

AUGUST 2021



THE

# CHANTICLEER

The First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.



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## Monthly Theme



*What does it mean to  
be a people of*

# Promise

# Inside News

by the *Chanticleer* Editors

In the month of August, we invite you to participate in our unique summer services. The guest ministers and members who stepped up to provide summer services are featured on page 6. One of the benefits of the pandemic is the online connections we have. It has given us the opportunities to feature guests from various locations across the country.

On August 1, our neighboring Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship church in Appleton, WI will offer their online service with Zoom video conferencing. This service will NOT be on our YouTube channel so plan to connect with your computer on Zoom. The Zoom link will be provided either on the Fox Valley UU website or in our Friday email announcements.

Adult OWL is now coming to First Church with an online class facilitated by our trained members. See this information on Page 8.

Many of our ministers are on study leave or vacation. If you need assistance, please contact the First Church office at 414-273-5257.

Enjoy these beautiful days of summer.

## Summer Share the Plate



**NEHEMIAH  
PROJECT**  
Home, Help and Hope for Teens

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 sentences and are preparing to return to their families. In operation since the early 1970s, its 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.”

For more information about the Nehemiah Project and how to become more involved, please visit their website at [www.nehemiahprojectinc.org](http://www.nehemiahprojectinc.org). This non-profit organization accepts clothing items, furniture, financial donations and offers volunteer opportunities.

Donate to this charity

# Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



Promises are aspirational, including the ones we make to ourselves. Making a promise is giving an assurance that we will do or be something. It's a commitment to work toward fulfilling our potential, whether in small or large ways.

What promises have you made to yourself lately and how is it going?

I promised myself I would go up in a hot air balloon for my 50th birthday. That didn't happen. So I made the promise again for my 60th birthday which landed in the middle of a pandemic before vaccinations were available. My promise to go "up, up and away in a beautiful balloon" remains an aspiration.

Many of us have had to renegotiate our promises during the pandemic, which by the way, isn't over yet. We will likely continue to need to adapt our promises in relationship to an ever-shifting reality for some time to come.

What is it like for you when you don't keep a promise to yourself or to others? Are you able to forgive yourself? Do you feel frustration, guilt or shame? Do you ask forgiveness from others? Constantly failing yet forever trying moves us toward our promises' fulfillment.

When I think about the upcoming church year with its potential for reunion with your beloved faces, the complicated new world of multi-platform church, the likely fluctuating COVID conditions, and the corresponding need to go back and forth between in-person and online worship and programs, the only promise I think I can make is to show up and be present to whatever happens. Because I don't know what is going to happen. None of us do. It will be important to keep humble and curious, gentle and loving. And that is a big promise to live into with one another.

Yours,  
Dena



# Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Growing up my summers were spent at my grandparents on Eagle Lake, where we would find ways to be together and to be in and on the water. For as long as I have known the warm Wisconsin weekends, there was a promise of sunshine, waterfronts, and family.

Last summer, our desire to be together went unfulfilled but we were fueled by the promise of a time when we could be with one another again and this kept us focused on what we truly cherish. That time is here, a tentative summer of restoration, filled with family gatherings, a return to traditions, patterns, and the ever-challenging dynamics that comes with being together. I am grateful for it all. This summer, the generational shift was palpable, perhaps because we have spent a year fearful of losing our elders and guarding our children. My parents, aunties, and uncles sat ashore, as my grandparents once had, watching over their children and children's children playing in the water. Just as they once had when they were young parents and young people. And I felt cast anew in a familiar space. Those who I had once looked to as caregivers are now elders and all my peers occupy the space in between generations.

**The first law of thermodynamics is a promise of change, also known as the Law of Conservation of Energy, states that the amount of energy in the system remains constant: energy is neither created nor lost. Energy can convert from one form to another, yet the total remains fixed.**

As I watch life roles shift within my family, I witness the energy changing forms, moving through us in new ways, connecting me to a lineage of summers.

We now await the promise of returning to First Church, built by our faith ancestors who cherished community, learning and love. May we continue that legacy of transforming, growing, and centering the needs of each generation so what we truly cherish continues.

May it be so,  
Rev. Kimberlee







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## Ask More, An Annual Question Service

**Rev. Leah Ongiri, Associate Minister**  
**Fox Valley UU Fellowship**

[Click for info about this service](#)  
[Sunday Service Zoom information](#)

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## Potential and Reality

**Rev. Dena McPhetres**  
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director  
Amy Wilbourne, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)  
[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)

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## Poetry and the Art of Living

**Katy Phillips & Lynne Jacoby**  
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director  
Paul Geenen, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)  
[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)

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## TBD

**Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack, Pulpit Guest**  
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director  
Dale Skaggs, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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## Side With Love

**Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Dr. Takiyah Nur Amin,**  
**Dr. Tuli Patel, Rev. Michael Crumpler**  
David B. Smith, Rick Fortner, & Adam Podd, Music

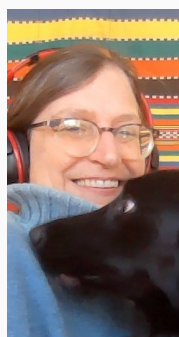
[Click for info about this service](#)  
[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)



### **Pulpit Guest August 1 ♦ Rev. Leah Ongiri**

**Reverend Leah Ongiri** has served the Fox Valley UU Fellowship since 2012. She grew up in Portland, Oregon in a Jewish and Unitarian Universalist family. She has been a child, member, lay leader, staff member, and/or minister at UU congregations in Oregon, Washington, California, New Jersey, and Florida. She earned her Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from Starr King School for the Ministry, a UU graduate theological school in California.

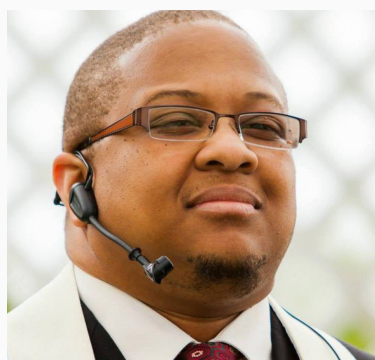
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### **Pulpit Guests August 15 ♦ Lynne Jacoby & Katy Phillips**

**Lynne Jacoby** is the Membership Development Coordinator of First Church, a twenty-five year UU, and a transplant from New England. She is happy reading poetry, watching the Packers, and walking her dog Pozey, though not all at once! **Kathleen (Katy) Phillips** has been a member of First Church for 10 years. After years of searching, she is now home. It took her awhile to find poetry too. Busy as wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher, writing poetry came as a surprise later in life, and has been a joy ever since!

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### **Pulpit Guest August 22 ♦ Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack**

Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack is the Community Minister for Worship & Spiritual Care for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, an organization and growing spiritual community that provides support, resources, and care for Black UUs across the diaspora. He is also one of the co-founders of the Transforming Hearts Collective, an organizing ministry that helps to both co-create spaces of healing and spiritual resiliency for queer and trans/nonbinary folks and resource congregations in the work of radical welcome and culture shift.

## Pictures from Our Religious Education Past!

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

While readying our Religious Education (RE) area for our eventual return, we discovered many fun photographs from our religious education programs throughout the years. As you can see in the sample here, the oldest pictures are from 1966 and we believe it was taken in Max Otto Hall.

We would like to organize these photos into an album/scrapbook for our members to enjoy and write in memories and identify people in the photographs. Are you a crafty person who would enjoy this kind of handiwork? We will provide the supplies, if you can help us with your time, care, and skills! Please contact Deb Solis at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org), if you are interested!



## Youth Group Frisbee Fun

by Deb Solis

Welcome Back! After a long wait, we are delighted to invite our grade 9-12 youth to join our First Church youth group for an outdoor afternoon of frisbee fun in Humboldt Park on Wednesday, August 11 starting at 2:00 p.m.

We will meet by the bandshell and don't forget your masks, sunscreen and your frisbee! (Humboldt Park is at 3000 S Howell Ave- east of Humboldt Ave and between Montana and Oklahoma.)



## Family Game Nights

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

Register online for the August event. All ages are welcome to participate! Register here at <https://bit.ly/UUREgames>.

**August 15: Minute to Win It**  
Relays, balance challenges, and more!

**Sign up for RE Weekly News!**

# Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators

by Deb Solis

This is an online, once a month, 10 session program, offered to parents and caregivers who seek support and skills to be effective sexuality educators of their children and youth. This program invites adults to ask themselves: How can I embody my role as my child's primary sexuality educator in a way that expresses my UU values and faith?

These sessions are designed to meet the needs of adults raising children of a wide age range, from elementary through high school. Like the acclaimed Our Whole Lives (OWL) workshops, these sessions build comfort in talking about sexuality-related topics and offer skill-building activities for healthy family communication in addition to learning, reflecting, and sharing opportunities among participants.

Like the OWL program, this program conveys a holistic view of sex and sexuality, encompassing sensuality, intimacy, sexual identity, and societal sexualization. Participants identify their hopes, examine their concerns, and frame both in the context of their children's lives, acknowledging that their children face different circumstances and pressures than earlier generations did.

This class will be facilitated by four of our trained Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitators, Shannon Widlansky, Liz Hopkins, Crysta Jarczyński and Katie Maedke-Hall. Each 90-minute class will take place in a Zoom room on the second Tuesday on the month from September 2021 through June 2022 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Our first class will be on Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

Participation in the first two session is required, and we ask that you earnestly try and attend all the sessions that the trainers have worked hard to create for our church community.

Register online to save your spot at

<https://bit.ly/UUAdultOWL2021>. For more information contact Deb Solis at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org).



**New Online Class Topics  
Comes to First Church this Fall!**

**Hopes and Concerns for  
Kid's Sexual Health**

**Communications:  
How Do We Talk about Sex?**

**Gender Identity:  
Exploring Emotions around Gender**

**Sexual Orientation:  
Supporting Self-Discovery**

**Relationships:  
Guiding with Wisdom**

**Sexual Health:  
Be a Trusted Source**

**Decision Making:  
Ready, Set, Let Go!**

**Consent:  
Building Healthy Boundaries**

**Social Media:  
Integrity is a Changing World**

**Pornography:  
It's Not Sex Ed**



## What Can Theme Circles Do For You?

by Rev. Dena McPhetres

Watch [this short video](#) where church members Pat McFarland and Katy Phillips describe the connections they've made in Theme Circle and their passion for the experience.

If you are longing for connection, consider joining a Theme Circle—the small groups reflect together on our monthly worship themes. Registration coming in September!



Click the image to play this video

## Register Now For Fall Yoga

Instructor Morgan Engels will offer a Monday evening and Wednesday morning 9-week yoga class through Zoom Meetings, allowing students to participate from the safety of their homes. If COVID re-opening status allows for in-person yoga, class may be held in church this fall.

The first half of this class will begin with some gentle Qi Gong movements to open up, warm up and connect to our breath. This part of the class can be practiced standing or seated in a chair. The second half of the class will be the practice of Yin Yoga. Yin Yoga is practiced entirely on the ground. Yin Yoga invites you to slow down and create space for stillness while nourishing joints, ligaments, tendons, and fascia. Yin is yoga at its deepest, quietest, and stillest moments.

**Monday Yoga 5:45 p.m.  
Sept 13 – Nov. 8**

[Online Registration](#)

**Wednesday Yoga 9:00 a.m.  
Sept 15 – Nov. 10**

[Online Registration](#)



# Hike Havenwoods!

## Earth Justice Ministry Hike

by Terry Wiggins

Earth Justice Ministry

Join Earth Justice Ministry and Friends on Saturday, August 7 from 9–10:30 a.m., for their monthly hike. Dan Buckler (new baby permitting) will lead a guided tour of Havenwoods State Forest, 6141 N Hopkins St, Milwaukee, WI 53209. “If Dan can’t guide the tour, we will hike the grounds anyway,” says Laura Herzog, organizer. Afterwards, we will view the community gardens that Laura rented for growing veggies for Tricklebee Café and the homeless. To end the morning, please bring snacks or a lunch and we can visit more at the available picnic tables.

Dan knows the site well, including the plants found there. And, he says, “the history of the site is super interesting too - as a former prison and army base, there aren’t many better examples of beating swords into ploughshares”.

Havenwoods State Forest is 237 acres of fields, woods, and wetlands located in the city. Though Havenwoods is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, you will not need a state park sticker to explore the 7 miles of trails.

Suggestions for your comfort: Bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a bottle of water!

Parking is free – meet in the lot.





## Buddhist Study Group

On Summer Break in August

Join us as we meet to share our thoughts and interpretations of Buddhist teachings and ideas from the current book. Then we meditate as a group for a short while and have fellowship. On Zoom. For more information, contact Mark Miller at [gatheringwaterssangha@gmail.com](mailto:gatheringwaterssangha@gmail.com).

## Poetry Contemplation

Every Wednesday, 9:00 am

[Join Us Here](#)



Join us online as we listen, respond, and rest with the words of selected poets and in the company of others in our community. Come listen for what resonates and illuminates. Members, guests, and visitors are welcome to join this open, weekly, drop-in practice.

## Book Discussion Group

Sunday, August 8, 12:45 pm

Join us as we discuss August's read: *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. Just drop in! Contact Chris Linder for the meeting location at [celinder@att.net](mailto:celinder@att.net).



## Connect & Reflect

Every Thursday, 6:00 pm

[Join Us Here](#)

Connect with a small group as we share a short reading and check in with how your spirit is doing. Reflect together on a few questions prompted from the reading. Sharing is always optional. Bring yourself, your dinner, your joys, your concerns. All are welcome.

# New COVID Re-Opening Guidelines Poster

by the COVID Re-Opening Team

Check out [this colorful guide](https://uumilwaukee.org/category/covid-19/) to the phases of re-opening First Church. It's perfect for your fridge or digital reference this summer. Re-opening phases are based on the Milwaukee County COVID incidence rate. Find info about our policy and precautions <https://uumilwaukee.org/category/covid-19/>.

How will you know the First Church re-open status? The COVID Team monitors the incidence level of COVID in Milwaukee County for us on a weekly basis. Find out which phase we are in on our website, Instagram, Facebook, and the Friday announcements.

Remember that love and justice are two of our First Church core values. The COVID Team's primary focus is ensuring safety for all, including vulnerable populations in the church and the public at-large. The resulting policy is more cautious and slow-moving than some other institutions in the area, for several reasons. [Learn More.](#)

Questions? Email: [covidteam@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:covidteam@uumilwaukee.org).

We are grateful for your patience and compassion as we prepare to re-open safely, inclusively, and with care, love, and justice at the center of what we do.

 **Summer COVID Re-Opening Guidelines**

What Are the Re-Opening Phases at First Church?

<b>Phase 1:</b> Over 100 per 100,000 cases	<b>Closed</b> <b>No Indoor or Outdoor Gatherings</b>
<b>Phase 2:</b> <100 per 100,000 cases	<b>First Church Building &amp; Grounds Closed thru 9/12*</b>  Outdoor Gatherings of 25 or fewer Memorial Services 25 or fewer for members
<b>Phase 3:</b> <50 per 100,000 cases	<b>First Church Building &amp; Grounds Closed thru 9/12*</b>  Outdoor Gatherings of 50 or fewer Indoor Small Group Gatherings 20 or fewer Memorial Services 50 or fewer for members
<b>Phase 4:</b> <10 per 100,000 cases	<b>Closed for Summer</b>

\*Our target date to open is September 12. Note that opening may be delayed due to case count in Milwaukee County per our monitoring guidelines.

**FOR THE CURRENT PHASE, VISIT [UUMILWAUKEE.ORG](https://uumilwaukee.org)**

## COVID Team

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Erik Alexander (Chair)  
Lisa Koneazny  
Stacy Koenen  
Trudy Watt  
Jean Johnson,  
Dir. of Administration



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

## Board of Trustees Officers

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Vice President ..... Ben LeFort  
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Dianna Dentino  
Patricia Geenen  
Rollie Hanson  
Mark Miller

## How to Reach Us

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PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19, our building is closed until further notice. Emailing our staff is the best way to reach us.

Visit us at



uumilwaukee.org



Follow us on Instagram. Like us on Facebook. Join our Facebook Group. Subscribe to our YouTube Channel.