



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

March 2020

Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Sometimes people mistake knowledge for wisdom, but wisdom and knowledge are not the same thing. Knowledge is a piece of wisdom, but wisdom is broader and deeper than knowledge alone. Knowledge needs context to become wisdom.

For instance, the knowledge of March in the Midwest is that there will probably be snowstorms and sunny days. People who know this place can extrapolate that knowledge and make wise choices about what to do with winter coats, outdoor events, and expectations of thaw. But this knowledge does not make sense divorced from time and place: it doesn't apply to March in Florida, or Wisconsin in July.

Wisdom is more than just knowledge plus time and place, however. Wisdom comes from wholeness: it includes beauty and compassion and intuition; the body, the heart, and the spirit; and other people, and animals, and the earth. The Greek word for wisdom is "Sophia," and in the Book of Proverbs, Sophia is used interchangeably with God. Biblical scholars often use "Sophia" to name the female personification of the wisdom of God. Wisdom is one of the faces of divinity because its context is the whole.

How does Wisdom show up in your context this month? What is wisdom's time and place? Where is wisdom in your body? How does wisdom make herself known in your life? How does she show up in church?

In this Wisconsin March of the lion and the lamb, I look forward to exploring Wisdom in our community.

With love,
Jennifer

SUNDAY SERVICE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

MARCH 1

Annual Youth Service

"Wholly Discomfort:

Embracing the Unknown in Community"

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Dylan Duffy, Worship Associate

When we come to church, we expect comfort because comfort is often what we find holy. But if we want to be radically inclusive, doesn't that also mean being uncomfortable? Join our youth group as they guide you through an exploration of both discomfort and comfort through music, readings, and testimonials.

MARCH 8

"How Do I Learn How to Live?"

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Dale Skaggs, Worship Associate

The poet Wendell Berry defined wisdom as learning how to live in a time and a place. This means that wisdom is dependent on context, rather than universal. How do you define wisdom? From what or whom did you learn wisdom? Join us for this service that explores who defines wisdom, and what the interdependent web of all existence might have to teach us how to live in our time and place.

(Sunday Services continued on page 11)

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

WISDOM?

March's Theme: Wisdom

by Mark Bishop
Congregation President 2019-20

This month's theme of Wisdom prompted me to reflect on a quote from Jimi Hendrix, the late, great guitarist, "Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens." As a congregation, who do we listen to?

The Board of Trustees, in the drafting of its policies supporting the adoption of the Congregation's Policy Governance model, was very deliberate in its discernment regarding its Sources of Authority, i.e. who the Board is morally accountable and responsible too. These are whom the Trustees are listening to.

Those Sources of Authority (in descending order of influence) are:

- The current members and children and youth of the congregation.
- The future members of the congregation.
- The past members of the congregation.
- The heritage, traditions, and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.

In addition, the Board is morally responsible to:

- The staff of First Church.
- Our neighbors in our local community.

Our Ends statements were the direct result of careful listening to hundreds of members, youth, and staff. The Board is continuously striving to ensure that we have appropriate means of linkage with our Sources of Authority so that we can gain additional wisdom through our listening. Through the Board's work over the past several years, as we have implemented Policy Governance, it is abundantly clear that First Church is a community that values knowledge and wisdom.

Peace

Splinters From the Board

by Mark Miller
Board of Trustees Member

Our First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Board of Trustees meeting on January 28 began with the approval of the "consent agenda," which included the December meeting minutes, the monthly staff change report, the ministers and staff's Interpretation of End 4.6 on Asset Protection Limitation, and the Board of Trustees Grievance Process.

Other Ends Limitations approved were 4.5 Financial Planning & Budgeting, and 4.5 Financial Condition. This was after presentations by Jean Johnson and Noreen Gilbertsen on the year-to-date financial picture. Trent Muller presented an updated Investment Policy.

Along with Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Rev. Jennifer and the Board discussed the Director of Religious Education (DRE) position title. Because of Kimberlee's experience and education level, it is proposed that Kimberlee's title will change to the Minister of Religious Education.

Monitoring of Ends 1, 2, and 3 was presented by Rev. Jennifer and all three were approved.

Rev. Jennifer gave the Senior Minister's Report on a number of issues.

Lastly, the Board ended the meeting by completing a new survey designed for self-assessment of the overall Board. The survey will be used to monitor the view of our own performance over time.

To see details on the above information, please see the Board minutes. Board meeting minutes are posted on the First Church bulletin board in the central corridor and on the church website. Members of the Board welcome your thoughts and concerns at any time. Our pictures are posted on the central corridor, and we wear yellow name tags. You can find our contact information in front of the First Church directory.



Each of Us Holds a Piece of the Pattern

by Lynne Jacoby
Membership Development Coordinator

I love when Cheri Briscoe, our Usher Coordinator, identifies an excellent Head Usher candidate that I didn't see, even looking at the same list of possibilities. Or when Diane Gulbranson, one of our Membership Table Team notices we could put QR codes on our church programs poster, which I would have never thought of. Or, for that matter, when Susan Borri, one of our Membership Team Co-chairs just shows up with said poster saying "here, this is what we need" in reference to our goal of helping folks identify where they might connect at First Church.

I even love (though he maybe doesn't) when Fred Gutierrez, our Pledge Chair, has to tell me over and over, "less is more" in our pledge drive marketing materials, because I know he is right! And yet I still have a tendency to over-write.

I love it first of all, because these are the kind of things that have happened over and over in the two and half years since I began working here, and they definitely help me look better at my job. But even more, I love it because the idea that our Unitarian Universalists Congregations are co-created communities feels real to me, and wonderful, and why I sought this job in the first place.

Centuries before "Crowd Wisdom" became a thing, the ancestors of many of our First American Unitarians, the Puritans, fled the hierarchical Church of England to practice their own beliefs. In the process, they decided to become a covenantal based religion. Theologically we may look very different than those Puritans, but how we came to be so different was partly because they choose to trust community wisdom over doctrinal, or expert wisdom. They decided that a group of people, exploring together with good intentions, and in right relationship, could find a closer path to God's intentions than individuals alone—no matter how authoritative, exalted, or even wise the individual.

In the first year I was here our elected Board led us through an Ends process to define our common values, and explore how we might live closer to them. Each of our ministries, teams, and staff return to these Ends regularly, to set priorities, agendas and design initiatives. As a congregation, we are depending on our collective wisdom to usher us closer to who we want to be. We also are depending on our collective financial support.

When I consider growing the values of Wonder, Authentic Connection, Love and Justice, as well as all that I love

about this community now, I am inspired to increase my own pledge this year by 7.5%. Because I know I can afford to; but also because I know that we all hold a piece of who are, and who we will become. And in the past two and a half years, I have grown to trust this community's collective wisdom, and I am excited by where we will go together.



Giving to First Church 2020 Pledge Drive

by Mark Chambers
Pledge Team Member

Most of you have already come across something about this year's Pledge Drive. So my purpose here is not to give you more information about pledge details but to get your commitment to our Sustainability Goal.

For the church to move over four years to a budget where annual operations are supported by annual revenues (sustainability), in 2020 we need to raise \$35,000 more than last year.

If you spread that \$35,000 across the whole congregation it comes to a 5% increase over last year or just \$7.50 per month from each member. A 5% increase for everyone may not be possible, so some members will hopefully be able to give more. In the final analysis, the only way we will reach our sustainability goal is to either raise more money or to spend less. Between lower than recommended staff numbers and salaries and little flexibility in other operational expenses, there isn't a lot of opportunity on the "less spending" front.

On the "raise more money" side of things, we do so by (1) increasing membership and (2) getting existing members to increase their pledges. While we have to do both of these things, increasing membership is not the purpose of the Pledge Drive. The purpose of the pledge drive is to get as many existing members as possible to give more.

So there you have it. Can you give more money? A lot or a little? This is something we ask every church member and family to consider given their individual circumstances.

No one should be ashamed or embarrassed about the choice you make in giving to the church. The beautiful tapestry that is First Church exists only because of you.



What Does It Mean to Ordain Someone?

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

There is joyful news here at First Church: our Director of Religious Education Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, M.Div. is requesting the congregation ordain her to the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Ordaining someone to the ministry is one of the most sacred acts a congregation can take. In our UU denomination, a congregation is the only entity with the authority to ordain. This is because our denominational polity is congregational: congregations hold the authority to make decisions about their ministry and their ministers. The question of whether or not to ordain someone is: "Is this person a minister?"

In an ordination ceremony, a layperson becomes a minister through the congregation's authority to declare them so. The Reverend Joanna Crawford writes that so doing is a theological act which involves "not just the transformation of the ordinand, but the transformation of the congregation itself, into this priestly role. It is incarnation, as the congregation becomes the body of Unitarian Universalism, of our heritage, our traditions."¹

At the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, the process of ordaining a person is as follows:

1. The potential ordinand makes a formal request for ordination to the Board of Trustees, with appropriate supporting materials about their education, references, and the status of their credentials with the Unitarian Universalist Association's Ministerial Fellowship Committee.
2. The Board of Trustees considers the request and based on their consideration of the merits of the request, votes on whether or not to recommend to the congregation to ordain the person.
3. If the Board votes affirmatively, the Board puts their recommendation for ordination before the congregation at an official congregational meeting.
4. At an official congregational meeting, the congregation votes on whether to ordain the person. Because of the significance of ordination, a super-majority of 75% of those in attendance is required for an affirmative vote.
5. With an affirmative vote, the ordination is scheduled and planned.
6. The congregation, and honored guests, are invited to attend the ordination ceremony.
7. At the ordination ceremony, the official ordination occurs, and the ordinand becomes a minister. At that time, the person's title changes to "the Reverend," and the person is then welcome to wear a ministerial stole.

Kimberlee has informed the Board of her intent to make this request and is submitting the formal request and supporting materials for the Board's consideration at their March 24, 2020 meeting. If the Board votes to recommend that the congregation ordain Kimberlee, then a vote on Kimberlee's ordination will be put on the agenda for the May 17, 2020, annual congregational meeting. If the congregation votes to ordain her, then we will begin planning for an ordination ceremony to take place mid-Fall of 2020.

¹Quoted in "Ordination and Installation Handbook for Unitarian Universalist Clergy and Congregations," Rev. Erika Hewitt, Ed., Unitarian Universalist Association, Nov. 2019, P6.

Why I Want My Ordination to Be at First Church

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Director of Religious Education

Early in my chaplaincy training at St. Luke's Hospital my supervisor asked each one of my cohort to answer the question, "What gives you the right to be in the room while someone is suffering?". My fellow newbie chaplains all shared a version of an answer that contained Jesus and salvation. Then it was my turn, I waived and said: "I believe in the power of human connection, our ability to think, feel and create our realities with one another. Human relationships can be a spiritually healing force that serves the common good even when it cannot alleviate the suffering we encounter." Judging myself by the look on their faces I feared I had failed my chaplaincy training on the first week. Afterward, my supervisor, a Rabbi, reassured me that though my colleagues felt empowered by Jesus they would need to discover the power within themselves, the patients, and relationship building also.



The core of our faith is not placed outside the human community but rooted within it: the connection we have with one another and the earth is holy, sacred and divine. This is why Unitarian Universalist ordination is traditionally granted from our congregations. This is why I want my ordination, the final step in my ministerial formation, to be here at First Church, conferred from the people where I have been hired to serve as a minister of religious education. Together we have already begun to co-create a new improved reality for religious education. Building on a strong tradition grounded in Unitarian Universalist values, we will continue to expand our faith

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formation program to new forms that will center the needs of our children and families today. The privilege of working with the dedicated Unitarian Universalists here at First Church inspires me as we continue our efforts in this vital endeavor. Family ministry has the power to serve our faith community, the common good of Milwaukee and our world.

All the steps, forms, classes, tests, internships and trainings that Unitarian Universalism requires of me to become a minister have been completed. But only a congregation can grace me with the title of "Reverend." I am fortunate to have relationships with many fine congregations during my faith journey, during my process of becoming a minister. Yet, First Church is the church where my ministry story truly begins again. With joy in my heart, I humbly request that this sacred honor be bestowed by the power of this faith community, the people of First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee.

In faith,
Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Summer Service Proposals Wanted

by Kristine Hansen
Pulpit Guest Team Chair

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

The Pulpit Guest Team is actively seeking proposals for summer worship services led by church members. To apply, fill out the form on our website, taking care to fully describe your topic, what materials you will draw upon, how your topic relates to Unitarian Universalist values and our First Church mission, and indicate your experience with public speaking. A limited number of spaces are available and selections are made by the Pulpit Guest Team. We will notify you of our decision by early May. The Rev. Dena McPhetres works individually with speakers to prepare their service. Proposals are due by April 1. To access the online form, go to <https://uumilwaukee.org/committees/pulpit-guest-committee>.

If you have any questions, reach out to Pulpit Guest Team members Kristine Hansen, Tom LeBel, Keith Anderson and Kari Gunderson.

The Reluctant Radical Is Coming!

by Terry Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry

The new date for screening *The Reluctant Radical* is March 31, at 7:00 p.m. in Leenhouts Common Room.

This powerful film leads us to ask questions, which we'll discuss with Rev. Jennifer and recent nonviolent direct action participants: If a crime is committed in order to prevent a greater crime, is it forgivable? Is it, in fact, necessary? Do the actions shown in the film follow Unitarian Universalist theologian Sharon Welch's characterization of the ethic of risk, which has three essential elements: a redefinition of responsible action, grounding in community, and strategic risk-taking? Is the star of the film a domestic terrorist? What should be our response to the crisis that human civilization faces?

The Reluctant Radical depicts climate activist Ken Ward as he confronts his fears, doubts, and great trepidation to fulfill what he sees as his personal obligation to future generations. The film follows Ken through a series of non-violent civil disobedience/direct actions, culminating with his participation in the coordinated action that shut down all the U.S. tar sands oil pipelines on October 11, 2016. Facing 20 years in prison for his actions, the film reveals both the personal costs and the fulfillment that comes from following one's moral calling.

In February, we learned that Skagit County (Washington) Superior Court granted the Prosecution's last-minute motion to delay Ken's trial to sometime later this spring. The delay comes at a huge financial cost, says Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth Board member Leonard Higgins, a fellow Valve Turner. They are asking for support and doing everything in their power to show the world that climate activists are not criminals.

Put it on your calendar: Film and Discussion, popcorn, cookies, and cider.



Marching Towards Justice

by Cesar Cornier
Social Justice Coordinator

March is a month with many interesting national days. In fact, in March we have National Grammar Day, National Cold Cuts Day, National Oreo Cookie Day, National Plant a Flower Day, and even National Oatmeal Nut Waffles Day. Though I'd take National Napping Day as my favorite choice there is also another one that stuck out to me, National Good Samaritan Day. I found it very interesting that it was on the same day as National Blame Someone Else Day, March 13.

When I think of the message in the parable of the Good Samaritan, I think of one embracing values of inclusivity and selflessness. Not only did the Good Samaritan stop to help the injured stranger down the road, but he continued in caring for the man's well-being in making sure he was taken into an inn. At that time the path from Jerusalem to Jericho was known as "Bloody Pass," because of its danger and difficulty due to robbers in the area. Though he could have been set up in stopping to help, the Good Samaritan found greater purpose on his journey and instead of just walking past as many others did prior, he decided to act on love. He knew what the possible fate would have been of the man if he had not intervened, and realized he had the power, the privilege, to make a difference in helping another person.

When I think about the current societal attitude, I see more isolation and polarization. I think our daily choices reflect how we want to see the world, either inviting or exclusive. We can either put the blame, or help, on someone else or we can help liberate those who just need support. It is up to us, if we want to march towards, or walk away from justice. If you are interested in working towards social justice, stop by the Social Justice Table on Sunday where I'd be happy to direct you to some exciting groups and events coming up!

Defending Democracy at Common Ground Assembly

by Jerry Fredrickson
Chair of Common Ground at First Church

Please join us to find out about Common Ground's plans to Get Out the Vote for November 2020. These plans are bold and we need your participation! Our assembly will be held at St. Mark AME Church, 1616 W. Atkinson Ave., Milwaukee on Sunday, March 29 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Watch for carpool arrangements. Please respond to Jerry Fredrickson.

Join Earth Justice Ministry Projects – You are Invited!

by Bruce Wiggins
Co-chair Earth Justice Ministry

Join Earth Justice Ministry projects to demonstrate care about the earth and promote environmental justice. At our "Winter Huddle," we discussed plans and projects for the rest of the church year. Sign up at the Social Justice Table during Coffee Hour to join the Earth Justice Google Group, or talk to co-chairs Tree Moore and Bruce Wiggins. You could work with:

- **Transportation group:** Encourage transportation to church by other means than auto (bus, streetcar, bike, walk.) Conduct surveys of members. Plan one or more Spring Sundays featuring fun and alternative transportation to motor vehicles.
- **Films/videos:** Help with showing *The Reluctant Radical* and discussion following (see article in this newsletter). Possibly show other films or videos. Add videos to our Social Justice video library and help manage the library.
- **New solar panels:** Help enlarge our church solar electricity system with new panels on the sanctuary roof and apartment building roof to reduce our carbon footprint and save the church money.
- **"Plastic-Free:"** Conduct research and education. Possible Forum, community education, plastic-free purchasing at church. Research and publicity on product alternatives are needed.
- **Worms, Bees, and Gardens:** Continue last year's programs plus the possibility of adding gardening either at community sites or in yards. Worm bins at church are continuing. We need to work with RE staff and teachers to define times and curricula.
- **Earth Day:** Help plan and publicize Earth Day events.
- **Lead Water filter Distribution:** Join with the Interfaith Earth Network.
- **Tricklebee Café:** This "pay what you can" café on North Ave. has excellent food and is a good cause. Join Tree Moore for lunch and to socialize on the third Wednesday of the month.
- **Communications:** We need 1-2 people for Facebook posting. Through the Earth Justice Google Group, we share notices about events and items of interest.





Adopt-A-Site in need of Election Workers! Could this be you?

by Jo Ann Bishop
Adopt-a-Site Coordinator

In 2019, First Church became part of the Adopt-A-Site program for the City of Milwaukee. We staffed a polling site on election day and all our \$800 in earnings were donated to the church. This is a fabulous way for us to live our Unitarian Universalist values while spending time among fellow church members and provide this important service to the city. We are committed to making this an ongoing additional source of income for First Church and we need you to make that happen.

2020 holds four elections and we have the opportunity to take on a second site if we can provide our own Chief Inspector. All Election Inspectors and Chiefs will receive training to prepare them for this important work. Staffing two sites for four elections next year could earn First Church around \$6,000! We can't let this opportunity escape us. But, to make it happen, we need you.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Election Inspector (poll worker) or Chief Inspector, please contact Jo Ann Bishop for more information. You must live in Milwaukee County to participate in this program.

Used Book Sale March 27-29

by Nancy Pajewski
Used Book Sale Organizer

Readers, rejoice! The annual Used Book Sale will fill the Leenhouts Common Room the weekend of March 27-29 with hundreds of fiction and non-fiction books chosen by the most discriminating readers - you, First Church members. We'll have children's books and adult titles ranging from cookbooks and travel to politics, biographies, and mysteries.

The sale is open to members and friends only from 5:00-7:00 p.m. the evening of Friday, March 27, so members have first choice of books. Members and the public can shop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29. You can buy a whole bag of books for only \$10 during the final hour of the sale, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Sunday. All proceeds benefit the church.

You may bring your donations of books, CDs, and DVDs to church beginning on Sunday, March 1. Sorry, no textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, or tapes will be accepted. If you are bringing many boxes and need help or want to bring books on a day other than Sunday, please call the church office.

We are also recruiting volunteers to help sort and arrange books on Friday morning and to check out customers and keep the tables of books organized on Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday. Please contact Nancy Pajewski to volunteer.

Hearing Loss, Me?

by BJ Ermenc, Member and
Co-chair Hearing Loss Association of America
Metro Milwaukee Chapter

Indeed you, or someone in your family, one of your friends, perhaps a co-worker. What does hearing loss look like? It doesn't look like anything – it's an invisible disability.

But wait, that's not entirely true. Tune in to people around you. Does someone smile and nod a lot in noisy environments? Do they say the same thing in response to stories you tell? Does a parent always have their TV volume turned up louder than normal? Does your friend ask "What?" a lot?

Do you see people in our Sanctuary for the service who may chat a bit in the hallway but never come into the Leenhouts Common Room for coffee? Yes, many folks have things to do, but others can't hear well enough to join in conversations with so many others talking. This is referred to as the "Cocktail Party Effect."

For many people, hearing loss is embarrassing. They're afraid they'll appear old, feeble, or even stupid.

Untreated hearing loss can lead to misunderstandings, isolation, loss of self-esteem, loneliness, depression, and anxiety.

People don't get hearing help for many reasons. These include cost, shame, having friends who got them and say they're too uncomfortable to wear or don't work and more. This does not have to be the case! We can help each other more than we realize.

I will be presenting information about hearing loss at the Forum on Sunday, March 15. We will discuss several hearing-related issues, including the pending release of FDA-approved over-the-counter hearing aids later this year. Before then I encourage you to be on the lookout for people in your life who may be struggling to hear. If you see even one, invite them to attend with you. Your support means more than you know.





Kassumai African Drumming and Dance Workshop

Sunday, March 15
12:30–1:45 p.m. in Max Otto Hall
Suggested Donation: \$15-20 per person

Senegalese Master Musician Ndongo “Lucky” Diop and his KASSUMAI African Drumming and Dancing Troupe will share their cultural wisdom in this interactive, high energy workshop. Participants are invited to join in the drumming, the dancing, or both!

Ndongo Bahoum Diop was born in Ziguinchor, the richest cultural city in Senegal. His nickname is Lucky. He belongs to the Diola (jola) tribe, one of the rare tribes where everyone is a musician! Lucky studied at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar and earned his degree in Traditional African Music from the Douda Seck National Conservatory of Music, Dance, and Drama. He has performed with groups such as Les Ballets Africains, Le Ballet Kouyakou, and the African Dance Company of Ahmend Kounta and Maissa Thioub, well-known masters of the drums.

Since settling in Milwaukee, Lucky has established deep relationships with our local educational and cultural organizations, and his ongoing projects are numerous. Lucky’s music has been featured on Narada’s *African Voices* CD, in documentary films, and he continues to perform and collaborate with musicians from across the globe. Welcome to Ndongo “Lucky” Diop’s kingdom, where music is not only a universal language, but also a language of Peace, Love, and Unity.

Hymns for Our Future

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Director of Religious Education

The word hymn derives from Greek hymnos, meaning “a song of praise.” What hymnody, what words of praise do our young Unitarian Universalists have in their hearts and minds? This spring, we are delighted to offer our youth the unique chance to create the hymns for our future with singer-songwriter Anne Heaton. These hymns will be featured during our spring RE Sunday Service on May 17. This opportunity is made possible by the Thaney Fund for the Arts.

Anne Heaton is a singer-songwriter and pianist who has captured audience imaginations for over 15 years with her songs that are, by turns, “tender, barbed and spiritual” (Washington Post). She’s been featured by the New York Times Popcast, toured widely in North America, and shared the stage with artists such as Sara Bareilles, Sarah McLachlan, Jewel, and jazz drummer Max Roach. She teaches songwriting at Berklee College of Music in Boston and is the founder of Soul Songs School, an online songwriting program. Abbe says, “I love working with young people in writing songs they truly love, that convey what they most want to say and sound the way they want them to!”

All youth, ages 12 and above, are invited to participate in this fun workshop. For more information contact Kimberlee Carlson or register on <http://bit.ly/UUHymnsWorkshop>.

Spring Singing Circle

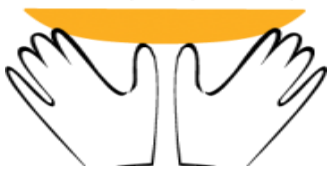
Tuesdays, April 7 – May 5
6:45-8:00 p.m. in Max Otto Hall
Until March 15: Earlybird rate \$50/ five weeks
After March 15: \$60/ five weeks or \$15/single class

Explore the spiritual practice of communal singing as vocalist Julie Thompson facilitates an adult circle of songs, rounds, and chants. Join in this sacred time to connect through the magic of sound. No experience or expertise necessary! Register at <http://bit.ly/UUSpringSinging> for as many dates as you wish to attend.

PlayTime News

First Church member Chad Larget will be playing the lead role of Archibald Craven in Lake Country Players’ *Secret Garden*, March 20 Through April 5. Find information and tickets at lakecountryplayhousewi.org.





Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

Planned Parenthood Wisconsin is our March Share the Plate recipient, chosen by the teens in our Youth Program. Every year our youth nominate and vote on a recipient for the Share the Plate program. Planned Parenthood has many clinics in the Milwaukee area, as well as national offices and international partners. As stated on their website: "Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide. For nearly 100 years, Planned Parenthood has promoted a commonsense approach to women's health and well-being, based on respect for each individual's right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning." Planned Parenthood Wisconsin reflects the diverse needs of our communities. It currently provides affordable quality and confidential health care to 60,000 people each year in their 22 health centers across Wisconsin.

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

Book Sales Tower

Lori Otto, Mike McCabe, and UUA Common Read

by Nancy Pajewski
Book Sales Tower Co-chair

Do you remember Lori Otto? After a long battle, she had DDT banned in Wisconsin. Follow Otto and other sustainable gardeners as they create gardens to preserve the lives of bees, butterflies, birds, and other creatures in Milwaukee. *Mending the Earth in Milwaukee* by Ney Tait Fraser contains dozens of color photos of gardeners and gardens. The Book Sales Tower has seven copies donated by the author for sale at \$10 each. Is this the year you plan away your lawn?

The Book Sales Tower also has Mike McCabe's newly-published *Unscrewing America: Hints and Hopes from the Heartland*. McCabe, one of our most popular Forum presenters, spoke on February 16. His book is "part travelogue, part case

study, part manifesto, and part how-to guide." He argues that our nation's future hinges on our—your and my—ability to forge a new politics. The cost is \$18.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States, our current UUA Common Read selection, is back in stock. The book will be discussed at a meeting of the UU+ Study Group on Tuesday, May 19. This book is a "bottom-up peoples' history" that squarely faces America's colonialist policy against the Indigenous peoples and the support for the policy by the government, military, and popular culture. The cost of the book is \$16. Sales at the Book Tower are self-service with payment by cash or check only.



UU're Home

Housing needed for the DNC on UU're Home

by Jo Ann Bishop
UU're Home Coordinator

We have received inquiries from Unitarian Universalists (UUs) for homestays during the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in July! UUs are coming to Milwaukee and need a place to stay. There are two options for you to participate in:

UU're Home

Please help us earn funds for First Church by listing your home on the UU're Home website. You may be familiar with Airbnb, the hosting of guests in your home who pay to stay. There is a UU version called UU're Home, a national network similar to Airbnb, to rent rooms and homes for the benefit of UU churches. Many of our members have stayed with UU're Home hosts in their travels. Surprisingly, there is only one listing in Wisconsin. With Milwaukee hosting the DNC in July 2020 and UU General Assembly in 2021, there will be many UUs seeking places to stay in our lovely city. This is an opportunity for our church to earn money from outside sources—a real bonus! Check out the UU're Home website to get your home listed. Contact Jo Ann Bishop for more information.

Free stays

If you are interested and able to offer free housing; there will be some UUs who may need that also. In order for this to occur, we need someone to coordinate these inquiries. If interested, this coordinator could also manage the free stays for the UU General Assembly in 2021. Please contact Lynne Jacoby if you can assist with this coordinator position.



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, 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. Contact: Chris Linder.

Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social Group (SWANS)

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.). Contact: Camille Johnson or Barbara Collignon at to get on the email list.

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. Contact Jeanne Lowry or Mark Miller

UU+ Study Group

Second Tuesday of the month
6:30-8:00 p.m.

We gather to deepen our knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and to continue our spiritual journeys through reading and discussion. Contact Nancy Pajewski.

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: Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer at tstrelitzer@gmail.com with your name and voice type.

Unitarian Universalists Under Forty Doing Activities (UUUFDA)

UUUFDA encourages social camaraderie among the under 40 crowd at First Church, contributing to a strong, joyful, and fun church community. Contact: Erik Islo or Angi Krueger at uuufda@gmail.com.

The Chronologically Gifted (TCG)

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! Contact: Sharon DePue.

WomanSpirit

We meet to empower women and join in spiritual quest through social justice, music, ritual, and friendships. Contact: Janet Nortrom.

Join us for a celebratory Suffrage Luncheon—100 years since women got the vote. Saturday, March 14, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Our Vote, Our Voice!

by Janet Nortrom
WomanSpirit



Join us Saturday, March 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to celebrate 100 years of women's voter rights. Sponsored by WomanSpirit and Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social Group (SWANS), the celebratory Unitarian Universalist suffrage luncheon will be a time of joy and music!

Dress up as a suffragette and join us in poetry, music, and even a pro-vote hip-hop piece! Sign up at www.bit.ly/UUSuffrage or at the WomanSpirit/SWANS Table during Coffee Hour on Sundays. For more information contact Janet Nordstrom.

UU+ Study Group Schedules Books for March and May

by Nancy Pajewski,
UU+ Study Group Co-chair

The next selection for the UU+ Study Group will be Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*. Haidt, a social psychologist, explores the sources of our convictions and disagreements and paints a fascinating picture of the various dimensions we use to evaluate the morality of our decisions. The discussions will be Tuesday, March 10, and Tuesday, March 24, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will discuss roughly half the book at each session. Copies are available in the public library system.

A discussion of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, this year's UUA Common Read book, will be facilitated by Kit Vernon and Nancy Pajewski on Tuesday, May 19, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Author Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz adds a great amount of information and a new perspective to what most of us learned in high school. She concludes with steps we can take as a nation for a more just future. This volume will be available at the Book Tower for \$16.

All First Church members and friends are welcome to these discussions.



MARCH 15

“Wisdom Lives in The People”

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Julia Oschwald, Worship Associate

Stewardship Celebration Sunday

Wisdom lives in between and among people, rather than in a single individual. It gets honed over generations and passed on between the generations. It shows up in the balance of a child telling it like it is, and an elder speaking with care. It shows up when different people bring different experiences and truths to the wisdom table and build a broader understanding. Join us for this Stewardship Celebration Sunday, where we will commit our resources to continue to build the strength and wisdom of this community. Remember to bring your pledge cards with you to church!

MARCH 22

“Is Ketchup a Smoothie?”

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director and the Chancel Choir

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

George Bledsoe, Worship Associate

The joke goes that knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, but wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad. Wisdom sits at the intersection of knowledge and what it is possible to do with that knowledge. How do you take action that fits not just what you know, but also how that knowledge actually works in the world? Join us for this service that explores the relationship between knowledge and wisdom, and asks that age-old question, “Is Ketchup a Smoothie?”

MARCH 29

“Wisdom Shows Up in the Rearview Mirror”

The Rev. Dena McPhetres

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Jeff Percy, Worship Associate

The joke is that we have 20/20 vision when looking in the rearview mirror, but we actually do harvest wisdom by reflecting on past experiences. Is it possible to find wisdom in the present moment, too? I think we can by paying attention to our intuition and the wisdom we carry in our bodies. Join us this Sunday as we look in the mirror for wisdom, in both directions.

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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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SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

MARCH 1

“Will Newspapers Survive?”

Presenter: Bob Friday, Reporter, Editor, Designer

Print subscriptions are falling, newsroom staffs are being cut, advertising has flown the coop to online, the President calls the media the “enemy of the people.” Do newspapers have a future? Bob Friday will share his well developed sense of the future for newspapers. Host: Jo Ann Bachar

MARCH 8

“Healing in the Aftermath of Hate”

Presenter: Pardeep Kaleka, Executive Director,
Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee

Pardeep will talk about his journey as a first generation immigrant in America and the role of the deadly shooting on August 5, 2012, which was committed by the hands of an affiliated white supremacist and took the lives of six immigrants. The conversation will explore the role of communal and individual trauma and healing. Host: Patricia McFarland

MARCH 15

“Danger! Untreated Hearing Loss”

Presenter: BJ (Elizabeth) Emenc, Co-Chair, Hearing Loss Association of America/Milwaukee and Shirley Sharp, Secretary

Learn how to protect your current hearing ability, identify the signs of hearing loss, and techniques for successful communication between those with hearing loss and those with normal hearing. You will also learn about what to watch for with the recently released FDA-certified, over-the-counter hearing aids. Host: Cesar Cornier

MARCH 22

“The ACLU at 100 Years”

Presenter: Jarrett English, Senior Field Organizer, ACLU of Wisconsin

The ACLU of today continues to fight government abuse and to vigorously defend individual freedoms including speech and religion, a woman's right to choose, the right to due process, citizens' right to privacy, and much more. The ACLU has become so ingrained in our society that it is hard to imagine an America without it for the next 100 years. Host: Mark Mueller

MARCH 29

“What Does Airbnb Have to do With our First and Seventh Principles?”

Presenter: Elizabeth Martorell, First Church Member, Airbnb Host

Elizabeth Martorell will share her experience as an Airbnb host since August 2018. She will explain what Airbnb is, why she decided to do this, how she prepared, share some guest happenings, and relate all this to the First and Seventh Principles. Host: Lorraine Jacobs

