

DECEMBER 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*

Wonder

Christmas Eve Share the Plate

We give away our entire Christmas Eve offering every year. This year, you can support one or both of these worthy organizations during the Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Interchange Food Pantry, a food pantry that FUSM founded in 1971 along with a group of neighboring churches, is committed to helping provide healthy food to low-income residents of Milwaukee in a compassionate and supportive environment.

MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary is a daytime sanctuary and multi-resource center for homeless and at-risk individuals. It is a place to be and belong that offers hope to those who struggle for resources in Milwaukee's overwhelmed safety net.

Deck the Halls December 6!

Get in the holiday spirit. Join Jim Spice, Jean Johnson and our new facilities manager Ken Liddell for great fun working together to decorate our Sanctuary. We'll hang green garlands, red bows, and white lights, and set up the large Christmas tree. We will need some folks who can climb ladders and do some lifting.

Join us Tuesday, December 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Contact Director of Administration Jean Johnson to let me know if you'll join us. jean.johnson@uumilwaukee.org Or just drop in. It's going to be great fun!

Share the Plate

by Bob Monahan

CIVIC MUSIC's mission is to support music education and provide performance opportunities for young musicians in the five county greater Milwaukee area.

Last year, CIVIC MUSIC directly served more than 150 young musicians and their teachers. More than 95% of their programming involves students 18 years old or younger. Instrumentalists and vocalists participate in a variety of unique opportunities to refine their skills and grow as musicians through private lessons, auditions, workshops, competitions, and performances.

The value of arts education in promoting high achievement in all academic areas is well documented. Music study is an extracurricular activity for most young musicians. They invest countless hours of practice and incur substantial costs for private lessons and instruments. School programs rarely offer opportunities to perform as soloists or receive coaching necessary to present a polished performance. CIVIC MUSIC encourages these talented young musicians to pursue the next level of musical potential by providing unique performance opportunities and recognition of their accomplishments at a critical time in their growth and development.

Learn more about CIVIC MUSIC programs at <http://www.civictimilwaukee.org>. Your generous financial support helps CIVIC MUSIC identify, encourage, and nurture a young person's capacity to create and share the rewards of making music and to feel that they have value as people and as contributors to community.

Donate to this STP Partner

Hear From Our Members

“Over the years I have been significantly shaped by First Church. It has guided my path of spiritual growth, taught me leadership skills, and widened my awareness of social justice issues. I am also grateful for many friendships and tremendous support after the death of my husband. Now it is my privilege to do all I can to ensure that First Church thrives and provides those many gifts to others.” ~ **Nancy Pajewski**

“I decided to make my pledge after sitting down and speaking with a member of the [Forge Our Future] Steering Committee about my time and experiences at First Church and what I feel is a worthy goal of our Forge the Future campaign. This is the largest pledge that I have made since I became a member of First Church. I did this because I want to see First Church build on what we already have and make sure we have the financial stability to make even more of a difference in the City of Milwaukee. I want to leave a legacy to future members and generations, much like our Forebears did for us.” ~ Rollie Hanson

“I am so grateful that for 175 years our forebears nourished this community of faith, so we could receive that welcome when we came searching for a whole life. And in all our fifteen years here—at every Ingathering service, and every Christmas Eve, and every Sunday—we still hear that assurance of belonging, that comfort of knowing and being known, those simple words, “Welcome Home.” ~ **Dale Skaggs**

“From my first visit to First Church, I sensed that I had found my spiritual home. Each time I return, each time I get to know one more of the members of this church more intimately, each time I listen to the wonderfully, enlightening sermons, I become more certain in that sentiment.” ~ Gordon Mueller

Just Say “Yes!”

by Mark Chambers &
Holly Patzer
Forge Our Future Team

During this month of year-end reflections and deep gratitude, numerous First Church volunteers will continue reaching out to every household in the church for a personal visit. Thank you to those of you who already have had a visit. The goal of the visit is two-fold, to deepen our connections with each other and to talk about the future needs and opportunities for First Church.

The visits are approximately one hour long, and you may choose an in-person or Zoom visit depending upon your preference. [Click here](#) to request a visit then select the Forge the Future team. These visits have been very rewarding for everyone, and we sincerely look forward to visiting with you during this holiday season.





Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Wonder is one of the four core values grounding our First Church community. It encompasses doubt, questioning, and humility in the face of new information; curiosity and hunger for learning; and awe in the face of the grandeur of the universe.

As we move into the busy holiday season, how might a spoonful of wonder be medicine for your spirit? Could you add a dose of it to your to-do list, or your family gathering?

There is so much to be grateful for this December, even as the world continues to be full of grief. I am grateful for you, First Church, to be able to gather with you in person in the holiday season, to light candles and whisper hopes and hold love. I am grateful for all the connection-filled generosity-generating Forge Our Future visits everyone is doing, and especially for those signing up to make more visits. I am grateful as we cast our connection-net wide and draw in every one of our members, learning, loving, experiencing the awe of human relationship.

With love,
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

First Church Will Have a Ministerial Intern Next Year!

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
and Rev. Dena McPhetres

Since we last hosted a Ministerial Intern in 2002, our congregation has been dreaming of once again being a Teaching Congregation, and living into our strength as a large historic flagship UU congregation in the Midwest. We will get to embody this role again next church year, beginning Sept 1, 2023.

Our Ministerial Intern will be Steve Sieck, who will be with us quarter-time through June of 2025. Steve is attending Meadville Lombard Theological School, and coming to us from Appleton where he has served as an Associate Professor of Music and Co-Director of Choral Studies at Lawrence University and as the Music Director of the Fox Valley UU Fellowship.

Reverends Jennifer and Dena will jointly supervise Steve, and he will also work with an Intern Committee of lay leaders from our congregation. Steve will develop learning goals to help his formation as a Unitarian Universalist minister, and as his teaching congregation, together we will help him meet those goals and shape his ministry.

Ministerial Intern continued on page 5...

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



"If you are going to meditate by candlelight, do not hurry to light the candle," wrote John Marsh in his meditation "With or Without Candlelight." This gentle suggestion seems especially appropriate for December, when nights grow long and we rush to light the lights to hold back the darkness. It takes an act of will to resist the frenzy of the winter holidays and all that leads up to them. It takes an act of will to hold back the hand from the matchbox, allow a pause in which to appreciate the nurturing dark, and then light the candle.

Although I do not consider myself Christian, I do love the season of Advent and lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. There are four candles in the wreath plus one in the center. As the nights grow longer in December, you light one more candle each week. Each candle can symbolize a core value in life, such as Love, Peace, Beauty, Wonder. Each week you get to meditate upon that value. On Christmas, you light all four candles plus the center candle.

The winter holiday that is most meaningful to me is Winter Solstice. At home, I construct a solstice wreath and use a book of readings to center me each week. I also like to sing the song by Mary Grigolia called "The Dark" to

remind myself of the importance of accepting both the gifts of darkness and its challenges. Here are the lyrics to the chorus:

"Oh, the darkness takes courage, the darkness takes time. Living in the darkness brings a different state of mind. The darkness brings healing, the darkness brings change. Oh, Mother Darkness, I return to you again."

May we find a way to appreciate the dark in this season of frenzied celebration. The holiday lights are beautiful only because they can be seen in the darkness. As is the candle that you light.

Yours,
Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

... Ministerial Intern continued from page 4

This is a beautiful opportunity to live into our congregation's role as a large, healthy, and once again teaching congregation, to connect more broadly with Unitarian Universalism, and to serve our faith by helping form new UU ministers. What a joy to look forward to returning to this good work when we welcome Steve in September of 2023!



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Often when we think of what piques wonder in us this time of year, the focus is on the mysteries of life, from the birth of a baby to the sheer beauty of our Earth that eludes our full comprehension, moments of awe in our lives. There is a childlike quality about our human response to this time of year. With less sunlight each day, our collective reaction is to fill the world with colored lights, music, gifts, and gratitude for the wonder of it all.

As I have gotten older, I find myself resisting being swept up in the wonder of the holiday season, easier to bah humbug at the habits of consumerism and shake my head at the religious myths that swirl in the air of December. Yet, witnessing the delight of a child this time of year is enticement enough to join in the joy and delight of the child still inside each of us.

I remember that one of our Unitarian Universalist sources is wonder and its power to renew the spirit and create openness to create and uphold life. So, I do choose to let myself embrace the holiday season when I can, singing carols loudly, hanging lights and finding renewal with my companions.

Sometimes, there is a journey before one can get to wonder, much like the practice it takes to get to be good at anything. What fills me with profound sentiment and wonder most days is

something less shiny than the holiday lights and tinsel, it is steadfastness. The regular care we offer one another, the commitment of giving our time and resources to the greater good, the will to keep going, trying, and believing in and making a better world is wonder filled. Every sunrise is not glorious, but each day it rises there is a chance for a spectacular surprise. Octavia Butler says, "First, forget inspiration. Habits are more dependable. Habit will sustain you whether you're inspired or not."

Trusting in steadfastness is an element of what makes church and religious education work. We go to be with others who share our values, we connect, and we repeat. It is not always what we need or wanted, it might be awkward filled reflection, but the effort of being there together shapes us into community.

Last month, a group of us visited a Jewish congregation as part of our religious education program. Shabbat service was new for most of our group. We followed along best we could, sitting and standing with our kippots bobby-pinned to our heads, trying to follow along with the Hebrew Torah readings. What we learned that day was experienced not taught. We learned in that in that congregation, when guests enter, they are generously welcomed, multiply times publicly, as

...continued on page 11



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

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When Curiosity Is Better Than Knowing

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Erik Alexander, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Making Space for Wonder

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Patrick Mulvey, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Holiday Pageant: The Solstice Badger

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director and the Chancel Choir

Youth and Children of First Church

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Christmas Day

NO Service this day. Have a nice holiday.

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

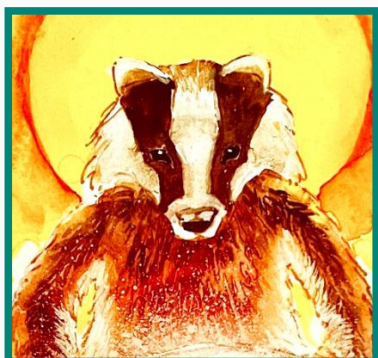
Holidays at First Church



Blue Christmas Vespers

December 14 at 7:00 p.m. and on YouTube

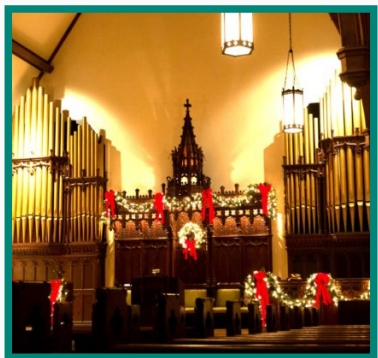
Come and rest in the beauty of our sanctuary for an evening contemplative service. Sit by others who are seeking solace for their sadness, worry and stress. We offer space for anyone who is feeling blue. Please join us for a gentle service of music and candlelight, readings and silence.



Holiday Pageant

December 18 at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. and on YouTube

Join us for our annual Holiday Pageant, as we bring to life The Solstice Badger, a story about the power of friendship, and how the solstice came to be as told by Robin McFadden. The holiday pageant is a joy-filled worship service, featuring wonderful music and Unitarian Universalists of all ages sharing the season's spirit of gratitude, peace, and love.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24 at 3:30, 5:00, & 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a simple, traditional, multi-generational Christmas Eve service of carols, candlelight, and stories. The whole family is welcome in all services. Join the holiday reception tradition after service. The online service will be live on YouTube at 3:30 p.m.

Join Us With Fun Holiday Activities

December 6 Deck the Halls, 6:00 pm at church. See page 2.

December 9 Jingle Bus, 6:00 pm. See page 11.

Thursdays in December Holiday Choir 6:30 pm. See page 15.



Christmas Eve is Coming!

by Lynne Jacoby

Our holiday reception tradition is BACK! YAY! and knock-on-wood regarding COVID counts. Please help us treat guests, visitors, members (and staff too) to a festive Christmas treat!

Consider sharing a plate of cookies, a cake, or a sweet or savory holiday favorite from your home. A sign-up sheet to bring Christmas Eve Treats will be at the Member Services Table starting the first Sunday in December or email Lynne.

We also need extraordinarily helpful elves to help organize the receptions. The job entails help decorating (day/time to be mutually determined), help picking up a few supplies, and “covering” one hour the night of Christmas Eve (restocking the bounty and picking up a bit). It’s a fun service to our community that friends, partners, or a family with older kids can contribute as a team.

Ready to wear green leggings? Or have further questions? Email or call at lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org
414.273.5257 x 205

Start the New Year with a Journey to Membership Class

Winter Membership Classes on Zoom at First Church

Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25 and February 1, 6:30 – 8:15 pm. **Zoom only**

Led by our ministers and 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.org



Keep RE Going and Growing in 2023!

by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

Start your new year right by being in community with our children, youth, and families! Our RE program is growing, filled with children each week who need caring adults to continue to companion them! Imagine sharing moments with our children experiencing faith formation in RE during the first service, enjoy coffee hour and/or Forum, and then attend second service, all possible at First Church each Sunday morning!

Helping out just one or two Sundays this winter and spring keeps religious education going and growing!

Please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Kimberlee if you any inquiries about RE.

[Click here to volunteer](#)

Holiday Pageant

The Solstice Badger

Join us for our annual Holiday Pageant on December 18, as we bring to life *The Solstice Badger*, a story about the power of friendship, and how the solstice came to be, as told by Robin McFadden. The holiday pageant is a joy-filled worship service. The pageant features wonderful music and Unitarian Universalists of all ages sharing the season's spirit of gratitude, peace, and love. Participants of all ages are needed for the big animal celebration at the end of the story. Contact Rev. Kimberlee at kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org if you have questions. **Sign up** if you are interested in joining the holiday pageant fun!

Childcare on December 24 and January 1

We are currently seeking childcare caregivers to work or volunteer in the preschool and nursery for our Christmas Eve services. If you are interested in helping our children and parents on the holidays, please contact Rev. Kimberlee.

Parents and caregivers, please check the the R.E. Weekly newsletter for updates on our progress in finding childcare for Christmas Eve Services.

On Jan. 1, 2023, there will be no childcare or Religious Education classes available at our 10 a.m. service. This offers a rare Sunday off and a sabbath day for our R.E. staff.

Families are always welcome in the sanctuary and parlor. We thank you for your understanding.

The Holiday Giving Tree

We are proud to be participating in United Way's Holiday Giving Tree program this year. This program purchases gifts for local individuals who may otherwise go without this holiday season.

This year we are partnered with the children of Grantosa Drive School, who has given us tags with gift wishes on them. Those tags are on our Giving Tree in the Leenhouts Common Room near the RE Table. To participate, just choose a tag, record your choice on our spreadsheet, purchase the gift, and bring the gift back to church by December 16. We will make sure the gifts get delivered to Grantosa Drive School. Join us and help spread some holiday cheer and thank you for your generosity!



Love Surrounds Us

Ride the First Church Jingle Bus! Dec. 9



We have reserved the Jingle Bus for First Church on December 9 at 6 p.m! This 40-minute narrated tour includes three lighted parks – “Community Spirit Park” at Cathedral Square Park, “Santa’s Celebration Square” powered by We Energies” at Zeidler Union Square and “Christmas Chalet” at Pere Marquette Park. Tours are \$5 per person, waivers available on request. Pay online at <https://bit.ly/UUJingleBus> or at the RE Table on Sunday.

...continued from p. 6

Rabbi Joel made our entrance his priority. We saw how the sharing of readings from ancestors brought people together, how a yearning to question and willingness to learn made for good community building across faith traditions.

This holiday season, let us also recognize the miracle of steadfastness, showing up, again and again, the wonder of being in an authentic relationship with one another.

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

Buy from Black-Owned Businesses for the Holidays!

Holiday shopping is around the corner, and you can put your UU values to work by buying from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color owned businesses. In the city with the largest wealth gap between Black and white households, buying from Black-owned businesses is part of working for economic justice. The First Church Anti-Racism Team has prepared a resource for you to use to find businesses and restaurants owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) folks. [Click here](#) for a pdf copy of this resource.

Housing for Women and Transgender Returning Citizens

by Paul Geenen

Circle of Support Team Leader

Circles of Support team members invite you to join us by Zoom on Wednesday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the possibility of leasing the church's eight apartments to women and transgender returning citizens. Executive Director Wendel Hruska, Program Director Amanda Smit, and Circle Keeper Sylvester Jackson of Project RETURN will be joining the discussion to share their experiences with assisting returning citizens.

Milwaukee has a shortage of affordable housing for those who identify as women who have been trafficked as sex workers. As they return to the community following incarceration, they face a

long and difficult journey to reach the stage where they can support themselves and their children. Without a safe place to live, they are vulnerable to recidivism and further abuse.

If you are interested in being part of this discussion, please RSVP to Paul Geenen to get the Zoom link.

Deck the Hams with Rings of Pineapple

by Beth Bruch

Interchange Food Pantry

We're looking for any or all of the following seven sides: boxes/bags of stuffing, jars of gravy, cans of yams/sweet potatoes, green beans, mushroom soup, cranberry sauce, and pineapples. Please bring them to church and put them in the collection containers just outside the sanctuary.

And, please considering donating [online here](#). These funds will provide hams and turkeys for the main part of the Christmas meal (and many meals to come). Per-pound protein prices are soaring, and so are our guest numbers at the pantry—we're up to 4,000 per month. Our prior donation source is not available following the pandemic, so we are very grateful for any help you can provide.

At the Christmas giveaway, pantry guests will be able to choose a ham or a turkey, and they'll also receive a holiday box of nonperishable side dishes and fresh produce. We hope to provide festive holiday dinners for 1,000 local families in need. Please help make their Christmas a little brighter. Donations can be made through Sunday, December 18.

UU's Get Involved

by Bruce Wiggins

Denominations Affairs Coordinator

It's time to start thinking about what will be an intriguing and important General Assembly (GA) in June. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Anyone may attend, and First Church will designate individuals as our delegates with official voting power.

GA was held last year in Portland, Oregon, and was the first year with both live attendees and a robust online program where people could participate fully via their computers. Our First Church budget may be able to pay the registration for First Church delegates. Stay tuned for more information.

Presidential Election

Our UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, ends her term and we'll elect a new President. On Nov. 15, the Presidential Search Committee announced its nomination of the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt.

More information on this [press release](#).

Nominations for this important job can be made by petition, and elections have been competitive in recent years. Stay tuned.

Principles and Purposes

Revised language for Article 2 of our UUA bylaws will be voted on. This section includes our 7 principles. Some say, "Our beloved principles and purposes."

Sabbatical as a Gift of Rest

by Laura Maker

Sabbatical Team

The word sabbatical comes from the Hebrew word "Sabat" (Sabbath), a day set aside for rest and worship. The practice of Sabbatical is based on the Biblical practice of shmita mandated by the Torah, which requires farmers to take a year-long break from working the fields every seven years.

Sabbatical is offered to ministers to encourage rest, to offer space for quiet reflection, and to allow time for recovery from the difficult and demanding job of being a spiritual leader.

The year 2023 is a perfect time for Reverend Jennifer to step away and take her sabbatical. We're in the midst of the Forge our Future Campaign to build the church's reserves and increase our capacity to offer services and help our community. Our city, state, and world face big challenges in the years ahead, and as UU's, we will be called to act and respond.

I'm grateful we can give Jennifer this opportunity to rest and build her reserves so we can work together to do big things when she gets back, for we will be called to do so.

Splinters from the Board

by Amy Wilbourne

Board of Trustees Member

The Board of Trustees met on October 25, 2022 along with Rev. Jennifer. The meeting began with Noreen Gilbertsen and Jean Johnson from the Finance Team discussing Monitoring Policy 4.5 and 4.4, regarding financial condition, and financial planning and budgeting. Noreen Gilbertsen and Jean Johnson presented the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Quarter 1 financial report. The Board voted unanimously that we are in compliance.

With Jean Johnson leading the discussion, our new fraudulent check procedures were presented and discussed. The Positive Pay system is being implemented and should be fully functional soon.

Monitoring policy 4.1 and 4.1.5, regarding relationships with congregants were discussed and the Board voted unanimously that we are in compliance. The Board also reviewed, discussed, and confirmed safety policies and the church is in compliance with them. The Board of Trustees Staff Covenant was voted on and passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the interpretation of 4.1.5 and amended it, passing the new interpretation unanimously, with one abstaining vote.

BOT Grievance Process

by Ben LeFort

Board of Trustees President

At our October 2022 meeting, the Board of Trustees re-affirmed the 2020 passage of the Board of Trustees Grievance Process. This policy was passed just before the COVID pandemic struck, and therefore did not get fully communicated at that time. So we wanted to do so now.

This procedure is to be utilized in the case that a member of the Board of Trustees receives either a verbal or written complaint regarding board policies from a member or friend of the congregation, and delineates the process by which this policy complaint should be addressed.

The Board of Trustees Grievance Process is specifically set up to address congregant complaints regarding board policies. Congregant complaints regarding operational issues are addressed by staff according to a separate board-approved policy. If operational complaints cannot be adequately resolved by church staff, there is a process for raising those complaints to the board.

To read the Board of Trustees Grievance Process document, [click here](#). And feel free to reach out to any member of the Board of Trustees with questions.



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, December 7 & 22, 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, December 11 1:30 pm
At Church or [Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us as we discuss December's read, *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at uubarbra@gmail.com.

Chronologically Gift Potluck

Sunday, December 18
At Church

Contact Pat McFarland or Barbara Collignon for more information.

Chancel Choir

Every Thursday, 7:15 p.m.

The holiday season is approaching and the First Unitarian Society Chancel Choir will continue the practice of opening our ranks to First Church members and friends (high school age and up) who wish to sing with us for the Winter Holiday Services on December 18 (9:00 and 11:00 a.m.) and Christmas Eve at the 6:30 p.m. service.

This is a great opportunity for those of you who enjoy singing choral music but can't make a commitment to a full year schedule of choir. Or if you are a new member, this is a fun way to meet people and become more involved in church life. No previous singing experience is required, but you must be able to commit to four Thursday rehearsals, December 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

If you are interested in singing with us, please contact Tristan Strelitzer at tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org so we can have a folder and music ready for you.

Connect & Reflect

Every Thursday, 5:45 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.

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.

Grief Support Group

Wednesday, December 7 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.

December Mini-Yoga

Mondays, Dec 5-19 at 6:30 pm

[Register Here](#)

Instructor Morgan Engels will offer this 3-week yoga class in person at First Church. On Monday evenings class is Mellow Movement + Guided Relaxation. This 60 minute class will start with gentle movement practices that will take care of our joints and deepen our breath. We will ease into some restorative stretches before settling down for a meditative guided relaxation.





Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



DECEMBER 4

Dementia-Friendly Individuals and Communities

Vashti Lozier, Facilitator of Shorewood Connects, FUSM Member

Melissa Meier, Executive Director of Eastside Senior Services (retired)

Kathy Platt, Public Health Nurse at North Shore Health Department

Members of Shorewood's Dementia Awareness Workgroup (DAWG)

We will provide information about what dementia is, what it's like to live with the disease, and some tips for communicating. Become a Dementia Friend and join a growing movement of people who are helping fellow community members – a little support can make a big difference!

DECEMBER 11

Community Ministry Connection

Guest House of Milwaukee

Natalie Wickman, Fund Development Coordinator



This presentation will provide an overview of the Guest House of Milwaukee and its affiliated programs. Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2022, the Guest House is the largest publicly-funded homeless shelter in Milwaukee. We work every day toward our mission of ending homelessness by providing shelter, housing, education and other services to transform our clients' lives with dignity and purpose. .



DECEMBER 18

Congresswoman Gwen Moore

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
kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 204

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Lynne Jacoby
lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 205

OFFICE MANAGER

Shari Wright
shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 207

YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Deb Solis
deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 209

RE ASSISTANT

Julie Harris
julie.harris@uumilwaukee.org ext. 210

FACILITIES MANAGER

Ken Liddell
ken.liddell@uumilwaukee.org ext. 206

FACILITIES & TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Jim Spice
jim.spice@uumilwaukee.org

MAINTENANCE WORKER

Art Sims

LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alissa Rhode
alissa.rhode@uumilwaukee.org

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.....Ben LeFort
Vice PresidentPat Geenen
SecretaryGeorge Bledsoe
TreasurerTom Briscoe

Members

George Bledsoe
Rollie Hanson
Mike Hogan
Tony Panciera
Sarah Richards
Joe Riepenhoff
Amy Wilbourne

How to Reach Us

414.273.5257

first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St. Milwaukee, WI 53202



uumilwaukee.org

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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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