

MARCH 2024



THE CHANTICLEER

The First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

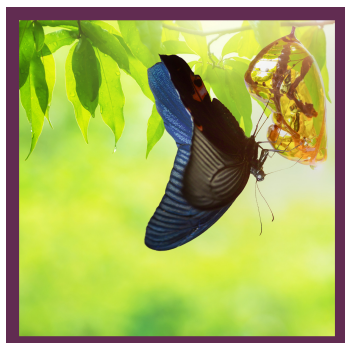
nurture. engage. inspire.



This Issue:

Words on the Wind	5
Dena's Digressions	6
Kimberlee's Contemplations	7
Sunday Services	8
Worship Associate Volunteer	9
Ministerial Intern	10
Our People, Our Community	11
Children, Youth, & Families	10
Pledge Drive	12
Get Involved	13
Social Justice	15
Calendar & Forum	16
Forum	18

Monthly Theme



*What does it mean
to be a people of*

TRANSFORMATION

Inside News

by the *Chanticleer* Editors

Here comes Springtime!

**Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 10!**

Featuring:

**Annual Pledge Drive Closing Celebration
Sunday, March 10.**

Your generous pledge of financial support to First Church is needed before March 10. Together, we can reach our goal! Learn more on p. 12.

Building Healthy Multicultural Community training March 9. The Anti-Racism Team is hosting a training at First Church. Join us on our journey towards anti-racism in everything from worship to religious education to finances to pastoral care. Find details on p.13.

**Get involved! Your invitations from
Rev. Jennifer and Rev. Dena to...**

Consider becoming a Worship Associate (p. 7)
Consider becoming a Pastoral Care Associate (p. 4)

Forge Our Future Endowment Trustees appointed. Find details about this exciting update on page 16.

Share the Plate

by Lynde Uihlein
Share the Plate Team Member



Peace Action of Wisconsin is committed to the principles of nonviolence as a strategy to solve problems of war, human rights abuse, inequality and war. They are committed to non-violence as a way of life and the way to a peaceful world.

Their mission statement aspires to:

- Abolish war and nuclear weapons and nuclear power.
- End military intervention.
- Transfer military spending to human needs.
- Protect the environment.
- Oppose the exploitation of workers, racism and gender discrimination.
- Respect and support First Nations.

Founded in March 1977 as the Mobilization for Survival in opposition to nuclear weapons and power, they called for an end to the arms race. In January 1996, they formed an alliance with National Peace Action.

On their website you will find updates on peace and justice issues. They sponsor speakers, films, and community meetings that focus on ending militarism and for social justice. They publish the Mobilizer Newsletter, visit elected representatives to discuss peace and foreign policy issues, help coordinate the weekly Stand for Peace and host the End the Wars Coalition. They call for demonstrations to oppose US wars of aggression. Volunteers are encouraged to support the organization in the office or at demonstrations.

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)



Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

This month, we're exploring the theme of transformation. In what ways have you been transformed this year? Where have you seen transformation in our community, and other communities in your life?

Transformation is the type of change that affects your spirit and your life. It is an order of magnitude larger than change. Like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, a plant emerging from a seed, or a flower emerging from a bud, transformation requires a new being to emerge from what was. It can be frightening, exhilarating, sorrowful, and beautiful.

This month at church, we are engaging in a couple of transformative processes building small changes into large ones: our First Church Anti-Racism Team is hosting a "Building Healthy Multicultural Community" training on March 9 (see page 13) and our First Church Pledge Team is leading our annual Pledge Drive to reach pledge sustainability (see page 12.)

I hope you will be part of our community's change processes, building the bridge to financial sustainability and healthy multicultural community.

With love,
Jennifer
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



Why Do Members Serve As Pastoral Care Associates?

“Throughout the 18 years I’ve been involved at First Church, I have been truly touched by the many blessings and benefits I received by being a part of this amazing congregation. When I was invited to consider becoming a PCA, I immediately thought it would be an incredible opportunity to give back!

“I feel honored to serve as a PCA for several reasons. Perhaps most meaningful are those special moments when I am in conversation with someone and they share aspects of their life—their history, their journey – that allow me to more deeply understand and respect their life’s path. In addition, I have greatly appreciated the fellowship of the PCA team. I’ve enjoyed our monthly meetings and occasional social gatherings.

“I recommend other church members consider serving as a PCA because it is filled with joyous moments for growth and development in one’s ability to listen closely and care more deeply for others.

~ Jean Groshek, current PCA

If you are interested in becoming a PCA, please read our church website FAQ page <https://uumilwaukee.org/consider-becoming-pastoral-care-associate/> and watch this 40-minute video by Rev. David Pyle. The video will help you discern whether serving as a Pastoral Care Associate at First Church is a good fit for you. <https://vimeo.com/402294106>

Mandatory training focused on cultivating a listening presence and helpful approaches to outreach will be guided by our Associate Minister, Rev. Dena McPhetres and Co-Trainers Sarah Richards and Dale Skaggs, former PCAs. The required 20-hour training will be held in-person on four Saturdays: September 28, October 5, 19, and 26, 2024.

Application link is on the FAQ page and applications are due by May 1. Questions? Contact Rev. Dena at dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org or Lynn Connolly, PCA Coordinator at mlynconnolly71@gmail.com

Yours,
Dena
Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister



Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Heraclitus, once said, “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man.” The theme this month asks the question, what gifts does transformation offer? So, let’s get our toes into the river of process theology, knowing it will be brief and imperfect, just a dip to consider a grand idea.

Process theology teaches us that we are in relationship with the world, or even the universe. The idea is that we are in the process of co-creating the world around us. Our energy, actions and thoughts are all contributing to the evolution of our reality. Soulfully and molecularly, everything is transforming—we are both transforming and transformers. Since humankind has the privilege of agency, or choice, we have a responsibility to be intentional about our actions, energy, and thoughts. Spiritual transformation implies more than just knowing that change is the only constant. It asks for more, it asks for intention.

“All that you touch You Change.
All that you Change Changes you.
The only lasting truth is Change.
God is Change.” ~ **Octavia E. Butler**

Moreover, process theology also supposes that the divine, or sacred, or God is developing through the interactions with the world. And those changes are divine, it is a changing co-creator through process. Process is holy, transformation is divine.

It is not a coercive force, but one that is faithful to creation.

One part I like about process theology is it gives space for the plurality of religious and non-religious paths. Theists can believe God works through us and experiences the world with us. Humanists can lean into the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to our own lives. Other faith traditions can embrace that each religious manifestation is the Divine working in a unique way to bring out the beautiful and the good. It also leaves room for mystery, that we do not yet know.

When you are a caretaker of a young person, the transformation you witness is magical. The role is sacred, filled with moments of divine joy and exhaustion while witnessing growth unfurling. Guiding another’s development is a co-creating role. In the process together, collaborators hoping to guide ourselves to a path of fulfillment, sharing love and a mysterious journey. Process theology seems to offer a reflection of a caregiver’s journey.

What gifts has transformation offered you? Does process theology resonate with you?

Wishing you a month of reflection and transformation.

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

3

Transformation Is a Process

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Ryan Pawlowski, Worship Associate

Anne Alexander, Stewardship Testimonial

[Click for info about this service](#)

10

The Arc Bends Because People Bend It

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director & the House Band

Dave Umhoefer, Worship Associate

Jeff Percy, Stewardship Testimonial

[Click for info about this service](#)

17

In Between

Rev. Dena McPhetres

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Liz Irwin Moore, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

24

Learning Changes Us

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Nancy Spansy, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

31

We Don't Know How It All Turns Out

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

Trudy Watt, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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

Want To Become a Worship Associate?

Worship Associates 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 “Mystery,” and “Liberating Love,” and then identify topics for each Sunday service of the month.

To prepare Sunday services, individual 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. We train Worship Associates on story-telling, pulpit presence, and how to create a container for our community’s experience of worship.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

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 public speaking ability; and
- are deeply committed to the church and its values.

SERVICE COMMITMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Please submit your application by March 31, 2024 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 5, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 9, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Worship Associates will begin serving at Sunday worship services in September 2024. WA monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month after church, Sept through May. Worship Associates make a commitment to serve for two years, including during the summers, and to attend all WA meetings. Worship Associates work with the ministers to help lead worship about once every two months, in person at both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.



In Formation Membership News

by Steve Sieck
Ministerial Intern

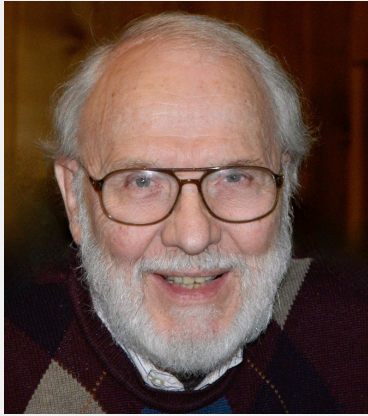
I'm writing to share with you some of the work our Membership Team has been doing to welcome visitors and engage new members in the communities that make up First Church. Membership Team members join our Journey to Membership classes to connect with new members, and staff the Visitor's and Member Services' Tables for every Coffee Hour. Our Engagement Sub-team makes phone calls every week to each new visitor who leaves a card to welcome them personally. Our Welcome Sub-team has been discussing ways to make one's first few visits to First Church as easy and welcoming as possible, and we could use your help!

Welcoming new visitors is about more than a Visitor's Table or a nametag, though I'm glad we have those resources. It's a community-wide effort to widen the circle, to create the space for more people to find a spiritual home in this congregation. When you see someone that you don't recognize, I encourage you to say something like, "Hi, I don't think we've met; my name is...." I try to avoid phrases like, "You must be new here", which could convey the message that we are a club and the visitor isn't in it. I also like to start conversations with people about the worship service itself, such as, "What did you think of the service this morning?" This starts a

conversation that helps the visitor reflect on what impacted them in our worship, and lets them drive the conversation about what they want to share.

It's often hard during those first few Sundays that you visit a new church. You probably made a bee-line to the coffee, and then maybe you stared at the artwork on the walls? We're not all extroverts, and many of us find coffee hour chat to be anxiety-producing. Hence, these small, welcoming, relational conversations are often the difference between a visitor feeling seen or invisible. As I'm learning in my seminary studies, everything we do in church is about relationships. I'm so glad that someone connected with you when you first visited here, and I hope you will join our Membership Team in fostering welcoming encounters with new visitors. You'll be helping to grow the community that supports your values in the world. But there's also a good chance you'll make a lifelong friend!

With gratitude,
Steve Sieck
Ministerial Intern



In Memoriam
Marlowe Roy Nortrom
November 21, 1932 ~
January 22, 2024

Marlowe Roy Nortrom, loving husband and father, died peacefully surrounded by the heartfelt embrace of wife Janet, daughters Gina and Kristin and family early in the morning on Monday, January 22, 2024. He was born in St. Paul, MN and his family relocated to Milwaukee when he was five. Marlowe and Janet moved to Franklin, Tennessee in December 2020.

Marlowe celebrated his 91st birthday in November. Always learning and growing, he earned his master's degree at age 72 and started teaching. An ardent lover of the arts, he sang in numerous Milwaukee area choral groups and in our Chancel Choir. He and Janet were active at First Church since the early 1970s. Marlowe and Janet celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on January 9.

We lit the Candle of Life in memory of Marlowe at both worship services on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024. A memorial service was held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024.

Condolence cards can be sent to Janet Nortrom and family at 3164 Vera Valley Rd., Franklin, TN 37064. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wisconsin Literacy Inc. or Doctors Without Borders, USA.

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 deepest condolences are with **Demetria Smith** whose mother died in early January. May you and your family be surrounded with love and comforted by beautiful memories.

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Dave Umhoefer**, whose mother Maureen Margaret Umhoefer, known as Peg, died on January 5, 2024, in Wauwatosa at age 87.

Our love and care are with **Riley Koenen** and family who experienced the loss of a young friend and neighbor. May your hearts heal and may you feel the love of your community.

Our healing thoughts are with **Kit Vernon** who is recovering from hip surgery in late January.

Pastoral Care Resources

If you would like to talk to a Pastoral Care Associate for a listening presence, please contact PCA Coordinator Lynn Connolly at fuspastoralcare@gmail.com or 414-573-9823. If you'd like to talk to the Ministers, please call our Pastoral Care Emergency line at 414-216-3113.

For practical help, grocery shopping and delivery, or contactless meal delivery, contact Liz Irwin Moore, Pastoral Care Provider Coordinator at: fuspccprovider@gmail.com.

For personal financial assistance, please contact Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom at jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org.

R.E. Staff Transitions

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education



I am so very grateful for Deb's long commitment to our youth and First Church. Kaitlin's presence this year has offered consistency and care to the RE Assistant position. They will both be greatly missed. We will be celebrating their contributions and saying goodbye in May.

This month, we will be posting a job position for an RE and Membership Assistant that will combine the hours of both positions into one job. The Staff Executive Team has chosen to make this change in this staff position in hopes of attracting quality candidates to a more substantial position. We will be conducting interviews in March. Our plan is to hire someone in early April so that they may have some overlap with our current RE staff to help with training transitions. If you know of someone who is not a member and might be interested in the position, it will be posted on our church website, or please refer them to me directly.

R.E. Staff Transitions

by Deb Solis
Youth Program Coordinator

March's monthly church theme is transformation, and I will be undergoing a transformation of sorts as I announce to you at this time my intention to retire from my current staff position as Youth and Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program coordinator at the end of this church year.

I have had the privilege of serving in this position for the past ten years. I am so very grateful that this community has trusted me to practice meaningful, and sometimes life-changing, youth ministry with our youth.

I will remain an active church member spending more of my time sharing my movement discipline practice of T'ai Chi Chuan with all ages throughout the Greater Milwaukee community and traveling with my husband.

I cherish my ten years of youth ministry memories at First Church and look forward to seeing the thriving future of Religious Education take shape under Rev. Kimberlee's exceptional leadership.

Blessings,
Deb

R.E. Staff Transitions

by Kaitlin Barron

Religious Education Assistant

In line with our church's theme this month, my partner Alex and I will both be undergoing big transformations this year. As Alex graduates in May and we begin preparation for his journey to medical school, we have both decided to take a step back from school and work to pursue a gap year. During this gap year, we plan to focus on travel, self-discovery, and enjoying some well-deserved rest before jumping into his psychiatry career. Our last Sunday at First Church will be May 12.

While I am excited for the future, we are both sad to leave First Church and the great community we have found here. The connections we've made with the families and friends of First Church have transformed our hearts and minds, and we are grateful for all this community has done for us. It has been a privilege getting to teach your children, as well as having the opportunity to work so closely with an experienced educator like Rev. Kimberlee Carlson. I have learned so much from the wisdom she has shared during our work to transform the Religious Education program, and I am so blessed to have had First Church be the start of my teaching career.

Wishing you all the best,
Kaitlin Barron



We are grateful for our talented and thoughtful Youth group who created a wonderful service for us about, "Asking the Big Questions" on Sunday February 25th!

If you missed the Youth Service, you can still watch the online service on First Church YouTube Channel at <https://youtube.com/live/eYIW5ept7V4>

Generosity Creates Community

by Kathy Donius
Pledge Team Chair

Our 2024 Annual Pledge Drive, Generosity Creates Community, kicked off last month. Annual pledges are what sustains our beloved community and makes everything that First Church offers possible.

This year's Pledge Team invites you to consider your annual pledge, not as a donation, but as an investment in a community that values having you here and connects you to what you value. An investment in a community that is essential for an abundant future. An investment in a community that nurtures our spirits, forges meaningful and supportive connections, and challenges us to make a positive and lasting impact in our world.

If you have submitted your 2024 pledge already, THANK YOU! If you haven't, please review the mailing you recently received about the pledge drive, consider how our First Church community supports you and aligns with your values and submit your pledge today. All pledges are deeply appreciated and gratefully received. Pledge at https://bit.ly/FUSM_Pledge.



Pledge Drive News

March 3 - Sunday Testimonial

Anne Alexander, will present a generosity testimonial.

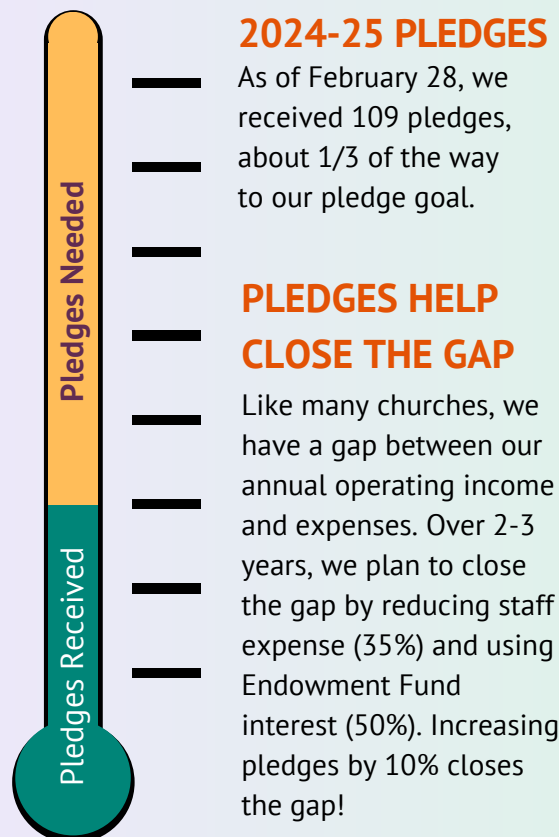
March 10 - Sunday Testimonial

Jeff Percy, will present a testimonial for the end of the stewardship campaign.

March 10 - Pledge Drive Celebration

Deadline to turn in your pledge card.

Join us in the Common Room to celebrate with your friends and families. More details coming soon.



Journey to Membership

Spring Membership Classes

Four Evening Classes on Wednesdays April 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

In-person, at First Church.

Led by our ministers and staff, this series explores our theology, history, principals and social justice framework, as well as the meaning of membership and connection at First Church.

The class is a prerequisite to membership, but joining is not a requirement to take the class.

Learn more about membership or register at

[uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-](http://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/)

[member/](http://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/). For questions? Email

dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org.

Do You Like to Knit or Crochet?

by Connie Georgenson

Shawl Ministry Team Leader

Do you find making simple patterns comforting and relaxing? The Shawl Ministry makes shawls, lap robes and baby blankets for church members or friends who are facing difficult situations or have had a baby. These creations are given by one of the ministers or Pastoral Care Associates. We are always looking for new members, so if you knit or crochet, think about joining us. This important ministry provides a personal touch from one member to another. We meet periodically at church on Sundays after second service but do our creating at home. For more information contact: Jackie Zandi at jackizandi@yahoo.com, Connie Georgenson at connie.georgenson@wi.rr.com or Patty Agacki at pattyagacki@msn.com.

Build Healthy Multi-Cultural Community with Us!

by Anti-Racism Team &

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

The First Church Anti-Racism team is hosting a training on “Building Healthy Multicultural Community” on Saturday, March 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Church, led by Milwaukee’s Nurturing Diversity Partners.

This “Building Healthy Multicultural Community” event will build our understanding of racial injustice as a social determinant of community and individual health. Together, we will learn how UUs can champion prevention and healing in the church and other institutions to which we belong. The training will include a lecture presentation as well as facilitated small groups for you to explore the content with other First Church folks who care about these issues and want to help our church learn and grow together.

To join us on our journey towards anti-racism in everything from worship to religious education to finances to pastoral care, please apply to attend by answering three simple questions here on this [RSVP form](#).

We are excited to journey together towards anti-racism and building healthy multi-cultural community!



Plan your Virtual General Assembly Attendance

Principles and Purposes to be Debated

by Bruce Wiggins
Denominational Affairs Coordinator

“As a first-time GA attendee and relatively recent UU, it was a mind-blowing experience to get to participate in the future of our faith. I think being able to be part of the discussion around who we are and where we are going is very unique to us!”

~Ryan Pawlowski, reflecting on his experience attending GA last year.

First Church needs you as a delegate to General Assembly (GA) this year! GA is our annual national conference of UU congregations. It is when delegates conduct our Association’s business plus participate in many wonderful workshops and religious services. GA is all-virtual this year June 20-23.

The major business item is voting on a revision to our Principles and Purposes. Technically, it is called “Article II Revision” because it is a revision of Article II of our Association’s by-laws. Next month’s Chanticleer will contain a description of

the proposals and amendments that will be debated before the final vote.

First Church has about half of our delegate slots filled so there is room for another 6 delegates. We have some money to help pay the registration cost. And for the first time, delegates may register for “business only” parts for a free-will donation. For details, see me and review the info about GA on the UUA website:

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

The Practice of Silence

by Andrew Whitver

Silence is the language of our soul. While we can connect to our higher self in spoken language — most notably via singing, chanting, prayer, and loving speech — the fastest route to inner peace is outer stillness. That’s because God/Source/Spirit is always whispering to us, but we must quiet our minds to hear.

Join us for a new meditation hour on Second Mondays at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary to practice silence. You can join and leave at any time. My name is Andrew Whitver and I’m a new member at First Church happy to offer this opportunity for communal silence. I’ve been practicing meditation for about 40 years and love to share silence with others in community. Our First Church sanctuary in the evening is a beautiful place to do this! I will start the hour ringing a bell, then ring the bell every 20 minutes. If you are new to mindfulness meditation, I will be in the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. to give simple instructions.

“Food, Fun, Future” Continues EJM Election Priority

by Bruce Wiggins & Barbara Leigh
Earth Justice Ministry Co-Chairs

Are you worried about the condition of our social and physical environment? About environmental justice? EJM is exploring how to build environmental awareness and action and we welcome your ideas and enthusiasm. EJM agrees with First Church's Defend Democracy group and the Social Justice Council, which have made elections a major focus for the congregation this year. Good environmental policy will be enacted only if good people are elected!

EJM invites you to join us March 3, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. in the church Parlor for “Food, Fun and Future” discussion. In February, after bagels and a fun warm-up game, we met in small groups to focus on particular areas of interest that could involve the congregation. Interest areas include elections, pollinator protection, films, book discussions, solar panels and our collaboration as members of Plastic-Free MKE.

“Walk and Roll” Continues Monthly

We continue our monthly “Walk and Roll” for members and friends to get to know each other and enjoy nature. This winter, we are walking and rolling indoors. In February, we toured the School of Fresh Water Sciences. In March, we will be visiting the domes. In April, we plan to be back outside.

EJM Walk and Roll Indoors Mitchell Park Domes

by Jacki Zandi
Earth Justice Ministry Member

All are welcome to join First Church Earth Justice Ministry for an “indoor” Walk and Roll on Saturday, March 9 at 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Domes, located on Milwaukee's southside at 524 S. Layton Blvd. (27th St.)

The Domes were built as an expression of “hope lives.” According to the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory Newsletter, there is a plan for the future to address challenging problems. So let's explore the delightful Train Show, awaken our senses in the Tropical Dome, and cool down in the Desert Dome. Perhaps you will leave with renewed hope. EJM will pay the admission fee. Parking is free. The Domes are also accessed by the Purple Line. Jacki Zandi is the host.

Splinters from the Board

by Joe Riepenhoff

Board of Trustees Board Secretary

The Board of Trustees met via Zoom on January 23, 2024. The second quarter finances were presented by Director of Administration Jean Johnson and Finance Team Chair Noreen Gilbertsen. Based on the evidence presented, the Board unanimously found compliance with First Church Policies 4.4 (related to Financial Planning and Budgeting) and 4.5 (Financial Condition). Jean also presented the Board with a flow chart visualization of the financial auditing operational procedures, following up on previous board discussions around policy 4.6 (having to do with Asset Protection).

The Board unanimously approved the first slate of Trustees for the Endowment Fund as proposed by the Nominating Committee. This includes Betty Schroder, who will be serving a two-year term; Ron Oshima, who will be serving a four-year term; and David Becker, who will be serving a six-year term. Going forward, the Board will approve a new trustee for the trust fund every two years and the trustees will then be serving six-year terms.

Reverend Jennifer presented a report on the monitoring of Ends 1, 2, and 3. Based on the evidence presented, the Board voted unanimously in determining sufficient progress. For a reminder on our Ends, see here:

<https://uumilwaukee.org/welcome-first-church/what-we-believe/>

Stacy Koenen was also approved to step into the role of Vice President of the Board, as Sarah Richards has stepped down from that role.

Trustees Approved for the Endowment Fund

by Ron Oshima

Endowment Fund Task Force Member

We're excited to announce that three members of the congregation have been appointed by the Board of Trustees (BOT) to serve as the initial trustees of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Endowment Fund. They are Dave Becker, Ron Oshima, and Betty Shroeder. They were appointed by the Board after a thorough search and vetting process by the Nominating Committee.

Dave brings extensive experience in business management at GE. Ron and Betty both have banking backgrounds – Ron in product management and marketing, and Betty in finance. All are long-time members of First Church and have served on either the Finance or Investment Committees. Profiles of each trustee will be presented in next month's issue of the Chanticleer.

Once the Trust Agreement is finalized and has been executed by the President of the Congregation and the three newly appointed trustees, we will file an application with the Internal Revenue Service to have the Trust certified as a 501c(3) (because it is a separate entity from First Church, it does not automatically qualify as tax-exempt).

Looking ahead, we'll be working with the BOT to develop a plan to communicate the key aspects of the Trust Agreement to our congregation.



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, March 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.

Book Discussion Group

Sunday, March 10
[Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us as we discuss March's read, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at uubarbra@gmail.com.

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.

The Chronologically Gifted Potluck

Please join on March 24, 2024
At Church

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!

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.

The Practice of Silence

Monday, March 11, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
At Church

Join us for a new meditation hour on second Mondays in the Sanctuary to practice silence. You can join and leave at any time.



Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



MARCH 3

Souls to the Polls Wisconsin Building a Community with Power

Anita Johnson, Voting Education Specialist & Community Outreach Manager.

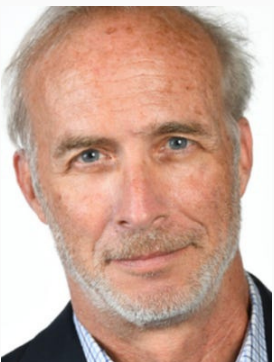
Johnson will discuss the mission and activities through which Souls to the Polls empowers voting. They believe that voting is a tool to build stronger, safer, and more supportive communities.

MARCH 10

Milwaukee Has a Port?

Jackie Q. Carter, Port Milwaukee Director.

That is the question asked by Milwaukee residents who are surprised to learn that international vessels dock right here in our city. Port Milwaukee Director, Jackie Q. Carter, will provide a detailed answer. Come and learn more about the port, the businesses and people who work there, and how it impacts our local, state and regional economy.



MARCH 31

Wisconsin: America's Most Enduring Political Battleground

Craig Gilbert, former Journal Sentinel's Washington Bureau Chief, fellow at Marquette Law School's Lubar Center.

Gilbert will discuss why Wisconsin is once more at the epicenter of presidential politics, how has it remained a 50/50 battleground despite big regional shifts, and how the balance of power here changed in the Trump Era. He'll also discuss the critical role that the shifting partisan landscape of metro Milwaukee will play in this year's presidential campaign.

March 17 & 21 Forum Speakers to be announced soon!

Staff Directory

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 201

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Dena McPhetres

dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 202

MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Rev. Kimberlee Carlson

kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 204

MINISTER EMERITUS

Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy, D.Min.

INTERN MINISTER

Steve Sieck

steve.sieck@uumilwaukee.org

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Jean Johnson

jean.johnson@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 203

OFFICE MANAGER

Shari Wright

shari.wright@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 207

YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Deb Solis

deb.solis@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 209

RE ASSISTANT

Kaitlin Barron

kaitlin.barron@uumilwaukee.org ext. 210

FACILITIES MANAGER

Ken Liddell

ken.liddell@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 206

FACILITIES & TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Jim Spice

jim.spice@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 215

MAINTENANCE WORKER

Nate Jackson

LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alissa Rhode

alissa.rhode@uumilwaukee.org

CHORAL DIRECTOR

Tristan Strelitzer

tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Teresa Drews

teresa.drews@uumilwaukee.org

Staff members have varying hours.

Please contact them directly to set up an appointment.

Board of Trustees Officers

President.....Pat Geenen

Vice President.....Stacy Koenen

SecretaryJoe Riepenhoff

TreasurerTom Briscoe

Members

George Bledsoe

Dana Brooks

Tony Panciera

Sarah Richards

Stacey Thieme

Amy Wilbourne

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 - 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.

© First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. All rights reserved.