

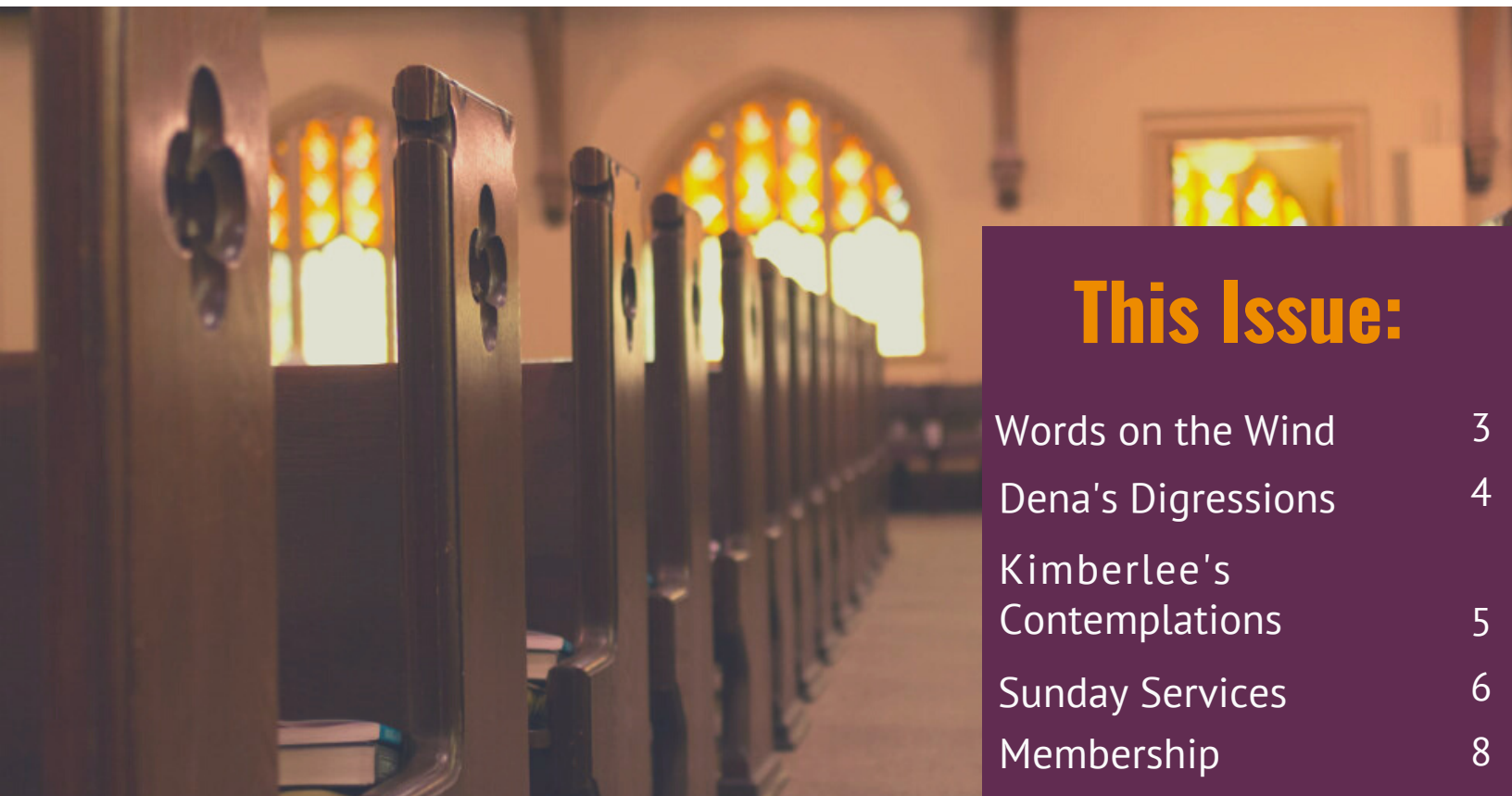
MAY 2022



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*

Nurturing
Beauty

Inside News

by the *Chanticleer* Editors



Visit the Sunday Social Hour after service at 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. Join your friends and meet new members while you enjoy some coffee or tea.

In the past few weeks, we have been offering Sunday coffee and tea as a part of our plans to roll back pandemic guidelines while keeping our congregation safe and supported.

Another great Sunday activity is Sunday Forum presentations which have been well attended at church and online. See page 12 for the May Forum speakers.

Look for more plans about in-person activities at church in this newsletter including the May 22 Children's Religious Education Service and the Annual Meeting.

[Click to receive weekly eNews](#)

[Subscribe to Facebook Group](#)

May Share the Plate

by Nancy Spransy
Co-Chair of Share the Plate

Guest House of Milwaukee

The children of our congregation have selected Guest House of Milwaukee as the Share the Plate recipient for May.

For forty years the Guest House of Milwaukee has provided shelter, housing, education, and services to Milwaukee's homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose.

Guest House serves over 1,200 individuals and families on an annual basis and has a proven track record of assisting even those with the most severe challenges to overcoming homelessness regain and maintain their independence, including: mental illness, addiction, physical and cognitive disabilities, and history with the criminal justice system.

As a part of those programs, 86 men are provided with shelter and meals every night of the year, 600 pounds of fresh produce is harvested from their community garden, and they provide 450 interim and permanent supportive housing options throughout the city.

Guest House continues to be a model of innovation in addressing the root causes of chronic homelessness and providing the comprehensive services necessary to overcome it.

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)



Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Nurturing Beauty makes me think of gardening: tilling the soil, planting the seeds, watering the ground, and then, with a mysterious impulse all their own, plants bloom forth from the ground. Nurturing beauty combines the work of our attention with the mystery of life blooming.

In May, our congregation celebrates the blooms of our youngest members on Religious Education Sunday on May 22, and our Child Dedication Sunday on Mother's Day. Our youngest people remind us of life's continual renewal, with our nurture, but their own chosen becoming.

The poet John O'Donahue wrote, "When we approach with reverence great things decide to approach us. Our real life comes to the surface and its light awakens the concealed beauty of things. When we walk on the earth with reverence, beauty will decide to trust us."

May we move through the world, and our community, with such reverence that beauty trusts us. May our reverence for one another's hearts earn us their open vulnerability. May our reverence for the earth open us to witness its miracles. May our reverence for life turn our attention to its bloom.

See you at church,
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister



Spring in the church courtyard.

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



I've been knitting the same wool sweater for over 15 years. I call it my infinity sweater because it is taking infinity to finish! It all started with the buttons. I purchased the buttons because they are so beautiful: pewter, sculpted, textured. I was drawn to the buttons without knowing how or when I'd use them. For a long time, I just enjoyed looking at their beauty. Then I found a simple pattern for a cardigan sweater in order to use the buttons. Then I looked for yarn and found a beautiful variegated blue yarn on sale that looked good against my skin and felt warm and substantial. Then I started knitting—top down, collar first.

So many times over the years, I've had to put down this emerging thing of beauty. So many times, I picked it up again, knitting toward the day I could attach the buttons. I'm not there yet. I've had to rip out sections and do them again. This winter I discovered the arm holes are way too long. God bless raglan sleeves: I could fit bat wings inside! There is one sleeve to go. Will I finish the sweater before my hands turn to the gardening season? Or will the "infinity sweater" always be a work in progress?

Nurturing beauty takes time, attention, and patience. My infinity sweater teaches me to

appreciate the beauty of every stitch and the process of making a whole garment from a single thread. Buttons gleam waiting for use. But they are beautiful whether they get used or not.

What beauty are you nurturing whether it turns into something useful or not?

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.

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Holly Patzer** whose mother Helen Bressler (Fleming) died peacefully at home in the care of her loving family at the age of 90 on April 11, 2022.

A Memorial Service for our dear church member **Katy Phillips** will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at First Church. All are welcome to attend. We hold Katy's family and friends with loving care.



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



There is an ancient Japanese philosophy embodied in pottery that confused me when I first encountered it. The potter adds a dent, a wobble or even shifts the vessel's opening from a perfect circle to one that is askew. Artists are tasked with nurturing beauty, by internalizing, expressing, and reflecting a vision of the world distilled through their perspective and medium. Why would an expert potter who had mastered the skills necessary to create something of beauty do this to a well-formed pot? It shook me.

Wabi Sabi emerged 700 years ago, connected to the practice of Zen Buddhism. The term wabi translates as "incomplete" or "imperfect" and sabi is derived from the verb sabu, "to wane," referring to things whose beauty stems from age. Wabi Sabi is an ideal of beauty found in what is imperfect and aged by time. A broken rusted bicycle interwoven with climbing vines of blooming clematis exemplifies this aesthetic.

Wabi Sabi represented a huge shift from the pottery aesthetic I was trained in, one grounded primarily in classical ideals of beauty: symmetry, harmony, and proportion. Having finally achieved the artisanship to make something of consistent form and function I was perplexed yet intrigued. The idea resonated inside of me: this

was not something I was taught in art class, but something I experienced in life. It made me question, why did I feel the need to idealize the world?

If I wanted my art to be an authentic reflection of the world I experienced, and imperfection is the true nature of things, then nurturing idealized beauty was an impossible false pursuit. A toxic pursuit filled with frustration and failure. When charged with the goal of nurturing beauty in the world, a generous aesthetic that embraces imperfection and the patina of change is a generous and wise path. Nurturing beauty can be a pursuit of continuous growth, a joyful process of refinement with an always-imperfect outcome. For some Japanese people, mindfully embracing imperfection is also the first step to enlightenment.

Beauty comes from our experiences and memories, scars and bruises included, not trying to achieve the unattainable. Making peace with the nature of the world in one's art and life creates space to appreciate and love what is all around us.

May we embrace the Wabi Sabi on our journey, offering grace to ourselves and others as we nurture what is good and true in this world.

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



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

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Beauty Creates Gratitude for Glory

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Marisa Riepenhoff, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Nurturing Family Beauty

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Jobey Clarke, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Beauty Opens the Door to Mystery

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Miles Schuller, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

22

Honoring Beauty

Religious Education Sunday

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,

Minister of Religious Education

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Susie Seidelmann, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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The Beauty of Memories

Rev. Carin Bringelson, Pulpit Guest

Karen Beaumont, Guest Organist

Paul Kosidowski, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)



Child Dedication Ceremony May 8, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

This simple ceremony is the Unitarian Universalist version of Christian baptism, but with different meaning. We recognize your child's original blessing, and we dedicate ourselves to nurturing your child and you. In the ceremony, you and your family also dedicate yourselves to nurturing and supporting your child. Because we dedicate ourselves to life-long support of you and your child, these ceremonies are only available to church members.

We have a child dedication on Mother's Day, May 8 during both Sunday services. If you are intersted in a child dedication, please submit your information at <https://uumilwaukee.org/child-dedication-form//>



Pulpit Guest May 29 ♦ Rev. Carin Bringelson

Rev. Carin Bringelson currently serves as the minister of Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church. A Unitarian Universalist for over 30 years, she earned her Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2020 and also holds degrees in Sociology, African American Studies, Educational Policy Studies, and Library & Information Studies. She lives in Hartland, WI with her wife Bev – and lots of houseplants.



Sunday Service

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. In person

10:00 a.m. Online



THANK YOU

by Lynne Jacoby

Youth, Intention, Connection, Energy ...and so much more... we want to remember, rekindle and renew as expressed on our Community Mosaic Project. It's all directly supported by your generous pledge to First Church.

Not all pledges are in yet, but many thanks to you who were able to increase your commitment, you who renewed your pledge, and you who pledged what you could in a time of change. Our projected Pledge Campaign total of \$750,000 remains steady, even after two years of not gathering in-person. This feels a little miraculous. Thank you!

If you are a member who has not yet pledged, please do so now at this link:
<https://uumilwaukee.org/ways-to-give/annual-pledge-drive/>

Members and Friends: Please thank your creative, hardworking 2022 Pledge Drive Team: Mark Chambers, Chair, Bob Balderson, Matt Byrnes, Kathy Donius, Jeff Hansen and Pat McFarland. They deserve our appreciation!

Finally, if you are a friend or guest who values our services and programs and would like to support our operating budget in the coming year, please contact Lynne Jacoby at lynn.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org or 414.273.5257 x 205 about becoming a Pledging Friend.

How to sing together ♦ The spark of connection
 MUSIC!! ♦ The spirit, the life, the joy ♦ Hope for the future ♦ The 1st time I walked into this church ♦ SHARED SPIRITUAL PRACTICE ♦ My own fire to connect ♦ What it's like to be together ♦ The feeling of belonging ♦ MY SEARCH FOR A FAITH COMMUNITY THAT FITS ♦ Support for all that has been lost ♦ My commitment not to be a \$#! ♦ Coping skills ♦ Relationships as a PCA ♦ Snacks in CRE ♦ Sitting listening & reflecting with intention ♦ The curiosity that brought me here ♦ BRAVE & VERY COOL THEME CIRCLE FRIENDS



Save the Date for the Church Picnic

June 5, 1:00-4:00 pm!
Kern Park, Picnic Area 3

Save the date for a First Church picnic after church on Sunday, June 5! Everyone should bring their own lunch and drinks, we'll supply the fun!

See the map for more information on the location and parking. There will be picnic tables, bathrooms, and a little shelter in case it rains.

The park is located at 3614 N Humboldt Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Here is a link to the [Kern Park Map](#).

Simple Summer RE Volunteering

by Rev. Kimberlee Carlson

No preparation is needed to volunteer, 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. This summer Mariah Groshek and Rev. Kimberlee will be leading an all-ages group for ages 5-12 and need another responsible adult to ensure that all children are safe and cared for each Sunday.

Please consider volunteering in these roles:

- Teacher's Aide for All Ages (5-12)
- Childcare helper for our Little UU's (Ages 1-5)
- RE Check-In Helper (9:30-10 a.m.)

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. Volunteering once this summer makes a big difference as we rebuild our program.

The first step is filling out the **RE Volunteer form**. Then please look at our online schedule and sign up for when you are available. I know together we can and will bring our church back to life and filled with children of all ages.

Kindergarten Graduation

Calling all K5 Graduates! Children in K5 this year are invited to mark their passage to elementary school with a special ceremony on May 22. Participants will have the chance to answer the question, "What did you learn in Kindergarten?" Contact Rev. Kimberlee for details if your child is interested.

Flowers Bloom for Ukraine

Our young artists are donating their artwork for sale with all profits to support the people of Ukraine. Check out their flower art displayed on the wall of the Leenhouts Common Room at church, and the origami sunflower pins at the RE Table.

Flower art on canvas can be purchased for a donation of \$20. Sign up for the piece you want at the RE Table. Give what you can for an origami sunflower pin at the RE Table on Sunday morning.



Guest House

Sandwich-Making Returns

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

A much-anticipated return of sandwich-making to RE at First Church is on May 15!

Everyone is welcome to join us downstairs after first service to continue making sandwiches from 10:00-10:45 a.m. Sign up to let us know you will be helping us out.

We are partnering with Guest House to learn about homelessness and hunger in Milwaukee and to make 300 sandwiches during religious education. Guest House provides approximately 200-400 sandwiches daily to shelter guests and those in need in our community. Guest Houses' Kenny Campbell, Development Coordinator and Robin Brisco, Volunteer Coordinator will be with us to talk about those in need and how we can help.

Thank you to everyone who donated food last month to make this event happen!

Sign Up Now for Earth Justice!

Sign the sheet on the Social Justice Table during Sunday social hours if you wish to join the Earth Justice Ministry email group! The table is usually set up at social hours after each service in the Common Room.

If you don't think of it when you attend church, or if you're not attending yet, email terry.wiggins50@gmail.com to sign up.



BEE the Change Activities

spearheaded by Barbara Leigh
EJM co-chair

Free Beesentation about the dangers faced by our pollinators and what we can do to help. Presentation by Beevangelist Charlie Koenen Tuesday, May 17, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Rita Square, 728 E. Pleasant St., Milwaukee.

Pollinator Performance & Parade

Friday May 20 (International Bee Day)
3:30 p.m., at Golda Meir playground,
1555 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.
Created by children from Golda Meir
Elementary School and Hillside Boys
and Girls Club directed by Quasimondo
Physical Theatre.



The First Church Engagement Fair!

With over 20 First Church group representatives ready to chat with you about ways to connect and reconnect.

*Spiritual Development
Engage the Mind*

Theme Circles

Connect & Reflect

Poetry Contemplation

Sunday Forum

Book Discussion Group

[More information...](#)

*Inspire Action
Social Justice*

MICAH

Common Ground

Interchange Food Pantry

Earth Justice Ministry

Defend Democracy

Circle of Support

[More information...](#)

Volunteer at First Church

Audio Team

Finance

Building & Grounds

**Teaching in
Children's Religious Education**

[More information...](#)

Social Connections

SWANS

UUUFDA

Chronologically Gifted

[More information...](#)

**Sunday, MAY 1st
10 a.m. & 12 p.m.
(Both Social Hours)**



Sunday Morning Forum

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



MAY 1

Never Miss a Chance to Dance

Pat McFarland, First Church member & avid MKE folk dancer

Movement is medicine and dancing brings people together. Although COVID has spoiled many folk dance gatherings, we take every opportunity to dance; we adapt, we persist. Why? Joyfully, folk dancers encourage peace and intercultural harmony. Circle Dances and Dances of Universal Peace inspire meditative spirituality and ecological community. Dancing represents various sacred foundations and fosters goodwill between countries and within villages. While touring, we've built long-lasting friendships while celebrating at local festivals.

MAY 8

The School Success Recipe

**Alan Borsuk, Senior Fellow Marquette Law School,
Education Columnist for Milwaukee JS**

So many reform and improvement ideas have not brought major positive results in raising the overall education outcomes for Milwaukee children. So what might help? It's easy to offer a recipe for success, but it's difficult to actually make the recipe.



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



MAY 15

Dynamic Partnerships: Common Ground Priorities 2021-22

Jennifer O'Hear, Lead Organizer & Executive Director of Common Ground and

Jerry Fredrickson, First Church Member rep to Common Ground

The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee is an active member of the proudly diverse Common Ground community consisting of 40,000 members representing area congregations, schools, small businesses, neighborhoods, and organizations. The October 2021 Common Ground Assembly adopted four new issues which closely align with UU concerns and action: gun control, education, vehicular violence, and workforce development. Our speaker(s) will present both research and action behind these initiatives, offering opportunities to collaborate.

MAY 22

Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

Erica Sanders, Director of Program Operations at MMFHC

Our April Share the Plate Recipient, 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. Prompted by prevailing patterns of racial and economic segregation, widespread discrimination in the housing market and an inadequate number of fair housing enforcement agencies, 40 citizens organized MMFHC in 1977. Learn how the Council has been assisting those seeking safe and affordable housing in Milwaukee.





Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, May 4 & 18, 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.

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.

Book Discussion Group

Sunday, May 8, 12:45 pm

Join us as we discuss May's read *Lloyd Barbee: Justice for All, Selected writings of Lloyd A. Barbee*. Contact Barbra Lancelot for the meeting location at uubarbra@gmail.com.

Grief Support Group

Wednesday, May 4 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.

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.

Splinters from the Board

by Mike Hogan, Board Member

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held our March board meeting on March 22 along with Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom.

Rev. Jennifer presented the monitoring limitations for Policy 4.3 on compensation and benefits, including the current tension between this policy and sustainable financial condition. We have not kept up with UUA fair staff compensation, though we have made progress in achieving a minimum of \$15/hour. The board moved and passed unanimously that we are not currently in full compliance with policy 4.3, however, we have made progress, the outlined plan is satisfactory, in particular the endowment campaign which is in motion.

Rev. Jennifer presented staff proposed compensation models for the 22-23 church year budget. We discussed the options and the board requested additional modeling for a very strong pledge drive. We also discussed reconvening congregational budget and fair compensation learning sessions.

Rev. Jennifer presented a minor update to her interpretation of Policy 4.9 regarding communication with the board. The board unanimously voted that we are in compliance.

Ben and George presented the Annual Congregational Survey results. There was a lot of information with a main insight reflecting what we might expect from pandemic fatigue.

Rev. Jennifer presented the monitoring report for End 3, regarding following the leadership of people affected by injustice and moving

Milwaukee towards justice. The aforementioned survey results showed a decrease in how the congregation currently believed we are reflecting this end, as well as its relative importance (consistent with other decreases). Jennifer noted that this is an intuitive and normal emotional reaction when a system is under stress. The board moved that while the circumstances of the pandemic have challenged progress on End 3, we have seen sufficient evidence that our performance is encouraging. It was passed unanimously.

Mark Miller presented the 22-23 slate of board nominees: Sarah Richards, Joe Riepenhoff, and Amy Wilbourne. The board unanimously approved. We did not have the Nominating Committee nominations at the time of the meeting so they were distributed and voted on virtually as a follow up.

Rev. Jennifer presented her Sr. Minister's report. We hired Cecelia Groshek as our nursery caregiver. Congregational trends are concerning, and we're not exempt, though we are doing well relatively, specifically in strong membership and financial stability. A lot of congregations have seen decreases of 5% or more in both, which we haven't seen. Pledges are rolling in. We are at 72% of pre-pandemic attendance numbers when including online and in-person. We have about the same number of people watching 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 a.m. options.

The board intends to be in person for our April 26 meeting, with a zoom option available.

Candidates for the Board of Trustees

Joe Riepenhoff



Joe Riepenhoff is a Judicial Court Commissioner for Milwaukee County. Before that he was a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee and

an assistant State Public Defender. He serves on the board of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic, and the Friends of Shorewood Library. Joe attended UU West growing up, his family began attending First Church in 2018 and became members in 2019. His daughters attend RE and did the younger cohort OWL program. Joe's partner Marisa is currently a worship associate.

Sarah Richards



Sarah Richards and her family began attending First Church in 2010. She and her husband Mark became members in 2012. Sarah served as Chair of

the Children's Religious Education Team, an RE volunteer, Co-Chair of the UU Parenting Group, a member of the DRE Search Team, a Beloved Conversations facilitator, and a Pastoral Care Associate. Currently, Sarah is a PCA Co-Trainer and a member of the Anti-Racism Team, and occasionally plays percussion during Worship Services.

In her professional life, Sarah has worked as an Occupational Therapist in school settings, in outpatient orthopedic clinics, and as an independent consultant.

Sarah Richards continued

Sarah coaches soccer at Shorewood High School, volunteers as Education Director and on the Board of Directors for Kids Impact Community, and is involved in her local school district. Sarah's children, Owen and Maya, have grown up attending RE and before the pandemic, they became quite comfortable entertaining themselves while their parents socialized at Coffee Hour!

Amy Wilbourne



Amy Wilbourne has been a member of First Church since 2011. She has served as a Pastoral Care Associate, co-facilitated two Lessons of Loss workshops, and

attended Midwest Leadership School. She has served on the DRE search team, been a worship associate, and presented a summer sermon. She has a great affinity for our small-group ministries, and has participated in Chalice circles, Theme circles, Geography of Grace, Wellspring, and most recently facilitated sessions of Connect and Reflect virtually.

Amy works as a School Counselor in the Milwaukee Public Schools, and is a proud parent of two adult children, Preston and Neve, who she loves to laugh with. They both went through RE and OWL at First Church. She also enjoys spending time with her partner, hiking, biking, cooking, kayaking, and relaxing with her three cats.

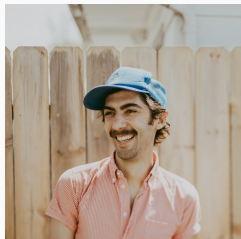
Candidates for the Nominating Committee

Anne Alexander



Anne Alexander has been a member of First Church since 2019, and has served on the Pledge Team and participated in Theme Circles. Ann is an associate professor of chemistry and environmental engineering at MSOE, and also serves on the Milwaukee County Lead-Safe Advisory Committee. She and her husband Erik moved to Milwaukee from Iowa in 2012, and really enjoy walking, biking, and exploring all the city has to offer.

Jason Ludtke



Jason Ludtke joined First Church in 2016. Since becoming a member he has served as a Worship Associate and assisted in a number of art and design projects with the church. Outside of First Church, Jason is a graphic designer and illustrator where he has used his skills to support various causes including raising funds for the Aurora Sinai NICU, ACLU, Milwaukee Freedom Fund and others.

Jessie Moffat



Jessie Moffat became a member of First Church in 2009. She is grateful for the friends she's made here and the many people she's had the opportunity to collaborate with on various committees, including the Senior Minister J Search Committee for Rev. Jennifer. She currently serves as a YRUU Youth Group Advisor and co-teaches Wellspring. Jessie has also co-facilitated leadership and community-building workshops at First Church.

Participation in Midwest Leadership School, Regional Assembly, and GA has given her a greater appreciation of our larger UU community. Prior non-profit experience includes arts advocacy and civic engagement. She now works for the United Performing Arts Fund. By extending her term on the Nominating Committee, she hopes to encourage more lay leadership to say "Yes, and..."

2022 Congregational Survey Results

by Ben LeFort

Board of Trustees & Vice-President

First of all, thank you all who gave of your time to fill out the survey! We had a similar level of response to our 2022 survey as we had in the 2018 and 2020 surveys. Here's a brief summary of the results.

There is still room for us to educate and familiarize ourselves with our Ends Statements. Overall, members do not feel that we are doing as well accomplishing our Ends in the 2022 survey as they did in the 2020 survey. However, we are still doing better than we did in the first survey in 2018.

This is not surprising as the survey was taken in February 2022 at the end of nearly two years without in-person services. But it points to the fact that we have much work to do to re-engage and reconnect with what we love most about First Church.

There have been some shifts in the demographics of survey respondents, most notably a trend toward higher ages and more families with older kids at home.

Feel free to check out more details on the survey results in this [Overview](#) and the accompanying [Data Charts](#).

First Church Annual Meeting Sunday May 22, 12:45 p.m.

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, as well as raise issues and ask questions. A list of voting members is posted in the church hallway.

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

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
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FACILITIES & TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Jim Spice

MAINTENANCE WORKER

Art Sims

LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alissa Rhode
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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 President Ben LeFort
Secretary Tony Panciera
Treasurer Tom Briscoe

Members

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

How to Reach Us

414.273.5257

first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St. Milwaukee, WI 53202



uumilwaukee.org

Follow Us



Church Building Hours

Monday & Tuesday	9:30 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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