

EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 23, Number 4— April 2014

In The Interim

It's here! It's spring! New birth! New life! New green things sprouting! New ministries about to begin! Hold on to your hats for an exciting month! The time we have all been waiting – and working so hard for – has finally arrived.

This is the month you will learn about and meet your ministerial candidate and begin that wonderful dance called ministry. Details are still being worked on for candidating week beginning the last weekend of April and won't be ready for announcing before this newsletter goes to press so be sure to carefully watch incoming emails, church bulletins and bulletin boards and the James Reeb Facebook pages. And we'll even send out some Tweets!

What I can say is that you don't want to miss any of it. Take every possible opportunity to meet and talk with your ministerial candidate. The candidate wants to get to know you and you them.

The life of an interim minister is interesting. So much of the work we do with congregations - with you – leads to this moment, this time. We sometime joke that our primary job is to prepare you for the wedding and then to dance at it. I'm not sure I like the wedding imagery for a variety of reasons yet it is kind of apt in this case.

There will be more coming out soon about candidating week but here are a couple of important points: **During that week I will not be around or available – except to the search committee and candidate. During that week the candidate is your minister. That's where your focus needs to be.** But I will be thinking about and holding you all in my heart with love.

So get ready! Hold on to your hats! A new day is a coming!

Blessings on the journey!
Rev. Marlene

April Services

4/6 “Sexuality, Faith and Beloved Community”

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

One of the jokes we like to tell on ourselves as Unitarian Universalists is that it's easier for us to talk about sex in UU congregations than to talk about money. Why do we tell this joke and what does it say about us and our congregations? How can we embrace all of who we are as whole human beings – including our sexuality and our faith – in ways that build a Beloved Community rooted in love and justice for all? Margaret Noll will provide the music.

4/13 “Let It Be a Dance We Do”

Sarah Cook

After a long, cold winter, all of nature seems to be dancing back to life and inviting us to join in the dance.

4/20 “A New Day Rises”

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

Come celebrate Easter with this multi-generational service. We will welcome new members, dedicate babies and children, and rejoice in spring and a New Day. Bonus: lots of singing of Alleluias!

4/27 **First Sunday of Candidating Week Candidating Minister**

This will be the first Sunday of our week-long Candidating Week with our new ministerial candidate. Look for lots more info about the candidate and the candidating week schedule in weekly emails, bulletin boards at church and Facebook.

Child Dedications

Easter Sunday April 20th

We will be dedicating children and families Easter Sunday, April 20th.

If you are interesting in having your child or children dedicated please contact the Rev. Walker at revmwalker@mac.com

President's Note:

Sarah on Service and Sharing

Each day brings fresh evidence that JRUUC is full of abundant hearts. Unlike the burnout motives of guilt and obligation, sharing from the heart is life-affirming. Here are three perspectives:

“The abundant heart does not consider service a punishment or sharing a burden. Rather, it sees the unmet needs of the community as if they were those of a loved one and acts to meet them.”

– Rev. Stephen Shick

“Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

– Howard Thurman

“This church is the community of ourselves. Its energy and resources are our energy and resources. Its wealth is what we share. As we contribute to the life of this community, we affirm our lives within it.”

-- Mary Allen Walden

While Reebers demonstrate this spirit in abundance, your board of trustees works behind the scenes to support your precious gifts of service and sharing. For example, we have allocated Big Oak rental income for volunteers to make capital improvements; approved a Stewardship initiative to start an endowment fund; and adopted a detailed personnel policy that helps put our values into action for staff. We are working to increase transparency in communication, conflict resolution, and structure.

Whether you are doing the hands-on work of

congregational life, supporting it behind the scenes, or considering your pledge for the coming year, I hope your choices feel life-affirming and flow from the abundant heart.

Sarah Cook, president

Membership

Attention potential new members! Coming up in May, we will have 2 important congregational votes. On May 4th we will vote on whether or not to call the ministerial search committee's candidate as our next settled minister.

On May 18, we have our annual congregational meeting when we vote on the next annual budget and new members of the board of trustees. In order to vote, you must have been a member of JRUUC for at least 30 days, which on or before April 10th. We will have a joining Sunday April 20th.

Justice at JRUUC

News, Announcements, & Volunteer Opportunities for Social Justice work



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

Ways to learn more about MOSES and the state-wide organization, WISDOM:

- 1) In the JRUUC lobby, read the MOSES yearbook and the booklet of letters from prisoners
- 2) Attend the monthly MOSES meetings on the 1st Sat. of every month, 10am-12 pm at First Congregational UCC Church. Next ones are **April 5th and May 3rd**
- 3) Explore online resources, including:
11 x 15 Campaign website:
<http://prayforjusticeinwi.org/>
MOSES Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mosesmadison/>
MOSES website: <http://mosesmadison.org/>

Joan Kemble, Mary Anglim, and Carin Bringelson all attended a WISDOM training on March 15th. Feel free to ask any of them questions.

To carpool, contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com.

Serving Breakfast to Homeless Men

The first Saturday of every month volunteers from the James Reeb Breakfast Crew join some volunteers from Prairie UU to prepare and serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs at the men's shelter in Grace Episcopalian Church on the Square. We arrive bright and early at 5 am; our work is complete by 7:30 am, typically with grateful accolades from the men staying there. James Reeb has engaged in this community service since summer of 2008. Would you like to join the Breakfast Crew and take a turn? It feels good! If YES, contact Peggy Haack: peggyhaack@gmail.com or 244-8428.

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability

Group (PJS – pronounced “pee-jays”) are now meeting on the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm April 8th at JRUUC. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Racial Disparities –

From Arrest to Sentencing

Thursday, April 17 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Event Organized by Nehemiah Center for Justice and Reconciliation
633 W Badger Rd Madison, WI

Sustainable Saturday Nights

The Fourth Sat. Night each month

Saturday April 26th 6-9pm at JRUUC

Potluck starts at about 6pm. Each SSN begins with a potluck and is followed by a program

For more information, call Tim at 608-630-3633



Justified Anger Community Potluck

Let's Talk About It: Race Relations

In Honor Of Bruce Dahmen

**Sunday, April 27, 2014
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

at James Madison Memorial High School
201 S. Gammon Rd, Madison WI 53717

No Admission Cost
(Please bring a dish to pass for 8-10 people)

Chaired By:
Rev. Alex Gee- Founder of Justified Anger Project
Michael Johnson- CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Dane County
Ed Hughes- President, Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education
Oscar Mirales- Executive Director, Omega School



Religious Education

March weather kept us inside just when we were really looking forward to spring. We used this time in Religious Education to think about our physical spaces here at Reeb and how we can make them welcoming, beautiful and comfortable. Our 6+ group has been doing amazing work planning the youth-room renovation – imagine stars on the ceiling, blue walls, and a snake meditation labyrinth painted on the floor. And they're building the wooden shelves themselves! They took a field trip to Sector 67 to learn about other local community spaces, and planned an April 6th field trip to First UU Society to see their youth spaces.

Our other RE spaces will also soon be more inviting during the spring rains: the RE committee and I have planned all new art, and by popular demand, more tumble mats!

Summer will be here soon, and with it our Summer RE program. Each year we pick a new topic for all-ages RE, and invite different members of our congregation to teach one lesson. Last year we had a blast with Greek Mythology. Help us choose this year's theme with this 3 question survey: <http://bit.ly/re2014jruc>

And as always, a huge Thank You to all the volunteers who help our RE programs bloom!
Caroline Hardin, Director of Religions Education

Many Hands Coalition April 12th

Many Hands Building Stewardship Day is Saturday, April 12th 9 am - 1 pm. Please help spread the word in your network. There's something for all: organizing, cleaning, sorting, throwing out, assembling, planning, and most of all: **HAVING FUN!** Please bring a dish to pass for whenever we get hungry and sit down to eat.

Rummage and Book Sale Coming In May!

This annual event is one of our major fundraisers. To make it successful we need lots of help. Start now by gathering up all those things around the house you no longer need and purge those book shelves. But this is only the start of the help we need. Because of everyone's generosity we always have a great selection of goods to sell and that means we have a lot of work to do getting it all set up. For more information contact Cindy Rudd, 608-2244-8428 or ruddhaack@sbcglobal.net.



From the Office

Ack! I'm completely crazy-busy!!



Register for GA at <http://www.uua.org/ga/> (costs less before April 30). Home hospitality is still available, as are hotels and dormitories!