



# THE CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

April 2020

## Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, but in this time of coronavirus, it felt a little more like our March went out like a terrifying beast. Here we are in April, anticipating the virus's peak, and it is time to grapple with grief.

Grief has many phases and flavors. It behaves like its own strange beast that each of us rides differently. There is no one way to grieve. Grief may show up as shock or numbness, outbursts of anger, attempts at control, waves of sadness, acceptance and adjustment, and meaning making.

The phases of grief are not linear. Grief feels like walking an emotional labyrinth to me—one moment I am traveling close to the center, and the next I am catapulted out to the farthest edge, in movements I cannot foresee. This is all normal. The work of grief is simply to show up for the feeling and its movement, to be present to grief in all its phases and flavors, to allow it to be what it is, and allow it to shift and change, which it will.

As the birds are chirping and the air begins to smell of spring, as unemployment rises and there are lines to get into the grocery store, we are in a time of not knowing what will come. We do not know how the peak of round one of coronavirus will hit our community, our people, or our family. However, from witnessing its work in other communities, we know it might be quite bad. This is a perfect mix for anxiety and anticipatory grief, which might show up in your body and behavior in their own weird and wild ways.

As you ride the waves, remember that your system is doing its best to prepare you to survive. It might be

*(Words on the Wind, continued on page 2)*

## SUNDAY SERVICE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

APRIL 5

### "Sticky Justice"

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Natalie Quinton, Worship Associate

In her book *On the Mystery*, Catherine Keller develops a concept she calls "sticky justice." It is liberation bound up in one another. We are all stuck together, she argues, so none of us will be free until we are all free. When we think about justice as a collective project, how might it change our understanding of freedom? Responsibility? Leadership? Join us for this Palm Sunday service where we explore sticky justice and co-creative liberation.

APRIL 12

### "Freed From a Lack of Imagination"

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Paul Geneen, Worship Associate

Passover celebrates the story of the Hebrew people's liberation from Pharaoh when they labored as slaves in Egypt. The crucifixion can be read as a story of failed liberation, when a revolutionary leader named Jesus of Nazareth was put to death before he could liberate the Jewish people from Roman occupation. Yet, the story of Jesus and his ability to bust out of people's expectations lives on. Sometimes we need to be freed from our own lack of imagination of what is possible. Join us this Easter as we consider Jesus as a figure of liberation.

*(Sunday Services, continued on page 9)*

## MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

## LIBERATION?

recalling old coping mechanisms, or frantically trying to control whatever is in your power right now. This is normal, too. Your stress response mechanisms are trying to keep you safe in an uncertain situation. If you want to avoid old coping mechanisms that are unhealthy for you, be sure to double-down on your self-care practices and relationships with your support network, as your stress response is likely to be activated.

Be kind to yourself, those you love, and everyone around you. Everyone is likely to be activated and grieving, and in a variety of different ways. Have compassion for yourself and others when your ways differ. Make time for rest, spiritual practice, and self-care. Prioritize love and connection. Pay attention to beauty, and make note of everything for which you are grateful. Strengthen your emotional and spiritual reserves.

I love you. I will see you in church.  
-Rev. Jennifer

## **Dena's Digressions**

by Rev. Dena McPhetres  
Associate Minister

We are planful people. And we're good at it. Much of the effectiveness and calm of our congregational life is due to the thoughtful making of plans. Now things are thrown up in the air and we have yet to see where they land. What to do?

Well, wouldn't now be a good time to review your personal End of Life plans? Wouldn't now be a good time to talk to your loved ones about what types of care you want and don't want during a serious illness or medical emergency? Now, while we are still relatively calm and thoughtful.

For those of you, who have not given this much thought before, here are a few website resources to guide you in the process.

1. [The Conversation Project](#)
2. [Five Wishes](#)
3. [The Good-To-Go Toolkit](#)

For those of you who already have your Advanced Directive in place, your Health Care Power of Attorney identified, your Financial Power of Attorney, your will, and your memorial service plans, wouldn't now be a good time to review them? Just in case your situation or your wishes have changed since you last wrote them down. And wouldn't now be a good time to make sure your loved ones have copies of these documents, and to make sure you have a conversation with them about your wishes?

My hope and prayer is that we won't need them in the coming months. But if we do, your family, your physician, and your min-

isters will be calmer and better able to follow your wishes if we know what they are. Please let me know if you'd like to fill out the forms for Final Wishes and memorial service plans that we have available for our church members. I can e-mail the documents to you. You can contact your medical clinic for the Advanced Directive form or visit the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#).

Our congregation thrives on making plans, following plans, and adapting plans through thoughtful deliberation. Perhaps you and your family would, too.

## **Are We There Yet?**

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Director of Religious Education

"It feels like we are on a spaceship." Kids can be so wise. Adults describe this time of isolation as "surreal," but my sci-fi heart agrees with the kids, it does feel like a spaceship. Some of us are on solo rockets, others on family-sized missions or expeditions into the unknown. As we move through our days in this brave new world, we surrounded by the familiar spaceship of home. We float near everything, yet we are isolated, only allowed to dock for essential supplies and using our screens to communicate from one ship to another. We are all on a journey that will forever change us. So of course, we are all asking that age-old kid question: Are we there yet? Or maybe: When will we get there?

When does the returning begin? When will we be liberated from this isolation and able to be together again? We do not get to know. It is hard to even make an educated guess.

Each time this question comes up I am reminded of a story by Unitarian Universalist minister Robert Fulghum that I am fond of called "The Chair Men." In this story, two young college students decide to eat a chair for extra credit. Their professor's instructions seem like good advice during a pandemic, they are: Do something unique and memorable—not dangerous or foolish. Unquestionably, this seems like an impossible and ridiculous thing to do yet they decide to attempt to eat a chair—responsibly. The details of their efforts are worth reading, but the reason this story resonates with me now is that it answers the question, how do we get through anything that is both ridiculous and necessary? How do we get through a pandemic?

I will tell you they did it with patience, perseverance, and help from their community. So, until we can return to being together, we can follow their example.

May we return again and again to rhythm and routine, find joy in perseverance, be kind to the cohabitants of our spaceship, share stories of our adventures on screens, and innovate what a beloved community can become.



# Pledge payments during COVID-19 emergency

by Jean Johnson  
Director of Administration

You may be wondering about how you can pay your pledge while we are not gathering at the church during the COVID-19 emergency.

We understand you may not be able to pay your pledge during this crisis. We appreciate you fulfilling your pledge as best fits your household needs. If you find you cannot fulfill payments on your pledge, we appreciate you contacting us so we can plan accordingly.

There are several easy ways to pay your pledge:

**Checks:** You can continue to mail checks to the church payable to First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, or First Church. I'm collecting mail and making bank deposits regularly.

**Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):** Automatic EFT is easy and convenient. Once set up, the church will automatically withdraw your monthly payment from your bank account around the 15th of each month. The church benefits from consistent cash flow and the lowest processing cost. Find the authorization form to print and sign on our website: <https://uumilwaukee.org/ways-to-give/annual-pledge-drive>.

**MyFirstChurch (member portal):** This convenient online payment method offers one-time or recurring payment options, using either a credit card or ACH link to your bank account. On your MyFirstChurch online profile page, click on the "Giving" menu and click on "+Give." Enter the gift amount and use the drop-down menu to designate your gift to your pledge. You can offset the processing fees the church incurs by checking the processing contribution box when you pay your gift.

**Church Website Giving:** You can make a pledge payment on our website: <https://uumilwaukee.org/ways-to-give/support-us>. Enter your gift amount and designate it to your pledge. The church is charged a processing fee and you can choose to offset this fee on the giving form.

Feel free to contact us via email or phone message if you need assistance with any of these payment methods. Contact info for me, Shari, and Lynne are in the last page of the Chanticleer.

# Freedom of Choice Freedom to Breathe

by Lynne Jacoby  
Membership Development Coordinator

I once wrote a piece arguing that it was the bones, not the breath, that was the source of life. It was one of those pieces that comes all at once and not at all my typical writing voice. I was a bit cranky, maybe, about some of the "spirituality vs. religion" attitudes I'd encountered before writing. But mostly I was lecturing myself—feeling frustrated with my lack discipline, structure, purpose.

It's a false dichotomy of course, spirituality vs. religion, or my version "breath vs. bone." And lucky for me, in our UU faith (fans as we are of "and" rather than "or") we'd say presence in the moment and building an intentional life. Both are important, both needed.

Personally, I'm a believer in the Bob Dylan line "It may be the devil, or it may be the lord, but you're gonna have to serve somebody." I think if one does not intentionally construct a frame of values to set their living in, we end up serving things we haven't chosen. Like, for example, capitalism (this country's most ubiquitous value system, in my opinion). When I think about personal liberation, I think about daily choices more aligned with what I want to serve, rather than what I just want in the moment.

Until now. Until all our structures—from daily routines to Sunday worship, to yes stock markets—were shaken overnight, and however "right" or not, they were, they're all a bit messy now. Like many others, I'm holding on to moments more, trying to breathe through the anxiousness. Taking long walks, calling friends, listening to the river, feeling sunlight on my face.

Thanking god that we are (after all) willing to strain our economic system as a nation, to preserve the actual literal breath of our people.

We need both.

There are many ways to breathe. The Membership Team is very interested in helping people find places to come together online. Meditation, discussion, sharing writing or other creative endeavors on a blog, Zoom game night! Looking for creative ideas and folks willing to help implement them! Email [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org)

*(Freedom of Choice, continued on page 4)*



**First Church our Spiritual Tapestry.** Our liberal religious values are needed now more than ever. Help sustain this community by submitting a pledge now. We have your back if your circumstances change in this unfamiliar world, but to move forward with the budgeting process we need to know the commitments our community intends. Pledge Form link [here](#) or email [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org).

## April's Theme: Liberation

by Mark Bishop,  
Congregation President 2019-20

As I draft this month's article, the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting our community and our congregation. We are living in extraordinary times, and at times like this, the importance of support systems like our church community is all so abundantly clear. We need each other, maybe in new or different ways.

With this month's theme being "Liberation," church leadership and the Board is doing everything within its capacity to hopefully free ourselves from any adverse risk by following the advice of health experts as we continue to strive to fulfill our mission of "Nurturing the Spirit, Engaging the Mind, and Inspiring Action." These words literally reflect the work that our staff, ministers, pastoral teams, and other lay leaders have done to lead, in periods of tremendous uncertainty, as this crisis has unfolded. We have a very special group looking out for the well-being of all of us.

Given the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and when the church building will re-open, the Board of Trustees is beginning to plan for the possibility of a virtual Annual Meeting on May 17 via Zoom or some other platform. More information will be provided later this month as the planning process unfolds. In addition, considering other priorities and the new reality, the Board has postponed the Annual Congregational Survey. We will seek your feedback later to help assess how we are doing on our relatively new Policy Governance journey.

We are living in unprecedented times and it is comforting to know that we are part of an extraordinary church community. Please be safe. I look forward to when we can gather again together, in person, to worship, celebrate, grieve, or care for each.

## Copyright Compliance for Online Services

by Alissa Rhode  
Lead Music Director

In my 13 years as your Lead Music Director, it has been a true pleasure to share a full spectrum of musical styles together with you in the Sanctuary on Sundays. The breadth of our musical programming has been made possible by the Religious Service Exemption in [U.S Copyright Code](#), Section 110 [3], which specifies that "performance of a non-dramatic literary or musical work or a dramatic-musical work of a religious nature, or display of a work, in the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly" shall not be considered copyright infringement. The exemption is extremely limited in scope, however, and does not extend to include the right to record, broadcast or digitally transfer copyrighted material. This is among the reasons that, until now, we have turned off our livestream camera for music. So, now that church is completely online due to COVID-19, what are we to do?

First, to protect our congregation's assets and to be in right relationship with the greater musical community, we will always follow the law and remain in strict compliance with the copyright code.

Second, as long as our services are exclusively online, Tristan Strelitzer and I will focus primarily on programming music that is either a) in the [public domain](#), or b) written by composer-performers with whom we are in a relationship and from whom we can reasonably seek permissions. We have also obtained some limited licenses to legally stream certain material such as *Spirit of Life*.

So, while service music will be quite different online, there is still much that we can share with you. Thank you for your patience during this time of waiting. We look forward to the day when we might sync up our heartbeats in the Sanctuary together again.





## Share Your Musical Talent During Online Services

by Alissa Rhode  
Lead Music Director

Musicians of all ages! Do you have either public domain or original (written by you) music in your repertoire? What is "public domain," you might ask? The short, simplified answer is either a) music written/published in 1924 or earlier, or b) music that is simply attributed to a culture, such as "traditional Irish folk tune" or "African American spiritual."

If you've been practicing your Mozart or Clementi Sonatina, it might be precisely what we need for our Sunday online service music. If you can deliver a great rendition of an old hymn or folk song, that might also be perfect. If you've personally written an original piece of music, we'd love to hear it. Think you might have a family band in the making or want to collaborate with other musicians using one of those fancy apps? So long as any of the proposed music is either public domain or your own original material, we would absolutely love to hear your ideas.

Please send recordings to [alissarhode@me.com](mailto:alissarhode@me.com) for consideration, preferably in .mp4 or .mov format. Please also feel free to reach out to me if you'd like to run your ideas past me prior to recording. We are seeking content to help us fill four music slots for each online service, and we thank you for your creative energy and assistance in the pursuit of this task.

## Virtually View the Photo Exhibit on the Common Room

by Amy Monahan  
Artist and Member

The exhibit of Amy Monahan's photos that were hanging in the Leenhouts Common Room when our church had to close was to be on view through all of the Sundays of March. For those who missed the exhibit or who would like to revisit the images, Amy has created a website. The website is [www.rivercurrents.biz](http://www.rivercurrents.biz).

For those of you who would like to "get away" from our current situation with the global pandemic, it's hoped that the images may assist you in "standing still and learning to be amazed" (Mary Oliver, 2006), wherever you are.

## No Printed Chanticleer

by Shari Wright  
Office Coordinator

Our monthly newsletter, the Chanticleer, has been a major communication to our congregation and friends. Due to the shut-down, we will only send out this month through email.

I know and understand that reading a monthly newsletter is nice to read by the sunlight with a coffee cup and no screens. However, we can't assemble the newsletter with our volunteers and our "shut-down" church will keep everyone safe.

If you know someone who can't get an email and would like to hear more from us, please contact Shari Wright at [shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org) and we will contact them.

Below is our staff meeting. We all send you our best wishes and we enjoy our great reminiscent thoughts of you all.





## Connect With Us Through Zoom

by Shari Wright  
Office Coordinator

When First Church began the policy of no in-person meeting to keep our congregation safe on March 13, our Sunday Service, Coffee Hour, Religious Education and many group meetings found a great way to connect to people online.

Zoom is a video conferencing technology that allows users in different locations to hold face-to-face meetings through the Internet. A webinar is a similar technology that allows users to attend an online conference or classroom event while listening to panelists and interacting with question and answer sessions.

When you are invited to participate in a Zoom meeting or Zoom webinar you will receive a URL link, a meeting ID and a phone number to join the event. You will need to decide what method you can use to join the meeting.

- Phone – call the phone number, enter the meeting ID.
- Smartphone – download the Zoom application on your smartphone, create a Zoom account and enter the meeting ID to connect with your phone audio and camera.
- Computer (PC) – Connect with the URL link. Laptops usually have a built-in camera and a microphone. A desktop computer might need a microphone to communicate. When you connect on a computer, Zoom will download the Zoom application, but you can also download the application anytime. Create an account to save your settings.

Here are some links and great resources to learn more:

[LINK](#)—First Church Zoom Meetings information on our website for the leaders who host an event.

[LINK](#)—Set up a Zoom account.

[LINK](#)— Download the PC Zoom Client application.

[LINK](#)—Test your computer to see if you have audio (a microphone) or a camera (video).

If you still have problems with connecting to a Zoom meeting, please contact [shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org). We have several members volunteers who will help you learn this new technology.

## It's Time to Zoom! What the heck is Zoom?

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Religious Education Coordinator

When I began seminary a few years back as a forty-year-old something adult, I had many doubts about my ability to navigate graduate school. Could I manage a family? Could I make any sense out of Kant? One growing edge I did not anticipate was how technology had changed since my last experience in college. I did not know the question I should be asking was: Could I Zoom?

I had never heard of Zoom and suddenly I was expected to use it multiple times a week with my professors, guest speakers, and fellow students. My success in seminary was Zoom dependent. So, though no seminary can train you on what to do during a pandemic, it can train you to Zoom.

In case you have not heard yet, Zoom is a platform many institutions use for video conferencing. I sincerely doubted the power of Zoom to be able to grow and build connections with strangers, yet I knew I had to try. I listened to Carrie Newcomers song, "You Can Do This Hard Thing" on repeat and gave it the forty-year-old something college try.

Here is the good news, it is pretty simple and it works. It helps to download the Zoom app onto your computer or cell phone. Plus, the Zoom help center is marvelous with videos and more step-by-step instructions.

Plus, you can start using Zoom for free on your own, it allows you to use this service for 45 minutes with your family and friends at no cost. I have continued to use it to stay in touch, get support and strength with my friends from seminary. I still get frustrated with it but have learned to embrace this growing edge. I hope you try to do this hard thing. We will be waiting for you in a First Church Zoom Room.



## Earth Justice in the Age of COVID-19: Both Require Building Community

by Bruce Wiggins  
Co-chair Earth Justice Ministry

Building community is crucial for dealing with the coronavirus AND dealing with climate change. Both require making changes to our ways of life and both require people working together to cope with those changes. Surprisingly, the hidden gift of this virus is that we get to practice community. Taking care of each other, looking out for each other, dealing with disruptions to our normal way of doing things.

Our first entire livestreamed service was Sunday, March 15. The music and the message were wonderful. We all need to stay in touch with our core principles and spirits – this is one way. Please listen and participate in the live-streamed services to stay in touch with your core and your best self.

So many things have been canceled. Including many things we of the Earth Justice Ministry had been planning: a forum on climate, food, and equity; a showing of a film on civil disobedience and a discussion lead by three who have been arrested for standing up (or sitting down) for their conscientiously-held beliefs; a grand celebration of the 50th Earth Day with a local food potluck and tree plantings; a FUN bike-walk-transit to church day on Earth Day with celebrations and recognition for those who give up their autos; a trip to a farm that produces locally-grown grains.

We will reschedule some of these events when we can. Please read the weekly emails so you can participate in some of these fun, stimulating, worthwhile, and inspiring activities when we can reschedule them. In particular, we would like to do a local food potluck and tree planting. Please think about where you might plant a maple or spruce tree.

In the meantime, stay connected with each other for your own health and the health of our earth!

## Earth Justice in the Time of Coronavirus

by Terry Wiggins  
Member of Earth Justice Ministry

It's hard to know what a layperson can write at this time, probably nothing that could hold more weight than what our ministers have to say. Still, we can share a few additional tidbits.

First, with the closing of schools and all “non-essential” businesses, the screening date of *The Reluctant Radical* is quite likely to be rescheduled again. Stay tuned on that front.

Next, though many of us had hopes of a grand celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day this April, it's likely to be virtual. Again, we will provide details as we know them.

Also, whatever's being bought in the name of COVID-19 prevention “is a drop in the bucket compared to all that we needlessly consume,” said Rolf Halden, professor of health engineering at Arizona State University. “I think the answer is very clear: Don't compromise health to save a little bit of plastic.”

We all have an ethical responsibility to do our best to protect others from infection. At the same time, let's not forget that there is an entire industry, lobbying machine, and legislative network committed to putting a ton of plastic into the market even when we're not in the middle of a pandemic.

Finally, we need to remember what U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said this week, as reported in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, “It is important that all the attention that needs to be given to fight this disease does not distract us from the need to defeat climate change. . . . Climate change has been a phenomenon for many years and will remain with us for decades and require constant action.”

My thanks to Umbra at Grist Magazine (Grist.com) for some of these ideas.



## A Youth's Perspective

by Gus Pointer-Mace

On March 1, 2020, the annual youth-led service, *Wholly Discomfort: Embracing the Unknown* took place. A lot has changed since then, but our thankfulness for the overwhelmingly positive reception has not. The encouragement and constructive critiques we receive from the congregation every year helps us improve upon the last. This is the most significant project we take part in every year, a lot of time, energy and work from us and the staff here at church goes into this service. So it is wonderful to see that recognized by the community we take part in every Sunday. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you our youth-led service next year!

## Youth Group and the COVID-19 Pandemic

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

It is vital that we help keep our youth connected during this time of isolation through youth ministry. So our youth group is meeting remotely through video-conferencing on Zoom twice a week, Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. . ALL registered youth and youth advisors are invited to participate by Join our Zoom Youth Group Meeting at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/144571773> Our Youth Group Meeting ID: 144-571-773 Or use your phone to call in and join us! + +1 312 626 6799.

It is very important to us to keep our youth moving forward on their faith development journey and maintain, nourish, and cherish our authentic connections with our church community.

## Dedication of Children and Parents

by Revs Jennifer and Dena

Mother's Day is coming and we are thinking about our beloved Child Dedication Ceremony. This simple ceremony is the Unitarian Universalist version of Christian baptism, but with a significantly different meaning. We recognize your child's original blessing, and we dedicate ourselves to nurturing your child and you. In the ceremony, you and your family also dedicate yourselves to nurturing and supporting your child. Because we dedicate ourselves to life-long support of you and your child, these ceremonies are only available to church members.

We don't know if we'll be back in our sanctuary and together as an embodied community again by May. If you would like your child dedicated, we will figure out a way to do that remotely, through Zoom or other technology. If you would like to wait until we are physically together again, that is fine, too.

If you would like your child dedicated, please complete a Dedication form here: <https://uumilwaukee.org/child-dedication-form>. If you have questions, please contact the church office at [office@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:office@uumilwaukee.org).

## PRE-K Religious Education

Sundays at 12:00 p.m.  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/569469673>  
Or call in: 1(312) 626-6799  
When prompted enter the meeting ID: 569 469 673

Mariah and Lindsey are back with religious education for our youngest UU's! Starting April 5 each Sunday at Noon! Join us in our PreK Zoom Room for Check-In, Mindfulness, Story, Wonder Box, and Song!

## Mindful Mondays

Every Monday at 10:00 a.m.  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/717908677>  
Or call 1(312) 626-6799  
When prompted enter the meeting ID: 717 908 677

All children and youth are welcome to join Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson each Monday as we learn about fun ways to be mindful together. We know that mindfulness reduces stress, grows resilience and well-being. Each week we will learn fun interactive ways to practice mindfulness with our families. Mindful Mondays can be a source for inspiration, practices, and community connection. All ages are welcome!

## Parent Spirit Group

Every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/776167726>  
Or call 1 (312) 626-6799  
When prompted enter the meeting ID: 776 167 726

Parent Spirit Group will aim to support and deepen the spiritual journey of each participant, in connection with their family life. We will engage in reflective questions, short readings, spiritual exercises, and share our experiences in a space of trust.





APRIL 19

### **“Letting Go of Toxicity”**

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Nick Hayes, Worship Associate

Earth Day Celebration

Capitalism is designed to produce things—and enough desire for those things to keep the production wheels endlessly turning out stuff and profits. And yet, we are beginning to see the material limits to supposedly endless growth, as our insatiable consumption pushes the edges of our ecosystems’ resilience. What would it feel like to let go of our individual toxic attachments to things? What could it look like to collectively let go of the mirage of endless growth and the cycle of consumption? Join us for this Earth Day celebration where we explore the possibilities of liberation from excessive production and consumption.

APRIL 26

### **“Forgiveness as Liberation”**

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Director of Religious Education

Amy Wilbourne, Worship Associate

Pastor Nadia Bolz Weber says that holding on to anger at mistreatment keeps us connected to the person who harmed us. Forgiveness, she argues, is an act of liberation from that harm and the person who caused the harm. Can forgiveness act as a release from hurt? Join us for this service that explores harm, forgiveness, and liberation.

## **Summer Service Proposal Deadline Extended**

by Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Got time on your hands? Think about submitting a proposal to lead a summer service! The deadline is extended to April 15. Whether or not we are back in our sanctuary by summer, we encourage church members to apply to deliver their own sermon. We have the technology to pre-record or live-stream from home. You do not necessarily have to follow the monthly themes. Rev. Dena will coach the members whose proposals are selected by the Pulpit Guest Team. Use this link to send us your creative idea: <https://uumilwaukee.org/committees/pulpit-guest-committee/>.

## **Splinters From the Board**

by Melinda Vernon  
Board of Trustees Member

Our First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Board of Trustees meeting on February 25, 2020, began with a discussion of the need for a bylaw change on the subject of ordination. This need is precipitated by the Board’s move into policy governance. The Board approved a policy that an ordination must be approved by the Board of Trustees and then the congregation. Kimberlee Carlson’s request for ordination will be put to the congregation at our annual meeting in May and must be approved by a 75% favorable vote.

The Board discussed a suggested format and process for Rev. Jennifer’s upcoming performance appraisal. The format contained an evaluation of the Senior Minister’s performance in four areas: 1) moving the church toward our Ends, 2) moving the church toward our shared Values (Wonder, Authentic Connection, Love and Justice), 3) operating within specific limitations, and 4) regular and on-going interactions with the Board. Board members agreed that Board members would complete the evaluation individually and come together at a separate meeting to produce a final, joint document.

The opportunity to include a youth observer/liaison on the Board was again discussed. Jeremy Koenen, Mark Bishop, and others have conducted numerous interviews with other congregations experienced in including youth representatives. The Board approved that one or two representatives be designated for a term from 12 to 24 months. The youth representatives will be absent from sensitive closed sessions. Full Board membership may be considered at a later date. A process for selection and expectations for the youth representatives will be developed jointly by the Board and the Youth Steering Committee.

A request from Denise Cawley was considered that First Church provides a blessing on the occasion of her ordination in the Kenosha UU church and an additional request that we provide some financial support for her ordination. The request for a blessing was approved as was financial support in the amount of \$1000.

Finally, logistical planning for the Board’s Feast for Funds Dinner on March 20 was discussed.

For those seeking more detailed information, be advised that board meeting minutes are posted on the First Church bulletin board and on the church website. Members of the Board welcome your thoughts and concerns at any time. Our pictures are posted in the central corridor and we wear yellow name tags.





## Virtual Coffee on Zoom!

Community, Conversation & Connection  
Sundays, 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

"The zoom experience was great! I felt like I was really with others and supported. —First time Zoom user Paula Anderson

Join Membership Coordinator Lynne Jacoby online at 10 a.m. or Noon for a Zoom Coffee Hour. Once you enter, Lynne will coordinate smaller groups of five or six for conversation. Members, guests, visitors are all welcome! Bring your own coffee.

Link to Join Sunday <https://zoom.us/j/3109225327>  
Call +1 312 626 6799 enter the Meeting ID 310 922 5327 when prompted.

Please try again! If you are having (or have had) trouble joining the coffee hour, let Lynne know by email at [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org). We have volunteers lined up happy to walk folks through all week and on Sunday! See you soon, on Zoom!

## Virtual Poetry Contemplation

Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.

for the duration of the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Order

"Listen, respond and rest with" the words of selected poets and in the company of others in our community. Based on the Monastic practice of Lectio Divina the focus of this practice is our individual responses to the words. Come listen for what resonates, illuminates. Members, guests and visitors, all are welcome to join this open, weekly, drop-in practice.

Ongoing Meeting Link <https://zoom.us/j/138116309>

Call +1 312 626 6799 with ID 138 116 309

Password to enter the meeting: **Poetry**

Questions? email [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org)

## Virtual Journey to Membership Classes

Online format, new dates, but for those who never could "fit them in" perhaps the right time to take our new member classes!

The four Wednesdays, May 6-27, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. – come to the meetings at 6:00 p.m. if you want to eat dinner together on Zoom. Register and learn more about membership at First Unitarian Society Milwaukee here or just email Lynne at [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org) with intent or questions.

Led by our ministers, staff and lay leaders this class is a prerequisite to membership, but you are not required to join to come. Sign up if you are interested in membership, curious to learn more about us, or just want to explore with others a deeper understanding of covenantal community as we strive to practice it [here](#) at First Church.

## HOW TO REACH US

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[www.uumilwaukee.org](http://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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