

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 11 — November 2015

Connections

Fall has come upon us in earnest these last couple of weeks. The leaves are past their glorious peak colors and are falling to the ground, there are more days when the lake reflects a steel gray instead of the bright blue I've gotten so used to, and I've started wearing socks. As the nights get longer, there's less time to play outside and more time to turn inward – to take stock and to reflect. And as I reflect, I find myself experiencing a whole range of emotions around recent events and accomplishments. Gratitude is one of them.

Right now, I'm grateful for your responses during the Black Lives Matter conversations we had last month. I wanted to hold off hanging our banner outside until we were able to talk about it, because I felt it was important to hear each other voicing our support and our concerns. As someone who finds the sacred in our relationships, I really appreciated the respect and curiosity you showed during these conversations, for each other and for the work of the Movement. I'm excited that so many of you are eager to hang the sign – and I hope you'll talk with me if you haven't had a chance to be part of one of the conversations. I'm now looking through anti-racism curricula and training opportunities, and I plan to offer the first set of adult religious education sessions after the winter holidays.

I'm also thankful for the opportunities I'm having for training and collegial connection. I've been away a lot this fall, and am grateful to be serving a congregation in which there's support for the minister's growth and learning, and understanding that what's good for my professional development is good for the congregation. As I write this, I'm in Minneapolis for the first of a series of three seminars on congregation-based spiritual direction, which I'm hoping will inform our new covenant groups.

I hope that you, too, get to experience the gift of gratitude among all the things you find yourself feeling this season.

In faith and love,
Karen

Check-in Question

Starting this month, you'll find a question related to our theme in the newsletter. I hope you'll consider using it when you meet in your committees to do the ministry of JRUUC. November's question is: Tell a story of a time you felt a sense of belonging.

November 10 AM Sunday Services Belonging

11/1 "The Quick and the Dead" The Rev. Karen Quinlan

People of many religious traditions remember their beloved dead during this week; this morning we'll explore how we honor both the quick and the dead. You are invited to bring pictures and other small mementos of your deceased loved ones to place on an altar we'll build together. We'll also welcome some of the quick into membership, bless our Black Lives Matter banner and hang it outside. Heather Yonker and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music. Our children will be trick-or-treating for UNICEF after the service – please bring plenty of change for them!

11/8 "Us And Them" The Rev. Karen Quinlan

This congregation prides itself on how welcoming we are, and that's a really good thing! And, at the same time, welcoming implies that there are people on the outside that we're inviting in. This morning, we'll explore what we mean when we say "we." Heather Yonker will provide the music.

11/15 "To Belong"

Pat Schneider

An exploration of how being part of something feeds our hearts, minds and souls.

11/22 "Coming Home"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Many people go "home for the holidays." Many find that "you can't go home again." And many say of Unitarian Universalism, "I found my religious home here." This morning, we'll explore what makes a home. Heather Yonker and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.

11/29 "Stories of Belonging: A Multi-Generational Service"

Sara Goodman and the RE Committee

We'll explore the ways that our UU Principles promote a sense of belonging – from individuals to the whole planet. Different voices will share different stories to help us experience belonging. Doug Erickson will provide the music.



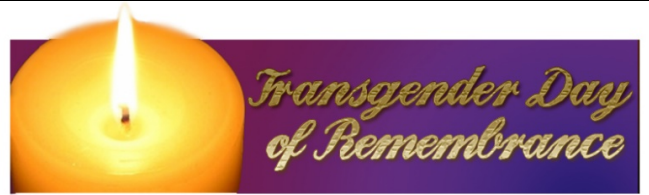
Minister's Office hours for November

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

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

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment

Please note that there will be no office hours November 11 or 12, while Rev. Karen is away for a ministers' study group, or November 25 or 26, while she is on vacation for Thanksgiving.



Special Service

Friday, November 20 at 7 pm

As great strides are made towards justice and equity for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, transgender people still face fear and violence. This evening's service will be a vigil memorializing transgender people and their supporters who have been killed this past year.



President's Column: Did You Know?

At the October Board of Trustees meeting, we talked about things Board members take for granted that perhaps the rest of the congregation may not be aware of. In the interest of transparency and leadership development, here are some points that may be of interest to those who are looking to know about or how to find documents and resources used and created by your Board of Trustees:

Policies & Procedures Binder

A binder containing JRUUC policies and procedures is located on top of the mailboxes in the administrative office (Elizabeth's office). The BOT is considering putting these documents online as well.

Board and Congregational Meeting Minutes

Each month, the Board Secretary (currently Barb Whitney) types up the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting and posts them on the BOT bulletin board in the hallway. The minutes of these meetings as well as congregational meetings are available online at <http://www.jruuc.org/board-trustees>.

Calling All Souls at JRUUC



(October 25th, Special music and guest worship leader from l.to r. Alice Shuman-Johnson, Janice Knapp-Cordes, Julie Brock, Molly Mitchell, Sarah Hallas, missing Rebecca Everett)

Thank-you choir for the great effort you've put in this past month. "I Can See Clearly Now," how dedicated you are. It's been fun to provide some musical challenges, to hear you rise to the occasion and see you enjoy the sense of accomplishment. This photo from October 25th reflects the joy put into the service and special music that day! As this month's theme was "identity," it is my hope that each of you left choir rehearsals every week with a solid identification as a singer and as a member of a community of singers, connected by the sacred breath and enriched by the worship community at JRUUC.

Welcome Janice Knapp-Cordes, our newest choir member! We are happy that you have come to share your talent and passion for music. Thank you for jumping right in to help provide special music in "The Gift of Who You Are," a song that turned out to be right in the pocket of Julie's worship topic.

The congregation will not want to miss the excellent and diverse music coming up in November, starting with All Soul's Day and a theme of remembrance. We have been preparing a song in Spanish! Thank-you Kristen and Chris for helping the choir practice it! Later in the month, as we near Thanksgiving, many of you will be "Homeward Bound," but come to the service before you go! There will be songs for "belonging and a sense of home," that will include a new arrangement of one of my own compositions.

It is strange, but not uncommon how the holidays often bring a sense of longing or loneliness; or how when we feel disconnected, we sometimes isolate even more.

Board Liaisons to Committees

Board members also serve as liaisons to committees, attending most committee meetings and reporting back to the Board each month on committee activities and questions for the Board. A list of committee liaisons follows:

- Building/Maintenance: Virginia Harrison
- Finance: Jeanne Lydon
- FUN(d)raising: Elaine Pridgen
- Library: Andy Soth
- Membership: Andy Soth
- Social Justice Council/PJS: Kelly Kearns
- Religious Education for Children and Youth: Mary Wagner
- Reeb Rave: Charlie McNulty
- Stewardship/Endowment: Barbara Whitney
- Worship: Doug Erickson

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

Blessed Be,
Virginia

Virginia Harrison,
Board President



Financial Update

	September	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$18,295	\$50,494
Expenses	\$13,148	\$39,966

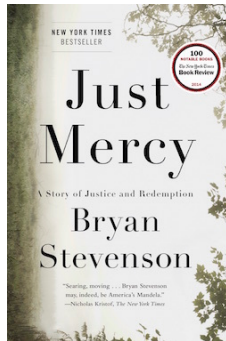
We had a positive cash flow of \$5,147 for the month. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the bridge the gap appeal. We are now on track to meet our expenses for the year.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

Come to the services and nurture each other's sense of belonging this month. If you haven't wanted to commit to choir all year round, then perhaps you would like to participate at least for December. Being part of a group like this is an excellent manner of developing a sense of belonging in a community. We will be preparing music for the Winter Solstice ritual, which we will celebrate on December 19th this year.

We have a strong group coming to choir, however, I am looking for more gentlemen to even out the parts. If you know someone that is missing an outlet for singing, please invite them to contact me. If you like to sing, but don't think that you are "good enough," think again. It is so good for all souls.

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



Opportunities to Discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called Bryan Stevenson "America's Mandela."

The UUA chose *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson as the Common Read for 2015. The UW-Madison also chose *Just Mercy* as the Go Big Read for 2015 because "Bryan Stevenson's book raises tough and important questions about inequalities in the criminal justice system." We have two opportunities to discuss this book:

- **Sunday November 15, 2 pm** at First Unitarian Society
- **Wednesday December 2, 7 pm** at James Reeb UU

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. The next one is **November 7** at First Unitarian Society.

"ROC Wisconsin: Restoring Our Communities – Beyond 11x15" will kick-off **Tuesday November 3** beginning at 9:30 am at Bethel Lutheran Church (312 Wisconsin Ave). This will inaugurate the new phase of our criminal justice reform campaign. We will continue to work on the same nuts and bolts areas (e.g. TAD funding, Solitary Confinement, Old Law Parole, Crimeless Revocations, etc.). But, it will be done with an eye on the larger picture we strive for, which includes these main aims:

- For Wisconsin to invest in the programs and strategies that will end the racial and economic disparities that fuel mass incarceration
- For Wisconsin to reduce its prison population to 11,000, and to reduce the number of people on extended supervision
- For Wisconsinites to view people who have been convicted of a crime as human beings and members of families.
- For formerly-incarcerated people to be restored to full participation in our communities, our economy and our civic life.

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

Sustainable Saturdays

The Third Saturday this month

November 21 at JRUUC

3:30 pm: Action-taking

5:30 pm: Potluck set-up

6 pm: Eat Dinner

7 pm: Listening to our Leaders:

The Wisdom of Spiritual Leaders

Everyone is welcome

For more information, contact

Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633

As in previous years, we will not gather in December. Join us the Fourth Saturday each month beginning January 23, 2016!

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability

Group meets the second Monday of the month.

Our next meeting will be 7 pm November 9. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org

Recent Share the Plate Totals

Chrysalis	\$88.00
Porchlight's "Feel Good" Bags	\$62.50
Travel to Rise Up October for Tony Robinson's Family	\$90.00



From the Office

In the past week, I've been surprised by letters sent to James Reeb UU Congregation with the salutation "Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ." I've translated this into a more UU salutation: **Dear Siblings in Justice**. Because we know that gender identity is a continuum of possibilities and that Jesus of Nazareth carried forward the Jewish prophetic tradition that finds the essence of religion in working toward justice, especially on behalf of the poor and oppressed.

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



Reeb Rave 2015:

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" Auction Saturday, November 14!

Come at 5 and stay until 8 pm

Silent Auction begins at 5 pm

"White Rabbit" Dinner at 5:30

"Queen of Hearts" Live Auction 6:30

"Caterpillar's Hookah" Music 7:30

Kid's activities 6:30 to 8 in the
Multipurpose room



Suggested donation \$10 per person;
\$25 for a family of three or more.
No one will be turned away for being
unable to pay the full donation.



Stewardship Stirrings

The Stewardship Team (aka STeam) is charged with nurturing the congregation's generosity of time, talent, and treasure. Part of the nurturing includes encouraging folks to consider spiritually provocative questions, such as:

- What's your earliest memory that revolves around "giving?"
- Remember a time when you were open to the abundance of *receiving*. What did you notice?
- How do you align the sharing of your "talents" at Reeb with the unique gifts that you bring to the world?

This fall the STeam expressed deep thanks to Beth Esser and Mark Lydon for serving on the STeam for the last 3 years. Stepping in with their insights and energy are: Heike Saynisch, who will use her experience as Annual Budget Drive (ABD) co-chair to support the upcoming ABD and Paul Quinlan, who will focus on the stewarding of the building. John Mathis, having worked on establishing the Endowment and Carin Bringelson, with an interest in education and communication — will both continue with the STeam.



Paul, Carin, John, and Heike

For more information, please speak with any of the above individuals or see <http://www.jruuc.org/stewardship>.
Submitted by Carin Bringelson



Chalice Lighters: Join the Hundreds

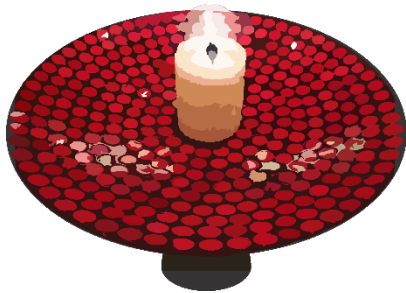
Please join 1200 Unitarian Universalists called "Chalice Lighters" in helping our fellow congregations. There are already several of us within Reeb. We commit to contributing \$20 or more, three times a year (fall, winter, spring), to support three congregations in the MidAmerica Region each time. Grants, chosen by the Region's Chalice Lighter Committee through a grant application process, range up to \$8,500. The grants support projects that are outside of the normal operating budgets: enlarging buildings, increasing staff, implementing public outreach programs, or other important uses. Reeb has benefited from such a grant in the past. These grants connect us to something greater than ourselves. You can join or receive much more information by going to <https://www.midamericauua.org/programs/chalice-lighters>.

John Mathis (Co-Ambassador of Chalice Lighter Drive)

T is for Turkey and Tofu

The Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran

T... starts out with Turkey and with Tofu, and
Together,
H...reminds of Happiness, may it grow beyond all
measure.
A...means All who are returning, a reunion in Fall,
N...for Newcomers to our Fellowship, and hearty
welcome all!
K...for Kind friends with whom we will share
dinner,
S... means Surely you'll have fun, but you won't get
thinner!
G...is Generosity, to share what we've been given,
I... for Integrity, may we bring it to our living.
V...is Very special, because of each one here. . .
I... we give thanks for Individuals, for each one is so
dear.
N...stands for this Nation, and its challenges and
strength
G...reminds us of our blessings and calls us to give
Thanks.



Mark Your 2016 Calendar for:

MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2016
April 29 – May 1 in St. Paul
The WHO in the New Era of
Unitarian Universalism

We will look at WHO we want to be as faith communities in the coming years.

Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant? How will we get there? Who will be joining us on this journey?

It is with great excitement that we announce our keynote presenters to help us explore these questions.

- **Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen**, Leadership Development Associate for Youth and Young Adults of Color at the UUA;
- **Rev. Jeremy Nickel**, minister of the Mission Peak UU congregation in Fremont, CA;
- **Kenny Wiley**, UU World senior editor and Director of Faith Formation at Prairie UU Church in Parker, CO.

They each will present highlights of their own work as they look forward to the future of Unitarian Universalism. There will be conversations with each other and they will take questions from participants.

And, as always at Regional Assembly, we will have worship services to inspire us and workshops to stimulate our thinking, along with plenty of opportunities to have fun with new and old UU friends.

International Crowne Plaza
St. Paul Riverfront
11 East Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101



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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 Barrett).

Newsletter submissions may be emailed to office@jruuc.org. The soft 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.