

JULY 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*

Knowing

Inside News

by the *Chanticleer* Editors

Sundays

In summer there is one in-person Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. followed by social hour. Online Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. continues. Religious Education is at 10:00 and starts in the Sanctuary.

Sundays building hours are from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Building Hours (except Sundays)

July building hours are trimmed because staffing is very low this summer, and many staff take their vacations this month.

July 4 – 9: building closed
(have a great holiday!)

July 11 – 30:

If you would like to visit the building, please contact
first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org to set up a time. If your group is already scheduled on the church calendar, please come ahead.

Thanks for helping us navigate a temporary decrease in staffing and ensuring our staff can take vacations this summer.

[Click to receive weekly eNews](#)

[Subscribe to Facebook Group](#)

Summer Share the Plate

by BJ Ermenc



HEAR Wisconsin is our summer Share the Plate partner. HEAR Wisconsin is a local nonprofit that helps people of all ages with hearing loss by eliminating communication and language barriers through personalized services, technology, and education.

For 95 years, HEAR Wisconsin has provided comprehensive services for people of all ages, with all degrees of hearing loss. They serve approximately 6,000 people each year. Their programs respect diversity and communication choice, foster independence, and transform lives. HEAR Wisconsin does not turn anyone away who needs hearing healthcare, evaluations, hearing aid fittings/repairs, assistive technology, therapy, sign language interpreting, and more. They know that good hearing and communication are essential at all stages of life and that hearing loss can be avoided or slowed down through preventive actions taken as soon as possible. Untreated hearing loss can lead to poor academic performance, loss of jobs, increased incidence of dementia, cognitive decline, and other negative physical/mental health effects.

HEAR Wisconsin is hitting the road. They now bring services directly to local community members and businesses with Wisconsin's first-ever nonprofit Mobile Audiology Clinic (MAC). First Church will be scheduling a MAC visit sometime this summer. Watch for details!

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)



Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

In my preacher files, I have a folder entitled “knowledge,” into which I throw articles and thoughts about knowing. I collect ideas about how we as humans build the foundation of knowledge—how do we know what we know? From brain science to the history of language to how community-thinking shapes the bounds of the possible, I love learning about learning, knowledge about knowledge. In philosophy, this line of inquiry is called epistemology.

But as nerdy and meta as this folder can get, there is a much simpler way of knowing: knowing in your body, your heart, your spirit. Sometimes we know what we know from somewhere deep in our core, an awakening that says: this is the truth. It might be a dawning realization about a job, a home, a relationship. It might be a new knowing about yourself.

How do we reconcile the various types of knowing? How do we live in a world in which the knowing of the self is pitted against the knowing of institutions? How do we bridge the divide between subjective and objective knowing? How do we cross the barriers between “my truth” and “the truth” or at least between “my truth” and “a truth we can share”?

These questions are at the heart of our society and its divisions right now. They are also at the heart of our liberal faith tradition which understands religious truth through the lens of contemporary knowledge. While I may not have all the answers, I am determinedly committed to pursuing them, to the best of my ability, in community with you.

May we keep living the truth of learning together.

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom,
Senior Minister

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



Last weekend I couldn't remember the word for socks. I knew I was wearing fabric on my feet. I was too warm and needed to take off my things that were on my feet. I have an excuse: I was recovering from a COVID booster and those give me a variety of side effects including brain fog. My cat and I laughed that I couldn't remember the word for socks. Then I got on with my day.

I tell you this story as an example of knowing something without being able to articulate it. This is an important kind of knowing that we often discount. Societal norms say that if you can't verbalize something, you might have dementia or at least brain fog or the regular effects of aging. But think about the developmental cycle: before babies can speak, they know things and communicate in their own way.

I believe there are many experiences of knowing that matter even when we don't have words for them. We get a flash of intuition. We get "a feeling" about something. Our bodies shy away from a person or place or get drawn toward someone from desire. We move and act from a sense of knowing without being able to say it in words. And most of the time, that's OK.

InterPlay practice teaches that we can "have" an experience without being able to articulate it. We can pause and let ourselves take it in without analyzing.

Think about how you feel after watching a dance performance or hearing a symphony or a drumming group. Think about the first time you saw a work of visual art that moved you profoundly. Communication without words can be an event of mystical proportions, a truly religious experience.

This summer, I invite you to allow yourself to know without speaking. And this suggestion from someone like me who loves words! Let us experience the poem behind the poem.

Yours,

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Kids in my class are incredibly sexist and homophobic, as a queer woman how can I feel safe?

What is asexual and aromantic?

What age should I be dating and how do I talk to my parents?

These are questions asked anonymously this month by our youth in our Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. Who did you go to with your questions? I was fortunate to have medical professionals as parents, we muddled through uncomfortable conversations, I explored their book collection and then turned to my peers. The world has gotten a lot more complicated since my adolescence. There is more to know and so many more questions about human sexuality.

Collective action occurs when people work together to achieve some common objective.

OWL education is a collective action our church creates to help the next generation. The objective of Our Whole Lives program is to offer our children holistic knowledge of human sexuality. It aims to not only provide facts about anatomy and human development, but also help participants clarify their values and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

We do this by training a collective of teachers or facilitators who work in rotating teams to guide each class. The facilitators are church community members who take turns to ensure that our young people have the knowledge they need to thrive and survive. Parents are never asked to teach their child in OWL classes. The beauty of a collective is that you can depend on the church community to guide your children.

This August, using our religious education budget and staff we are making an investment to build our OWL collective by hosting a training at our church. As we rebuild RE, we need more people who can help us fulfill our objective. And once you are OWL trained you are trained for life.

We have the ambition of offering OWL for all ages in a rotating schedule at First Church.

First Church OWL Rotating Annual Schedule:
2022-23: Fall: Grade 4-6, Spring: Grade 10-12
2023-2024 All Year: Grade 7-9 and Parent & Caregiver Online OWL program
2024-25: Fall: Grade 4-6, Spring: Grade 10-12
2025-2026 All Year: Grade 7-9 and Parent & Caregiver Online OWL Program

I hope you will consider joining this collective action by applying to be an OWL facilitator or helping us host our training in August.

It takes a village,
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

3

Knowing How to Play

Annie Wegner LeFort, Pulpit Guest

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Anne Hefter, Worship Associate

Musical Guests: Samba da Vida MKE,

Bony Plog-Benavides, director

[Click for info about this service](#)

10

Different Types of Knowing

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Kevin Gibson, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

17

Living in the Gap

Dale Skaggs, Pulpit Guest

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Susie Seidelman, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Do You Really Want to Know?

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Patrick Mulvey, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Journalism, You & the Future of Truth-Seeking

Dave Umhoefer, Pulpit Guest

Karen Beaumont, Guest Organist

Paul Kosidowski, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

Summer Sunday Service 10 a.m.



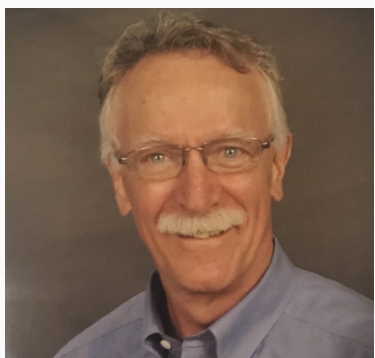
Pulpit Guest July 17 ♦ Annie Wegner LeFort

Annie Wegner LeFort (trained chef, certified yoga teacher, dancer, acroyogini, and Health Coach in-training) shares her journey of rediscovering the importance of play in her life to regain physical health, connect with friends and strangers, expand of her movement skills, and invite mental and emotional healing into her life. She is eager to share the new “alive!” she gained on this path.

Musical Guests Samba da Vida MKE

Samba Da Vida MKE is an all-ages Brazilian Samba troupe featured in parades and performances throughout Greater Milwaukee with partner group Panadanza Dance Company.

The focus is to carry on the rich traditions of Brazilian music while building a strong community through the common language of music and dance.



Pulpit Guest July 17 ♦ Dale Skaggs

Dale Skaggs has been a member of First Church since 2007 and has served as Worship Associate, a Trustee, a Pastoral Care Associate, and has served on a number of committees and task forces. His career(s) included management roles in technology companies, university art gallery management, and management of visual effects studio operations. Recent years have seen him working to bring an old farm back to life using organic practices. He lives with his wife Lynda Lambert (and two cats) in the 1889 row house next door to First Church.



Pulpit Guest July 31 ♦ Dave Umhoefer

Dave Umhoefer is a Wisconsin native and Pulitzer Prize-winning local news reporter in Milwaukee who now guides in-depth, solutions-oriented reporting projects at the O'Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism at Marquette University. The Story Hill neighborhood resident joined First Church in 2010.

The Future of Our Whole Lives (OWL) Depends on You

by Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

OWL training for Elementary (Grade K-6) and Secondary (Grade 7-12) happens August 19-21, 2022 right here at First Church. Once you become trained to teach OWL you are trained for life and you do not need to assume your teaching commitment right away. Parents are never asked to teach when their child is in the OWL classroom.

The success of our OWL program depends on the qualified and caring people who are selected and trained to be OWL teachers. Are you:

- Committed to value-based, comprehensive sexuality education?
- Experienced, skilled, and comfortable with elementary and/or secondary children and youth developmental needs?
- Able to build respectful relationships and good rapport with participants?

If you are at least 25 years old and willing to make a three-year commitment to this life changing program we offer at First Church, please apply today. This training will not be available locally for many years. All applications must be received by July 30.

Please direct any questions to Deb Solis, Youth and OWL Program Coordinator at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org

Urban Ecology Center Family Outing

Sign up to join First Church families on an Urban Ecology Center outing. We'd do a guided hike and learn fire building. At Riverside Park on July 30 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Take on a new adventure with a guided hike through different ecosystems as you learn more about what makes each unique and special. Celebrate your exploration and learn how to build a fire while making the perfect s'more right here in the city. Space is limited, so sign up is required! [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Hospitality Helpers Needed! National OWL Facilitation Training

Offering our children comprehensive sexual education empowers them to live authentic, safe and loving lives. Our Whole Lives (OWL) program gives child and youth factual inclusive information from trained caring church community members. This program saves lives and provides us an opportunity to directly care and share this vital information about being human with all generations.

We need your support to host this event. Please let us know if you can provide food, snacks, or beverages for our Friday Welcome Dinner on August 19, and/or home hospitality for a participant on Friday and Saturday nights (8/19-20) in your guest room.

[Sign up to help with August 19 Event.](#)

Monthly Walk & Roll July 16 at Scenic Milwaukee River Greenway

by Bruce Wiggins, EJM Co-Chair

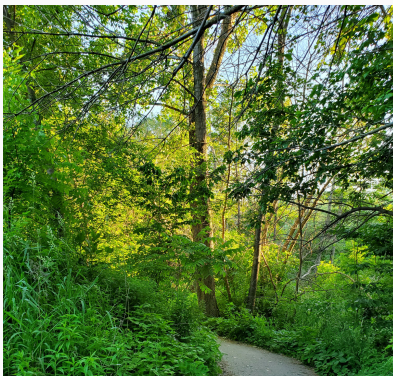
Earth Justice Ministry's monthly nature Walk and Roll will be on Saturday, July 16, hosted by Barbara Leigh.

We will explore the beautiful, nature-filled Riverside Park near the Urban Ecology Center.

We will hear a little about the UEC's wonderful environmental education work, and we will get outside (weather permitting) ASAP. There are multiple trails through the park, so you could spend more time in the woods and along the free-flowing Milwaukee River – longer than the hour or so we spend on these short hikes. Flora and fauna and birds – oh my!--including beavers. You might want to bring binoculars if you have them.

You can park at the UEC parking lot or bike racks, or the street. Meet at 10:00 a.m. inside the Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place on Milwaukee's east side.

Our August Walk and Roll will be August 13 at 10:00 a.m. Watch next month's Chanticleer and weekly announcements for more details.



Volunteer Opportunity

by Terry Wiggins, Earth Justice

The Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE) would love to have more volunteers from First Church. This became evident in a recent review of Earth Justice Ministry's relationship with the organization. The question was, "If you could wave a magic wand, what is one wish would you want from First Church?" and their answer was, "having more people from First Church involved."

COLE has many opportunities for working toward the vision of Milwaukee being an environment where each known source of lead poisoning is eliminated. See the COLE website to get an idea of the areas in which the organization works. There are many ways to offer your time, talent, or treasure. Contact Terry Wiggins at terry.wiggins50@gmail.com, EJM's liaison to COLE, for more information.

Though our name does not yet appear on the [COLE website](#), Earth Justice Ministry is becoming a member of this coalition.

Milwaukee Urban Ecology Center grounds
Photos by Bruce Wiggins



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, July 6 & 20, 6:30 pm

[Join Us Here](#) Online or In-person

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.

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, July 11, 12:45 pm

Join us as we discuss July's read *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

Contact Barbra Lancelot for the meeting location at uubarbra@gmail.com.

Connect & Reflect

Every Thursday, 5:45 pm

[Join Us Here](#) Online or In-person

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.

Beer Garden Sundays

Sunday, July 24 at 5:00 pm

Meet your church friends at The Vine Humboldt, a new beer garden in Humboldt Park, in the heart of Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood. Humboldt Park, 3000 S Howell Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207 All are welcome.

Splinters from the Board

by Dianna Dentino

Board Member

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) was held on May 17, using a multi-platform format, including both in-person and video conferencing. Jean Johnson provided the current draft of the FUSM 2022-23 budget which included a few minor adjustments to include a net increase in Human Resources of \$4,000 for First Church staff cost-of-living raises. The BOT approved this budget.

Reverend Jennifer reported on Monitor Policy 4.2 - Relationship with Paid & Volunteer Staff. She stated that all FUSM Staff have job descriptions. Once all the annual reviews are completed, the First Church BOT President and FUSM Personnel Team get confirmation that this task has been completed via the Senior Minister. Reverend Jennifer reviewed the First Church Grievance policy. Jane, the BOT President, shared that the goal is to update this particular policy when time allows.

Time was spent discussing the upcoming Annual Meeting slated for Sunday, May 23. The plan is to offer a multi-platform format, including both in-person and video conferencing. All the technical details for the multi-platform should be set and ready-to-go by Sunday. We were reminded that a quorum would be needed to proceed and vote on upcoming issues. A quorum would require approximately 65 church members in attendance using the multi-platform format.

We discussed the upcoming GA Summer Conference being held this June 2022 in Portland, Oregon. Reverend Jennifer shared that the focus this year will be on the suggestion to modify the UU Principles and By-Laws, with a special focus on Anti-Racist action over the next several years. First Church is allowed to send fourteen voting delegates. Currently, First Church has identified six delegates. Reverend Jennifer stated that ideally, delegates we send to the GA should represent the voice of our community.

Please find additional information about our community by reading Reverend Jennifer's and Reverend Dena's newsletter columns and other highlights, announcements and articles in this month's edition of the Chanticleer.

Members of the Board of Trustees welcome your thoughts and concerns. Our contact information is on the church website at www.uumilwaukee.org.

Special Fundraising: We Need Your Bright Minds and Your Love for Our Church

An Invitation To Create Our Future

by Mark Chambers and Holly Patzer
Co-chairs Special Fundraising Team

Over the last few years, our beloved First Church has been working to strategically embrace a path of long-term financial sustainability, while also imagining all that we can do and all that we can be for ourselves and our larger community. At the 2021 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to support growing church income and to take the necessary steps to do so.

We are ready to take those steps!

We are in the process of putting together a list of the short-term and long-term needs and wishes for First Church.

We are excited to announce that during the month of August, we will be holding small group sessions for church members to have an opportunity to give input to help prioritize those needs and wishes, in addition to assessing the feasibility of meeting those needs.

Because we want all church members to have the opportunity to participate, there will be numerous in-person options as well as some virtual options. The sessions will entail a 20-minute presentation followed by time for Q&A. Watch for details coming soon and DREAM BIG!

Creative

Stewardship

Teams

Together

Involved

The Future

Fun

Staff Directory

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MINISTER EMERITUS

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

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Art Sims

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CHORAL DIRECTOR

Tristan Strelitzer
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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.....Ben LeFort

Vice PresidentPat Geenen

SecretaryGeorge Bledsoe

TreasurerTom Briscoe

Members

George Bledsoe

Patricia Geenen

Rollie Hanson

Mike Hogan

Sarah Richards

Joe Riepenhoff

Amy Wilbourne

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uumilwaukee.org

Follow Us



Church Building Hours-Summer

Varied hours. Please see Page 2 for
information about our building hours.

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