

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 4 — April 2016

Connections

What a joy it was to celebrate the first day of Spring with you, and to have considered together the many ways in which we approach balance. We kicked off our annual budget drive, and talked about balancing the joys and wonders of our time on this Earth with the concerns and sorrows we feel around some of our human actions and interactions. We'll move along in our conversation this month with the theme of Awakening, and consider both spiritual and practical understandings of the process of awakening. I'm especially looking forward to hearing from our Youth Group on this theme.

One of the questions this theme brings to mind is that of our faith development. The topic of adult religious exploration came up in some cottage meetings last month, as an area in which Reebers would like to see more focus, and I want you to know I hear this desire. Now that the Caring Tree and Covenant Groups have been established, the more pressing need of pastoral care is being addressed, and so I now have more to devote to expanding our adult religious exploration opportunities. I'm offering "The Shared Pulpit" this spring to respond to the desires I've heard for deeper conversation and faith development, as well as the need for training for Worship Leaders, and I'm looking forward to offering it again next year for the folks I had to put on a waiting list. I plan to offer more adult RE next fall, and am working on creating a statement of purpose for that program. I'll be holding a couple of congregational conversations in the process, where I'd like for us to explore what you'd like to get out of adult RE programming, and what has worked for you in past offerings. Please watch your weekly emails from Elizabeth about these conversations. I'm also consulting with the newly created anti-racism core team about next steps for programming in the area of racial justice.

I'm looking forward to looking ahead with you!

In faith and love, Karen

April 10 AM Sunday Services

April Theme: Awakening

"A religious awakening which does not awaken the sleeper to love has roused him in vain."

– Jessamyn West (American writer, 1902-1984)

4/3 "We Are Awakening"

The JRUUC Youth Group

Our April theme is "Awakening," which can have many meanings. This morning, members of the JRUUC Youth Group will explore their awakening from various lies and myths they hear from Madison culture and society at large. Heather Yonker and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.

4/10 "The Long Road to Enlightenment"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

We can have peak experiences of enlightenment at a moment's notice, but it can take a lifetime to grasp their full meaning in our lives. This morning we'll explore the many layers of spiritual awakening.

4/17 "Opening the Hardened Heart"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

In the ancient story of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt, the Pharaoh's heart is hardened against Moses and his people. In the modern story of humanity's impact on our Earth home, one can imagine that our hearts have been hardened to the idea of environmental justice. This morning, we'll explore ways in which hardened hearts have opened. Heather Yonker and the JRUUC Choir will provide the music.

**4/24 “A Theology at Home in the World”
The Rev. Kelly J. Crocker**

As Unitarian Universalists with many varied theological perspectives in our midst, we often struggle to name a theology that "fits" for us. We will take a look at concepts such as God, humanity's place in this world, and what saves us. Together we can create a theology that not only "fits" but gives us the inspiration, creativity and power to reconstruct the world. Kelly has been with the First Unitarian Society of Madison since 2001. She is now Minister of Congregational Life and loves the opportunities she has to cultivate connections among members and empower new and long time to find their passions and gifts. Kelly and her husband Dan live in Middleton with their two sons, two goldfish, and two humongous dogs.

Check-in question: To what have you awakened recently?



Minister's Office hours for April

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.

Rev. Karen will be attending Ministry Days and Regional Assembly in St. Paul April 27-May 1. There will be no office hours that week. She can be reached by phone, text, or email during that time.



President's Column

Operating Budget Committee and Process

Thanks to Kim Reain, last year's Board President, we have a process in place for creating a draft operating budget to present to for a vote at the Congregational Meeting in May. Here is how it came to be and what it looks like....

When Kim was President-Elect, under Sarah Cook, she learned that the draft budget was traditionally drawn up by the Board President then reviewed by the Board. Knowing that she was not comfortable enough with numbers and budget figuring, Kim started to wonder how she was going to create the draft budget when her turn came.

Operating Budget Task Force

Kim proposed that a task force be formed to draw up a budget process to use each year, so subsequent presidents would not have to "reinvent the wheel." The task force was made up of the Executive Committee (Minister, President, and President-Elect), the Assistant Treasurer, and a member of the Stewardship Team. Together, they developed a process and budget that is in use again this year.

Operating Budget Process

This year's Operating Budget Committee is made up of the Executive Committee (Rev. Karen, me, and Charlie McNulty), Assistant Treasurer Derek Peterson, and the Stewardship Team's John Mathis. The committee is using last year's spreadsheet and inputting the updated figures for expenses (known and projected) and income (known and projected). The various teams and committees of JRUUC were asked to provide budget requests and expected income (where applicable) to me, and I passed them along to the committee. Karen talked with each staff person to discuss budgets and compensation and brought those figures to the committee.

Pledge Cards Inform the Operating Budget

The committee talked about what an ideal target figure would be for the Annual Budget Drive, and what might be pared back or eliminated from the budget if needed. Once the pledge numbers come in via completed pledge cards (from the Cottage

Meetings and from the mailing to those who could not attend a Cottage Meeting), the committee will meet again to weigh pledges and projected budget. Then, the Board of Trustees will review the budget before the Congregational Meeting on May 15, when members will be asked to vote to pass the budget.

If you have any questions about the Operating Budget Committee, please contact me at harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com. If you have questions about the Annual Budget Drive, please contact Shaili Pfeiffer at shailipfeiffer@hotmail.com.

Blessed Be,
Virginia

Virginia Harrison, Board President



Board President

Financial Update

	February	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$12,231	\$133,312
Expenses	\$18,893	\$111,125

Although we had a negative cash flow in February, we are still on track for the year. Our monthly expenses were up because we paid several periodic bills in February, including our building and worker's compensation insurance payments and our annual MOSES dues.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

Curious about the Proposed By-law Amendments?

Have questions or comments?

Come to an informational session Sunday, April 3 after service or **Sunday, April 24** after service. We will have copies of the by-laws (also available on JRUUC's website at <http://www.jruuc.org/sites/default/files/JRUUCBylawsRevised2010May16.pdf>) and can answer any questions you might have.

We the 350 **7 PM Saturday, April 2nd** **First Unitarian Society**

We the 350 is a narrative performance based on interviews done with Black Wisconsin residents about their experiences as living in some of the most racially segregated (Milwaukee) and racially disparate (Madison) cities in the country.

The performance paints a compelling picture of what the intersections between racism, poverty, and disparate incarceration rates for Wisconsin's Black population look like in someone's daily life. *We the 350* explores the ways that state structures rely on intersections between race and class, along with many other intersections, to maintain racially disparate arrest and incarceration rates in Wisconsin.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students ages 14 and up. The show will be performed in the Landmark Auditorium; seating is limited.

Please be advised that the show includes narratives describing physical, mental and sexual violence.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1567156860268397/>



Pathway to Membership

Fun Adult RE Opportunity!

Saturday, April 9 9 am to 1 pm

Curious about becoming a member of JRUUC? 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 April 9th 9 am-1 pm!** For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Jocie Luglio at 608-442-8814 or jocie.jruuc@gmail.com. Please RSVP by April 3rd. Lunch provided and childcare upon advanced request to Jocie.

**Greetings, Friends at James Reeb Unitarian
Universalist Congregation:**

On Friday, April 8, 2016 my long journey into ministry, which you helped kick-off in 2007, will reach its final destination. I have been accepted into Preliminary Fellowship by the UUA and will be ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry April 8, beginning at 7 pm at the First Unitarian Society of Madison. A reception will follow the service. I would like to invite as many of you as wish to join me in this occasion.

I would appreciate it if you could send an e-mail RSVP to jimordination@jaegerfamily.us so that we have an approximate count for planning purposes.

I want to thank James Reeb UUC for its important role in helping me attain this goal and I look forward to seeing you there.

Jim Jaeger

**The First Unitarian Society of Madison,
The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Rock County (Janesville),
Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship (Ripon), and
Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
(Fond du Lac)
cordially invite you to join us in
the ordination of**

James A. Jaeger

To the Unitarian Universalist
Ministry

- April 8, 2016 at 7 pm
- First Unitarian Society Landmark Auditorium, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison WI 53705
- <http://fusmadison.org>
(608) 233-9774

Please join us for refreshments
following the service!



**Rummage Sale and Book Sale
Saturday, April 9 8am to 2pm**

It's time for this major spring fundraising event. There are many ways to help and the more help we have the more successful we are. We need donations – books, household items, toys, sporting goods - anything you no longer need but someone else might want to have (No clothing).

Donations can be brought to James Reeb anytime the building is open beginning after service Sunday, April 3.

We will begin setting up Friday, April 8th at 5pm and will need lots of volunteers. Set-up volunteers get to shop before the public!

On Saturday we will need people to help sell from 8 am to 2 pm. Afterwards, we will need volunteers to pack up leftovers and take to St. Vincent de Paul.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby. If you would like to donate items for a bake sale, that would be great. For info or to volunteer contact Cindy Rudd, 608-469-5269 or clrudd47@gmail.com

RSVP to jimordination@jaegerfamily.us
by April 1, 2016



Religious Education

Our youth are very excited to share with you a worship service they've helped to create with Rev Karen on Sunday April 3rd. You don't want to miss it!

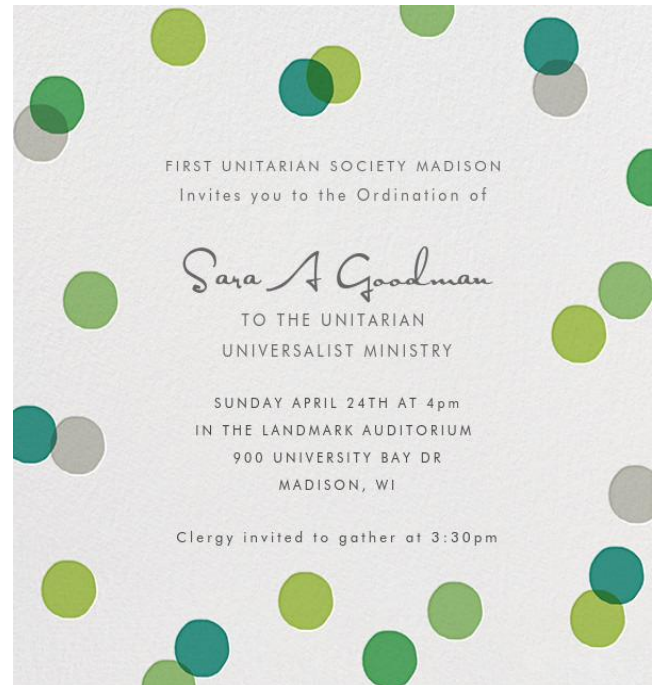
What a delight to Welcome Spring! As we begin to see new blooms and warmer days this April, let's remember to take time to experience the joy and wonder of the earth by celebrating Earth Day April 22nd.

We are proud to inform the congregation that we have completed the OWL program! It was quite a success and we want to acknowledge all of the hard work and dedication it took to make the program happen. We are particularly grateful for Grant Dobbe and Laura Yin for putting more than a year of their lives into preparing and leading the program!

Thanks also to Caroline Hardin for getting the ball rolling when she was our Director of Religious Education, and the parents of youth who made it possible to have eight youth spend nearly 30 hours of Saturdays and weekends learning some invaluable stuff about healthy sexuality. We are very grateful for everything we've accomplished together.

Sara Goodman, Director of Religious Education

Sara Goodman would like to have you come to her Ordination into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, to be held at 4 pm at First Unitarian Society on April 24th! RSVP to sara.angell.isom@gmail.com.



The DRE Search Continues

At our last meeting we were joined by Virginia Harrison who, as a former DRE, was filling in for Caroline Hardin. We created interview questions based primarily on the job description, our experience with the Religious Education program, and our – and your – hopes for the future. After reviewing these questions, I am sure that anyone who satisfactorily answers them all, will be a great DRE!

As you read this we are starting the interview process. As personal calendars go, it is difficult to predict the future. But we still hope to have a new hire in place by the start of summer classes. I attended a Cottage Meeting last night and heard great stories about our Religious Education program. It's invigorating to hear how important this program is to this congregation. The enthusiasm I heard makes this search a very vital one. Thanks for your support.

Mary Wagner, for the DRE Search Committee
Sarah Elmore, Larry Orr, Virginia Harrison/Caroline Hardin and Rev. Karen



Music Matters at JRUUC

Each new day is another Awakening, another Opportunity! As a gentle reminder to honor that, our Hymn of the Month for April will be #1000 “Morning Has Come” -- “The light of hope here shines upon each face. May it bring faith to guide our journey.”



The choir was phenomenal in March, WOW! To say the music was moving is an understatement. My chest was filled with present moment AWE during their presentations. I could literally feel all of their positive vibrations flowing through me. I was so grateful to be a part of it! This month they will be singing like “Bluebirds.” “From the corners of Creation,” they always have a “Song at the Center.” “All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, They shall shine with light and glory, when the morning breaks again!”



Thank you Molly Mitchell and Becca Everett for accompanying service on April 24th!

Leave the door to your heart wide open to awakening, you might be surprised!

Heather Yonker, Music Director JRUUC

Justice at JRUUC



Updates 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 advocate for other change in Wisconsin, too.

WISDOM recently announced that Jerome Dillard will start as the statewide organizer for EXPO (EX-Prisoners Organizing) on April 1st. Mr. Dillard has more than 20 years of experience working with formerly-incarcerated people, and with people in prison. He is a founder of Voices Beyond Bars in Madison, has worked for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and most recently has worked as the director of re-entry programs for Dane County.

Saturday monthly meetings: Socializing with coffee and cookies starts at 9:30 am; the meetings usually run 10 am – 12 noon.

April 2 at St Mark’s Lutheran, 605 Spruce St.

May 7 location TBA.

Saturday, April 16th, 9 am-3 pm, there will be a state-wide WISDOM gathering at Plover outside Stevens Point.

If you have questions (or want to get a ROC Wisconsin Prayer Card) contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com or see <http://www.rocwisconsin.org/> or <http://mosesmadison.org/>.

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

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

Sustainable Saturday Night
March 26th is the 4th Saturday
Potluck at 6pm. Program starts at 7pm.

The theme is Grassroots neighborhood community building projects. We will hear from a number of neighborhood activists as well as a member of the national group "Represent Us," which is working to eliminate the effects of big money and corruption in our political system. We will conclude with a public discussion & brainstorming about things we could do to improve our own neighborhoods. For more information call Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633.



Climate Justice Month returns this year from World Water Day (March 22) through Earth Day (April 22). During this month, UUs everywhere will take collective action for climate justice, led by Commit2Respond, the UU climate justice coalition. YOU can join Commit2Respond by going to: <http://www.commit2respond.org/join>. By doing so you will get an email each week of Climate Justice Month with featured actions, inspirations, and educational resources. Together we can **shift** to a low carbon future, **advance** the human rights of affected communities, and **grow** the climate justice movement.



Stewardship Stirrings

**Endowment Fund:
From Dreams to Reality**

As you probably know by now, we will hold a vote at the Congregation Meeting in May on an amendment to the bylaws that establishes and discusses how the endowment will be managed. Note that the endowment already exists due to at least two generous donors in the last two years, but this amendment formalizes its creation and structure.

We have held two forums already discussing the endowment resolution and will hold one more. Whether or not you can make the forums, your feedback is welcome and desired. An explanation of an Endowment Fund can be found at this link: <http://www.jruuc.org/endowment>. The "Enabling Resolution" that will be voted on is here: <http://www.jruuc.org/endowment-amendment>. The bylaws have also been modified to reflect current practices and make them easier to read, as well as including a statement establishing the Endowment Fund. These can be found here: <http://www.jruuc.org/2016-congregational-meeting>.

So far, we have got great feedback on the endowment amendments to the bylaws. In our first meeting, someone raised the question of why the Board of Trustees chooses the members of the endowment committee rather than having a congregational vote on the committee members. Either way is consistent with what other UU congregations do. After discussing with the nominating committee, the Board of Trustees, and the minister, we decided to leave it as is, since the Board has the fiduciary responsibility for the congregation. At the second meeting, it was suggested that the "Policies and Procedures" document for the endowment committee should specify how the fund is invested. We have edited the Endowment Fund Resolution to add a statement to this effect.

Our next forum will be held April 24 after service. This one will cover the proposed by-laws amendments as well as the endowment. We hope you can make it, and if not, feel free to contact any of the members of the Endowment committee with your comments. We would be happy to meet with you. Also if you would like hard copies of the materials, we can make those available too. Contact Barb Whitney (bwhitney@chi-squared.org), John Mathis (jsmathis@wisc.edu) or Derek Peterson (peterson.derek.d@gmail.com).

Barb Whitney, on behalf of the JRUUC board of trustees and Endowment Committee



TENDING THE FLAME

Cottage Meeting Update

Our Annual Budget Drive is in full swing, with our fires burning brightly, this month! As part of the drive, Ten Cottage Meetings took place in March. #TendingTheFlame requires good food, good company, and a dedicated Stewardship Ambassador to facilitate our conversations as we discuss our visions for our congregation and our commitment to turning those visions into reality.

Some people have had the chance to get to know someone they didn't know well; others have been able to have thoughtful and inspiring conversations with neighbors and friends. The meetings will be wrapping up April 2, with Financial Commitment forms due on April 3. If you did not get a chance to attend a meeting, and would like to fill out a Financial Commitment form, please contact Elizabeth in the JRUUC Office.



Thank you corner: Annual Budget Drive folks! Every month the Stewardship Team thanks volunteers who help make our various programs run smoothly when they donate their time and talent. For April, we're highlighting the folks who helped make last month's Tending the Flame Annual Budget Drive such a success.

Deep appreciation goes to all the hosts who opened up their homes (or other warm spaces) and to all the Stewardship Ambassadors who facilitated conversations about our dreams for JRUUC, including:

Barb Whitney
Beth Esser
Carin Bringelson
Charlie McNulty
Cindy Rudd and Peggy Haack
Colleen O'Hara
Doug Erickson
Eric Saynisch
Jan and Glen Gordon
Janice and Martin Knapp-Cordes
Jeanne and Mark Lydon
Joan and Tom Kemble
Jocie Luglio and Megan Barry-Luglio
John and Carol Mathis
Julia Cechvala
Kelly Kearns
Kim Reain
Marla McFadden
Mary Wagner
Sarah and Steve Elmore
Tim Cordon
And a huge thanks goes out to the Annual Budget Drive Chair, Shaili Pfeiffer!



From the Office

Thanks to all who participated on creating my Happy Anniversary banner. It is absolutely stunning! I've been sick with the flu (strain A) since Wednesday, March 23rd. Instead of taking a vacation, I've been home with a fever. I came in today (April 1st) just to finish this newsletter. I plan to be back at work Tuesday, April 5th.

You may have noticed that there are two ordinations scheduled at First Unitarian for this month: Jim Jaeger's April 8th and Sara Goodman's April 24th. Jim was the "student minister" (ministerial intern) here 2007-2009. As you know, Sara is our DRE. A few years ago, she was the ministerial intern over at First Unitarian.

If you attended Rev. Karen's Ordination, you know a little of what to expect: ministers wearing robes, great sermons, very special music, laying on of hands, and refreshments afterwards.

I discovered last week that organizers of our General Assembly, June 22-26 in Columbus, Ohio, have added more hotels to the housing options. In addition, you can now apply for home hospitality. The home hospitality application includes questions about children, pets, allergies, stairs, and much more. You would be matched with a UU household in Columbus or perhaps a Columbus suburb. And if you have a hotel room but need a roommate, a system is set up to locate one. All the information is at <http://www.uua.org/ga/travel>.

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 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.