

JANUARY 2023



# 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*

## Finding our Center

# Inside News

by the *Chanticleer* Editors

Happy New Year!

We give away the entire collection plate on Christmas Eve. We are happy to tell you that we collected \$2,303.50 for Interchange Food Pantry and \$2,183.50 for MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary.

This month, we wrap up the Forge Our Future campaign. Please say "Yes!" to a request for a visit. We are making great progress toward our \$3 million goal to establish an endowment.

Learn about Rev. Jennifer's upcoming sabbatical. Get all the details at an information session this month. And we're excited to announce the Sabbatical Pulpit Guests who will grace our Sanctuary while Rev. Jennifer takes a well-deserved sabbatical. (pages 9-10)

Finally we're happy to welcome two new staff members who fill positions that were vacated in 2022: RE Assistant Quinn and Facilities Manager Ken. See page 14.

## Share the Plate

by Bob Monahan

**Alma Center** works to heal, transform, and evolve the unresolved pain of trauma that fuels the continuation of cycles of violence, abuse, and dysfunction in families and community.

Their vision is that healing-focused care becomes a leading approach for re-imagining the criminal justice system, particularly regarding intervention and prevention of family violence and moves the system toward more restorative and effective models.

To create true safety for victims and children in violent families, and to break the cycle of violence, the abuser must change. Alma Center works primarily with men at-risk or involved in the criminal justice system, focusing on men who have a history of domestic violence.

Since 2004 more than 5,000 men have participated in the agency's pioneering healing-focused approach, impacting the lives of more than 10,000 children. Alma Center's community-based programming helps adult males with violent histories become caring fathers, partners, husbands, and community advocates. A recent outcome study found that completion of AC's core program, Men Ending Violence, is associated with an 86% decrease in repeat domestic violence offenses.

Visit their website at <https://almacenter.org> to learn more about their programs and ways in which you can support them. Contribute securely online at the link below or mail your check to First Church made payable to Alma Center. We'll forward your contribution to Alma Center.

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)

## Hear From Our Members, Dale Skaggs & Lynda Lambert

“Before Lynda and I joined First Church we had spent the better part of thirty years moving every few years in pursuit of career goals. We have wonderful memories, and beloved friends from all the places we lived but still, something was missing.

In the first two years after we joined the church we experienced deep loss in the deaths of Lynda’s mother and one of my brothers ...and we found great joy in the birth of our grandson. Our new friends in First Church carried us in our grief and unabashedly shared in our joy at becoming grandparents. Their actions, more than any words could have done, offered us the greeting we had longed for without even knowing it, those words we hear in the place where we truly belong, “Welcome Home!”

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.”

## Happy New Year! Member Visits Continue

by Mark Chambers &  
Holly Patzer  
Forge Our Future Team

As we enter the new year, we are full of joy and gratitude for the generous spirit of our First Church community.

The Forge Our Future team of volunteers continue on the path of visiting every household. 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 have been very rewarding for everyone and we sincerely look forward to visiting with you.

Schedule a Forge Our Future visit at [this link](#).

For more information, see this [web page](#).





# Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

In this new year, what does it look like to find our center? As the world seems to spin faster and faster, it feels easy to lose balance, for our center to get knocked off or slowly slip away until we are topsy turvy. Keeping our balance takes practice, especially when the world moves under our feet.

Our spiritual practice for balance needs to be able to manage movement and change—we must be able to bend and curve, wobble and weave with time and circumstance. We also need to know where our center is, and to focus on it as we, and the world, move. Where is your center? Where are you keeping your attention, your values, and your priorities as things shift and change?

At First Church this spring, we have a chance to practice holding our center together in the midst of change. During my five-month sabbatical, from February 19 – July 19, you will have the opportunity to hold the community's center together, as the values, love, and practice of community stays with the people. A Senior Minister sabbatical is a healthy practice for healthy community, as the people hold themselves and each other, and maintain

balance, leadership, and health in change. Plus, you'll get to experience some of the leading thinkers (and doers!) in Unitarian Universalism as pulpit guests—see the Sabbatical Pulpit Guest article for details.

With love,  
Jennifer  
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

## All in the Family

*Life is hard sometimes. We experience sickness, job loss, broken hearts, and broken bodies. We want to support you through those difficult times.*

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Bob Waite** whose sister died in November.

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Russ Drewry** whose mother died in November.

# Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



Our theme for January, Finding Our Center, makes me think of dance. Dance was the best teacher for me in learning how to find my center. And the most important thing I learned about the center in my body which is dancing is that my center is constantly shifting within my movements and my stillness. My center is the space, the core, that enables my dance.

t.s. eliot wrote,

**At the still point of the turning world. Neither flesh nor fleshless;**

**Neither from nor towards; at the still point, there the dance is,**

**But neither arrest nor movement. And do not call it fixity,**

**Where past and future are gathered. Neither movement from nor towards,**

**Neither ascent nor decline. Except for the point, the still point,**

**There would be no dance, and there is only the dance.**

Ask any dancer about the difference between holding still and being still. They will say holding still means no movement, like holding your breath. Being still is full of breath and infinitesimal movements that keep the body (and soul) centered. My wish for you this new year is that you find the still point from which your life, your motion radiates. My wish for you is that stillness and rest find you. My wish for you is that your center moves with you and that you find returning to it an endless joy.

I will be away from church and email January 2 – 29 on winter study leave and vacation. It's earlier than usual this year to accommodate Jennifer's sabbatical in February. She and I will have plenty of overlap upon my return to finish our preparations and pass the baton. Be well in your center, First Church, be well in the new year.

Yours,

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister



# Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Finding your center is our theme this first month of the 2023 new year. I am a potter, so my first association with that metaphor is pottery. When you sit down to make something on the potter's wheel, you begin by finding your center. To do this, one must focus energy through their hands to push the clay into balance on the pottery wheel, if it wobbles, you're not there yet. Centering the clay allows you to begin to shape the clay. After centering the clay, one can open the clay and then pull it into an intention. Centering is often a hurdle for beginner potters, especially since the clay often needs to be kept centered or righted to the center throughout the process of creating a form.

I have been making pots for a long time now, and centering is no longer a hurdle, but still sometimes a challenge. If the clay is too hard or soft, or if I am off balance, chances are centering the clay will be too. Experience has taught me to recognize the conditions needed to find the center.

It's an apt metaphor for tending to our lives, our souls. As we change, the center moves and finding balance requires our energy and focus if we want to live with intention. Experience can teach us how to find the people and places that help "right" us when we wobble.

First Church and religious education is focused on offering our children, youth, and families a place to experience people sharing community, knowledge, and spiritual practices in order to rediscover how to find what is most important. The hope is empowering each of us with tools to find a focus and intentions that center ourselves, our family, and our community, we can and will ultimately shape our world.

Each piece of clay has the potential to become a vessel of our intentions and is a new beginning that requires centering. On this new year may we know there is hope in beginning again. May we feel all the exhilaration in starting anew and in the challenge of finding our centers, the ones that hold and guide us forward in our endeavors with intention.

Happy New Year Blessings in 2023!

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Minister of Religious Education



# SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

1

## **First, We Let Go 10:00 a.m. only**

**Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Patrick Mulvey, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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## **How Do You Find Your Center?**

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Ryan Pawlowski, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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## **Widening the Circle, Centering the Margins**

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Patrick Mulvey, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

22

## **Returning to Center Together**

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Gul Afshan, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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## **Waiting for Jesus and Superman**

**Beth Monhollen, Pulpit Guest**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Bizzy Schultz, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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



## **Pulpit Guest January 29 ♦ Beth Monhollen**

Beth Monhollen has been a member of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee since 2013. It was through her engagement here that she began to discern a call to ministry that would allow her to use skills gained as a writer, actor and educator for the spiritual development of others. She enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Meadville Lombard Theological School in the fall of 2020 and will graduate in May 2023, at which point she will be officially welcomed into Preliminary Fellowship. She is currently serving as the ministerial intern at WellSprings UU in Chester County, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Beth's grounds her theology on experiencing the divine through our interconnections and interdependence with one another and in fostering mutuality in all our relationships.

## **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/](https://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/). For questions, email [lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee)



# Sabbatical Pulpit Guests

MARCH  
26

Rev. Halliday-Quan  
Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church of Rochester

APRIL  
2

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt  
Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

APRIL  
23

Marisa Riepenhoff & Matt Meyer  
Member & Musical Guest

APRIL  
30

Rev. Ashley Horan  
Organizing Strategy Director for the UUA

MAY

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti  
Senior Minister, First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI

MAY

Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave  
Fox Valley UU Fellowship in Appleton, WI

JUNE

Rev. Tony Larsen  
Unitarian Church North in Mequon, WI

Join us on Sundays at 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. at church or online on YouTube. More information on these guests is on page 10.

## All the Exciting Sabbatical Pulpit Guests!

by Eric Heilig

### Sabbatical Committee Chair

During Rev. Jennifer's February – July sabbatical, we have an exciting line-up of pulpit guests offering new perspectives and wisdom from leaders in Unitarian Universalist thought and action.

March 26, our first pulpit guest, Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan, joins us. Rev. Halliday-Quan is the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, where she has been leading creative collaboration between the two Rochester UU congregations and the Black Lives Matter movement. Rev. Halliday-Quan is also a leading thinker in preparing our congregations to face a climate-changed future.

April 2, we will be blessed by a visit from Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Presidential Search Committee's candidate for President of the UUA. Rev. Dr. Betancourt's priorities are communal care, collaborative leadership, and facing the unknown together. In 2017, she served as Interim Co-President of the Unitarian Universalist Association alongside the Rev. Bill Sinkford and Dr. Leon Spencer.

April 23, our own Marisa Riepenhoff will be joined by Matt Meyer to lead an Earth Day service. Matt is a musician, worship leader, and lifelong Unitarian Universalist who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand

drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston, and has performed with Ysaye Barnwell (of Sweet Honey in the Rock), Pete Seeger, Emma's Revolution, and Peter Mayer, among others. First Church Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer will be working with Matt to develop a music workshop at First Church the weekend Matt is here.

Rev. Ashley Horan, the Organizing Strategy Director for the UUA, will visit us on April 30 from Minneapolis. At the UUA, Rev. Horan leads the team of all outward facing justice ministries under the banner "Side With Love," which includes UU the Vote, Create Climate Justice, Love Resists, and UPLIFT – LGBTQ, Gender, & Reproductive Justice Ministries.

In May we will meet Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti who serves as Senior Minister of the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI. He has served extensively in UU leadership as a member of the UUA Board of Trustees and as President of DRUUMM (our organization for UU people of color), and has published a number of Unitarian Universalist books, including *Conversations with the Sacred: A Collection of Prayers* (2020) and the 2018-2019 UUA common read, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*, which he co-edited with Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom.

***Sabbatical Guests continued on page 11...***

## All Will Be Revealed!

by Eric Heilig

Sabbatical Committee Chair

### Sabbatical Information Meeting January 22

Attend an in-depth, multi-mode meeting on January 22 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in Max Otto Hall to hear all the crucial details and have all your questions answered about the exciting five months of Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom's upcoming sabbatical. It will be an exciting and important period for our members and for Rev. Jennifer.

Rev. Jennifer and members of the FUSM Sabbatical Committee will be on hand to present information and to answer your questions on all aspects of this very special period.

- What are Rev. Jennifer's plans for her sabbatical?
- The lineup of rock star pulpit guests hand-picked by Rev. Jennifer.
- The role and responsibilities of Assistant Sabbatical Minister Jim Foti.
- Details about adjustments in staffing responsibilities to accommodate Rev. Jennifer's absence.
- The right people to talk to about anything.
- All the important nitty-gritty stuff you need to know to make you comfortable.

If you can't make it to the meeting in church at 12:30 p.m., you are welcome to learn more at the info table during coffee hour at 10:00 a.m. or Zoom-in to the 12:30 p.m. meeting. To join online enter your email at on this form:

<https://form.jotform.com/223484947930971>.

Coffee and tea will be served at the meeting, and childcare will be available.

### *Sabbatical Guests continued from page 10.*

Also in May, Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave will join us from the Fox Valley UU Fellowship in Appleton, WI where she serves as Assistant Minister. Rev. Hannah is at the forefront of queering theology, activism, and preaching.

Then in June, Rev. Tony Larsen will join us from Unitarian Church North in Mequon. Rev. Larsen served as minister of Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine, Wisconsin for more than 42 years.

## OWL Grade K-6 Training in 2023

By Deb Solis

Youth Program Coordinator

OWL training for Elementary (Grade K-6) happens January 20-22, 2023 right here at First Church. Once you become trained to teach OWL you are trained for life and you do not need to assume your teaching commitment right away. Parents are never asked to teach when their child is in the OWL classroom.

The success of our OWL program depends on the qualified and caring persons 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 developmental needs?
- Able to build respectful relationships and good rapport with participants?

If you are at least 25 years old and willing to make a three-year commitment to this life changing program we offer at First Church, please apply today. 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, 2023.

Please direct any questions to Deb Solis, Youth and OWL Program Coordinator at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org)

## Keep RE Going and Growing in 2023!

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.



The cast from our 2022  
Holiday Pageant on December 18.

## Confronting the Challenges of Plastic

by Barbara Leigh

Co-chair Earth Justice Ministry

First Church Environmental Justice Ministry is a coalition member of Plastic-Free MKE. We invite you to join us in 2023 as we empower ourselves to make a difference! Here's a brief report of what we/they have been up to in 2022:

- H2O Refill program managed to prevent 2,320 single-use water bottles from being used and discarded at a total of 25 community events.
- Volunteers clocked 260 hours.
- Five webinars increased the public's overall awareness and sense of community.
- Sherman Park is our first official Lake Friendly Neighborhood.
- Lake Friendly Businesses have also continued to do their part in reducing single-use plastics all across Milwaukee.
- Green Schools Consortium of Milwaukee hosted the first ever Lake Friendly Conference this year.

EJM will be hosting an informational Plastic-Free MKE presentation at Sunday Forum in 2023. Meanwhile, for more information go to: <https://www.plasticfreemke.org>

## Donations Needed January 28 for Cathedral Center

by Andrew Sinko

Volunteers are needed to donate money for a dinner at Cathedral Center on Saturday, January 28. We are in need of 20 volunteers to donate \$31 each to serve Chipotle dinner to 50 residents. Please contact Andy Sinko at [andrew.sinko@yahoo.com](mailto:andrew.sinko@yahoo.com) or (802) 999-4473 to pledge a donation. Donations should be received ASAP and won't be accepted after January 25.

Payment can be made via paypal to the following email address: [Andrew.sinko@yahoo.com](mailto:Andrew.sinko@yahoo.com) Venmo to the following address: @Andrew-Sinko or checks can be made out to Andrew Sinko and mailed to 8421 W. North Ave. Wauwatosa, WI 53226. Thank you in advance.

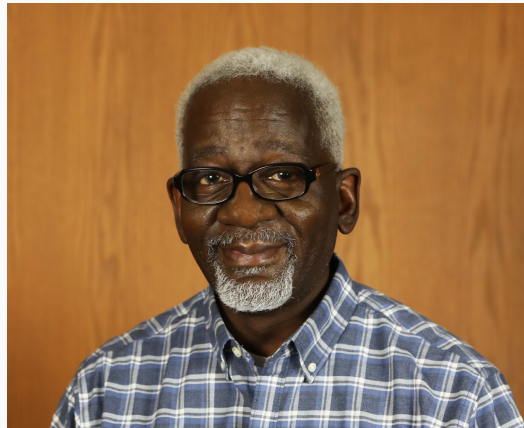
## Welcome the New Religious Education Assistant



Our new Religious Education Assistant is Quinn Brakob. Quinn is originally from Minnesota. They have a background in theology, library science, and identify as Unitarian Universalist, a wonderful fit for First Church. Quinn also uses they/them pronouns. Quinn will be training with us over the next month to build up their skills as our new RE Assistant.

Please be sure to introduce yourself and give Quinn a warm First Church welcome!

## Meet Ken Liddell, Facilities Manager



As the part-time Facilities Manager, Ken's responsibilities include managing maintenance repairs and cleaning for all areas of the building including electrical, plumbing and heating/air conditioning systems. Ken supervises the facility assistant and contracts for custodial and maintenance as needed. Keeping our building clean, safe, and in good operating condition is a priority.

Ken brings decades of experience as facilities manager through ServiceMaster's Account Management Department in Downers Grove, Illinois. Ken facilitated management services in healthcare, education and industrial companies in the department of housekeeping, food services, maintenance, plant operations and transportation. Ken didn't care for full-time retirement. He is happy to get back into facilities work and working with people. For 40 plus years he serves as Minister of Music for Holy Cathedral Church. What a great fit for First Church!

Ken fills the position formerly held by Tom Schroeder who passed away last summer.

## Splinters from the Board, November

by Rollie Hanson

Board of Trustees Member

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its monthly meeting on November 22, 2022 via Zoom with Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom. The Board approved the October minutes unanimously. Dave Becker also joined the meeting to review and inform the Board of the history of financial policies and recommendations regarding bequests to First Church.

The Board reviewed compliance with Ends 4.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting and 4.5 Financial Condition. Discussion included review of the 1st Quarter 2022-23 Fiscal Report and the new fraudulent check procedures. The Board unanimously found compliance with Ends 4.4 & 4.5.

The Board reviewed Ends 4.1 and 4.1.5 regarding relationships with congregants; discussion included safety policies, emergency evacuation, Board Grievance procedures and the Board covenant with staff. Board members unanimously found compliance with 4.1 and 4.1.5.

Rev. Jennifer presented the Senior Minister Report which included the hiring of a new part-time Facility Manager and an update on the Forge Our Future fundraising campaign. She also informed the Board of a request for an internship as a minister at First Church. The Board unanimously accepted the staff change request for the new part-time employee.

Other discussions included new procedures for the Board minutes and the Board skills matrix and further Anti Racism/Widening the Circle for Board members.

## Splinters from the Board, December

by Sarah Richards

Board of Trustees Member

The Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on December 13, 2022 via Zoom videoconference with Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom and Director of Administration Jean Johnson, in attendance.

The Board is forming a Forge Our Future (FOF) Endowment Fund Policy Task Force of 5-7 individuals, with members who've made a pledge to the campaign and have expertise in finance, investments, endowments, strategic thinking, and communications. The Task Force will be responsible for setting up a separate endowment fund account in which the principle is protected. The Task Force will also create the rules by which the profits of the fund support the operating budget. The Task Force will report to the Board and be supported by outside expertise and counsel. The Board will vote on the final constitution of, and charge for, the Task Force at their January meeting. As the church receives Forge Our Future donations, they will be deposited and held in a restricted investment account until the Endowment Fund is established, at which time the monies will be transferred into the Endowment. The Finance Team will use this process on an ongoing basis to receive, track, and move donations into the Endowment Fund.

**Splinters from the Board continued on page 15...**

## We Want to Hear from You on This Year's Congregational Survey!

by Ben LeFort

Board of Trustees President

The time is here! The Board of Trustees' annual congregational survey is open for your feedback on First Church programming, activities, and progress towards meeting our Ends. This is a key opportunity for you to share your thoughts and experiences and provide input on what's most important to you. You can fill out the survey online at <https://uumilwaukee.org/survey>, or if you'd like a paper copy, please email [benedictlefort@gmail.com](mailto:benedictlefort@gmail.com). The deadline for responses is Sunday, February 12. We hope to hear from everyone!

***Splinters from the Board continued on page 14.***

Compliance with Monitoring Policy 4.6 concerning Asset Protection was reviewed and based on the evidence presented, the Board unanimously found sufficient compliance.

From the Senior Minister's Report, Rev. Jennifer highlighted high attendance at recent worship services. In addition, the Board discussed identifying a new Treasurer and adjustments to the Senior Minister Review process. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 24.

## Conflict Is Human, Resolving It Is Spiritual Practice

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom,  
Senior Minister

Transparent communication is at the heart of good relationships. In First Church, we promote open, direct and honest communications and positive efforts towards resolution.

For handling complaints, conflicts, or concerns, whenever possible members should first express their concerns to the other individuals involved and attempt to settle differences among themselves.

If this does not resolve the problem, then the member should move through the First Church member conflict and complaint resolution procedure, which you can find on our First Church website, in member resources and procedures, here:

<https://uumilwaukee.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Member-Conflict-Complaint-Procedure.pdf>.

First Church will annually publicize this procedure, approved by the Board of Trustees in October of 2021, so members know what it is and where to access it.



### Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, January 4 & 18, 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, January 8, 1:30 pm

At Church or [Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us as we discuss December's read, *Parable of the Sower & The Parable of the Talents* by Octavia Butler. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at [uubarbra@gmail.com](mailto:uubarbra@gmail.com).

### 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.

### Chronologically Gift Potluck

Sunday, January 29, 12:30 pm

At Church

Contact Pat McFarland or Barbara Collignon for more information.

### Grief Support Group

Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30 pm

[Join Us Online Here](#)

If you are experiencing loss, broadly defined, and would like the support of a small group, please join us. Open, drop-in, monthly group co-facilitated by Rev. Dena McPhetres and Pastoral Care Associate Deborah Conta.

### 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.



# Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**JANUARY 8**

## Political Polarization & the Threat to Democracy

**Dennis Conta, President of Dennis Conta and Associates**

Dennis will talk about the causes and sources of political polarization, the impact of digital platforms, and the influence of race, gender, education, geography and religion. He'll also address key U.S. Supreme Court decisions, gerrymandering and growing power of the State legislature, as well as threats to democracy and mitigating strategies.

**JANUARY 15**

## Public Schools Unite Us

**Heather DuBois Bourenane, Executive Director**

**Wisconsin Public Education Network**

All of Wisconsin's students deserve the freedom to learn in safe and thriving public schools. What's standing in their way? What do they need most? Join us to learn more about the many challenges facing our children and what you can do to come together to support them.



**JANUARY 22**

## America's Black Holocaust Museum

ABHM's facility, located in Milwaukee, is the only memorial and museum that interprets the African American experience in the United States as an ongoing holocaust (series of mass atrocities) from the time of captivity in Africa to the present day. The museum examines the tragic legacies of slavery and promotes racial repair, reconciliation, and healing through developing awareness and empathy.

**JANUARY 29**

## 2023 in Milwaukee: What to Expect

**Cavalier Johnson, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee**

In April, Calavier Johnson will start his second year as the elected forty-fifth chief executive of the City of Milwaukee. He will discuss his current initiatives along with an overview of the state of our city. He will also entertain comments and questions on what is likely to be an eventful year in our local government.



# Staff Directory

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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  
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## How to Reach Us

**414.273.5257**

first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org

1342 N. Astor St. Milwaukee, WI 53202



uumilwaukee.org

## Follow Us



## Church Building Hours

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 scheduled 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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