

MARCH 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 of*

## Vulnerability

# Forge our Future Victory!

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom  
Senior Minister

On Sunday, February 5, with great fanfare First Church announced that we raised \$2,724,303 for our First Church endowment!

To join us in a celebration of this fantastic result were a cow, a lobster, a giraffe, a butterfly, a monkey, Eeyore, and a family of blue green monsters.

While we protect the principle of this endowment, its earnings will fund ministry in our annual operating budget for generations to come. The Board-appointed Endowment Task Force is working now to determine the rules for the endowment.

Our endowment goal of \$3,000,000 was ambitious, and we are absolutely thrilled with how far we've come. While the public portion of the campaign is winding down, pledges are still coming in (yes, please send yours!) and visits will continue happening with new members, and people who were unable to schedule their visit during the public campaign.

**Find more articles about the endowment fund in this issue:**

Update from the Endowment Fund Task Force (page 9)

An Exciting Forge Our Future Announcement from the Board (page 11)

## Share the Plate by Bob Monahan

Pathfinders is one of Wisconsin's oldest and most effective nonprofit organizations serving youth in crisis and is our March partner.

Low-barrier, innovative services support youth in finding safety, hope, and healing. Pathfinders serves about 7,000 youth each year. Nearly 1,000 of these youth access intensive services. More than 25% utilize two or more programs. Pathfinders remains deeply committed to ensuring that all youth are safe, healthy, independent, successful, and valued.

Pathfinder's approach improves likelihood of successful outcomes.

- Positive Youth Development – youth are partners and decision-makers in the services received.
- Trauma-Informed Care - individualized therapeutic approaches enable youth to engage more working towards self-identified goals.
- Housing First Model – securing safe housing for young people in crisis ASAP is essential to long-term success.
- Evidence-Based Frameworks – staff trained on nationally-certified, best-practice models to work.
- Youth-Led Programming – youth have the most important say in services provided and how the agency is run, with opportunities for leadership development.
- Harm Reduction – spectrum of services and strategies that support youth's safety and reinforce positive changes, while maintaining individual dignity and autonomy.

Learn more about Pathfinders at  
<https://www.pathfindersmke.org>

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)

# Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



When we are acting competent, we may look calm and capable on the surface, while underneath we are paddling frantically to keep moving forward in the right direction. (Thanks to Sarah Richards for this image of a duck swimming in the water—useful metaphor for teachers and other humans in leadership roles!) For those of us in leadership roles at First Church or elsewhere, we may appear unflappable on the surface while underneath we may at times feel uncertain, anxious, wishing we had the courage to ask for help. Yet spiritual community is precisely the place where we can risk showing our uncertainty, in essence—practice being vulnerable in a place of trust.

It doesn't happen in a flash. We work up to it incrementally. We practice saying "I don't know. Let's find someone who does." Or "Can you help me get onto Zoom?" Or "Where are the all-gender restrooms?" Or "How do I make this hearing assist device work properly?" Or "Please don't hug me, I have fragrance sensitivities." Or "I'm exhausted from caregiving my spouse who has dementia, can you come over and give me an hour of respite?"

If we have small experiences of showing our vulnerable side that are met with understanding and compassion, we build our capacity to risk bigger experiences of tender connection. Every human has a vulnerable side, and everyone has their own process of discovering the conditions they need in order to show it.

After 25 years of officiating memorial services and funerals, I know that at some point in the ceremony, my eyes will fill with tears and my voice will get choked up – especially if I knew the deceased. But tearing up so much that I can't speak is an experience of public vulnerability that feels so raw it borders on not being OK. At least in my judgment. But not in yours. The most recent time this happened to me, after the service people thanked me for crying because it showed that I cared. That I loved. That I was with you and not removed.

Dear Ones, I am with you, and I know that you are with me. I wish that experience for everyone.

Yours,

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister



# Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



For many years I would sit in the back church, listen, meditate, sing. Then moved by the words and music, leave without speaking to anyone. What was I practicing? I was taking time for my soul's undefined yearnings and being with others seeking the sacred. I found solace and some joy, and certainly a kind of spiritual band aid on the week.

I did not imagine that the church could offer me more, or that I could offer the church more.

At that time, it felt deeply vulnerable just to be there. To pause and recognize I needed to be with people who embraced the diverse scope of humanity and struggled to recenter themselves around love in a complex world. I wonder now, what was holding me back? What keeps us at a distance from the people we worship with? Why is it hard to risk being known?

Science has confirmed that our relationships keep us happier and healthier throughout our life spans. Yet, we are in an epidemic of loneliness in a world struggling with polarization. Learning to practice nurturing our relationships, expand how we know one another is what church is for.

Last month in the Youth Room, we witnessed one of the bravest acts I have ever seen at church. One of our youths working with me and planning

with his supportive parent, asked to do a presentation on his autism. He got up in front of his peers and named who he is, how he moves through the world, his preferences, needs and best practices of communication. It was a bold and courageous act. It clearly communicated something that is too often hard to name, "I want you to know me, and in return I want to know you."

Magic happened, you could feel the room break open, this youth's vulnerability allowed everyone else to be open and vulnerable. There is a collective power in sharing one's vulnerability, it gives permission to be human. And just like that, the world got a little safer and kinder.

Instead of feeling that we needed to perform being human, we were able to just practice being human.

Wherever you are on your journey, I invite you to stretch yourself, be vulnerable and brave, nurture a relationship with yourself and others. Risk being fully known. It's good for your mind, body, and spirit and it truly makes the world a better place.

May it be so,  
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Minister of Religious Education



# SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

**5**

## **Hold Space for Vulnerability**

**Annual Youth Service**

**Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

[Click for info about this service](#)

**12**

## **Asking For a Friend**

**Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Bizzy Schultz, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

**19**

## **Putting Yourself Out There**

**Rev. Jim Foti, Assistant Sabbatical Minister**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director  
with the Chancel Choir

Erik Alexander, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

**26**

## **Stuck in the Middle with You**

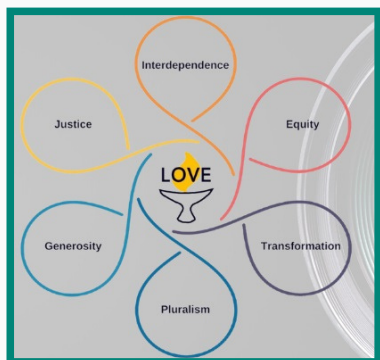
**Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Dave Umhoefer, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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



## Youth Service ♦ March 5

Change is uncomfortable and hard; it makes us feel vulnerable. Yet, Brené Brown tells us “Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity.” Last month, Rev. Jennifer spoke about our living tradition turning more towards love, and our opportunity to embrace upcoming changes in our stated core UU theological values. Join our Youth as they “try on” the new stated UU theological values in a service that explores the Article II proposed changes.



## Pulpit Guest ♦ Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan

Our first Sabbatical pulpit guest comes on March 26, when Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan will join us. Rev. Shari describes their growing up as being “loved into being” by a large extended family in Los Angeles made up of white folks, Chinese immigrants, Latinx and multiracial cousins. Rev. Shari leads the First Unitarian Society of Rochester, NY, as Senior Minister, and has been heading up collaboration between the two Rochester UU congregations and the Black Lives Matter movement. They’re also a leading thinker in preparing our congregations to face a climate-changed future.



## Journey to Membership Class

**Spring Membership Classes on Zoom at First Church**

**4 Wednesdays, April 5 – 26, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. In-person**

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.org](mailto:lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org).

## Renewing Religious Education

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

When children, youth, and families come to First Church, what do we want them to experience?

In 2018-19, I clearly recall listening to First Church members share their answers to this question at a series of RE workshops exploring options and opportunities for the future of religious education. Fortuitously, I was at those workshops while serving as the intern minister at UUCW. First Church said we want children and youth to experience: a welcoming, loving, accepting community; the joy of being together in the sanctuary; authentic learning about minds, hearts, and bodies; a place to bring their concerns about the world; and a faith community to join them in serving the greater good. The shared ideas about how this might happen were bold and imaginative. This answer made my heart swell with hope, and it made me want to be with you on this journey.

When I was hired as your Director (now Minister) of Religious Education, I understood that this congregation was preparing to shift RE and was excited about future innovations that would better allow us to meet the needs of our families. Past programs were largely modeled after school structures, with classrooms divided by age and topic, led by trained teachers who bestowed knowledge by utilizing a lesson plan, dependent on regular volunteers and attendance. Throughout the history of progress in religious education,

innovations have helped us incorporate more child and youth friendly practices. However, the frame has remained the same. Many of the structures that religious education has historically depended on are now outdated and do not reflect what we know to be true about our families' needs, schedules, and best practices for faith formation. If you would like to understand more about why the former RE model is outdated and not working, I invite you to read the article "Death of a Sunday School" by Kim Sweeney.

When the pandemic arrived, religious education was thrust into a new model and innovations of necessity taught us how to stay connected. We returned in person with new tools and technologies, ones that expand our horizons in ways we did not imagine before our forced isolation.

**Now it is time to revisit what we know, move forward, and try something new for religious education.**

In my role, I am responsible for guiding and shaping a new model of faith formation for our children, youth, and families in collaboration with our staff and Children's Religious Education Team. Fortunately, we are not alone on this journey and many large UU churches have been creating new models, using a variety of options such as: multi-generational worship, makerspace, rotational workshops, and choice models. I am consulting with colleagues from these churches about their process to help inform us about how we should move forward. Our goal is to create a sustainable faith formation program, one that centers the needs

**Continued on page 8...**

## 4th–6th Grade OWL Begins

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

We are so pleased to bring OWL for 4th to 6th graders to First Church this Spring, led by our trained First Church volunteer facilitators. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is an age-appropriate sexual education faith-based curriculum.

In 10 one-hour workshops, OWL models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. It helps children in Grades 4-6 understand the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Participants explore values, communication and decision making, as well as physical health and development.

This class has a capacity of 12 children and will run on Sundays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on: March 12, 19, April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, as well as on Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Please check with Deb Solis at [deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org) for any changes in the schedule.



Riley Koenen received his Unitarian Universalist religious emblem “Love and Help” pin. He worked hard to deepen his understanding of our religion and church, recognizing the way the church’s values connect with scouting.

### Continued from page 7 "Renewing Religious Education "

of our children, youth, and families, utilizes our resources wisely and is formed around the unique experiences that First Church can offer.

We plan to launch a new model of religious education in the fall of 2023. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss RE, please reach out to me by email or phone. If you would like to be a part of the leadership team working on this process, I invite you to join our Children’s Religious Education Team monthly meetings.

I am enthusiastic and optimistic about what the future will bring! I know together we can reimagine what our faith can offer future generations.

## Mystery Friends Party

Adult and child friends along with a parent/guardian will all attend the Mystery Friends party to meet their pen pals. Connect with snacks and activities on Saturday, March 19 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 am.

If either Friend is not available for the party, parents can make a plan with their child’s friend to meet at a different time. (Adults and children shouldn’t meet outside of the church without the child’s parent/guardian present.)

## Sustaining Our Now

### WE ARE PEOPLE OF

WONDER

AUTHENTIC CONNECTION

JUSTICE

LOVE

**WONDER** Every Sunday our doors and our YouTube channel are open to all in need of comfort, awakening, and wonder.

**CONNECTION & JUSTICE** Every Youth Service we are impressed by the depth and compassion expressed by our young people who explore, from a very young age, their own sense of the spiritual and the ethical. Our adult members and friends continue this exploration via spiritual practice, reflection, and social justice groups – deepening connection within, among, and beyond.

**LOVE** Every year our Pastoral Care Team makes over 100 visits within on-going relationships between those in need and these trained volunteers. But this is just one aspect of care in our community. Intentional listening in small groups, meeting check-ins, members who reach out to one another; caring is part of the atmosphere of First Church and is intentionally supported in everything we do.

**SUSTAINING OUR NOW** Please help us sustain our programs by considering a 10% increase to your financial pledge to this community next year. Please know how grateful we are to have you as a part of this community. Deadline Sunday March 19.  
PLEDGE NOW!

Annual Pledge Form

## Ways to Pay

### Annual or Endowment Pledge

Find all the details on this [web page](#)

**Website Giving.** Make a contribution using your credit card or bank account on this [web page](#).

**Text Giving.** Send a text to 73256 with the message Give2UU.

**\*Check.** Mail your check to the church office or put it in the offertory plate, payable to: First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee or FUSM. Please indicate on the memo line: annual pledge or endowment pledge.

### MyFirstChurch (member portal).

Convenient to access via your MyFirstChurch account. One-time gift or recurring gift from checking account or credit card.

**\*Automatic Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** On a monthly basis (on the 15th of each month).

**Donations of Appreciated Stock or Mutual Funds.** Can offer significant tax advantages. Please follow procedures for donating appreciated stock to ensure a smooth transaction.

\* Best choice for large contributions, has low transaction fees.

Support Us

## Update from the Endowment Fund Task Force

by Dave Becker

Co-chair of the EFTF

In January the Board formed a Forge Our Future Endowment Fund Policy Task Force with the charge to draft and recommend policy documents to create an Endowment to hold the monies raised by the Forge Our Future campaign.

These policies will define the purpose of the endowment and how to protect the principal, separate the funds from other First Church investments, set guidelines for withdrawals, and identify an investment vehicle and fund manager.

Since January, the task force has met twice and begun researching various options and best practices for setting up Endowments by contacting numerous foundations, religious and social organizations, potential outside counsel, and experts in the field.

Members of the task force are: Dave Becker (co-chair), Elizabeth Lentini (co-chair), George Bledsoe, Tom Briscoe, Ron Oshima, and Kathy Rivera.

We are honored to be given this charge and expect to complete the task within the next six months. Please watch this space for updates throughout the process.



## It's Never Too Late to Support the Endowment Fund!

Goal: \$3,000,000

Dollars pledged as of

February 26: \$2,741,404



Pledge to this principal-protected endowment fund with the online pledge form.

[Endowment Pledge Form](#)

To learn more or schedule a visit, contact the team.

[Contact Us](#)

## Earth Justice Ministry

by Barbara Leigh

Co-chair Earth Justice Ministry

March Walk and Roll: During the pandemic, we began a monthly “Walk and Roll” in nearby parks to bring us together outdoors. Our next outing will be to the Milwaukee County Zoo, March 18. Watch the weekly e-announcements for details.

Plastic-Free MKE: EJM has joined the Plastic-Free MKE Coalition to reduce single-use plastic. Hear about this effort at the Sunday Forum March 5th. Leah Holloway, Program Manager, will present “Turning the Tide on Plastics.” Plastic is deeply embedded in our everyday lives, yet is extremely harmful to human and environmental health. We’ll learn about the ways this local movement is working to create systemic change, and discuss ways we can all be a part of the solution.

<https://www.plasticfreemke.org/>

One Earth Film Festival: We will show “Into the Ice” Monday evening, March 6. It is part of the Midwest’s premier environmental film festival, which runs March 3-12. Tickets are free. For information: <https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/>. Details forthcoming.

Join us: EJM will develop teams to address issues of interest to members. We’ll have more information at the Social Justice Table at Coffee Hour. If you have a special interest, please sign our info sheets and we’ll contact you.

## Interfaith Conference of MKE Lecture Series

“Democracy in Peril”

4 Tuesdays in March

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

REGISTER NOW at [interfaithconference.org](https://interfaithconference.org)

Vegetarian lunch optional. Online access available for all sessions.

March 7 - Professor Amber Wichowsky, Civic Dialogue: Best practices in democratic deliberation.

March 14 - Philip Chard, Inside the Political Mind: An exploration of new insights into why people embrace conspiracy theories, believe obvious lies, and trust like-minded information sources without scrutiny or fact-checking.

March 21 - James Santelle, Peril in the Supreme Court: The major cases challenging our republic.

March 28 - Lee Hawkins, Through the Ages: Weaponizing religion, for the good and bad, in the name of Democracy. Special correspondent for American Public Media, his forthcoming book is titled, Nobody’s Slave: How Uncovering My Family’s History Set Me Free.

## Common Ground March 26 Assembly Focus: Better Living Conditions in Milwaukee Public Housing

by Jerry Fredrickson  
Chair of Common Ground

Mark your calendar to attend Common Ground's Assembly on Sunday, March 26, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. at Mt. Mary University at 2900 Menomonee River Parkway.

Common Ground listened to more than 720 residents who live in properties overseen by the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM). We learned that a pervasive pattern of unacceptable living conditions exists across these properties. Consequently, leaders from 43 member institutions and residents of several HACM properties voted to launch a campaign to raise the quality-of-life standards in all HACM residences.

Willie Hines, Executive Director of HACM, and Mark Wagner, HACM's Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, have been invited to attend the March 26th Assembly to address the following urgent issues:

- Invest at least \$75 million to bring properties up to standards.
- Create a resident-centered management system.
- Hire a third party pest control company to inspect each property.
- Develop and implement a new public safety plan.

- Respect tenants' rights to assemble and organize.
- Fund a full-time ombudsman to conduct independent investigations of complaints.

First Church has committed to bring at least 30 members to the March 26 Assembly. Please sign up at the Social Justice table or look for online opportunities to join us as we work to improve living conditions for thousands of Milwaukee public housing residents.

## Why you shouldn't sleep through the April 4 Wis. Supreme Court Election

by Dave Umhoefer  
Defend Democracy Co-leader

The ideological balance of the state's highest court will be decided next month. This means the fate of issues such as reproductive rights, voting rights, fair elections, gay rights, gun safety, and health care are all on the ballot. Make your voice heard!

The April 4 election could determine the course of the state for many years, and even affect whether our presidential votes are fairly counted in 2024. If you vote absentee and need to renew your ballot request, please do so now. First Church's Defend Democracy team can inform you about the system for voter registration and early voting and connect you with efforts to help others register to vote. The website [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) is the official source for voting assistance. Contact me at [dave.umhoefer@gmail.com](mailto:dave.umhoefer@gmail.com) for more information.

## Want to Become a Worship Associate? Apply by March 31!

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom  
Senior Minister

Worship Associates (WA) help lead our Sunday worship services, collaborating with the ministers to reflect on meaning, purpose, and the life of the congregation. Worship Associates help develop Sunday themes for worship in monthly meetings with the Ministers and Music Directors. At these meetings, we explore monthly themes like “Finding Our Center,” and “Belonging,” and then identify topics for each of the Sunday services of the month.

Worship Associates work one on one with the ministers by selecting readings or telling a personal story related to the theme of the service. On Sunday morning, Worship Associates share their story from the pulpit. The program includes training for Worship Associates on story-telling, pulpit presence, and how to create the container for the shared experience of the worship service.

We are looking for church members who:

- are inspired by worship and want to contribute to the congregation’s depth of experience;
- want to engage in philosophical and theological reflection about meaning and purpose;
- have diverse identities, which this year particularly means young adults, newer members, and people of color;
- have poise and public speaking ability; and
- are deeply committed to the church and its values.

### WA SERVICE COMMITMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Please submit your application by March 31, 2023 through the website at:

<https://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/worship-associates/>. Worship Associates will begin

planning worship at the required Worship Associate meetings on:

- Sunday May 7, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., and
- Sunday, June 11, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Worship Associates will begin serving at Sunday worship services in September 2023.

## All in the Family

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Ken and Deb Solis** and family upon the death of Ken’s mother on February 8.

Our care and compassion are with **Amy Wilbourne** and family as they grieve the death of her mother on February 11.

We are very sorry to share the news that former member **Tim Greene** died on February 17, 2023 after a long journey with brain cancer. He was surrounded with love and care from his devoted spouse Michael, their family, friends, home hospice care, and the UU congregation where he lived in Arizona. Tim and Michael were members of First Church from 1997 – 2020. A Celebration of Tim’s life is being planned for August somewhere in Milwaukee. Condolence cards may be sent to Michael Karl, 670 W. Via Rosaldo, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Our deep condolences are with Michael, his family and community.

## An Exciting Forge Our Future Announcement from the Board

by Ben LeFort  
Congregation President

The First Church Board of Trustees has been thrilled to see the amazing work of the Forge Our Future campaign chairs, steering committee members and visitors. It has been a powerful process of reconnecting with each other and with what we all love about First Church. Our thanks go out to all of the volunteers and members who have been involved in visits!

In 2017, the First Church community received an incredible unrestricted bequest of \$850,000 from long-time member Lu Krug. In 2018, the Krug Gift Acceptance Team recommended that 20% of those funds, or \$170,000, be dedicated to “long term needs.”

After an analysis of the church’s current overall financial position and in alignment with the recommendations of the Krug Gift Acceptance Team, in January 2023 First Church’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$170,000 from the church’s unrestricted reserves to the Forge Our Future Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund is the perfect vehicle to fulfill past church leadership’s recommendation that these Krug bequest funds have a significant impact on our community for the long term.

We are supremely grateful for the generosity that our community has demonstrated through this campaign. Together, we are building a strong, vibrant future for First Church!

## Apply for Financial Assistance to GA 2023

by Bruce Wiggins  
Denominational Affairs Coordinator

You may apply for financial assistance from the church to help you attend General Assembly (GA) this year, June 21-25. You may attend either in person in Pittsburgh, PA or virtually from Milwaukee. Enough people have expressed interest in what promises to be a good conference that we are taking applications for financial assistance. Assistance is also available through the UUA: registration information is here:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>. Financial support information is here:

<https://vimeo.com/790907595>

We are able to pay some expenses for our 13 delegates. As in years past, there will be priorities for funding. Persons will receive a portion of their registration and possibly a small portion of expenses (depending on the number of applications received) in the following priority order: (1) youth active in our youth group. (2) BIPOC church members (3) Young adult church members (under age 40) (4) adults not in the preceding categories. In each category, first-time attendees will receive preference.

This year, two extremely important matters will be decided by GA delegates: election of our UUA President and debate plus a vote on the principles and purposes of our Association.

Contact Bruce Wiggins for an application form and further information



### Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, March 1 & 15, 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, March 12, 1:30 pm  
At Church or [Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us as we discuss March's read, *The Color of water. A Black man's tribute to his white mother*, by James McBride. 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, March 26, 12:30 pm  
At Church

Contact Pat McFarland or Barbara Collignon for more information.

### Grief Support Group

Wednesday, March 1 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



**MARCH 5**

## Turning the Tide on Plastics

**Leah Holloway, Program Manager, Milwaukee Riverkeepers.**

Plastic is deeply embedded in our everyday lives, yet it can be extremely harmful to human and environmental health. We'll dive into the problem with plastics, come to understand why this is such a hard problem to solve, learn about Plastic-Free MKE and the ways the movement is working to create systemic change in Milwaukee, and discuss ways we can all be a part of the solution.

**MARCH 12**

## Basic Needs: Insecurity of Today's College Student

**Liz Franczyk, Director, MATC FAST Fund.**

The Local 212 MATC Believe in Students FAST Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) students experiencing economic emergencies, in order to ensure their ability to remain enrolled and graduate. MATC is the state's only majority minority college with many who are economically disadvantaged.

Most are working and the majority are women, mainly single mothers. Even before the pandemic MATC reported that almost 20% of its students are housing insecure and more than 50% food insecure. Sixty-three percent qualify for low-income Pell Grants. Pell Grants once financed 100% of the cost of a two-year college, now cover less than 60%. FAST Fund aims to help fill that gap and cover emergency needs that would potentially derail a student's education.



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



# Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**MARCH 19**

## Milwaukee's Climate & Equity Plan Proposal

**Erick Shambarger,**

**Director of Environmental Sustainability for the City of Milwaukee.**

Erick Shambarger has led a City-County Task Force to develop a Climate and Equity Plan for Milwaukee. The Task Force has developed a series of recommendations to address climate change through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and, in so doing, address problems of equity through creation of good-paying "green jobs." Plan recommendations address energy production and consumption, transportation, energy conservation in buildings, job creation, housing, tree planting, land conservation, food waste reduction, and more. The City Plan Commission and Common Council are due to consider adoption of the plan next month."

**MARCH 26**

## Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Sharing Culture & Activist Needs

**Andrew ynnocencio, little turtle.**

Andrew ynnocencio little turtle is from the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin. He speaks about their culture and growing up on the powwow trail with their family. Life was very different for them in this assimilated society. He will talk about awareness of culture appropriation, being kind and compassionate to those who are different, and learning from each other. He is also a tech specialist in water and process technologies. He raises awareness for the missing murdered indigenous women (MMIW) movement and his people in general. He says "waewaenen ketaenen," thank you for inviting him to speak.



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

# Staff Directory

## SENIOR MINISTER

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

## ASSISTANT SABBATICAL MINISTER

The Rev. Jim Foti  
jim.foti@uumilwaukee.org

## 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

Quinn Brakob  
quinn.brakob@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

vacant

## 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

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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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