

OCTOBER 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 of*

## Courage

# Inside News

by the *Chanticleer* Editors

What an exciting autumn at First Church!

Be sure to read about the Forge Our Future Campaign Kick-Off Sunday featuring a Halloween street party after church services on October 23. You can also learn about Rev. Jennifer's upcoming sabbatical, to begin in winter.

## SUNDAYS

It's been wonderful and energizing to sing hymns together and sip beverages during social hours on Sunday. We returned to **9:00 & 11:00 am in-person** Sunday Services.

**9:00 am: livestream Sunday service** from the Sanctuary in its entirety. Find it on our [YouTube channel](#) and our website. After 9:00 am, you can also find a recording of the livestream on YouTube.

**9:00 am: Religious Education.** Children begin in the Sanctuary. Please check-in at the RE Table in the Common Room each Sunday before worship service.

**10:00 am: Sunday Forum** in Max Otto Hall.

Note that you need to be vaccinated and wear a KN95 mask when you're in the building.

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## Share the Plate

by Bob Monahan

Our October Share the Plate recipient is Common Ground's Forward Scholars program.

In listening sessions with the Milwaukee community, CG uncovered significant need for more instructional support for MPS kindergarten through third grade students.

Pandemic-induced learning loss and isolation has increased the need for 1 on 1 intervention. The ability to read by the end of third grade is critical to a child's success in school and life.

Forward Scholars was initiated to address this urgent issue. It provides a research-based curriculum that has proven effective in urban environments using volunteer tutors.

Structured, individualized lesson plans when combined with collaborative efforts of site coordinators, MPS staff, families, and tutors help ensure success for every child enrolled in the program. You can learn more about the Forward Scholars program and ways you can help at website <https://www.commongroundwi.org/forward-scholars>.

Your generous financial support will help purchase copy machines/printers for each school site, tee shirts for volunteer tutors, and program materials (word workbooks, book bins, and associated handling/shipping costs). It will also help cover costs for site coordinators to perform one-to-one assessments with students.

Thank you for helping these kindergarten through third grade children grow as literacy learns.

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)



# Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Courage is calling to us this October, as we gear up to Defend Democracy in Wisconsin, and to kick-off our Forge Our Future fundraising campaign! Facing the truth, especially when its frightening, takes courage. But as brilliant author and civil rights activist James Baldwin so famously said, nothing can be changed until it is faced. Our faith calls us to courage in this moment: the courage to face what is true, and then to take action to create change.

Our Defend Democracy Team will lead three Democracy Sundays—Oct 2, 9, and 16—where First Church members can learn about voter education, registration, and turn out. On Oct 12, the team is offering a training on “Persuasive Communication in the Public Arena.” Our faith calls us to democracy, and our democracy needs us right now.

On October 23, we will celebrate the public kick-off of our fundraising campaign to Forge Our Future. This will be the most important thing we will do together this year, and will influence our church’s power, vitality, and ministry for generations to come. Our morning

church services on Oct 23 will celebrate who we are and where we are going together, and then after church we will celebrate with a Halloween Street Party campaign kick-off event: a costume contest for all ages (yes, you can wear your costume to church if you want!); face-painting; games for the whole family; food trucks; a blues band; and more! The party will be outside, so masking is optional, and we will all have the chance to laugh and play and have fun together. There will not be any solicitation at the event.

I’m looking forward to spending a joyful, courageous October with you, where we face what is true and take action together for a beautiful future!

With love,  
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

# Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



I'm excited about Rev. Jennifer's upcoming sabbatical. It is a sign of a congregation's robust health to support their ministers' sabbaticals with love and courage. You do that well: you supported Rev. Drew's sabbatical back when there was only one minister serving First Church. You learned so much while everyone pitched in to help things go smoothly. Those who took leadership roles while Drew was away gained insight into all that ministers do behind the scenes. Things went well during Drew's sabbatical.

You also did well during my sabbatical in 2017. You supported the staff members who covered pieces of my work and welcomed a part-time Assistant Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Sara Goodman, who covered many of my responsibilities while I was away. Things went well during my sabbatical.

I'm super-excited to work with Rev. Jim Foti, our newly hired part-time Assistant Sabbatical Minister who will be with us for the duration of Jennifer's sabbatical, mid-February to mid-July 2023. I've gotten to know Jim a bit through the years we saw each other at 'second minister' collegial gatherings. He is fun, friendly, approachable, and outgoing. He is thoughtful, kind, wise about social justice ministry and all the connections that keep a congregation together.

I love Jennifer and will miss her while she is away, but we've got this, First Church! We know how to inspire each other and care for each other with courage and joy no matter what comes our way. I look forward to what we will learn together while Jennifer is resting, reading, traveling, and recharging her batteries. It will be sad to send her off in February, but sweet to welcome her back in August and hear all the stories from her journeys —both literal and metaphorical.

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.*

### **The memorial service for Beverly Katter**

will be held at First Church on Friday, October 28 at 3:00 p.m. with Rev. Dena McPhetres, officiating. All members and friends are invited to attend the service, followed by a reception in our Leenhouts Common Room.





# Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Courage is so often claimed by bold and heroic acts, but as a young teacher it was Parker Palmer who named the more complicated internal struggle in his book, *Courage to Teach*. Palmer asks the powerful question: Where does reality and power reside in our culture? The external world is the place that is most notably valued in our modern world, and as an educator too often that can mean focusing on the outward aspects of learning, such as performance and production for both the teacher and student.

Palmer named the idea that your internal world, and inside work you may or may not be doing, will be reflected in your presence, demeanor, and capability to be a good teacher. Then he gives examples, naming failures and fears that were all too familiar, and my hopes that my earnest bravado and goodwill alone would see me through, faded. Teaching is a spiritual practice, because living a life of intention is a spiritual practice; you cannot teach well without paying attention to both your authentic self, your purpose and the people you hope to serve in the moment.

“The human heart does not want to be fixed, it wants to be seen and heard.” -Parker Palmer

People do not need or want you to fix them.

Holding this idea foremost in our interactions, shifts our purpose in each other's life, placing us as companions and sojourners and removes the fear of not being able to perform well or know enough to be in relationship. And after our isolation during the pandemic, just being with people again takes will, intention, and courage, yet it is key if we hope to reweave the social fabric we depend on.

Good teaching, good companionship is an act of hospitality towards ourselves, our community, and our future. We are a multi-generational people embracing a spiritual path as elders and as young people together.

May you find the courage to honor your internal world, be a good companion to other human hearts, and if you are looking to practice try volunteering in religious education. Even if you have only one Sunday to offer, consider becoming an RE ambassador for just one Sunday. Together we can be the brave multi-generational people practicing living lives of intention.

In faith,  
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of  
Religious Education



# SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

2

## Courage Is a Muscle

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Patrick Mulvey, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

9

## Real Democracy Takes Courage

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Dave Umhoefer, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

16

## Heroes Give Us Courage

**Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Ryan Pawlowski, Worship Associate

New Member Ceremony

[Click for info about this service](#)

25

## Courage Is Not a Solo Act

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Laurel Brooks, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

30

## Courage and Death

**Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister**

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

[Click for info about this service](#)

In-person Sunday services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



## Social Courage in our Community

by Lynne Jacoby

A First Church visitor walked into a church for the first time in her life last Sunday, all by herself, while a long-term member, in her late 60s, is facilitating a small group for the first time in hers. An active participant in a group during covid shared that the experience led her to trying new activities, in church and beyond, she hadn't had the confidence to try before.

Worship Associates' sharing stories; members initiating conversations about Stewardship; Pastoral Care Associates reaching out to folks during very challenging times in their lives; even an introvert turning to new person to engage in conversation, is practicing social courage.

And while one's personality may seem to make this courage more accessible to some, even extroverts can find challenges at First Church! Culturally taboo subjects (ie money!), attempting to connect across differences, sharing vulnerability, all risk bumping smack into one of humankind's biggest fears – rejection. Social courage is more muscle than talent – and at First Church we have multiple opportunities to strengthen it, at every level.

Which is good, because social courage is a necessary muscle for the Authentic Connection we so value here – we have voted to strive to get better at it, as a community.

It is also the muscle that helps us to stand-up for all our other values, whether they are popular in the larger community around us.

## Journey to Membership

### October Membership Classes

#### In-person at First Church

Sat. Oct 8, 10 am to 4:30 pm and

Thurs. Oct. 13, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Led by our ministers & staff this series explores our theology, history, principals and social justice framework, as well as the meaning of membership and connection at First Church.

The class is a prerequisite to membership, but joining is not a requirement to take the class. Register if you are interested in membership, want to meet others, or just want a deeper understanding of intentional covenantal community as we strive to practice it here at First Church.

Learn more about membership or register at [uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/](https://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/). For questions? Email [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee)



## Child Dedication November 20

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson,  
Minister of Religious Education

On November 20, a Dedication of Parents and Children will take place during our 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. The Child Dedication Ceremony 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.

This simple ceremony is related to the Christian "baptism" or "christening," though the meanings we attach to it are significantly different, read our [UU Child Dedication Brochure](#) for a full description.

The ceremony is a public declaration by the parents to dedicate themselves to faithfully nurture and support their children. The congregation recognizes your child's original blessing, and we dedicate ourselves to nurturing your child and you.

Because of the promises our congregation makes to the family during the ceremony, child dedications are available only to members of the church.

If you are interested in having your child dedicated on November 20, 2022 fill out [this online form](#) by Sunday, November 13 or email Rev. Kimberlee at [Kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:Kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org)





## Enroll Your Children in RE!

We ask that families register their children to attend childcare and religious education programs on Sunday. Our Religious Education programs offers children a chance to explore our UU faith, express themselves and make connections with their peers and members of our church. RE programs for all ages happen during first service, beginning in the sanctuary and ending at 10:15 a.m. Childcare and preschool are available at 11 a.m.

**Member's RE Registration**



Love Surrounds our 1-2nd graders at story time.

**Visitor & Guests RE Registration**



Ms. Mariah and Rod DePue taking care of our preschoolers.

## RE Ambassadors Needed!

Religious Education depends on volunteers sharing their wisdom, energy, and time with our children.

If you can spend even just one Sunday playing and learning with our children, it will benefit our RE program! If you want more play in your life, our kids will be delighted to join you. If you want to learn more about UU history, world religions, or Hogwarts UU, our older kids would love to explore with you! Volunteer at [bit.ly/FUSMREVolunteer](https://bit.ly/FUSMREVolunteer).

## A Peek Downstairs in RE!

It was a joyous return at Ingathering Sunday on September 11, as we welcomed so many families and children returning to our church.

Children, Youth and Volunteers spent the morning, singing, learning and crafting sensory bottles with glitter.





# **Forge Our Future Campaign Kickoff Halloween Street Party October 23**



**LIVE BAND**

**FUN & GAMES**



**FOOD TRUCK**

**FACE PAINTING**



**COSTUME CONTEST**



**SUNDAY  
12 - 4 PM  
on Astor Street**

Outdoors in front of church, so masking is optional.  
We'll have a few tents for inclement weather, but we  
know you know how to dress for Wisconsin Octobers.  
No solicitations will be made at this party.



## A Geography of Grace Starts October 15

by Diane Horne and Amy Wilbourne

Maybe you enjoy journaling, reading poetry, being in nature, sharing with people from our church, spending time in silence in community. If any of these cause you to say "hmmm..." please consider joining us for A Geography of Grace. Some of the themes explored include Vista Points, Desert Places, Forest Community, the Sea and Release. We spend each session reviewing the Touchstones (our covenants for gathering), reading poetry and essays containing heartfelt words on these themes, reflecting in our journals, and sharing in small groups as well as the larger group. We find connection and community in this time together, and a deepening of our knowledge of self and our inner landscapes.

We will gather on the third Saturday of each month from October through May from 10:30 to 1:00 in Max Otto Hall. Registration is open and found at <https://bit.ly/UUGeographyofGrace>. Your inner landscape eagerly awaits you.

## In Memoriam

**Frank Evans**

**July 12, 1934 ~ September 21, 2022**

Frank Evans died peacefully in his sleep at Lawlis Family Hospice in Mequon, Wisconsin on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. Family and friends surrounded Frank in the days leading up to his passing.

Frank suffered a serious stroke on September 16 and entered hospice care a few days later, honoring his wish to avoid invasive procedures at the end of life. He was 88 years old and a member of our congregation since 1982.

We lit the Candle of Life in memory of Frank during both worship services on Sunday, September 25, 2022. Plans for a memorial service at First Church are forthcoming.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to:

American Civil Liberties Union  
First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

## Join First Church and Partner Zao at ZaoFest!

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

On Saturday, Oct 1, 3-9 p.m. at Zao, join First Church's partner Zao—MKE church for a festival celebrating connection and transformative justice! Zao is a radically-inclusive, Jesus-rooted, justice-centered community that serves many young and LGBTQ people in the UWM neighborhood. We have partnered with Zao on a number of justice events, and will be collaborating with Zao leaders on justice workshops at ZaoFest.



Come for a collaborative workshop on bystander intervention, and stay for the bounce-house, the bonfire, and the root beer floats!

## EJM Walk and Roll

### 3 Bridges Park Oct. 15

by Bruce Wiggins  
CoChair, Earth Justice Ministry

Earth Justice Ministry's monthly nature Walk and Roll is Saturday, October 15, cohosted by Bruce Wiggins and Barbara Leigh. Walkers and people assisted with wheels (wheel chair, segway, unicycle, etc.) are welcome!

We'll meet 10:00 at the Urban Ecology Center Menomonee Valley, 3700 W Pierce St, Milwaukee and then explore a 24-acre urban oasis with paved trails winding around rolling hills. We will be near the American Family Field and along the Hank Aaron bike trail which is integrated into the Park. All ages and abilities welcome! We plan about an hour, but you can spend longer if you wish.

Three Bridges Park was once part of a wild rice marsh, then it became a rail yard. It lay vacant for decades, then was replanted and revitalized through a redevelopment effort by the City and private sector partners. The Park opened in 2013 and includes 2-miles of biking and walking trails, river access for fishing and canoeing, and three new biking/pedestrian bridges. It is located along the Menomonee River between 27th and 37th Streets.

## Our Sinking Treasure: Milwaukee County Parks

by Bruce Wiggins and  
Cheri Briscoe, Earth Justice Ministry

### Three Forums in October Cosponsored by First Church Earth Justice Ministry

Because of State mandates and State underfunding, by 2027 Milwaukee County government will not have money to fund our county parks – despite years of staff cuts and millions of dollars of deferred maintenance. Our parks are valuable for public health and equity as many residents use them for recreation. They are also valuable ecologically, helping with flood control. Three Forums in October explore the parks' dire financial situation and ideas for change.

**October 2** – We will explore the view from County government. Speakers are the Director of County Parks, and Supervisor Chair of the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee. Their commitment to parks equity and sustainability is impressive.

**October 23** – The President of the Wisconsin Policy Forum will share research on our parks' financial challenges along with potential solutions from similar communities. Some ideas for Milwaukee County financing and governance changes will be described.

**October 30** – The Executive Director of the Park People and Director of Strategic Partnerships for the recently formed Milwaukee Parks Foundation will discuss the role of citizens in parks operations and maintenance. These creative groups are helping preserve our parks and make them more equitable.

See the Forum speaker listings elsewhere in the Chanticleer for details.



## Defend Democracy UU the Vote

by Joan Hansen

**Are you looking for some way to help Get  
Out The Vote for the November 8  
Mid-term elections?**

During the social hours on the Sundays October 2, 9 and 16, your volunteer group, Defend Democracy/UU the Vote, will have tables set up with many different ideas to help promote free and fair elections this November. Knowing that people have different comfort levels regarding this very important task, there will be a number of different suggestions and activities. Stop by and you might find something that you are comfortable doing.

Several of Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles may be directly impacted by the results of this critically important election in one way or another. What we can do now is to practice the Fifth Principal - "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large."

Democracy is strongest when all participate! When people don't vote, democracy loses. Join us in this effort to Get Out The Vote!.

## Persuasive Personal Communication in the Public Arena

by Kathy Rivera

Defend Democracy Team

Would you like to learn to write a powerful, persuasive letter to the editor or an elected representative regarding an issue you're passionate about? Would you like to be more comfortable posting a message on social media that effectively advocates for your position on something in the news? If you feel called to make your voice heard, join us for a workshop on "Persuasive Personal Communication in the Public Arena." We will hear from David Haynes, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Ideas Lab Editor; Milwaukee Alderman Michael Murphy and Wisconsin Representative Deb Andraca on how to get our messages across. Communication pro Anne Curley will help participants get started on crafting a high impact message about an issue of their choice. The workshop will be held via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12. To register email Kathy Rivera at [lewriviera2013@icloud.com](mailto:lewriviera2013@icloud.com). A Zoom link and preparatory materials will be sent to all registrants in the week of October 5. Act now because space is limited.



Make your voice heard. Join Anne Curley, David Haynes and others at our Workshop on October 12.

## Splinters from the Board

by George Bledsoe, Secretary

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its monthly meeting on August 23, 2022. The meeting started with discussion and a vote to approve the items on consent agenda. The vote to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.

Noreen Gilbert presented a thorough overview of the 2021-22 Fiscal Year Q4 Financial Report. Budgeted pledges placed higher in the 2021-22 church year than in previous years. Pledge fulfillment and Total Contributions were only 1% under budget. Total activity income (Ex: Feast for Funds) were 94% below budget for 2021-22. We have incurred lower dividend and interest income on our investments due to the current downturn in economic market conditions. Loss on investments came to \$218,720 unrealized. We were budgeted for \$25,000 in bequests, however the final for bequests were up to \$76,596 in 2021-22. Total Income (TI) was budgeted for \$850,535. The final for TI was \$799,019—down \$51,516 or 6% under budget. Total Expenses were 6% below budget at \$940k.

The BOT discussed Monitoring Policies 4.4 Financial Planning/Budgeting and 4.5 Financial Condition and Activities. Items of discussion under these policies included, but were not limited to, transfers of fund balances, which comes from various unrestricted fund sources to cover budget shortfalls. The board voted unanimously that the Senior Minister and Administration are compliant with Monitoring Policies 4.4 and 4.5.

Additionally, the board discussed and amended Monitoring Policies 4.6.6 Asset Protection and 4.6.7 Intellectual Property Compliance. The board

approved a reinterpretation of these policies to facilitate a new pay arrangement with musicians for our Sunday services. The new policy will pay musicians a one-time payment which is good for a period of five years at a time. The vote, with amendment to language for clarity, passed unanimously.

An Assistant Sabbatical Minister has been hired. More details will be released when available. Two board members have volunteered to be liaisons between the BOT and the Nominating Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee.

## Whither our Principles?

Terry Wiggins

Member, Article II Team

What do we as UUs believe, and what does our church stand for? How do we want to see those beliefs expressed? In Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association's constitution, our purpose, principles, and sources are spelled out (and found after the preface in our gray hymnal). Over a year ago, the UUA appointed the Article II Study Commission (A2SC) to review this part of the constitution, and obtain feedback from individuals, congregations, and other UU groups on possible changes.

First Church then appointed its Article II Team (Michelle Boehm, Rollie Hanson, Terry Wiggins) to work with Rev. Jennifer on stimulating and gathering feedback from

*...continued next page.*

## Rev. Jennifer 2.0

### Alert. Your Sr. Minister will be updating her operating system in 2023!

by Pete Koneazny, Committee on Ministry

In her seventh year as our Senior Minister, Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom will be taking a five-month sabbatical from February 15 to July 15, 2023. You may recall that Revs. Drew Kennedy and Dena McPhetres each took similar sabbaticals.

Such periods of respite are considered a best practice within UU congregations and are part of our settlement agreements with our ministers. We hope you will join us in welcoming this opportunity for Rev. Jennifer to reflect, relax, recharge her batteries, and explore new ideas for the next phase of our journey together.

Sabbaticals are an exciting time for church members. We'll have opportunities for enlightenment and challenge from an all-star lineup of pulpit guests recruited from our denomination's favorite voices.

To no one's surprise, Jennifer has already recruited some exciting guests, including the head of the UUA's justice work, Rev. Ashley Horan. Other sabbatical pulpit guests will be announced in the near future.

The Committee on Ministry will be handling communications and will keep you fully informed and up to date. As in the past, there will be a separate Sabbatical Committee to assist our guest ministers.

Rev. Dena, Rev. Kimberlee and Director of Administration Jean Johnson will assume expanded roles working with the Board, staff, and various committees. Additionally, Jennifer hired an

experienced UU minister to serve as our part-time Assistant Sabbatical Minister to help bridge the gap. Rev. Jim Foti, who has ten years of experience serving as an Assistant Minister at a large midwestern UU congregation, will work with our Social Justice Council and lead one worship service per month.

There's so much more to share with you about Jennifer's sabbatical and we'll be doing so on a regular basis. Stay tuned for more details as they develop. And feel free to reach out to members of the Committee on Ministry (COM) with your questions and comments.

COM members: Pete Koneazny, Laura Maker, Kit Vernon and Eric Heilig.

### Whither our Principles? ...continued from p. 12

church members. New opportunities to submit feedback to the A2SC are now available.

In September 2022, A2SC scheduled Zoom sessions for discussion of draft language. Session information is found at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>.

More revisions will follow, with feedback sessions in late October/early November. The next step will be putting together a proposal in early 2023 to send to the UUA Board. The proposal will be considered in mini-assemblies before the vote at the General Assemblies in 2023 and 2024.



## Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, October 5 & 19, 6:30 pm  
At Church or [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](mailto:gatheringwaterssangha@gmail.com).

## Book Discussion Group

Sunday, October 9, 1:00 pm  
At Church or [Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us as we discuss October's read *The 1619 Project* edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at [uubarbra@gmail.com](mailto:uubarbra@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. Come listen for what resonates and illuminates. Members, guests, and visitors are welcome to join this open, weekly, drop-in practice.

## Chancel Choir

Every Thursday, 7:15 p.m.

Join us in singing as we prepare for performing at church services. Open to all singers high school age and up (no previous experience required). Contact Tristan Strelitzer for more information at [tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org).

## Grief Support Group

Wednesday, October 5 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. Open, drop-in, monthly group co-facilitated by Rev. Dena McPhetres and Pastoral Care Associate Deborah Conta.

## 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.





# Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**OCTOBER 2**

## View from the Parks: Managing Parks and County Budgets

**Sheldon Wasserman, Chair of Mke County Board's Parks, Energy and Environment Committee and Guy Smith, Milwaukee County Parks Director.**

Parks staff has had to endure decades of budget cuts and is endeavoring to manage a very large backlog of deferred maintenance. Staff has done an excellent job securing and managing grants and, in recent years, has been proposing a variety of park-sharing/revenue-generating measures to manage our parks for the benefit of all county residents – many of whom depend on the parks for recreation. Supervisor Wasserman is a strong parks advocate. Understanding the perspectives and pressures on the County Board and the County budget is crucial to understanding the current parks circumstances.

**OCTOBER 9**

## Decolonial Thinking as a Method for Understanding Minowaking as “The Good Land”

**Dr. Mark D. Freeland, Director of Electa Quinney Institute and Associate Professor of Anthropology, UWM.**

To understand the contemporary work of Indigenous peoples, we must not only understand the colonialism we are undoing, but we must also be able to recognize the non-colonial relationships we have in our spaces. In this discussion we will examine the name of this place, Minowaking, as the Good Land, to demonstrate how Indigenous worldview helps shape our understanding of, and interactions with, our environment.



**Join Forum in person at 10:00 a.m. at First Church. Or join us live online on the First Church [YouTube Channel](#).**



# Sunday Morning Forum

## 10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**OCTOBER 16**

### Democracy Ain't Easy

**Eugene Manzanet, PhD**

Rev. Mark Richards, President, WUUSAN.

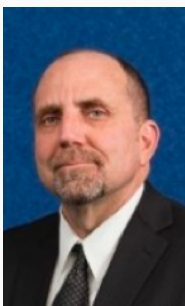
A great experiment in governance was launched on this continent at the end of the 18th century. Since its inception there has been a tension between the power of wealth and the power of numbers. Today the pendulum has swung decidedly in the favor of wealth. As Unitarian Universalists we are bound by covenant to support democratic power for each citizen. We'll discuss how we can impact swinging power back to a government that serves the interests of all people. We'll talk about Get Out The Vote campaigns.

**OCTOBER 16**

### Challenges at Milwaukee County Parks

**Rob Henken, President Wisconsin Policy Forum.**

Oct. 2021, Wis. Policy Forum published a report, "Sinking Treasure, A look at the Milwaukee County Parks' Troubled Finances and Potential Solutions." The 46-page report assesses the Parks' financial challenges and explores peer park systems (6 other cities/ regions.) Based on this analysis, it provides insights and conclusions for governance along with funding options in Milwaukee County.



**OCTOBER 16**

### Mke County Neighborhoods Step Up: Can the Efforts of Citizens Save our Parks?

**Barry S. Waddell, Park People Executive Director and CPM, and Adam Carr, Director of Strategic Partnerships Milwaukee Parks Foundation.**

Public involvement is necessary to improve our parks. The Park People is the umbrella group for "friends of parks" groups across the county. Friends groups have taken up some of the slack for underfunded parks and raise funds for needed activities. They sometimes perform maintenance and sponsor programs in our parks.

# Staff Directory

## SENIOR MINISTER

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

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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

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## How to Reach Us

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first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St. Milwaukee, WI 53202



uumilwaukee.org

## Follow Us



## Church Building Hours

Sundays: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturdays: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Monday - Wednesdays: 5:00 - 8:30 pm

If you are attending a schedule group, ring the bell.  
If you need access to the building at other times,  
please make an appointment at  
first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org.

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