

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 9 — September 2015

Connections

I'm very excited to begin our second year of ministry together! I'm especially excited that we'll be starting it more fully staffed. We've increased Office Administrator Elizabeth Barrett's hours to half-time and hired Director of Religious Education Sara Goodman and Music Director Heather Yonker. These causes for excitement might also remind us of some concern, as a large portion of our budget is spent on staffing, and we've found an error that puts our budget in deficit. I hope you'll remember the energy and momentum we've been experiencing, and respond to the challenge of our unexpected need with whatever generosity you can offer during our September appeal. Paul and I have chosen to increase our pledge over giving a one-time contribution.

I'm looking forward to building on that energy and momentum. I'm very pleased that this year will include several programs and ideas that have grown out of the conversations we had last year. We'll begin a new small group ministry program called Covenant Groups. These groups, like the Chalice Circles this congregation once supported, will meet to reflect on monthly themes. The themes will also be the basis for our worship topics, and for some of our religious education offerings for children and adults. The goal of this structure is to provide opportunities to delve more deeply into topics that are important to us.

Speaking of themes, I'm grateful that the Children's RE Program has chosen the theme of equity for the year. This is a very timely topic in Madison and in the wider world. I look forward to exploring theological, pastoral, historical, and prophetic aspects of equity in worship and small group adult settings, as well as with our children.

Last year was a time of starting to make connections between us, and I look forward to getting to know more of you and deepening our relationships. Expect a phone call or an email from me, sometime this year, to ask when and where we can meet for a conversation. I'll be starting with

people I haven't had much contact with yet. You might also notice a change in my office hours – I will have lunch at the Daisy Café on Thursdays and will buy you a cup of coffee (or whatever beverage you prefer) if you meet me there for a chat!

May we continue to bless each other and the world we live in!

In faith and love,
Karen

September 10 AM Sunday Services Equity

- 9/6 **“Workers’ Rights are Human Rights”**
Corneil White, Restaurant Worker
The Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice has provided Mr. White as the speaker on this Labor Day Sunday, with assistance from Leila Pine and Joan Kemble. Heather Yonker will provide the music.
- 9/13 **“Gathering In”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
Please bring a small vial of water that symbolizes something special to you – perhaps a summer travel, perhaps a taste of home, perhaps a metaphor for something important in your life. We'll combine our waters in a ritual of ingathering, and reflect on how our gathering in forms the basis for all we do together. This service will be multigenerational. Heather Yonker will provide the music.
- 9/20 **"Is Pope Francis a Unitarian Universalist?"**
Beth Esser, Chris Glad, and Kelly Kearns
Pope Francis' Encyclical on Care for our Common Home has transformed the conversation on climate change from the political realm to the moral sphere. The Pope calls for individual and societal
(Continued on page two)

conversion to transform a system motivated by greed to one that reaches out to the most vulnerable. Come and explore with members of the Peace, Justice, & Sustainability group what Unitarian Universalists might learn from Pope Francis' encyclical. Heather Yonker will provide the music.

9/27 "Reaching Out"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Unitarians and Universalists have been working toward building an equitable world throughout our history. Today we'll explore the why and how of this – the theological grounding for our work in the world, and what it has inspired us to do. Rachel Avery will provide the music.



Minister's Office hours for September

Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at JRUC
Thursdays, 12:30 – 2:30 pm at the Daisy Café on Atwood Ave.

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment
Rev. Karen will be out of the office on study leave September 5-8, and away from email. Please call or text her for emergencies only

Worship Associate Training

Rev. Karen and the Worship Team would like all people serving as Worship Associates to attend a training session. Rev. Karen will lead two sessions this fall, with the option for folks who did training last year to participate in a nuts-and-bolts-only session if they'd like. Please let her know if you plan to attend any of the sessions, which will be held: **Wednesday, September 30** 6:30 – 8:30 pm (nuts-and-bolts only at 8:00)
Saturday, October 3 10:00 am – 12:00 noon (nuts-and-bolts only at 11:30)

Covenant Groups

These small reflection groups will meet monthly to engage with questions related to each month's theme. Facilitators will meet with Rev. Karen early each month, and will be asked to help organize the groups. Sign-up sheets will be available in the lobby after worship on September 6, 13, and 20; groups will be organized in late September and begin meeting in October. Please let Rev. Karen know if you'd like to be a facilitator.

Caring Tree

We're launching our new pastoral and parish care system! Teams have been set up to provide meals, give rides, run small errands, send cards, make visits, and provide mental health support. If you would like to be on a team and haven't been asked, please contact Rev. Karen. Our Caring Tree Coordinators are Cindy Rudd and Marla McFadden; please call them, or Rev. Karen, when you're in need. They can be reached at:
Marla: 608-279-0785
Cindy: 608-469-5269
Rev. Karen: 219-221-3371



President's Column

Budget Appeal

As many of you know, JRUC passed a balanced budget at the congregational meeting in May. Then in July, a household discovered that they had written their monthly pledge erroneously high. In order to close the gap between the budget we thought we had and the budget we actually have, the Board of Trustees (BOT) will hold a one-week appeal between Wednesday, September 9 and Wednesday, September 16. Following the in-gathering service on Sunday, September 13, congregants will be asked to increase their monthly pledge or give a one-time additional amount toward the gap, which is \$8280.

Emergency Fund

To be clear, we do have \$5618 left over from last year's budget, but that is due to one-time occurrences, rather than the kind of funds we can count on seeing again. That amount has been designated by the BOT and Finance Committee as an emergency fund to be used in the event of an unforeseen expense (such as a building repair). Even if we were to use that amount toward the \$8280 budget gap, we would still have a deficit of \$2662.

Taking the Long View

At the August board meeting, it was recognized that JRUC will need the same amount of money in pledges next year as we thought we had with the erroneous pledge in order to even stay flat financially for the 2016-17 year. Therefore, it was agreed that the appeal should be toward raising the full \$8280, since that is the operating budget we are working with, the majority of which goes to fair share pay of our staff.

Appeal Options

The appeal will ask congregants to choose to either increase their monthly pledge (by, perhaps, \$11 per month) or give a one-time donation (of, say, \$100). It is the BOT's desire in doing so to prevent wiping out the congregation's emergency fund and start financially behind for next year's budget drive.

The good news is, we are not experiencing a financial crisis, and we are making this adjustment early in the church year. As a Congregation of Great Strength, I know that we can each give just a little more and be even stronger together.

Blessed Be,
Virginia
Virginia Harrison, Board President

Soup & Grilled Cheese Fundraiser! Sunday, September 13

Please join members and friends of this Congregation for good food and Conversation at an after-service meal. Interested in providing soup, dessert, or fruit? Please contact Cindy Rudd at 608-244-8428 or clrudd47@gmail.com.

Suggested donation \$6/adult, \$3 for kids.
Coordinated by the FUNd Raising Committee

James Reeb Annual Campout Lake Farm County Park Saturday, Sept. 19th 3 pm to Sunday, Sept. 20th at noon

Roast some marshmallows, sing songs, and celebrate in the great outdoors with fellow Reebers and friends. You are welcome to come only for the afternoon and evening or Camp overnight, or just come for pancakes and a Simple service Sunday morning
Cost is \$5 per person if you campout
Questions contact Sarah Elmore
sselmore@sbcglobal.net or
608-257-2712
Sign up for meals and camping in the Narthex (lobby)



Financial Update

	July	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$20,727	\$20,727
Expenses	\$14,541	\$14,541

Thanks to a pledger paying their entire yearly pledge in July, as well as some prepaid pledges coming onto the books, our July showed a positive cash flow for the first month of our new fiscal year. The 2014-2015 budget surplus of \$5,619 has been transferred into our money market account emergency fund.

Park Bank offered us the chance to refinance the term loan on our building from 6% to 5.5%. Our monthly payments to the bank will not change, but the percentage of our payments going towards paying down our principle has increased. When the interest rates are reconfigured in 2019 we will have saved approximately \$4000 on the balance of our loan.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



Children's Religious Education

We are gearing up for a wonderful fall in Children and Youth Religious Education. We have chosen the theme of Equity for the year, which will be woven through all of our programs and curricula! Look for more information on the RE page of the JRUUC website.

We are ready for fall, while extending our summer program just a little longer! September 6th will continue to be a summer session with our President-elect Charlie McNulty. September 13th will be the Multigenerational Water Communion Service.

If you plan to be a teacher or assistant, or even a substitute in a classroom for Religious Education, please make sure to come to the **Teacher Training from 11:30 to 3 pm Sunday, September 13th**.

The next weekend will be the fall campout from September 19-20, followed by Kid Connection on Sunday the 20th, led by our new RE Committee Chair Stephanie Thurlow! All the children will be in one class getting to know each other better through movement.

Finally on September 27th, we begin our regularly scheduled classes! Be sure to register your children ahead of time -- look for a letter with a registration form sent to your home! This year, we are asking for a \$30 registration donation per family. But don't let the donation stop you from registering! We are offering waivers for those to whom this would be a barrier.

I am looking forward to doing some great work with you this year!

Sara Goodman, Director of Religious Education

Music Is in Motion at JRUUC!

Hello And Thanks so much to everyone who has already given me a warm welcome as the new music director. I am looking forward to collaborating with such terrific human beings! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or ideas that you would like to share. Presently, I would like to know if you are interested in playing music as an instrumentalist, singing with the choir, and/or if you have children that might be interested in a youth choir (whether it be on a regular basis, or for a particular occasion). No matter your level or experience, this is about expression from the soul and community. You can write to me here: music@jruuc.org or speak with me in person.

Music is honest, present-moment action. It lives and breathes through us. It expresses what words alone sometimes cannot. Some have called it "fuel for living, a magic key, the language of the spirit and the great uniter." Certainly it is the universal language. I am happy to embrace the choir's covenant to create music together in order to enhance and deepen the celebration and exploration of worship and community life in the JRUUC congregation. Please join me!

Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, September 3rd at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. If you are able, please sign up for a 10-minute one-on-one time-slot with me prior to the rehearsal. This will help me to arrange vocal placement and to get to know your interests. I can begin as early as 5:00 that evening.

All the best,
Heather Yonker, Music Director

Justice at JRUUC



Update from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES -- an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state. From numerous angles we are working to decrease the Wisconsin prison population. We are also exploring the idea of expanding our work to include immigration and transportation issues.

Mark Your Calendars

Monthly meetings usually happen on the first Saturday of the month, from 10 am - 12 noon. Upcoming meetings are **September 12th** (due to the Labor Day holiday) and October 3rd. Both meetings will take place at JRUUC!

The MOSES Annual Celebration will be Saturday, October 10th 4 to 7 pm at Zion City International Church, 1317 Applegate Road Madison 53713

Questions? See <http://prayforjusticeinwi.org/> <http://mosesmadison.org/> or contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com.

Sustainable Saturdays The Fourth Sat. each month September 26 at JRUUC

3:30 pm: Action-taking

5:30 pm: Potluck set-up

6 pm: Eat Dinner

7pm: Listening to our Leaders

Sep. 26 the panel will be Madison Activist Leaders sharing their perspectives on building a more peaceful, just and sustainable planet.

October 24 we will share the works of Artist Leaders
November 21 (3rd Saturday, as fourth is during Thanksgiving weekend) We will share the wisdom of spiritual leaders.

Everyone is welcome

For more information, contact
Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability

Group meets the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be 7 pm September 14th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org

Recent Share the Plate Totals

Milton McPike Memorial Scholarship	\$163.00
MOSES Yearbook Advertisement	\$250.00
Men's Shelter Grocery Fund	\$261.37

Local Food Social Justice

Sign-Up Now for September 12th!

For many years, JRUUC has participated in the Community Action Coalition's Farmers Market Collection at the Saturday Dane County Farmers Market on the Capitol Square. We meet at **11:50 am** at the white CAC truck on the East Washington side of the capitol building and collect leftover food or plants for about 60-90 minutes. The food is then distributed to local food pantries and shelters for meals. It is rewarding and fun! We need 8-12 people each Saturday; friends and kids are all welcome to help. This year our remaining dates are **September 12th and October 31st**. Contact Jocie Luglio to sign up: jocie.jruuc@gmail.com

Inherent Worth:

Let's Take on Income Inequality

Reeb members are going to take a look at how we can reduce economic inequality in our community. We'll aim to undertake and maintain initiatives that leverage the talents and passions that exist in this beloved family of ours.

Plan to connect with each other to explore: the dimensions of inequality around us, how it is perpetuated, why our faith tradition compels us to interrupt it, and what we can do about it (individually and collectively).

A study group of regularly-attending members will form the core of the exploration, but outside speakers and presentations will be open to all JRUUC members.

It's an ambitious plan, and may extend for many weeks. The first step will be a three-week "pilot" of intense study and discussion by 10-12 volunteers. (Continued on the next page)

Betsy Swenson and Craig McComb will facilitate it on three consecutive Monday nights starting September 21.

Would you like to be one of the “pilots”? Contact Craig after worship on Sunday mornings or via phone (608-233-5566) or email (cmccomb@tds.net).

The 2015-2016 UUA Common Read

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by **Bryan Stevenson** has been selected as both the 2015-16 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read and the UW-Madison Go Big Read. *Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice. Read more about it at: www.uua.org/re/adults/read. Attorney Stevenson will speak in Madison October 26. The Madison libraries plan to have many copies of this book in hard copy and electronic. You can even check out a stack of *Just Mercy* for a book group to read. Contact Rev. Karen if you would like to facilitate a book discussion group.

Registration is open for the 2015 Racial Justice Summit—

From a Moment to a Movement: Building the Beloved Community!

The Racial Justice Summit will be October 1-2 at the Concourse Hotel. Each year, the YWCA Madison brings together community stakeholders to work on eliminating barriers that foster racism in our community. The Summit focuses on institutional racism and involves nationally-known keynote speakers and researchers, as well as local experts and advocates. Through an environment that encourages learning from and supporting each other in our common goals, the Summit provides a platform for action planning and community dialogue. The Registration fee is \$200 for one day & \$300 for both days.

http://www.ywcamadison.org/site/c.cuIWLiO0JqI8E/b.7968025/k.6E89/Racial_Justice_Summit.htm



Membership News

Radical Hospitality Opportunity – Be a Greeter!

Tuesday, September 22nd 7-9 pm

The membership committee is looking for 20 individuals to support our congregation by making a monthly commitment to welcome everyone who comes to JRUUC on Sundays! Benefits include: being part of a team, having a special badge, learning the secrets to making fellowship coffee hour a success, meeting new people and an invitation to an exclusive midyear brunch. Contact Jocie Luglio, jocie.jruuc@gmail.com to sign up. Please plan to attend our **Greeter Training, including gourmet desserts, September 22nd 7-9 pm.**

Pathway to Membership

Saturday October 17th 9 am to 1 pm
**Interested in becoming a member of
James Reeb UU Congregation?**

Want a refresher about the history of our denomination and congregation and what it means to be a member?

Join us for our "Exploring Membership" Class Saturday October 17th 9 am-1 pm!

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Jocie Luglio at jocie.jruuc@gmail.com. RSVP by 10/10.

Lunch provided and childcare upon request.

**"Exploring Membership" Class
Saturday October 17th 9am-1pm!**



From the Office

I hope you've noticed that this newsletter is brimming with activities! Obviously, September has arrived with lots of opportunities to get involved in something fun happening at JRUC or at another location. The Soup and Grilled Cheese Fundraiser September 13 sounds absolutely delicious. The Lake Farm Camp-out is an especially joyous event. If it didn't coincide with my 18th wedding anniversary, I would attend! And do be sure to read the social justice pages

Reeb members: did you see the Greeter training scheduled for the evening of September 22nd? Autumn always brings visitors to congregations as people yearn for spiritual deepening, authentic community, and religious education. Having official Greeters ready to welcome newcomers and see each of them as an individual is crucial in our U.S. society that loves to lump us into groups based on arbitrary factors (age, ethnicity, race, class, etc.).

Of course, the time after the worship service ends is also crucial because many visitors like to connect with congregation members who are not the official greeters. I've visited UU congregations where all the "regulars" converse with their friends, paying no attention to anyone else. At one church, I was handed a name badge with red ribbons attached. After the service, the congregation's board president was the only person who spoke to me, saying "since I'm the president, I thought I should introduce myself."

At a UU congregation in Minnesota, the greeter was deep in conversation with another greeter when I walked to the Welcome Table. The two were discussing a third greeter who was absent. "Where is Sandy? I was told that she would be greeting, not you. We need a better schedule, let's get a schedule so I know who will be at this table...." Bwahaha! What a conversation to have in front of a newcomer. Visiting other churches can be a good way to get ideas of what not to do as well as best practices.

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



UU Women's Connection Fall Retreat 2015

The Red Tent –
Things We Don't Talk About
(Women's Stories from the Red Tent)

Featuring Special Guest: [Dr. Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost](#)

October 9-11, 2015

DeKoven Center, Racine Wisconsin

From isadoraleidenfrost.com: "Inspired by women's communities and textile traditions, Dr. Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost creates documentary films, video productions, websites, and other multimedia. Dr. Isadora is trained as both a filmmaker, a textile historian, and a feminist folklorist. Her mission is to create multi-media to empower women. She holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and a Masters and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison." During our weekend with Dr. Isadora, we will see her groundbreaking documentary *Things We Don't Talk About* that shows how the Red Tent, a red fabric space is empowering women. The film documents the things women hide, the things that bring them pain and joy, and for many it is a place to be honest for the first time in their life. "*Things We Don't Talk About* seeks to humanize the stories in the red tent, to put a face on the space. Read more at www.redtentmovie.com.

Rise and Shine Saturday and Sunday mornings to join us for Yoga and Tai Chi! Kathy Salzano and Janet Adams will each lead an early morning class. (Continued on the next page.)

**UU Women's Connection
Fall Retreat 2015
The Red Tent**

Register by September 15

Fall Retreat Workshops

GongSong Meditation, Reflection & Workshop, Heather Poyner: Journey within during an amazing journey of deep meditation through the transcendent harmonics of sound. Rhythm facilitator Heather Poyner will be your tour guide as she plays a 26" inch symphonic gong. Following an hour of music (give or take — we'll be on village time!), participants can journal — write draw, doodle — their experiences to share with the group should they choose. There will also be time for discussion of the gong as an instrument for spiritual journeying as well as a sharing of its playing techniques. Workshop attendees should bring yoga mats, blankets, pillows and a journal. Other supplies will be provided.

Zentangles, Nicole Nichols: Zentangles are miniature pieces of unplanned, abstract, black and white art created through a very specific Method from an ensemble of simple, structured patterns called tangles on a 3.5-inch (89 mm) square paper tile. Zentangles are not only exquisitely beautiful, they are fun and relaxing to create. The process of creating a Zentangle is a form of "artistic meditation" as one becomes completely engrossed in making each pattern, deliberately focusing on "one stroke at a time"®. The creativity options and pattern combinations are boundless. And anyone can do it!

Belly dancing, Mikhaila Scoville Durante: Connect with your "inner Goddess." No matter your age, experience or body type you will have fun with this experience. Mikhaila will discuss the history of belly dance and then teach the individual movements of the dance followed up with learning a short 'mini' combination so everyone feels they have learned a dance.

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.uuwomensconnection.org/retreats/register-now>



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East Breeze is published monthly by James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your mailing address, contact the newsletter editor (Elizabeth)

Newsletter submissions may be emailed to 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.