

# EAST BREEZE

Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin

Volume 22, Number 11 — November 2013

## In The Interim

I've given in and come to a place of acceptance, maybe even embrace. The furnace has been checked and is running. My mornings no longer begin with sitting on the deck with my morning coffee but rather sitting in front of the fireplace with the same. It is dark when I wake up. My full spectrum Blue Max light is up and running – warding off the doldrums of darkness. The trees are exploding with color and trick or treat is just around the corner. I'm writing a November newsletter column and thinking about Thanksgiving. The cupboard is stocked with all kinds of things for making soups and stews. The winter hats, scarf and gloves are back in their place in the coat closet. The air has a chill bite and I even saw the first snowflakes. I've had my flu shot. I'm ready. Bring it on, winter. I'm more than ready – I'm looking forward to the days of turning inward and the turning of the wheel of the year.

Once I get into the spirit of autumn and winter preparations I begin to look forward to this time. A time of reflecting on what it is I am thankful for. This year my mind has caught on the word gratefulness and done a bit of a twist on it - turning it in to "Great Fullness." My life is so full of great things – my family, all the wonderful people here at Reeb and the exciting work we are doing together, a warm and cozy home, friends (including the furry ones in my life), health and the ability to maintain it, so much that once I start thinking about them my head spins. I am blessed with great fullness.

What fills you up with gratefulness and "great fullness" at this time of year? What can you celebrate in the blessings of your life? Or perhaps you are not feeling very full with blessings at this time of year. Perhaps you feel alone, or hungry or scared. Perhaps you are dealing with health issues, or job issues. Perhaps it's a stretch to even think about being grateful.

The task of the Beloved Community is to be a sanctuary where all of us can be held and nurtured, welcomed and embraced, whether we feel blessed or are in need of blessing. And the truth is that we all need both. We need to give and receive both. We need each other. In the good times and the not so good. So this month – wherever you are in this time of pilgrimage into the dark of winter – come and join as at JRUUC. There is lots of warmth, love and care here. There is a great fullness.

Blessings,  
Marlene

## **Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Conversations Are Happening throughout November!**

Our team of trained AI interviewers have their lists and will be calling you! Please make time for a 30-40 minute conversation about JRUUC. These conversations will be the beginning of creating a vision of the future for Reeb. If you want your voice and your dreams for James Reeb UUC to be part of creating that future don't miss participating in the AI conversations! If you have not been called please let us know and we will make sure that someone calls you: [revmwalker@mac.com](mailto:revmwalker@mac.com) or [office@jruuc.org](mailto:office@jruuc.org).

## **November Sunday Services 10 am (Daylight Savings)**

**11/3 "Sanctuary"  
The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker  
Interim Minister**

What do we mean when we use the term "sanctuary"? Is it just the space we worship in or might it have a deeper meaning? Come join me as we explore the many meanings of Sanctuary.

**11/10 "Pilgrimage"**

**The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker  
Interim Minister**

Nearly all major faith traditions have some practice of pilgrimage. What might the spiritual practice of pilgrimage mean for us as Unitarian Universalists? The JRUUC Choir will sing.

**11/17 “Be Not Afraid”**

**Patricia Schneider**

Pat will be sharing a sermon by Rev. Susan Maginn. Rev. Susan explores fear and how our spirituality can be a source for encouragement in times of fear

**11/24 “Celebrating Great Fullness”**

**The Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker  
Interim Minister**

This will be a multigenerational celebration of Thanksgiving and our own Great Fullness. We will welcome new members and perhaps even have a child dedication. The JRUUC Choir will sing.

**President’s Note:**

**Through Sarah’s Spectacles**

When the late Rev. Angus MacLean was a farm boy in Nova Scotia, his father sent him up from the root cellar to check on the wind. Turn so “the wind sings in both your ears,” he told the boy. “Then tell me where your nose points to.”

To me, this two-part process describes what we do at Reeb: listen closely to hear the wind that sings in our ears, and then look in the direction that wind points our noses. We are different from a social club (although our relationships matter deeply) or a social service agency (although we strive to promote love and justice). The term “faith formation” came up recently in our appreciative inquiry training. I think Rev. MacLean’s father’s instructions offer a pretty good model for faith formation.

“Faith formation . . . implies that we are continually developing faith in our relationships, in ourselves, in our religion, and in hope that the world, our existence has a positive meaning,” says one UUA website.

“Like a fine sculptor, we chip away the pieces of stone that cover our best selves and discover through our own desires and efforts and co-create in community something beautiful, good and true — faith.”

How would JRUUC look if we saw everything we do through the lens of faith formation? Relationships deepen as we paint, plan, or camp together. Worship invites us to healing, nurture, and inspiration. Social justice work requires our willingness to be challenged and transformed as individuals. Whatever we do, will it turn us so we can better hear the wind singing in both ears? Will it help us see where that wind points our noses and move us in that direction?  
Sarah Cook, president



**September 2013 Financial Details**

	<b>September</b>	<b>July 2013 to the present</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$10,815	\$51,049
<b>Expenses</b>	\$15,414	\$45,032

Income for the month was \$10,815 against expenses of \$15,414 giving us a loss for the month of \$4,598. We are still a little over \$6,000 in the black for the year. Monthly pledge payments have not picked up as we moved into fall. At this time a year ago we were ahead \$7,700 for the fiscal. Quarterly giving statements went out recently which may prompt some people to send in pledge payments. The only notable extraordinary expense was for telephone service due to two months’ worth of bills hitting in the same month.

**Status Report on Painting Project:** The project is complete. Most of the bills have been submitted and the total project cost is \$1,772. That’s slightly above the minimum budget estimate. More time was spent doing tuck pointing of the masonry and less time was spent on painting.

**Estimate of Exterior Lighting Improvements:** We have an estimate from Midwest Electric, which did the work on our building during the remodeling, to improve the exterior lighting on the building. There are several options including replacing the security lights on the Fourth St. side of the building and over the alley way in the rear, installing new fixtures in the overhang along the front of the building, and installing a dusk to dawn light over the office door on Fourth St. If we did all of them the cost would be around \$2,500. During our brief discussion there seemed to be a consensus that we could probably get by with the light over the office door and the improved lighting in the front. It's possible the existing light over the back driveway may only need a new bulb. The two items mentioned above would cost around \$1,700.

**Disposition of Endowment Contribution:** Before the end of the year we will be receiving a \$10,000 anonymous contribution intended to start a permanent endowment for JRUC. Establishing the terms of the endowment fund will take a longer time than is available. To put the money to work while that process is underway, the Finance Committee approved a motion to deposit the money in an account under JRUC's name with the UUA's Common Endowment Fund.

#### **Budget Adjustments for MOSES Directory**

**Listing:** The committee also approved a motion to transfer fifty dollars from the advertising budget and \$25 from the social justice budget to pay for a directory listing with MOSES.

Art Hackett, Treasurer



## **Invite Your Friends to Reeb Rave** **Saturday November 9th**

Don't miss this year's **Reeb Rave: A Salute to the Beatles**, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 9! In fact, we want to encourage you to bring your friends and family! Just contact Leila Pine: [sabinosanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:sabinosanctuary@gmail.com) to get a color flyer e-mailed to you so you can forward it to friends, family and co-workers. The suggested donation for admission is just \$8 for an individual and \$24 for a family of three or more.

Be sure to check out this year's exciting online auction catalog and bidding site. Here is the link: <https://www.charityauctionorganizer.com/auction/ReebRave2013> You can peruse all auction items on this website and you can also start placing online bids on most silent auction items. The final bidding on all items will close on the night of the event. Online pre-auction bidding will be available until 7pm on Friday November 8th. Items with multiple winners are not available for pre-auction bidding. Send any auction questions to Megan Barry: [meganberries@hotmail.com](mailto:meganberries@hotmail.com).

We also encourage you to come dressed as your favorite Beatle or as the Walrus, Lovely Rita Meter Maid, Sgt. Pepper or any other characters from Beatles' songs. Costumes will be admired!

We guarantee an awesome and hilarious evening for all, including a delicious dinner at 5:30 p.m., live Beatles songs by the James Reeb UU Congregation Band, and some spectacular additions to this year's live and silent auctions. It's going to be wonderful for the whole family, with great kids' Beatles events and childcare starting right after dinner!

It's the biggest Reeb fundraiser of the year--so please join us for lots of fun and to support the Beloved Community and your congregation.

**Wondering when to bring your Rave donations?** Those donating items must either e-mail and bring them to Megan Barry **before** Friday, November 8, or bring them to Reeb Friday, November 8 between 6 and 8:30 pm. Please **DO NOT** bring the items after Friday night -- it will be too late then.

## **Exploring Membership Saturday, Nov. 16th! 10 am - 3 pm in our Sanctuary**

You are cordially invited to participate in a  
Fun-filled class about being a  
member of JRUUC!

Inspired by one another, we'll explore:

- what we hold sacred
- Unitarian Universalism
- gems about JRUUC
- expectations of membership

Lunch, child care, & some  
memory-making fun will be provided!

Please RSVP to Membership Committee Chair,  
Jocie Luglio: [jocillator@hotmail.com](mailto:jocillator@hotmail.com)  
or 608-442-8814



## **Religious Education**

The signs of change are all around us as we say goodbye to warm days and welcome beloved fall traditions. A favorite tradition is our annual fall campout, which was led by Sarah Elmore and was well attended and enjoyed by many families at Lake Farm County Park on October 19th.

Another tradition we celebrate each fall is Trick or Treat for UNICEF, where the children raise money to help improve the lives of children all over the world. Children collected the boxes at a special Message for

All Ages October 20<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your boxes back so that we can send a check. To learn more about this UNICEF program, visit their website:  
<http://www.trickortreatforunicef.org/>

Our weekly RE programs are growing! We've increased from 15 registered children in 2011-2012, to 19 last year, and 21 already this fall! If you have not filled out a registration form yet, you can find them here: <http://bit.ly/re2013reg>, or on the RE table (under the wooden brochure rack) in the lobby. Remember that registration is free and an important part of our children's safety policy.

You can help nurture our growing RE program by signing up to assist one or two hours a month. We particularly need an assistant for our Pre-K to 1 room. If you can help, please send an email to [re@jruuc.org](mailto:re@jruuc.org), or talk to me or the RE committee any Sunday. Our RE program depends on a tradition of volunteers, and we invite you to join us!

I want to give a huge Thank You to the Service Sunday folks who typed and scanned bar-codes to catalogue our children's books – all 350 of them! We'll be able to use this list to plan purchases, build a Wish List, and find topical books for our weekly RE programs.

Have a wonderful fall, and I look forward to seeing you at Reeb!

Caroline Hardin, Director of Religious Education

## **Madison UU Campus Ministry**

Calling all college students! The Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry group meets the first and third Sundays of the month at 5 pm during the academic year at the UW Memorial Union. Check TITU for the room number. Supper at 5:00 (on us!); worship and discussion 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Contact Janet Swanson [janets@fusmadison.org](mailto:janets@fusmadison.org) for more information.

# Social Justice Council



## An Update from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES – an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state. From four angles we are working to decrease the Wisconsin prison population, via:

1. Sentencing reform, like when/if 17 year olds are charged as adults
2. Reforming in-prison experiences, like solitary confinement, compassionate release, and rules for "old-time" prisoners
3. Post-release reform, like changing the use around Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP), and increasing "ban-the-box" efforts
4. Increasing funding for Treatment and Diversion (TAD) programs

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend these upcoming MOSES events:

- **Saturday November 2nd:** Monthly MOSES meeting, 10 am - 12 noon, @ First Congregational Church
- **Saturday November 16th:** Celebration and Fundraiser, 5 - 8 pm, @ Fountain of Life

To carpool to an event or buy tickets (\$25-\$50 sliding scale donation) for the 11/16 Celebration, email Carin B. at [cmbringe@gmail.com](mailto:cmbringe@gmail.com) or see <http://mosesmadison.org/>.

### **The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group**

The PJS (pronounced "P-jays") meets on the 4th Monday evening of every month. The next meeting is Nov. 25, 7 pm, at JRUUC. If you can't make the meetings but would like to be informed, you can get on the email list. Contact Barbara Whitney: [bwhitney@chi-squared.org](mailto:bwhitney@chi-squared.org).

## **Sustainable Saturday Nights** **4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month 6-9 pm** **November 23, 2013**

### **Natural Burial: A Gift to Your Family and to the Planet**

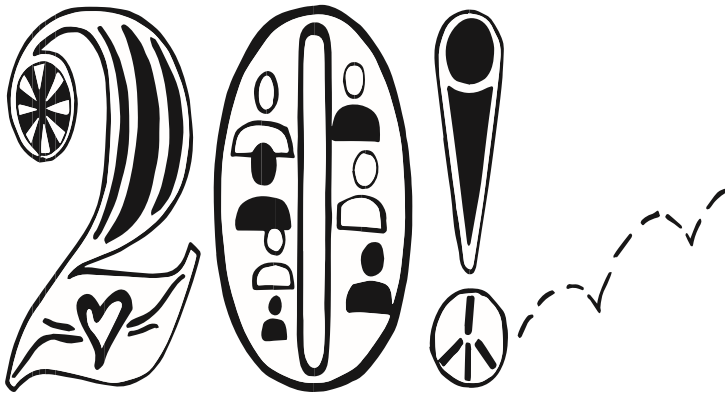
Join the PJS for a special presentation about natural burial. Kevin W. Corrado, the coordinator for Natural Path Sanctuary (NPS), a nature preserve burial ground located at the Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice & Sustainability just outside of Verona, will explain the common characteristics of a natural burial. More and more individuals are making prearrangements to ensure that their wishes for a natural burial are known and respected and to ease the burden of making critical decisions at a time of emotional stress.

Kevin will provide information about burial methods and about the Wisconsin advance directive entitled "Authorization for Final Disposition." He will also share stories of how families have honored the deceased family member's desire to be part of the natural cycle of life. Many people appreciate the beauty, the simplicity, and the healing power of nature. The renewed interest in natural burials is an encouraging example of rediscovering the wisdom of our elders.

Presenter: Kevin W. Corrado, LCSW, LCS, a retired hospital social worker, may be Dane County's first natural cemeterian. As a former board member of the Trust for Natural Legacies and as the coordinator for Natural Path Sanctuary, he is a passionate advocate and an enthusiastic educator for natural burials.

Sustainable Saturday Nights are brought to you by the Emerson East Neighborhood Association's Sustainability Task Force and the James Reeb PJS. Each event starts with a potluck community meal in our Sanctuary, includes assistance with childcare and contains opportunities for sharing through our "Sustainability Open Mic." Please mark your calendars for every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday through May 2014! (We will skip December.)

For more information, contact Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633 or [cordon4peace@yahoo.com](mailto:cordon4peace@yahoo.com).



## 20th Anniversary Celebrations 20 Years of Love & Justice!

October was filled with great celebration for our 20th Anniversary: the Rev. Joe Ellwanger inspired us with his “Bending Toward Justice” sermon and stories from his wife, Joyce, & his social justice work (special thanks to Carin Bringelson for inviting Rev. Joe to be with us). In addition, we served in our community on Service Sunday, and were surprised with an early birthday present -- our beautiful new Joys and Sorrows candle holder. A HUGE thank you to Holly Anderson, Colleen Marsden, & Colleen O’Hara for creating this amazing piece. And we still have more celebrating to do! Mark your calendars:

- **Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** Reeb Rave. This annual fundraiser & dinner will surely be a blast as we celebrate with a Beatles theme.
- **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** Celebrate the formation of JRUUC as we recognize the 20th Anniversary of JRUUC’s Charter Sunday (Dec. 5, 1993). Watch for more details on this exciting occasion.

Wondering what to wear to these fun events? Be sure to purchase your **special 20th Anniversary LONG-sleeved shirt**, just \$15. Inspired by the designs from our RE youth, Steve Elmore created these shirts -- thank you, Steve! Contact Beth Esser 608-239-1353 or [beth\\_esser@hotmail.com](mailto:beth_esser@hotmail.com) to order yours today.

Finally, our grades 6+ are already working on creating a **video** to capture the JRUUC stories of yesterday and today. Please contact Charlie McNulty [charlesmcnulty@gmail.com](mailto:charlesmcnulty@gmail.com) if you have memories that you’d like to share in this project.

## Stewardship Stirrings

The UUA’s FORTH (Forward Through The Ages) stewardship development program helps JRUUC to incorporate year-round aspects of stewardship into all aspects of our congregation’s culture. The Thanksgiving season provides us with the opportunity to reflect on how we give thanks, *and also* how we can become **gracious receivers**.

Why is receiving graciously so important? Laurel Amabile, from the UUA states, “We learn the value of giving first by our experiences of receiving.” Babies and toddlers are great gracious receivers; the joy and pleasure on my daughter’s face is a clear expression of her appreciation when we clap & cheer for her when she uses a new word.

So what changes as we become adults? Why do we become dismissive after a compliment (“Oh, it’s no big deal,” or “I really didn’t do much, Chris did all the work,”) or feel guilt when a gift is received (“I should have gotten them something,” or “How do I repay them?”)?

The FORTH program suggests that congregations reflect and discuss together how we can graciously receive. The thought is this: If we are able to receive graciously and be filled with a sense of abundance, then we can also learn to be generous with our own giving of time, talent, and treasure -- not out of guilt or obligation but because **receiving these gifts in our own lives fills us with abundance** and affirms that **we have a spiritual need to share with others**.

So, for the past few months I have been experimenting with graciously receiving. Instead of feeling guilt over not being part of the “Many Hands” painting crew, I am choosing to say, “Thank you Mark Lydon (and others!) for sharing your time & talent to make our community more beautiful.” Pretty simple really, once I think about it. When I can receive graciously, it *does* allow me to share my own gifts with a sense of spirit and fun that is so much more fulfilling than when I’ve given out of a sense of guilt or obligation.

Maybe I’m not the only one who struggles with this shift. Let’s share our stories this season: How have *you* received graciously lately?

--Beth Esser

## **Ministerial Search Committee Update: Congregational Record and Search Packet**

Greetings, everyone, from your Search Committee! We are deep into the process of creating the online pieces that will help attract potential ministers to JRUUC: the Congregational Record and the Search Packet.

### **Congregational Record**

All congregations in search are asked to complete an online Congregational Record for posting to a section of the UUA website available only to ministers and UUA staff. The Search Committee devoted its weekly meetings throughout September and October to the answering of the Congregational Record questions. Some questions ask for data, such as dates of ministerial tenure and budget figures. Most questions, however, require in-depth responses drawn from the information gathered in the Congregational Survey and Listening Sessions. Thank you again for your input!

### **Search Packet**

The Search Packet is a scrapbook of everything we want prospective ministers to know about us as a congregation and as a community. Previously these packets were thick, 3-ring binders stuffed full of "hard copy" information. Now, Search Packets are online; they are websites created by Search Committees. Our beautiful Search Packet website is being created by Colleen O'Hara and Thomas Lund, and we look forward to sharing it with all of you.

Once the Congregational Record and Search Packet are complete, we will make them available for you to see. Stay tuned for access information!

Fun fact: Your Ministerial Search Committee has begun meeting in the new Central Library, and has found our meeting room very conducive to our work.

Virginia Harrison, on behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee (Bev Buhr, Chair. Also, Doug Erickson, Thomas Lund, Jeanne Lydon, Colleen O'Hara, and Barb Whitney). See the next column about having coffee with them Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Ministerial Search Committee Coffee  
Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, after service**  
Stay after service and have Coffee and  
Conversation with our MS Committee

They will be ready to answer  
Questions & Discuss their current work.

Need more information?  
Contact Virginia Harrison:  
608-669-2822.

## **Building Stewardship Update**

The building is painted! Hooray! Thank you, thank you to the whole James Reeb Congregation for helping to make this happen.

Approximately 110 volunteer-hours were provided to make this happen in preparation and final painting. Our professional painter was impressed with the quality help he received and our level of cooperation. We finished within the allotted budget and only one day late due to weather. Thank you especially to the following individuals:

Roger Pierson, Art Hackett, Cindy Rudd, John Steill, Bev Buhr, Colleen O'Hara, Jim Dew, Laura Yin, Sarah Hallas, Kelly Kearns, Rev. Marlene Walker, Heike Saynisch, and Mark Lydon.

We are exploring upgrades to the exterior lighting to protect the new paint job and to improve night-time security.



## **Music Notes**

Chuck Philyaw began working in October and immediately threw himself into directing the choir, accompanying hymns and being a song leader for the congregation!

He has also been ill, packed up his home, and moved from Fitchburg to Madison. Chuck will write a column beginning next month.



## From the Office

Hallelujah! I have a snazzy new computer with large monitor, built-in speakers, and a mouse with a cord that works. Good-bye Windows XP and MS Word 2003; Raspberries to you both – Bthbth!

With my fabulous new monitor, I can see an entire month of our Building Use calendar at once! I'm excited to learn all the new features Microsoft Office has and especially eager to find the macros that will water my plant and bring me coffee from 4&20.

Many thanks to Dan Reain, who purchased and set up my new desktop computer! Dan ordered through Amazon, but of course went to our website ([www.jruuc.org](http://www.jruuc.org)) first so that we would get a credit.

Yours in growing faith,  
Elizabeth J. Barrett, Office Administrator

## Regional Webinar on Intercultural Competency November 14 & 19 at 6:45 pm

For many years now, the UUA and our congregations have been striving to learn how to be multiculturally competent. Over this past year, ministers and UUA staff have been learning about the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity as yet one more tool for helping bridge what sometimes seems to be wide gaps in intercultural competency.

This webinar will provide the basics of that model. Rev. Lisa Presley, MidAmerica Congregational Life Consultant, will be the presenter.

Offered twice: Thursday, November 14 & Tuesday, November 19 6:45 pm Central; 75 minutes long. This workshop will be presented with visual and audio components on a web site. Participants will need a computer with high speed Internet access. Registration is required but free.

To register go to:

<http://www.midamericauua.org/events/webinars>

## **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board of Trustees Report of the October 17-20, 2013 Meeting**

### **A New Beginning and a New Covenant**

Building on many years of challenging and effective work by previous boards, the newly constituted Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) board gathered in Boston for its first formal meeting. The anticipated agility and other benefits of a smaller board were evident from the start. The meeting began with an extended check-in allowing both trustees and staff to get to know each other better and continue to develop the common commitment and mutual respect begun at the September retreat. With able facilitation by Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) President, the Rev. Linda Olson Peebles, **the board engaged the history and theology of covenant** and then considered and **approved a set of promises we are making to each other and to the UUA.**

We promise to:

- Show up with our best selves, intent on listening with openness and willingness to the voices in the room and those that are not.
- Speak with an authentic voice, grounded in our lived experience, mindful of differing cultural interpretations and realities that are present.
- Honor our duty to do the work of the board and to place anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multicultural accountability at the center of that work.
- Recognize that each of us is fully human, with hurts and vulnerability, and the need to laugh and sing!

The opening hours of the meeting and the depth of conversation about the meaning of the promises we made moved us into the business agenda with clarity and good humor.



**Winter WomanSpirit 2014  
Wisdom for the Journey:  
A Weekend with Sue Monk Kidd  
February 7-9, 2014  
DuPage UU Congregation  
Naperville, Illinois**

Early Registration is \$160 per person  
through November 1st.  
(Hotel accommodations are separate)  
Register today at:  
<https://www.regonline.com/w2014>

Writer Sue Monk Kidd is one of the foremost  
explorers of the feminine divine and  
spiritual creativity for women.

Her fiction works dance on the edges of  
magical realism as she celebrates the  
connection between writing,  
creativity, and soul.

**James Reeb Unitarian Universalist  
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Newsletter submissions may be emailed to  
[office@jruuc.org](mailto:office@jruuc.org). The deadline for submissions is the  
20th of the month at 5 pm. Please limit articles to 200  
words. Please be careful not to include sensitive  
information.

Read *East Breeze* online at [www.jruuc.org](http://www.jruuc.org).

Religious Education (RE) & Childcare: Childcare &  
Children's RE are available most worship services.