



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

September 2020

Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Hello Dear Ones,

How I miss seeing your faces each week. Even as I am settling into living in this changed and changing world, sometimes a loss or longing pokes its head up like a little meerkat in my soul. I feel a sudden shudder along the left line of my heart and sigh. I miss you.

This year is likely to be like that: little surges of grief or longing amidst resettling acceptance. We will learn new ways of being and doing, as our spirits adjust to all that has changed and been lost.

There will still be joy, and hope, and love amidst the shifting sands. In this time of deep change, we can make the conscious choice to cultivate them and renew our spirits. We can choose to pause, be present, and listen. We can choose to return to the deep well that fills up our souls, drop the bucket down, and retrieve that which nourishes us. We can drink deeply, breathe slowly, witness. We can choose to celebrate and renew our commitment to community, as we will when we ordain our First Church Minister of Religious Education on October 18—one of the most sacred acts a congregation can take together (see Kimberlee's article for more details).

The great turning we are in this year will heighten how our experiences of joy and loss, tragedy and hope are woven together. It is more important than ever to choose to renew our communal bonds, share in one another's joys and sorrows, and nurture our spirits with connection in this time of physical distance.

May you be well, may you be held, may you be whole.

With love,
Jennifer

SUNDAY SERVICE

ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.
LIVE ON YOUTUBE

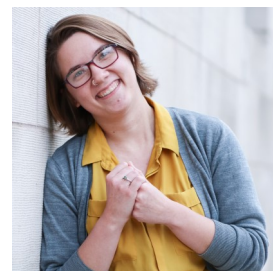
SEPTEMBER 6

"Nap, Pray, Love"

Monica Kling-Garcia, Member

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director
Beth Monhollen, Worship Associate

In our society, productivity is often the measure of success. Yet, during the COVID-19 pandemic, our ability to be "productive" was prevented by our collective grief and sudden changes in our society. If we listen to ourselves, we may find that we are tired in many ways – physically and spiritually. This Sunday, we will explore the different ways to let ourselves rest and why it is important. Log in to church in your comfy clothes and with your favorite warm beverage in hand as we care for our mind, body, and spirit together!



Monica is the Schug Ministerial Intern at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago and a third-year seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School. In her ministry, she is passionate about the ways that we are all connected and the responsibility we all have to build a fair and just world for each other. Monica currently lives in Chicago with her husband, Logan, and their cat, Yennefur, and is grateful for the opportunity to return (even if virtually) to her home congregation that first encouraged her ministry.

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

RENEWAL?

SUNDAY SERVICE
ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
LIVE ON YOUTUBE

TIME CHANGE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13

SEPTEMBER 13
INGATHERING SUNDAY
"Making Things New"

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Rev. Dena McPhetres

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director & the Chancel Choir

Dale Skaggs, Worship Associate

Renewal means "to make new." How are we being made new through the dramatic changes in the world? While there is much to mourn in today's reality, there are also remarkable opportunities to transform ourselves, our community, and the world. How can we be renewed in and through relationship? How can we renew ourselves and nourish others' renewal? Join us for this Ingathering Sunday where we explore making things new, and send a photo of yourself at church in to be included in the virtual service by Monday September 7 at 11:00 p.m. Email your photo to worship@uumilwaukee.org or upload it with this form: <https://form.jotform.com/202338387191054>.

SEPTEMBER 20
"Renewal By Fire"

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Paul Kosidowski, Worship Associate

Renewal can also come from deconstructing what is, not only building something new. Historically, natural forest fires were a regular part of a forest's life and cleared out old dead vegetation bit by bit. However, if natural forest fires were prevented, then too much fuel accumulated and built into a big, catastrophic event. How do we know when deconstruction is necessary for the health of the system, or when a fire has too much fuel and will turn into catastrophe rather than renewal? How do we encourage natural health and balance in our own ecosystems at home, church, and in the world?

SEPTEMBER 27

"Repair and Renew"

Rev. Dena McPhetres

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Nick Hayes, Worship Associate

The human body knows how to repair its wounds. The healing power of the body is one of our original blessings. When our hearts break or our relationships break, repairing what is broken is a choice. Does the group body, the community, know how to repair as one of our original blessings, or is it something we learn and do together? Sometimes renewal involves repair.

Dena's Digressions

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres

A wise mentor once told me that when people attend a wedding ceremony, they celebrate the new couple's commitment while simultaneously reflecting on their own marriages or committed relationships. We think a wedding is about blessing a new couple, but it is equally about reflecting on our own journey of relationship, and re-committing to the person we love.

Whenever I attend an ordination of a soon-to-be colleague into the Unitarian Universalist ministry, I reflect on my own transformation from lay person to Reverend. I recall with fondness and humility my own ordination ceremony. My gratitude overflows and my spirit is nourished. I recommit to the high and deep ideals evoked in the service. I join my voice and heart to the living tradition once again and am inspired and renewed.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee has the sacred honor of ordaining Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson to the UU ministry in October. During the act of ordination, which only a congregation has the power to do, Kimberlee will take her vows to serve some pretty impressive high ideals! She will deepen her promise to serve you, the community of First Church. And we the people of First Church will make promises to her. This is a rite of transformation of a relationship that already exists, but will become more vivid, full, grounded, and soaring during the ceremony. Make no mistake, we who participate in Kimberlee's ordination will be changed.

I invite you to consider renewing your commitment to this congregation that you made when you became members. In the secret recesses of your heart, and in the loud gladness of exercising your unique power to ordain Kimberlee, may our congregation be a people of renewal. May we promise our best selves to each other, the sacred, and future generations.

Save the Date: Sunday, October 18. You don't want to miss it.



Giving for Ingathering on September 13

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

Traditionally, our Ingathering Sunday marks the end of our summer adventures and a joyful return to begin a new church year together. This year requires that we adjust the form our Ingathering customs take and find new ways of returning and renewing our commitments to one another, our community, and the common good.

I can recall that fabulous buzz of energy last fall at my first, First Church Ingathering, a palpable joy of being on a new adventure together. This year my heart longs for that restorative force once again and I find that I am renewed in the stories shared by many of you. Learning of the many ways folks have found to connect and serve our community, stories that face injustice with creative problem solving, and a determination to making meaning out of this turbulent time.

This has inspired our Children's Religious Education Team to celebrate and share how we are GIVING at Ingathering this fall. All parents are faced with hard decisions about school and childcare this year and we want to be a part of helping families in our community get the resources they need.

We know together we can work collectively to make a real impact on those in our community who are struggling this fall, especially with families who must find ways to care and educate their children virtually this school year.

Over the next few weeks, we will be providing ways for you to directly help families who are disproportionately affected at this time. Look for these in our announcements and RE Weekly Updates.

We will create our restorative buzz of energy by collecting pictures of our efforts that will be shared during our Ingathering Sunday Service. We ask that you send us your picture (just one please) to worship@uumilwaukee.org or use the form at <https://form.jotform.com/202338387191054>

With hope & gratitude,
Kimberlee

Renewal

by Lynne Jacoby
Membership Development Coordinator

It has been hard to think about the new church year without the prospect of gathering together in person anytime soon. Hard to get my head around my new job of "Virtual Membership." Hard to get my heart into it. I miss you all. I miss us all gathered in our sanctuary to worship and sing together, and I will continue to miss us together until we are.

And we have to consider the theme of Renewal THIS month? Oy!

Still, in considering, a part of me recognizes I have spent too much time waiting this summer. Not intellectually, because I am watching the news so I know. But at a deeper level, perhaps because I am watching too much news! I am waiting for normal. Normal church and normal life and normal politics even (like "Make America Normal Again, eh Lynne?" Oy!)

My saving grace has been Wednesday mornings with the Poetry Contemplation group. Many folks have been responding to poems vis a vis their Pandemic lives. They have been noticing things they miss, yes, but also things they don't. They have noticed how sometimes they appreciate their quieter moments, their slower schedules. They have found, or re-found, different connections and activities to inhabit their days. They have noticed some of these are surprisingly meaningful.

I would like to say reading poetry is a practice of attention so of course, this self-selected group is noticing helpful things, but then there is me! While some seem to be constructing pandemic lives that are enriching their current days and have the potential to inform new lives beyond, I seem to have been waiting. There seems to be a mindset as well as a practice involved.

It makes me realize that if we think of this church year as something to get through, we will spend it waiting and waste an incredibly unique opportunity: to notice what we are desperately missing, and also what are we not; to craft new practices not just as stop-gap measures for now, but with the potential to inform our future; to be a bit vulnerable, wildly creative, and ready to try anything just to notice. Does it resonate?

Change, they say, is the only constant, the only "normal." And when we can all gather together in person again, this may be especially true of our world. Let us not be the church waiting to hit a reset button in that future. Let us be a community surprisingly renewed by our pandemic lives.



Our October Ordination

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education



There is a leap of faith that is required in becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister. In contrast to other religions where it might be described as following a calling from God, our faith is grounded in learning, service, and relationship.

During ministerial formation we are asked to discover and articulate our theological beliefs, how we find and hold on to hope, demonstrate how we serve and why. Over the years a responsibility grew in me, grounded in the history of our faith, people, and world, asking me to serve our belief in a universal love that holds us all. Those of us who take this leap into UU ministry do so hoping that we will find people to act on shared values, risk being known to themselves and others and will see in us someone whose heart is ready to serve and grow with them. That leap of faith is made real during ordination.

In our faith, ordination is granted through a relationship of a minister and a congregation. It is a sacred gift. You have welcomed me into your church and the lives of your families. Your presence at my ordination on October 18, 2020 will welcome me officially as a minister.

On October 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. my ordination will complete the transformation and confirmation of my journey to become a minister and our work together as a beloved faith community. We will light the chalice that day and when we extinguish it, I will be honored with the title of Reverend. That is the sacred gift that you give me.

My journey has been long, blessed with campus ministry, countless RE classrooms, youth conferences, and meetings in church basements. Now, I have found my way am here with all of you at First Church; I am humbled and honored that this congregation unanimously voted to ordain me at our May annual meeting. Though this is far from how I imagined my

final step in my ministerial formation, I am inspired that together we will move forward through the tumult and together renew our promise to live into our values.

I am pleased to announce that Dale Skaggs, Bizzy Schultz, Beth Monhollen and Sarah Richards have enthusiastically agreed to be on my ordination team. The ordination planning team will help with decisions around budget, communication, and do some of the implementation to make the event a successful collaboration that represents both First Church and my ministry.

I look forward to being together on my ordination day!

In gratitude,
Kimberlee

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Willard Moore
1929 ~ 2020

Joan Moore died peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday night August 5, 2020, with her son there by her side. Joan had a long journey with slow-growing colon cancer. She was 91 years old and was a member of our congregation for six years.

A Candle of Life was lit in honor of Joan during our online Sunday worship service on August 9, 2020. An online memorial service was held on August 22, 2020.

Donations in memory of Joan can be sent to:

Voces de la Frontera – Milwaukee
1027 S. 5th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204
<https://vdlf.org/>



A Geography of Grace: An Invitation to Explore Your Inner Geography

by Diane Horne, Beth Monhollen & Dale Skaggs

A Geography of Grace is a new adult spiritual development offering which invites you to explore your inner geography, to listen for your inner teacher, and hear the wisdom of your own spirit. Just as many of us are removed from contact with the natural world through urban living or busy lives, we also live distanced from our inner nature. These two landscapes connect to, and inform, each other. The natural world desperately needs people who have reverence for it, listen to it, preserve, and restore it. With the same urgency, our inner lives need attention.

Using the circle of trust approach developed through The Center for Courage and Renewal (based on the work of Dr. Parker J. Palmer) this small group program utilizes “third things” – poetry, stories, music, and art— to map a journey of metaphor, symbol, and intuition, opening new vistas in our inner landscape.

In addition to the focus on geography, the other theme for this program is grace. The Latin word for grace is the same as the word for gratitude: *grata* or *gratia*, which means “a given gift.” This program is meant to help us gain (or regain) contact with our best selves, with those innate gifts we hope to offer the world.

Enrollment in A Geography of Grace is a maximum of fourteen participants. The program will meet (via Zoom) every third Saturday beginning September 19, through to May 15 (except December). Sessions will run from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. The cost of the series is \$40 for members and \$60 for non-members. Register online at [Bit.ly/UUGeographyGrace](https://bit.ly/UUGeographyGrace).

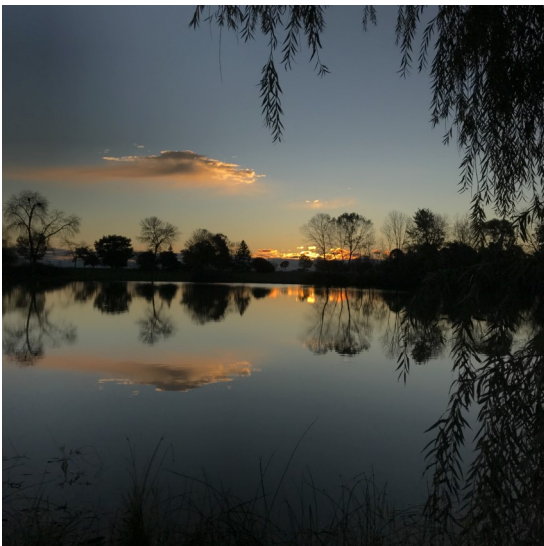


Photo by Dale Skaggs

Sanctuary Reflections Returns!

by Diane Horne & Lisa Gies

Do you ever want to go deeper with your thoughts and feelings after experiencing our worship service on Sunday morning? Join us for Sanctuary Reflections right after each online Sunday morning worship service starting with Ingathering Sunday. We'll meet in a Zoom room to reflect together on these questions:

What resonated with you from the service?

What surprised you?

What do you want to carry forward?

No preparation necessary, just drop in! Sanctuary Reflections begins Sunday, September 13. Use this link to receive the Zoom information to join: <https://form.jotform.com/202315402290946>.

Online Yoga Classes this Fall

by Lillian Schley

RE Administrative Assistant

Morgan Engels will offer two 9-week yoga classes online, allowing you to participate from the safety of your homes.

Yoga with Morgan is a chance to slow down and create space for stillness while nourishing joints, ligaments, tendons, and fascia.

Monday evening class is August 31-November 2 (no class September 21) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday registration: bit.ly/UUMondayYogaSept

Wednesday morning class is September 2-November 4 (no class September 23) 9:00-10:00 a.m. Wednesday: bit.ly/UUWednesdayYogaSept

The cost for either session is \$67.50 for First Church members and \$81 for non-members. Please preregister online; the link to join the class will be sent to you prior to the first session.



Theme Circles Frequently Asked Questions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres

What is a Theme Circle?

Theme Circles are monthly small groups that deepen and support the spiritual journeys of participants in community with each other and in connection with the church's monthly worship themes.

Is this a sermon discussion group?

No, the goal is not to explore the sermons in more depth, but to explore the monthly themes in more depth. Sunday services enrich the experience of the theme but are not the focus of Theme Circles.

What is the focus of Theme Circles?

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

What do we mean by spiritual exercise?

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

What do Theme Circle meetings look like?

Here is a sample format:

- Centering (opening words, chalice lighting, followed by a moment of silent reflection)
- Brief Check-In – around 15-20 minutes
- Spiritual Exercises – around 40 minutes (Members share which spiritual exercises they chose and how it went)
- Engaging the Questions – around 40 minutes (Members practice deep listening as they share their experience "living the questions" related to the month's theme)
- Check-Out – around 10 minutes
- Closing Words

Who can participate in a Theme Circle?

Theme Circles are open to First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee members, pledging friends, and regular guests who register during the annual fall registration period.

How often do Theme Circles meet?

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

What is expected of Theme Circle members?

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

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

When do Theme Circles meet?

Theme Circles meet once a month for two hours during the third week of the month October to June. Registration begins August 21, 2020. Registration deadline is September 27, 2020. You may select which meeting time works best for you. Meeting schedule is below.

Third Mondays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Third Mondays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Third Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Third Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Third Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Third Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Registration is Available Now

[Click Here to Register](#)



FUN All Ages, Interactive, Virtual, Theme-Based Religious Education Program in 2020-21!

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

This year, the RE program, along with worship and other church activities, will be offered online. Religious education programming will focus on innovative learning and nurturing relationships with families and the larger church community. Our congregation's worship services and small group ministry both utilize the themes and resources offered by [Soul Matters](#). Theme-based ministry allows us to engage in a shared conversation across the generations through a variety of formats. This year, religious education for children and youth will also be based on Soul Matters themes.

The Soul Matters Religious Education Resources have been updated for online learning this year. We will create lessons from these resources that fit with our congregation's worship services, interests, and needs. Each month's resources include anti-racism education opportunities, ensuring that this is central to RE throughout the year. Lessons and activities will be led collaboratively by RE Staff and the wider faith community. Additionally, we will utilize [Padlet](#), an online, interactive bulletin board that will allow all ages to continue the conversation Monday through Saturday. Our goal is to build multiple opportunities that are welcoming to all.

Pre K-2nd Grade RE, Sundays, 9:15-9:45 a.m.



Mariah Groshek and Lindsey Porter will provide a time for our youngest students to connect with one another through ritual, story, and play related to the church's monthly theme. Religious education for this age group will be action and object based, including embodied meditations, artistic expression, and continuation of

the wonder box ritual. Lindsey and Mariah will also introduce activities that employ treasure hunt and "find & show" strategies. Offered before 10:00 a.m. worship, we hope to provide a warm and welcoming way for families with young children to begin church on Sunday morning.

2nd graders may choose to attend Pre K-2nd or 2nd-5th grade RE, depending on which is the best fit for the individual child.

Families Together: All Ages RE, Sundays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.



During this family ministry time, we will explore our faith and the church's monthly themes, and connect with other families in the church community. Kimberlee will guide these interactive sessions, offering ministry and sharing ways for families to build religious education into their home life.

Each week, we will invite families and church members to participate as featured guests, by lighting the chalice, sharing a story from their life, or leading a song, game, or activity. We know that families are children's primary religious educators, and that faith formation is grounded in the home. Families Together will offer a medley of ways for families to enrich their daily lives and stay centered in their values.

2nd-5th Grade RE, Sundays, noon-12:30 p.m.



After Families Together, we will offer a time for older elementary children to gather. 2nd-5th grade RE will feature a chalice lighting, check-in, and short, experiential small group activities to hold participants' attention and build relationships. To ensure that this program is interactive, we will lean on four strategies to ensure compelling online experiences:

- Simultaneous creation (i.e. simple online creative projects participants can do on the screen with others)
- Science experiments
- Treasure hunt approaches
- "Find 'N Show" approaches

And, of course, games! We will keep featuring games that work well online as spirituality without fun is no fun at all! This program will be led by RE volunteers and staff. 2nd graders may choose to attend Pre K-2nd or 2nd-5th grade RE, depending on which is the best fit for the individual child.

6th-8th Grade Crossing Paths (Time TBA)

Crossing Paths is an interfaith learning program with the goal of helping youth build and clarify their own UU identity through engagement with other faiths. This interfaith journey will include Unitarian Universalism, Judaism, Christianity, Catholicism, Quakerism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Paganism.

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)



Each unit will focus on one faith tradition over four interactive sessions. During the first session, youth will learn about the basic beliefs and practices of the religion. In the second session, we will reflect on how the faith compares to Unitarian Universalism. The third session will be a virtual visit to another faith community,

through exploring their website, watching worship, or engaging in spiritual practice and interviewing a guest from the faith tradition. The final week together will be time to reflect and appreciate new spiritual learnings.

Participants will be able to select and sign up for specific units. We ask that they commit to all four sessions of the faith or faiths they choose to explore.

Through Crossing Paths, participants will gain wisdom and develop and deepen their spiritual practices. Welcoming and reaching out across differences is at the heart of Unitarian Universalism. Our hope is that youth leave Crossing Paths with seeds of the spiritual practices that they will carry with them throughout their entire lives.

9th-12th Grade Youth Group, Sundays, 4:00-5:30 p.m.



Soul Matter's Youth Group resource is not a curriculum, but it does offer tools to help youth leadership build their own experience. Each month's packet components support "whole person" learning, with sections focusing on the different ways we engage with the world: head, heart, hands, body, spirit/soul, and community. Here's an overview of these holistic packet sections:

- I. Getting Started (engaging with the theme through community)
- II. Spiritual Practice (engaging with the theme soulfully)
- III. Discussion Starters (engaging with the theme with your head)
- IV. Express Yourself (engaging the theme with your hands and creativity)
- V. Fun & Games (engaging the theme through your body and experiential learning)

Each week, two youth leaders and two adult advisers will take the lead in guiding the youth group through the activities they have chosen. The weekly meetings will also allow youth a time to socialize and connect as a community.

Register your family for 2020-21 RE by September 13 to receive Early Bird Discount!

The 2020-21 Church Year is right around the corner! Planning for virtual RE this fall is ongoing, so the RE Staff is extending the Early Bird discount to Ingathering Sunday, September 13. Register by that date to receive an Early Bird Discount of \$25/child (with lowered family maximums.)

First Church Member registration

Non-Member registration

If your family could use a full or partial fee-waiver, feel free to contact [Kimberlee](#) to set one up.

We never turn a family away!

We're using new forms this year! Please contact [Lillian](#) if the registration is not working or you need a hand!



**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

nurture. engage. inspire.



Come, Come Whoever You Are

by Bruce Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry Chair

The Rumi song invites our agenda for earth justice this year. We invite you to attend the Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) Fall Advance (we don't retreat!). It will be held in mid-September and we invite all First Church members and friends to join us.

What is the Earth Justice Ministry? The EJM nurtures the spirit, engages the mind, and offers opportunities for action to help ensure a just and livable world. We act out of our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, as our seventh UU Principle says. We also cherish the other 6 principles of Unitarian Universalism, which means there is something for everyone to do, and we encourage you to "get in where you fit in" as Rev. Jennifer encouraged in a sermon last year. Whatever your skills or your inclination, please join us. Everybody can play a part.

What does EJM do? We do what our members have the interest and energy to do. Definite plans have not been set. We cannot gather in person, so we encourage you to bring your ideas for actions or activities. A film series? We could watch films, webinars, or workshops together (or on our own), and then gather virtually for discussions. Speaker series? Prepare a program for UUA General Assembly 2021? What else?

If you are interested, please make sure you are on the First Church Earth Justice Google Group so that you receive notice of the Fall Advance. Contact Terry Wiggins and she will put you on it. Or, if you want to learn more about EJM, contact Chair Bruce Wiggins. Our contact information is in the church directory, on our MyFirstChurch Member Portal or contact the church office.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Chris Aiken** whose father died on July 19. We are thinking of the whole Aiken family at this time of loss.

"All in the Family" announces members with births, adoptions, surgeries, deaths of family members, significant illness, an honor or award to celebrate. We invite you to submit to "All in the Family" by using the Chanticleer submission form.



BLM2WUU

Statement of Support for Reparations

by Mary Devitt
BLM2WUU Coordinator

Our five-congregation collaboration, Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs, has adopted the following statement in support of reparations. Excerpts below. For more information, see the entire statement here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DXUaXUp0T8R4f8FdA5MECdhW_CYS0Sx/view.

"In accordance with the Unitarian Universalist Association's mandate to dismantle white supremacy culture within the organization, our five-congregation collaboration (Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin Unitarian Universalists*) apologizes for complicity with the nation's history of institutional chattel slavery and its living legacy of structural racism, racial injustice and hatred. We pledge to work within our congregations and communities, individually, and on the national level to help repair the harms done to Black people living in the United States. As we work to fulfill our promises, we resolve to follow the leadership of Black people, those who have been most harmed by past centuries of wrong behavior and ongoing harms of injurious systems.

"The United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law describes five formal categories of reparations: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. ... (See Full statement for more detail)

Source: National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations
(ncobraonline.org)

"We endorse this conceptualization. We find further authority for the work of reparations in our Unitarian Universalist Principles, particularly the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 8th principles. ...

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(Continued from page 9)

"We commit to participating in individual and communal educational and spiritual work that undergirds an acceptance of responsibility, reconciliation, and repair of relationships and by engaging in the five categories of reparations outlined by the UN.

"Our work is supported by the Unitarian Universalist Association, which states:

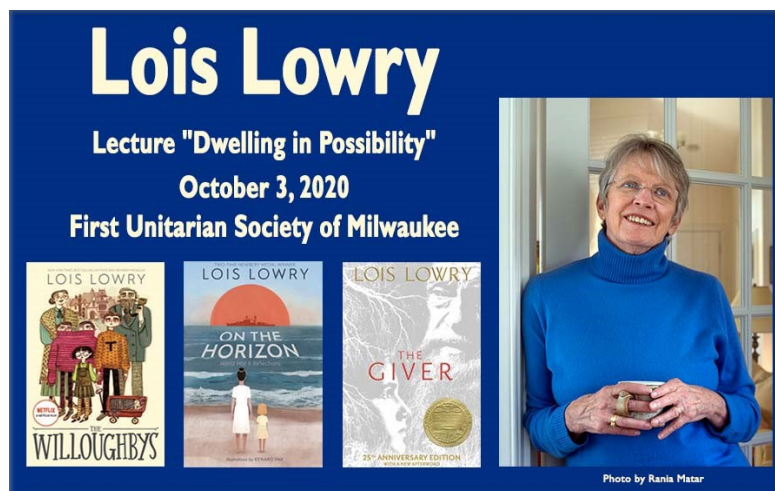
"Any discussion on reparations must begin with an acknowledgment of the ongoing genocide, oppression, and exploitation of Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color so pervasive in the worldwide Euro-dominant, racist, capitalist system. . . . Ultimately, a true cessation of this aggression is required to ensure freedom, justice, and equity for all. While we work toward a total liberation for all, we must acknowledge the hurts that can be healed, the faults that can be fixed, and the repair possible among communities suffering from the material outcomes of hundreds of years of oppression. (Commission on Institutional Change, Widening the Circle, UUA; 2020)"

*Unitarian Universalist Church West, Brookfield; Unitarian Church North, Mequon; First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee; Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church, Hartland; United Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Waukesha

Changing Our *Chanticleer* Newsletter With Your Help

by Shari Wright
Office Manager

The communications team is extremely interested in your opinion on how to receive our church news this year. In the last few months, our paper *Chanticleer* was not mailed due to the COVID-19 shut-down, and the newsletter was sent out electronically to everyone and posted on our church's website. It is a priority to communicate with our church members and friends, especially during this pandemic. We'd like to invite you to participate in a short questionnaire to get your feedback about how we will improve the design and delivery of the newsletter. Please answer these questions in the online form <https://form.jotform.com/202023363376044>. Or if you prefer, contact Shari Wright, call 414-273-5257, during work hours 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.



Dwelling in Possibility: Lois Lowry to Give Morter Lecture

by Cheryl Maranto
Irma Morter Lecture Team

Join us for a unique evening with award-winning author Lois Lowry. Ms. Lowry is the featured speaker at this year's annual Morter Lecture, sponsored by the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. Her lecture, "Dwelling in Possibility," will explore what strength, wisdom, and energy we can gain at this moment when we are confined to our dwelling places. Please join us for this lively virtual gathering.

- Live lecture by Lois Lowry inspired by Emily Dickinson's poem that begins "I dwell in possibility"
- Saturday, October 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.
- The event will be livestreamed via Zoom. Registrants will receive an email with a login and password to access the event.
- Ms. Lowry's talk will be followed by moderated Q&As.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/UULoisLowry>.

Lowry has written over 40 books for youth and young adults including *The Willoughbys*, *The Giver Quartet*, and most recently, *On the Horizon*. Her books explore complex issues that children and adolescents grapple with as they grow toward adulthood.

The Association for Library Service to Children has awarded Ms. Lowry the Newberry Medal twice: in 1990 for *Number the Stars*, and in 1994 for *The Giver*. The Newberry Medal is given annually for distinguished contributions to American children's literature.

Although you may not be familiar with Ms. Lowry's work, very likely your children or grandchildren are. Ask them to share their thoughts about the Lois Lowry books they've read. Read the book(s) yourself so that you can discuss it with them!



SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

11:00 a.m. Sundays On [Zoom](#) and [YouTube Live](#)

SEPTEMBER 13

“Every Voter, Every Election: Supermarket Legends in the Fight for Voter Empowerment in Milwaukee”

Presenter: Linea Sundstrom, Co-founder, Supermarket Legends



Over the last decade, Wisconsin voters have faced nearly 40 changes to voting laws. Most of these changes served to make voting more difficult, especially for low-income, disabled, elderly, and student voters. All of them served to confuse voters. Supermarket Legends of Milwaukee emerged as an all-volunteer grassroots action group with the motto and mission: every voter, every election. We go to the people--supermarkets, farmers markets, community events, marches—to register voters and provide them the tools they need to empower themselves at the ballot box. Learn about the history and current strategies of the Legends and bring your voting and elections questions. Through her leadership, Linea Sundstrom has learned the hard way how to harness people power. Linea is an independent consultant in archaeology and historic preservation for federal and state agencies. Host: Jerry Fredrickson

SEPTEMBER 20

“From Pantry to Community Food Center”

Presenter: Vincent Noth, Executive Director, Riverwest Food Pantry



Food pantries present a unique opportunity to improve nutritional health and reduce poverty. Frequency and familiarity makes a pantry a natural community entry point. Food is a powerful medium to build and restore neighborhood well-being. Pantries currently distribute unhealthy processed food even though their shoppers have alarming rates of dietary chronic illness. RWFP rescues, grows & buys 80,000 pounds of produce annually and our food demos share ways to transform processed food into a healthy diet. Our pantries are becoming dynamic food environments that promote nutrient dense food and improve dietary health.

Many pantry shoppers face small compounded obstacles that prevent them from moving to a place of greater stability. RWFP has designed a mentoring program that trains select volunteers with knowledge of resources and skills to walk with interested pantry shoppers towards greater economic and/or social stability. Host: Dan O’Keefe

SEPTEMBER 27

“The Maps Mess In Wisconsin”

Presenter: Carlene Bechen, Fair Maps Organizer, Wisconsin Voices



Carlene Bechen, will share the history of redistricting in Wisconsin, the impact of gerrymandered maps and where we are now in the campaign to achieve a nonpartisan redistricting process. Carlene joined Wisconsin Voices as the Fair Maps Organizer in November 2019. She is a retired Wisconsin educator with more than thirty years of volunteer grassroots activism. She has been lead organizer on many local, state and national campaigns in southern Wisconsin and North Carolina. Host: Jerry Fredrickson





Two Fall Classes to Learn About Computers and Become an Expert

by Shari Wright, Office Manager

You are invited to join us for a four week class every Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. by Zoom online with your computer. Shari and other tech experts will cover Zoom participant tools, teach you more about your personal computer (PC) files, moving around the PC, and answer questions about your PC. Each week you will receive information related to the upcoming Friday topic.

Click [here](#) to receive the link to select the class you can join and you will receive the Zoom link in mid-September.

September Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

Beginning Sunday, September 13, Riverwest Food Pantry is our September Share the Plate recipient.

With two sites located in Milwaukee, the Riverwest Food Pantry proudly serves residents in the 53212, 53211, 53217, 53202, and 53203 zip codes. The Riverwest Food Pantry's mission is "to come together around food to relieve hunger, improve lives and grow community well-being." They improve the social, nutritional, and financial vitality of communities through hunger relief.

Currently, the Riverwest Food Pantry has adjusted pantry operations in response to COVID-19 to a "pick-up service" of pre-bagged food in order to prevent the spread of infection.

They remain open but only providing food from the St. Casimir site. Currently, there is a need for volunteers to work in the Pantry, either by sorting food or distributing it. The Pantry is taking precautions like mask-wearing, glove-wearing, hand sanitizing, and physical distancing. To learn more about this organization or how you can become more involved, please visit their website at www.riverwestfoodpantry.org

To make a monetary donation directly to the Riverwest Food Pantry or to donate food online to the Pantry visit their website at www.riverwestfoodpantry.org/get-involved.

HOW TO REACH US

414.273.5257

office@uumilwaukee.org

www.uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202

Staff members have varying hours. Please contact them directly to set up an appointment.

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