

CHANTICLEER

The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.



Monthly Theme



What does it mean to be a people

Awakening

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Re-opening Church News

In-Person Sunday Services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. No reservations required.

COVID Safety: Proof of vaccination required at the door. Everyone 5 years and older must mask with KN95 masks. Please see all details on our **website**.

Online Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. This 30-minute version features the sermon, Worship Associate story, music curated by our music directors. Go to our YouTube site at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. A recording is also available anytime after that.

Groups: All First Church groups may reserve a room and/or Zoom meeting link for meetings and events. Check out the calendar on the **church website under the members tab**. Use the room reservation to schedule your event.

Religious Education Families: Weekly reservations for the RE program are no longer necessary. To participate in RE, please enroll your child in our RE program and check in in the Leenhouts Common Room when you arrive at church each Sunday.

Please see weekly Friday e-nnnouncements, our Facebook page, and our website for current news.

Click to receive weekly eNews

Subscribe to Facebook Group

April Share the Plate

by Amy Monahan



Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council (MMFHC) is a non-profit organization promoting fair housing throughout the state of Wisconsin by combating illegal housing discrimination and by creating and maintaining racially and economically integrated housing patterns.

The COVID-19 pandemic increased by 40% the number of complaints filed by persons who believe they have been discriminated against. People of color, women, households with children, non-cisgender and people with disabilities have increasingly faced housing discrimination. MMFHC's assistance ensures greater housing stability and reduces homelessness for all these populations.

April is Fair Housing Month which began in April 1968 following Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. In 2022, MMFHC along with 20 other fair housing organizations across the United States reached a \$53 million settlement with Fannie Mae, who maintained and marketed its foreclosed homes in predominately white neighborhoods while allowing similar homes in communities of color to fall into disrepair. It is this type of institutional change, as well as the day-to-day assistance to individuals and families in finding fair housing that MMFHC works toward. For more information, visit their website at

https://www.fairhousingwisconsin.com/.

Donate to this STP Partner



Words on the Wind by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

A congregant recently told me she is burnt out at work and in life. When she made a list of everything she loved doing, she saw she wasn't doing any of the things that nourished her spirit. She made a spring commitment to tend the garden of her own soul.

We are awakening again. Entwined with the natural world, we will rise out of the mud of March and start stretching into the spotty spring of April.

The church itself is awakening, as we return to in-person worship services and religious education, and learn how to be church online and in-person at the same time. We are called to our people at this tender time, to celebrate the beauty of community and revel in the joy of being together, and also to honor the reality of grief and the continued toll the pandemic and its attendants have taken on our souls.

There is a lot of burnout in the world right now, and among many of our members. The pandemic has been especially hard on careworkers and caregivers—health care workers, teachers, therapists, parents, people caregiving for loved ones, childcare providers, service workers and more. Many care-workers and caregivers in our congregation are feeling the smoldering edges of burnout, if not its full tar pit.

Our call as a community now is to attend to the smoldering, the tar pits, the ashes, to nourish our people's spirits, to help heal what has been broken in the pandemic, and tend delicate new shoots in the gardens of the soul. The good news is that this is what church is for, and we know how to do it.

So come in, and come home, First Church. Be nourished, let your spirits awaken and arise with the spring, let us be healed, and heal one another.

With love, Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



It generally takes me a long time to wake up each day. I'm not a pop out of bed type of person. My mother used to bounce into my room when I was a child, snap up the window shade, and say brightly "Up and at 'em, madam!" Groan. If it was my father's turn to wake me up, he would shuffle into my room and mumble "It's daylight in the swamp." Guess which method of awakening I preferred?

The awakening of the earth in spring reminds me that it's okay to be slow. Plants emerge as conditions allow. I'm excited each spring to greet my plant friends in the garden, anxious to see their little green heads poking out of the soil. I eagerly wait to welcome them and myself to the growing season. I anticipate the powerful feelings of hope and gratitude that wash over me when I see those harbingers of beauty, especially after a hard winter. Which plants will survive? Which will spread? Which will bloom? I must remind myself every spring that no matter how good a gardener I am, nature has control.

As we continue to reconstitute ourselves as inperson community at First Church, some of us will be bouncy and bright, some of us will be sleepy and slow. But all of us need nourishment. We need to behold each other and let each other's presence sink in like a gentle soaking rain after a long drought. Who are you now? What do you need to blossom? Who are we now? What do we need to heal and flourish?

Yours, Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

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.

We send our condolences to **Elizabeth Lentini** and her family on the death of her brother-in-law in early March. Our thoughts are with you.

Congratulations to **Anjum Alden** for the article in Shorewood Today magazine highlighting her creation of the Shorewood Care Network to help neighbors in need.



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Before enlightenment chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment chop wood, carry water. -- Zen proverb

There is a trend on social media that I am rather smitten with. This is how it works. People share a "knowledge revelation" in this form, "I was today years old when I discovered....," fill in the blank. Let me offer an example, "I was today years old, when I discovered that the handle of a screwdriver fits a wrench so you can better loosen screws."

Did it work? Did you know that? I often smile at these types of posts and frequently find myself sharing the "knowledge revelation." I enjoy that the posts capture a shared astonishment and delight in finding and learning something new, coupled with the humility and grace to publicly declare and share ignorance. I love knowing that moments of awakening can happen when we least expect it and yet are all around us. The posts are little reminders to pay attention, to be mindful, to be humble, and to share joy.

There is a Zen proverb that states, "Before enlightenment chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment chop wood, carry water." It implies that enlightenment happens on the journey of everyday. Then it suggests that enlightenment awakens and returns you to the everyday.

The idea that enlightenment is a series of everyday awakenings, sensations of acute aliveness, and a recognition that we have been changed by the experience is appealing. It gives the practical everyday a sense of purpose. We are on a journey to collect, hold, and share in all the beauty and fragility.

As the earth awakens this April, may you find the time and space to look for and reflect on the everyday enlightenments. If you need little reminders to pay attention, to be mindful, to be humble, and to share joy, I recommend taking your journey downstairs at church to be with our children and youth.

I know I am biased, but these little humans are full of joyful revelations.

Blessed be, Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education



3 Spring Awakening

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister
Karen Beaumont, Guest Organist
Paul Kosidowski, Worship Associate
Click for info about this service

Awakening Is a Process

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director
Kevin Gibson, Worship Associate
Click for info about this service

Jesus Is a Phoenix

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director
Patrick Mulvey, Worship Associate
Click for info about this service

24 Exploring Dreamland

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director Miles Schuller, Worship Associate Click for info about this service

In-Person at First Church 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Online on YouTube 10:00 a.m.



Engagement Re-engagement Fair May 1st by Lynne Jacoby

As we come out of COVID lockdown, I am reminded of how much easier it is for me to connect when I have a job to do. If I can't be in the kitchen during a gathering, I'm wondering if I can help move chairs. Needless to say, social Zoom gatherings are not my cup of tea. I like a purpose with my connecting.

For me, one of the gifts of church life is that the multiple ways we gather always have purpose. Furthering Social Justice, practicing democratic governance, supporting spiritual growth, or extending care. Even our more socially oriented affinity groups welcome all, recognizing the dignity and worth of each.

The Membership Team is sponsoring an Engagement Re-Engagement Fair May 1 at 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. in the Common Room (during Social Hour) for all of us who have found staying connected difficult during shutdown. Some of our groups are regathering as their formats were not Zoom-friendly, some need in-person support on Sundays, some will be seeking new energy and new ideas from members they haven't met yet. Other groups have gathered consistently but are also always happy to welcome new members online or in-person. Come meet all of us.

For two years being part of a larger, intentional community has been more of an idea held in our minds and hearts than an embodied experience. It is time, for many of us to connect again by chance conversation and unexpected faces, by working with others on a common purpose, by seeing and sensing how interconnected we humans are.

Lynne Jacoby Membership Development Coordinator

Spring Membership Class

Led by our ministers, staff and lay-leaders, Journey to Membership 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, April 4 – 27 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. online with Zoom.

Click Here for Class Registration

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Guest House & RE Sandwich Making Day

by Rev. Kimberlee Carlson

On April 10 we are reawakening our faith by partnering with Guest House to learn about homelessness and hunger in Milwaukee and make 300 sandwiches during religious education.

Everyone is welcome to join us downstairs after first service to continue making sandwiches from 10:00-11:15 a.m.

We hope you will consider a donation of bread, cheese or meat for our sandwich making day. **Sign up here**.

Guest House provides approximately 200-400 sandwiches daily to shelter guests and those in need in our community. Joining us from Guest House will be Development Coordinator Kenny Campbell and Volunteer Coordinator Robin Brisco to talk about those in need and how we can help.

Donations can be dropped off at church in the downstairs RE refrigerator from April 4-April 10. All donations need to be at church by Sunday at 9:00 a.m. on April 10. Thank You.

Beevangelists Coming to RE!

On April 17, we welcome guest speaker, Charlie Koenen, Executive Director of Beevangelists, to religious education for a special pollinator presentation. Charlie will be educating our children and youth by sharing a bee-centric vision regarding the plight of bees and the need to restore hive communities in urban environments and beyond. We will continue learning how to help our pollinators the following week in religious education, by making bee houses on April 24.

Hearts on Fire



Hearts on Fire is a faith development opportunity for High School seniors to meet with our minister and church staff to explore their faith and examine their credo.

The Latin root word *cred* means "believe." A *credo* translates to, "what I set my heart to." Creating a credo helps our youth examine and clarify what they have faith in, what they ultimately value, and what greater purposes they believe life offers.

This year we will be offering this program on Thursday evenings, April 14, 21 and 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in a Zoom room.

It is our tradition to recognize our High School seniors on RE Sunday as they bridge into adulthood. For seniors who wish to speak in front of the congregation on RE Sunday, Hearts on Fire participation is required.

In faith,
Rev. Kimberlee & Deb Solis
deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org

Usher Team Wants You! Easy, Flexible Commitment

by Cheri Briscoe, Usher Team

Did you know our Usher Team requires 40 members? Ushers serve one Sunday a month for either the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. service. Eight of the members serve as substitutes. The Team is set up so that ushers can switch with each other or tap a substitute, giving your commitment lots of flexibility. At this time we have 31 team members. We are especially in need of substitutes plus two Lead Ushers for the fifth Sundays of the month.

Ushers are important to all of us because you are often the first people that visitors and members meet. Your welcoming presence gives them and us comfort as we enter our UU church experience. Basically, Ushers hand out Sunday programs, pass the plates for the Offering, and do a brief tidying of pews after church.

Another soft benefit of being an usher is that you often experience a really interesting service or meet some interesting people because you were there for your ushering commitment. Gee Whiz!

We will be having a training on Zoom soon. In the interim, Cheri Briscoe, volunteer Usher Coordinator and Lynne Jacoby, Director of Membership and Development will be happy to help you do this important church service.

Please contact Cheri Briscoe, 414-239-7883 or cherib41@gmail.com, or Lynne Jacoby 414-273-5257, ext. 205, or lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org to talk about this opportunity.



Volunteer in Religious Education!

No preparation is needed, and the gift of your time and energy makes it possible for our children, families and youth to be welcomed and engaged at our church.

Please consider volunteering in these roles:

- RE Check-In Volunteer
- Teacher's Aide for All Ages (5-11)
- Childcare helper for our Little UU's (Ages 1-5)

All volunteers who work with our children will need to be vaccinated and willing to have a general background check to ensure the safety of our families. The time you commit to is flexible, and all RE classes will be during first service at 9:00 a.m.

RE VOLUNTEER FORM HERE: https://bit.ly/REFUSMVolunteer



Sunday Morning Forum 10:00 AM IN-PERSON, ON ZOOM & YOUTUBE



APRIL 3
Route of the Badger SE Wis. Trail System

Willie Karidis, Program Manager, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

The Route of the Badger goal is to create a 700-mile connected trail system in Southeast Wisconsin, working within the active rail lines, energy corridors and existing parkways. Prior to his work with the Route of the Badger program, Willie Karidis was the Chief Operations Officer of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and Executive Director of the Denali Education Center.

APRIL 10

Community Approach to Preventing Falls

Suzie Ryer, DPT, GCS, CEEAA & Ed Duthie MD, AGSF Falls are the leading cause of older adult injury and death, with one out of every four adults over the age of 65 falling annually. Wisconsin leads the nation in falls causing injury at a rate almost 3x the national average. Preventing falls is a complex issue which involves the health system, community organizations, and individuals coming together to identify and address needs. Ryer and Duthie will describe current initiatives of the Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition, which aims to take a community approach to this public health issue.





Join Forum in person at 10:00 a.m. at First Church. Or join us live online on Zoom at 10:00. Recordings are then available on the First Church YouTube Channel.

Sunday Morning Forum



APRIL 17 How Can We Stop Gun Violence?

Deja Garner, Director of Equity & Outreach, WAVE (Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort)

Deja will share her insights into anti-violence work. In her experience with grassroots gun violence protection organizations, she has found that this work is multi-faceted and includes the evaluation, and completion of evidence-based solutions applied to impacted communities. These solutions emphasize community participation with youth involvement, harm and violence reduction, criminal justice reform, and equity issues. Deja also specializes in equitable gun legislation and the racial implications of federal, state and local gun policies. She will also share her perspective on police violence and police reform.

11:00 AM ONLINE ONLY APRIL 24

Voces de la Frontera (VOCES) A Center for the Immigrant Rights Movement

Christine Neumann-Ortiz; Executive Director VOCES

Citizenship Rights is the cornerstone of the work that happens at Voces de la Frontera. Activism employs the direct action on the streets, such as the February march the "Day without Latinos and Immigrants" a statewide general strike for labor rights, to letter writing and public announcements calling for representation, unfair labor legislation and lack of supportive political action wit in the state as well as the nation. Information and legislative action occur quickly and unexpectedly these days.



Join Forum in person at 10:00 a.m. at First Church. Or join us live online on Zoom at 10:00. Recordings are then available on the First Church YouTube Channel.

APRIL EVENTS



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, April 6 & 20, 6:30 pm 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, April 10, 12:45 pm

Join us as we discuss March's read *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.
Contact Barbra Lancelot for the meeting

Grief Support Group

location at uubarbra@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 pm **Join Us Online Here**

If you are experiencing loss, broadly defined, and would like the support of a small group of fellow travelers, please join us. We'll connect, share, learn about grief, and support each other. All are welcome.

Poetry Contemplation

Every Wednesday, 9:00 am

Join Us Online 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 Online 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. All are welcome.

UU Principles in the 21st Century: Learning More about Article II & Proposed Bylaw Changes

by Article II Team -- Michelle Boehm, Rollie Hanson, and Terry Wiggins

In four UU Principles in the 21st Century workshops, we've been talking about who we are, what we believe as UUs, and the purpose of our faith. The UUA Study Commission will be making a recommendation to update the Principles and Purposes section of our UUA bylaws to ensure they are relevant to our current values. We were grateful to see our UU community so engaged in discussing our faith and congregational values.

Your input is needed. Though any proposed changes to the bylaws would not be presented until GA 2023, then voted on at GA 2024, the Study Commission is working now to gain member feedback to make the best recommendation possible. Please take a few minutes to complete this **UUA**Article II Individual Survey before April 30, 2022.

Resources about **UU Principles**

Chanticleer Newsletter

- December 2021 (p. 15)
- February 2022 (p. 15)

First Church Website

- What We Believe
- A Conversation about the UU Principles in the 21st Century

UUA

- 7 Principles
- UUWorld Newsletter

Splinters from the Board

by Mike Hogan, Board Member

Some of the major policy work completed annually by the Board of Trustees is the ongoing assessment of how well we, as a congregation, are building community through realizing our End Statements. We do this annually by comparing the responses from this year's congregational survey against responses from the previous year. This is why we try to get as many member responses to the annual survey as possible.

During this month's Board of Trustee's meeting, we continued to review our progress towards Ends 1, 2 and 3. And we are happy to report that we see good progress on meeting these goals. Wondering what all our End goals are? They can be found here: https://uumilwaukee.org/ends-interpretations/

Senor Minister Jennifer Nordstrom reported that re-opening plans are moving forward. In addition to in-person church beginning again on March 6, the church is also looking to hire a nursery caregiver. This is an important step towards welcoming families back into the church. Another sign of health of our congregation, First Church was one of only a few large churches that saw modest growth during the pandemic closures.

The Board, Nominating Committee and Finance Team will be participating collaboratively on an Anti-Racism training in March. In addition, several staff-led teams and member-led ministries will begin working on providing response and feedback to the UUA Principles Focus Group. This is a process of reviewing the Principles of our church which takes place every 15 years.

All-in-all, there are many positive signs of our community and the church as a whole moving our progressive religious community forward.

First Church Annual Meeting Sunday, May 22

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. This year's meeting will occur in person in our Sanctuary and will also be available simultaneously via Zoom.

Learn about significant First Church accomplishments over the 2021–22 church year and hear about our financial condition. Vote on new Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee members for next church year, as well as raise issues and ask questions. Also, learn about the Strategic Planning Team's forthcoming endowment campaign. Members are eligible to vote if they became Members of the congregation 60 days prior to the meeting date and have made a financial pledge or contribution of record in the past year. A list of voting members will be posted on the website 15 days prior to the meeting.

You will receive information in early May how to join the annual meeting. Mark your calendars!

Gratitude to Our First Church Healthcare Workers

by M. Lynn Connolly and Joan Hansen, Pastoral Care Associates

There are many words to describe the past two years, but one word must be used to express our appreciation to the healthcare workers in our community – Gratitude! Even though the number of COVID cases is going down, we are aware that some hospitals and clinics are still very busy, and many are operating with fewer staff.

We, your First Church community, want you to know that we are grateful for your service. We appreciate those who held the hands of very sick or dying patients whose families were not allowed in the room. We are immensely thankful for those who work in mental health and chaplaincy who minister to the many changes and uncertainties that affect so many people during this difficult period. And we are grateful to so many more who continue to help heal our bodies, minds, and spirits.

As a reminder, Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs) are available with a caring and non-judgmental listening ear, if you would like support. Please contact Jeri Pearcy at fuspastoralcare@gmail.com or 414-416-6063.

We humbly offer this blessing: "Spirit of Life, we are extremely grateful for the efforts of all the healthcare workers during these challenging times. They have been asked to go above and beyond their calling in many ways as they continue to serve our community. May they find strength and renewal as we anticipate better days ahead. May it be so."

IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen (Katy) Hayes Phillips

October 20, 1935 - March 21, 2022

Katy Phillips died very peacefully at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's hospital on Monday, March 21, 2022, with her family by her side. Katy had chronic leukemic lymphoma that had recently advanced. Katy was 86 years old and was a member of our congregation since 2012.

Plans for a memorial service at First Church in June are forthcoming. A Candle of Life was lit in memory of Katy during the worship services on Sunday, March 27.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Katy can be given to First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee or Memorial Sloane-Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065.

Betty Gaedke

June 26, 1926 - February 27, 2022

Betty Gaedke died peacefully at home on Sunday, February 27, 2022. She was 95 years old and had been a member of First Church since 1986.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Lawrence University in Appleton WI or League of Milwaukee Artists. The family intends to hold a private celebration of her life at a later date.

Staff Directory

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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

MINISTER EMERITUS

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

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FACILITIES & TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Jim Spice

MAINTENANCE WORKER

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LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR

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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.

Board of Trustees Officers

President Jane Cliff Vice PresidentBen LeFort SecretaryTony Panciera TreasurerTom Briscoe

Members

George Bledsoe Dianna Dentino Patricia Geenen Rollie Hanson Mike Hogan Mark Miller

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Follow Us







Church Building Hours

Monday & Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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