



THE

CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.

June 2021

Words on the Wind

by the Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
Senior Minister

What does it mean to be a people of Rootedness?

This year, I have felt more deeply rooted in place than at any other time in my adult life. Pandemic life slowed me down and kept my movement close to home, which allowed me to root more deeply. I noticed the plants in my neighborhood, and the sky's seasons. I got to know my neighbors and became more connected with my community.

There seems to be a balance between rootedness and mobility, and a dynamic tension between depth and speed. Our experience of time and space negotiated by movement. What does it mean that a plant must stay still to grow its roots?

This month, as we consider what it means to be a people of rootedness, I invite you to consider slowing down. Even as the world might speed up in summer, and there might be more places for vaccinated people to go safely, you might gain depth from going slowly.

As usual, I will be attending the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly (virtually) this year at the end of June. I encourage you to attend if you can—Milwaukee will be spotlighted, I will be co-leading the Opening Celebration Worship, and there are innumerable workshops about our faith, justice, and all aspects of church. After General Assembly, I will be on vacation and study leave until August.

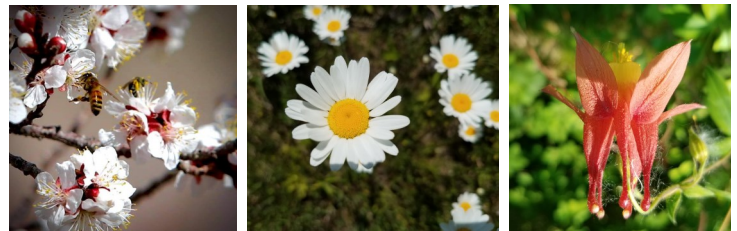
I hope you have a beautiful, rooted, deep summer of connection and hope, First Church. I will see you in August.

With love,
Jennifer

SUNDAY SERVICES

ONE SERVICE AT
10:00 A.M.

LIVE ON YOUTUBE



JUNE 6

Roots Hold Me Close, Wings Set Me Free

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Rev. Dena McPhetres

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Paul Geenen, Worship Associate

FLOWER COMMUNION

Every week, we sing, "roots hold me close, wings set me free" in worship. What is the paradox between rootedness providing stability, and flying providing liberation? Our congregation and Unitarian Universalism balance centuries-old roots with room for theological growth. How do strong roots nourish us for growth and liberation? Join us for our virtual annual Flower Communion Ritual, where we will share the flowers everyone is bringing to the service in a video, and you can choose one to ritually take home with you on paper. Remember to bring a flower to sit beside your livestream video, and paper and drawing tools for the ritual! [Download a coloring page here.](#)

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

ROOTEDNESS ?

MORE SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 A.M.
ON YOUTUBE

JUNE 13

The Ground Is Troubled

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director
Susie Seidelman, Worship Associate

The manner in which we are rooted is because of what someone else has done in the past. American society is deeply rooted in settler colonialism, a caste system, racism and the transatlantic slave trade. The ground is troubled with the history and practice of white supremacy culture. How do we add nutrients to the soil that will help us grow something deep enough to transform what we inherit? The power of sunflowers and mushrooms may give us a clue.

JUNE 20

Architects of Our Roots

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director
Paul Kosidowski, Worship Associate
FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY

We are the architects of our roots. Which of the roots in your family (that you can find) mean something to you? Where do you want to put down roots? What roots adopted you and what roots do you adopt? Roots may come from the past, but they grow into the future. In which directions will our children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews send their roots? Join us as we think about being the architects of our roots.

JUNE 27 AT 11:00 A.M.

General Assembly Worship

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, worship leaders
General Assembly Choir Director Susan Mashiyama

Last year more than 10,000 screens tuned in to watch Sunday Morning Worship at the virtual General Assembly of Unitarian Universalists. Join UUs around the country for the premiere live broadcast at **11:00 a.m. CST** on the UUA's YouTube channel. Check our web page for more details as they become available at <https://uumilwaukee.org/event/uua-general-assembly-worship/>.

COVID Re-Opening Introduction

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom and
the COVID Re-Opening Team

Wow, it has been a roller coaster of a year! I am so grateful for First Church's compassion and commitment to one another and to the health and safety of our community in these intense, difficult, and ever-evolving pandemic times.

The First Church COVID Re-Opening Team has been hard at work developing guidelines for when and how we will re-open the church safely. You can see their work on page 4. The scientific community continues to learn about this virus and its transmission, and conditions continue to change, so our Team will keep adapting this policy and procedure to match current conditions and science. This is happening already, as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new guidelines 48 hours before we sent this draft policy to those registered for the annual meeting! The Team plans to continue to watch the conditions in Milwaukee closely over the summer, and monitor how the CDC and Milwaukee's guidance affects transmission rate and disease incidence.

While keeping care for our members and the public at the core of our choices, the Team has tried to balance many different needs, including the needs of families, elders, people with health concerns, folks who are longing to reconnect, marginalized communities, and public health. The resulting policy is more cautious and slow-moving than some other institutions in the area, for several reasons:

- First and foremost, our mission as a church is based on the values of love and justice. Our reason for being as a community is to care for one another and the world, and our goal is to be welcoming and inclusive in our gathering. This is a different mission than a store, or even a theater. Our first priority is the care and well-being of all our people and the public at large.
- Second, we are an intergenerational community. This means we have elders and children in the same community at the same time. We know our elders are more susceptible to the worst cases of the virus and our children are not yet able to be vaccinated. When we talk about "things vaccinated people can do," we must remember that children are people, and they are members of our intergenerational community.
- Third, we will not be requiring proof of vaccination for our members and friends to attend church or church events. This means we will not know the vaccination status of adults at church.

(COVID Re-opening, continued on page 3)



- Finally, we understand from the health care professionals on our COVID Re-Opening Team that a portion of the general population is not going to get vaccinated. This means we will likely not reach herd immunity, at least not soon, and the best indicator of public risk is the level of incidence (new COVID cases over 7 days) in Milwaukee.

We understand that individual assessments of risk, particularly for people who are vaccinated, are different than institutional / public assessments of risk. We are making policy for the latter, based on our priorities of care for an intergenerational community in which we do not know peoples' vaccination status. That means our level of caution, and precaution, is higher.

We also need a little time to prepare to open the building and get ready for in-person gatherings, while simultaneously creating online gatherings. This is all new for us, and doing church both in-person and online is twice as much doing.

We are so looking forward to seeing you all again, and so grateful for your patience and your compassion as we prepare to re-open safely, inclusively, and with care, love, and justice at the center of what we do.
With love,

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister
The COVID Team of First Church
Erik Alexander (Chair)
Lisa Koneazny
Stacy Koenen
Trudy Watt
Jean Johnson

Splinters from the Board

by Ben Lefort
Board of Trustee's Member

The Board of Trustees met on April 27 via Zoom.

Jean Johnson and Noreen Gilbertsen presented the third quarter financial update. Despite the many challenges of the past year, we're on track to finish out the fiscal year in a positive financial position.

Jean and Noreen also shared the first draft of the church budget for next fiscal year. The budget assumes we need to be ready to reopen in-person to some extent, but many activities will likely be limited. While this fiscal year COVID-related uncertainty caused us to hold the line on staff salaries, for next year the Board committed to beginning to reduce many of the existing compensation gaps for our staff relative to UUA guidelines.

The Spring Pledge Drive is projected to close out with a considerable year-over-year increase thanks to the generosity of our members. The Finance Team has recommended budgeting changes that improve clarity on our utilization of bequests and investment earnings for operating expenses. Bottom line, we will likely be running a deficit budget next fiscal year as we have for several years, but we're beginning to close the gaps.

Important updates on our goals for financial sustainability will be shared at this year's Annual Meeting, and the budget will be finalized at the next Board meeting.

As part of its Policy Governance model, the Board monitored the staff's adherence to personnel policies. No issues were reported, and our staff continues to do an amazing job!

Rev. Jennifer shared an update on the work of the COVID Re-Opening Team, which is preparing criteria, policies, and precautions in order to safely re-open our building when circumstances allow. Our meeting minutes are posted on the First Church website. Feel free to share your questions or concerns with members of the Board anytime.



COVID Re-Opening Team Announces New Policy & Precautions

The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee COVID Re-Opening Team is pleased to announce the following policy and procedures for our return to in-person church activities. With love and justice as two of our core values, our primary focus is ensuring safety for all, including vulnerable populations in the church and the public at-large. By employing strict scientific criteria and appropriate precautions, First Church will be able to re-open safely.

While the below explains the Team's reasoning, a detailed understanding of these criteria is not necessary as First Church will actively communicate the current re-opening status via multiple methods on a regular basis (including website and social media posts, regular weekly announcements, the church outgoing voicemail message, etc.).

We will be using the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infections in Milwaukee County per 100,000 population over seven 7 days to guide our re-opening decisions. This number represents the number of new infections in Milwaukee over the prior week, per 100,000 people. This is a common public health metric used during the pandemic by numerous entities including the Milwaukee Health Department (<https://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus>) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>). By following this normalized figure, we can most easily compare our decision-making to that of other congregations, cities, and expert guidelines. Importantly, First Church will retain online activities regardless of in-person status.

The COVID Re-Opening Team strongly recommends that everyone be vaccinated prior to resuming in-person activities. This will not be a requirement for a return to church, but the Team would like to emphasize that vaccination is our best way out of the pandemic. Vaccines protect not only you, but everyone around you, and the act of receiving a vaccination is consistent with our UU values. While an increasingly vaccinated public will make in-person activities safer and more realistic, the incidence still provides the most accurate picture of disease activity in our community and will thus be used as the primary tool for re-opening decisions.

Any questions can be addressed to the Team by emailing covidteam@uumilwaukee.org. We look forward to seeing all of you in-person once it is safe to do so.

RE-OPENING POLICY

We will institute a phased re-opening to in-person activities once the incidence falls below 100 per 100,000 over 7 days, but we will not re-open for in-person Sunday worship until the incidence falls below 10 per 100,000 over 7 days ([link to the policy.](#))

The table below summarizes which activities are allowed at each incidence level, including more relaxed criteria for outdoor gatherings where risk is known to be lower.

In order to ensure disease levels are stable and do not represent a statistical aberration, each incidence level will need to be met for 28 consecutive days before re-opening at that level. Any subsequent increase above a given incidence limit will result in immediately stopping in-person activities at that level until the criterion is met for an additional 14 consecutive days.

	INDOORS	OUTDOORS
Incidence per 100,000 over 7 days	Allowed in-person indoor gatherings	Additional allowed in-person outdoor gatherings
Any	Clergy pastoral care (vaccinated clergy)	N/A
<100	Memorial services (25 person attendance limit)	25 person attendance limit
<50	Small groups (20 person attendance limit)	50 person attendance limit
<10	Sunday worship and other large groups	N/A

PRECAUTIONS

Once re-opened, First Church will be guided by our [Precautions Policy](#). Many of these safety measures are common sense and will be familiar to everyone (hand hygiene, mask usage, physical distancing when possible). For now, we will not be allowing food or drink (other than water) and gatherings will be limited to a two-hour duration. Group singing will not currently be allowed, but performances by 1-2 distanced singers are permissible.



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by The Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

“Two of the greatest gifts we can give our children are roots and wings.”

Rootedness is a good word for what loving caretakers give to children. Roots are anchors, a source of nutrients, a space to hold resources. Roots guard the interaction between the outside world, determine what gets access to the plant. The weblike anchor explores the soil and relays crucial information about what resources are available for a plant to survive. Belonging, knowledge, freedom to grow and a place to return to for restoration is what caregivers offer children, it is also what our faith, our church community can offer all of us.

Roots, that which lies underneath each of us, supporting who we are, hopefully allowing us to flourish. Our rootedness is a source of trust as we endeavor to become who we are called to be again and again. Our roots can be fragile, needing careful handling as we grow from them, yet away from them. They shape our identity but cannot not confine us.

What rootedness does a child need to flourish? Children need an ethical framework that enables them to flourish into responsible adults, who are capable of understanding how they are connected to the world around them, including others who may be significantly different from themselves.

Unitarian Universalism can offer ways to examine and understand current world events, our community, our friends, our family, and ourselves by providing religious and spiritual literacy. Our church is a place to ask all the questions, examine complex truths, share emotions, and experience the wonder of worship with others.

We can only do this together. We create and hold the space for ourselves and for our children to flourish. I hope you join us this summer and fall in Religious Education as we come together to nourish our families, children, and youth.

Blessings,
Rev. Kimberlee

Chalice Sparx UU Family Camp

by The Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Chalice Sparx Unitarian Universalist (UU) Family Camp will be virtual again this year due to COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings in the state of Michigan. Join us online as we create salt mandalas, engage in yoga for all ages, worship for all ages, UU Minecraft, covenant groups for sharing and lots of family fun!

Starts Friday, July 9 at 7:00 p.m. ET and continues through Sunday evening. Cost per family is \$50 which covers a kit of supplies that will be shipped to your home. Register at www.chalicesparx.org today!

Summer 2021 Religious Education Family Game Nights

by The Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

This summer, join us for a monthly, virtual game night for all ages! Get to know the First Church Religious Education (RE) community while you team up with your family for some wholesome fun!

You may register for one, two or all of three of our RE Game Nights. All ages are welcome to participate! Register here at <https://bit.ly/UUREgames>.

Sunday, June 13: Chopped

Special delivery! Your family will receive two bags of ingredients to make an appetizer and dessert. After we cook together on Zoom, you'll taste your food in front of our judging panel and find out what the rest of the teams cooked up. Plan to spend 1-2 hours at this game night!

Sunday, July 18: Family Feud

Team up with your family to guess the most popular answers to hilarious questions.

Sunday, August 15: Minute to Win It

Relays, balance challenges, and more! During this game night, your family will have 60 seconds to complete zany tasks.

From June 13-September 6, Sunday Religious Education Classes will be limited to Summer Game Events & PreK-2nd Grade RE at 9:15 a.m.



Looking For New Theme Circle Facilitators

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres
Associate Minister

Theme Circles are designed to support and deepen the spiritual journey of participants in community with each other and in connection with our church's monthly worship themes. Next church year will be our fourth year of Theme Circles and we are looking for new facilitators.

Theme Circle participants and facilitators say that the spiritual exercises, readings, reflection and sharing has significantly affected their personal lives and experience of Sunday services. They feel closer to each other and the congregation through sharing how a theme like Belonging, Attention, Awe, Integrity and Resilience resonates and brings meaning to their life.

We'd like to add more circles next fall to give more people access to this wonderful opportunity. To do that, we'll need more facilitators. Please consider whether you feel called to this ministry of creating a trusting space for reflection and exploration in a small group of your peers. Theme Circles are effective online, in person, or perhaps a combination as we move into multi-platform church. We will help you learn how to be a host on Zoom!

More information and an application form can be found on our [church website here](#). Application deadline is July 15. Facilitator training is required and will take place online in August or September with the leader of Soul Matters themes, Rev. Scott Tayler. The new cycle of Theme Circles at First Church begins the third week of October.

UU Wellspring Coming to First Church

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres
Candice Haight & Diane Horne

Are you looking for a deeply engaging, heart-opening experience to build your Unitarian Universalist identity and develop your personal theology and spiritual practice?

You may have participated in entry level or shorter-term programming and are ready to explore your spirituality in a covenanted small group community.

We are launching a new small group this upcoming church year called UU Wellspring, which is a UU program available in many congregations across the country. UU Wellspring provides an opportunity to develop "a sense of purpose and meaning, arising from UU Wellspring's unique combination of spiritual practices, spiritual companionship, readings, and heart-opening sessions. A sustaining joy emerges while deepening commitment to creating change in ourselves and the world."

If you are interested and would like to find out more about UU Wellspring, please visit the website at: [UU Wellspring | Spiritual Deepening](#) for the UU Soul. When you are ready to talk with someone from the First Church Launch Team to explore this further, please feel free to contact Candice Haight at 414-587-4706 (email haightcandice@gmail.com) or Diane Horne at 414-350-5132 (email diane_horne@hotmail.com) by July 1. We will begin in mid-August with one group of 8 to 12 participants, co-facilitated by Amy Wilbourne and Diane Horne.

With enthusiasm,
Rev. Dena, Candice, and Diane
UU Wellspring First Church Launch Team



Relax and Energize with Summer Yoga

This summer, instructor Morgan Engels will continue to offer yoga classes on Zoom. On Mondays, Yin yoga invites you to slow down and create space for stillness while nourishing joints, ligaments, tendons, and fascia.

This Monday evening class will be June 28-August 23, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/UUYogaMonJune>.

Wednesday includes gentle movement sequences, yogic breath techniques, and guided relaxation. Join this class June 16-August 11, 9:00-10:00 a.m. and sign up here: <https://bit.ly/UUYogaWedJune>.

Both classes are \$67.50 for First Church members and \$81 for non-members.

Adult Spiritual Development Update

by Lisa Gies
Adult Spiritual Development Team

The Adult Spiritual Development (ASD) Team has been meeting quarterly over the course of the 2020-2021 church year to review and revise First Church's ASD offerings and proposal process. Our efforts focused on creating a proposal form that aligns with our ASD mission statement, First Church's Core Values and End Statements.

Additionally, the proposal form facilitates a more organized format by asking for a few more specifics and details regarding the spiritual development offering being proposed. We are excited to introduce this new proposal form and are eager to begin receiving proposals that deepen the spiritual growth of our church community.

[Submit your proposal here.](#)

Please contact Lisa Gies, Diane Horne, Javier Dorantes or Rev. Dena with questions.

IN MEMORIAM

Florence Elizabeth Waterston

August 1, 1932 ~ May 9, 2021

Florence Waterston died peacefully on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with her four surviving children surrounding her. She was living at Vesta Memory Care in Brookfield and was under the care of hospice. Florence was one of those rare people who died of old age. She was 88 years old and was a member of our congregation for 47 years.

Public visitation and eulogy were held on Thursday, May 13 at Harder Funeral Home in Brookfield, with a livestream funeral mass following from St. Dominic Catholic Church.

A Candle of Life was lit in memory of Florence during our First Church online worship service on Sunday, May 23, 2021. An online Memory Circle will be held Saturday, June 5 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, charitable donations in memory of Florence can be sent to: St. Joseph's Indian School
P.O. Box 100
Chamberlain, SD 57325
give.stjo.org/flowers

Summer with the UU Book Club

by Chris Linder
UU Book Club Chair

The UU Book Club is planning to meet during summer. We have a diverse selection of books. Our schedule is;

June 13 *Proust and the Squid: The Story of the Reading Brain* by Maryanne Wolfe

The author explains the miraculous development of reading in the human brain--a skill for which our brains were not intended. She also presents solutions for those who struggle to read.

July 11 *The Woman of Troublesome Creek: A Novel*

The book follows the life of a travelling librarian in Kentucky in the 1930's. It is a view into the bigotry and ignorance in the depression era.

August 8 *Caste: the Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson

This book argues for a more accurate and truthful way to describe the history of race in the United states.

All meetings are at 1:00 on Sundays on Zoom. Please contact Chris Linder for more information at celinder@att.net.



Ready, Set Go! Earth Justice Ministry Plan Projects. Join Us.

by Terry Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry

Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) members gathered virtually in both April and May, welcomed church members new and old, and formed teams to tackle a few issues in the year coming. If you have ideas for projects for First Church's Earth Justice Ministry, please suggest them to one of the co-chairs (Bruce Wiggins and Barbara Leigh), and be ready to help carry them out!

Though EJM will release the details of the projects as they become clearer, it is now possible to state the topics:

- Hikes and outings – when we can do them!
- Plastic reduction. EJM may join the Plastic-Free Milwaukee Coalition, and provide some other tools to reduce use of plastic.
- Films and discussions. Such activities will be planned in accordance with the church policy on re-opening from COVID.
- Letter-writing campaigns, or organizational sign-ons.
- Pollinators. We will not have food without them, so EJM will heighten our awareness of actions that will keep them alive and well.
- Interfaith Earth Network (IEN). EJM will continue its relationship with this program of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. IEN currently has two focuses – 1) fulfilling its responsibilities as a founding member of COLE, the Coalition on Lead Emergency, and 2) education about Natural Burial.
- Recycling. EJM may be able to bring opportunities to First Church for recycling materials not normally accepted by municipal programs.
- Sunday Forums. As usual, EJM members will submit ideas to the Sunday Forum Team and if they are accepted, produce the programs.

Remember these words from Pope Francis, with which we closed our May meeting: “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and one social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.” (from *Laudato Si*)

Common Ground to Hold Listening Campaign

by Jerry Fredrickson
Common Ground Chair

Starting now, and continuing throughout the summer, Common Ground will be holding Zoom “House Meetings” to hear your stories, ask what you really care about and to find out what motivates you to act when you see injustice around you.

You may receive an invitation from one of our First Church Core Team members to participate in one or more of these House Meetings and we have one simple ask: Please accept!

We will be focusing on topics such as Jobs and Training, Race and Policing, Education, Housing/Neighborhood Issues, and Mental and Physical Health. Of course, you are welcome to discuss your own topic in the meeting if it is not included here.

In October, once we have completed our listening campaign, Common Ground will act on the feedback that we have received from our member organizations to initiate the Issue Campaigns that will make a difference in people's lives.

Common Ground has always listened to people in the neighborhoods before starting an Issue Campaign. What is going on in your neighborhood, or in ones that you see are in distress? What would you like to see happen? Your participation is important, so should you receive an invitation, we hope that you will accept it.

Your Common Ground Core Team,

George Bledsoe
Lynn Connolly
Rod De Pue
Mary Ann Fisher
Jerry Fredrickson
Alan Jaberg
Russ Langford
Mary Ann Steger
Cathy Startt



Many Made the April Guest House Meal a Success

by Jerry Fredrickson

Our thanks to the many volunteers who made our Ball Park themed meal so successful. Some even made double or triple batches to meet our goal of providing enough food to feed our 70 guests.

Here are our folks who stepped up to the plate!: Betty Schroeder, Dot Sherman, Joan Hansen, Nancy Spransy, Julie Hamrick, Jo Ann Bachar, Jeanne Kollmeyer, Ann Batiza, Cheri Talajkowski, Mary Ann Fisher, Virginia Dotson, Jeanne Dawson, Barb Rasman, Paula Anderson, Elizabeth Lentini, Tracy Straub, Jeanne Schroeder, Molly Zillig, Jerry Fredrickson.

Guest House Meal Contributions Saturday, June 19

Thea Watters
Member and CRE Team Co-Chair

My husband Geoff and I are planning the Guest House evening meal on behalf of First Church for Saturday, June 19th. Please help the guests at the Guest House by contributing any of these foods:

- Barbecue hamburger meat (sloppy joe)
- Hamburger buns
- Fruit salad
- Cookies

Due to the pandemic, we cannot serve at this time. The meal will be served by their staff. So please email me at theabenz@hotmail.com to sign up and coordinate your drop off. We have drop points at several church members' homes around town to make it close and convenient for you.

Ten Top Reasons to Register for General Assembly

by Elizabeth Lentini

1. You don't have to be available June 23 – 27! As long as you register before June 23, and have access to a computer, you can stream GA content at your convenience throughout the summer!
2. If you act quickly, you may be able to get your registration (\$200) paid by First Church (contact Bruce Wiggins – brucewathome@gmail.com)!
3. Financial aid is available to those who cannot afford to pay the full registration fee on their own!
4. You can experience exclusive Milwaukee-based content and original music, produced by First Church, including.
 - a. A virtual tour of America's Black Holocaust Museum by Dr. Fran Kaplan.
 - b. Reggie Jackson's interactive workshop on Milwaukee: A Case Study in the Hidden Effects of Segregation.
 - c. SistaStrings' latest work – The Sound.
 - d. Videos about Milwaukee-based organizations working for social justice and building healthy communities, including some specially made for GA, such as Diverse & Resilient, Arts@Large, and Public Allies.
 - e. An original Worship Service ("Circle 'Round for Justice") featuring area UU ministers, including our very own Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom.
 - f. Cesar Cornier, our former Social Justice Intern and his original hip-hop composition, Welcome to My City, and
 - g. Other Milwaukee creative artists showcasing their original works, such as Anne Heaton, Chris Crain, Cullah, and our very own John Stano.
5. MICAH will be the recipient of the Sunday morning worship service collection.
6. Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade are giving the Ware Lecture, available only to registrants!
7. You can watch the first-ever virtual Banner Parade, featuring the banners of UU congregations around the country.
8. You will be inspired to see our newly ordained ministers in the Service of the Living Tradition.
9. The First Universalist Church of Minneapolis will be leading the Sunday morning worship service.
10. If you register as a delegate from First Church (check with Bruce Wiggins), you will be able to vote in a contested election for a seat on the UUA Board of Trustees.



Summer Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore
Share the Plate Team



The Nehemiah Project is our summer Share the Plate recipient. With two facilities in Milwaukee, the Nehemiah project works with teens and young men, 13-20 years old, who have served their sentence and are preparing to return to their families. In operation since the early 1970s, it's mission is to "promote the physical and emotional well-being of youth through psychological, educational, leadership, and transitional living services in a residential community."

The Nehemiah Project provides residential, 24 hour care in their halfway houses and offers a wide variety of programs for its residents to "move them in positive ways toward adulthood without further contact with the criminal justice system." There is a Literacy and Assessment program which offers tutoring and academic support, a Financial Literacy and Independence program for independent living, a Seeds of Growth Employment Training program and Forgiveness for Teens program that addresses mental health, forgiveness of self and others and healing.

For more information about the Nehemiah Project and how to become more involved, please visit their website <https://www.nehemiahprojectinc.org/support-us> They are a non-profit organization that accepts clothing items, furniture, financial donations and offers volunteer opportunities.

To make a donation directly to the Nehemiah Project, please visit their website at: www.nehemiahprojectinc.org/about They also accept donations over the phone at 414-933-8002.

Pastoral Care Support Reminders

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres
Associate Minister

First Church continues to support our members with pastoral care throughout the summer months.

You can request these forms of support for yourself and your family:

- Home Grief Kits support congregation members who are grieving a death in this time of physical distancing with a simple bag of supplies and instructions to create a sacred space at home to remember your loved one. Contact Rev. Dena at: dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org and she will arrange a time to deliver one to your home while following COVID precautions.
- Shawls, lap robes and baby blankets are available again. If you are going through a difficult time and would like the comfort symbolized by a shawl handmade by members of our shawl ministry, please contact Rev. Dena. She will mail the item to you.
- COVID Candle during Sunday worship is a simple ritual to honor the death of a loved one of any of our members who died from COVID-19 or any other cause. If you would like the COVID Candle lit, please contact one of the ministers.
- Pastoral Care Providers (PCP) have resumed meal delivery to church members in need due to illness, return home from surgery, etc. PCPs provide masked contactless delivery. Contact PCP Coordinator Jane Dorweiler at fuspcprovider@gmail.com or 414-839-3053.
- If you would like to talk to a quiet, compassionate listener, our Pastoral Care Associates (PCA) are available. Please contact PCA Coordinator Jeri Pearcy at fuspastoralcare@gmail.com or 414-416-6036.
- If you'd like to talk to one of the Ministers, please call our Pastoral Care Emergency line at 414-216-3113.
- For personal financial assistance, please contact Rev. Jennifer for the Ministers' Discretionary Fund at jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org.



All In The Family

We send our condolences and care to **Andrew, Anjum, Alex, and Adlee Alden**, whose neighbor and family friend Patricia Louise Daugherty Bergmanis, known to the Aldens as Trish, died on April 25 from COVID. She was 73 years old.

Sharon and Rod DePue's close family friend, Davonnie Turner-Basey died on Tuesday, April 20 from gunshot wounds he experienced on Sunday, April 18. He was 17 years old.

Dale Skaggs' cousin Gerald Longenbaugh, died Tuesday, April 27, in Indianapolis, Indiana, just a few weeks after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. He was 84 years old.

We send our condolences to **Jobey Clark**, whose second father, Robert Hildreth Marik, known as Bob, died on April 28th at the age of 84; a survivor of three different cancers but not the fourth.

We send our care to **Paul and Pat Geenen**, as Paul Geenen's brother, Carl Geenen, died from cancer on June 27, 2020, and Carl's wife, Paul's his sister-in-law, Clarice Geenen, died four months later on October 8, 2020, from heart complications, or as their children said, from a broken heart. They were both in their mid-70s.

May you feel the care and love of your family, friends and spiritual community surrounding you.

How to Contact Your Ministers This Summer

Rev. Jennifer is attending UU Ministry Days and General Assembly June 21- 27. She is on vacation June 28 – July 18 and on study leave July 19 – August 1. She will return to work and email on August 2. Please contact Shari Wright, Office Manager, regarding church business at: shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org or 414-273-5257.

Rev. Dena is attending UU Ministry Days and General Assembly June 21- 27. She is on vacation June 30 – July 5 and August 19 – 29. She is on study leave August 30 – September 6.

Rev. Kimberlee will communicate her summer schedule soon.

For pastoral care emergencies, such as death, entering hospice or ICU, please call the Pastoral Care Emergency line at 414-216-3113. One of our ministers will answer or call you back as soon as possible. Rev. Dena will be on call for much of the summer.

HOW TO REACH US

414.273.5257
first.church.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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