

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 10 — October 2015

Connections

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Our “Bridge the Budget Gap” appeal was hugely successful, raising over \$2,000 more than we needed to close the gap. I’m grateful to our Board and our Stewardship Team, who helped plan and execute the appeal – and to all of you for your generosity. I’m relieved that we can continue on into the church year on solid financial footing. And I’m excited to be looking forward!

I’m pleased to announce our monthly themes for this year, which were chosen through a collaborative process by me, Sara Goodman, and a group of congregational leaders. They are: Identity (October), Belonging (November), Freedom (December), Courage (January), Anger (February), Balance (March), Awakening (April), Justice (May), and Healing (June). You’ll hear different perspectives on the themes in worship each week, and have the chance to learn a related “Hymn of the Month” each week. You’ll also have chances to reflect on them in Covenant Group meetings, some of our RE experiences, and other meetings and events through the year. If you’re a Youth (grades 6 and up), you’re invited to attend worship the first Sunday of every month, and meet with me afterward to discuss the service and tell me what you’d like to hear at next month’s first Sunday service.

And all Youth and adults are invited to a series of conversations about the Black Lives Matter Movement, as we consider hanging a large BLM banner on the outside of our building, and as we realize our need to talk through how we might respond to the Movement and how we feel about it. Please look for announcements about these sessions in your weekly “News and Announcements” email from Elizabeth.

I’m grateful for all the time and energy you all have spent, and will spend, on these and other ways in which we build connection and community.

In faith and love,
Karen

October 10 AM Sunday Services Identity

10/4 "Who Am I?"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

What words come to mind when you consider your identity, or your identities? This morning, to begin our conversation about our October theme, we’ll explore how we think about ourselves and how we fit in society. Heather Yonker will provide the music.

10/11 “Community Service Sunday”

After gathering for a short worship in our Sanctuary, we’ll work in multigenerational teams on several projects, including the following: helping out at the OM Village, cleaning up brush at the Demetral Berm, and making "Feel Good" bags (see page 2 for details). Afterwards, we’ll share a potluck lunch so we can reflect together. Heather Yonker will provide the music.

10/18 "Walking Together"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Our faith tradition is structured on the mutual cooperation of individuals and congregations, and our congregations honor both the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. This morning, we’ll explore what it can mean to claim both our individuality and our place in the larger whole. Heather Yonker will provide the music.

**10/25 “Our Unique and Splendid Callings”
Julie Brock, Ministerial Intern at First
Unitarian Society**

Each of us has a ministry in this world, whether the work we do is labeled as such or not. We are called into being to exist as our specific selves. Each of these selves is deeply called by and to something. Our work as human beings is to find out what. Rachel Avery will provide the music.



Minister’s Office hours for October

Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at JRUC

**Thursdays, 12:30 – 2:30 pm at Café Zoma on
Atwood Ave.**

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment

A note from Rev. Karen about her availability:

There will be no office hours on October 1, when I’m attending the YWCA Summit on Racism, on October 7, when I’m traveling for a ministers’ meeting, or on October 28, when I’m traveling for a seminar. I’ll also be on study leave October 20-25 (available for emergencies only). I’m available lots of other times, so please call if you’d like to meet with me!

The Worship Associate Training

scheduled for Wednesday September 30th will take place. The Saturday, October 3 date has been cancelled because no one signed up.

Covenant Groups

These small reflection groups will begin meeting this month! Please let Rev. Karen know if you’re interested in being part of a group and haven’t signed up yet.

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

Who is Julie Brock?

Julie, who is currently serving as the Ministerial Intern at First Unitarian Society of Madison, will preach here October 25th. Hailing from Detroit, MI, she is interested in multi-generational and urban ministries. If Julie were not entering the ministry, she would go into professional horse-racing and name all of her horses Seabiscuit. Her favorite color is green, and she thinks your minister Karen is really cool.

**Community Service Sunday
“Feel Good” Bags**

We are gathering small items for Porchlight's Men's shelter
Items needed include: **face towels, shaving cream, pocket tissues, shampoo & conditioner (2 in 1), comb, lip balm, lotion, body wash, socks, and disposable razors.**

Porchlight has asked that we do not put this last item into the bags due to safety concerns.

**Please bring your items
on or before October 11!**



President's Column

Keeping Our House in Order

First, thank you one and all for your heroic response to the unexpected budget gap. We bridged it, and then some! Now we have both a balanced budget and a reserve fund for emergency use. Together, we have taken ourselves from a place of deficit to a place of abundance. Bravo!

Kitchen Committee

In other great news, JRUUC has a burgeoning Kitchen Committee! **Betsy Tuttle, Pam Younger, and Cindy Rudd** are the initial members, and others are welcome to join. These three are happy to become an official committee with a charge from the Board and the responsibility for overseeing the kitchen.

Making the already consistent efforts of these three and others into a recognized committee will help people know who to come to with questions or concerns and will empower them to make decisions.

“We expect our duties to include making sure that the kitchen is minimally equipped, consumables are replaced, laundry is done, the compost is dealt with, the counters are cleared, the refrigerator is clean, and accumulated stuff is taken care of,” said Cindy.

Committee Charges

The Board of Trustees is responsible for charging committees with the authority, guidance, and accountability to make decisions and take action within their given purview. We look forward to creating and finalizing charges for this and other committees in the coming months.

Please let me or any other Board member know if you have any questions or want to talk more about committee charges or any other business of your Board. You can email me at harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com.

Blessed Be,
Virginia
Virginia Harrison, Board President

Black Lives Matter Conversations

Join Rev. Karen for a series of conversations about the Black Lives Matter Movement.

We'll talk about the Action of Immediate Witness to support the Movement that was passed by our delegates at our last General Assembly, conversations and actions that are happening in other UU congregations and their communities, our hopes and concerns for this congregation's involvement, hanging our Black Lives Matter banner on the outside of our building, and anything else related you'd like to discuss. Come to one meeting, or as many as you wish. **Our first meeting will be Sunday, October 4 at 1 pm in our Sanctuary.** Please look for additional meetings in our weekly "News and Announcements" emails.



Financial Update

	August	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$11,472	\$32,199
Expenses	\$13,650	\$28,181

Our expenses exceeded our income for the month of August, showing a negative cash flow of \$2,178. We are still about \$5,000 in the black for the year due to our July contributions.

September brought a very successful budget gap appeal which will rectify the shortfall in our current budget. \$10,864 was raised! The appeal exceeded our shortfall by \$2,584. This money has been transferred to our reserve fund to be used for unexpected expenses as they arise. Thanks to all who contributed to the financial health of our congregation.

We again have a balanced 2015-16 budget of \$173,247 with expected pledge contributions of \$145,860. This is the budget approved at the May congregational meeting.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



Children's Religious Education

Religious Education has started the year off with a bang with our new curricula! This month, as the congregation is contemplating the theme of Identity, we in RE are looking forward to expressing our UU identity. We are excited to participate with service projects on October 11th on our Community Service Sunday. We also will be expressing our alter-ego identity by celebrating Halloween with our Trick or Treat for UNICEF Boxes, and wearing our costumes to service on Nov 1st!

We are excited to welcome Reeb member **Jessica Romick** to the Religious Education Committee! We are very grateful for your service. In order to help make our RE Committee meetings more accessible to parents with young children, we are looking for adult volunteers to work with paid youth to offer child care for these meetings, once a month. Please contact Sara Goodman at re@jruuc.org or 619-889-7457 to volunteer!

Sara Goodman, Director of Religious Education



Music Is in Motion at JRUUC!

Thank you to those who attended rehearsal last week, and thanks also, to others that went over to support the Pope's cyclical on climate change! Rachel Avery will be the pianist carrying the last service of September into the first of October. Thank You so much, Rachel!

We have a strong group coming to choir. Even so, I am looking for more bass/baritones/tenors to even out the parts, so if you know someone who is missing an outlet for singing, please invite him/her to contact me.

I am so happy and grateful for the “co-motion” being made by the choir members. Our first full choir service at the In Gathering service in September was a beautiful addition. Small ensembles have also contributed to other services already: Dave and Amanda for the Pet Blessing Service; Molly, John and Sara taking on solo parts; and September 20th, Heike, Kristen, Molly, Marla and Rebecca did a lovely round of “Dona Nobis Pacem,” They also made time to rehearse and add hand percussion to “Mother Earth, Beloved Garden.” The Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group delivered an outstanding service that day, and we were happy to be part of it!

Over the past few weeks I have been researching prospective music on topics of identity, belonging, equity and justice. It has been fun to discover some new music and performers along the way. I have written to a few of them asking about the availability of arrangements of their songs and for permission to perform them in our services. Ryan Amador has already graciously responded with a very positive yes and a chart for his song “Define Me.”

I am also getting to know what moves and touches the hearts of the choir members. The warmth and helpfulness that they demonstrate, as well as their connectedness and enthusiasm, contributes to a great vibe in the choir rehearsals. Find a choir member and shake hands or give them a pat on the back!

Music Matters,
Heather Yonker, Director of Music
music@jruuc.org



Dave Pedersen and Amanda Werhane

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 -- and push for change on other issues, like Drivers' Cards for undocumented workers in Wisconsin.

Mark Your Calendars

Monthly meetings usually happen on the first Saturday of the month, from 10 am - 12 noon. Upcoming meetings are **October 3** at JRUUC and **November 7** at First Unitarian Society (FUS).

Saturday, October 10th is the MOSES Annual Celebration 4 to 7 pm at Zion City International Church, 1317 Applegate Road Madison 53713. Tickets cost \$15 each with the option to donate more as a tax deductible contribution. Scholarship tickets are also available. You can buy tickets through Carin Bringelson: cmbringe@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 3rd 10 am – 3 pm will be the **WISDOM event** kicking-off the "ROC Wisconsin" Campaign -- "Restoring our Communities."

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

Sustainable Saturdays

The Fourth Sat. each month

October 24 at JRUUC

3:30 pm: Action-taking

5:30 pm: Potluck set-up

6 pm: Eat Dinner

7pm: Listening to our Leaders

We will share the works of Artist Leaders

Everyone is welcome

For more information, contact

Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633



Chili & Cornbread Fundraiser

Sunday, October 18

Please join Members and Friends for good food & Conversation at this after-service meal!

If you are interested in providing chili,
Please contact Cindy Rudd
clrudd47@gmail.com or 608-244-8428.
Suggested donation \$6/adult, \$3/kids
From the FUN(d)Raising Committee

The Many Hands Coalition

Sunday, October 18 1:30 to 4:30
Everyone is invited!

Roll up your sleeves and undertake
Stewardship of our
building and grounds!

Please join us after the chili lunch
to help out with a few tasks such as
weed pulling, deep cleaning and
minor touch-up painting –
& anything else that makes the list!

For more information,
Contact Paul Quinlan 608-469-2164

The November Sustainable Saturday Night will be November 21 (3rd Saturday, as the fourth is during Thanksgiving weekend). We will share the wisdom of spiritual leaders. As in previous years, we will not gather in December.

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group usually meets the second Monday of the month, except **our next meeting will be 7 pm Tuesday October 13th**. We'll be back on the second Monday for November. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org

Recent Share the Plate Totals

Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice \$275.50
350.org for Madison Pope Francis events \$194.00



Local Food Social Justice Our Last Date is Saturday, October 31!

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. Contact Jocie Luglio to sign up: jocie.jruuc@gmail.com. Costumes optional.



Get ready for the Reeb Rave "Alice in Wonderland" Auction Saturday, November 14!

We are now accepting applications for various roles including rabbits, cats, caterpillars, card characters, and Alice of course.

We will also be accepting Auction donations soon, so start thinking of what you can offer, including baked items for the live auction.

If you want to help with we have plenty of volunteer roles!
Contact Tom McClintock at tmcclin@wisc.edu or 608 206-1699

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 has 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.**



Exploring Membership Class Saturday October 17

**Are you interested in becoming a
Member of James Reeb Unitarian
Universalist 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
October 17th 9 am-1 pm!**

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

RSVP by October 10th

Lunch provided and

Childcare provided upon request



Stewardship Stirrings

Have you ever had that moment walking into our church when you wondered, “Who mows our lawn?” or when you pull a clean dish towel from the kitchen drawer and thought, “How does the laundry get done?” I’ll admit that when I first started attending JRUUC six years ago, I didn’t really think about these things. We knew that this congregation was not afraid to lift up its sleeves to get the work done (the remodel was underway when we started attending) but there were enough other things to wonder about that “Who waters the plants?” was not a question on my mind. But as JRUUC started to

feel like my own home and I joined the Stewardship Team and realized how important stewarding of our building and grounds is to a congregation, I also began to wonder how things got done around here. I have a deep appreciation knowing that there are many caring (& silent) hands doing things that benefit me and our whole congregation. I challenge each of us to notice these silent, caring hands and tell our fellow JRUUC members, “Thank you.” I also challenge us to roll up our sleeves when the opportunity arises. Caring for our shared home is a wonderful way to be a steward.

The Stewardship Team has been charged by the Board of Trustees to maintain and develop the long-term strategic and cultural nurturing of the congregation’s generosity of time, talent, and treasure. From Beth Esser



Chalice Lighters: We Light This Flame

Every Sunday, we respond to the lighting of our chalice at JRUUC by proclaiming the power of the light before us. It nurtures and sustains the light within us. Our inner light is strengthened by our flaming chalice. Our worship services are one way to get an infusion of that glow.

The MidAmerica Region of the UUA is making that infusion a very practical thing. Their program, the Chalice Lighter program, has a mission to extend UU principles and faith by promoting growth of our congregations. This program funds congregational initiatives that: enlarge or improve building space or buy property; increase professional staff; implement publicity or public relations outreach programs or start new congregations. In fact, JRUUC will be submitting a proposal later this fall to strengthen our staff support.

The funds to support these initiatives come from people who decide to help extend the UU principles and faith. Three times a year, those folks, Chalice Lighters, receive a letter describing the initiatives

that were chosen to receive a grant and a “call” to send in a contribution. At this point, JRUUC has 35 Chalice Lighters. That impressive number only goes to prove how generous and committed we are! We not only want to nurture and sustain ourselves, but seek to spread our principles and faith.

Please join us! Think about whether this is a mission you are interested in. On November 8th we will be asking you to become a Chalice Lighter and help spread our faith. For now, enjoy the warmth of the flame!

Mary Wagner and John Mathis
Co-Ambassadors of the Chalice Lighter Program



From the Office

Autumnal Greetings! This month I have been busy with the bridging the budget gap details – lots more checks to record and pledges to track! In October everyone who has contributed to JRUUC so far this congregation year will receive a donation statement covering the first quarter, July through September.

There is never a dull moment here. Due to a scheduling snafu, an African drumming group rented the RE Multipurpose room. Four gentlemen played seven drums, leading to a substantial work slowdown one afternoon. One morning, we heard chainsaws and discovered that half of one of our parking lot trees fell over onto Demetral field. Art Hackett contacted an arborist about the other half of the tree, because it leans over our parking lot.

No doubt, you’ve noticed how late this newsletter is. Every month, I hope to publish well before the end of the month, but am usually thwarted by very busy individuals who cannot get their important articles finished.

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



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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.