



THE

# CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

May 2021

## Words on the Wind

by the Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom  
Senior Minister

Human beings know ourselves and the world through story. We take journeys to distant lands through story and come home to ourselves through story. What stories hold us together? What stories pull us apart?

Each of us has individual stories, as well as stories that tie us to people. What are your stories of yourself? Where did you come from and who made you? Who are your people and how did you come to be?

Communities are also held together by stories. What are the stories of our community? How do they shape how we behave together and what we do in the world?

In May, we will dedicate new children in our community at our Mother's Day worship service on May 9. Then we will celebrate our children and youth, and mark their rites of passage during Religious Education Sunday on May 16.

After that service, we will gather online as a community and do the business of church at our May 16 Annual Meeting, including a vote on our strategy for financial sustainability and discussion of our forthcoming COVID Church Re-Opening Policy. Don't miss it!

Stories are powerful tools for learning, understanding, and shaping. We hope you will join us this month in worship, at our annual meeting, and in small groups as we reflect on, and live into, what it means to be a people of story.

With love and gratitude,  
Rev. Jennifer

## SUNDAY SERVICES

ONE SERVICE AT

10:00 A.M.

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

MAY 2

### "Finding Our Song Line"

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,

Minister of Religious Education

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Amy Wilbourne, Worship Associate

In her book *Storycatcher: Making Sense of Our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story*, Christina Baldwin wrote "Story is the song line of a person's life. We need to sing it and we need someone to hear the singing." Stories tell us that we're not alone, help us to dispel shame and build empathy. Stories tell us where and who we come from and empower us to change the song. If we share them, stories outlive us and are how we live on. Join us this Sunday when we explore the power of personal stories.

MAY 9

### "Stories Tell Us Who We Are"

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,

Minister of Religious Education

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Jobey Clark, Worship Associate

**Mother's Day and Child Dedication Service**

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

## STORY?

# MORE SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 A.M.

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

MAY 9 Continued

Our stories bind us together and tell us who we are. The stories we share create a common well to which we return, time and again, dipping our ladles of wonder into cool knowing water. What stories do we hold in common? How do we tell them, with or without words? How do we pass them from one generation to the next? Join us for this Mother's Day worship service where we dedicate new children to the church and explore how our powerful, fragile, transformative stories bring us home to ourselves and to one another.

MAY 16

## RE Sunday: "Our Religious Education Story"

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,  
Minister of Religious Education  
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Once upon a time a pandemic afflicted the world and going to First Church was not safe anymore. All the UU children and youth journeyed to the land of Zoom to discover how religious education had been recreated and renewed with family gatherings, book clubs, mystery friends, and interfaith discoveries. Join us this Sunday to celebrate our story, our families and our kindergarten and high school graduates!

MAY 23

## "Truth vs. Truthiness"

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister  
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,  
Minister of Religious Education  
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director  
Dale Skaggs, Worship Associate

In the information age, it can seem as though objective truth is under assault. Are there real facts out there, or only stories? While victors tend to write the history books, what happens with contemporary news? Join us for this service where we explore the thorny subject of truth vs. truthiness, power in story-telling, and navigating facts told from perspectives.

MAY 30

## "Repentance, Reparations, and Reconciliation"

The Rev. Ranwa Hammamy, M.Div, MPH,  
Pulpit Guest

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

On the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre, during which hundreds of Black residents were killed and thousands more displaced by deputized white mobs, we know there is still so much work to be done. As rifts grow and racism is emboldened, how do we move ourselves not towards a complacent forgetfulness but instead to a committed & revolutionary love? How are we as people of faith called to listen, learn, and lead in the movement towards Beloved Community and collective liberation?



Pulpit Guest Rev. Ranwa Hammamy (she/they) is a Unitarian Universalist-Muslim minister currently residing in the East Bay Area of California. She embodies a commitment to the intersection of pastoral and prophetic ministries, understanding both as interconnected means of healing and liberation.

Rev. Hammamy currently serves as Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California. We look forward to them joining us in our virtual pulpit!



## Dena's Digressions

by the Rev. Dena McPhetres  
Associate Minister

When my sister and I were kids, our favorite baby-sitter didn't just read story books at bedtime, she made up stories just for us. We loved her. We also acted out fairy tales like Hansel and Gretel. In childhood, it can sometimes be hard to tell the difference between make-believe stories and real-life stories. Perhaps that's true in adulthood, too. Which story is true for us and which is something we've been told by society that doesn't fit our reality?

The stories we choose to tell about the last year will not only speak our truth, but will shape the future. What is the story of your year of pandemic? What jumps out at you when you think about the past year? What relationships sustained you? How does the last year affect the central theme of your life and the life of our community?

The central theme of my life is creative expression. As pandemic fatigue set in, I've had to dig deep to find my creativity. I've also needed to cast a broader net to find nuggets of meaning and collaborate with more people to create processes and structures that serve our new way of being and doing church. This won't stop whenever we return to in-person church. We are living a new reality that calls on all our creative faculties.

I look forward to summer worship services when Worship Associates continue to tell their stories and we support each other during the "in-between" time. We plan to continue online only summer worship services at 10:00 a.m. through Labor Day weekend. Please join us!

Yours,  
Dena

## Meet the COVID Re-Opening Team

by Trudy Watt  
COVID Re-opening Team

The beginning of spring saw the first meeting of First Church's COVID Re-Opening Team who immediately got to work on drafting a policy for our return to in-person church options that prioritize safety, equity and clarity.

Our mission is to consider questions about when and how to safely re-open church and how to make decisions about re-closing, should circumstances warrant. In addition to opening criteria, we are considering appropriate policies for capacity, building use by different group sizes, and which precautions to maintain upon re-opening. We are also discussing how to keep church accessible to all as we move beyond

the phase of the pandemic that has kept us distant from one another. The team will communicate a draft policy with the congregation and seek feedback at the Annual Meeting in May.

The team includes church leadership and members of the congregation with expertise in health and building considerations. Reverend Jennifer is leading the team along with committee chair, Erik Alexander, MD FAAD, a board-certified dermatologist who is passionate about COVID safety. Jean Johnson, First Church Director of Administration, is leading our efforts in communication, facilities operations, and operational policies. Stacy Koenen, Lead Established Patient Coordinator at Froedert Clinical Cancer Center, and Lisa Koneazny, Nurse Clinician in the genetics clinic at Children's Wisconsin, both contribute more than a decade of leadership in the congregation as well as medical expertise. Trudy Watt, RA NOMA, is an architect who will liaise with the First Church Building and Grounds team to add mechanical and spatial considerations.

## Send Us Your Flower Photos for Flower Communion

by the Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

During the Sunday June 6 Flower Communion worship service, we will share your photos of the flowers you are virtually "bringing" to church. Please send original photos of the flowers you want to share with our community to worship@uumilwaukee.org by Thursday, May 27, 2021. We will use your photos to create a beautiful photo montage that will play during our livestreamed Flower Communion ritual! By emailing your original photos to us, you are giving us permission to livestream them during the June 6 worship service, and to leave them up on our YouTube worship service recording thereafter.

## Splinters from the Board

by Mark Miller  
Board of Trustees' Member

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held the March monthly meeting on March 23, 2021 via Zoom.

The Strategic Planning Team, represented by Dave Becker and Julie Bock, presented their findings. This effort is in regard to the church's long term finances and congregational growth. Based on this team's work, the BOT will make a formal recommendation at the annual meeting.

Under the BOT's Policy Governance model, the BOT moni-



tors the work of Reverend Jennifer and the church staff to determine compliance with church policy. This month, the BOT measured policy 4.3 on Compensation & Benefits. While Rev. Jennifer has worked very hard to balance the church's financial situation with our values and public image to pay fair wages, the BOT found this situation to be out of compliance. The Board approved a motion where Rev. Jennifer will devise a plan for compliance that incorporates our new strategic plan and will take place over several years. The Board and Rev. Jennifer also discussed at length the compensation and benefit plan for 2021-2022, including the plan for open and temporary positions.

Three new Board candidates were put forward, as well as candidates for the Nominating Committee. The Board approved this unanimously and the candidates will be presented at the annual meeting.

Rev. Jennifer is working with the COVID Re-Opening Team to determine a policy for re-opening the church building. The team is hoping to have a draft policy for the annual meeting (Sunday, May 16th, 2021 at 11:15 a.m. on Zoom.)

## First Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 16, 11:15 a.m.

Attend the annual meeting and engage in important issues of First Church:

- Learn about the Strategic Planning Team's recommendation for our path forward.
- Hear about, and give feedback on, the COVID Re-Opening Team's draft policy for when and how to safely re-open church.
- Vote on new Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee members for the coming church year,
- Learn about significant First Church accomplishments over the church year.

To get the Zoom link and sign up for the annual meeting, enter your name and email in this form at <https://form.jotform.com/210773726451153>. You will receive information in early May about how to join the online annual meeting.

## Candidate for the Board of Trustees



### George Bledsoe

Since joining First Church in 2008, George Bledsoe has served as Coffee Hour host, user, Worship Associate and as a member of the Mortar Lecture Committee. Additionally, he has engaged in various campaigns with Common Ground beginning with the

Sherman Park foreclosure campaign (2010) and continuing through today with active involvement in the Race & Policing, Education and GOTV campaigns. He also serves on the Political Action Executive Committee for the NAACP-Milwaukee Branch, as a member of the African American Employee Resource Group – Northwestern Mutual, and as an Election Official for the Milwaukee Elections Commission. In his professional life, George works in the wealth management industry as a Sr. Registered Representative for Northwestern Mutual. He is single and fortunate to enjoy his two goddaughters, Cassie and Charlotte, and the love and support of a big family and many friends.



### Patricia Geenen

Patricia and her husband Paul joined First Church in the fall of 2016, continuing a faith journey focused on social justice. After raising their four children in both the Roman Catholic and

ELCA Lutheran traditions, they ended a period of being "unchurched" by finding a home here. Jumping right in to volunteer as facilitators for the Inquirers Series provided a further tutorial on Unitarian Universalist principles and practices. Pat also soon became active with the Immigration Issues Group, helping to coordinate a congregational discernment process to join the New Sanctuary Movement in Milwaukee and, in 2018, taking on co-leadership of the Immigration Action Team and a role on the Social Justice Council. Before the pandemic, Pat enjoyed applying her experience as a grandmother of eight to the role of RE assistant in the nursery and pre-school classroom. Pat retired from her position as professor of Professional Communication and Technology at Alverno College in 2013.

(Continued on page 5)





## Candidates for the Board of Trustees



### Tony Panciera

Tony Panciera joined First Church shortly after moving to Milwaukee with his wife, Amanda, in 2014. He has served on, and led, the Pledge Committee and Stewardship Council and enjoys making an annual donation of homemade lasagna for Feast for Funds.

He is the Project Director for the Greater Milwaukee Committee's MKE United, an initiative focused on equitable community investment, and has served on the Artists Working in Education (AWE) Board of Directors for the past five years. An AmeriCorps alum, he served as a Marquette Trinity Fellow while earning his MBA from 2016-2018. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, gardening, running, and video games, often enjoying these pastimes with his daughter Zoe (2).

## Candidates for the Nominating Committee



### Kristine Hansen

Since joining First Church in 2008, Kristine has been active in a variety of roles, from teaching K-4th grade to chairing the Pulpit Guest Committee. One of her greatest honors was

serving on the search committee that brought the Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson into our congregation as the Minister of Religious Education in 2019. Professionally, Kristine is a contributing writer to Milwaukee Magazine as well as national publications and websites--a role she has held full-time since 2005--about lifestyle topics, which requires her to network heavily and build up rapport with sources, in addition to juggling many projects and meeting deadlines. Other volunteer roles include chairing an annual conference in 2021 for the American Society of Journalists & Authors, an organization of about 1,000 professional journalists and authors, and serving on its board.

## Candidates for the Nominating Committee



### Jessie Moffat (1 year term)

Jessie Moffat discovered First Church because of its Poetry Service, and joined in 2009. She is grateful for the friends she's made here and the many people she's had

the opportunity to collaborate with on various committees. Teaching Children's Religious Education has been a fun way to learn more about our liberal faith. She also served on the CRE Committee and enjoys being a YRUU Youth Group Advisor. Jessie proudly attended Midwest Leadership School in 2014 and returned the following year as staff for Youth Leadership School. She has co-facilitated several leadership and community-building workshops for First Church members. And, she even got to be on the Senior Minister Search Committee for Rev. Jennifer. Prior non-profit experience includes arts advocacy and work with local professional theatres, AAUW-Milwaukee, Zeidler Center, Creative Mornings, and Jane's Walk MKE. By joining the Nominating Committee, she hopes to encourage more lay leadership to say "Yes, and..."



### Susie Seidelman

Susie and her wife, Laura Maker, have been members of First Church since 2016 and have been delighted to introduce their children, Asa (3) and Forrest (2), to this incredible

community. Shortly after joining, Susie co-founded UUUFDA with friend Yalanda Ludtke, and through that group began a new program to introduce friends and family to First Church to help grow and diversify membership. Susie currently serves as a Worship Associate. In her professional life, she runs a communications firm for nonprofit and foundation clients. Whenever possible, she wants to be outside with her family and friends, ideally by some water and trees.



## Kimberlee's Contemplations

by The Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Minister of Religious Education

Each Sunday it is a joy to do my part by helping welcome us into the ritual of worship with a children's book. Stories have a unique way of inviting us into another's world and preparing our heart and minds to open. There is something about, "Once upon a time in a land far away..." that awakens our curiosity, it is irresistible to what mythologist Dr. Martin Shaw calls our "Wild Twin." The "wild twin" is a story within us that we are forever seeking a glimpse of, a metaphor for the part of ourselves that we tend to ignore to conform to societal norms.

"I believe that in the labour of becoming a human, you have to earnestly search this character out, as it has something crucial for you with it. It has your life's purpose tucked up in its pocket. If there was something you were here to do in these few, brief years, you can be sure that the wild twin is holding the key."

Storytelling provokes the "wild twin" within each of us, it is what is known in anthropology as a human universal. For tens of thousands of years, stories shape who we are and how we learn. Storytelling has been a key way to pass on our wisdom, it is how parents teach children about values and how to behave. Our souls are hardwired for stories.

For Unitarian Universalists listening within an open heart and mind is grounded in our theology of interconnection. A story can make you present to relationship, creating an interconnection between you the storyteller and to the places of the imaginative or down the street. Once you hear a story, you cannot pretend you did not know.

The truth about stories is, that's all we are. -You have to be careful with the stories you tell. And you have to watch out for the stories that you are told. — **Thomas King**

This month we get to ask: What stories are we telling ourselves each day about who we are? What is First Church's "wild twin"? The stories we tell ourselves, in our church and in our community are shaping us and shaping the narrative creates our future.

May we tend to our "wild twins" with intention, patience, and kindness.

## RE Sunday: Worship and Celebrate as a Family!

by Lillian Schley  
RE Administrative Assistant

RE Sunday on May 16 will celebrate children and families through a joyful, inter-generational worship service. We would love to include your family in this service, and invite you to participate in any or all of the following ways!

Join the virtual family choir: all ages welcome! This choir will sing "May I Be Filled with Loving Kindness," a song that we have featured in RE throughout the year. Contact Rev. Kimberlee and we will contact you with details and instructions on how to record yourself.

Add a photo to our collage: photos of church families will help us tell the story of our year, and show how we have all grown and changed. Upload a picture of your family to this Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/hcmd10iH5plVUTkKvnbk>

Calling all K5 Graduates! Children in K5 this year are invited to mark their passage to elementary school with a special ceremony just for them. Participants will have the chance to answer the question, "What did you learn in Kindergarten?" Contact Rev. Kimberlee for details if your child is interested.



## May Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore  
Share the Plate Team

Every year, our May Share the Plate recipient is chosen by the children in the RE program. This year they are supporting the Milwaukee Youth Services program which is part of Wisconsin Community Services. Active since 1912, Wisconsin Community Services' mission is to "advocate for justice and community safety, providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity"

The Milwaukee Youth Services program works with youth who are involved, or at-risk of becoming involved, in the juvenile justice system. They provide assistance with their Community Service and Restitution Coordination Program which allows youth to complete community service hours and gives them the opportunity to pay back their court ordered restitution.



The Youth Services also operates two short term youth shelters. The overall goal of the shelters is to provide youth a safe, nurturing, and well-maintained environment, ensure court appearances, increase school attendance and reduce the likelihood of re-offense. Currently, the young men and the Rashid boys shelter are raising money for the research and painting of a mural inside the shelter, inspired by the beautiful murals that have been painted all over Milwaukee during the global pandemic and movement for racial justice in 2020 and beyond. Their fundraising goal for the mural is \$1,500.

To donate specifically to the mural project, use this link:  
[https://www.wiscs.org/programs/milwaukee\\_youth\\_services/mural\\_project.php](https://www.wiscs.org/programs/milwaukee_youth_services/mural_project.php)

To donate to the Milwaukee Youth Services Program, use this link and in the drop down menu that reads "Please direct my gift as follows" select "Youth Services" <https://www.wiscs.org/support/donate/>

If you would rather mail a check, please write the check to Wis. Community Services and include in the memo line: First Church/youth. Mail the check to First Church and we will send it to Wisconsin Community Services for you.

## Crossing Paths

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

Our next Faith Journey happens on May 9, 23 and 30 at 2:00 p.m. with our focus on Quakerism.

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.

## Youth Steering Committee Reconvenes

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

Our Youth Steering Committee (YSC) will meet on Thursday, May 20, 2021 starting at 7:00 p.m., in lieu of our usual youth group meeting, to watch our March 7 youth worship service and discuss its strengths and weaknesses.

## Youth Worship, Connect, and Learn at GA

by Lillian Schley  
RE Administrative Assistant

This year's virtual GA, June 23-27, promises to be a positive, engaging, and fun experience for youth and young adults. Led by a team trained in emergent facilitation, GA will include opportunities for youth to worship, connect, and learn.

This year's virtual format makes it easier and more accessible than ever to participate in GA. Plus, Milwaukee is this year's host city, and we hope to have a strong youth presence. Your registration may be covered by the church. If you are interested, please contact Bruce Wiggins at [brucewathome@gmail.com](mailto:brucewathome@gmail.com).

Learn more about youth programming at GA here: <https://www.uua.org/youth/events/ga>.



## Treats at General Assembly for Earth and Justice Lovers

by Terry Wiggins  
Earth Justice Ministry

UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), the organization which initiated the Green Sanctuary program, will be at General Assembly (GA) with pre-programs, workshops, movie screenings and post-programming from June 23 through June 27. UUMFE leaders will host conversation hours in the virtual UUMFE Booth.

Connect with UU eco-activists at GA and stay up to date on meet-up times and the like by joining the "UUA General Assembly 2021 participants" group on [CreateClimateJustice.net](https://www.createclimatejustice.net). In perusing the General Assembly program at [https://www.uuova.com/embedded/event/uuaga\\_202011/?view=preview](https://www.uuova.com/embedded/event/uuaga_202011/?view=preview), we noticed the following programs:

### **BIPOC Communities for Environmental and Climate Justice**

Speakers: Paula Cole Jones, Dr. Rashid Shaikh  
Program from UU Ministry for Earth.

Climate change affects us all, but it devastates communities of color and marginalized people. This session focuses on the intersections of racial, economic, environmental, and climate justice. It is an early step toward forming a BIPOC caucus interested in these issues and is part of UUMFE.

### **Rights of Nature: Who Speaks for the Earth?**

Speakers: Winona LaDuke, Casey Camp-Horinek, Elliott Moffett, Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs  
Program from UU Ministry for Earth, DRUUMM Native Caucus, UUA Green Sanctuary Program

Increasingly more communities are declaring that lakes, rivers, forest, grasslands, all the earth has rights, and are winning. Hear from three Indigenous leaders at the forefront of the Rights of Nature Movement on Turtle Island, followed by an on-demand program focused on how UUs can engage as strong partners.

### **Intergenerational Action: All In for Climate/Food Justice**

Speakers: Amelia Diehl, Bruce Knotts, Brynna Seligman  
Program from UUA Office at the United Nations, UU Young Adults for Climate Justice.

Join Unitarian Universalists of all ages for intergenerational dialogue about how to take action to achieve climate justice, food equity, and sustainability. Learn with and from one another during this interactive workshop and gear up for a year of activity and organizing.

## Forum in a Year of "What Next?"

by Lorraine Jacobs  
Sunday Forum Chair

The Sunday Forum Group members weren't unique in March, 2020, when safety considerations for the corona virus closed gatherings. We asked each other, "What Next!" Our last, in-person, Sunday Forum was March 8, 2020, "Healing in the Aftermath of Hate" with Pardeep Kaleka.

The Sunday Forum Group rallied, assessed their technology comfort level and made personal commitments to scheduling Forums. Then along came a new learning curve, Zoom meetings. With patience and careful guidance, Shari Wright, encouraged the Forum Team to become Zoom Hosts. Two of our members, Mark Mueller and Bruce Wiggins, stepped up to share the Zoom Host role every Sunday Morning from mid-April 2020, throughout the summer, and now Spring 2021. We re-connected with scheduled Forum presenters and recruited others. Though not all of us were curious about Zoom, everyone was eager to continue offering the familiar and comfortable Forum experience. Zoom Forums included new and familiar topics, with presenters from the area, as well as international and country-wide locations. Attendance remained at 20 – 25.

Sunday Forum Group includes; BJ Ermenc, Joann Bachar, Ann Batiza, Mark Mueller, Bruce Wiggins, Jean Groshek, Jerry Fredrickson, Thallis Drake, Patricia Witt, Dan O'Keefe, Pat McFarland, Molly Shiffler, Christian Becker, Juliet Hills, Chris Schmidt and Janet Nortrom.

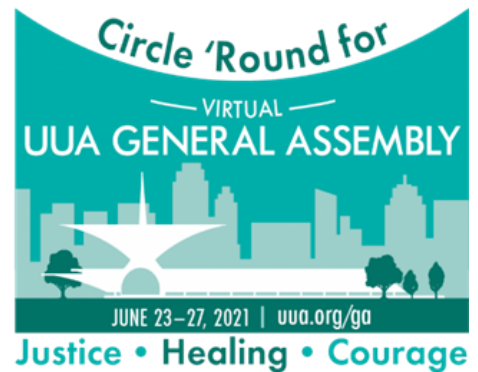
Goals for 2021-2022 year:

- We are eager to recruit a technology guide, who would dedicate and ensure that Sunday Forums accommodate technology platforms at church in ways most suitable for our familiar format.
- We extend a welcome to younger church members to join the Sunday Forum Group. It is a broad network and interests of our members which allows us to bring a top-quality variety each Sunday. We meet twice each year to select topics. As Hosts, our members invite, schedule, support, then welcome their presenter on the scheduled morning. Contact Lorraine for details.





## Fun and Inspiration at General Assembly MKE June 23 – 27



Why go to General Assembly (GA) this year? For fun! To learn! To help celebrate Milwaukee! For great worship! Intellectual stimulation! Recent program announcements make Virtual General Assembly 2021 truly outstanding.

### Rev. Jennifer Co-Leads Opening Worship

Our Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom is co-leaders for the opening worship on Wednesday evening.

### Milwaukee Spotlight

GA planners gave Milwaukeean time to highlight our city. Four 90-minute tracks will be available throughout GA.

### Ware Lecturers Named

The Ware Lecture is a feature of GA. This year, Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade will share the podium to highlight voting rights.



**Stacey Abrams** is perhaps best known for being behind the movement to turn Georgia blue. She is an entrepreneur, political leader, and bestselling author. She was born in Madison, WI.



**Desmond Meade** is a formerly homeless returning citizen perhaps best known for securing voting rights in Florida for formerly incarcerated citizens.

Details of their backgrounds are on the GA website at <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>

### Reimbursement Information

For more information on GA at <https://www.uua.org/ga>

If you are interested in being reimbursed for GA registration, contact Bruce Wiggins.



### MICAH is GA Special Offering Recipient

The Milwaukee organization to receive the special offering at the Sunday morning worship service is MICAH (Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope). MICAH is a multi-racial, interfaith organization committed to justice in Milwaukee, a city afflicted with racialized and concentrated poverty. MICAH's excellent justice work will be highlighted. First Church is a member of MICAH.



### GA Pride Drag Show Returns

Thanks to sponsorship support from **UUA Ministries and Faith Development – LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Team**, the Virtual GA Pride Drag Show returns! For an evening of joy and fun, register for GA.



# SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

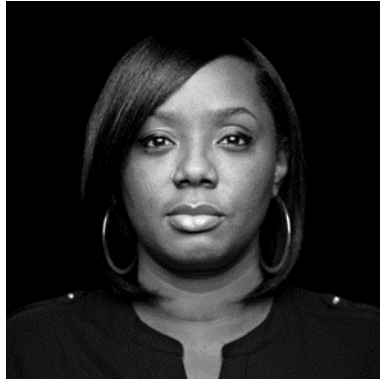
## 11:00 AM ON ZOOM & YOUTUBE

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MAY 2

### **“The Journey Towards a Calling, Passion & Transformation”**

Markasa Tucker, Executive Director of the African American Roundtable



Ms. Tucker will share her journey from growing up in the suburbs of Milwaukee, to attending college at Grambling State University in Louisiana, to her trek back to Milwaukee. Returning to Milwaukee, Markasa used her mass communication degree to pursue her career in television, which didn't last extremely long. After leaving television, Markasa managed two child care centers on the city's north-west side, where her eyes were truly opened by the many disparities facing Black women, children, and families in Milwaukee. This experience convinced her that she wanted to serve her community and help to change the conditions of Black people. Join us as Markasa shares her testimony and journey to her current social justice and transformation work in Milwaukee and beyond.

Host: Dan O'Keefe

<https://www.facebook.com/AfricanAmericanRoundtable>

MAY 9

### **“Where My Poetry Comes From”**

Juliet Hills, First Church member for 33 years



Poetry can say things prose may find difficult. It can be descriptive, terse, personal, universal. It can draw attention to connections and passions, to fears and human limits, as well as to animals, places, and current affairs. The poet is moved to comes up with a commentary in a style that fits the topic. Juliet will read a few poems she has written and share some by others.

Host: Lorraine Jacobs

MAY 16

### **“An Address by County Executive David Crowley”**

Re-scheduled. Watch for the 2021 Fall Forum Schedule.

MAY 23

### **American Solar Energy Society**

Narelle Kipple, Membership & Programs  
Carly Cipolla; Director of Operations



Narelle Kipple's passion for sustainability was ignited during a Semester at Sea study abroad program for her degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Engineering Management. Upon her return she canvassed to promote a state-wide ban on polystyrene in Colorado. Narelle also participated in a study of homes transitioning off fossil fuels. Carly Cipolla, graduated from University of Colorado-Boulder in Environmental Studies plus Atmospheric and Oceanic Sci-

*(Sunday Forum continued on page 12)*



## Communications News

by Jean Johnson  
Director of Administration

Stay connected to First Church with our website improvements. Try out our improved search function, improved events calendar, and big donation button on every web page to make a contribution or pledge payment.

Lay leaders:

*"Create accessible, courageous, and innovative welcome to people who might find a sense of belonging and a spiritual home with us." Congregation End 8.*

Check out these new tools to help you effectively get your church message to the congregation and beyond.

- **"How to Better Communicate Your Content"** video and slides.
- **Comprehensive Communications Policies.**
- **"Comm How-To Guide"** overview of how to work with the communications staff structure.

All these great tools can be found on our website. <https://uumilwaukee.org/policies-and-procedures/>.

## Share the Love and Support First Church on Social Media!

by Molly Sommerhalder  
Digital Outreach Coordinator

Did you know that we have a Facebook Page, Facebook Group, and Instagram account? We share daily updates, mission-inspired content, social justice work, news, and more!

We invite you to:

- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Like, Comment, and Share our posts.
- Become a member of our community [Facebook Group](#) to connect with members and friends of the church.

By doing these simple steps, you will help First Church share our mission to a wider audience to sustain and grow our congregation.



## Submit Your Photos

by Shari Wright  
Office Manager

Photo enthusiasts can post their photos in our Facebook Group. You can also send Shari Wright photos of our church or our program activities and we may use them in our newsletter and social media.

The best way to submit photos is to use [this form](#) to upload them with your highest resolution. If you send the picture in email, the resolution may be lower grade.

Below is the "Garden Spirit" sculpture with this spring's daffodils in the church courtyard.





## All In The Family

Our condolences are with **Valynda Wells** whose mother Mary Jo Wells died of congestive heart failure on March 30, 2021 in Madison, TN, where she had recently moved to be near one of her adult children. Mary Jo Wells was 88 years old.

**Susan Mitten**, First Church member, long-time UU and friend of many, was recently diagnosed with brain cancer. Please see her [CaringBridge page](#) for updates from her family.

Our condolences are with **Lynda Lambert** whose brother-in-law Kenneth Andries died from lung cancer on April 6, 2021 in St. Petersburg, Florida where he and his wife were snowbirds from the Milwaukee area. Ken was 81 years old.

## Pastoral Care Provider Services Now Providing Meal Delivery!

By Jane Dorweiler  
PCP Coordinator

Since so much more is known about how the COVID-19 virus does and does not spread, bringing prepared meals to someone seems not that different from restaurant take-out. Our Pastoral Care Providers (PCPs) are now available again to bring meals to congregation members who are in need due to illness, chemo treatments, return home after surgery, etc. PCPs use masked, contactless delivery with arrangements for where to leave the meal followed by a phone call or text to the recipient. Contact PCP Coordinator Jane Dorweiler at [fuspcprovider@gmail.com](mailto:fuspcprovider@gmail.com) or 414-839-3053.

### SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

Continued from page 10

ence. Carly narrowed her attention to sustainability, renewable energy, and environment. Joining ASES as an intern in 2016, Carly has been planning the first virtual Annual National Solar Conference, SOLAR 20/20: Renewable Energy Vision. Carly and Narelle will talk about the American Solar Energy Society and its programs focusing on the ASES Online Community, National Solar Tour, and Solar 2021 ASES annual conference. They will provide ways for you to get involved! Host: Mark Mueller

MAY 30  
No Sunday Forum Today

**All 2021 Forums are recorded and stored** on the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee YouTube Channel. To find a Forum you'd like to hear again, or listen for the first time, use this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstUnitarianSocietyofMilwaukee/>

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

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