Monthly Theme

What does it mean to be a people of Change
Inside News
by the Chanticleer Editors

We so enjoyed celebrating with many of you at our first-ever street party on October 23 to kick off our Forge Our Future campaign. See page 3.

We’re excited to announce that we’ve hired a part-time facilities manager, Ken Liddell. Please welcome him if you see him around.

Upcoming Holiday programs. Some begin in late November.
• Holiday Giving Tree. Look for the Snowman at the RE Table to pick up a gift tag request for a local child.
• Our Holiday Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 18 as we celebrate with children of all ages.
• In-person Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec 24.

SUNDAYS
9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday Services in-person.
9:00 am: Sunday service livestream from the Sanctuary in its entirety. OnTube.
9:00 am: Religious Education. Children begin in the Sanctuary.
10:00 am: Sunday Forum in Max Otto Hall.

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Subscribe to Facebook Group

Share the Plate
by Bob Monahan

Our November Share the Plate recipient is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee.

The BBBS mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Independent studies show that with the influence of a caring adult, children and teens are more likely to avoid risky behaviors and to focus on academics. Youth served in the Metro Milwaukee program achieved these measurable outcomes: 99% avoided teen pregnancy, 99% avoided the juvenile justice system, and 94% abstained from drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

A BBBS match is carefully administered and held to the strictest standards. Agencies strive for matches that are not only safe and well suited to each child’s needs, but also harmonious and built to last. This entire matching process, from the initial screening to the final pairing—and beyond—is made possible by our financial support.

Learn more about the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs and how to get involved at https://www.bbbsmilwaukee.org/. There is an urgent need for male volunteer mentors for youth in need.

Thank you for your generous financial investment in a child’s future to help create generational change, one child at a time.
We Look Forward to Visiting You for Forge Our Future!

by Mark Chambers and Holly Patzer
Forge Our Future Team Co-Chairs

We hope that you were able to attend the Forge Our Future kickoff and Halloween street party on October 23rd. What a fun time we had!

With a campaign goal of $3,000,000 we were able to announce the following tremendous news:

- Number of Pledges Received: 50
- Percent of Congregation Households: 13%
- Pledges Received to date total: $1,483,700

Thank you to everyone who helped to made the kickoff to Forge Our Future such a success!

The Forge Our Future Steering Committee, along with additional volunteer visitors, are in the process of reaching out to every household in the church for a personal visit. Thank you to those of you who already had a visit. The goal of the visit is two-fold, to deepen connections especially after the last couple of years of distant worship and community, and to talk about the future needs and opportunities of First Church. The visits and personal connections have been so rewarding for everyone and we look forward to visiting with you.
Change might be exciting or nerve-wracking, but it is inevitable. According to the Buddha, impermanence is one of the three inescapable facts of existence. It is the nature of reality to change.

How do you feel about change? Does it enliven you, or scare you? Do you hope for it or dread it? What would it be like to simply accept change as inevitable?

We have been through an enormous amount of change as a community in the past few years. The pandemic has changed us as individuals and as a people. Coming back together this church year, we are learning how to be with one another again. There is so much joy and celebration in our connecting, and there is also adjusting as we learn and renew community. Practice will help us both remember and create community. We can lean on our tools: covenant, listening, love. We can turn our attention towards hope and connection, feeding what nourishes us.

The changes will keep coming this year: we will conclude our endowment campaign; I will leave on sabbatical; you will experience excellent guest ministers in the pulpit (see the Committee on Ministry article to learn more) and an Assistant Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Jim Foti, arriving in February. Inevitably, there will be more COVID changes, life changes, and seasonal changes. But we will be together in it, holding hands, turning our faces towards the sun.

With love,
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Rev. Jennifer’s Sabbatical
An Important Event for First Church

Sabbaticals can be as worthwhile to members as to the minister. Many of us remember Revs. Drew Kennedy’s and Dena McPhetres’ sabbaticals fondly. There were exciting pulpit guests and opportunities for personal growth.

For information, see the Q&A about Rev. Jennifer’s sabbatical on Page 11.
There is something about the human soul that longs to be settled and stirred. This simultaneity is expressed in our Unitarian Universalist faith, we are proud of our church’s history and roots that have led us to become a community of constant seekers. There is wisdom and truth in this religious path as it reflects the constancy of change that we each experience.

At ten years of age, I clearly remember believing that by the time I was an adult, (which in my child’s mind was 25 years old) I would be formed, settled, know most of what I needed to know, and be prepared to go live out my life. It seemed to me that adulthood was the time in life that was full of possibility, and I longed for the confidence in my completeness coupled with the independence needed to go explore the world. From our tastes to our shape, through the eyes of a child who is ever growing and learning, adults seem static.

Growing is an indisputable constant when we are young, yet adults are culturized not to speak too often about the myriad of changes we experience, from parenting joys to empty nesting to grief, and of course, our ever-aging bodies. I believe we do ourselves a profound spiritual disservice by hindering the shared expression of our continued changing lives to one another and our children. The mercurial nature of our lives may be less obvious as adults yet there is always something new to be present to, learn from, or a deepening of understanding to be revealed.

In education, we call this a growth mind-set, shifting our focuses to what we can change: our thoughts and actions, how we handle challenges, and what we give our energy to on our continual journey of improvement. The human condition is full of growing pains and joys at every age and though adulthood may not offer the completeness I longed for as child, sharing our journeys with fellow seekers is worthy solace.

May we have the courage to give voice to the changes inside and around us, find true companions to accompany us through the unsettling moments and celebrate the joyous ones.

In faith,
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education
Partner with God: Shape Change
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director
Bizzy Schultz, Worship Associate
Pat McFarland, Social Justice Story-Teller
Click for info about this service

Responding to Change
Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director
Marisa Riepenhoff, Worship Associate
Nick Hayes, Defend Democracy Storyteller
Click for info about this service

There’s A Song in My Soul
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education
Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director
Ryan Pawlowski, Worship Associate
Click for info about this service

TBD
Pulpit Guest
Karen Beaumont, Guest Organist
Laurel Brooks, Worship Associate

In-person Sunday services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Nurture the Soul 
Midweek 
by Lynne Jacoby

Dealing with change in the world is hard, but from my perspective changing one’s own behavior is harder.

Some several New Year Eves ago I, who never make resolutions, decided to add another regular Spiritual Practice into my life. At the time I was attending church regularly (Practice #1) which I felt added hope to my worldview. I thought a mid-week practice might help even more. Meditation, yoga, something, once a week, seemed an achievable goal.

My church offered a weekly drop-in Lectio Divina practice but, not enamored of the Christian Scriptures I was dubious. Still it was too convenient not try it. I attended that group until I moved six years later – the easiest healthy behaviors I’ve ever incorporated in my life. Yes, the practice - but also the community kept me coming back.

Borrowing the structure of Lectio Divina, but using Poetry, a dozen plus of us have been meeting on Wednesday morning since the first month of COVID. It’s convenient (Zoom easy!) and valued enough by participants that I am starting a second session in the evenings.

More opportunities at First Church to nurture the soul include Yoga, Poetry Contemplation, Connect & Reflect, the Buddhist Study Group, Choir Practice! and more. See page 13 for more First Church programs.

Journey to Membership

Winter Membership Classes on Zoom at First Church
Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25 and February 1 at 6:30 – 8:15 pm. **Zoom only**

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/. For questions? Email lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee
Our Whole Lives (OWL) Grade K-6 Training Coming to First Church in 2023 by Deb Solis, Youth Program Coordinator

OWL training for Elementary (Grade K-6) will be January 20-22, 2023 right here at First Church.

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 children’s developmental needs?
• Able to build respectful relationships and good rapport with participants?

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.

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. Applications for this training are available through the RE Weekly Update newsletter. This training will not be available locally for many years. All applications must be received by January 10. Please direct any questions to Deb Solis, Youth and OWL Program Coordinator at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org

Grade 10-12 Our Whole Lives Program by Deb Solis

Starting in January 2023 we would like to offer the first ever Grade 10-12 OWL program for any youth of First Church members.

The Grade 10-12 Our Whole Lives (OWL) program emphasizes Building Healthy Sexual Relationships and would be offered on Sundays, from January 15 through April 16, 2023, on Sundays from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

There is a mandatory Parents Orientation meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 8. We must have a minimum of five interested youth. If we do not have five youth enrolled, we will NOT offer this program at this time.

We had great success recently with our first ever Grade 7-9 OWL program during the summer of 2022.

Please send any questions, concerns or comments to Deb at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org.
Be A Religious Education Ambassador!

Click here to volunteer

Each Sunday, our children and youth need caring adults who share their time with them in our religious education programs. Volunteering is a way to explore, live and grow our UU faith, and it can be simple and fun. We especially need adults in our pre-school and nursery to assist our RE staff during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. Additionally, our lead teachers need RE Ambassadors to assist them during first service. Volunteer for one day or many weeks, it is up to you!!

To be a part of the collective of people who together will make RE happen for our children and youth, please sign up with this link and thank you!

Welcome Home!
Young Adults Invited To Reconnect On November 27

by Deb Solis
Youth Program Coordinator

Are you a young adult home for the Thanksgiving holiday? Have you been longing to reconnect in person with your fellow UU young adult community? Interested in connecting with our current youth group at First Church?

Please come to 9:00 a.m. worship and proceed with our youth to the Reeb Room on Sunday, November 27 for some food, conversation and fun! Please RSVP to Deb Solis at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org by November 20.

Families & Youth Visiting the Jewish Museum as part of our Neighboring Faiths Crossing Paths Program in RE

Democracy for Everyone in the Bruch Family
Turkeys and Hams and Sides, Oh My!
by Beth Bruch

Interchange Food Pantry is holding a Holiday Dinner Drive, as pantry guest numbers—and food prices—are soaring. Can you help make a holiday dinner happen?

Two ways you can help:
Donate to our “1,000 Turkeys and Hams” drive. Each $25 donated will provide a turkey or ham to feed a family of 4-6. (You can’t imagine the look of gratitude and joy on people’s faces when they receive a whole turkey or ham!) To make a tax-deductible donation, visit the pantry here or scan the QR code with your phone.

Bring on the sides! Starting Sunday, October 30, please bring in donations for our accompanying “Seven Sides” drive. We need (*canned):
- cranberry sauce*
- green beans*
- mushroom soup*
- yams/sweet potatoes*
- pineapples*
- jarred gravy
- boxed/bagged stuffing

Collection barrels will be outside the Sanctuary and in the Leenhouts Common Room. We'll run both drives until the Sunday before Christmas, but please start donating now! We start distributing holiday foods November 1 and each family comes to the pantry only once per month.

We’re hoping to help 1,000 local families put a festive Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner on the table this holiday season. We’re truly grateful for any help you can provide.

Informed Voters are Powerful Voters
by Kathy Rivera

Make your voice heard. Vote early (early voting begins on Tuesday, October 25 and ends on Saturday, November 5) or vote at your polling place on Tuesday, November 8. Visit vote411.org to find out what's on your ballot. Every vote counts!

Learn how voting works in Wisconsin. Check out the Wisconsin Election Commission’s election education video series entitled “Elections 101.” This 4-part series provides an overview of Wisconsin’s election administration plus a closer look at the fundamental components of voting and elections, including registration, absentee voting, voting at the polls and how Wisconsin keeps elections secure.

Watch this with the high schoolers in your life. Help them prepare to vote intelligently when they turn 18.
Rev. Jennifer’s Sabbatical

by Pete Koneazny, Laura Maker, Kit Vernon, & Eric Heilig
Committee on Ministry

What is a sabbatical, anyways?
It’s a total release from the demanding role of the ministry for a paid period when Senior Minister Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom can refresh, renew, study and envision ways to encourage sustained excellence going forward. Jennifer’s sabbatical is scheduled for a five-month period from February 20 until July 20, 2023.

Why sabbaticals are necessary.
Both interdenominational and UUA research report that the ministry is a high stress profession with lots of burnout, even in small churches. The job is far more than writing sermons and leading Sunday services. Rev. Jennifer’s week combines long hours and an ever-changing combination of Board of Trustees and committee meetings, denominational matters, weddings, memorial services, family and individual crises and civic engagement. All require thought and preparation. As one of the largest UU congregations in the US, First Church is a complex operation and a particularly demanding job for our Senior Minister.

A good plan/the right people.
Luckily, we have both a carefully devised plan and a perfect team of dedicated and experienced leaders in place. Revs. Dena McPhetres and Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson and Director of Administration Jean Johnson will divide responsibilities in dealing with the Board, staff and committees.

An experienced Assistant Sabbatical Minister, Jim Foti, will serve on a part-time basis, leading services one Sunday per month and working with committees.

The Committee on Ministry will keep you in touch with important aspects of Jennifer’s sabbatical. A Sabbatical Committee will work with guests and handle details.

Questions? Maybe we can help. Just contact one of us on the Committee on Ministry.
Splinters from the Board
by Joe Riepenhoff
Board Member

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its monthly meeting on September 17, 2022, in person with Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom. The minutes from the August meeting were approved unanimously.

The Board updated and approved a corporate resolution pertaining to the role of the church’s Treasurer and receipt of bequests. Tom Briscoe will remain the Treasurer for the coming year.

Progress towards ends 4, 6, and 7 was reviewed by comparing the most recent responses to the congregational survey against responses from the previous year. Based on the evidence presented, the Board unanimously found sufficient compliance with overall work toward ends 4, 6, and 7. Find more information on our ends here: https://uumilwaukee.org/ends-interpretations/

Rev. Jennifer presented the Senior Minister’s Report. Preparedness for Rev. Jennifer’s sabbatical absence was highlighted as well as First Church’s readiness for the Forge Our Future fundraising campaign.

BOT committee liaisons were reviewed. For this year, Mike Hogan will serve on the Nominating Committee and Rollie Hanson will serve on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Looking forward to next month’s meeting, the BOT will be reviewing and updating the Grievance policy, developing a guide for the operation of the Congressional Survey Team, and examining the procedure for meeting minutes approval and posting to the website. The next BOT meeting will be Tuesday, October 25.

In Memoriam

Donald Polzin
February 12, 1930 ~ September 14, 2022

Donald Polzin died on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. He entered home hospice care in April and was cared for by his wife Jacquie and son Dierk. The quiet presence of this kind and loving man is greatly missed. Don was 92 years old and a member of First Church since 2006. He was also active with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County, occasionally delivering the Sunday sermon.

We lit the Candle of Life in memory of Don during both worship services on Sunday, October 2. A Celebration of Life is planned for July 2023 in Ephraim, Wisconsin.

Condolences can be sent to Jacquie Polzin at: foxxtrotdj@gmail.com or mailed to her at: 304 Madero Drive, Thiensville, WI 53092.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: The Door County Land Trust, P.O. Box 65, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

All in the Family

Our heartfelt condolences are with Jeri Pearcy whose sister died on October 7 and with Heather Hansen whose father died on October 11. Our good wishes for healing are with Tess Burkart who had hip surgery and Pat McFarland who had surgery on her hand.

Frank Evans died peacefully in his sleep at Lawlis Family Hospice in Mequon, Wisconsin on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at age 88. Family and friends surrounded Frank in the days leading up to his passing. Frank’s family invites you to attend his Celebration of Life on Saturday, November 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee.
NOVEMBER EVENTS

Buddhist Study Group
Wednesday, November 2 & 16, 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.

Book Discussion Group
Sunday, November 13 1:30 pm
At Church or Join Us Online Here

Join us as we discuss November’s read, *Black Death at the Golden Gate* by David K. Randal. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at uubarbra@gmail.com.

Poetry Contemplation
Every Wednesday, 9:00 am
or 2nd & 4th Tuesday 6:30 pm.
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.

Grief Support Group
Wednesday, November 2 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.
NOVEMBER 6

Saint Jane Doe: The Patron Saint of Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors

Peter Isely, Director of Nate’s Mission, Founder of SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests)

For over three decades survivors of childhood clergy sexual abuse have been revealing a global faith-based system of sexual trauma and institutional cover up in the church. Those who remain sometimes wonder: Is Christianity worth saving? This presentation by a survivor informed by thirty years of public activism and advocacy with thousands of victims from around the world, will share his own personal and perhaps surprising answer to this question as well as the current state of this crisis locally, nationally and globally.

NOVEMBER 13

Can a Lawsuit against the CIA Affect the U.S. Attempt to Extradite Julian Assange?

Deborah Hrbek, partner at HRBEKKunstler

& Marjorie Cohn, former president of National Lawyers Guild.

Deborah Hrbek will discuss the July lawsuit against the CIA, Mike Pompeo, and UC Global filed in August by Hrbek, her law partner Margaret Ratner Kunstler, and two American journalists, whose constitutional rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by the US government were violated when they visited Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Marjorie Cohn will unpack the extradition request and indictment.

Join Forum in person at 10:00 a.m. at First Church. Or join us live online on the First Church YouTube Channel.
NOVEMBER 20
What Now? The Election Results and the Fight for Our Democracy
Matt Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.
After discussing the results of the November 8 elections, Rothschild will delve into the anti-democracy movement, and how we can defeat it. Prior to joining the Democracy Campaign at the start of 2015, Matt worked at The Progressive magazine for 32 years. For most of those, he was the editor and publisher of The Progressive.

NOVEMBER 27
A Creative Place: The History of Wisconsin Art
Tom Lidtke, Co-Author, Retired MOWA Executive Director.
This book, released in 2021 by the Cedarburg Art Museum, was an ambitious task covering 13,000 years of human creativity in Wisconsin. It took nearly a dozen people five and a half years to complete. The seed for this herculean effort began more than three decades ago when Lidtke taught a Wisconsin art history graduate summer course at the Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA). Lidtke was Executive Director for three decades before retiring in 2013. His editorial goal was to appeal to a wide spectrum of readers by placing art in a multigenerational, multicultural and sociopolitical context.
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Staff members have varying hours.
Please contact them directly to set up an appointment.

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