

OCTOBER 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*

Cultivating Relationship

Pledges Support our Mission

by Jean Johnson
Director of Administration

The new church year has started with strong support of our congregation's mission and goals through your pledge payments. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude!

Ways to pay your pledge. There are many ways you can pay your pledge simply and securely. You can give with several secure online options (single gifts or recurring gifts), a check is always welcome, and you can donate stock or mutual funds. Find all the information about how to pay your pledge on this web page <https://uumilwaukee.org/ways-to-give/>.

Of course, if you have not pledged, we also appreciate your gift that supports our programs and values.

We send monthly pledge statements. We send pledging members and friends their statements the first week of the month so look for emailed statements and quarterly US mailed statements. If you have questions about your statement, contact Office Manager Shari Wright.

MyFirstChurch member portal. A simple way to manage your pledge payments is via [MyFirstChurch Member Portal](#). In the member portal, you can view a directory of church members with their photos. On your own confidential profile page, you can access your contribution records, as well as First Church groups, events you've registered for, messages, and more.

October Share the Plate

UN Association of Greater Milwaukee (UNAGM) is our October Share the Plate recipient. The Chapter is dedicated to educating, inspiring and mobilizing citizens of Southeastern Wisconsin to support the vital work of the United Nations. It works to accomplish this through its collaboration with national UNA-USA advocacy efforts, education, programs and public events, membership development and fundraising activities.

UNAGM holds monthly forums and events, talks to Congressional representatives to advocate for UN funding, and works in the public schools to coach Model United Nations events in schools across the city. Past forums topics have included: "The Impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic on Women," "Challenges Facing Native Nations Today," "Honoring Juneteenth Day: From Milwaukee to Afghanistan," and "The Genocide that Rages on: Crisis in Cameroon." To learn more, visit their website unamilwaukee.weebly.com

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)



Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Dear Ones,

Relationships have been fundamentally affected by the last year and a half of pandemic. We have changed, and are changing, as are our relationships.

Cultivating relationship means attending to relationship. In times of massive change, attending to our relationships is more important than ever. Hopefully, our most important relationships give us energy, and we give them energy in return.

As a practice of gratitude, I invite you to make a short list of the relationships in your life that sustain you. One by one, visualize the face of each person on your list, or bring their voice up in your mind. What do you feel? Now, write down one or two aspects of each relationship that sustains you. What does it feel like to have that list of sustenance?

As you go over your list of what you receive from each relationship, consider how you maintain the relationship. What do you do to nourish your relationships? Do any of them need water or fertilizer or sunshine? Name one thing you do to nourish each of your relationships and thank yourself for it. Make a note to yourself if any of your most important relationships need attention.

May your relationships hold you through change, and may your energy exchanged in them be powerful, equitable, and life-giving.

With love,
Jennifer

Human beings are most likely to change through relationship.

Our wildly different experiences and reactions to them help shape our understandings of the world.

Love may bring us together, but the hard work begins after the honeymoon, in the deep trenches of our differences.

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



During the first summer of the pandemic, I turned 60 years old. Such a milestone could not go unmarked or celebrated alone, yet I couldn't gather friends for a birthday party in person during the season before vaccinations became available. So, I copied something one of my friends did a few months earlier: I hosted a Zoom birthday party for myself!

It was a treat to see my close women friends and family gathered together on my computer screen from around the country. Some had never met each other before. Some had shared adventures. I got to hear each person say how they knew me and how many years ago we entered each other's lives. I heard their favorite memories of things we did together or experienced together. It was like being at my own memorial service, but better!

My friends gave me back to myself at a moment of social distance, loneliness, and temporary forgetfulness of who I was at my core. What a profound gift!

One of them pointed out that I must be good at cultivating relationships to have so many deep friendships that lasted so many decades. The observation surprised me, but yes: cultivating friendships has always been a priority in my life and I put a lot of time, energy, and care into those relationships. It's not always easy but is such a rich and varied investment. Friendships come and go, but the ones that last make me who I am.

As the pandemic drags on and another pandemic winter is around the corner, may your friendships sustain and uphold you.

Yours,
Dena

All in the Family

Life is hard sometimes. We experience sickness, job loss, broken hearts, and broken bodies. We want to support you through those difficult times.

Our healing thoughts are with **Jacqi Akert** who is recovering from surgery in August.

Our healing wishes are with **Amy Monahan** who is recovering from a fall in September.

Our condolences are with **Camille Johnson** whose mother Shirley Willrett Johnson died early Sunday morning, September 19, 2021 in Maple Park, Illinois. She was two months shy of turning 100 years old.



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



One of the things I love about the Midwest is our (mostly) decisive seasons. Despite a few welcome wobbling around warm spells, we now can feel autumn in the cool nights and our need for sweaters. I find our seasonal cycles ground me in inevitable change, predictable yet new, juxtaposing another end of summer with a new reality.

“The trees are teaching us how lovely it is to let things go.”

Throughout our “COVID times” we have needed to “Let Go” of hopes, dreams, plans, and even resolutions. We have longed for things like community and cultivating relationships in person at church.

Raising children also asks us to simultaneously hold “letting go” and “cultivating relationship.” As our children grow, we navigate the complexity of their becoming, and our becoming with a responsibility to our role in that process. Caregivers of young ones know they are witness to continual transformation, live and in person!

In truth, all our relationships are ever in transition: we are continually learning to love anew each day as we transform and grow,

perhaps in subtler ways as we age, yet still significant. And there is a grief inherent in becoming, as we reflect on who we were, what could have been, and what awaits us.

How then do we continue to cultivate ourselves and our relationships? As far as I can tell, we keep showing up with intention. There is a discipline to relationships that asks us to just keep showing up with love in our hearts. Another Midwest tradition, when something needs to be done, just show up with your authentic self and invest time in one another. Isn't that how we always get through to the joy, to the purpose, to the next complex-yet-miracle-filled future?

What I find life giving about our faith is that it invites us to be in relationship, with ourselves, our human family, and our earth. It asks that we ground ourselves in our connections and our personal truth. Even when the seasons change it reminds us to show up with intention and be who we can best be together.

May we embrace our growth, our grief, our young ones, and a curiosity about how our relationships can flourish.

Blessings,
Rev. Kimberlee





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Relationships Transform Us

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Laurel Brooks, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)

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The World Works Through Relationship

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Marisa Riepenhoff, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)

17

Love Is a Verb

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, MRE

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Jobey Clarke, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)

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They'll Remember How You Made Them Feel

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Patrick Mulvey, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)

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Honoring Our Dead

Revs. McPhetres, Nordstrom, & Carlson

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Miles Schuller, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

[Sunday Service YouTube link](#)



Please RSVP
for this event

Outdoor Service Sunday October 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Relationships Transform Us

Human beings are most likely to change through relationship. Our wildly different experiences and reactions to them help shape our understandings of the world. Love may bring us together, but the hard work begins after the honeymoon, in the deep trenches of our differences.

Join all three of our ministers and the First Church House Band for this in-person outdoor Sunday Service at Kadish Park. For many details about safety, seating, parking, accessibility, and to RSVP, see our [web page](#). [Click here](#) for the Park Map.



Pastoral Care Associate Commissioning October 24

Join us for the online Sunday service on October 24 for the Pastoral Care Associates (PCA) Commissioning Ceremony when we entrust our new PCAs to serve as trained listeners to church members going through difficult times. Meet the new PCAs during the service!



Child Dedication
Sign up

Child Dedication Ceremony November 14

Dedication of Parents and Children will take place during our outdoor service on November 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Park. The Child Dedication is a time for celebrating the birth or adoption of a child in a ceremony of naming and dedication. It is a time for welcoming our children into the world, into the family and into the church community. It is a time for acknowledging that each child's life is sacred and hold that truth in the light of our faith. Child Dedication Rituals are limited to Members of the Congregation. For more information contact Office Manager Shari Wright at shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org or fill out the online form by November 1.



Halloween Party: Spooky Safe FUUN!

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee and UU Church West (UUCW) Religious Education will partner once again this Halloween to create some spooky but safe fun for our families.

Our outdoor Halloween Party will be October 31 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at UU Church West. It will feature games, a costume contest, a labyrinth, and scavenger hunt with treat bag prizes!

Do you love Halloween fun? We are looking for game hosts to create outdoor safe distance games. Check out [this link](#) for inspiration! If you want to help out but not host, take a turn and sign up for 30 minutes of helping run games as a volunteer. [Click here to RSVP](#) and help create safe Halloween fun!

All activities will be outside, require mask wearing, and ask that you maintain 6 feet of distance between households or get affirmation verbal consent.

UUCW is located at 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield. In the event of thunderstorms, this event will be canceled.

October RE Calendar

October 3

9:15 a.m. PreK-2nd Grade

1:00 p.m. Crossing Paths: Paganism

October 7

7:00 p.m. Youth UU Wellspring Begins

October 10

9:15 a.m. PreK-2nd Grade

11:15 a.m. Families Together

1:00 p.m. Crossing Paths: Paganism

October 14

7:00 p.m. Youth Group: Cultivating Relationships

October 17

Yoga in the Humboldt Park

October 21

7:00 p.m. Youth Group: Fun & Games

October 24

9:15 a.m. PreK-2nd Grade

11:15 a.m. Families Together

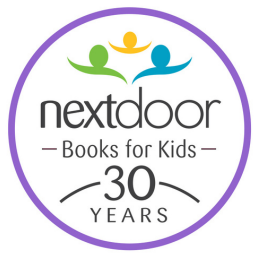
1:00 p.m. Crossing Paths: Paganism

October 28

7:00 p.m. Youth Group: Money & Personal Finances

October 31

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Halloween Party at UUCW



First Church Book Drive Next Door Milwaukee

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomzcak Carlson

We are partnering with Next Door to help serve the needs of families in Milwaukee. For 30 years, Next Door's Books for Kids program has collected and distributed more than 1 million books to children across Milwaukee. Research shows that the number of books available to a child may surpass all other variables in predicting their long-term success in school.

We are hosting a Book Drive to support their good work and need you to make our Book Drive a success! All book donations need to be gently used books or new books for children. Especially needed are books for children 0-5 years of age, multicultural books, and board books.

We will be collecting books during our in-person church events this fall, and on Tuesdays at church in the book bin outside First Church. Additionally, visit Next Door's Amazon Wish List to purchase the books needed most, these books will ship directly to Next Door.

Start collecting those books & thank you for supporting our Book Drive!

Outdoor Yoga for Families

Join us on October 17 for our first in-person RE event this fall, Yoga for Families. We are delighted to welcome First Church member, Annie Wegner Lefort, who will create a Yoga experience that offers modifications and fun for all levels.

Annie is excited to guide people through yoga and movement to become more comfortable in their bodies, celebrate their uniqueness, learn practical relaxation techniques, gain focus and stability, and heal through creative movement, gentle stretching, and meditation. Annie is Yoga Alliance certified. She teaches Gentle 50+ yoga classes at Danceworks and also enjoys teaching specialty yoga for athletes and Partner Yoga.

We'll gather outdoors, 1:00-2:00 p.m. in Humboldt Park, across from Bay View High School, corner of Montana and Pine. Bring a mat or blanket and water. We require mask wearing, and ask that you maintain 6 feet of distance between households or get verbal affirmation consent.

It will be so good to have our families together again! There will be no RE Classes Online on October 17 due to this special event.

Earth Justice Ministry Coming Attractions

by Barbara Leigh and Bruce Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry Co-Chairs

Film Series and Discussions We are partnering with the Wisconsin Sierra Club's Environmental Film and Book Club to bring you a virtual series of interesting documentaries and discussions. From accessibility of public lands to health impacts of burning fossil fuels, examples of environmental injustice are deeply woven into environmental issues in Wisconsin. Explore the inequities rooted within environmental impacts with these films.

Be part of bringing meaningful environmental films to our congregation in this series that will be on Zoom beginning this Fall. We hope to run our own in-person series in 2022.

Plastic-Free MKE is a local coalition to help individuals, households, and organizations reduce plastic use. EJM will join and disseminate ideas.

Bee The Change Attend and/or help organize workshops with Beevangelist Charlie Koenen to raise awareness about the plight of our pollinators. We'll create a Pollinator Parade for Earth Day, in collaboration with our Religious Education program.

Interfaith Earth Network (IEN) is a member of the Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE) to address lead contamination in Milwaukee. COLE also works to spread the word about Green Burials.

Recycling Research and disseminate recycling information dealing with a wide range of materials.

Letter Writing Inform policy makers of our positions on issues.

Multi-Racial Environmental Community There are many opportunities to make a difference! For instance, Hummingbird Milwaukee: <https://hummingbirdmke.com/building-a-multiracial-environmental-community/>.

Sierra Club Film Series

[Register Here for the Film Series](#)

Thursday, Oct. 7

Thru-hiking the Ice Age Trail:
Emily Ford on race and outdoor recreation

Tuesday, Oct. 19

Coal, Gas and Public Health: On the electric sector & environmental justice

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Uprooting Racism, Seeding Sovereignty: Virtual Keynote featuring Leah and Naima Penniman

Thursday, Dec. 9

Indigenous Resistance to Mining in Wisconsin: panel discussion

Thursday, Jan. 6

Environmental Justice in Sierra Club: panel discussion with Sierra Club leaders

Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) has many ideas and will work in teams this year.

Contact Barbara Leigh, co-chair by email at bllflower506@gmail.com to join any of these projects.

Welcome to Our New Church Year!

by Jane Cliff

Board of Trustees President

Over summer, I suspect that many of you, like me, eagerly anticipated an in-person Ingathering Sunday. However, as the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus ran rampant through the world, our country, and Milwaukee County, my hopes for seeing you all face-to-face soon were dashed. I was sorely disappointed in the COVID incidence rates in Milwaukee County, and increasingly frustrated with fellow citizens who seemed to disregard pleas of public health officials to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others.

To address my feelings, I worked to get comfortable with ambiguity, as Reverend Jennifer mentioned in her September 19 sermon. I constantly remind myself that living in ambiguity is not easy and takes practice, reflection, and accepting the present moment, while recognizing that things WILL change.

I am thrilled that First Church is holding one outdoor service every month this fall. I attended the water ritual at South Shore Park on Ingathering Sunday, and found it inspirational and healing. It was wonderful to see so many of you. I encourage those who can, to engage in these outdoor gatherings.

Please remember that even though we're not seeing each other as often as we did before the pandemic, the entire Board invites you to share concerns, issues, and questions with us, so we can represent you well as we help guide First Church.

Splinters from the Board

by Rollie Hanson

Board of Trustee Member

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held their August board meeting on August 24 along with Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom.

Finance Team Chair Noreen Gilbertsen and Director of Administration Jean Johnson appeared and presented the Year-End Financial Report. The Board unanimously found compliance with BOT policies 4.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting and 4.5.

Jennifer advised of compensation changes for some employees and reduced open building hours with one Facility Assistant instead of two. The Board found Rev. Jennifer in compliance with BOT policy limitation 4.3 Compensation and Benefits and unanimously approved the budget changes for employee compensation.

Jennifer also presented current absentee contingency plans for key personnel and the Board unanimously found her to be in compliance with BOT policy 4.7 Continuous Operations.

Julie Bock, of the Strategic Planning Team (SPT), reported on team's current work and the need for a Fundraising Team for long term financial stability. The Board unanimously approved the SPT mandate and a budget of \$20,000 to hire a fundraising consultant.



Sunday Morning Forum

11:00 AM ON ZOOM & YOUTUBE



OCTOBER 3

A Discussion with the County Executive

David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive, will talk about issues of current interest to the residents of Milwaukee County. This is another in the series of Forums by the new generation of young, Black political leaders in Milwaukee and Wisconsin. Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes was the first.

OCTOBER 10

The Importance of Indigenous Peoples Day

Anthony Gonzalez, Executive Director of AIM West, former Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council, will discuss his work with the International Indian Treaty Council which was instrumental in drawing up the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensuring its implementation. He will also talk about AIM-West's work to raise awareness on issues that concern or impact Indians of the Americas ranging from racism in sports and public schools, to protection of sacred sites and implementation of the UN "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."



Join the Forum on Zoom or watch these presentations live or saved after Sunday on the First Church **YouTube Channel**.



OCTOBER 17

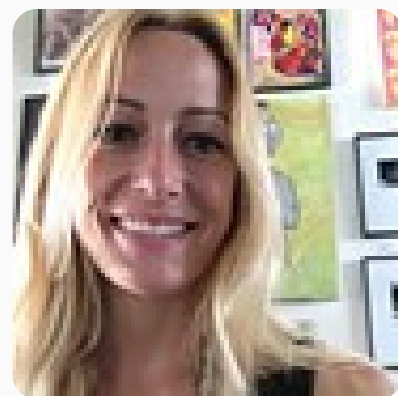
Socially Responsible Investing Is Investing for Good

Trent Muller is the head of First Church's Social Investment Team that works with Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment (SGI). SGI is a national coalition based in Milwaukee that advocates for socially responsible investing (SRI). This Forum is a follow-up to First Church's community development investments last spring which invested church funds for social good. Trent will help individuals learn about how to follow this SRI model for investing for good.

OCTOBER 24

Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts

Amy Schmutte, program manager. One of the first galleries to reopen after the pandemic, Jazz Gallery's Center for the Arts' fosters "reflective, innovative and proactive art" while "supporting and connecting artists and musicians of all ages." Jazz Gallery hosts community organization meetings and features a well-lit gallery space. Amy Schmutte is program manager of OWL (Older, Wiser, Local) which was created specifically for seniors. The Riverwest Gallery has monthly art exhibits and musical experimentation and improvisational nights, as well as national theatrical and musical performances.



OCTOBER 31

United Nations Association-Milwaukee

Annette Robertson, Education Director, has helped organize a method of educating children and their families about the many aspects of our world community. With help from the leadership at Milwaukee Public Schools, a program was developed to encourage students and classrooms to learn together, and share their knowledge with the larger Milwaukee community. Annette will explain how the program developed, the experiences of students, families and the wider community, and how the mission of the UN is carried through.

Seeking House Church Watch Party Hosts

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom



Would you enjoy hosting people in your home to watch Sunday Service together, once it is safe? Gathering for church in homes is called “House Church” in many church traditions.

When the Milwaukee COVID case rate declines to between 10 and 50 cases per 100,000, we still won’t be able to gather in a large group in the Sanctuary. So we’re planning small House Church Watch Parties to view 10:00 a.m. online worship services with others.

Does hosting sound interesting? Learn more and sign up to host below.

- Host once a month.
- 4 to 12 people in a group, depending on the size of the room where you’ll watch the service. 30 square feet of space per person is required for safe distancing.
- We’ll assign folks to your House Church Watch Party and connect you with them via email.
- You can request a “Hospitality Host” to help welcome people and keep the conversation going.
- Choose adults-only, or adults and children. We’re also organizing a Watch Party specifically for families.
- Everyone needs to wear masks and distance 6 feet between households.

Would you like to host? Sign up and we’ll send you more details at <https://form.jotform.com/212357750328052>.

Fall Membership Class

Led by our ministers, staff and lay-leaders, this series explores Unitarian Universalist theology, history, principals, our social justice framework as well as the meaning of membership and ways to connect here at First Church.

The Journey to Membership class is a prerequisite to joining, but a commitment to joining is not necessary to participate.

Wednesdays, October 13, 20, 27
& November 3 from 6:30 – 8:30
p.m. online with Zoom.

[Click Here for
Class Registration](#)



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, October 6 & 20 6:30 p.m.

[Join Us Here](#)

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.

Book Discussion Group

Sunday, October 10, 12:45 pm

Join us as we discuss October's read: *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar. The author describes the extensive and pervasive genocidal war on Native Americans. Drop in welcome. Contact Chris Linder for the meeting location at celinder@att.net.

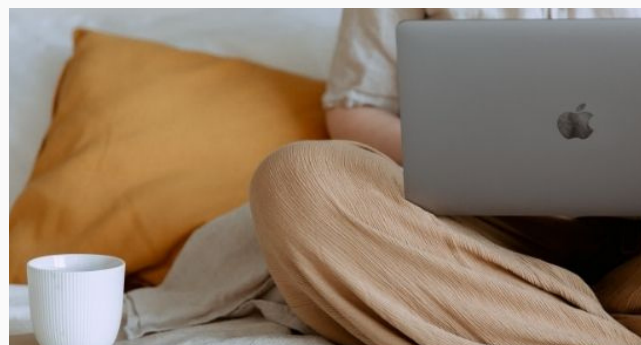
Poetry Contemplation

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.



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.

Staff Directory

SENIOR MINISTER

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 201

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Rev. Dena McPhetres
dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 202

MINISTER EMERITUS

The Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy, D.Min.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Jean Johnson
jean.johnson@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 203

MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Rev. Kimberlee Carlson
kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 204

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Lynne Jacoby
lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 205

OFFICE MANAGER

Shari Wright
shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 207

DIGITAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Molly Sommerhalder
molly.sommerhalder@uumilwaukee.org

YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Deb Solis
deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 209

FACILITIES MANAGER

Tom Schroeder
tom.schroeder@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 206

FACILITIES & TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Jim Spice

MAINTENANCE WORKER

Art Sims

LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alissa Rhode
alissa.rhode@uumilwaukee.org

CHORAL DIRECTOR

Tristan Strelitzer
tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Teresa Drews
teresa.drews@uumilwaukee.org

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

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How to Reach Us

414.273.5257

first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St. Milwaukee, WI 53202

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

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uumilwaukee.org



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