



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

October 2019

Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Human beings naturally long to be part of a people. The desire to belong is hard-wired in us because people are more likely to survive when they are part of a group. However, even understanding this evolutionary reason for needing belonging, belonging pulls on the human heart, not the mind. Yearning to belong is felt deeply, as is exclusion from belonging.

As individuals, we might find belonging when we resonate with a community, or when we are accepted by one. But belonging requires more than just a connection between a person and a people—it also requires commitment. Leadership development coach Karina Antonopoulos says, “Where you belong is where you constantly choose to show up.” Belonging is more than a feeling, it is also a practice. We come to belong to a people when we commit to them and show up for them again and again.

As people here at church, we create belonging together. Like with the individual, creating belonging as a people is also a practice. We make covenant with one another, which expresses our commitment to each other and our expectations of behavior and values. We then practice living our covenant and returning to one another when we fall short of it. We also invite new people to join us in belonging, intentionally making space for their whole, authentic selves. When we are at our best as a people, we practice opening to new people’s souls, weaving their lives’ truth into our community, rather than asking them to fit in by being just like us. We retain our theology, values, and covenant as our core, and expand our circle of belonging to include different kinds of people, experiences, and cultures.

With love,
Jennifer

SUNDAY SERVICE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TWO SERVICES at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 6

“Becoming Belonging, Being Belonging, Giving Belonging”

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

The Chancel Choir, with Guest Musician Sara Thomsen

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

George Bledsoe, Worship Associate

We usually think about belonging in terms of the quest to find a place and a people where we feel at home, where we fit in, where something hard and protected in us can finally soften and relax. We usually think of belonging as a choice and a one-time event. What if it’s a process instead? How would our relationships and community change if we think of belonging as a process of becoming, being and giving belonging to each other and those we have yet to meet?

OCTOBER 13

“Belonging to Place”

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Julia Oswald, Worship Associate

We can belong in a place, but might we also belong ‘to’ a place? How are our bodies connected to the world around us? What is the relationship between a place and its people, and people and their place? Join us to reflect on belonging to a place on this Sunday before Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

(Sunday Services continued on page 11)

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

BELONGING?

Dena's Digressions

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres

I grew up in a very small town which I loved. As a child, I felt deep belonging to the land forms, the trees, the flowers, the seasons, my family, the neighborhood and my neighbors. As I grew older, there were groups to which I technically belonged: school, church, Girl Scouts, speech and drama club, band. In those official communities, my sense of belonging was strained with the effort of trying to fit in and wondering if I did. It was a long and hard-won developmental leap to discover that I could carry my belonging within and choose which communities I'd join and risk being my whole self.

For me, carrying my belonging within is a spiritual task. My experience of and relationship to the Spirit of Life is the place of my strongest, most durable and, I believe, eternal belonging. Some days I feel it more than others. Loss and grief threaten the certainty of my place in the universe. The sudden absence of physical relationship with one I love, is wrenching. And the official communities in which I live and move and have my being, do not always make room for grieving people.

I think we do a pretty good job of respecting, honoring and listening to each other's grief at First Church, but we could probably do more. Create more places where we take the time to witness someone's vulnerability, and companion them through the grieving process.

If you would like a small circle of people who are also familiar with the ways of grief to support you, please take a look at the article describing our new Grief Support Group for Unitarian Universalist (UU) Adults. Liz Irwin Moore and I will co-facilitate this group beginning in mid-October. If you are interested, fill out the self-reflection questions on the application by October 9, and reach out if you have questions. There are yet more layers of belonging to one another to discover.

Yours,
Dena

Calendar of Events

In this edition of *Chanticleer*, featured articles and events can be found on the pages listed.

Events

Oct. 6 - SWANS Lunch, Page 10
Oct. 8, 22 - UU History Video Series, Page 8
Oct. 11 - UU Women's Fall Retreat, Page 8
Oct. 26 - WomanSpirit Luncheon, Page 8
Oct. 26 - Planning Your Own Memorial, Page 5

Theme: Belonging

by Mark Bishop,
Congregation President

This month's theme of belonging brought me back to the first time that I set foot in First Church in 2006. My wife, Jo Ann, and I were "church shopping." We were part of a group of four couples that met regularly as we discerned our next steps on our respective faith journeys. A childhood friend of Jo Ann and lifelong Unitarian Universalist (UU), First Church member George Gonis, suggested that the group give his church a try. One Sunday, the eight of us road-tripped in from various parts of Waukesha County, walked into this beautiful and welcoming space, and it was clear to Jo Ann and I – we belonged. We connected immediately in so many ways; we got involved in a number of activities/committees; and as a result, we made some of our closest and dearest friends here. My only regret is not finding these people of belonging sooner.

Contrary to our experience at our former faith community, here at First Church, we have never had to shake our heads in disbelief at what was coming from the pulpit or from church leadership. The thoughtfulness, compassion, and love that emanates from this beloved community are what makes it so special and a place of belonging that we are so grateful to have found. So... the next time you are talking to a friend (who may be a UU but hasn't realized it yet) about churches, be like George, invite them here - they may belong.

Splinters from the Board

by Jane Cliff
Board of Trustees Secretary

First Church's Board of Trustees, Rev. Jennifer, and Director of Administration Jean Johnson launched the 2019-20 church year with a day and a half retreat on August 2-3, facilitated by Laura Park from Unity Consulting.

The retreat focused on how to make the next step of policy governance happen, namely implementing and monitoring our eight ends statements. We agreed we would monitor ends 4, 6 and 7 in September (see ends handout in church corridor); ends 5 and 8 in November; and ends 1, 2 and 3 in January. These monitoring reports, along with the annual congregational survey, will help us see our progress on the ends.

A second big topic at the retreat was linkage—how do we as a board reach out and represent all our sources of authority—First Church members and youth; future and past members of the congregation; and the heritage, traditions, and ideals of

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Unitarian Universalism. We decided to focus our linkage work this church year on youth and young adults.

Our first Board meeting was August 27. Meeting notes are posted on the bulletin board in the church corridor and are also available on the church website.

Secretary Diana Dentino needs to step down from this Board role due to other commitments; Jane Cliff agreed to serve and her nomination was approved.

The Board reviewed and renewed their covenants with each other and with the staff.

Bruce Wiggins reported on this summer's General Assembly and noted that the UUA continues to tackle the issues of white supremacy and institutional racism. He also stated that questions of congregational growth and membership were discussed; Rev. Jennifer said that nationwide, adult membership is stable (+/- 1-2%), but religious education attendance is decreasing nationwide.

General Assembly will be held in Milwaukee in 2021, and 3,000-5,000 attendees are expected. Many First Church volunteers will be needed to support the event.

Director of Administration Jean Johnson and Finance Committee Chair Noreen Gilbertsen presented the year-end financial review. Though a number of variations happened from budget to actual, our balance sheet position is very strong.

The Board discussed compliance with First Church Board policies on financial planning budgeting and continuous operations to cover church activities when key staff are absent for extended periods. We agreed that the senior minister's implementation of these policies complies with Board policy limitations.

There was a commitment to collecting more information on youth representation and/or observation of the Board so that we can make a decision in the near future.

There was a brief discussion of the Zillman bequest and how to build some combination of the Krug and Zillman bequests while honoring both donors. The Board will take up this topic in more detail at their meeting on September 24.

Members of the Board of Trustees welcome your thoughts and concerns at any time. Our pictures are posted in the central corridor and we wear yellow name tags. Our contact information is listed in the front of the member directory.

A Sense of Belonging

by Lynne Jacoby

Membership Development Coordinator

First Church's End 8 is to create accessible, courageous, and innovative welcome to people who might find a sense of belonging and a spiritual home with us.

Cognitive scientists tell us that humans' need of a sense of belonging is as powerful as our need for food and shelter. So important to our well-being that when we are insecure we create out-groups, just to strengthen our psychological bonds in an in-group. On the other hand, when we are secure in our belonging it is also what fuels our capacity to work and sacrifice for the larger good. To feel that what we do matters larger than our own lives.

What I love about Unitarian Universalism, what I imagine most all of us love about UUism, is its history of widening what beliefs belong in our churches. Over a relatively short period of time, our theology has poked through belief-based othering. I love that.

What can sometimes drive me crazy about Unitarian Universalism is our self-satisfaction that not barring out is the same as inviting in, warming welcoming, and making space for all who might find belonging in our Spiritual Home.

I know some of this is because we do not want to be confused with salvation salesmen or pick-a-side fundamentals! But sometimes it feels like we are so pleased with our wide-open belief door, we forget other basic principles of being hosts. Like sending invitations to friends to join us—as one small example.

Or scooting over when people do wander in (even in the pews, but also in our assumptions) and creating space with the new and different in our ideas and our practices. We also forget to listen and look for what guests might need to feel nourished and safe, wanted, and needed.

I love that our End 8 points to welcome, not just for welcome's sake, but for this sense of belonging so important to our human well-being. I love that our community wants to work on getting better at this.



Reflection

by Cesar Cornier
Social Justice Coordinator

As I reflect on last week's experience with Public Allies, I come back inspired and ready to inspire. For those who may not know, Public Allies is a program that stands on developing diverse leadership for social change in the community. When I heard about the program, I was excited about the things they stood for, and was eager to join a cohort of like-minded individuals. What I didn't expect, was how quick my fellow allies would become like family.

How do we grow with each other as people? It's not through isolation, but participation. This past week, my fellow Allies and program directors have spent our days building connections through team building activities and conversations. It wasn't always comfortable: being vulnerable when sharing your life experiences needs a sense of trust and love. Fortunately for me, Public Allies provide just that. We all listened, responded accordingly to the emotions our memories evoked, and were a family to each other. I know I can trust them, because they trust me. Having a great support system is the foundation for sustainability and progress. Having that foundation will help me in moving forward here at First Church, and by sharing personal experiences we can understand how we are all beautifully diverse. As Samora Machel said, "Unity and victory are synonymous."

Our Hearts Tell Us What to Expect

by Tree Moore
Earth Justice Co-Chair

Our First Church Earth Justice Ministry met for its fall advance planning meeting. It was our opportunity to listen to our hearts and minds tell us we need to contribute at this time. With all the destruction and resulting agitation surrounding us, along with a sense of overwhelm, what do we hear from the depth of our hearts as to what and how we minister in our chaotic world?

Without spending time listening to the thoughts and feelings from our core, we could easily slide into blame and hate. We would be diverted from discerning what causes people to commit atrocities to earth. Jair Bolsonaro and Donald Trump are easy and convenient targets for our anger and hate. Our reactions must not be the same as theirs: we need to channel our anger, blame, and hate in positive directions.

We need to calm ourselves and to listen. It is challenging and painful to hear the cries of children separated from their parents, of refugees seeking a home, of victims of the latest climate crisis. We must continue to listen to our own heart's wisdom, which speaks of love and yearns for peace, understanding, and generosity. And so, we may have little effect on the burning of the Amazon, but our small steps – whether it be protecting the bees, butterflies and worms, or calling our congressional representatives – may be our possible and important contributions. We will attempt to minister to this earth and to all existence (per our Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle) through a shift of consciousness, a change of heart, and a deep listening.

Participate in Beloved Conversations

by The Anti-Racism Team

This year, our congregation is taking the first step towards becoming the anti-racist, multi-generational, and connected community we dream of being. In order to build a community of people as diverse as this world, we must first learn how to make real connections across difference. Beloved Conversations is designed to help us build the skills to make those connections.

Beloved Conversations invites participants to share their own stories and listen to the stories of others in order to learn how racial differences affect our lives and community. Participants will learn and reflect in small groups, building relationships of trust.

We are very lucky that our January 16 -17 Beloved Conversations Opening Retreat will be led by curriculum author and Meadville Lombard faculty member Mark Hicks and Beloved Conversations Coordinator Rev. Kierstin Homblette Allen at First Church. The opening retreat is interactive, playful, and fun, with all participants learning together in a large group through story, art, and song. After the opening retreat weekend, participants will continue to meet in small groups for eight more sessions held between February and May.

First Church will be joined by Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church West and United UU Congregation for the opening retreat, but all the subsequent small group conversations will be First Church members only, meeting here at church. Slots are limited in this important program for our congregation, so we are prioritizing people who will build anti-racism capacity at First Church. We invite you to apply here for the opportunity to participate: bit.ly/UUBelovedConversations.



Grief Support Group for Unitarian Universalist Adults

Six Weekly Gatherings

Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m., October 16 - November 20
Co-Facilitators Liz Irwin Moore and Rev. Dena McPhetres

Grief is a normal human response to loss. Grieving is a process unique to each individual while shared by human beings everywhere. Yet we often feel isolated when we grieve. This Grief Support Group is for members and pledging friends of First Church who would like to be accompanied on their grief journey, learn tools to help with the tasks of mourning, and give and receive support from others in a space of trust.

Members interested in joining the group will be asked to answer several reflective questions through filling out an application by October 9, at bit.ly/UUGriefSupport. There is no fee, but you will be asked to make a commitment to attend all six weekly gatherings.

Liz Irwin Moore has been a member of First Church since 1984. She has 20 years of experience working as a psychotherapist and is currently employed as an Intake Counselor at a psychiatric hospital. While her most challenging experience with grief was the sudden death of her daughter in 2016, she has also lost both of her parents. Liz has participated in an online grief support group and also has experience facilitating small groups, including one of our past Chalice Circles.

The Rev. Dena McPhetres was raised Unitarian Universalist, ordained in 1997, and has served as our Associate Minister since 2009. She has traveled the grief journey many times, including the death of a best friend, both parents and other family members. Dena has facilitated many small groups, including working with our small group ministry at First Church. She completed the Grief Support Specialist Certificate program at UW Madison in 2017.

Planning Your Own Memorial Service

Saturday, October 26, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Rev. Dena McPhetres

We have been honored and saddened to hold so many memorial services at First Church in recent years. Wondering about what you'd like for your own memorial service? In this class, we'll reflect on the purpose of the memorial service ritual, the different types and options for services, explore resources together, and begin planning your own service. First Church members are welcome to leave a copy of your plans with the Ministers to help us support your family and follow your wishes to the best of our ability when the time comes.

Register at the Religious Education (RE) Table during Coffee Hour on Sundays or online at: bit.ly/PlanYourMemorial by October 20. The fee is \$10 members/pledging friends; \$15 non-members. If the fee is a barrier, please contact Rev. Dena McPhetres at dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org for a waiver.

Rev. Dena McPhetres has had the honor of officiating many memorial services, and some funerals and graveside services, too. Putting together a Celebration of Life for a lost loved one is a sacred experience and a creative act that endures well beyond the closing words and extinguishing of the chalice.

Adult Our Whole Lives (OWL) Begins

Adult Our Whole Lives (OWL) classes are returning to First Church in October. Centered around curricular themes, the workshop-style courses will be presented by Adult OWL Facilitators Shannon Widlansky and Liz Hopkins. This year's program will consist of two sessions:

1. Gender and Sexual Orientation – Five weeks beginning October 9 and ending November 13
2. Sexual Values and Communication – Four weeks beginning spring 2020

Classes will take place on Wednesdays, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. The cost is \$20.00, which is a one-time annual fee, whether you sign up for one or both of the courses. Both sessions are open to First Church members and non-members. Due to the interactive nature of the course, there will be a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 participants for each session. A program flyer may be picked up at the Religious Education (RE) Table during Coffee Hours on Sunday mornings in the Leenhouts Common Room. For more information, please contact Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org. Sign-up on bit.ly/UUAdultOWL.



Expectations of Religious Education

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Director of Religious Education

All our spiritual ancestors have been heretics, willing to investigate the unknown. Heretic comes from the Greek word *hairesis*, to choose. We are heretics because we want to choose our faith, choose our shared path and be shaped by the wisdom of the people on the journey. We belong to a people with a long history of seeking, an audacious people who dared to pursue authenticity in their spiritual lives. Learning about our heretical roots grounds us in belonging to a people who knew to question convention. I love knowing that decades ago, someone like me sat in this church yearning for suffrage, singing hymns, and believing in their heart that we are all a part of the divine. First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee has been here for 177 years, and our people have helped create the city we live in today. It renews my hope to know that I am a part of a people who believed in the common good, found courage together, took risks, and helped shape a brighter future.

"We drink from wells we did not dig; we are warmed by fires we did not kindle."
(Deut. 6.11)

This month I will be traveling to Baltimore, Maryland for the Convocation of Unitarian Universalist History. I will be presenting work that began when I found photographs of unnamed women in an archival box at my seminary. I discovered these women were some of the first people trained to become Unitarian religious educators. At the turn of the century, all churches used the Uniform Lesson Plan in Sunday School, a model of one size fits all ages, yet this catechistic religious education did not, in fact, fit all, and it did not fit us.

The Unitarians' first step away from the International Uniform Lesson Plan was called the Beacon Series, created in 1908. It was considered a success for many reasons: it used literary sources other than the Bible, it reflected the power and beauty of the natural world, and taught the importance of righteous living and imagination. This new, bold way to teach children required special training, and these women answered the call and volunteered their time to become our ancestors' religious educators. One of their teachers was the Rev. Henry Seachrist, who was also a minister here in Milwaukee before the turn of the 20th century. It seems we are all truly connected when you look closely.

Whether you are a brand-new member or have long identified as a Unitarian Universalist, this faith full of hope, love, and learning now belongs to you and you to it, and our stories are intertwined. We share the responsibility to continue to co-create a faithful space shaped by our core values. A faith that belongs to our children, one they will turn to, one that will surely look different than what we might imagine yet still requires us to be daring, inquisitive, loving, and heretical.

Blessed be,
Kimberlee

Our New Grade K-1 Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Our eight-week session for Grade K-1 OWL is from Sunday, October 13, to Sunday, December 8, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Anthony Room.

There will be no class on November 24. At least one parent is required to attend the first and last class sessions on October 13 and December 8. There is a one-time fee of \$20.00/participant. Registration forms are available at the Religious Education (RE) Table on Sunday mornings during Coffee Hours.

Our trained OWL Facilitators Bruce Wiggins, Crysta Jarczyński, and Katie Maedke-Hall will lead this class. For questions, please contact Youth Program Coordinator Deb Solis at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org.

The November Child Dedication Service

On November 24, a Dedication of Parents and Children will take place during both services. This simple ceremony is the Unitarian Universalism (UU) version of the traditional Christian "baptism" or "christening," though the meanings we attach to it are significantly different.

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

If you are interested in having your child dedicated on November 24, please pick up a dedication brochure from the pamphlet rack, call Shari Wright at 414 273-5257, or fill out the online form by Sunday, November 17, at uumilwaukee.org/child-dedication-form.



All About Youth

by Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

YRUU Youth Group Happenings

- Sunday, October 6, is the October Youth Steering Committee (YSC) meeting at 10:40 a.m. in the Anthony Room.
- Friday, October 18, from 6:00-10:00 p.m., is the first eighth grade OWL lock-in.
- Sunday, October 20, at 12:45 p.m. in the Reeb Room is a 2020 mission trip meeting for parents and NEW youth interested in participating in the Habitat for Humanity trip to Battle Creek, Michigan in July 2020.
- Sunday, October 27, ALL youth applications and letters of interest for participation in the 2020 mission trip are due to Deb by 12:30 p.m.
- Sunday, October 27, at 10:30 a.m. in the Murray Room is an informational meeting for the June 2020 Boston Heritage trip. All interested youth and their parents are invited.
- Friday, October 25, starting at 6:00 p.m. is our second YRUU youth group lock-in which ends Saturday, October 26, at 9:00 a.m.
- November 1-3 is a Youth CON in Evanston, Illinois. Details to be provided.

Summer School for UU's: Unlearning Racism

by Amy Wilbourne

This summer, Jo Ann Bishop, Dianna Dentino, and I participated in the Unlearning Racism workshop offered through the YWCA. The course began with information about the impact of systemic racism (in the U.S. and Milwaukee) and ended with discussions that helped us define our role in doing anti-racism work in our personal spheres of influence.

The participants of the course were from a variety of local organizations, businesses, universities, schools, and even radio stations. There were individuals from a large range of cultural backgrounds and ages. In addition to receiving a wealth of materials, we participated in meaningful small and large group discussions.

Being in community and sharing with others was one of the most valuable parts of the course. I learned so much just by listening. I have a better understanding of systems of oppression, and how I have benefited from and contributed to those. The workshop helped me realize that I can choose to engage in

this work or not. That in itself is a privilege. It's important that we each come to terms with our racist thoughts and actions, and how white supremacy and white privilege work keep racist systems in place.

Unlearning racism is a journey, not a destination. I (we) will make mistakes. Without doing our own personal work, however, and sitting in the discomfort, none of us will ever be free. Racism is a wound that we all carry.

Dianna, Jo Ann and I agree that our participation in this course was incredibly meaningful and invaluable. It was a transformative experience. We encourage anyone who can manage it, to take the course. The next series will be offered in spring 2020.

First Church and Its History in Milwaukee

by Rod DePue

While working on an upcoming First Church Forum titled "Nostalgia and American Politics" with Dr. Christopher Cantwell, a history professor at UWM, I was asked if First Church might be interested in partnering with some of Dr. Cantwell's graduate students to publish the history of First Church. The Rev. Drew Kennedy agreed to be the point person.

Now you can find our history on www.liblamp.uwm.edu/omeka/gatheringplaces. Just click on "Places" at the top of the page. I think you will find it very interesting. And be sure to mark your calendar for the Forum on October 27 at 10:00 a.m. in Max Otto Hall to hear Dr. Cantwell's presentation on "Nostalgia and American Politics," and find out why religion plays such a big part in our elections. It may give you some insight as to what happened in 2016 and what we may see in 2020.

PlayTime News *Oklahoma!* @ Skylight Music Theatre

Church member Chad Larget will be playing the role of Andrew Carnes in Skylight Music Theatre's production of *Oklahoma!* from September 27 through October 13. Tickets can be purchased online at skylightmusictheatre.org or by calling the box office at 414-291-7800





Women's October Luncheon

by Janet Nortrom
WomanSpirit Chair

Saturday, October 26, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$3.50
The Leenhouts Common Room

All women are invited to this special luncheon to meet and enjoy some of the outstanding women of our church. Let Janet Nortrom know if you'd like to be crowned. Unitarian Universalist (UU) singers will share their gifts with our renown UU violinist and keyboard artist Kari Gunderson who will honor the crowning of the crone.

Typically a crone is a woman who has passed through menopause. Crone is also a state of mind, an owning of who and where they are in life. Being ready to tap the ancient attributes of wisdom, compassion, transformation, healing, laughter, and clarity. The ancient crone archetype strengthens belief and confidence in age-accumulated knowledge, insights, and intuitions enabling women to step into their power. Transformations like the butterflies Jackie Zandi created.

Hosted by SWANS and WomanSpirit. Space is limited so sign up early! Please send payment to: WomanSpirit, c/o Janet Nortrom, 4332 N Woodburn St., Shorewood, WI 53211. For questions, call Janet Nortrom.

UU History Video Series

by Nancy Pajewski
UU+ Study Group Chair

The UU+ Study Group is presenting the six-part video series *Long Strange Trip: A Journey Through Two Thousand Years of Unitarian Universalist History*.

Dates and topics of the video series are:

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

The video begins at 6:30 p.m. for an hour, then following a half-hour discussion.

October 2019

UU Women's Fall Retreat

by Janet Nortrom
WomanSpirit Chair

October 11-13, 2019
Dekoven Center, Racine, WI

The theme for the weekend is "Connection and Healing" with Kellianna, an American pagan singer/songwriter. Be prepared to chant and be enchanted, inspired by myth, magic, sacred places and ancient times with guitar and vocals, she brings to life stories and sagas of Goddesses and Gods. With primal frame drumming and soaring vocal chants, she honors Earth and Ancestors.

It is a fun weekend with worships, workshops, movies, books, auction, luscious meals, located along Lake Michigan. Scholarships available. See registrations on the First Church bulletin board or call Kathy Salzano at 630-202-1900, email ktsalzano@gmail.com or call our two members who attend, Kathy Miezio or Janet Nortrom.

We're Back!

Buy your Fruits and Nuts Now!!

by Bruce Wiggins
Denominational Affairs Representative

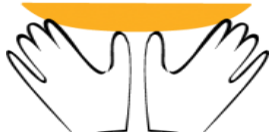
Each year, the Southeast Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations (SEWUUC) sponsors the selling of delicious chocolates, nuts, dried fruits, and snacks. It's been the main vehicle in which we raise funds to purchase spots on local Public Radio stations. This is generating hits on our website (www.sewuuc.org), which in turn directs visitors to individual congregations.

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

The order form is ready and you can pick one up at the Membership Table during Coffee Hours, on the church website, or by contacting Bruce Wiggins. Orders need to be turned in by Sunday, November 3, and distribution will begin in early December.

SEWUUC thanks you for your support and hopes you will enjoy all the treats!





Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

Tricklebee Cafe is our October Share the Plate recipient. Since 2016, Tricklebee Cafe has been operating in the Sherman Park neighborhood as a pay-what-you-can non-profit community cafe. There are over 60 of these kinds of cafes in the U.S., Tricklebee being the first one in Milwaukee. Their vision states: "By providing fresh, healthy, locally-grown food to anyone regardless of ability to pay, we address food insecurity by feeding the immediate need of hunger, while providing resources to educate and inspire people to make a habit of healthy eating."

Customers at the non-profit cafe are given a suggested price range that covers the cost of the meal, usually between \$5 and \$7 dollars, but it is not required. Customers can still get a meal by paying just what they can afford and also have the option of volunteering at the cafe for their meal. The menu is made up largely of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free offerings. Local suppliers, like Three Sisters Community Farm, Wellspring Farm, and Morning Glory Farm donate seasonal vegetables. Alice's Garden donates fresh herbs and teas, while Beevangelists donates honey. Tricklebee Cafe is part of the One World Everybody Eats Network along with over 60 cafés across the U.S. Learn more by visiting: www.oneworldeverybodyeats.org. To view their menu or to learn how you can become more involved, please check out their website at www.tricklebeecafe.org.

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

Feast for Funds How Will You Participate?

by Jane Peterson
Feast for Funds Team



This fall, First Church will host our 9th annual Feast for Funds fundraiser, featuring great donations and events available for bids. Last year we raised \$20,000 for First Church—let's outdo ourselves this time around! Donations: bit.ly/FEASTFORFUNDS2019

Our membership and friends always amaze us with the variety of their events and donations. YOU can be part of this effort in many different ways. For example:

- Bid early starting October 27. All of you who bid help tremendously!
- Donate cash towards a new and more fabulous wine pull specially curated by First Church Member and professional sommelier Nate Norfolk.
- Make a donation of a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant, performance venue, specialty store, service, handmade item, etc. Let the establishment know how you are letting your whole church (750 people) know how much you love them, and invite them to match your donation!
- Co-host an event with one or more partners—or go solo, if that's your style. Events can include anything from hosting a dinner, to planning an electric scooter outing, to teaching a skill, sponsoring a tour of a local attraction, celebrating a holiday, and whatever else you can imagine!
- Donate a stay at your vacation home.

We'll have ideas for donations, events, and partners at the Feast for Funds Table during Coffee Hours on September 22 through October 13. Stop by and see us for inspiration! Whatever you do, please participate and help build friendships and support First Church's mission. Bidding begins October 27!

In Memoriam - Shelley Schaffer

Shelley Schaffer died peacefully on Sunday, August 25, 2019 surrounded by her two sisters, Stephanie and Leslie, and her dear friend, Anne Maedke. Shelley suffered from Parkinson's and dementia for several years, and was in hospice for the last several months. She was 70 years old and was a member of First Church for 32 years.

Shelley's family held a graveside service in her hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska on Wednesday, August 28. The Candle of Life was lit during our worship service on Sunday, September 1. An informal Gathering of Remembrance in honor of Shelley Schaffer will be held at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee on Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. upstairs in beautiful Max Otto Hall. Those who knew and loved Shelley are invited to share brief tributes, stories and favorite memories of Shelley during the gathering at an open microphone. The Rev. Dena McPhetres will officiate. An informal reception will follow.

Memorial Donations in Shelley's name can be made to the ASPCA, Sierra Club, or The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.



GETTING TOGETHER

Stop in, meet new people, and make new friends!

Visitors are especially welcome.

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

Book Discussion Group

Second Sunday 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 at celinder@att.net.

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
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.

For more information, please contact
Jeanne Lowry or Mark Miller

Chancel Choir

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

All singers who are high school age and up are invited to join our weekly choir rehearsals. Contact our Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer at tstrelitzer@gmail.com with your name and voice type.

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.

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 at to get on the email list.

The SWANS participants are cordially invited to lunch after church at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 6, at the Maharaja Restaurant on Farewell.

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.

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.

WomanSpirit

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

The UU Women's Fall Retreat is October 11-13 at the Dekoven Center, Racine, WI.

The Women's October luncheon will be on Saturday, October 26, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$3.50, payable to Janet Nortrom.



OCTOBER 20

“Divinity in the Devil’s Curve”

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Amy Wilbourne, Worship Associate

Celebration of Rev. Dena McPhetres’ 10 years of service

The lemniscate, or Devil’s Curve, is a polar curve that traces back and forth in a series of loops. In a bonded community, we might feel safe enough to be vulnerable and authentic. In turn, this kind of vulnerability breeds the bonds of trust that build community. Where does individual responsibility lie in this dynamic, and where does the community’s covenant-keeping make space for individual hearts to open? How do we balance the need for strong bonds of trust with an openness to new members in community? Please join us for this service where we will celebrate Rev. Dena McPhetres’ 10 years of service to our congregation, and explore the lemniscate interplay between trust and openness.

OCTOBER 27

“Carrying Home with Us”

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director, and The Chancel Choir

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Mark Richards, Worship Associate

A turtle carries its home wherever it goes in the world. How can we humans build our own containers of belonging that travel with us? How can we learn to be at home in the world, with the divine, and when confronting ultimate mystery? Join us for this Halloween / All Souls Day service where we explore being at home in life and in death.

Memorial Gifts Received

The Church has gratefully received memorial gifts from the following people in memory of Peg Fluery: Bob & Carol Diggelman, Robert & Lynn Scofield.

The Church has gratefully received memorial gifts from the following people in memory of Russ Sherman: Bill Frink, Noreen Gilbertsen & Richard Claxton, Beverly Katter, Bob Moore & Liz Irwin Moore, Nancy Pajewski, Kathy Rivera & Sally Lewis, Max & Patricia Scharmach, Dale Skaggs & Lynda Lambert, Dick & Nancy Spransy.

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

HOW TO REACH US

414.273.5257

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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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Mark Miller, Jane Peterson, Melinda Vernon



SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

October 6

Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum

Clayborn Benson III, Executive Director/Founder.

After producing the documentary *Black Communities/Wisconsin*, Benson III discovered that the records and documents concerning the history and roots of African American people in Wisconsin were widely scattered and poorly preserved. This inspired him to establish the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum.

October 13

“Center for Peacemaking: Creating Nonviolent Social Action”

Dr. Michael Duffey, Associate Professor Emeritus of
Theology, Marquette University

The Center for Peacemaking is the only academic center at a Catholic university that focuses on exploring the power of nonviolence. The theme of this Forum will be building community nonviolent social action.

October 20:

“The Making of a Therapy Dog”

Kathleen Dunn, Therapy Dog Trainer

Listen to Kathleen’s story of why therapy dog training is so important for her. Joining Kathleen will be therapy dog Finn, along with his trainer, Amy Dodge, Executive Director of Pets Helping People.

October 27

“Nostalgia and the Making of America Evangelicalism”

Christopher D. Cantwell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
History & Religious Studies, UW-Milwaukee

A promise to make America great again may have drove 81% of evangelicals to support Donald Trump in the 2016 election. But this evangelical longing for an imagined past has much deeper roots. Join Chris Cantwell as he discusses the rise of this evangelical nostalgia through the history of one of America’s most popular gospel hymns.

