

DECEMBER 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*

Mystery



Christmas Eve Share the Plate

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

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

Repairers of the Breach is Greater Milwaukee's only daytime refuge and resource center for homeless adults open 6 days per week. They believe that offering life-saving, life-sustaining, and life-restoring programs is key to self-reliability.

Guest House of Milwaukee provides shelter, housing, education, and services to Milwaukee's homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose.

Donate to Christmas Eve STP

Share the Plate December

by Lynde Uihlein

Share the Plate Team Member

Just One More Ministry (JOMM) is our December Share the Plate partner. JOMM celebrated their 10th year as a nonprofit organization. They started with 20 loaves of bread donated to an inner-city church and this year have given out 5,000,000 pounds of food to those in need in Milwaukee and surrounding areas. JOMM is a food bank that has 87 partners who come on a regular basis, as well as outreach to eleven food deserts in Milwaukee to serve the hungry.

JOMM seeks to care for Milwaukee's poor in spirit, providing regular nutritious meals and food for the hungry, and supporting those who suffer with addictions through prayer, helping to create a fulfilling and God-centered life. Where possible, JOMM hires those with challenged backgrounds because they believe that everyone deserves a second chance, sometimes a third chance.

First Church members and friends can get involved as volunteers. With only 9 paid staff, JOMM depends heavily on volunteers to serve in all facets of its operations. The greatest need is for volunteers to sort incoming food donations and stock shelves, coolers, and freezers as well as bagging groceries for Outreach deliveries. Families are especially encouraged to volunteer. Children are welcome with adult supervision.

Learn more about Just One More Ministry at <https://www.jomministry.org/>. Contribute securely online at the link below or mail your check to First Church made payable to Just One More Ministry and we'll forward your contribution to them. Please be generous in your support.

Donate to this STP Partner



Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

I love mysteries: both the “What happens when we die?” type, and the “Murder She Wrote” type. Like many in our faith, I am comfortable with the big questions (things like “where do we come from?”, and “what is the purpose of life?”) being questions. Like many in our faith, I also like solving puzzles and getting the answer right. I am a cosmic-mystery-yes, cozy-mystery-yes kind of a minister.

Where do you fall in your comfort with mystery? Do you like the big mysteries being open-ended? Do you enjoy having problems with clear solutions?

Mystery can sometimes feel anxiety-producing, and other times feel exciting. This month, with holidays and families and increasing night, we will explore the beauty and challenges of mystery. May the space between the stars hold you in tender care this season.

With love,
Jennifer

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Christmas Eve Receptions Are Coming

by Deb Solis

Youth Program Coordinator

Our Christmas Eve reception tradition is back! Please help us treat guests, members and staff to a festive holiday treat at the receptions in the Leenhouts Common Room after each Christmas Eve service which are at 3:30, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m. Consider sharing a plate of cookies or a sweet or savory holiday favorite from your home. (Finger food only please). A sign-up sheet to bring Christmas Eve treats will be at the Member Services Table starting Sunday, December 3.

We also need extraordinarily helpful elves to help organize the receptions, decorate our tables in the Common Room and cover one hour shifts on Christmas Eve (restocking the bounty and cleaning up a bit). This is a fun service to our church community that friends, partners, or families can contribute as a team. Individuals are also welcome! If you can help, please email Deb at deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org.

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



One of the elders in the church I grew up in said that her first encounter with mystery as a child was comprehending the picture of the little girl on the Morton salt container. If you recall this image, a young girl is holding a container of Morton salt, upon which there is an image of another little girl holding a container of Morton salt, upon which (if you could see something that small) there is another image of a girl holding a container of Morton salt, and this goes on into infinity! The realization brought awe and wonder at such a mystery.

Although we can experience mystery at any time of year, the winter holidays invite us to park our usual skepticism and enter into the wonder of a child's face, or the awe at the expanse of the universe, or the ground of love underlying our families--which may keep us coming back to them even when they drive us crazy!

Which mysteries are you slamming the door upon these days? What mystery is calling to you to open the door? At the Worship Associate retreat when we discussed the theme of mystery, some said they absolutely loved figuring out literary mysteries. Others said they preferred to let the Mystery be.

Can you dwell with mystery under the starry skies, or do you need to know the names of the constellations? Or can you do both? Can you enter the tender story of a babe born amid challenging circumstances and wrapped in swaddling clothes as we hear on Christmas Eve in the bible story from Luke? Can you let the mystery of birth and love open your heart even in these challenging times? Or is the mystery of infinity just too much to contemplate?

Yours,

Dena

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



As the holiday season approaches, many caregivers of children struggle with the mystery of Santa Claus. While the idea of a magical figure delivering presents to children may bring joy and excitement, it can also create feelings of dishonesty and guilt.

The mystery surrounding Santa Claus always seemed peculiar to me. When I revealed the possibility that Santa may not be real to my younger cousins, my grandmother was not pleased. I believed I was shedding light on a secret, a potential reality, while my grandmother viewed it as a holiday spoiler.

When I became a parent, I felt obligated to perpetuate the Santa Claus tradition for our child. Although it felt misleading, it was a harmless act that added a sparkle of joy to our family celebrations. Besides, I had learned my lesson about not spoiling holiday festivities. Yet, as the years rolled on, maintaining the Santa mystery felt increasingly dishonest, particularly when faced with probing inquiries from my young truth seeker, who we had taught to value honesty.

Luckily, a more experienced parent and fellow teacher shared with me how to embrace the mystery of Santa. "Do not worry, I will send you the instructions," she told me, "You are going to love Santa again." The origin of this solution comes from Leslie Rush, whose family has been transitioning kids from receiving gifts from Santa to becoming part of the mystery for a few generations.

Once a child starts questioning the existence of Santa, it indicates that they might be ready. The caregiver takes the child out for a special time together and reminisces about what they love about Santa, about what their friends are saying about different kinds of Santas. Most importantly, the caregiver shares the times they have witnessed the child showing empathy and consideration towards others throughout the year. Explaining that the child's compassion had grown so much that the child was now ready to embrace the role of a Santa Claus.

To become a Santa requires the child to identify a meaningful gift for someone outside of their immediate family and secretly leave it for them. The full story is in this Washington Post story; I share it for those of us who want the instructions.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/12/19/the-story-behind-the-beautiful-way-this-mom-told-her-sons-the-truth-about-santa/>

It turns out we can embrace the mystery of Santa Claus, create a collaborative and joyful atmosphere for children and adults during the holidays while maintaining our own values of honesty and generosity.

Blessing to you all this holiday season,
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

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Hope in the Unknown

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Don Weimer, Worship Associate

Church House Band

[Click for info about this service](#)

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The Beginning, The End, and Us In Between

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Teresa Drews, Collaborative Pianist

Trudy Watt, Worship Associate

The Chancel Choir

[Click for info about this service](#)

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The Mystery of Holiday Lights Holiday Pageant

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

Lead Music Director Alissa Rhode

Teresa Drews, Collaborative Pianist

The Children and Youth of First Church

[Click for info about this service](#)

24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 3:30, 5:00, and 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of RE

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Sunday services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Holidays at First Church



Blue Christmas Vespers

December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and on YouTube

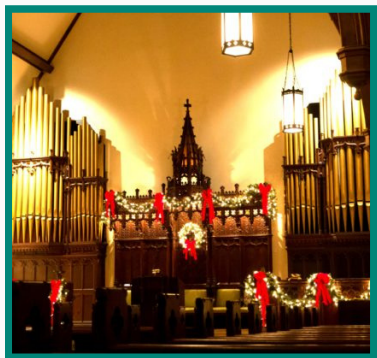
Are you feeling out of synch with the forced happiness of the holidays? Come and rest in the beauty of our sanctuary for an evening contemplative service. Sit by others who are seeking solace for their sadness, worry and stress. We offer space for anyone who is feeling blue. Please join us for a gentle service of music and candlelight, readings and silence at Blue Christmas Vespers.



The Mystery of Holiday Lights Pageant

December 17 at 10:00 a.m. and on YouTube

Join us for an interfaith exploration into the mysteries of holiday lights! Our youth and children lead us on an illuminated journey to discover how light inspires our hearts and minds during the holiday season. As we welcome the solstice, let us recall the traditional stories that bring us hope in the winter.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

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

Join us for a simple, traditional, multi-generational Christmas Eve service of carols, candlelight, and stories. The whole family is welcome in all services. Enjoy holiday receptions after each service. The online service will be live on YouTube at 3:30 p.m. Childcare at 3:30 & 5:00 for kids under 5.

[Click for more information on this service.](#)

Join Us With Fun Holiday Activities

December 5 Deck the Halls, 6:00 pm, decorate the church sanctuary.

December 8 Jingle Bus, 6:00 pm.

Thursdays in December Holiday Choir 6:30 pm. See page 13.



In Memoriam

John Martin Hagedorn, Sr.

July 30, 1947 ~ October 31, 2023

John Hagedorn died peacefully at home on the morning of October 31, 2023, after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. His wife Mary was by his side, and he was receiving home hospice care. John was 76 years old and a member of First Church since 2012.

A Candle of Life in memory of John was lit during both worship services on Sunday, November 5, 2023. Plans for a memorial service at First Church will be forthcoming.

Justice for Palestine is something John was engaged with for decades, and he was very moved by the plight and suffering of people in Gaza in October.

Memorial donations may be made to:

Palestinian Red Crescent Society

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions Movement

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 healing thoughts are with **Betty Siemsen** who is recovering from a fall in September.

Our good wishes for a successful recovery are with **Chris Linder** who had hip surgery in October.

Our healing thoughts are with **Kenyatta Yamel** who is recovering from a stroke in early November.

Our best wishes for a good recovery are with **Edith Moravcsik** who had hip surgery in November.

Our loving thoughts are with **Loren Leys and Adele Kaferly** as Loren receives hospice care due to a rare and advancing neuro-degenerative disease.



In Formation

by Steve Sieck
Ministerial Intern

“In formation.” What a wonderfully complicated phrase! You might read it and think of the military or football. Maybe you’re hearing Beyoncé’s Grammy-award winning song?

For religious professionals, “formation” refers to the process of becoming a minister. If you search the phrase “ministerial formation” online, you will find it expressed as an essential part of seminary training, but you will not find a clear answer for what it is. Ministerial formation resists definitions. It’s amorphous, qualitative, unpredictable, and messy. It’s a process of Sankofa, an Akan word that means to go back and fetch the lessons in your life that you had not yet learned. It’s also a process of letting go of those things you have been carrying that you are now ready to set down. And to be sure, it’s a process of learning theology, administration, psychology, liturgy, and more. But mostly, formation is process itself. Ministerial formation is a continuous unfolding that equips the religious professional to be wholly present for and with a community.

As I get to know this beautiful community at First Church, you will see me showing up in more spaces and places, such as Membership, Worship, Pastoral Care, Social Justice, and Administration.

This is part of an intentional process guided by the Unitarian Universalist Association and Meadville-Lombard Theological School to ensure that I learn what I need to show up with competence and presence to the congregation I serve someday. I give thanks for this opportunity to journey with you.

We are, all of us, in formation. We are each given this day to show up in the world as authentic and loving people, present for and with others. What a great gift that is. How sad it would be if we were fully baked, with no possibility for learning or change in our lives! We gather at First Church to continually form ourselves, to hold ourselves and one another in loving connection. And we have a great roadmap for our formation: we engage our minds, nurture our spirits, and inspire action.

Dear ones, let’s get in formation.

Membership Updates

by Rev. Dena McPhetres

Associate Minister

Thank you all for the love and gratitude you expressed to Lynne Jacoby as she departed her position as Membership Development Coordinator in November. We miss her already, in many ways! We also appreciate your patience as other staff shoulder many of her responsibilities – it's a stretch and a steep learning curve.

I must admit, I'm a little daunted and a little excited to turn my attention to the Membership ministry. The shoes are big to fill, and I have small feet (think Lynne's legacy, and before her Cheri Taylor, and before her Kathy Porter). Fortunately, no one does the work of membership alone—welcome, engagement and membership are up to all of us.

We have an enthusiastic Membership Team of lay leaders, who would love your help volunteering at the Membership Table on Sundays during Coffee Hours. If you enjoy chatting with members and newer folks interested in First Church, please contact our Ministerial Intern Steve Sieck at steve.sieck@uumilwaukee.org to sign up for a shift. Steve will also serve as the point person for ushers.

We have the friendly presence of staff member Deb Solis at our Greeter lectern in the hallway on Sunday mornings – a consistent smiling face for guests, members and friends. Deb will also help us connect to guests after their first visit and make nametags for anyone who needs one.

I will lead the monthly Membership Team meetings and co-lead our Journey to Membership classes with our intern Steve. I also support the co-chairs of our Welcome team (Ben Trubach & Steve Sieck) and our Member Engagement team (David Hoover & Laurie Petersen). If you are interested in joining our efforts, please reach out to these fabulous leaders!

Journey to Membership

Winter Membership Online Classes

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

Winter in Wisconsin is a great time to cozy up to your computer and participate in our Journey to Membership class offered completely online via Zoom! Led by our ministers and staff, this series explores Unitarian Universalist theology, history, principles, values, and social justice framework, as well as the meaning of membership and how to make connections at First Church.

The class is a prerequisite to membership, but joining is not a requirement. Register if you are interested in membership, want to meet others, or just want a deeper understanding of intentional 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/. Questions? Email Rev. Dena at: dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org.

The Holiday Giving Tree

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

We are proud to be participating in United Way's Holiday Giving Tree program this year. This program purchases gifts for local individuals who may otherwise go without this holiday season. This year we are celebrating generosity by partnering with the Northside YMCA Early Childhood Education Center, who have given us tags with the children's gift wishes on them.

You can find those tags on our Giving Tree in the Leenhouts Common Room near the RE Table. To participate, just choose a tag, record your choice on our spreadsheet, purchase the gift, and bring the gift back to church by December 10th. We will make sure the gifts get delivered to Northside YMCA. Join us in spreading some holiday cheer - and thank you for your generosity!

450 Sandwiches Made!

Thanks to the generosity of our children, donors, and volunteers, we were able to provide 450 sandwiches to Guest House Milwaukee, a new record for Religious Education. Thank you to all the children who participated, the adults who volunteered, and everyone who donated supplies for this event. Your generosity helped us make a difference in our local community.



“Democracy Day” at First Church Is January 7

by Dave Umhoefer
Defend Democracy Co-leader

Interested in learning what you can do in 2024 to encourage voting and defend democracy in Wisconsin? Join us at church at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, January 7 as we hear from non-partisan organizations and our Defend Democracy team about opportunities to help alongside church members.

In 2024, our church members will lend a hand with voter registration, voter education and voter protection in the Milwaukee area. All potential volunteers are welcome; free training is provided for voting work, and some work can be done from home. At the January 7 event, snacks and beverages will be available. For more info contact Pete Koneazny, Pat McFarland, Juanita Mast, Dave Umhoefer or Andrew Whitver of the Defend Democracy task force.

Cathedral Center Meal Coordinator Needed

First Church provides meals to the Cathedral Center shelter for women and families located at Van Buren and Kilbourn four times yearly. First Church member Andy Sinko has been our reliable coordinator for six years. Due to his expanding family and other responsibilities, he would like to step down. The coordinator is responsible for developing a menu and signing people up to bring the food items. Andy will provide training for those interested in this volunteer opportunity. If this is a good fit for you, please contact Andy at sinkoenator@gmail.com or (802) 999-4473.

More “Food, Fun, and Future” for Earth Justice

by Bruce Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry Member

All First Church members and friends are welcome to join our Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) as we continue our Food, Fun, Future series on Sunday, December 3 at church after the late service. We are building relationships while addressing concerns about our world.

At our October gathering, we decided to meet monthly. An emphasis for the coming year will be to follow the lead of the Defend Democracy team and work on election issues. The Social Justice Council is asking all our social justice groups to share the priority of elections, including fair maps, get out the vote, and registering people to vote. EJM'ers will participate in Democracy Day January 7 at church (see elsewhere in this Chanticleer and weekly announcements for details.) Our earth justice concerns will be addressed only by getting people elected who care about these issues. We may also want to follow through on other concerns identified at our October gathering, such as reducing plastic use or helping pollinators.

For this December 3 gathering, the first of what will be monthly gatherings, you are invited to bring a sandwich, or EJM will provide snacks and drinks. Watch the weekly e-News for the room where we will meet.

Sing with the Holiday Choir!

Alissa Rhode
Lead Music Director

The holiday season is approaching and the First Church Chancel Choir will continue the practice of opening our ranks to First Church members and friends (high school age and up) who wish to sing with us on Christmas Eve at the 6:30 p.m. service.

This is a great opportunity for those of you who enjoy singing choral music but can't make a commitment to a full year schedule of choir. Or if you are a new member, this is a fun way to meet people and become more involved in church life. No previous singing experience is required, but you must be able to commit to two Thursday rehearsals, December 14 and 21 from 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

If you are interested in singing with us, please contact alissa.rhode@uumilwaukee.org so we can have a folder and music ready for you.

Join the Family & Friends Singers for the Holiday Pageant!

First Graders through adults are invited to join in singing for our Holiday Pageant at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17. Experience the joy of singing together in the oral tradition! We will rehearse downstairs in the Young Room from 10:15-10:30 a.m. on December 3 and 10.

Please email alissa.rhode@uumilwaukee.org if you and/or your child(ren) would like to participate.

Feast For Funds Gratitude

by Scot Henry
Feast For Funds Chair

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the donors, bidders, browsers, and buyers who helped make this year's Feast for Funds a success! Your participation helped us raise \$17,500 (and counting) for First Church, while also creating feasting, friendship, fun experiences, and a stronger sense of community.

We are grateful for the 77 official donors, and many more who are participating as partners, co-hosts, and musicians! We loved learning that we have among us a genetic counselor, Tai Chi master, videographer, magician, several talented artists, and a trove of wonderfully creative individuals. The auction catalog was a nice peek into our amazing community. Thank you again.

The result from these efforts is that members and friends will be gathering all over the city in the coming months to enjoy each other's company in a variety of settings and activities. Several will be travelling up north to one of the five cottage getaways that were generously offered. A few will be enjoying gift cards or baskets that were assembled by members with excellent procurement abilities.

Finally, thank you to the team of Heather Hansen, David Tripp, Allan Ries, Laura White, and the past Feast for Funds volunteers who offered guidance.

Splinters from the Board

by Stacey Koenen

Board of Trustees Member

At the October 24 Board meeting, the Endowment Fund Task Force presented their recommendations for the trustee agreement and investment manager firms. There was a detailed conversation to understand the definitions and plans that were being laid out. Ideas of how to determine the trustees were discussed. The pros and cons of each of the investment managers was reviewed. Prior to the next meeting, the Board will continue to review this information so that it can be approved in November. Thank you very much to the Endowment Fund Task Force for their continued efforts and diligent work.

The first quarter financial statements were reviewed with Director of Administration Jean Johnson and Finance Team Chair Noreen Gilbertsen. Finances are on track. The team is reviewing procedures and financial audit process to improve transparency of our financial processes.

The Board is also reviewing the current duties of the Treasurer and considering how this role and the Endowment Trustees roles impact our future needs. The annual survey is another item under review. The Board is examining the best way to hear from our community and be able to utilize that information. In order to be accountable to the congregation, it is important that we hear the thoughts and opinions of members. There is ongoing discussion of the options on the best ways to do that.

Make Plans for a Special General Assembly in June

by Bruce Wiggins

Denominational Affairs Coordinator

Rev. Jennifer has called this General Assembly (GA) a special one and one to which we at First Church should send our full complement of delegates. For newcomers: GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), approximately 1,000 congregations around the world. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process.

One thing that will make this GA special is that delegates will vote on new wording for our principles and purposes as stated in our Unitarian Universalist Association's bylaws, known as "Article 2." The proposed revisions were hotly debated, then approved tentatively last year. This year, a supermajority of delegates must approve the proposed new wording. The seven principles printed in the beginning of our hymnal, and beloved by many, would change. The final version of the proposed revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws is now available. The deadline for submitting an amendment is 11:59 p.m. Eastern on February 1, 2024.

First Church probably will have 13 delegates this year. We hope to find enough money to pay the registration for all First Church delegates, at least for "business only" delegates. For information, contact Rev. Jennifer or Denominational Affairs Coordinator Bruce Wiggins and see the GA webpage: <https://www.uua.org/ga>



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, Dec 6 & 20, 6:30 pm
At Church

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.

The Chronologically Gifted Potluck

No Potluck in December. Please join on January 27, 2024

Reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. Bring a dish and join your contemporaries for a potluck after the Sunday service, in Otto Hall. We may even have some entertainment! Plan ahead! Show up! Enjoy!

Book Discussion Group

Sunday, December 11

[Join Us Online Here](#)

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

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.

Chancel Choir

Every Thursday, 7:15 -9:00 pm

At Church

Sing with us on Thursdays as we prepare to perform for Sunday services. Open to all singers high school age and up (no previous experience or audition required). Contact Teresa Drews: for more information or to join at teresa.drews@uumilwaukee.org.



Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



DECEMBER 3

Ukraine Then and Now

Sofron Bohdan Nedilsky, Lawyer

Sofron will introduce 20th century Ukraine. With that as a background he will address the present situation. He is a Ukrainian speaker.

DECEMBER 10

Community-Oriented Solutions to Housing and Health Issues in Milwaukee

Klaudia Rixmann, Client Specialist at Revitalize Milwaukee

Milwaukee is a city segregated by income and race. This inequitable landscape contributes to issues in housing and health, that when compounded can lead to the loss of a home and the weakening of a community fabric. Revitalize Milwaukee provides 14 programs and services for older adults, veterans, people living with disabilities, children, and pregnant people that maintain homeownership, stabilize neighborhoods, and create safer, healthier homes. Our programs include no-cost Critical Home Repairs and Accessibility Modifications, Asthma Safe Homes, and Lead Abatement. Keeping homeowners in their homes, improving indoor air quality, and removing lead in homes supports the socioeconomic development of Milwaukee.



DECEMBER 17

TBD

Update from the Endowment Fund Task Force

by Ron Oshima
EFTF member

On October 24, a member of the EFTF presented the trust agreement and reviewed investment management firms with the Board of Trustees. A summary of that discussion follows.

The Board spent the entire 45 minutes allocated to this topic, mainly focusing on questions about the trust document details. While the Board didn't express significant concerns about the terms, they decided to take more time and continue the review in the November meeting.

Regarding the selection of an investment management firm, the Board agreed that it would be helpful to involve the three proposed trustees in the discussion. Further discussion took place about how to identify three appropriate initial trustees. It was suggested that the Nominating Committee be brought into this discussion.

At the end of the 45-minute discussion, the Board was okay with the structure of the trust agreement in principle. They expressed gratitude to the EFTF for bringing the recommendations to a stage where the Board can deliberate on them further.



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

Goal: \$3,000,000
Dollars pledged as of
November 27: \$2,817,084
Fulfilled Amt: \$1,082,947



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](#)

Staff Directory

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Staff members have varying hours.

Please contact them directly to set up an appointment.

Board of Trustees Officers

President.....Pat Geenen

Vice President.....Sarah Richards

SecretaryJoe Riepenhoff

TreasurerTom Briscoe

Members

George Bledsoe

Dana Brooks

Stacy Koenen

Tony Panciera

Stacey Thieme

Amy Wilbourne

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414.273.5257

first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org

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uumilwaukee.org

Follow Us



Church Building Hours

Sundays: 8:00 am - 2:30 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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