

NOVEMBER 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*

## Repair

# Inside News

by *The Chanticleer* Editors

This month, connect with others at First Church to make a difference! Defend Democracy and support voting, creatively explore anti-racism, support the Guest House with sandwich-making, and more.

## Voter Weekend at First Church

**Saturday & Sunday (Nov. 2 & 3)**, canvas with UU the Vote and Common Ground, here at First Church.

**Sunday**, celebrate poll workers and GOTV activists.

**Wednesday (Nov. 6)**, decompress and repair with our ministers in the Sanctuary.

(page 7)

**Truth Evolution Workshop with Dasha Kelly Hamilton** is coming later in November. Sign up now for this creative and engaging program for community exploration of anti-racism. (page 11)

**Sandwich making for The Guest House** on Nov. 10 (page 8)  
Donations needed. Help make the sammies!

## New Pastoral Care Associates

Come support and exchanges promises with our new PCAs as they are commissioned on Nov. 10. (page 9)

Sign up to receive weekly announcements about church activities [HERE](#).

## GRAND AVENUE CLUB

### Share the Plate

### November 2024

by Lynde Uihlein,  
Share the Plate Team Member

The mission of the Grand Avenue Club is to provide adults of Greater Milwaukee who experience mental illness with employment as well as educational and enrichment programming.

Founded in Milwaukee in 1991, they are a welcoming, non-clinical community that focuses on providing meaningful opportunities for their members. Grand Avenue Club provides opportunities for prevocational training, paid employment, evening and weekend recreation, supported education and holiday programming. In April 1993, GAC's Employment Program began with a messenger position at Foley & Lardner. Their Supported Education Program began in 1997. Via this program members attend MATC, Marquette, and other local educational institutions to reach vocational goals or for self-enrichment.

- Membership is free, voluntary, and without time limits.
- Members earned \$1.8 million in taxable income in 2022, exceeding the annual operating budget.
- Membership is proven to reduce incarcerations, hospitalizations, and isolation.
- The unique spectrum of employment programming assists members in obtaining and retaining competitive employment with relationship-based support.
- The Club employs an international approach and evidence-based intervention for psychosocial rehabilitation.

Please find the Grand Avenue Club website for more information: <https://grandavenueclub.org>

[Donate to this STP Partner](#)



# Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

This November, our theme for the month is Repair, and no matter what happens with the election, there will be plenty that needs repair. We will need to tend to all the tears and breaks and trauma in our nation: broken hearts, fissures in families, torn communities.

This month, may we begin a journey of repair in the world, and in our own hearts, first by telling the truth about what hurts. In listening to one another and our neighbors, may we learn what balm each hurt needs in order to heal, and set a course to make changes in our lives and in the world.

Right before the election, on the weekend of November 2-3, join us as we put our values to work defending democracy with UU the Vote, canvassing with Planned Parenthood (see the UU the Vote article on page 7). If you want to get involved in defending democracy on the day of the election, contact our Defend Democracy team. On the day after the election, November 6, the sanctuary will be open all day with a minister present for anyone who wants to process, connect, or just sit in sacred space.

No matter what happens on November 5, this has been an electoral process that has broken hearts. As a community, may we pick up our mending needles to do the work of healing and repair within our own spirits, among our people, and beyond our walls.

Keep the faith friends: we have each other in this long-haul work to repair the world.

With love,  
Jennifer

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

The Hilgeman Family.  
See Page 7 for election weekend events.





# Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



By now, many of you will have read or heard the happy-sad news that I will be retiring on June 30, 2025. My last day in the pulpit will be our Flower Ceremony on Sunday, June 1. This is happy news because I am in good health and looking forward to the joys of retirement. Those of you who have shown me your own robust and creative retirements unknowingly played some part in my decision! This is sad news because after June 30, I will no longer be your minister. I will set down the role of active ministry and will no longer be preaching, doing pastoral care, or officiating at weddings and memorial services.

Some of you were shocked and surprised by this news. Some of you do not believe that I will turn 65 years old in the summer of 2025, but it is true. Many of you are happy for me. Many of you may be sad. Some of that grief may even show up as anger or the understandable but irrational thought that I cannot retire until after you die. But isn't the alternative so much better? To be alive!

It's OK to have all the feelings, and to have a variety of feelings at the same time. Most any transition is happy-sad. Most any transition contains an end and a beginning. To help create

the best beginning for you and the minister who comes after me, post-retirement, I will be away from First Church for a year or two. Following best practices, I will also decline your invitations to social events outside of church. Please don't take it personally! This is one of the hardest parts of separation for me, too.

Another hard part is repair: mending any hurts or disappointments we may have caused each other over the last 15+ years. It takes courage, honesty, and love to do that well. Please reach out if you feel the need for repair. If we don't have those conversations sometime over the next eight months, we may never get the chance, and the hurt could spill over in unintended ways.

I am filled with gratitude and joy for the great honor of 16 years serving as your Associate Minister and 28 years of active ministry. It's been a good run!

Yours,  
Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister





# Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



Of all the words that focus on restoration and use the prefix “re”, (reconnect, recreate, relax, renovation, resurrect) it seems to me that the word “repair” carries with it a shadow of negativity. The prefix “re-” means “again” or “back”, yet “repair” is intertwined with the causality of brokenness. It is hard to be enthusiastic about repairs. Repairs can be onerous, unexpected, and needed after injury.

Though we may want a relationship, a car, or a system, to be recreated or restored, it is less likely we are eager for the process of repairing. I know I can vacillate between an urgent desire to fix something immediately to a procrastination of epic proportions. What is our correlation between willingness to engage with repair and our fears about the toll of repairing?

Confronting the truth about brokenness can be uncomfortable, daunting and scary. A hard truth I reckoned with concerns the history of religious education (RE) in our faith tradition. As we work to repair or preferably rebuild RE to fit our current families and congregation, acquiring knowledge of how we came to be broken is a prerequisite. The history of Unitarian and Universalist religious education is filled with innovative, empowering ways to teach and comprehend religion, culture and human existence. And yet, our liberal faith also reflects the times it exists in. RE’s history is the history of women’s work in the church; women who were not allowed positions of power and oppressed in society provided the workforce and

care needed to create religious education.

“We have inherited a Sunday school model that depends on unpaid or underpaid leadership, despite decades of tremendous dedication and sacrifice. We are in a time when that is simply not an option for our current workforce.” *The Death of Sunday School and the Future of Faith Formation* by Kimberly Sweeney.

Last month, the U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, issued an **advisory** on the mental health and well-being of parents, stating that many parents are stressed out by the demands of parenthood.

Repairing religious education requires understanding the past inequity to make space for another way to enter. We ask and need the larger community to volunteer, to create religious education because we must support our families, and we can repair an injustice.

The journey of healing histories of oppression is related to both patience and recognition. The process of repair, mending and healing may involve painful revelations, yet we cannot let our fear or discomfort prevent us from getting to the regenerating part of the process.

Repair is an act of renewal. May we find the courage to heal as we co-create the future we yearn for.

# SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

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## Be Not Afraid

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director  
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Andrew Whitver, Worship Associate  
[Click for info about this service](#)

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## The Story Has Not Ended

**Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director  
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Debra Klepp, Worship Associate  
[Click for info about this service](#)

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## Making Amends

**Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director  
The Chancel Choir  
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Tom Hester, Worship Associate  
[Click for info about this service](#)

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## Oops, I Did It Again!

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

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director  
Nick DaVia, Worship Associate  
[Click for info about this service](#)

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

# SATURDAY/SUNDAY

## UU the Vote

### 2024 Milwaukee Activation

**Saturday, November 2 (12:00-4:30 p.m.) &  
Sunday, November 3 (12:30-5:00 p.m.)**

Are you feeling stressed about the election?  
Worrying about the future of our democracy?  
Taking positive action is the most effective way  
to reduce anxiety, and it makes a difference in  
the outcome. So, stop worrying and do something  
to make a difference!

Join UU the Vote, First Unitarian Society of  
Milwaukee, and local grassroots organizing  
partner(s) as we have conversations with our  
neighbors leading up to the November election.  
We'll be knocking on doors in teams. We'll offer  
lunch, grounding, and canvass training before  
launching from First Church.

Whether you're an experienced canvasser or  
going to take the plunge for your first time, we  
want you! We are so grateful that UUs from  
Illinois, Minnesota and beyond have signed up to  
join us in this important UU values work of  
Defending Democracy. **RSVP** and tell a friend:



# SUNDAY

## Pep Rally for Election Day Celebration

**Sunday, November 3 Coffee Hours**

Join us in the Common Room after both services  
on Sunday, November 3 for a pep rally and  
celebration for all who are participating in  
Election Day events and actions and celebrate  
with cake and coffee. This is a celebration of  
everyone from First Church who is working on  
Election Day as poll workers, Election Observers,  
helping with Voter Rescue, providing rides to  
the polls, doing election day "sweeps," or  
helping with other activities to support voters.  
Come cheer on our Election Workers.

# WEDNESDAY

## Post-Election Sacred Space

**Sanctuary Open November 6**

The First Church Sanctuary will be open with a  
minister present the day after the election, Nov.  
6, from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. No matter what  
happens, this election has been stressful, even  
traumatic. If you need a place to process,  
decompress, cry, or connect, your Sanctuary will  
be open with ministerial support all day on  
November 6. Come light a candle, talk to one of  
your ministers, or sit in the sacred space. We  
have been through a lot. May we do the work of  
repair for our hearts, our homes, and our  
communities. Limited childcare will be available  
from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Faith Formation  
Room with RE & Membership Assistant Fiona.

# DEFEND DEMOCRACY



## Child Dedication Nov. 24

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Minister of Religious Education

On November 24, a Dedication of Parents and Children will take place during our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services.

The Child Dedication Ceremony is a time for celebrating the birth or adoption of a child in a ceremony of naming and dedication. It is a time for welcoming our children into the world, into the family, and into the church community. It is a time for acknowledging that each child's life is sacred and holding that truth in the light of our faith.

This simple ceremony is related to the Christian "baptism" or "christening," though the meanings we attach to it are significantly different. Please read our [UU Child Dedication](#) website link for a full description.

The ceremony is a public declaration by parents dedicating themselves to faithfully nurturing and supporting their children. The congregation recognizes your child's original blessing, and we dedicate ourselves to nurturing your child and you. Because of the promises our congregation makes to the family during the ceremony, child dedications are available only to members of the church.

If you are interested in having your child dedicated on November 24, fill out this [online form](#) by Sunday, November 17 or email Rev. Kimberlee.

## Guest House Sandwich Making

On Sunday, November 10, our Religious Education program is partnering with Guest House to learn about homelessness in Milwaukee. Guest House of Milwaukee provides shelter, housing, education, and services to Milwaukee's homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose. Guest House provides approximately 300 sandwiches every day to people in our community. Our goal is to make enough sandwiches for one day.

Christine Jacobs is visiting from the Guest House that Sunday to talk with us about the people they serve and what we can do to help people in need.

**Help Make Sandwiches!** Everyone is welcome to join us after the first service to make sandwiches and help feed the hungry from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

**Donations Needed!** Sliced bread, meat and cheese are needed for our big sandwich making day! To make 300+ sandwiches, we will need approximately 36 lbs. of sliced deli meat, 40 regular size loaves of sandwich bread, 300 slices of cheese, and 300 zip-top bags. We hope you will consider donating sliced bread, cheese or meat for our sandwich making day.

Let us know what you can donate by signing up: [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

Donations can be dropped off at church in the downstairs RE refrigerator between Nov. 5-9. All donations need to be at church by Sunday at 9:00 a.m. on November 10. THANK YOU!

## Pastoral Care Associate Commissioning Ceremony

by Rev. Dena McPhetres  
Associate Minister

Sunday, November 10 at both services, we will “commission” our new Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs). In a religious community, to commission means to convey the authority to perform a task or take on certain duties and responsibilities. We hold a ceremony to embody the trust we place in our trained listeners, who will have completed twenty hours of training. We charge them to hold our stories in confidence and be a listening presence for those who are going through a difficult time.

The task of a PCA is not to fix the problems of other people, but to sit with them as they process the challenges that face them. The role is not to give advice or tell someone what to do, but to listen with warmth and compassion as people find their own way. PCAs do not offer counseling, but are simply present, with an open heart and an open mind. Because of the deeply personal nature of this ministry, we ask that our PCAs hold themselves accountable to the highest standards of integrity. Our PCAs promise to listen in a way that is worthy of trust, to speak in a way that is respectful, and to keep appropriate boundaries and confidentiality. The congregation promises to support them during their three-year ministry.

Please come November 10 to participate in this exchange of promises, greet and thank our new PCAs, and learn how to access their listening presence for whatever you may be going through.

### 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 Phil Reykdal who was in a serious bicycle accident on September 26. We wish you a smooth recovery!

Our heartfelt condolences are with Sarah Richards whose younger sister Claudia died unexpectedly on October 15. May love and care surround you and your family as you grieve.

## Social Justice Council & EJM Co-sponsor Climate Revival

by Bruce Wiggins  
Earth Justice Ministry Co-Chair

Our Social Justice Council and Earth Justice Ministry co-sponsored several interconnected events on Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6. Events included a workshop Saturday morning, the Morter Lecture Saturday afternoon and a special service Sunday morning. Lea Morris, songwriter and song leader extraordinaire, was a guest and leader for the Saturday afternoon “songversation” and the Sunday morning service.

Saturday morning, about 20 First Church members and friends gathered at church to reflect on the connections between earth, climate and humanity. We made maps of Milwaukee’s climate and justice challenges and how they are connected. Poverty, a racist prison and legal system, inadequate housing, and gender discrimination all make climate disasters and challenges more difficult for marginalized people. We brainstormed how we might overcome these challenges with love and care and connection -- such as church being a resource for community care, developing neighborhood teams, supporting food pantries, and using less fossil fuel.

The Revival Planning Team is meeting to plan follow-up. Watch for announcements.

## EJM Walk & Roll Forest Home Cemetery

by Jacki Zandi  
Earth Justice Ministry Member

Please join us on Saturday, November 9 from 10:30-noon for our Walk and Roll at Forest Home Cemetery, located on Milwaukee’s southside at 2405 W. Forest Home Avenue, bordered by S. 27th on the west, Forest Home Avenue on the northwest corner, and W. Lincoln Avenue to the north. This historical site is an arboretum within Milwaukee’s largest greenspace. You can park on the street, or in limited spaces in front of the office building, which is inside the cemetery near the W. Lincoln entrance.

Let’s meet in front of the building. From there we will Walk and Roll through the landscape amongst the monuments of our founders and leaders, beer barons and industrialists, and many more. Your hosts are Paula Anderson and Jacki Zandi. Bring friends and family. We always see more together. This site is served by MCTS bus lines 24, 53, and Purple.





## Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) Meets Nov. 10

by Bruce Wiggins  
EJM Co-Chair

Our Earth Justice Ministry will get back to our monthly gatherings on Nov. 10 from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Like other social justice groups, we have been working to get out the vote and defend democracy so have not been meeting monthly in order for EJMs to concentrate on the elections.

Gathering again (snacks provided,) we will reflect on the book some of our members have been reading and discussing, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in with Unexpected Resilience and Creative Power*. We will also hear about the activities of some of our work groups such as the City Climate and Equity Plan and Plastic Free MKE. Watch the weekly announcements for the meeting room location. All are welcome!



## The Truth Evolution Workshop

by Debra Klepp  
Anti-Racism Team

We are so excited to share the news: a Poet Laureate of Wisconsin, now living in Alaska with her husband, Dasha Kelly Hamilton is scheduled to lead our congregation in two adventurous, creative and engaging journeys exploring anti-racism!

“I’ve got on fishing waders, fuchsia lipstick, and a hot pink hoodie with ‘Alaska’ across the front,” begins one of Dasha’s stories. Dasha is a nationally sought after creative change agent who leads conversations that build community.

Join us at church on November 24, 12:30 to 2:30 to be introduced to Dasha and her unique fun approach to evolving truth, through her nationally renowned Truth Evolution Workshop! Open to people who are 10 years of age and up. It is a wonderful way to engage in this important topic with your family.

The fare for the afternoon is potluck finger food! Feel free to bring something to share, even if it’s Jello mold! Space is limited to 60, save your spot soon! Register here: <https://bit.ly/3YmOovB>

Brought to you by the First Church Anti-Racism Team: Miles, Marisa, Debra, Alexis, Amy, George, Max, Patrick, Janine, and Revs K & J

## "Bad River" Film Highlights Indigenous People's Day

by Terry Wiggins

Earth Justice Ministry Co-Chair

On Indigenous Peoples Sunday, Oct. 13, the Anti-Racism Team and the Earth Justice Ministry sponsored a showing the documentary film, *Bad River*. It powerfully and unambiguously depicts how the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have been forced to defend their small reservation in northern Wisconsin. The Goliath that wants to ruin their land is Enbridge, the giant Canadian company whose pipelines, include Line 3 which cuts across the Mississippi headwaters, and the Dakota Access Pipeline, of 2016 infamy.

Line 5 is the issue in *Bad River*; it carries tar sands from Canada across the Great Lakes region, and back into Canada. When EJMs began to care about Line 5, more than a decade ago, it was an environmental issue – a very, very old pipeline running underneath the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan meets Lake Huron, with extremely rough currents. It's right in the middle of the world's largest supply of fresh water, no less – a catastrophic spill waiting to happen!

Now the issue is environmental injustice, too. The film powerfully shows how the pipeline crosses the Bad River Reservation in a manner

typical of how Native Americans have been mistreated for centuries.

A post-film panel discussion brought home the mistreatment. Now we are faced with the question, how can we help end this mistreatment? First step: tell Governor Evers to stop the line 5 reroute.

## Bad River Gratitude

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson  
Minister of Religious Education

The Anti-Racism Team would like to recognize the good work of the Earth Justice Ministry. They co-sponsored the screening of *Bad River* and invited members of the Bad River Band to participate in a panel discussion after the screening.

The film and talk offered meaningful learning and connection to the ninety people in attendance. Additionally, the donations from the film and Share the Plate proceeds offer financial support to the "Defend Bad River" fund. Thank you, First Church!



## Silent Retreat 2025

by Sarah Fowles

What's there to do at a silent retreat? Relax, reflect, contemplate life changes, nurture the spirit, grieve what needs grieving, and enjoy beauty. "It should not be surprising that many silent retreats result in life-transforming resolutions, decisions, affirmations, and tears of both grief and joy." - Drew Kennedy, from *Everyday Spiritual Practice: Simple Pathways for Enriching Your Life*.

The First Church Silent Retreat returns April 25-27, 2025 at the Cedar Valley Center in West Bend, which boasts 100 acres of natural beauty with hiking trails, gardens, a pond, rolling hills, and panoramic views.

The event fee includes lodging and meals (which are delicious!). The fee is \$340 per person for single occupancy rooms and \$310 per person for double occupancy rooms.

To register and pay the event fee, please visit <https://bit.ly/2025SilentRetreat>.

Questions may be directed to Sarah Fowles at [tiredandwired@gmail.com](mailto:tiredandwired@gmail.com), Lynda Strong at [imperialserenityandwellness@gmail.com](mailto:imperialserenityandwellness@gmail.com), Rollie Hanson at [rollie@hansonlaw.net](mailto:rollie@hansonlaw.net), or Chris Aiken at [chrisaiken2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisaiken2@gmail.com).

## Xmas Eve Reception Volunteers Wanted

by Fiona Higgins

RE & Membership Assistant

We have a wonderful opportunity for a volunteer or two. There is a tradition at First Church that the Christmas Eve services are each followed by a wonderful, decorated reception for the congregation complete with snacks and a holiday punch.

We are looking for some volunteers who are willing to lead this. The tasks are listed in a nice binder I would provide for the volunteers. Inside the binder is everything you'd need from timelines to samples of emails to the recipe for the punch. I am also able to help the volunteers with contact information or help set up sign-up sheets as needed. This is a great way to not only connect with other congregants but also a great opportunity for anyone looking to take that first step in volunteering here at First Church. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [Fiona.higgins@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:Fiona.higgins@uumilwaukee.org)





## Is a QCD for Me?

by Mark Bishop, CPA  
Congregation Member

As we look to the end of 2024, many of us start thinking about holidays, family gatherings, and year-end tax planning. I thought that I would share an idea that may be useful to many of our members, especially those approaching or over the age of 70½.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a tax-efficient way to make charitable donations. It's a direct transfer from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charity, such as First Church, and it's available only to IRA owners (and IRA beneficiaries) who are age 70½ or older. QCDs can be taken out of your traditional IRAs free of any federal income tax.

With the recent tax law changes, many of you who previously itemized deductions now find it advantageous to take the standard deduction instead. As a result, you no longer deduct your charitable contributions, but via a QCD, some can still make those contributions with pretax dollars, resulting in significant tax savings. Unlike typical charitable donations, you can't claim itemized deductions for QCDs. That's OK because the tax-free treatment of QCDs equates to a 100% deduction as you'll never be taxed on those amounts. In addition, you don't have to worry about tax law restrictions that apply to itemized charitable write-offs. QCDs can effectively add to

Planning to donate this year via a donor advised fund or other fund?

Start the donation process now for FUSM to receive it by the end of 2024.

to the standard deduction (or existing charitable deduction, if you are still itemizing) by allowing direct donations made from IRAs to be excluded from income, thus lowering adjusted gross income – and the tax bill.

A QCD is different from a required minimum distribution (RMD), which individuals must begin to take no later than the year they reach 73. One could take their first RMD before reaching age 70½, but they would not be eligible to do a QCD until they attain age 70½, or they may delay their first RMD until 73 and still take advantage of a QCD at age 70½.

The QCD limit is large, and QCDs can be done in excess of the RMD amount. Each IRA owner is permitted up to \$105,000 in QCDs annually, so each spouse can contribute up to \$105,000 on a joint tax return. This limit is indexed for inflation beginning this year. You can also use up to \$53,000 of a QCD to make a one-time donation to a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) or a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).

As with all tax or financial planning issues, it is advisable to consult with your personal tax or accounting advisor as to how this may impact or benefit you. When you are ready to take advantage of a QCD, your investment advisor or retirement account custodian can and should assist you with the direct transfer of funds to your charity of choice. Happy planning!

## Splinters from the Board

by Ryan Pawlowski

Member of the Board of Trustees

The second Board meeting of the church year was held on September 24.

The Board voted unanimously to determine compliance with policy 4.7 pertaining to Continuous Operations. The Board also received a staffing update and subsequent communications plan.

The Board reviewed, discussed, and voted on three proposals for the Kading-Weiss Gifts. The Board unanimously passed motions to direct funds for staff bonuses as well as \$150K towards the Unrestricted Fund to close much of this year's budget deficit. A portion of the funds will also be directed to the Forge Our Future Endowment Trust to ensure the long-term sustainability of the overall congregation. By a vote of 6-0 with two abstentions, the Board passed a motion to direct \$200K in funds to investigate a capital project to provide air-conditioning to the Sanctuary and Leenhouts Common Room.

The Feast for Funds Team will begin planning for their event for this church year.

Highlights from the Senior Minister's Report include: Journey to Membership Class numbers, planning for the Climate Revival Weekend, and several upcoming events related to voting, climate change, Indigenous Peoples' Sunday, and more as well as updates on the nursery and pre-school rooms.

## Winter Journey to Membership

**Four Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**January 8 – 29, 2025**

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 beliefs, history, 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 UUism, 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 and register at [uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/](https://uumilwaukee.org/get-involved/become-a-member/) or stop by the Membership table on Sundays to sign-up. Questions? Email Rev. Dena at: [dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org).

# NOVEMBER EVENTS



## Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, Nov. 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](mailto:gatheringwaterssangha@gmail.com).

## Book Discussion Group

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

Join us as we discuss October's read, *The Ornament of the World* by Maria Rosa Menocal. Contact Barbra Lancelot for more information at [uubarbra@gmail.com](mailto:uubarbra@gmail.com).

## Chancel Choir

Nov. 7 & 14; 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 Tristan Strelitzer for more information or to join at [tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org).

## The Chronologically Gifted Potluck

Sunday, November 24 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, November 10 at 12:30 pm

This month we will meet at County Clare at 12:30. located at 1234 N Astor St, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Contact Barbara Collignon at [bjcollig@gmail.com](mailto:bjcollig@gmail.com).





# Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**NOVEMBER 3**

## Mapping Racism & Resistance

**Anne Bonds, Professor of Geography, UWM.**

Mapping Racism and Resistance program at UWM represents the first effort to comprehensively document and map all racial covenants in Milwaukee County. Our goal is to not only analyze and visualize the historical geographies of racial covenants, but also to uncover Black resistance to such discrimination and its impact in shaping racial justice movements today.

**NOVEMBER 10**

## History of Mke Fire Dept and Memories of a Long Career

**Frank Alioto, Milwaukee Fire Department-Retired.**

Frank is a life-long Milwaukeean and a member and neighbor of First Church since 1995. He was lucky to have achieved his childhood dream of serving in the Milwaukee Fire Department until retiring as a Battalion Chief in 2015 after 32 years. Frank loves to share stories of adventures, accompanied by incredible photos. As a local history buff, Frank will also chronicle the history of the department, from the romantic horse-drawn era to the present including spectacular fires that helped shape Milwaukee.





# Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



**NOVEMBER 17**

## Most Dangerous Women: Women of the West

**Mary Wiesner-Hanks, Professor of History, UW-Milwaukee.**

We'll view a 35-minute episode of the documentary project of New Moon Productions, directed by First Church member (now deceased) Janet Fitch. *Most Dangerous Women* presents the little-known stories of women change-makers who worked to create a more just and equitable world. They were often labeled dangerous, yet their resiliency continues to be essential in creating positive change. This episode, *Women of the West*, begins in Wyoming, the first governmental territory in the world to recognize women's right to vote and hold public office, and whose female elected officials remain powerful voices on the national stage. Contemporary leaders reflect on this early legacy of visible women, the challenges they face today, and their hopes for the future.

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**NOVEMBER 24**

## The Future of Democracy and Maps in Wisconsin

**Dr. Robert Kraig, Executive Director, Citizen Action of Wisconsin.**

James Luther Adams (JLA) was the most influential Unitarian-Universalist theologian of the 20th Century. JLA's grandson Robert Kraig, is both an academic and a social justice organizer. He will argue that JLA's social ethics of power offers religious and secular liberals forgotten pathways for inspiring the radical change of heart needed to meet the existential crises of the early 21st Century. JLA's prophetic theology contains a proverbial message for the embattled and enfeebled religious and secular left as we face one of the great political, social, and ecological turning points in human history.



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Please contact them directly to set up an appointment.

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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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