

EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 23, Number 12 — December 2014

From the Minister

This is the start of my fourth month as your minister! It has been a good quarter. I've heard some of your stories and shared some of mine in this wonderful and blessed dance of getting to know each other. And I'm grateful to you, for giving me time and space to settle in at the beginning, for opening yourselves to the process of building relationship, and for hearing me as I share my hopes and dreams for our ministry. It feels like a very good start to me, and I go home every night understanding that I'm in the right place and that we're a very good match. And so it feels, to me and to our Board of Trustees, like the right time to ask this congregation to ordain me.

There is a trio of processes involved in becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister. The first is education – almost all UU ministers have a Masters of Divinity degree. The second is fellowshipping, in which the minister is granted denominational standing by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Both of these steps are about developing credentials. The third step is ordination, which is about the call to ministry. Because we govern ourselves by congregational polity – which means congregations make decisions for themselves, and for our denomination – our tradition is that only a congregation may ordain a minister. Some ministers ask their home congregation (that they were part of when they heard the call to ministry) to ordain them, as Ian Riddell asked you a few years ago. And some ministers wait until they've answered the call to serve their first congregation, and ask them to ordain them. I chose this second path because I wanted my ordination to mark the beginning of my called ministry – because I wanted to share this sacred occasion with you.

It's a big deal, ordination, where people who know me well and people I'm getting to know gather and reflect on what our ministry is and why it's important. And there's often a wonderful party (dare I say, potluck) after the service. I'm thrilled to

ask you to consider taking this step with me, and if you ask me I'll gladly share more about what it means to me, and in our tradition, in conversation with you.

In faith and love,
Karen

December Sunday Services

12/7 “Darkness and Light: Choice”

Karen Quinlan, Minister

There is both darkness and light within each of us, and we often hear about wanting to increase the light and diminish the darkness. What might it mean to make choices that consider the value of both? Margaret Noll will provide the music. After the Service, stay for Karen's listening session.

12/14 “Darkness and Light: Possibility”

Karen Quinlan, Minister

Is it possible that these two seemingly opposite ideas are actually complementary? Today we'll explore what can happen when we let go of dualism. Margaret Noll will provide the music.

12/21 “Darkness and Light: Active Hope”

Karen Quinlan, Minister

Today marks the longest night of the year, and traditional Yule celebrations focus on the return of the Sun. But we also know that the coldest, dreariest days are still ahead of us. What do we need to hold onto hope and keep moving forward during cold and dreary times? Rachel Avery and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.

12/28 “Kwanzaa”

Peggy Haack

A multigenerational celebration of this Week-long holiday. Doug Erickson will provide the music.

December Special Services



Winter Solstice Celebration
5:00 pm Saturday, December 20th
Join us for our annual celebration marking the Longest Night and the Return of the Light, with songs, silence, stories, and candlelight, featuring the JRUUC Choir with Director Rachel Avery and Minister Karen Quinlan



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**
**5:00 pm Wednesday,
December 24th**

Join us for an all-ages worship, featuring hymns, stories, candles, and a dramatic representation of the story of Jesus' birth
Minister Karen Quinlan

Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 14th

Directly after worship

The Board of Trustees is calling a Special Congregational Meeting.

The only item on the agenda is to Ask the congregation to **Vote on whether we will Ordain our newly-called Minister, Karen Quinlan.**

Member attendance is crucial.
Please contact Kim Reain or Virginia Harrison if you have any questions.

Pastoral Care Brainstorming Team 1 PM Saturday, December 6th

Do you have ideas on how a pastoral care system should be set up at Reeb? Come to the planning meeting at 1:00 pm to give us your input.

Listening Session with the Minister 11:30 Sunday, December 7th

Join Karen in her office for a small group meeting, where we'll talk about our hopes and dreams for JRUUC. Reservations not required.

Karen's Office hours for December:
Wednesdays, noon-2:00
Thursdays 10:00-noon
Evening hours by appointment

Please call me ahead of time so I know you're coming!

Holiday Craft and Bake Sale
Sunday, December 14th
Before and after service
We will have Holiday baked goods and Crafts and art from James Reeb members & friends.
As you do your holiday baking consider setting aside some to donate to the Bake Sale.
You may donate Art or Crafts to our sale or Set up your own table and donate 20% of your sales to JRUUC.

For more information contact Cindy Rudd, 608-244-8428 ruddhaack@sbcglobal.net



President's Column

The cold of January in November? Cruel on so many levels. No transitions nor the slow rise and fall dance of the thermostat. No preparation for what we will eventually settle into. All of sudden we are where we did not expect be and without any warning we must deal with it.

“Life is hard. Not because we’re doing it wrong, just because it’s hard.”

Glennon Doyle Melton, aka Momastery.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are guided by our Seven Principles and the Source of Our Living Traditions. We draw from many prophets, many religions, many humanists and more. We are asked to look at our spiritual sources which call us to act in a loving way and with ethical integrity. We are called to keep our spiritual house in order, questioning how we think and act, so we are better

informed about how we move through this shared reality. How do we bring love, justice, equity, and compassion to our communities?

I want to know what you turn to. What authors inspire you? Who are you listening to? How do you light your path in the darkness? Keep warm in the cold? Why do you do what you do and how have you changed that as you have learned, had insight and have grown?

In the next few months we will be called to gather in the darkness and the cold. We will examine why we do what we do here at JRUUC. What do we need as individuals? As a congregation? What can we give? What is our capacity? We will have conversations around our mission, our vision, and our goals. We will need to fill our bellies and share our nourishment.

This is our spiritual home, together. Whatever we have, it will be what we built together. There is no other way. May we remember these words of UUA President Peter Morales “The work of bringing justice to our world is marathon, not a sprint.”

Kim Reain, President

Financial Update

	October	Year to date
Income	\$12,877	\$48,589
Expenses	\$15,001	\$56,598

Income for the month was \$12,877 against expenses of \$15,001 for a net loss of \$2,124. The net loss was about \$1,500 less than September’s, which is a positive sign. We’re confident that we will catch up next month because of Reeb Rave and then be ahead because of end-of -year gifts in December.

After recalculating our budget plan average for the year, MG&E advised us our monthly utility bill will be reduced through next August. This change will put us \$621 ahead as of the end of the fiscal year. Because we had to pay for OWL training out of the current year’s RE budget, the finance committee agreed to shift \$500 of the anticipated savings from the utilities budget to replenish this year’s RE Committee budget.

Art Hackett, Treasurer



Religious Education

As many of you know, Caroline Hardin has stepped down as our Director of Religious Education. The RE Committee, teachers, and kids are grateful for all Caroline did to recruit, train, and assist teachers, and to get our program organized and brought into the digital age. Thank you so much, Caroline!

In order to take the time to develop a congregational vision for the RE program and to identify the type of person who will help us to reach that vision, we will be going through a search process for a new DRE. We are looking to hire someone in the summer to give them time to start developing a new program prior to the start of RE classes in September. In the meantime, we have been very fortunate to hire a very well-qualified Acting DRE. Sara Goodman is in training to become a UU Minister and has worked with RE programs in three different UU congregations, the most recent being First Unitarian society of Madison. Sara will be working with the RE Committee and teaching teams to ensure that our RE classes are spiritually fulfilling and enjoyable for all the children.

Coming up in early 2015 we will be offering the Our Whole Lives (OWL) class. OWL is a lifespan sexuality education curricula. The portion we will be offering is targeted for youth in grades 7-9. We encourage all parents and grandparents with children around that age to consider enrolling your child or children in the class. Attendees are not limited to members. Youth are encouraged to invite a friend to take the class with them. For more information see the attached link: <http://www.uua.org/re/owl/296300.shtml> or talk to someone on the RE Committee, Sara or Reverend Karen.

Justice at JRUUC

News, Announcements, & Volunteer Opportunities for Social Justice Work



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.

Upcoming MOSES Events and Actions:

Sat. Dec. 6th, 10 am - 12 noon: The monthly MOSES meeting will take place at First Congregational UCC Church, 1609 University Ave

10 AM Wednesday, December 10th Room 411S of the State Capitol Building

Our next big thing will be the release of our Blueprint for 2015. We will start by a presentation to familiarize ourselves with the Blueprint. The Blueprint will give us all the pieces of the 11x15 Campaign. It will be a comprehensive picture of how Wisconsin's broken criminal justice system can be fixed. The Blueprint presentation will include a Press Conference. We will then deliver the Blueprint to legislative and administration offices. Then, we will go over to First United Methodist Church for lunch and to meet in smaller issue groups to get our plans together for outreach and action in 2015. We can and should invite other people, i.e. legislators and legislative aides, journalists, and other advocates, to the Blueprint Presentation will consolidate previous actions and focus on an overall 11x15 agenda for 2015.

Questions? Contact Carin at cmbringe@gmail.com

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group are now meeting on the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm December 8th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.



Stewardship Stirrings on Generosity

December is a month when a lot of present-giving occurs. Sometimes this is filled with dread and angst: "Will I ever be able to give exactly the 'right' present?" Other times it is filled with joy and excitement: "I am giving from a root of love that is closely aligned with my life values!"

This giving-season allows us the opportunity to ask: How does generosity feel? What does it look like? Could generosity be a form of spiritual practice?

Start thinking about generosity as a spiritual practice by taking some time to reflect on the following:

- Think of times when you acted generously -- and when someone was generous with you. How did you feel?
- How do children in your life learn to give?
- How do you nurture your own generosity -- and inspire generosity in others?

Find a fellow Reeber with whom to explore the above questions. (Or explore these questions at the beginning of a committee meeting.)

A recent webinar from the Mid-America Region notes that the benefits of generosity in one's own life and the life of a congregation include:

- Connecting with others and creating community
- Finding meaning and purpose in one's life
- Aligning values and beliefs with resources and actions

These sound like *great* presents for this season!

Learn more about stewardship at JRUUC:
<http://www.jruuc.org/stewardship>.



From the Office

November has been a terrific month for our financial health, with Reeb Rave bringing in more expected contributions than ever before. In addition, a few of you paid off your annual pledges this month, and we've had more rentals. Our cork floor has been attracting more and more dance classes. Looking ahead, we may be offering a daytime yoga class beginning in January. Let's all do Prithvi Mudra for the next month in anticipation.

Thanks to all you helped with Reeb Rave! It is always a fun event, but this year our members outdid themselves in donations, bidding, and collecting the payments. Special thanks to Leila Pine and Tom McClintock for their leadership. My spouse and I had a fantastic time, due in part to a sherry-laced chocolate mousse won by my table.

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

The NEW in
The New Era of
Unitarian Universalism

Regional Assembly

2015

April 17-19

MidAmerica Regional Assembly
at the
Marriott Hotel in Naperville, IL

A Two & a Half Hour Drive
from Madison!!

Mark your calendars now!



Join the Living Legacy Project Marching in the Arc of Justice A Conference Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign March 5-8, 2015

Thousands of people from around the world will be converging on Selma, Alabama, March 2015, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary Bridge Crossing. Join the Living Legacy Project as we invite Unitarian Universalists to Selma to honor martyrs Jimmie Lee Jackson, and Unitarian Universalists **James Reeb** and **Viola Liuzzo**, and to reflect with one another about what their courage and the courage of countless others require of us in 2015. **Register before January 1st to receive a discount:**
<http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/revisiting-selma-2015.html>

UUA President Issues Statement Applauding Executive Action on Immigration

November 21, 2014

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement applauding President Obama's immigration announcement:

"Today we celebrate President Obama's immigration plan that will improve the lives of millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States.

This victory for immigrant families is, in part, a result of the many voices who spoke out through countless petitions, pleas, protests, and even civil disobedience around the country. Many of these voices belonged to Unitarian Universalists, and I am both proud and grateful for that. Thanks to these efforts, President Obama listened and finally took action.

Many immigrants are waking up to a brighter future, able to breathe easier knowing that their families will not be torn apart by bureaucracy and our broken immigration system. But there are still millions of people who will continue to live in constant fear of deportation—hardworking people forced to live in the shadows of our society. We must continue to exert pressure on our elected leaders to pass comprehensive immigration reform. The UUA recently recommitted its support to the Sanctuary Movement, where congregations provide safety, housing, and assistance for individuals facing deportation. Currently, Arturo Hernandez Garcia is in sanctuary at the First Unitarian Society of Denver, CO. I hope that he will be reunited with his family and resume his life in the United States as soon as possible.

As a nation of immigrants, we are called to stand on the side of love with immigrant families. As a religious community, we cannot ignore the moral call to help those who are suffering. And as citizens of the world, we must respect the inherent worth and dignity of all."

Rev. Peter Morales

For more information contact pr@uua.org.



UUA President Issues Statement Following News in Ferguson, MO

November 24, 2014

Our fear that justice will not be served is now a reality. Regardless of the reasons why a grand jury decided not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown, people are angry, frustrated, and outraged. We still have questions unanswered. We still seek justice.

There are vigils and witness events taking place around the country. I encourage you, if you are willing and able, to witness for justice in your community. Take a moment, however you are able, to be in solidarity with the people of Ferguson, for all who want to end systemic racism, and for those who continue to be abused by a system that is meant to protect them.

The events in Ferguson remind me of another city that was infected by racism and violence. Almost 50 years ago, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, In the vicious maltreatment of defenseless citizens of Selma, where old women and young children were gassed and clubbed at random, we have witnessed an eruption of the disease of racism which seeks to destroy all America. No American is without responsibility...The people of Selma will struggle on for the soul of the nation, but it is fitting that all Americans help to bear the burden.

It pains me and I know it pains many of you to reflect on the similarities between Selma and Ferguson. In Ferguson, as in Selma, we saw heavily armed police suppress fundamental human rights. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the history-changing events in Selma, AL, we recognize that while we have made great strides towards racial justice, there is still a long way to go to achieve the ideal of the Beloved Community. We must recommit to the important work still left to do.

At the UUA's 2013 General Assembly, delegates approved an Action of Immediate Witness condemning racist mistreatment of young people of color by police. It called for member congregations to actively demonstrate alongside others who are fighting to change the laws that allow police harassment, which results in violence against communities of color.

Standing on the Side of Love has curated resources to explore ways to learn more, grow, heal, and take action. And when more resources and information on how you can get involved become available, we will share that with you.

Collectively, we must be a strong voice for change to end police brutality and the systemic racism in our society that causes violence, chaos, and death. Black lives matter.



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