



THE

# CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

November 2020

## Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

The early November winds carry us to a time of transition: one of seasons, one of spirits, and one of worldly concerns. As the weather gets colder and the trees slowly shed their colorful garments, so too our nation is being laid bare. After months of the worst pandemic in a century, one that has claimed over 200,000 American lives, and multiple recent crisis points boiling up in the centuries-long illness of racism and white supremacy, we face an election that challenges the nature of our U.S. democracy. We fight for the soul of our nation this month: we reckon with the health of our democracy, and the wellness of the peoples' spirit. Will we move together towards healing? Or will simmering illness spill over into a fight for our lives? A new First Church team to Defend Democracy has begun—please read the Defend Democracy article on page 4 to learn more.

This national reckoning is laid over our individual lives, which contain as much pain, and need as much healing, as they always have. Even in pandemic, racism reckoning, and threats to democracy, daily life goes on, with its dishes, diagnoses, and deaths. We honor All Saints and All Souls Days at the beginning of November, remembering our beloved dead. I send my care to all of you who are grieving the loss of a loved one, either newly or still, a present pain more important to an individual life than all the societal chaos that shifts to the background in light of personal grief.

### MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

## HEALING?

## SUNDAY SERVICE

ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

NOVEMBER 1

### “They Are With Us Still”

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Jeff Percy, Worship Associate

PASTORAL CARE RECOGNITION

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Turn clocks back one hour Saturday night!

Healing ourselves heals the future and reconciles us to the past. Grief is the normal human response to loss. Ignoring our grief is not a healthy long-term strategy. We'll explore grieving as a healing process that engages our minds, hearts, spirits, and bodies. Today we will remember loved ones we have lost through a simple ritual. You are invited to create a sacred space at home, perhaps with a lovely piece of fabric, a vase of flowers, a candle, and photos of those you have lost. We will also lift up our pastoral care ministry, which is one of the important ways our community helps heal each other.

NOVEMBER 8

### “Healing Hurts”

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

The Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,

Minister of Religious Education

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Jobey Clarke, Worship Associate

What does it take to heal? There is so much that hurts right now: a global pandemic that is the worst of a century; centuries of racism and white supremacy bubbling to the surface of this tense moment; serious threat to democracy in the United

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Words on the Wind (continued from page 1)

The work of healing is the same it has been for centuries of human life. Our fresh struggles and suffering are nothing new under the sun, but they are ours to tend. May you have the strength, rest, and forbearance this November to weather this cycle of transitions. May the electoral transition take place with integrity, and may we be part of choosing democracy to make it so. May our transition to the dark of the year include reflection and acceptance of the cycle of seasons. And may our personal transitions each be held in love, support, and community.

With love,  
Jennifer

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

## November 8 Sunday Service (continued from page 1) “Healing Hurts”

States. And that is at the societal level. We know that collective wounds touch our individual wounds which are also smarting right now. What does it take to heal these hurts? Join us for this service that explores different modalities of healing: from the painful work of physical therapy to the gentle comfort of releasing pain.

NOVEMBER 15  
**“We Can’t Heal Alone”**  
**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**  
The Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,  
Minister of Religious Education  
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director  
Kevin Gibson, Worship Associate

Healing requires intentional relationship, there is no magic wand. As a society, if we stay in our silos, we’ll continue to be sick. Through relationships with each other and with community partners, we create new patterns and larger scale healing. How have other parts of the world healed after great trauma and what can we learn from them?

NOVEMBER 22

### “Beautiful Band-Aids”

**The Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,**  
**Minister of Religious Education**

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom  
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director  
Nick Hayes, Worship Associate

MULTIGENERATIONAL SERVICE  
CHILD DEDICATION CEREMONY

How can art heal? The act of creating offers a restorative spiritual path forward, the process requires the maker to mindfully engage as they invest their time and energy. Some of the most compelling art emerges from struggle and suffering, emulating our own life’s dance between beauty and pain. Join us while we explore stories of art and healing. This will be a multi-generational service with a child dedication ceremony. Families are especially invited to attend together as there will be no religious education classes on this day.

Child Dedication information is on page 5.

NOVEMBER 29

### “Sermon Title TBA”

**Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Pulpit Guest**

The Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,  
Minister of Religious Education  
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director  
Paul Kosidowski, Worship Associate

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti serves as Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI. He is a co-editor of a newly-released Skinner House anthology of prayers, *Conversations with the Sacred*. He is also a co-editor of the 2018-2019 UUA common read, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*.



## Dena's Digressions

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres

One of the most important things we do as a religious community is create sacred time and space together to consider all that is our lives and find meaning and purpose amidst the challenges we face in the world. When we are not in our building, we can still create sacred time and space at home. Some of our church families have created a home altar. Maybe you'd like to, also. The Soul Matters team says the purpose of a home altar is "to create a space that helps one stay connected to what is sacred and nourishing." Who doesn't need that in these challenging times?

How do we create a sacred space at home? First, find a small table, corner or shelf—maybe the top of your dresser or a section of your dining table. Then, find things to put there that are special to you and invite all the senses. A lovely cloth to look at indicates to our eyes that this spot is special. Perhaps a small stone or seasonal item from nature that we can touch. Maybe a favorite oil or herb that smells good. A small bell or chime ready to be sounded to mark the nourishing time we spend there.

Early November holds holidays that help people remember the loved ones they lost and hold us as we grieve and celebrate their lives. Samhain, Mexican Dia de los Muertos, and All Soul's Day fall near on the calendar.

On Sunday, November 1, we'll make sacred time during the spoken meditation to remember our loved ones and say their names. You may want to add some photos to your home altar of the loved ones you've lost. There will be a temporary home altar in the background of my screen and I'll light votive candles for their names.

We are all carrying so much. Making sacred time and space at home can help us bear it.

Yours,  
Dena

## Splinters from the Board

by Ben LeFort  
Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees held our second meeting of the church year on September 22 using video conferencing.

We discussed Rev. Jennifer's report on monitoring progress on the Ends goal #4, adopted by the congregation during the 2017-18 church year.

End #4 reads: "Generously give and receive support, connection, and care in times of joy and challenge." Staff began measuring this End two years ago, so this was the first opportunity to assess progress. Here's how we're doing relative to the four measurements for this End.

1. The Congregational Survey: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this was rescheduled from this spring to October. We're assessing results now and will be reporting to the congregation by December.
2. People will let each other know what's happening in their lives, sharing stories of joy and challenge, giving and receiving, both publicly and privately: Staff measured this quantitatively and qualitatively, and noted that especially during the pandemic our congregation has been deepening our connections with each other.
3. Are people comfortable enough asking for Pastoral Care, and do they receive it? Post-COVID, more Pastoral Care contacts happened than in all of the previous church year.
4. Pledge Drive Increase Goal of 5%: The result of last spring's pledge drive was a 0.5% increase, which did not meet the goal but is better than might be expected considering the COVID-19 outbreak.

We will be monitoring other Ends at the next board meeting.

The board also discussed recruitment of a Youth Liaison to the board, as well as preparations for the Ordination of Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson. Rev. Jennifer provided an update on the Strategic Planning Team, which was in the process of recommending a consultant to facilitate that work.

Minutes of the meeting are posted on the First Church website. Feel free to share your questions or concerns with members of the board anytime.



# THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE & THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

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## Defend Democracy

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

### The Defend Democracy Team

Nick Hayes

Pete Koneazny

Beth Monhollen

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Kathy Rivera (Chair)

Terry Wiggins

Our new First Church Defend Democracy Team members have each pledged to protect and defend our democracy, as part of our Unitarian Universalist faith practice. Our democracy is currently under threat: at best, this election will be chaotic and confusing; at worst, there may be an attempt at an undemocratic power grab—a coup.

If there is an undemocratic takeover attempt this November, what will you do? Will you be ready to take action?

Please join us in pledging to take action to uphold democracy and a fair election. Everyone has a role to play in defending our democracy, from pressuring our officials to count every vote, to clearly defining what a coup is, to taking to the streets if necessary, to stop an undemocratic takeover.

Together, we the people have the power to defend our democracy. Nonviolent mass resistance has stopped coups around the world, and we can do the same here if anyone attempts to thwart a free and fair election.

Will you join us and commit to take action? Sign up to be on the list of folks who want to participate in defending democracy. Email Kathy Rivera at [lewriviera2013@icloud.com](mailto:lewriviera2013@icloud.com).

In addition to concrete tasks, this work requires spiritual resilience and emotional groundedness, skills we practice as a spiritual community. Courage is a function of struggle and vulnerability. It is more than okay to feel fear, grief, anger, numbness, or overwhelm, it is part of the process of being present to reality so we can take action. Feel your feelings. Process them with someone you trust. If you would like to process them with a Pastoral Care Associate you can email [fuspastoralcare@gmail.com](mailto:fuspastoralcare@gmail.com). We also have resources for processing with other UUs on Election Day at the Election Day and Night UU Spiritual Space and with First Church on November 4 (see the events on this page.)

## Post-Election Reflection Gathering

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

**Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.**

Gather online with the First Church Community to reflect on the Nov. 3 election. We do not know what will happen in this election, and we may not even know the results by the evening of Nov. 4, but we do know community makes sharing times of joy and challenge better.

The evening will begin with a reading and short reflection from your ministers, followed by small group break outs where you can share your thoughts and feelings and reflect with other First Church folks. A youth break out space will be available.

To participate in our authentic and reliable online meeting, please use the link below to enter your name and email to receive the Zoom information. If you don't have an email or wish to participate by phone, dial the phone number listed below.

Zoom link: <https://form.jotform.com/203015041550942>

Dial by phone +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 836 4047 7562, Passcode: 924532592

## Election Day and Night UU Spiritual Space

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

UU Ministers from around the country are gathering online to offer a UU space for anyone seeking respite, positive energy, peace, and spiritual practice on Election Day. You may join at any time during that day to find a peaceful space for reflection, prayer, meditation, and spiritual practice. We look forward to seeing you anytime you want to drop in on Zoom.

Tuesday, November 3, 9:00 a.m. CST until 9:00 p.m. CST

[https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99553231971?](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99553231971?pwd=azZDRERZVURURzBjNU11SjMwUTNjUT09)

[pwd=azZDRERZVURURzBjNU11SjMwUTNjUT09](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99553231971?pwd=azZDRERZVURURzBjNU11SjMwUTNjUT09)

Zoom Meeting ID: 995 5323 1971, Passcode: 954636

**Also on Election Night**, you can find UU Open Space on Zoom with ministerial chaplains available for reflection, spiritual practice, and care.

Tuesday, November 3, between 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 212 683 4998, Passcode: 10016



## Art as an Antidote

by the Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Religious philosopher Henry Wieman asks us that we pay attention to our own life experiences when searching for “God.” He suggests that “God” is in the process of creative interchange and we experience the holy when we are participating in that creative interchange. Art and artmaking are a direct way we can outwardly express ourselves and focus ourselves on that creative interchange. I wonder where you engage with the holy in this way, where do your creative impulses take you?



For me, the events of the day can best be processed while shaping an image or bent over a potter's wheel forming a bowl or holding an implement of creation in my hands. I find it empowering to create something, to be fully present in expressing my emotions and feelings, sometimes in ways, I am not even fully aware of. It is a joy to have others share meaning in my making. There is a deep satisfaction in creating a vessel that someone will cherish, a cup that enhances the experience of sipping tea, a chalice that someone will light in celebration or mourning or ritual.

When I was an elementary school art teacher, I experienced palpable delight in witnessing children grow into their own power to create art. Nonetheless, after 9/11, I witnessed young children draw airplanes flying into buildings for years and it was wrenching. I frequently resisted the urge to encourage them to make something else. Long after the adults in their life tired of explaining the tragic heartbreak of 9/11, the children continued to process what they had witnessed. It was hard to watch but good that the children felt safe to express themselves and, in a way, start to heal themselves.

It is my kind of miracle, one I can believe in; making can help heal, can shift our reality from heartbreak to hope. Art can be an antidote for despair.

At a time when hope is fragile and rare, I turn to artists throughout history who transform their experiences of pain into beauty while creating connections across iden-

ties and through time. Seeing Frida Kahlo's painting “Henry Ford Hospital,” or hearing Billie Holiday sing, “Strange Fruit” allows us to share the emotions and insights of the artist's struggle, creating a shared experience can heal through understanding and compassion.

Whatever your medium, whoever your muse, may we all give art some space to fill our heart and heal our souls this month.

Blessings,  
Reverend Kimberlee  
Minister of Religious Education

## Child Dedication Service

November 22, 2020

On November 22, a Dedication of Parents and Children will take place during our virtual service at 10:00 a.m. The Child Dedication Ceremony is a time for celebrating the birth or adoption of a child in a ceremony of naming and dedication. It is a time for welcoming our children into the world, into the family and into the church community. It is a time for acknowledging that each child's life is sacred and hold that truth in the light of our faith. This simple ceremony is related to the Christian “baptism” or “christening,” though the meanings we attach to it are significantly different.

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

If you are interested in having your child dedicated on November 22, email our RE admin Lillian Schley At [re.admin@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:re.admin@uumilwaukee.org) or fill out the online form by Sunday, November 11 at <https://uumilwaukee.org/child-dedication-form>.





## Crossing Paths 6th-8th Grade

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

Crossing Paths is an interfaith learning program to help 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. Find full course descriptions on our website at <https://uumilwaukee.org/religious-education/middle-school/>.

Our first faith journey happens on November 8, 15 and 29 at 2:00 pm with our focus on Unitarian Universalism



## Trunk or Treat: Halloween for the Whole Family!

by Lillian Schley  
RE Administrative Assistant

On November 1, Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield will host a Trunk or Treat event in collaboration with other UU churches in Southeastern Wisconsin. Trunk or Treat is an opportunity for families to reserve a spot in the UUCW parking lot, decorate their car and load up on treats, and safely socialize while children trick or treat from car to car. We can't wait to see your creative costumes and festive decorations! Because of Trunk or Treat, there will be no virtual RE classes on November 1. More information about timing, safety, and reserving a space will be coming soon in the RE Weekly Newsletter. [Sign up here.](#)

# JOIN US FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ALL ARE WELCOME!

- PreK-2nd Grade 9:15 a.m.
- Families Together 11:15 a.m.
- 2nd-5th Grade 12:00 p.m.
- Middle School 2:00 p.m.
- Youth Group 4:00 p.m.



***Sign Up to receive our RE Weekly Update!***

**TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT:**  
[UUMILWAUKEE.ORG >RE](https://uumilwaukee.org/re)





## **Food, Climate Change & Equity: Combat Climate Change & Promote Equity by Improving our Food System**

by Bruce Wiggins  
Earth Justice Ministry

Our food system exacerbates climate change and inequality. Here are ideas for addressing these issues. Our Earth Justice Ministry urges you to consider these for Thanksgiving.

### **Drawdown**

Author and activist Paul Hawken started the Drawdown Project, identifying 100 actions that can reverse global warming. Among them: renewable energy, educating girls, family planning, and public transportation. The single biggest sector for effective change is our food system, with 17 solutions identified – many of which will actually produce financial savings. The two with the biggest savings in greenhouse gas emissions are reducing food waste and adopting a plant-rich diet. You can read about all 100 solutions at [www.Drawdown.org](http://www.Drawdown.org).

### **Inequality in our Food System**

Our food system is killing too many of us. Food writer Michael Pollan says our food is creating health problems such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertension. And these are precisely the health problems that predispose people to death from COVID-19. These health effects are affecting poor people and people of color disproportionately. See here: <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2020/06/11/covid-19-sickness-food-supply/>.

### **Promoting the Local Food Economy, Reducing Food Miles**

One of the easily understood concepts related to climate change is “food miles” – the distance our food travels. Greenhouse gas emissions come from transporting our food. Supporting our local economy reduces food miles, helps address climate change, and provides local jobs.

### **Emergency Food System Support**

Our emergency food system is a network of homeless shelters and “food banks.” They provide critical services and are being overwhelmed by the need during this pandemic. You can provide vital support with our church programs to deliver food at the Guest House and Cathedral Center. The Interchange Food Pantry, of which First Church is a member, provides food to hungry people. Other food pantries are throughout the city, and nonprofits such as Hunger Task Force and Feeding America provide vital services.

## **Widening the Circle of Concern**

by Mary Devitt,  
BLM2WUU Coordinator

UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray's [recent letter](#) called the UUA's Commission on Institutional Change's report Widening the Circle of Concern “critically important for all Unitarian Universalists.”

Placing the work in context, Frederick-Gray writes:

The Commission on Institutional Change (COIC) completed their report in February 2020, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, everything that has come to pass during this pandemic has only reinforced how urgently we are in need of transformation.

As the Commissioners write: ‘This crisis has revealed the disparities that exist at all levels for the well-being for Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color as well as for LGBTQ individuals, people living with limited economic means, and people living with disabilities. Addressing them within our faith becomes more important, not less.’

In this season of turning and change, marked by so much heartbreak and loss, I continue to be inspired by all the ways Unitarian Universalists just like you are actively showing up for liberating change within our faith community and with our larger communities and planet. There is hope to be found in doing the work of love and justice. Everything you do, and the work we are doing together, is a great source of my hope during this time.

Our Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UU's Reparations Team endorses President Frederick-Gray's recommendation that as many of us as possible study this “key roadmap” to the necessary work of change within our congregations. The report is available for purchase as a book, [e-book](#), or for free on [uua.org](http://uua.org). A great place to start is with the section on [Restoration and Reparations](#), reproduced on the UUA website.

This report will be foundational for our future work.





## **Sending You Light**

### **An Evening with Melanie DeMore, Vocal Activist A Fundraiser for Faith in the Streets**

by Alissa Rhode  
Lead Music Director

Thursday, November 12

7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Register at: [bit.ly/SendingYouLight](https://bit.ly/SendingYouLight)

Ticket prices: \$0 to as much as you wish to donate

In this time when it is difficult to access live music in person, come join us online for an evening of weaving community together through the transformative power of song.

We'll meet over Zoom, where Grammy nominated artist Melanie DeMore will connect from Oakland, California to share songs of love, light and justice. As she sings to, with, and for us, don't be surprised if Melanie reaches right through the screen to touch your soul.

Let's raise our voices while raising funds! First Church will split all proceeds from this event with Zao MKE Church in support of our social justice partnership, Faith in the Streets, which began as a Krug Bequest project in 2018.

Most recently, we brought our faith into the streets following Zao MKE Church's leadership as the main protest supply distribution center for the Black Lives Matter movement in Milwaukee. This work also supported the Black Lives Matter movement in Kenosha, after Jacob Blake was shot by Kenosha police. You can learn more about and support that work by volunteering your time, contributing supplies, or donating money here: <https://www.zaomke.org/black-lives-matter-action>.

### **About the Artist: Melanie DeMore**

Melanie DeMore has been a formidable presence onstage at such noted venues as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, international folk music festivals from Europe to Cuba to New Zealand. She has shared the stage with some of the world's most notable musicians and political activists from Gloria Steinem, Odetta, Pete Seeger, and Judy Collins to Ed Asner, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, and Ani Di Franco.

As Melanie writes in her beautiful song, "I'm sending you light, to heal you, to hold you...I'm sending you light, to hold you in love."

This event is generously sponsored by First Church members Nick and Angela Hayes, Mark Miller, Amy Wilbourne, Dale Skaggs and Lynda Lambert, who have collectively donated the artist's fee.

## **Join First Church Circles of Support**

by Paul Geenen  
Social Justice Team

Would you be willing to join us at one of the First Church Circles of Support Zoom meetings being held on the fourth Wednesday of each month? Circles discussions are designed to welcome ex-offenders back to the community. Circles include Sylvester Jackson, Circle Keeper, Amanda Smits, Program Coordinator from Project RETURN and three First Church members, as well as a variety of returning citizens. Conversations are wide-ranging and focus on issues and experiences of returning citizens.

The only requirement for participating in a First Church Circles of Support is an ability to listen. You are invited to drop in and join the conversation as you are able. We need two church members who are willing to Zoom for 90 minutes with members of First Church Circles of Support on Wednesday, November 25, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Please email me if you are interested at [paul.geenen9@gmail.com](mailto:paul.geenen9@gmail.com).





## Singing as a Healing Modality

by Alissa Rhode,  
Lead Music Director

As I consider our November theme of healing, I am reminded of what may arguably be our most primal natural healing modality: singing.

Quite simply, singing is good for you – mentally, physically, and spiritually. Singing is a mood enhancer and stress reducer. It can relax the muscles and alleviate anxiety. Studies have shown that the act of singing releases endorphins, oxytocin, even Immunoglobulin A in the body. I imagine you have felt the benefits at some time – whether while singing in the shower, belting out your favorite song on the radio, or lifting your voice to merge with the congregation in our beloved sanctuary. I know we all miss those amazing acoustics, but I do encourage you to keep singing whenever you are so moved.

Since the church has shifted online, you've probably noticed that we still include hymns, often with lyrics on screen. Remember, you are always invited to sing along just as loud or as lightly as your heart desires. Or, listen and let the music wash over you if that is what feeds your soul in the moment. There is no right or wrong way to connect with music during services. Just follow your bliss and know that even if it seems strange to sing a hymn by yourself, it is good for you – even healing – to do so.

While the virus aerosols involved prevent us from physically singing together at this time, we still have a wonderful communal singing opportunity coming our way this month. I invite you to join us online to experience the healing power of song Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. with our singing shaman, vocal activist Melanie DeMore.

Raise your voice and raise your spirit! Be well, friends.

## Gratitude for Our Weekend Visit with Lois Lowry Lecture “Dwelling In Possibility”

by Lorraine, Morter Lecture Team Lead

I remember Sally Lewis' excitement, late fall 2019, “I've met a wonderful woman in a tour group this year. Her name is Lois Lowry and I think she would be perfect for our 2020 Morter Lecture.”

That announcement led to a lovely October 3-4, 2020 Morter Lecture Weekend. We invited a world-recognized, award-winning, philosopher/author of young adult fiction, as our 2020 Morter lecturer! In the process we became engulfed in a swirling cascade of decisions, adjustments, reading Lois Lowry books, and learning Zoom technology.

Saturday, October 3, Ms. Lowry provided a very personal lecture, she shared photos and stories of her life, allowing us to imagine our own lives of unrecognized “Possibility.” On Sunday, October 4, Lois Lowry joined the Sunday Service. Ms. Lowry read her book, *The Tree House*, which was mostly about “the bridge” between two young friends. Rev. Jennifer and Ms. Lowry engaged in a conversation about our lives today, everything that separates us, and building bridges. Sunday afternoon Lois Lowry was joined by two groups of RE youth, who had spent the summer reading to prepare for a special conversation

Join me in acknowledging the Morter Lecture Team: Sally Lewis, Jane Cliff, Dana Brooks, Cheryl Maranto, Jessie Moffat, George Bledsoe, Laurel Brooks, Barb Rasman, Mary Ann Steger. Mostly newly recruited, we began a year of “all things new.” Dana coordinated marketing, creating a large network in the Milwaukee community. Jane wrote reviews of Lois Lowry books for Facebook and moderated the Lecture. Each member of the Morter Lecture Team was engaged in our success. Graciously supported by the wisdom, knowledge, and patience of our church team, Shari Wright, Jean Johnson, Alissa Rhode, Deb Solis, Rev. Kimberlee, Rev. Jennifer, and Lillian Schley, we mean it when we say, “we couldn't have done it without them!”

### Comments from the weekend

Is “The Forest” malevolent or benevolent, and does it have a will? ♦ This led to a very rich conversation. ♦ Lois has a generous heart and sense of humor...inspired us to slow down, pay attention and savor the connections and kindness that abound. ♦ Approaching the theme was so effective and open-ended! ♦ I offer my praise to everyone involved in this wonderful visit with Lois Lowry. ♦ I am about to read my first Lowry novel. I will begin with *Number the Stars*.



## UU Book Club Plans

by Chris Linder  
UU Book Club Chair

The UU Book Club is meeting on November 8 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Testaments by Margaret Atwood* (2019). This sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale* is a story that the author says she felt compelled to write. It is the journals of three women who lived in Gilead and report on their surprising experiences and the fall of that society. It is a real page-turner.

On December 13 at 1:00 p.m. we will discuss *Pretty Birds* by Scott Simon. This is a searing portrait of the resilience of teen-aged girls and their families, acting as sharpshooters in a war-torn land. Memorable characters struggle with issues of ethnicity, survival, friendship, and betrayal during the day-to-day reality of war.

We meet online on Zoom. Please contact Chris Linder at celinder@att.net for more information. See this web page for the [complete list of books](#) we will discuss.

## Forum Planning

by Lorraine Jacobs  
Sunday Forum Team Chair

Join us...we're making plans for 2021 Sunday Forums! We will be meeting the first or second week of November to hear topic/presenter ideas and make selections for the Sundays in January through June 2021.

To have your suggestions considered, you must attend the meeting and be prepared to explain your choice, answer questions from the group and be responsible for Forum Host tasks. Please let me know if you would like to be notified of the meeting day/time at jacobslm@sbcglobal.net.

## Thanksgiving Day Zoom Party!

November 26, Thanksgiving  
Day, 6:00 -7:30 p.m.  
[Zoom link](#)

BYO Slice of Pie! Join your Membership Team for Holiday community, gratitude, and FUN!



Come share your favorite Turkey Day tradition, memory, and maybe a recipe, song, or blessing. Let's wallow together while also enjoying each other's Thanksgiving Treasures! Drop by for 10 minutes, or stay the duration. Hosted by your First Church Membership Team.

## Four Ways to Pay Your Pledge

by Jean Johnson  
Director of Administration

You may have wondered how you can pay your pledge while we are not gathering at the church in-person during the pandemic.

We understand you may not be able to pay your pledge during this uncertain time. 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 Lynne Jacoby, Membership Development Coordinator, so we can plan accordingly.

**Mail a Check:** You can mail checks to the church payable to: First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee or FUSM. Staff members stop in daily to pick up mail and I'm making deposits weekly.

**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 on 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 here](#).

**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, then click on "+Give." 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.

**Church Website Giving:** You can make a pledge payment on our website [here](#). 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.

Shari, Lynne, and I are happy to assist you via phone or email. Our contact info is on the last page of the Chanticleer. Thank you for your support!



# SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

## 11:00 AM ON ZOOM & YOUTUBE

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NOVEMBER 1

### **“Zao: To Live, To Breathe, To be Among the Living”**

Presenter: Rev. Jonah Overton (they/them), Lead Pastor Zao MKE Church  
November Share the Plate Recipient



Rev. Overton is the founding pastor of Zao MKE Church. As a young, queer, trans (genderqueer) clergy person, Jonah has been called into ministry to build the church as queer space and organize communities and churches towards justice and liberation. Zao MKE Church is a new and growing church plant on Milwaukee's East Side, with a diverse leadership team that is majority queer, trans, POC, and/or under the age of 40. Zao is Jesus Rooted, Justice Centered, and Radically Inclusive, and committed to radical urban ministry among progressive Millennials.

Zao is active in many efforts towards liberation, including the Movement for Black Lives. In this current season of protest and prophetic uprising, Zao launched three projects: The Depot, which is the largest local supply drop & distribution center for protesters; a medic training and resource hub; and a 24 hour prayer vigil for justice. Forum Host: Bruce Wiggins. Click to donate or for more info about [Zao-MKE Church](#)

NOVEMBER 8

### **“Fostering Resilience During the Pandemic”**

Presenter: Philip Chard, Psychotherapist, Author, Newspaper Columnist



“Out of My Mind,” Philip Chard's weekly column in the Shepherd Express, explores several personality and emotional responses which many of us experience as we live through this pandemic. Of all mental maladies humans encounter, anxiety tops the list. But there is also a mix of grief, anger, clinging and an effort to extend ourselves to others in terms of time, energy, and money; beyond a usual sense of well-being. While naming and describing these human responses, Mr. Chard also guides us in understanding and exploring some strategies for moving through these tough times. His guidance may help us build resilience, balance and clarity. Forum Host: Janet Nortrom

NOVEMBER 15

### **“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 recently retired from a 43-year career with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. But as the night editor for the last three years, Bob decided which stories made the front page of the MJS and which got the highest priority on the MJS website. He also worked with reporters, edited stories, and worked with page designers and editors who may, on any given night, have been in Iowa, Kentucky or who knows where. Bob Friday will share his well-developed sense of the future for newspapers. Forum Host: Jo Ann Bachar social justice



# SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

## 11:00 AM ON ZOOM & YOUTUBE

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NOVEMBER 22

### **“A Turning Point for Youth Justice in Wisconsin”**

Presenter: Sharlen Moore, Director Youth Justice Milwaukee



Youth Justice Milwaukee is a broad-based campaign advocating for community-based, family-centered, restorative programs as an alternative to locking up children in Wisconsin's youth prisons. Youth Justice Milwaukee represents a coalition of persons who were incarcerated as youth, families of youth who are or were incarcerated, service providers, and local and national youth justice advocates. Through the Youth Justice Milwaukee initiative, Sharlen Moore works to end placement of adjudicated youth at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake facilities, to increase meaningful engagement with family of youth in the system, and to develop a collaborative planning process resulting in transparent, accountable, and effective juvenile services. Forum Host: Ann Batiza. Click for more information about [Youth Justice Milwaukee](#).

NOVEMBER 29

### **“Care. No Matter What”**

Presenter: Molly Lancelot, Community Education Manager at Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin

December Share the Plate Recipient,  
nominated by First Church Youth Group



Lancelot is a community educator and program manager at PPWI, for the past five years supervising educators around the state to deliver comprehensive sex education. She is also an alum of First Church, attending the congregation from 1990-1995. She participated in the inaugural class of About Your Sexuality (precursor to Our Whole Lives) at First Church as a senior in high school.

At the Forum, she will discuss how PPWI is moving forward after this contentious and exhausting election season. She is also excited to discuss the first month of PPWI's new clinical services after its state-wide launch of Gender Affirming Services, including hormone therapy. While COVID-19 has shrunk PPWI's world and contacts, it has used this time to figure out how to better reach supporters by virtual means. PPWI health services are expanding and they are committed to Care. No Matter What! Forum Host: Lorraine Jacobs. Click to donate or for more information about [Planned Parenthood Wisconsin](#).



# November Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

Zao MKE Church is our November Share the Plate recipient. Since 2016, Zao MKE has been serving as a “Jesus Rooted, Justice Centered, and Radically Inclusive church of diverse folks in Milwaukee.” Zao MKE operates under the First United Methodist Church, Waukesha, and offers weekly Sunday service near the UWM campus.

Zao MKE Church specifically seeks to serve and welcome LGBTQIA Christians who have been hurt or feel neglected and rejected by the church. As stated on their website: “The call for justice issued by the gospel of Jesus Christ is for the purpose of reconciling all things into wholeness with God. To that end, we seek to build a radically inclusive community and world, wherein all people are valued in the fullness of who God has made them to be – affirmed, celebrated, and loved. We explicitly affirm the life, value, and worth of LGBTQIA people, and the Movement for Black Lives.”

For more information and to make a monetary donation to Zao MKE, please see their website at: <https://www.zaomke.org>.

## IN MEMORIAM

Valerie Jaan Pogue  
March 2, 1948 ~ September 27, 2020

Valerie Jaan Pogue died peacefully on Sunday morning, September 27, 2020 at Lawlis Family Hospice in Mequon, with her son and her sister holding her hands. Valerie had endometrial cancer over the last year and a half, and had very recently entered hospice. Valerie was 72 years old and was a member of our congregation for 14 years.

The family gathered privately to share memories of Valerie. We lit the Candle of Life for Valerie during our worship service on Sunday, October 4, 2020.

Donations in memory of Valerie may be given to:

[Citizens' Climate Education](#)

[Citizens Climate Lobby](#) (not tax deductible)

## HOW TO REACH US

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