.

## Circles of Support for Ex-offenders Discussion

by Paul Geenen

Join us on September 11, at 7:00 p.m., in the Young Room, when Wendel Hruska, executive director of Project Return, Conor Williams, economic policy analyst from Community Advocates and Caliph, a peer support specialist and circle keeper, will discuss what occurs in Circles of Support discussions and how members of First Church can participate. This will be followed by a question and answer session and information about training in October.

On the evening of August 5, at The Oaks of Shorewood, Wendel and Conor updated six First Church members on the Circles of Support discussion groups for ex-offenders. These conversations explore topics such as de-institutionalization, internalized oppression, unresolved trauma, legal revocation loopholes, anger and conflict management, and situational de-escalation for those impacted by incarceration.

A typical Circle of Support session consists of a half dozen ex-offenders, along with a matching number of those who have never been in prison, with a peer support specialist, called a circle keeper, as the leader. The first 30 minutes consist of a meal and light conversation, followed by a 90-minute discussion where members respond to an open-ended question. A talking stick is used and there are moments of reflection whenever a particularly painful experience is shared. Ex-offenders are often surprised to hear the challenges faced by those who have never experienced incarceration. On the other hand, the stories of those from "the inside" can be inspiring to participants. For more information, contact Paul Geenen.

Resources: *Homeward: Life in the Year after Prison* by Bruce Western, described by Peter Koneazny as "the best book on this!" Download the podcast "EarHustle," produced "inside" at the San Quentin prison. Hear "the daily realities of life inside prison, shared by those living it, and stories from the outside post-incarceration."



## Connecting Across Difference: Beloved Conversations in 2020

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

In the winter and spring of 2020, you have an opportunity to learn to connect more authentically across difference. The Anti-Racism team is bringing Meadville Lombard's Beloved Conversations curriculum to First Church to help you reflect on how the difference of race shows up in your own life, in church, and in the world. The curriculum uses story-telling and relationships to help us learn. It invites participants to reflect on their own lives, and listen deeply to the stories of other people's lives. By sharing stories, participants will reflect on how race has shaped their own lives and the lives of the people around them.

First Church participants will be joined by members of UU Church West (Brookfield) and United UU Church (Waukesha) for an opening Beloved Conversations weekend retreat in January. Then we will meet in First Church small groups for another eight sessions of reflection and story-telling over the course of the winter and spring of 2020. Registration for Beloved Conversations will begin in October. Please consider joining us for this important journey towards anti-racism and connecting across difference!

## MICAH Action Opportunities

by Peter M. Koneazny, Chair

Milwaukee Inter-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH)

Learn to inspire your legislators toward social justice action: lobbying training with LiberateMKE, Tuesday, August 27, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Center Street Library or Saturday, September 7, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Villard Street Library.

Connect with efforts for racial equity in criminal justice: "Investing in Wisconsin's Future - Criminal Justice Reform," Wednesday, August 28, 5:30 p.m. at Brown Deer United Methodist Church. Restore our Communities (MICAH's criminal justice committee connected to statewide WISDOM and EX-PO organizing) meets September 14 and every second Wednesday at 5:00-6:15 p.m. at Project Return conference room, Welford Sanders Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St., Suite 221, Milwaukee .

Help empower those disproportionately affected by historically racialized criminal justice practices: Unlock the Vote MKE launch event, Wednesday, September 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Hephatha Lutheran Church.

Learn about MICAH and start connecting in the community: MICAH's bi-monthly "Issues Night," Thursday, September 19 at Canaan Baptist Church, 2964 N. 11th St., 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Also upcoming: meet MICAH's dynamic new racial justice organizer Lisa Jones and learn about MICAH action opportunities in Education, Immigration, Jobs and Economic Justice and Milwaukee's lead toxicity crisis.

For more MICAH information or to connect with others going to any of the above activities, contact Pete Koneazny at or Bob Monahan.

## Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground: Fall 2019 Common Ground University

by M. Lynn Connolly

Common Ground is offering its bi-annual Common Ground University this September to members and interested non-members. As a community organization, Common Ground's purpose is to work to make a major impact on the critical social and economic issues facing Southeastern Wisconsin. Changing these realities requires new leaders with the energy and vision to make this happen. We invite you to become a part of this effort.

The main topics to be covered at these sessions are:

Why we organize?

How to organize?

What we do to create change?

Mount Mary University, Gerhardinger Center, Rm. 109  
2927 N. 92nd St., Milwaukee, 53222  
(the building is north of the main parking lot off 92nd St.)

Session 1: Friday, September 20, 5:00-9:00 p.m. (4:45 sign in)  
Session 2: Saturday, September 21, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$25/Members and \$35/Non-CG Members (scholarships available)

RSVP by Friday September 13 to  
jstranzl@commongroundwi.org or 414-751-0755

Registration forms will be available on the Social Justice Table during the Coffee Hour on Sunday. The Common Ground staff looks forward to seeing you.



## Spiritual Practices Exploration

by Diane Horne

Have you heard the term 'spiritual practice' and wondered what that means? Do you have a spiritual practice that you've spent time with and you want to try something new? Are you interested in exploring different spiritual practices throughout the upcoming church year?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, consider signing up for our new Spiritual Practices Exploration. We will meet monthly from October through May, first Mondays 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., beginning October 7. Each month we will explore a spiritual practice together, then we will try it out for a month and share our experiences at the following month's meeting. Our intention will be to stretch ourselves by trying new things and discovering what types of practices fit. We will start by talking about what is a spiritual practice.

Please register through our church website [here](#). The registration deadline is September 30. The fee is \$40 for members and \$60 for non-members. If the fee is a barrier to participation, Please contact Rev. Dena at [dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org) for a fee waiver.

The Spiritual Practices Exploration will be facilitated by members Candice Haight, Diane Horne, and Lisa Gies. If you have questions, feel free to contact either Candice, Diane or Lisa.

## Fall Yoga Starting in September

by Lillian Schley  
Religious Education Coordinator

New sessions of yoga at the church will begin on Monday evenings from September 23 to November 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from September 25 to November 27, 9:00-10:30 a.m. Class is led by Morgan Engels and is suitable for all levels. Through the practice of Yin Yoga, this class invites you to slow down and create space for stillness while nourishing joints, ligaments, tendons, and fascia. Poses are held for 2–5 minutes, allowing joints to release. This class is recuperative for the nervous system, endocrine system, and any strains or injuries. The cost for either 9-week session is \$99 for First Church members and \$117 for non-members. Register on the church website or at the Religious Education (RE) Table on Sundays during Coffee Hour. (Please be prepared to pay at the time of registration.)

## UU History Video Series

by Nancy Pajewski  
UU+ Study Group Chair

The first part of the video series, Long Strange Trip: A Journey Through Two Thousand Years of Unitarian Universalist History, will be shown on Tuesday, September 24, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

This six-part video presentation covers the fascinating history of our denomination. Where do we come from? Where are we going? Discover some of the most important, surprising, and poignant episodes in our colorful history. Learn what has shaped our faith over 20 centuries of "heretic" theology, independent thought, and commitment to social justice.

The first video on September 24 traces our liberal religious heritage from the period immediately after the death of Jesus through the death of Michael Servetus in the 1500s.

Dates and topics for the remainder of the video series are:

<b>October 8</b>	Spread of Unitarianism in Europe
<b>October 22</b>	Three strands of Unitarianism in the U.S.
<b>November 5</b>	Development of Universalism
<b>November 19</b>	Evolution toward humanism and social justice
<b>December 10</b>	Why and how Unitarianism and Universalism merged..

Each video is an hour long and will be followed by a half-hour discussion.

## Shawl Ministry Gathering

by Connie Georgenson

The Shawl Ministry group will be meeting on Ingathering Sunday, September 8, in the Anthony Room (lower level), following the second service. New members are always welcome. It is helpful if you have basic skills in knitting or crocheting. This group creates shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets to be given to church members at the time of a death of a loved one, serious illness, divorce, or the birth or adoption of a baby. These items are given by one of the ministers or members of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Bring a snack, yarn, and needles, and join us as we create, share ideas, problem-solve, and enjoy each other's company!



# 2019-2020 Theme Circles – Register NOW

by the Rev. Dena McPhetres

**What is a Theme Circle?** Theme circles are monthly small groups that deepen and support the spiritual journeys of participants in community with each other and in connection with the church's monthly worship themes.

**Is this a sermon discussion group?** No, the goal is not to explore the sermons in more depth, but to explore the monthly themes in more depth. Sunday services enrich the experience of the theme, but are not the focus of Theme Circles.

**What is the focus of Theme Circles?** Connection to self, others, and that which is larger than ourselves through engaging reflective questions, short readings, spiritual exercises and sharing our experience in a space of trust.

**What do we mean by spiritual exercise?** Spiritual exercise goes beyond the question "What do you think?" and invites us into the deeper question: "Where are you willing to let your faith take you?" The goal is to get us out of our heads and into our lives. This is not to say we leave thinking behind. Instead, the aim of the spiritual exercises is to challenge our tendency to use "objective analysis" as an escape. By pushing us to engage and talk about "what is really going on in our lives," we find ourselves challenged not just to think differently, but also to live differently.

**Who can participate in a Theme Circle?** Theme Circles are open to First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee members, pledging friends and regular guests who register during the annual fall registration period.

**What is expected of Theme Circle members?** Each month, members engage in pre-reading and contemplation exercises based on that month's worship theme. Materials are sent in advance for participants to delve into whatever level works for them.

Because Theme Circles only meet once a month and focus on spiritual exploration within community, we expect participants to make every effort to attend all meetings. If you already know you will miss more than two meetings, please wait to register until next year.

**What do Theme Circle meetings look like?** Here is a sample format:

- Centering (Opening words, chalice lighting, followed by a moment of silent reflection)
- Brief Check-In – around 15-20 minutes
- Spiritual Exercises – around 40 minutes (Members share which spiritual exercises they chose and how it went)

- Engaging the Questions – around 40 minutes (Members practice deep listening as they share their experience 'living the questions' related to the month's theme)
- Check-Out – around 10 minutes
- Closing Words

**How often do Theme Circles meet?** Theme Circles meet once a month for two hours during the third week of the month from October to June. Circles include up to eight participants guided by a trained facilitator.

**When do Theme Circles meet?** Registration begins August 23, and the registration deadline is September 29. You may select which meeting time works best for you.

Third Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Third Mondays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Third Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Third Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Third Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Third Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Third Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Third Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

## Read what Theme Circle members said about their experience:

"Theme Circles gave me a reason and dedicated setting for spiritual exploration and contemplation I would not have otherwise done."

- Caitlin Willenbrink

"The honesty and integrity of the sharing was my favorite part of Theme Circles. It was great to feel safe without judgment or advising."

- Maria O'Connor

"I like Theme Circles because I received an extensive list of resources several weeks in advance of the gathering, and I could choose how much time I wanted to devote to the different choices. This brought the theme deeper personally and made hearing the Sunday sermons more meaningful."

- Jeanne Durnford

## How do I sign up?

Please use the online registration form at:

[form.jotform.com/91974983443169](https://form.jotform.com/91974983443169) or visit the uumilwaukee.org website under "Get Involved/Theme Circles."



## Expectations of Religious Education

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Director of Religious Education

September has a "New Year" kind of quality: the summer winds down and we find ourselves in a season filled with new beginnings. Many children are anticipating a return to school and getting supplies, haircuts, and clothes ready for the first day back. At church, we return to celebrate Ingathering, looking forward to being in a faith community with new opportunities to grow and do good in the world together. September is a season filled with expectation, so it is an appropriate theme for the month.

And as your new Director of Religious Education, my expectations are soaring! I am eager to discover how together we create a way for our children to thrive and grow in our Unitarian Universalist faith.

I wonder what our children need and expect of their church?

In our religious tradition, faith formation is a lifelong quest for meaning, a way of being, doing, and knowing. When children go to church, they should expect a safe place to ask questions, sing, pray, experience stories, be inspired, and build relationships that can sustain and stretch them as they learn ways to be faithful.

"The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth... In a word, the great end in religious instruction is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life."

~ Rev. William Ellery Channing

Spoken over 140 years ago by one of our foremost Unitarian ancestors, these words resonate in me and make me smile. It seems the goal for liberal religious education has remained the same and yet the tools and methods need to continually adapt for every generation.

Today we recognize that the primary religious educator in a child's life is their parent or primary caregiver. Being the adult guide for another small, mighty human being is challenging. I know well that raising a child is a full-contact sport. Families come to church expecting to find support and resources to help in raising their children. It is our goal to find ways to enrich families' spiritual lives and focus on helping families connect with one another.

We need one another. Our faith calls us to hope and work in love to create a better world for all. Let us grow relationships with our children and our families as we learn together.

As your new Director of Religious Education, I promise to engage in this unfolding wisdom that calls us to seek, to question, to explore, to know and care for one another as we come together in a community of love and acceptance.

What a joy it is to be invited into this community to do the vital work of faith formation and I am so looking forward to discovering what we can do together!

### Religious Education Volunteer Orientation

**September 15, 12:00-3:00 p.m.**

Lunch will be served for all the wonderful RE volunteers who still need to attend the required volunteer orientation. We will make sure you are fully informed to keep our children both inspired and safe! Please RSVP at: [RE.Admin@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:RE.Admin@uumilwaukee.org).

## GRADE K-1 Our Whole Lives (OWL) Coming to First Church This Fall

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

We will be offering the K-1 Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum for grades K-1 this fall at First Church with facilitators Crysta Jarczynski, Bruce Wiggins, and Katie Maedke-Hall.

OWL is a positive, comprehensive, and age-appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health and is informed by the guidelines of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). This is an eight-session curriculum for 5-7 year-old children and is based on the philosophy that parents and religious communities form a meaningful partnership for age-appropriate, positive, and responsible sexuality education. Sexuality is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes and values about identity and relationships, intimacy, and health.

Our parent informational meeting is on Sunday, September 22, from 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Our MANDATORY parent/child orientation meeting is on Sunday, October 6, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Our eight-week, K-1 OWL class will meet on Sundays, October 13-December 8, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (There is no class on November 24.)

For more information, contact Deb Solis at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org) or 273-5257 ext. 209.





# ALL ABOUT YOUTH

by Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

## YRUU Youth Group Happenings

- The first Youth Steering Committee (YSC) will be on Sunday, September 15, from 10:40 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The 2019-2020 YSC team is: Bizzy Schultz (adult co-chair), Ehlon Walker (youth co-chair), Gus Pointer Mace and Dylan Duffy (co-vice chairs), Sam Mulvey, Zoe Gulbranson, Paul Maynard, Ian Fitak, Lucy Pyne, Adena Saigh, (youth representatives), Beth Monhollen (adult-at-large representative), and Jean Crandall Jacobs (YRUU advisor representative).
- Our first youth group lock-in is scheduled for Friday, September 27, starting at 6:00 p.m. through Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. Our theme is Community Building with a focus on expectations.
- Youth Habitat for Humanity mission trip 2020 applications will be available starting Sunday, September 22.
- 2020 Boston Heritage trip youth applications will be available starting Sunday, September 22.

## Your Service As a Youth Group Boston Heritage Trip Advisor is Needed

The Youth Steering Committee (YSC) is seeking at least one additional volunteer, over the age of 25, to join our advisor team for the June 8-13, 2020 Boston Heritage Trip to Boston, Massachusetts. This trip is made possible through the generous support of the Krug Bequest. Our group will tour the UUA headquarters in Boston, experience a historic walking tour, which features famous sites of Unitarian Universalist history, and explore the city of Boston and the rich connection we have to our faith there. A trip to Boston can help make our liberal heritage a real part of the lives of our youth. If you are interested in obtaining more information about this trip, please contact Youth Program Coordinator Deb Solis at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org).

## Your Service as a Youth Group Mission Trip Advisor is Needed or the 2020 Trip May be Cancelled!

The Youth Steering Committee (YSC) is seeking at least two additional volunteers to join our youth advisor team for the late July 2020 Habitat for Humanity trip to Battle Creek, Michigan. The ideal candidate will be well organized, outgoing, comfortable with both youth and adults, and able to commit to an annual trip through 2022. Experience in construction is not a requirement, but a willingness to learn and jump in is! Advisors are expected to participate in some activities before the trip to get to know the youth. If we do not receive two more advisors for 2020, we will have to cancel our trip for the first time in 15 years! For additional information and a volunteer application, contact Deb Solis at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org). The application deadline is September 30, 2019.

## Youth letters to the congregation

Letter by Gus Pointer Mace

I am inexpressively grateful for my experience this year at Midwest Youth Leadership School (MWLS). Every moment was exactly what I needed, from spelling CHAO out in chex mix for a prank (long story) to crying with my credo group about the people we've lost.

MWLS challenged me to think about how engrained oppressive structures are in our culture as a society and as a religion. It helped me see that even small moments can change the world *because* they change someone's perception of it.

When I come back to my church, I hope to dismantle some of the barriers that keep people from membership and from having their voices heard. For example, allowing other paths to membership that take students' schedules into account. I believe that this will help with our low retention rates.

Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity!

Blessings,  
Gus Pointer Mace

Letter from Zoe Gulbranson

I would like to send my thanks and appreciation for being given the opportunity to attend the wonderful experience that is Midwest Youth Leadership School. I am so grateful to have taken part in the program, and for all of my new knowledge, which I will hopefully be able to bring back to our congregation as a result.

At Midwest Leadership School, I learned a number of new skills and gained information on leadership through group and individual activities, presentations, and worship, that helped me become a better and more informed leader. Apart from being an incredibly fulfilling week, it was also an extremely fun one! I was able to meet and make connections with other youth and adults from congregations across the Midwest.

At our church, I aspire to be a part of positive change, using my newfound leadership abilities as a guide. For example, some ideas I would like to help implement are ways for youth to get more involved in church activities and decisions. I also hope to use my new skills to be a better leader in my current Youth Steering Committee position. Once again, thank you so much for this amazing opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Zoe Gulbranson



# Green New Deal, Palestinian Rights, Immigrant Rights, and Corruption of Our Democracy

by Bruce Wiggins  
Denominational Affairs

Social Justice Statements Passed at General Assembly 2019. Would you like some ideas on what to do on the above issues? At our General Assembly (GA) in June, delegates passed three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs – the first three of the above-listed topics) and also adopted a Statement of Conscience (SOC) after three years of study, action, and reflection on how our democracy is being corrupted.

Visit the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website, [Our Democracy Uncorrupted](#), to read the SOC. It starts by noting that democracy in America has always been less than it could be. It continues: As people of faith committed to “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large,” we must continuously strive toward uncorrupted democracy. ... Sadly, many of our democratic institutions have been corrupted into being merely a means for giving powerful interests the appearance of legitimacy.

The promise of democracy is for a life that fashions us as the people we want to be. Terry Tempest Williams calls us to be resolute and courageous in our trust: “Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions?”

The SOC lists things we can do as individuals, as congregations, and as an association of congregations.

AIWs address immediate issues that cannot wait for months or years of study. These three were adopted by the Assembly:

- [Build the Movement for a Green New Deal](#)
- [Support Our First Amendment Right to Boycott on behalf of Palestinian Rights](#)
- [Protect the Rights of Immigrants and Asylum Seekers](#)

Each declaration presents powerful statements in the “Whereas” portion and then in “Be it Resolved” presents important actions to take.

# A Season of Shifting Musical Abundance at First Church!

by Alissa Rhode  
Lead Music Director

Autumn is a time when we celebrate abundance and note the changing of the seasons, so it is fitting that our Music Program is ripe with both abundance and change at this time. As many of you may know, our beloved Jack Forbes Wilson will be spending more time with family in Nebraska this Fall. While you might not see him as often, Jack remains part of our First Church staff and community. You can look forward to seeing him at the piano for our Thanksgiving service, as well as other holiday services coming up in November and December.

Accordingly, Jack’s title has been shifted to Associate Musician in order to best reflect his current role. Additionally, since Jack is no longer regularly available to accompany the Chancel Choir, we are pleased to announce that we have hired the extremely accomplished Teresa Drews as our new Collaborative Pianist to support the efforts of Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer. Teresa holds a Masters in Piano Performance from Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University and is currently the Director of Education and Chair of the Piano Department at Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Her performance credits and relevant experience are impressive and numerous, and we are thrilled to have yet another phenomenal and unique musician join our team. You will see Teresa at the piano on Choir Sundays, so please give her a hearty First Church welcome!

## Donate Sunday’s Flowers and Take Them Home After Service

by Shari Wright  
Office Coordinator

The 2019-2020 Sunday Sanctuary Flowers Program provides an opportunity to dedicate flowers for a cause, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a life event. Your dedication message will be printed in the Sunday announcements. A beautiful arrangement will be displayed in the sanctuary for both Sunday services.

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



# ANNUAL IRMA MORTER LECTURE

## OCTOBER 3-6, 2019

### Sara Thomsen

#### Weaver of Song and Community Singing

by Lorraine Jacobs  
Irma Morter Team Chair

The Irma Morter Planning Team is pleased to announce a weekend with Sara Thomsen, songwriter and social activist who inspires all to “join in singing.”

“Thomsen’s soulful voice, poetic lyrics, and unforgettable melodies cut through to the heart and the soul of human experience. Her performance style is easygoing and full of humor and depth.” (Minnesota Women’s Press). Sara’s recent solo album, “Somewhere to Begin” includes, “Precious Waters,” for which she received the Woody Guthrie Songwriting Award. Workshops, retreats, or on the lines of protest, “to be with Sara is to want to sing. Deepening spirituality and widening social engagement is at the heart of her work.” Her inspirational “Echoes of Peace Choir” offers song as social commentary, out in the community or within the home congregation. For more information about Sara Thomsen, visit [www.sarathomsen.com/about.html](http://www.sarathomsen.com/about.html).

The Irma Morter Planning Team, in close partnership with Alissa Rhode and Tristan Strelitzer, have planned a full spectrum of thoughtful social justice call to action and music experiences. The opportunity to walk the path of personal reflection, finding your best place in the work to be done, expands upon the wishes of Irma Morter’s endowment message, that is, the vital importance of “Individual Responsibility.”

In addition to the Irma Morter Lecture on Individual Responsibility and songwriting workshop with learning and singing new songs on Saturday, October 5, the weekend will include meeting with the Chancel Choir, and a solo public concert with Sara Thomsen on Friday, October 4. Both of the Sunday services on October 6, will include Sara Thomsen’s creative participation, ending with a farewell reception in Max Otto Hall.

We extend invitations to all ages, interests, talents to this Irma Morter Lecture Weekend. Mark your calendars and invite your friends. Complete details will be available by In Gathering Sunday.



### Sara Thomsen in Concert

by Alissa Rhode  
Lead Music Director

The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee is pleased to present singer-songwriter and musical activist Sara Thomsen in an intimate evening of music to nurture the spirit, engage the mind, and inspire action Friday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Max Otto Hall.

\$17 Advance tickets are available at [sarathomsen.bpt.me](http://sarathomsen.bpt.me) or by phone at 1-800-838-3006. The cost will be \$20 at the door.

Dubbed in her local press as one of Northern Minnesota’s best-kept secrets, Thomsen’s home base is in the Lake Superior region near Duluth, MN. “The Twin Ports folk singer picks up the torch carried by the balladeers of decades past: Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, and Peter, Paul, and Mary,” writes the Duluth Reader Weekly. “She could make Conan the Barbarian drop his sword and collapse blubbering.”

Sara Thomsen is a staunch supporter of struggles for human dignity and ecological sustainability. Slowing down enough to see and hear the vibrant wonder of the commonplace is her work and play. Whether it is a song welcoming a newborn, protesting a policy, depicting night falling or describing a loved one, her music is alive and pulsing.

In addition to her solo work, Sara is a weaver of song and community singing. She is the founder and artistic director of the Echoes of Peace Choir, a non-audition community choir in Duluth, Minnesota, created to expand and develop the work of examining critical social issues using music and the arts to build and bridge informed, engaged, and caring communities. Increasing wonder and awareness, deepening spiritual connection, and widening social engagement through song is at the heart of her work.

This concert is being produced in conjunction with the Irma Morter Lecture on Individual Responsibility, which Sara Thomsen will be presenting at First Church on Saturday, October 5.





## Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

The Benedict Center is our September Share the Plate recipient. Serving Milwaukee since 1974, the Benedict Center works primarily with women in the criminal justice system to provide them with community-based substance abuse and mental health treatment, education, and support. Their mission is “to work with victims, offenders and the community to achieve a system of justice that is fair and treats everyone with dignity and respect.”

One of the many programs that are currently being run by the Benedict Center is the Sisters Program. The Sisters Program addresses prostitution and sex trafficking on Milwaukee’s south side. In partnership with Milwaukee Police Department and District Attorney’s Office, women who would have been arrested and put in jail are instead diverted to participate in the Sisters Program. The program works to help them change their lives by providing crisis management, counseling, advocacy and assistance, finding housing, and other resources. The goal is to provide a public health-based approach to help women in street prostitution and sex trafficking instead of arrest, jail, and release, which has shown to be ineffective in solving the problem long term. For more information or to learn how you can become more involved, please check out their website at [www.benedictcenter.org](http://www.benedictcenter.org).

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

## Attend Sunday Forums and Help Celebrate the 50th Anniversary!!

by Loraine Jacobs  
Forum Chair

Sunday Forum lectures return for the church year starting September 8. These mini-lectures have become a tradition for many members, often serving as a “doorway” to meet new people and experience our First Church community. Forums are held between the two Sunday services, in Max Otto Hall, beginning at 10:10 a.m., and last approximately 45 minutes. They include a lecture followed by time for questions or conversation. Presenters and topics vary. You can count on a broad range of topics highlighting social justice, the arts, politics, environmental issues, new Milwaukee organizations and initiatives, and just plain personal interests. When you invite curious friends or family to attend a service with you, please include the Sunday Forum in the visit. No need to miss your morning cup of coffee either, there is always a pot brewing just outside our door. For more information, read about them on Facebook and Sunday morning inserts, or visit: [uumilwaukee.org/events/sunday-forum](http://uumilwaukee.org/events/sunday-forum).

### 50th Anniversary Celebration

On January 19, 2020, at 10:10 a.m. in Max Otto Hall, the Sunday Forum Program at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee will celebrate the 50th anniversary of consistent years of Sunday morning lectures. You can count on a lively review of past topics and speakers, and appreciation for the many congregation members who have worked together inviting and hosting presenters through the years. There may be surprises sprinkled within the morning as well. We hope the celebration will provide memories, humorous happenings, and inspiring information. Morning refreshments will be provided.

### Celebration of Bob Teska's Life

Eileen and Courtenay Teska invite you to a party with lots of food, laughs, music and toasts to celebrate Bob.

Sunday, September 29 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
Three Lions Pub  
4515 N. Oakland Ave, Shorewood WI

Lots of street parking on North Bartlett, one block west of Oakland.

Donations in his memory to Versiti/Blood Research Institute (WI organ donor organization), Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, or First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee would be appreciated.



## Book Sales Tower News

by Nancy Pajewski  
Book Tower Chair

Ingathering Sunday reminds us to reinvigorate our spiritual practice and our Unitarian Universalist (UU) foundations. Come to the Book Tower to browse new books on living more positively through gratitude; encouraging empathy; expressing yourself in difficult conversations; and celebrating prominent dates in UU history. The Book Tower always stocks basic literature on UU beliefs for adults and children. We can accept only cash or check payment.

## Senior Women are Naturally Social (SWANS) Gathering and Potluck

Barbara Collignon has agreed to again co-lead the SWANS (Senior Women Are Naturally Social) with Camille Johnson.

The SWANS are invited to a potluck Garden Party in Barbara's garden on Sunday, September 1, from 11:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at 3941 N. Downer. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

RSVP by August 29 to Barbara Collignon. We are welcoming new members. If you are a senior woman, you are welcome to attend this gathering and future ones. SWANS meets on the first Sunday of the month for lunch and perhaps another activity. Let Barbara know so she can add your contact information.

## Become a Member of First Church

by Lynne Jacoby  
Membership Development Coordinator

Our Fall Journey to Membership class will be on Saturday, September 21, from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 26, from 6:00—8:30 p.m.

Led by our ministers, staff, and lay leaders, this series explores Unitarian Universalist theology, history, principles, and our social justice framework, as well as the meaning of membership and ways to connect here at First Church.

Offered again in the winter and spring, Journey to Membership is a prerequisite to become a member at First Church, but you are welcome to join the class whether or not you intend to join the church. Sign up if you are interested in membership, are curious to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or just want to explore with others a deeper understanding of covenantal community as we strive to practice it here at First Church. To register, click [here](#), email [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org), or sign up at the Member Services Table during Coffee Hour. More information can be found on or visit [uumilwaukee.org](http://uumilwaukee.org), "Get Involved/Membership" page.

## Doors Open Milwaukee Volunteers

by Nancy Spransy

Doors Open Milwaukee is a two-day opportunity, September 28 and 29, to see buildings in Milwaukee the public does not often have a chance to see.

First Church again will be featured as a site for Doors Open Milwaukee. It is a great opportunity for people to see our historic space. We need people willing to be docents for a two or two-and-a-half-hour shift, Saturday morning or afternoon, or Sunday afternoon. You will tell people about our building and, if they are interested, about our congregation. It is fun to share our church! (We will provide scripts that day for those who volunteer.)

You can ask questions or sign up to volunteer by emailing Nancy Spransy. Come, join us in the fun!

## Circle Supper Registration in September

by Sam Mueller

Circle Suppers are a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and deepen existing friendships in a casual setting. Participants will be scheduled to dine with a different group for each dinner. Sign up as a pair, individual, or substitute. Each pair/individual will supply an element of the dinner: main dish, salad, or dessert; the host provides the beverages and host's d'oeuvres.

The four suppers will be November 16, January 25, March 21, and May 16. Registration will be online at [uumilwaukee.org](http://uumilwaukee.org) and in-person at the Member Services Table from September 15 through 29. We hope you will join us!



# GETTING TOGETHER

## **Book Discussion Group**

Second Sunday each month  
1:00 p.m.

We gather 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 Book Club will discuss *The Perfect Weapon* by David Sanger on September 8 at 1:00 p.m. The author, an expert on cybersecurity, describes how cyber-attacks have become the weapon of choice for democracies, dictators and terrorists alike.

In October, we will discuss *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein. This history of American cities is a forceful argument describing how federal, state and local governments created and reinforced neighborhood segregation.

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

First and third Wednesdays of the month,  
beginning September 4  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

The Buddhist Study Group meets to discuss a portion of the current book. We end the meeting with 15 minutes of group meditation.

September 18 at 6:00 p.m. is a potluck dinner and movie. All are welcome. No matter what your level of interest or practice in Buddhism, you are invited to check us out. The new book, which we will start in October, is *Karma, What It Is, What It Isn't, Why It Matters*, by Traleg Kyabgon.

For more information, please contact Jeanne Lowry or Mark Miller.

## **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).

## **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.

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## **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  
Meet after second service in the hallway to arrange car pools/rideshare to lunch (12:30-2:30 p.m.) and talk and share. Contact Camille Johnson or Barbara Collignon to get on the email list.

The September 1 lunch is a special event - a potluck picnic at Barbara's new home! Wear your sun hat. See page 13 for more information.

## **UU+ Study Group**

Every other 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.

This fall, we will view "Long Strange Trip," a six-part video series on UU history. Part 1 is September 24. See page 6 for more information.

We are also pleased to announce that the 2020 Used Book Sale will be March 27-29, the last weekend in March. It's not too early to start setting aside a few books and DVDs to donate to next year's sale.

For more information, contact Nancy Pajewski.

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## **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.





SEPTEMBER 15

**“Open to Hope”**

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Beth Monhollen, Worship Associate

There is a qualitative difference between a sense of expectancy, and having expectations. High expectations can lead to regular disappointment, while an open expectancy leaves room for mystery and surprise. As a people, how might we dial down the concreteness and height of our expectations, and leave room for an open hope? Join us for this service that leans away from expecting perfection and towards opening ourselves to wonder and even awe.

SEPTEMBER 22

**“When Life Upends Us”**

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres and**

**Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Natalie Quinton, Worship Associate

Balancing our expectations and responsibilities is difficult when we can't predict the future. How do we regain our balance when life brings surprises? What happens to families when a child's journey is not the one that was expected? What is our responsibility as a faith community to help parents raise their children? How can we work together to support parents in their role as their children's primary religious educators? Join Dena and Kimberlee as they explore these questions in a Sermon Dialogue.

SEPTEMBER 29

**“Expectations Bound by Time”**

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Nick Hayes, Worship Associate

Expectations are inherently about the future, binding them in time. What happens when a lack of time, or uncertainty about how much time is ahead, unmoors expectations? Join us for this service that explores time, mortality, freedom, and the song of the present moment.

## HOW TO REACH US

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**www.uumilwaukee.org**

**1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202**

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

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## SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

September 8

### “Route of the Badger: Rails to Trails Conservancy”

Willie Karidis, Route of the Badger Project Manager

Learn and see about how seven southeast Counties of Wisconsin are working to form a 700-plus mile interconnected trail network. Route of the Badger Trail Vision: “Building a powerful 700 miles inclusive regional trail network with new opportunities for physical activity, tourism, recreation and stronger businesses along its route.”

September 15

### “Puerto Rico, “Se Levanta!”

Eva Hagenhofer, Congregation Sinai Social Justice Committee

For the past 120 years, the actions and inactions of U.S. government and corporations have crippled the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico. Then, two years ago, Hurricane Maria hit. Learn about the massive destruction it caused to the fragile electrical grid, homes, schools, and communities. The island is green again, but community self-help and people-to-people aid is re-building and restoring Puerto Rico. Learn what you can do to help Puerto Rico rise up.

September 22

### “Alma Center: Working to Break the Cycle of Family Violence”

Terri Strodthoff, Founder& Executive Director

Learn how the Alma Center works with domestic violence offenders to transform their lives through an innovative healing approach of trauma-informed care. The Alma Center recognizes domestic violence as a cycle that can be broken. It also provides re-entry services to individuals returning to the community from incarceration. The center uses education, social services and a positive peer community to support abusive men's transformation.

September 29

### “An Invasive Species Update”

Ken Solis, Founder of “Weed-Out” program with Milwaukee Parks

Invasive weeds are plants that people have introduced from other areas of the world and subsequently crowd out local vegetation, which can dramatically change the ecology and reduce biodiversity. We will show some common local invasive weeds talk about and how they can dramatically change the landscape. We will also discuss control methods and what you can do to try to reduce their impact in your own yard or local park's natural area.

