

SEPTEMBER 2024



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*

Invitation



Inside News

by *The Chanticleer* Editors

Welcome to the New Church Year!

Ingathering Sunday, September 8, we move back to two, in-person worship services at 9:00 and 11:00 am. The 9:00 a.m. service will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel and on our website.

Religious Education will again be at 9:00 a.m. with everyone starting in the Sanctuary. Learn about the fall RE program (pp. 5-6)

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### Sept. 1 Pulpit Guest Rev. Mark Richards

is President of the Wisconsin UU State Action Network (WUUSAN). He serves Door County as a hospice chaplain. Mark first came to Unitarian Universalism in 1990 and quickly became involved in programs addressing racial justice and prison ministry. Ordained by the First Parish in Concord, MA, Mark's prior work included fast food, manufacturing, and information technology.



We invite you to our church where you will be greeted by the friendly Ushers who can answer your questions and assist those who need help. Thank you Rod Botts and the Usher team.

## Share the Plate September 2024

by Lynde Uihlein  
Share the Plate Team Member

The mission of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum is to document and preserve the historical heritage of African descent in Wisconsin. The Museum exhibits, collects and disseminates materials depicting this heritage. Serving as a resource center for all people interested in Wisconsin's rich African American heritage, the Museum's purpose is to encourage and promote family community and cultural activities.

Located on the corners of North 27 and West Center Streets, the WBHS/M opened its door and its heart to the community, city, and state in 1987. Based on the premise that a people who know their history will grow to love and appreciate themselves more, the Society is striving to create a bright future out of a heart-breaking past.

After 30 years in existence the WBHS/M has developed programming and activities to directly educate the surrounding community. Some examples include tutoring for children K-12th grades, seasonal classes, educational movies series, financial workshops on investing and credit rebuilding, lecture series.

For more information about programs and opportunities to learn, please search the web for Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum.

To contribute, mail your check to First Church made payable to Wisconsin Black Historical Society and we'll forward your contribution. Donations may also be made in Church or securely on line.

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)



# Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Dear First Church,

Every year like homecoming, we return to church in September with stories of the summer: heartbreaks and celebrations, new loves and losses. We gather in with our community on the Sunday after Labor Day (September 8!), and welcome people seeking meaning and belonging.

Our September theme is “the Practice of Invitation,” fitting for a month when we invite one another and ourselves to return to community. This year, how might we be broader, and more inclusive in our invitation? What practices would help us fling open our doors and welcome all those who are seeking the type of community we embody?

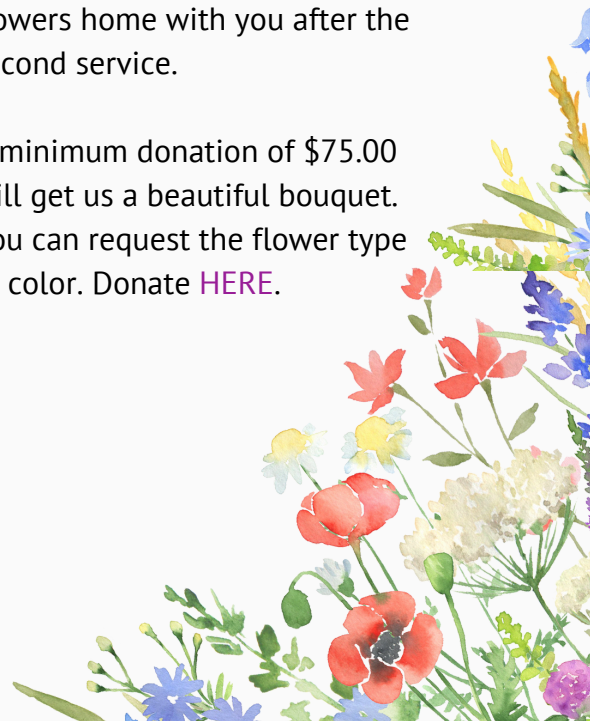
Belonging is a universal human need, and the love-centered, values-based community we create together is special. There is so much loneliness in this world, and so many people seeking a place to belong that honors who they are, and the sacredness of all life. All they need is an invitation. Let’s practice together!

With love,  
Jennifer  
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

## Decorate Our Sanctuary With Flowers!

Donate flowers for Sunday worship services that are displayed in the front of the Sanctuary. Your flowers provides an opportunity to dedicate to a cause, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a life event. A beautiful arrangement will be enjoyed in the Sanctuary for both Sunday services and you can take the flowers home with you after the second service.

A minimum donation of \$75.00 will get us a beautiful bouquet. You can request the flower type or color. Donate [HERE](#).



# SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

1

## I and Us

**Rev. Mark Richards, Pulpit Guest**

Teresa Drews, Collaborative Pianist

Trudy Watt, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

**ONE SERVICE ONLY**

8

## You Don't Need a Treasure Map

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director and Frogwater

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Rev. Dena McPhetres

Nancy Spransy, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

15

## What If All We Have Is Jello Salad?

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director

The Chancel Choir

Nick DaVia, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

22

## Inviting Relationship

**Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Amanda Panciera, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

29

## The Road Not Traveled

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

Jeremy Koenen, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

2 services at 9 & 11 a.m. beginning Sept. 8





# Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



You're invited to get involved with faith-filled learning fun at First Church this year! Our renewed Religious Education program format centers choice and relationship. RE now offers children and families choices about their faith formation needs on Sunday.

If you enjoy crafts, making art, food, or science projects, consider volunteering in the UU Maker Space which is all about unleashing creativity and exploration. If you prefer making connections through games, play and movement, consider helping during UU Play, where children learn UU values through interactive games. UU Maker Space and UU Play both explore the church's monthly theme with activities I provide and curate for the RE volunteers. If you have ideas for our children and youth, I would love to hear from you! Your idea might be just right for UU Chalice Choice. This option is designed to feature the many ways our church groups, teams and individuals live into our UU faith in Religious Education.

Our Religious Education program grows and thrives through our collective efforts, and we need all sorts of volunteers. On Sundays, if you want to show up and go with the flow, you are invited to be a RE helper. But if you are more of a planful person who likes to lead, then I invite you to become a lead facilitator in UU Play or

UU Maker Space. If you are still wondering if you fit in, I invite you to join us for an RE Volunteer meeting on Sunday, September 8 from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in the Young Room. We will cover important topics such as an overview of the RE program, child and youth safety practices, scheduling, and share opportunities for the coming year.

Throughout this year, all are invited to attend the monthly RE Volunteer meetings, held on the second Sunday of every month to keep our volunteers connected and involved.

This is your invitation to journey to the lower-level land of Religious Education and join our RE volunteer team!

Faithfully,  
Rev. Kimberlee  
Minister of Religious Education



## 2024-25 Religious Education

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Minister of Religious Education

At First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, we believe that Religious Education is an essential aspect of our community. That's why we encourage all families to register for our Religious Education program at the beginning of the new church year, that starts with Ingathering Sunday on September 8, 2024. For members, the registration cost for the entire year is \$50 per child, and the maximum cost is \$100 per family for the entire year. Guests of First Church RE fees are \$75 per child for the year. Children are welcome to attend as guests three times before registering for RE.

If your family needs a full or partial fee waiver, please do not hesitate to contact our Minister of Religious Education, Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson ([kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:kimberlee.carlson@uumilwaukee.org)).

Our Religious Education program offers a wide range of programs for children and youth of all ages. To learn more about our program offerings, please visit our church website. We take pride in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where all are welcome to participate. Our Religious Education program is community-oriented, and we encourage families to volunteer to maintain our program. At First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, we know that a collective effort is needed to make our program successful. So, we ask all families to consider volunteering to maintain our program. Register early, and let's create a community of faith, hope, and love together.

[Click Here to the Religious Education Registration](#)

## Sunday Programs Birth to 12th Grade

**Childcare for Children** (Birth-3 years of age) Nursery Caregiver, Cecelia Groshek and RE Volunteers provide care for our youngest children in the Servetus Nursery room during both Sunday services.

**Soul Matters Preschool** (3-6 years of age) Early Childhood Coordinator, Mariah Groshek guides our children in exploring our faith through ritual, story, and play related to the church's monthly theme during both Sunday services in the Dorothea Dix Preschool Room.

**UU Maker Space** (6-18 years of age) The maker space is all about unleashing creativity and exploration. With a range of materials and activities, children will learn through hands-on creation.

**UU Play** (6-18 years of age) Play is important in a child's development. In UU Play, children learn through games that reflect our values and build strong relationships with their peers and the environment.

**Youth Group** (7-12th Grade) This Youth Group will meet the first and third Sunday of each month. We explore our church's theme with "whole person" learning, focusing on the different ways we engage with the world.

## Connect with Our Children, Volunteer in RE

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Minister of Religious Education

Are you looking for a way to give back to your community and make a difference in the lives of young people? Look no further than the RE Volunteer program at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee! Our program offers a fun and rewarding way to get involved in our community and support the spiritual growth of our children and youth.

Join us for a RE Volunteer meeting of the year on Sunday, September 8 from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in the lower level Young Room. We will cover important topics such as an overview of the RE program, child and youth safety practices, scheduling, and share opportunities for the coming year. The Nursery, Pre-school and Faith Formation Room will be open for childcare during this time. This is the first of our new monthly RE Volunteer meetings, which will be held on the second Sunday of every month to keep our volunteers connected and involved.

If you volunteered with us last year, there is no need to register again. However, if you are new to volunteering, please fill out the RE Volunteer form at <https://onrealm.org/FUSM/PublicRegistrations/Event?> to get started. All volunteers

working with children will be required to undergo a general background check to ensure our families' safety.

We invite you to check out and sign up on the new RE 2024-25 schedule at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050848A4A923AAFC1-50184619-revolunteer#/> and become a part of our vibrant and supportive community. Please note the addition of topics to our sign-up calendar to help us match your skills and interests with our RE program. Let's make a difference together!

## Enjoy a Fall Equinox Healing Vibrational Sound Bath with Reiki!

by Lynda Strong

Sunday, September 22, 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m., in Max Otto Hall. Join Lynda Strong of Imperial Serenity and Wellness for a Healing Vibrational Sound Bath with Reiki! She will lead us through guided imagery and use the vibrational healing properties of instruments such as crystal singing bowls, drums and chimes, and Intuitive Reiki. This combination of safe and natural healing can balance our energies, bring deep inner peace and prepare us for the change of seasons ahead.

If you are interested in attending, please complete the registration and payment through this link

<https://fons.app/@lyndastrong/workshops/8c85c0ec-4eb5-11ef-afff-f3174de1fed1>. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Participants as young as 5 years old are welcome to join as long as they are able to lie quietly for this experience.

Be sure to wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Chairs are provided for sitting, and you are welcome to bring a yoga mat, blanket and pillow if you prefer to lie on the floor for this experience.

We will build a fall altar for this event - feel free to bring anything you feel drawn to share on this altar. Crystals, pictures, natural items, anything that helps you connect with the changing season. You are welcome to bring a light snack to share after the event. Email Lynda at [imperialserenityandwellness@gmail.com](mailto:imperialserenityandwellness@gmail.com) with any questions.

PLEASE NOTE: Vibrational sound healing is safe for everyone, but Lynda requires your doctor's permission before participating if you have a built-in medical device, such as a pacemaker or diabetes pump.

Lynda Strong has been a member of First Church since 2017. She is a certified sound healer and received her trauma and addiction recovery coaching license last year. Lynda has been an intuitive energy healer and Reiki Practitioner since 2021 and was previously an educator for over two decades. She offered sound healing at our First Church Silent Retreat in April which was enthusiastically received.



## What Are Theme Circles?

by Rev. Dena McPhetres  
Associate Minister

Theme Circles are monthly small groups that deepen and support the spiritual journeys of participants in community with each other and in connection with the church's monthly worship themes.

Prior to each meeting, participants engage in pre-reading and contemplation exercises based on that month's worship theme, at whatever level they can. Theme packets are sent in advance which include Questions to Live With, Spiritual Exercises, readings, links to articles, music, podcasts, videos and more.

To build community, depth of connection, and a healthy small group dynamic, monthly attendance is a priority. Theme circles are open to members, friends, and regular guests of First Church.

This fall, we offer six Standard theme circles and three Focused theme circles. The Focused theme circles focus on a certain demographic (LGBTQIA or Parents) or a particular type of sharing (UU Writers).

Are you seeking meaning and belonging? Would you like to connect with others on a deeper level? Explore the Theme Circle Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers), schedule, and registration form [HERE](#) or visit the Membership Table during coffee hours in September to pick up a flyer and talk to someone wearing an Ask Me badge!

Registration opens on September 1 and the deadline to register is September 29. Rev. Dena then sorts people into their groups, based on your choices, and shares the roster in early October. Theme Circles begin meeting during the third week of the month in October.

## Focused Theme Circles

### LGBTQI+ Theme Circle

The LGBTQI+ community has a unique context in which to engage our hearts and minds through our shared connectedness, offering a safe space to express our lives and differences with each other. This new Theme Circle follows the standard format with people who self-identify in the queer community demographic.

### Parents Theme Circle

Join other parents of school-age and younger children to explore our monthly worship themes. This Theme Circle is designed to accommodate the needs of parents, so it meets for a shorter time span (1.5 hours). We encourage parents to hold the attendance and homework commitment as best you can. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer childcare.

### UU Writers Theme Circle

Explore our monthly themes through the art of creative writing! Use whatever writing practice you are most comfortable with (journaling, poetry, prose, storytelling). Follow the writing prompts and choose a writing exercise from the monthly packet. Come to your group ready to share, inspire, support and witness each other.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

### Thallis Drake

A reminder that we'll hold a memorial service concert in memory of Thallis Hoyt Drake at First Church, full of music from her life which she planned, on Monday evening, September 30, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Dena McPhetres, officiating. The memorial concert, featuring many guest musicians, will likely last an hour and a half, followed by a reception in the Leenhouts Common Room..



### 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](mailto:fuspastoralcare@gmail.com) or 414-573-9823.

If you'd like to talk to the Ministers, please call our Pastoral Care Emergency line at 414-273-5257 option 5.

For practical help, grocery shopping and delivery, or contactless meal delivery, contact Liz Irwin Moore, Pastoral Care Provider Coordinator at: [fuspcprovider@gmail.com](mailto:fuspcprovider@gmail.com).

For personal financial assistance, please contact Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom at [jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org).

## NEW PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCY HOTLINE



*Just call  
the  
church!*



## Save the Date: UU Climate Justice Revival with Lea Morris, 2024 Irma Morter Lecturer

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom  
Senior Minister

Our congregation is joining UUs across the land to revive our commitment to climate justice.

- October 5, 2024 - Interactive workshops for all ages in the morning
- October 5, 2024 – Lea Morris gives our 2024 Irma Morter Lecture on the connection between music and justice
- October 6, 2024 – Worship, featuring Lea Morris, followed by an advocacy hour

This is an all-ages event where we will learn at the intersection of climate and justice and have the chance to weave together the threads of our deepest commitments. The UU Climate Revival will equip UU congregations for climate action that breaks down silos and cultivates relationships that lead to flourishing collaborations. See more details at the UU Climate Justice Revival website and FAQs.

Sign up today at <https://bit.ly/UUClimateRevival>. Lunch will be provided.



**Reimagine Together**  
From An Extractive  
Age To A New Era

## Walk and Roll Lincoln Park

by Jacki Zandi  
Earth Justice Ministry Member

Join Earth Justice Ministry on Saturday September 14th from 10:30 to noon at Lincoln Park, located on Milwaukee's north side along the Milwaukee River at 1301 W Hampton Ave.

Let's park on the Milwaukee River Parkway which is at the first bridge north of Hampton Ave. and meet at the Pollinator Garden. From there we will Walk and Roll around the park on sidewalks. We always see more when we are together. Laura Herzog, who is one of the active gardeners there, will be our leader. Jacki Zandi will be your host. Invite friends and family!

## Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) Hits the Ground Running

by Terry Wiggins, Co-Chair  
Earth Justice Ministry

EJM's highest priority this fall is working with the Defend Democracy Team and getting out the vote for the November election. We will also continue activities around our spiritual-environmental focus. We encourage all church members to attend the Climate Justice Revival and Leah Morris weekend. (The Climate Justice Revival is NOT for climate nerds only; let's break down silos!) Watch the weekly e-announcements for specifics.

Over the summer, EJM was active on a few fronts. There were "Walk and Roll" events each month. In June, it was Grant Park; in July, Hart Park and the Tosa Farmers Market; in August, Gordon Park and the Beerline Trail were demystified by Vince Bushell. All three parks had a variety of foliage and wildlife which walkers identified. Jack Zandi and Paula Anderson were the planners and hosts of these events, and this Fall, they'll continue finding new places for enjoyment of the outdoors.

Another summer focus was starting EJM's Climate and Equity Plan team. Ted Kraig led a group that determined we need to inform our congregation about the City's Plan, to join the Our Future Milwaukee Coalition, and to support further efforts to implement the plan.

A group discussing Joanna Macy's book *Active Hope* will meet through September. EJM is also supporting efforts to reduce single-use plastics with Plastic-Free MKE.

## *Bad River* Film Screening

by Jenny Abel  
Member of Social Justice Team

On October 13 at 1:00 join the Social Justice Council for a screening of *Bad River*, a film that details the Bad River Tribe's decades-long fight to shut down the Line 5 oil pipeline that travels through their land on its journey from Canada to Michigan. Told through the voices of tribal members and other indigenous attorneys and activists, the film relates their struggle to protect the health of the land, water, wildlife, and people of Northwest Wisconsin, along with the drinking water of millions of residents that would be impacted by an oil spill from this more than 50 years old infrastructure.

Please mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more details in the announcements about this event that will be coming one day before Indigenous People's Day. Feel free to direct any questions to Jenny Abel: [jabel209@gmail.com](mailto:jabel209@gmail.com).





First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

# DEFEND DEMOCRACY

## Defend Democracy Volunteer Fair

by Juanita Mast  
Defend Democracy

Join us to find out how you can Defend Democracy this fall! Church members will share opportunities for you to plug into the exciting work of getting out the vote, registering voters, and supporting a free and fair election. Come see what's possible and how you can use your skills for good! We will have information and treats on September 22 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

## *It Can't Happen Here* Play Reading About Democracy

by Chris Zapf and Karen Samelson  
Defend Democracy

Concerned about the election and where the U.S. is headed? Attend a free showing of *It Can't Happen Here – Again!* – a nationwide celebration of resistance to the movement that could destroy democracy. The 30-minute staged reading will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

In 1936, Sinclair Lewis' adaptation of his novel *It Can't Happen Here* opened on 21 stages in 17 states on Oct. 27, one week before that year's presidential election as a warning against the rise of fascism in America.

In July 2024, Writers for Democratic Action did readings of a version updated for the 2024 situation across the country, including several in Milwaukee and one at the Waukesha library. The performance, both humorous and alarming, resonated with audience members. Concerned theatre artists are donating their time to bring it back this fall in more locations before the election.

This reading on Sept. 25 by five local artists, including Jim Pickering, will be followed by a conversation about what we need to do to protect democracy.

Please RSVP at <https://shorturl.at/q0sMa>.

## Help Us Grow Belonging

by Rev. Dena McPhetres  
Associate Minister

When people visit a new faith community, the central hope they bring is to find a place where they might have a sense of belonging. The questions they hold in their hearts are something like: Can I see myself here? Do my values align? Does it feel right? The unspoken yearning is to feel “soul-settling” in the new community. The journey of identity is to discover they can be themselves here. For that to happen, at least one person needs to notice them, care about them, be curious enough to extend a connection. In this way, the person feels like they matter.

Does this ring true for you as you reflect on your journey to and among our community at First Church? Who was the person who first reached out to you during your first few visits here? Can you be that person for at least one of the many guests who are finding their way to our community?

If you are interested in getting to know people who come through our doors, and exploring ways to foster connection and deeper engagement, please consider joining our Membership Team. We are looking for friendly folks who have a passion for our community and enjoy extending themselves in genuine invitation.

We meet once a month and would love to have your presence, wisdom and ideas! Please contact Rev. Dena or intern Steve Sieck if you'd like to join us!

## Journey to Membership

Saturday, Oct. 12, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm and  
Tuesday, Oct. 15, 6:30 -8:30 pm  
In-person, at First Church

Interested in Unitarian Universalism? Wondering about what is involved in becoming a member here? Come to our Journey to Membership class held in-person this fall! 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 belonging, want to meet others, or just want a deeper understanding of intentional community as we strive to practice it here. Registration deadline is October 6. Questions? Email Rev. Dena at: [dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org). Learn more about membership or register at [uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/](http://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/).

## Slowing Down and Showing Up for All That is Our Life

by Steve Sieck  
Ministerial Intern

A retreat for male-identifying folks will be held at church on Saturday, September 14, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This retreat is an opportunity for male-identifying folks to slow down, show up, and courageously and honestly explore with one another what is most real and alive in their lives at this moment in time. This retreat will include:

- Short presentations and reflections by Rev. Justin Schroeder to be used as springboards for deepening conversation among participants.
- Guided embodied practices to help us all ground, settle, and arrive in the present moment.
- Small Group time for men to listen and share whole-heartedly with one another.
- Snacks and a meal together.
- Deeper connections with one another!

Register [online here](#).

Questions? Please contact Ministerial Intern and coordinator for the retreat, Steve Sieck, at [steve.sieck@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:steve.sieck@uumilwaukee.org)

## Delicious Fun, Circle Suppers!

by Eileen Teska  
Circle Suppers Coordinator

**SIGN UP NOW ON THIS FORM**

Circle Suppers are a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and deepen existing friendships in a relaxed setting. The small-group dinners are held in participants' homes, with everyone bringing an assigned element of the meal: main dish, salad, or dessert, with the host providing the beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

Each of the four dinners includes a different mix of up to eight participants. The responsibilities of hosting and what participants bring are rotated for each dinner. The dates are scheduled for four Saturday evenings of dinner parties: Nov. 9, Jan. 18, March 1 and May 17. You don't need a big dining room table to host: buffet style serving with informal seating is just fine.

Circle Suppers are open to all adult church members and friends. You can sign up as a pair/couple, as an individual, or as a substitute, either hosting or non-hosting.

## Endowment Fund Task Force Update

by Ron Oshima  
Endowment Trustee

What's happening with the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Endowment Fund Trust?

We wanted to share a quick update on The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Endowment Fund Trust (FUSM Endowment Fund Trust). On August 15, our Endowment Fund Trustees—Dave Becker, Ron Oshima, and Betty Schroeder—met with Director of Administration Jean Johnson to work out the day-to-day details of managing the trust. Here's what's next:

**State Registration** - We've filed the application to register The FUSM Endowment Fund Trust with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. We'll let you know once this is officially done.

**Setting Up Financial Accounts** - The trustees are collaborating with FUSM's admin team to set up separate financial accounts for the Endowment Trust. These will include:

- A checking account
- A brokerage account to convert donated securities into cash
- An investment account with the UUA Common Endowment Fund

Since we launched the Forge Our Future Campaign in 2022, the journey involved many folks along the way. We're incredibly grateful for everyone's support and patience.

The FUSM Endowment Fund Trust is designed to be a principle-protected fund, so it will continue to provide financial stability for FUSM for years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions and for sticking with us through this process. If you haven't already, please continue to fulfill your pledges or contribute however you can.



## Support the Endowment Fund!

Goal: \$3,000,000

As of August 27, 2024

Dollars pledged: \$2,819,433

Fulfilled Amount: \$1,643,846



## It's never too late to pledge!

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





# SEPTEMBER EVENTS



## Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, Sept 4 & 18, 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](mailto:gatheringwaterssangha@gmail.com).

## Book Discussion Group

Sunday, September 15  
[Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us as we discuss September's read, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at [uubarbra@gmail.com](mailto:uubarbra@gmail.com).

## Chancel Choir

Every Thursday, 7:15 -9:00 pm  
At Church

Join us on Thursdays in singing as we prepare to perform at Sunday services. Open to all singers high school age and up (no previous experience or audition required). Contact Tristan Strelitzer for more information or to join at [tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org).

## The Chronologically Gifted Potluck

Sunday, Sept. 29 at 12:30 pm  
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.

## SWANS (Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social)

Sunday, September 8, 12:45 pm

This month we will meet to visit the Jewish Museum on 1360 N. Prospect near church to see *Chagall's Dead Souls. A Satirical Account of Imperialist Russia*. Contact Barbara Collignon at [bjcollig@gmail.com](mailto:bjcollig@gmail.com).



# Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**SEPTEMBER 8**

## Why Are the Hmong in America?

**Amoun Sayaovong, J.D., Hmong historian.**

We will hear an in-depth examination of the history of the Hmong people from their ancient origins to their present day lives in the United States. Amoun Sayaovong has published articles on the Hmong and is widely read on the topic. He has interviewed some of the major players in Hmong history, including William E. Coby, former CIA director, and Hugh Tovar, former station chief of the Southeast Asian office of the CIA. He has intimate knowledge from first-hand accounts of General Vangpao and Dr. Yangdao, two of the most influential Hmong leaders in history.

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**SEPTEMBER 15**

## Guilty of Journalism: The Assange Case and Its Impact on Freedom of the Press.

**Kevin Gosztola, editor of TheDissenter.org and author of Guilty of Journalism: The Political Case Against Julian Assange.**

A global effort by advocates, campaigners, journalists, organizers, and supporters of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange pushed President Joe Biden's administration to finally free Assange. But US prosecutors still coerced Assange into pleading guilty to violating the Espionage Act when he engaged in journalism. What is the significance of the US government prosecuting an international journalist with the Espionage Act for all US citizens? What is the impact on our civil liberties? What does the outcome mean for the future of journalism in all of its forms?





# Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**SEPTEMBER 22**

## Law Forward: Fighting for free, fair elections where all votes count.

**TR Edwards, Staff Counsel**

A timely update on what voting rules are in place for the November elections. Law Forward is on the frontlines—in the courts and in public spaces—fighting to protect and strengthen democracy in Wisconsin. Since 2020, the legal organization has engaged in crucial fights for ballot access, led the fight for fair districts, protected separation of powers, advocated for the judiciary's constitutional role, and convened broad coalitions to resist election subversion and ensure fair, free elections.

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**SEPTEMBER 29**

## NAACP Milwaukee Branch Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary!

**Clarence Nicholas, President NAACP Milwaukee Branch**

The NAACP Milwaukee Branch, launched in 1924, is one of the oldest branches in the nation – working in the forefront of the civil rights movement. The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.



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## 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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