

JUNE 2023



THE CHANTICLEER

The First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.



This Issue:

Dena's Digressions	3
Kimberlee's Contemplations	4
Sunday Services	5
Children & Youth	7
Adult Spiritual Dev.	8
Forge our Future	10
Get Involved	11
Church News	12
Calendar of Events	14
Sunday Forum	15
Contact Us	16

Monthly Theme



*What does it mean
to be a people of*

Delight

Inside News

WELCOME SUMMER!

June 4 Flower Ceremony Sunday

Celebrate summer's arrival with your church community. Bring a fresh flower to share from your yard or roadside.

June 11 Summer Sunday Schedule Begins

One Sunday service only at 10:00 am (in-person and online) followed by social hour.

Summer RE: Faith Formation stations. Children start in the Worship Service. Details on page 7.

Summer Building Hours

Sundays: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Saturdays: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Monday through 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 or contacting a staff person.

Share the Plate

by Bob Monahan



The Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network (WUUSAN) will be our Share the Plate recipient for the summer months of June, July, and August.

WUUSAN brings together the collective energy and power of Wisconsin UU congregations and fellowships to build a statewide advocacy network. In partnership with many allies, we uphold the worth and dignity of every person, while acting to further justice, equity, and compassion.

Since formation in 2017, WUUSAN has opposed “for-profit” prisons in Wisconsin, advocated against gerrymandering by supporting the Fair Maps movement, supported the Climate Strike and Green New Deal, encouraged voter registration in partnership with Building Unity and UU the Vote, supported the Black Lives Matter movement.

Voter education and engagement along with Climate Justice will remain primary areas of focus. WUUSAN’s vision is to build space where Wisconsin UUs can discuss social justice issues, collaborate to influence public policies, and work to undo systemic injustices encountered in our communities across the state.

Your generous donation helps enable WUUSAN’s social media outreach, issues campaign work, and structural support that give life the shape of justice. Make a secure online contribution at the link below or mail your check to First Church made payable to WUUSAN. We’ll forward your contribution to them.

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



As someone who finds comfort, spiritual connection, and inspiration in nature, there is always delight to be found outdoors. But delight can be found in many places, people, things, activities, and reveries. This June, I'd like to share a taste of what Theme Circle members receive in their monthly packet from Soul Matters. This was written by Rev. Scott Tayler, who invites us to discover delight through a variety of questions. These are questions you can live with quietly and they are questions you can ask people you know.

Tayler writes, "One of the best ways to explore our monthly themes is to bring them into the conversations you have with those closest to you. It's a powerful way to deepen our conversations and our relationships. Below is a list of "delight questions" to help you on your way.

1. What age has been most full of delight for you?
2. What is the oddest thing you delight in?
3. What summer activity delighted you most as a child?
4. What word delights you when you say it?

5. Has delight ever helped you survive something difficult?
6. Have you faked delight in the past year?
7. Do you have a story you delight in telling to others over and over again? (Maybe that you tell so much that your family rolls their eyes when you begin telling it again.) What role do you think these frequently told tales play in our lives?
8. Who taught you the most about cultivating delight?"

I would be delighted to hear what you discover while you explore these delightful questions! Have a wonderful summer and see you at church.

Yours,
Rev. Dena McPhetres
Associate Minister



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Delight contains an element of spontaneity. Delight is like a surprise present that life offers just when you need a small dose of wonder and awe to get through life's daily demands. Though delight cannot be planned, and most likely resists scheduling, it may be essential to make space for delight to be recognized in our daily lives. Authentic delight is a blessing, a motivator, and an anchor to life's charms. It is an opportunity to fall in love with life again for a moment.

What delights you? Reflecting on these questions may take you to locations in your life where you experience delight. My mind dashes to thoughts of the spring woods for blossoming, finding phlox abound, or shared laughter with friends or watching children explore the world.

There are the locations where delight frequents, places and people we can seek out when we need delight. Notwithstanding these locations, can we find delight in harder locations? Finding delight in more mundane places in life might require utilizing the spiritual practices of intention and gratitude. What delights you about your routine or chores? What delights you about emails?

Each time I open my email and find that someone, one of you from this remarkable church has said "yes" to helping co-create our life-giving

faith community, I find delight, I feel a little over-the-moon. It immediately makes me smile and I sometimes even gasp, "Oh good," especially if it is an enthusiastic "YES!". It is so much more than another task completed; it is the joy that comes from being on a team of people sharing a common purpose.

Ushers, sound techs, livestream operators, choir members, musicians, worship associates, potluck bringers, event planners, committee members, all the RE volunteers and more. It takes a lot of "Yeses" to make First Church the welcoming and vibrant community that it is. Each of us serves each other our gifts, creating space for delight.

A few weeks ago, someone visited our church for the first time. I had the privilege of showing a new person around while I told them about many of the programs we run at church. "I feel like this cannot be real, this is something I dreamt about finding. You all are magic." Their delight was palpable, and I thought yes, this shared gift is a kind of magic.

Thank you all, for being co-creators and guardians of delight here at First Church. The world needs us, as we need each other. May we all continue to be blessings to one another.

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

4

Flower Ceremony: A Special Kind of Happiness

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director, with our Chancel Choir
Gul Afshan, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

11

Summer Services begin. 1 service at 10:00

What Jesus Said About Being Gay

Rev. Tony Larsen, Sabbatical Pulpit Guest

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Erik Alexander, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

18

It's Juneteenth!

A Multigenerational Service

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education

Rev. Jim Foti, Assistant Sabbatical Minister

[Click for info about this service](#)

25

When Delight Breaks Through

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Karen Beaumont, Guest Organist

Erik Alexander, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

Summer services begin June 11. One service at 10:00 a.m.



Flower Ceremony Sunday June 4

On Sunday, June 4, we will honor the 100th anniversary of the Unitarian Flower Ceremony, which began in the Unitarian congregation in Prague, Czechoslovakia in June 1923. Please bring a fresh flower from your yard, neighborhood or random roadside to contribute to our community bouquet. We will each receive a different flower to bring home! Our delight in the uniqueness of each flower and the beautiful bouquet of community is a special kind of happiness.



Pulpit Guest ♦ Rev. Tony Larsen

Summer Services Begin. Only one service at 10:00 a.m.

To help us celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month, Rev. Tony's sermon will explore biblical references to homosexuality. You may be surprised by how few there are, and what they may have meant in context.

Rev. Tony Larsen, Unitarian Church North in Mequon. Before his appointment as minister at Unitarian Church North, Rev. Larsen led the Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine, Wisconsin for over 42 years.

Renewing RE: Upcoming Changes in RE

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

You are invited to attend a parent, volunteer, and caregiver meeting with Rev. Kimberlee on June 11 at 11 a.m. in the Young Room about the upcoming changes in our religious education program structure this fall.

This RE shift will be from an age segregated, teacher-led, lesson-based format to a more intentional child-friendly time in the sanctuary, followed by an open space choice program with adult facilitation during worship services.

Additional faith formation programs, such as OWL will be scheduled sometimes separately and on Sunday mornings. It is our hope that the structural changes in religious education will make church a more accessible and child-friendly space that centers spiritual practice, social justice and relationship building. This new model of faith formation for our children, youth, and families has been a collaborative effort with Rev. Kimberlee, our RE staff, and the Children's Religious Education Team.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss RE, please reach out to Rev. Kimberlee by email or phone. Together, we can reimagine what our faith can offer future generations!

Faith Formation Stations Summer RE 2023

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

No preparation is needed to volunteer, and the gift of your time and energy makes it possible for our children and families to know they are welcomed and engaged at our church.

This summer, children 6-12 years old will be in the Faith Formation Station Room during 10:00 a.m. Sunday services if we have enough volunteers! We need responsible adults to ensure that all children are safe and cared for each Sunday.

Please consider helping out in our nursery, preschool, or Faith Formation Room this summer.

- All volunteers who work with our children will need to be vaccinated and willing to have a general background check to ensure the safety of our families.
- The time you commit to is flexible.
- Volunteering once this summer makes a big difference!
- If you are a new volunteer, the first step is filling out the [RE Volunteer form](#).
- Then please look at our online schedule and sign up for when you are available.

The RE program exists by virtue of the time and energy volunteered by First Church. We appreciate your dedication to our children and youth, and so do our families!

Diving Into the Wellspring

by Sarah Fowles

The Wellspring program is seeking new participants for the 2023-24 church year. An information session will be held on Sunday, June 18, at 11:00 a.m. in Max Otto Hall. A current participant writes about her First Church Wellspring experience:

“Last year, I considered leaving the church. What used to sustain me at church — the people! — wasn’t making up for the fact that my spiritual life felt barren. I feared I was not spiritually equipped to change my ways of living in this world.

Then I attended a summer service where I heard about the Wellspring program. Church members shared their experience of dipping into UU’s six sources of spirituality and wisdom. A long meditative song by Deva Primal was played. I was moved and I jumped in.

In the Wellspring program, we examine each source’s history, provocative questions, surprises, and meaning for our lives. We use the sources as a lens to explore the human experiences of joy, crisis, forgiveness, and death. The program reinvigorated my passion for our UU faith.” —Sarah Fowles

Won’t you dive in? To learn more about the Wellspring program, please attend the information session or contact Diane Horne at diane_horne@hotmail.com.



Spirit of Life this Summer

by Lynne Jacoby

Membership Development Coordinator

Explore the themes of the Carolyn McDade song we sing every Sunday.

The Spirit of Life series, based on the UUA curriculum, will deepen our individual understanding of wonder, ritual and intention. The sessions will include individual reflection time, intentional listening, and collaborative meaning making. Plus, they’ll be fun!

Come to any one of the sessions or mark your calendars for all three. [Register here](#) if you want an email reminder shortly before each date, but all three are drop-in, come if you can.

Wednesdays at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee on June 21, July 19 and August 16, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Consider Becoming a Theme Circle Facilitator!

by Rev. Dena McPhetres
Associate Minister

Do you enjoy our monthly worship themes? Are you called to the ministry of creating a trusting space for reflection and exploration in a small group of adults? Consider applying to become a Theme Circle Facilitator!

Theme Circle participants say that the spiritual exercises, readings, reflection and sharing have significantly affected their personal lives. They feel closer to each other and the congregation through exploring how a theme like Belonging, Attention, Integrity or Resilience resonates and brings meaning to their life.

Serving as a Facilitator for a monthly Theme Circle allows you to nurture the spiritual journey of your peers and help create deep connections among our church members and friends. You would also meet regularly for leadership support with Rev. Dena and the facilitator team.

Application deadline is July 15. Selected applicants may be interviewed by Rev. Dena by mid-August. The required online Facilitator training with the Soul Matters team happens in August or September. Theme Circles begin meeting the third week of October.

More information and application form here:
<https://uumilwaukee.org/theme-circle-facilitator/>.

BIPOC or members younger than 60 are especially encouraged to apply!

Questions? Contact Rev. Dena at:
dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org.

Silent Retreat 2024-Save the Date

by Sarah Fowles

Please save the date for April 26-28, 2024 for the next First Church Silent Retreat. A silent retreat is an opportunity to dig deeper into one's spiritual life, commune with nature, take stock, and simply to relax. The Silent Retreat welcomes those who are new to the experience as well as those who have previously attended silent retreats. More details on the First Church Silent Retreat will be provided in the coming months.

Endowment Fund Task Force (EFTF) Update

by Ron Oshima
EFTF Member

Here's what the EFTF has done since the prior Chanticleer update in May.

Objective of Endowment

The principal of the endowment fund will be protected. Any income of the endowment fund may be dispersed from time to time to meet the operating, strategic, and other financial needs of FUSM, as determined by the Board of Trustees.

Governance of the Endowment

Having decided to use a trust as a legal framework for governing the endowment, the EFTF has identified and engaged a qualified trust attorney, with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Looking ahead, the EFTF will develop the key points of the trust document with the help of this attorney, who has done similar work for other churches in the Milwaukee area.

Investment Management

The task force continues to develop its fact base around the investment advisory firms we have identified. Pricing, investment philosophy, asset allocation, and ESG/SRI (Environmental, Social, and Governance/Socially Responsible Investments) are some of the areas we're taking a deep dive into.

The goal of the team is to have a recommendation to the Board by the Fall of this year.

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

Goal: \$3,000,000

Dollars pledged as of

May 19: \$2,767,331

Fulfilled to date: 733,678



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](#)



Summer Connections at Beer Gardens

by Lynne Jacoby

Membership Development Coordinator

Join us this Summer for one of Milwaukee's simplest warm weather pleasures—Beer Garden Sundays. What a perfect way to hang with your First Church community. The Membership Team is looking forward to welcoming members, families, friends, visitors, friends of friends. All are welcome, even First Church puppies!

BYO Picnic (excluding alcohol) or plan to buy a beer and brat and look for the banner where we'll be waving in full greeting form at 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (but stay as long as your conversations are carrying you.)

Summer connection schedule for the Sunday evenings of:

- June 25, Estabrook Beer Garden at Estabrook Park
- July 9, The Vine at Humboldt Park
- August 13, South Shore Terrace at South Shore Park

Put these drop-in events on your calendar now, or [sign up here](#) if you would like an email reminder each Friday before. See you there!



BYO Church Picnic

June 4, 1:00-3:00 pm

Kern Park, Picnic Area 3

Join your First Church friends for a First Church picnic after church on Sunday, June 4. Everyone should bring their own lunch and drinks, we'll supply the fun!

See the map for information on the location and ample parking. There will be picnic tables, accessible bathrooms, and an indoor shelter. Playground and basketball court are nearby.

The park is located at 3614 N. Humboldt Blvd. Here is a link to the [Kern Park Map](#).

Blessed at Pridefest

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Come celebrate and bless the LGBTQAI+ community on June 2 and 3 at Pridefest on the Summerfest grounds! Join the Interfaith coalition of local congregations who return each year to spread love, joy and affirmation at the Blessed at Pridefest booth. This year the Blessed at Pridefest booth will feature a fun photo station, stickers, and a collaborative ribbon art blessing gate. More information on Pridefest on the website at <https://www.pridefest.com/>.

Volunteers will help by inviting people to add to the blessing gate, be blessed, offering a blessing menu and directing them to clergy volunteers. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Kimberlee or [signup here](#).

Splinters from the Board

by Amy Wilbourne

Board Member

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its monthly meeting on April 25, 2023. The previous month's minutes were approved unanimously.

Finance Team Chair Noreen Gilbertsen was in attendance to discuss the third quarter financial reports, along with Director of Administration Jean Johnson, with no current financial concerns.

Jean Johnson also presented the first draft of the 2023-24 budget and the Board discussed the draft with no substantive changes requested.

There was a discussion about the retention of a trust lawyer for the Endowment Fund Task Force, and the amount of funds needed to retain their services. The Board will vote on the approval of a recommended attorney in the coming weeks. The budget for the lawyer was approved unanimously.

We also had a vibrant discussion about a recent BOT anti-racism coaching session, and how the Board would like to move forward with anti-racism work. It was agreed that Board members Sarah Richards and George Bledsoe, also on the Anti-Racism Team, will begin to report highlights from their work to the BOT.

All in the Family

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Jeanne Dawson** whose brother died in April.

Our compassion and care are with **Mary Buchel** whose husband Larry died in April.

May the blessing of family, friends, and cherished memories bring you strength and healing.

In Memoriam

Larry Gale Salsbury

November 9, 1940 ~ April 14, 2023

Larry Salsbury died peacefully on the morning of Friday, April 14, 2023. Larry had multiple health conditions, suffered a stroke on Tuesday, April 11, and entered hospice care a few days later. His wife Mary Buchel was devoted to his care over the last several years and his sons were also able to be with him during his final days. Larry was 82 years old and had been a member of our congregation since 2009.

We lit the Candle of Life in memory of Larry during both worship services on Sunday, April 16, 2023. A Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 28, 2023, at Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 West North Avenue, Brookfield WI 53005, followed by a reception with light refreshments. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to:

The Alzheimer's Association
225 N. Michigan Ave., FL 17
Chicago, IL 60601

Where Are They Now? Updates from First Church- Sponsored Ministers

by Rev. Dena McPhetres
Associate Minister

We had a flurry of First Church members who went to seminary, were ordained, and entered active ministry in recent years. Here are some exciting updates!

Rev. Denise Cawley: Easter Sunday I was preaching about Bad Girls of the Bible and painting Mary Magdalene as one of the first women ministers, when to my delight, I looked up and saw First Church members in the sanctuary. I was so touched they came to service when they were visiting Palatine, IL where I serve as the Interim Minister at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist. I love Interim Ministry, and I am in the process of becoming a certified Interim. I continue to live in Milwaukee, and commute to Palatine. My son and I live with our fluffy dogs and my partner Rev. Matt Aspin. I am forever grateful to my grounding in UUism from you, my home church. I am cheering you on and excited by all the work you are doing.

Rev. Monica Kling-Garcia: My journey to ministry took me to Madison, WI as a hospital chaplain. After I was ordained in June 2021, I started my chaplain residency program at UnityPoint-Meriter Hospital, which turned into a permanent job as the Lead Staff Chaplain! The patients I serve are in Palliative Care or have a

life limiting diagnosis. As a chaplain, I provide a comforting presence and help patients identify sources of hope, strength, and connection. I meet patients where they are spiritually, and as a UU my lens for that is expansive! Sometimes support is hanging up a picture of Elvis, praying the rosary, reading Mary Oliver poetry, being a listening ear, or simply being present. Sometimes I have the privilege of journeying with people as they transition through death. No two days are ever the same - but always meaningful.

Rev. Omega Burckhardt: On April 30, the Neighborhood UU Church in Pasadena, CA called Rev. Dr. Omega Burckhardt as their settled Senior Minister. Omega previously served as Assistant Minister at The First UU Church of San Diego. Prior to that, she was the ministerial intern at The First Unitarian Church of Rockford, Illinois and at Olympia Brown UU Church in Racine, Wisconsin. Rev. Omega earned their Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School where they received the Faculty Award for Religious Leadership. They have been a Trustee of the UUA MidAmerica Region, Trustee of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, and Chair of the Midwest Leadership School of the UUA.

Rev. Beth Monhollen: On April 30, the UU Church of Urbana Champaign, IL called Beth Monhollen to be their settled minister. Beth will join them in August, after a busy summer when she'll be ordained by the Wellsprings UU congregation in eastern Pennsylvania where she served her internship, and the big move with her husband and their pets from Milwaukee to Urbana-Champaign. In May 2023, Beth received her Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School.



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, June 7 & 21, 6:30 p.m.

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

Join us as we meet to share our thoughts and interpretations of Buddhist teachings and ideas. Then we meditate as a group for a short while and have fellowship. Contact is Mark Miller at gatheringwaterssangha@gmail.com.

SWANS (Senior Women Are Naturally Social)

June 4 & First Sundays each month

Meet us at the Church Picnic at Kern Park on June 4. Senior women are invited to attend and contribute ideas about activities for summer fun. Any senior woman is welcome.

Book Discussion Group

Sunday, June 11, 1:00 p.m.

Estabrook Park or [RSVP Here](#)

Join us as we discuss June's read, *The Sinner and the Saint: Dostoevsky and the Gentleman Murderer Who Inspired a Masterpiece* by Kevin Birmingham. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at uubarbra@gmail.com.

Spirit of Life

At Church June 21, 6:15 p.m.

[RSVP Here](#)

The Spirit of Life series is offered this Summer to deepen individual understanding of wonder, ritual and intention. The monthly sessions will include individual reflection time, intentional listening, and collaborative meaning making. For more information contact Lynne Jacoby at lynne.jacoby@uumilwaukee.org

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. All are welcome.

Poetry Contemplation

Every Wednesday, 9:00 am

[Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us online as we listen, respond, and rest with the words of selected poets. Come listen for what resonates and illuminates. Members, guests, and visitors are welcome to join this open, weekly, drop-in practice.



Sunday Morning Forum

Sunday Forum will return in September

Sunday Morning Forum Group Join Us For Planning 2023-24

by Lorraine Jacobs

Co-Chair of Sunday Morning Forum Group

The Sunday Forum Group endeavors to offer a variety of timely and interesting topics and presenters throughout the church year. Visitors often mention that the Forums are a comfortable way to meet people and “get a feel” for First Church.

Through our 50-year history of Sunday Forums, we have consistently provided presentations from local organizations, social justice work, political action, creative arts and just the “funky” interests of people who like to share their hobbies, sports or personal commitments.

Have you wondered how to bring your ideas to a Sunday Morning Forum? We welcome your

energy, connections and interests and encourage you to attend our summer meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 6:00 p.m. Members host 1 or 2 Forum Presenters. Much of the work is done on your own though experienced members offer guidance and answer questions.

We encourage new members in their teens to 40 years old demographic as well as those with tech skills. Why not attend our summer meeting? To learn more about the meeting, contact Co-Chairs: Lorraine Jacobs at jacobslm@sbcglobal.com or Mark Mueller at muellerx@sbcglobal.net.



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

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Follow Us



Summer Church Building Hours

Sundays: 8:30 am - 1:30 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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