

MAY 2025



THE CHANTICLEER

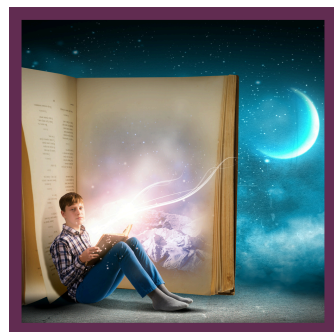
The First Unitarian Society
of Milwaukee

nurture. engage. inspire.



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Monthly Theme

*What does it mean
to be a people of*

IMAGINATION

Inside News

by the *Chanticleer* Editors

MAY 18 SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Religious Education (RE) Sunday **One Service Only!**

Celebrate with our RE children. (p. 8)

11:00 a.m. Potluck in Coffee Hour

Consider bringing a food item to share with everyone after our one service at 10:00 a.m. Sweet treats and savory snacks are most welcome for everyone participating in this big day at First Church.

Noon: Annual Congregational Meeting

Learn more and prep for the annual meeting: check our church [website page](#) for candidate bios, the agenda, list of eligible voters, annual report, and more, as these become available. Notice of meeting. (p. 15)

Come together with First Church friends to celebrate and resist in May:

Dena's Retirement Celebration & Gift: a new Internship Fund! (p. 5 and p. 14)

Steve Sieck, thank him for his service with us on May 11. (p. 8)

Summer RE, sign up now. (p. 9)

Pride Fest, ways to get involved. (p. 10)

Respond to the Anti Trans Movement, a course in June. (p.13)

Seeds of Health



Share the Plate May 2025

by Lynde Uihlein
Share the Plate Team

Seeds of Health Elementary is a K4-8th grade program which opened in 1996. They are a public charter school authorized by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The school works in partnership with families and community to prepare students with foundational knowledge, skills, and character that will support success in secondary and post-secondary education into adult life.

Recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as a School of Recognition, they provide well-rounded instruction in reading, math, language arts, science, social studies, physical education and art. They foster strong partnerships with parents and the community to fully develop the physical, emotional, social and intellectual potential of each child. Individual learning interests, learning style, and talents are addressed by highly trained and empathetic staff. In addition, the curriculum focuses on social and emotional development as well as the skills needed to prepare students for lifelong learning. To learn more, please visit their website:

sohe.seedsofhealth.org

Donate to this STP Partner



Words on the Wind

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Dear Beloveds,

Imagination is a fitting theme for a month of many transitions at First Church. Imagination asks us to create in our mind before creating in the world. It is the first step towards building the new.

In this season of transitions we practice our goodbye rituals as well. This month, we release Ministerial Intern Steve Sieck to his calling with a goodbye ritual on May 10; we send Rev. Kimberlee off to her well-earned three-month sabbatical that begins after Religious Education Sunday on May 18; and we celebrate Rev. Dena's ministry with a retirement party on May 30! And of course, we have our annual celebration of the transitions among our children and youth in RE Sunday, and send our beloved Seniors off to their respective futures.

Imagination can help us in transition. We can use our imaginations to dream beautiful futures for our beloveds and ourselves. This month, you can send your imaginative hopes for Rev. Dena in a Well-Wishes book that will live at the Questions and Connections table in the Leenhouts Common Room. There's even a chance to dream big

together with a new Rev. Dena McPhetres Internship Fund, a retirement gift we can all contribute to that honors Rev. Dena and builds the financial capacity to become a teaching congregation and have more interns like Steve. Find more information on page 14.

Of course, we hope you will share your hopes and dreams for our transitioning staff, children, and youth with them in person this month. Let's keep imagining futures of greater beauty and joy.

Love,
Rev. Jennifer
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Dena's Digressions

by Rev. Dena McPhetres



The countdown begins (but who's counting?). It is hard to imagine, yet I have only two more sermons to write and deliver for the rest of my entire life before I retire on June 30, 2025! On May 4, I'll talk about the practice of imagination, the power of play, the history of this congregation, and how things have come into being that our ancestors in the faith never imagined were possible. Simone Ferro will lead us in a mindful movement meditation during the service.

On June 1, we'll celebrate our multi-generational Flower Ceremony, listen to great music from our Chancel Choir and House Band, and engage in a retirement ritual of blessing and release – kind of like a de-installation ceremony. Our music directors have fondly named my last worship service at First Church the “Dena-Palooza.”

Please come--you don't want to miss it! And I don't want to miss seeing you! I hope you can come to my retirement party on Friday, May 30 at 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. off-site at an accessible location (to be announced soon). Come and go as you can. It's a great excuse to party with your fellow First Church friends. We'll nosh on snacks, enjoy music and memories, and generally have some relaxed time together.

There will be a blank scrapbook available during coffee hours at some point leading up to the party. Please write me some messages, stories, memories, advice for retirement, draw some pictures, or paste some photos in the book. I don't have many photos of my sixteen years serving First Church. Please print and bring some photos of yourselves to paste in the scrapbook, the old-fashioned way. I will treasure seeing your faces in future years as I look through the book and reminisce about the wild and precious times we have shared.

I could not have imagined all we would experience and go through together when we first met in the spring of 2009. What a journey we've had! I am truly blessed. Let's end this era with gratitude and joy.

Yours, for a few more months,
Rev. Dena
Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

You're Invited

Rev. Dena McPhetree's Retirement Celebration

May 30, 2025

St. John's on the Lake
1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee 53202
North Cultural Arts Center room (NCAC)
4:30 - 7:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. program

Rev. Dena's Retirement Party

Join us Friday, May 30, at St John's On the Lake, anytime from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m., to celebrate with Dena. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and desserts; also a cash bar - beer and wine (no credit cards), tea and lemonade. Program at 5:15 p.m. will commemorate Dena's ministry with our congregation. Our First Church Jazz Quartet will provide music. No reservations required. A map with parking information can be picked up in the Leenhouts Common Room or can be found on the First Church website - under "events". Dena requests we avoid wearing scents, and offer virtual hugs only.

Send Us Keepsake Memories for Dena

Join the congregation in saying farewell and thanks to Rev. Dena. Share memories and good wishes! Tell Rev. Dena what her ministry has meant to you. You can write a note (there's stationery in the Common Room) and drop it in the box in the Common Room. Or you can send your message in an email to Joan Hanson at joanBH21@gmail.com

Joan Hanson and the party team will compile all our messages as a gift to Dena, and portions of them will be read aloud during the program. Please keep your email to no more than 150 words, and put DENA RETIRES in the subject line. We need to receive your email or hand-written message by May 23.





Kimberlee's Contemplations

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson



As we wind down this church year, May brings us First Church traditions and transitions that celebrate our families, youth and children.

Religious Education Sunday service is on May 18 at 10:00 a. m. This year some of our beloved high school seniors present their "Senior Credo Statements" and will be honored. We have songs to sing, as well as children and youth's accomplishments to recognize. Our RE Sunday Service will feature ceremonial recognition of certain groups, including 4-6th Grade OWL graduates, all the RE & OWL volunteers, and Kindergarten graduates.

I hope everyone will attend to recognize the contributions of so many during the joyful celebration of our 2024-25 Religious Education program! The children have also decorated some dazzling gifts of appreciation for all our volunteers, which will be distributed from the RE Table on behalf of the CRE team. This multigenerational service will be held at 10:00 a.m. only, followed by a potluck and then our First Church annual meeting at noon.

On May 26, the following Sunday and Memorial Day weekend, there will be no RE programming to offer our staff the time off on this holiday weekend.

I will take the first half of my sabbatical directly after RE Sunday, starting on May 20 through to August 1, 2025. The Children's Religious Education Team and our core RE volunteers have taken the lead in covering most of the teaching roles in my absence. Fiona Higgins will be helping with directing summer RE sessions, as well as handling the administrative aspects of the program.

The summer is a good time to support our families by volunteering in RE. We could use a few more friendly folks to help out downstairs each Sunday!

I am grateful to serve a Unitarian Universalist faith and church that prioritizes self-care and wellness as a vital resource for ministry. Thank you for your prayers and patience in my absence. I am excited to rejoin you in our faithful goal to advance our values amid threats of fascism, and energized to support faith formation at First Church.

In gratitude,
Rev. Kimberlee
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

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What Do We Need to Imagine?

Rev. Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister

Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director with the Chancel Choir
Jeremy Koenen, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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The Imagination Bridge

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director, and Elizabeth Hayes
Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education
Amanda Panciera, Worship Associate

[Click for info about this service](#)

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Religious Education Sunday 2025

One service only at 10 A.M.

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education

Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director
Youth & Members of the RE Community

[Click for info about this service](#)

25

Imagining a Better Way Forward

Steve Sieck, Ministerial Intern

Liz Irwin Moore Worship Associate
Teresa Drews, pianist

[Click for info about this service](#)

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



New Member Ceremony

May 4th Sunday Service at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Please welcome our newest new members on Sunday, May 4, when we hold the New Member Ceremony during both worship services. Please introduce yourselves to our newest folks at the reception during both Coffee Hours after services. You can recognize our new members by the white carnation boutonnieres they'll be wearing. There might even be some cookies.



Celebration for Steve Sieck Sunday May 11

Come join us for a celebration of Steve on May 11 between services during the coffee hour. This is an opportunity to thank Steve, wish him well in his ministry, and eat cake. The committee will also be sharing our gratitude for his time with First Church during the 9:00 a.m. service. ~ Lisa Gies, Chair of the Ministerial Intern Committee.



Religious Education Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.

Join us in our annual ritual of celebrating our children, youth, volunteers, and families this Religious Education Sunday. We gather to listen to our senior high school youth offer their credos, honor our OWL participants as well as our kindergarten and high school graduates. This is a multi-generational worship, there will be no religious education classes this Sunday. The nursery and pre-school will be open.



Flower Communion June 1

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

Summer Religious Education

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

In the summer, Religious Education programs for children over 5 years of age begin at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. During our offertory hymn the Children, Youth participants and RE Volunteers will depart for the RE program, beginning in the Leenhouts Common Room and then moving to the lower level. For children under five, the Nursery and Preschool will be open from 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Child Dedication May 11

The Child Dedication Ceremony will take place during our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. It 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 [HERE](#) for a full description.

The ceremony is a public declaration by parents dedicating themselves to faithfully nurture and support their children.

If you are interested in having your child dedicated on May 11, fill out this [online form](#). Please contact Rev. Kimberlee for questions.

RE Summer Volunteer Schedule 2025

In the summer, Religious Education programs for children over 5 years of age begin at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. During our offertory hymn the Children, Youth participants and RE Volunteers will depart for the RE program, beginning in the Leenhouts Common Room and then moving to the lower level. For children under five, the Nursery and Preschool will be open from 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

In the summer the RE program will center around the Faith Formation Station Room as well as featured special sessions by members of our community.

SUMMER RE SCHEDULE

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050848A4A923AAFC1-55186431-religious#/>

SUMMER FUN UU RE ACTIVITY IDEAS

<https://padlet.com/kimberleecarlson/summer-uu-faith-formation-ideas-cx2ywctue0noy79i>

Join Us for the Pride Parade

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

Come walk with First Church and ZAO MKE for the 2025 Pride Parade on Sunday, June 8th, line up at 1:00 p.m., step off at 2:00 p.m. The pre-parade staging area is on 2nd Street from Lapham north to the step off point. You can find a detailed map online here: <https://www.prideparademke.org/> We invite you to dress-up as a color of the rainbow so that together we will be spectrum of joyful colors! Let us know you plan to attend and to receive updates and detailed directions, sign up [here](#).



Get Blessed at Pridefest

by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Minister of Religious Education

Blessed at Pridefest is a powerful street ministry that First Church co-sponsors each year here in Milwaukee. Interfaith organizations create a blessing booth and clergy offer personalized blessing to Pridefest participants using our blessing menu and are given a "Blessed at Pridefest" sticker. Clergy and lay volunteers work together to explain, help introduce and guide people to participate in the blessing booth. The blessing booth also features a photo backdrop with props and a Rainbow Ribbon Blessing gate, a collaborative art project. People are invited to write a blessing on a ribbon and tie it to the Rainbow Ribbon Blessing gate for the blessings to be shared as they are blown by the wind throughout the Summerfest grounds.

Blessed at Pridefest this year is on Friday, June 6th, 3:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 7th, 12:00-9:00 p.m. and the volunteer shifts are 3 hours long. Please click the link for more information and to sign up on the volunteer schedule.

[Click here for the schedule](#)

What's Happening with Line 5?

by Terry Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry Co-chair

It's complicated.

This is the pipeline about which the Anti-Racism Team and the Earth Justice Ministry showed the film "Bad River" last Fall. The Bad River Tribe is fighting Enbridge's re-route of the line to go around their reservation. Enbridge's pipeline had been trespassing on their land for several years, after their permit had expired.

On Friday, February 28, an administrative law judge extended the stay on construction for the reroute in Northern Wisconsin. Good news, yet . . .

On April 16, Reuters reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted national energy emergency status for a tunnel proposed by Enbridge for its Line 5 oil pipeline on Wednesday, fast-tracking a key federal permitting process. The pipeline tunnel is among the first to get an emergency designation after President Trump declared a national energy emergency.

The project would build a roughly 4-mile tunnel for Line 5 crossing through the Straits of Mackinac in the Great Lakes. The pipeline carries over 20 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids daily from Superior, Wisconsin to Sarnia, Ontario.

Native tribes and environmental groups oppose the project because of the potential risk to the Great Lakes and have refuted the idea that the tunnel is needed and that a national energy emergency exists.

The draft environmental impact study is slated for release by June.

First Church Call for Less Plastic

by Amy Monahan
Earth Justice Ministry Member

The Plastics group in Earth Justice Ministry teamed up with PlasticFree MKE on the last three Sundays in March to inform the congregation about PlasticFree MKE's work and encourage members and friends to sign the online pledge to refuse single-use plastics at stores and restaurants. These are more fragile plastics that break down most easily in outdoor environments. The resulting nanoparticles that humans and other animals unintentionally consume have been linked to many illnesses. It is estimated that a human consumes one credit card of plastic each week from the air, water and some foods! Larger pieces of plastic can also be quite damaging. Animals may get tangled in these items, prohibiting them from normal movement, for procuring food, raising young and avoiding prey or accidents.

Continued on Page 12..

Support Greening Milwaukee and Commit to Climate Action

by Bruce Wiggins
Earth Justice Ministry Member

Our Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) is asking you (and each of us) to help address climate change and improve Milwaukee by making a commitment to action this spring. Starting on Earth Day Sunday (April 20) through Flower Communion (June 1), FUSM members and friends may make a commitment for a new action, large or small. The goal is to get people thinking of one thing to address climate change and commit to doing it.

We will have a tree poster on the wall in the Common Room. You may peruse a list of 50+ potential actions to choose an activity or create your own and place a leaf on the tree listing your commitment. Information about energy use and climate change will be displayed to help members and friends understand more about climate change. Potential individual actions are in the categories of:

- Transportation
- Home Energy Use
- Food & Eating
- Purchasing
- Political, Policy and Social Action

Many individual and systemic changes are necessary to mitigate or adapt to climate change and each action is a positive step. We ask you to be joyful and challenge yourself



with the actions you choose. There are many things you could do to love our Earth home; During this six weeks, commit to one! The list of suggested actions is on the church website for [EJM here](#).

Less Plastics continued from page 11..

The PlasticFree MKE group at FUSM is happy to report that about 70 people added their signatures to pledge board at church, and Gabrielle de Gail from PlasticFree MKE also reported that their website saw a significant increase in pledges during our three-week long pledge drive. PlasticFree was also our Share the Plate recipient of March. If you were not able to participate before, please consider doing so now. Here is the link to their site: <https://www.plasticfreemke.org/take-the-pledge>. Encourage your friends and family to do the same. Thanks to all who participated!

Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement

by Rev. Dena McPhetres
Associate Minister

Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement: A Course for Unitarian Universalists from Transforming Hearts Collective

This on-demand three-session course offers an introduction to gender diversity and trans identity and equips you to respond to the current political attack on trans people. Content includes trans 101, vital information to counter rampant anti-trans propaganda, and concrete actions that are needed for UU congregations to become spaces of safety and belonging to trans people and their families in this moment.

Contact Rev. Dena at dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org to request the code to access the course for independent online learning. We will offer a small group opportunity to view the videos together and engage in facilitated discussion with co-facilitators Amy Wilbourne and Alisha Koneanzy on three consecutive Sundays in June after Sunday services.

Save the Dates: Sundays, June 15, 22, and 29, 2025 at 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. upstairs in Max Otto Hall. Registration information will be forthcoming.

Take the Hop to Lunch and Free Art

by Juliet Hills
Earth Justice Ministry Member

Join the Earth Justice Ministry (EJM) on Sunday, May 25, at 12:30 for a fun event that benefits the planet while also building connections with our fellow First Church attendees.

We will meet after second service and ride The Hop (Milwaukee's streetcar) to the Public Market for lunch. We'll take the streetcar back to First Church, stopping on the way for an excursion at the Pfister Hotel which has a large art collection along its hallways. There is also an artist in residence with a public studio in the main lobby area. After our free tour of this art collection, we will return to our starting point at First Church.

This trip by streetcar is meant to show how easy it is to take The Hop (where rides are free) or buses to get around our city. Using public transit is a great way to reduce our carbon footprint, get some exercise and fresh air, and save on the costs that come with using a car.

Please plan to meet EJM members in the Common Room at 12:30 on May 25 when we'll head together to the Hop stop that is just across the street from the church. For more information or to let us know you're coming please contact Juliet Hills (lakeart482@gmail.com) or Jenny Abel (jabel209@gmail.com). Thanks for doing your part to fight climate change

Rev. Dena's Internship Fund

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
Senior Minister

Contribute to Rev. Dena's Retirement Gift

Many of you have been asking how to contribute to a retirement gift for Rev. Dena, and here is your opportunity: you can contribute to an internship fund in Rev. Dena's name. We are establishing the "Rev. Dena McPhetres Internship Fund," which will endow funds for future interns at First Church.

Rev. Dena explains why her retirement gift request was combining legacy with hope for the future: "We are here because of what our ancestors in the faith did to prepare the way for us to arrive in this community. Decades ago, my formation as a minister was made possible by other ministers and congregations who devoted their attention to mentoring the next generation. First Church is a great teaching congregation of which you should be proud! Establishing an internship fund ensures the opportunity to nurture future ministerial interns here, who will then go on to shape the future of UUism. As a lifelong UU, I can think of no better retirement gift than to know that this beloved congregation made a commitment to contributing to the growth of future generations of UU ministers."

To contribute to the fund, you can make a check out FUSM with "Rev. Dena McPhetres Internship Fund" in the memo line, or donate at <https://onrealm.org/FUSM/give/Internship>.

We hope you will give generously to this legacy gift for Rev. Dena (and the church!), which will honor her service for years to come, and establish First Church as a teaching congregation in Unitarian Universalism. Together, we can grow Unitarian Universalist values for generations!

Sacred Space in Baltimore or Virtual

Bruce Wiggins
Denominational Affairs Coordinator

For many, General Assembly (GA, our national conference of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) is a sacred act of connection. GA is where you realize that you are part of something greater. It's a time to honor our past, celebrate our present, and shape our future. Whether attending in person or online, GA is your opportunity to renew your faith and recharge your spirit. Join us and be part of this shared journey. For information about the program and registration, see here:

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

If you are interested in attending, and especially if you are willing to be a delegate to vote on behalf of FUSM, see Denominational Affairs Coordinator Bruce Wiggins. Registration costs increase May 16. Financial assistance is available

First Church has a small budget that can help defray some of the cost. For information about financial assistance through the UUA, see here:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/scholarships>

See Bruce Wiggins if you are interested in this wonderful, inspiring event.

Splinters from the Board

by Mark Chambers

Board of Trustees

The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee and the Board of Trustees (BOT) are accountable to its members through established policies. By focusing on policy (Policy Governance), the BOT allows ministerial and staff leaders to perform their defined roles. All policy elements are reviewed every two years. At its March meeting, the BOT addressed Congregation Ends 4 (Generously Give/Receive) and 7 (Communal Interconnectedness), and Policy 4.3 (Compensation and Benefits). The Board agreed that the congregation is making progress in fulfilling and complying with all three policy matters.

The Board was informed of the Search Committee's recommendation for Acting Assistant Minister and Rev. Jennifer's subsequent hiring of Rev. Christopher Long for this position. The Nominating Committee recommendations for new BOT and Nominating Committee members were also presented to the board.

The Nominating Committee is also pursuing a search for the Board Treasurer position. After 14 years of dedicated service, Tom Briscoe is stepping away from this role. While awaiting a recommendation from the Committee, the Board is updating the Treasurer job description.

Board member Brooks informed the board that the Congregational Survey was being given one more week of time and that he would be reporting to the board on survey results soon. The Board made an all our effort to promote survey completion this year because of their belief in its importance as a means of measuring the congregation's progress towards its stated Ends.

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 gentle care and condolences are with **John Sagone**, whose father died February 25, 2025 in Columbus, Ohio.

Our heartfelt condolences are with **Dave Umhoefer**, whose father died March 23, 2025 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Our deep condolences are with **Melinda Vernon**, whose husband Kit, long-time member of First Church, died at home April 15, 2025 in Shorewood, Wisconsin. We grieve with you and hold you and your family with love and care.

Annual Meeting May 18

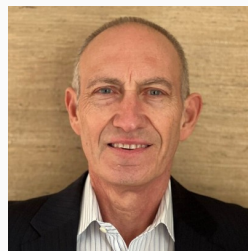
Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee to be held Sunday, May 18 at 12:00 p.m. This year's meeting will be held in person in our Sanctuary and will also be available simultaneously via Zoom. To receive the Zoom link, sign up with your email at <https://bit.ly/FUSMAnnualMtg>

Learn about significant First Church accomplishments over the 2024-25 church year, hear from the Endowment Trustees, and learn about our financial condition. Vote on new Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee members for next church year and use the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions.

Members are eligible to vote if they became Members of the congregation on or before 60 days prior to the meeting date and have made a financial pledge or contribution of record in the past year. A list of voting members will be posted on the website and the church bulletin board 15 days prior to the meeting.

Potluck On May 18 join us for a church potluck after RE Sunday Service! Please consider bringing a food item to share with everyone for the 11:00 a.m. coffee hour after our one service at 10:00 a.m. and before the Congregational Annual Meeting. Sweet treats and savory snacks will be most welcome for everyone participating in this big day at First Church. [SIGN UP IS HERE!](#)

The Board is Appointing a New Treasurer: Meet Mark Bishop

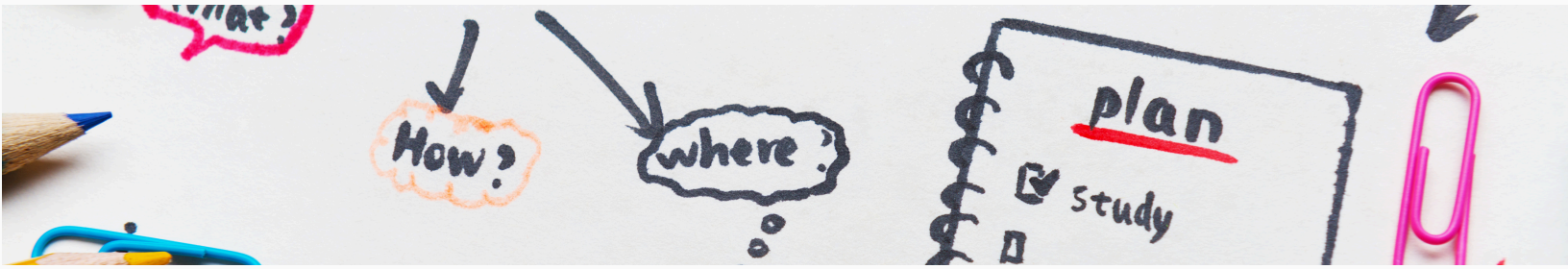


Mark and his wife, Jo Ann, have been members of First Church since 2008. Over the years, Mark has contributed his time and talents to numerous

church activities, including serving on the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, the 175th FUSM Anniversary Fundraising Team, and the Strategic Planning Team. He served as Congregation President during the 2019–2020 church year, a pivotal time as the congregation transitioned to virtual worship during the pandemic.

Professionally, Mark retired from Northwestern Mutual in 2020, where he held several leadership roles, including Regional Vice President. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has remained active in the field, working as a tax expert for a national consulting firm over the past four tax seasons. Mark has also contributed to the broader community through his service on the Board of Directors for the Milwaukee Art Museum Friends of Art. Outside of his professional and volunteer work, Mark and Jo Ann cherish spending time with their two daughters, their sons-in-law, and their three grandchildren.

The Board of Trustees will be appointing Mark as our new Treasurer at its brief meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting.



Buddhist Study Group

Wednesday, May 7 & 21, 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, May 4
[Join Us Online Here](#)

Join us as we discuss May's read, *James* by Percival Everett. Contact Barbra Lancelot uubarbra@gmail.com.

Chancel Choir

Apr. 1, 15, 22 & 29 at 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: to join at tristan.strelitzer@uumilwaukee.org.

Poetry Contemplation

Every Wednesday, 9:00 am
[Join Us Online Here](#)

Contact Diane Horne for more information at diane_horne@hotmail.com.

The Chronologically Gifted Potluck

Sunday, May 25 at 12:00 pm
At Church

Chronologically Gifted will meet Sunday, May 25 after the 11:00 service for a Potluck. Bring a plate to share and visit with your contemporaries! Guests welcome! Contact Barbara Collignon at bjcollig@gmail.com.

The Practice of Presence

Every Monday, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
At Church in the Sanctuary

Practicing presence allows us to be fully aware of the present moment, leading to reduced stress, enhanced self-awareness, improved relationships, better decision-making, and a deeper connection with yourself and the world around you. Come and go as you need. The singing bowl will ring every 20 minutes. No meditation experience required, but if you want brief instructions, please arrive at 5:15 p.m.

SWANS (Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social)

No May meeting.

Contact Barbara Collignon at 414-614-8141 or by email bjcollig@gmail.com for more information for future meeting up.



Sunday Morning Forum

10:00 AM IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE



MAY 4

The Power of Art Organizing

Nicolas Lampert, Art Organizer with Voces de la Frontera.

Join the Immigration Solidarity Action Group as it welcomes Nicolas. He reveals the power of art-making to build community, solidarity and action in social justice movements. He will guide us on a journey exploring how art-making has promoted the cause of teachers unions, immigrant rights, the work of Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, and Voces de la Frontera. He will share historical examples from his book *A People's Art History of the United States*, part of the People's History Series edited by Howard Zinn. Lampert is the area head for the Community Arts program in the Department of Art and Design at UWM.

MAY 11

You Are Smart. Why Don't You Think Like Me?

Kevin Gibson, FUSM member and Professor Emeritus Marquette University.

Social psychology has revealed a number of involuntary dynamics that influence our thinking with the result that we don't always make fully rational decisions. Some of them are used by advertisers and politicians without us noticing. We'll look at several cognitive biases – those shortcuts that our brains use to filter out the mass of information coming in both for better and worse. Identifying these mental processes may help us understand the way we and others think and behave.



MAY 18

What Does the Milwaukee County Board Do?

Steven Shea Milwaukee County Supervisor.

Steve will detail the duties and work of the Milwaukee County Board.

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Please contact them directly to set up an appointment.

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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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