

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 7 — July 2016

Connections

Summer is here! I'm looking forward to a little down time, and some study time, and then reconnecting with all of you. I'll be out of town on vacation through July 14, and then will be on study leave through July 31. I'll be back in August, preaching on ideas I find in some of my favorite hymns, marching in the Pride Parade, and planning for the upcoming church year.

One of the main things I'll be planning for is our Adult Religious Exploration Program. We created Covenant Groups last year, and will continue this program with newly configured groups that will meet for the full year, as well as shorter-term groups that will explore themes in our UU history. I facilitated a congregational conversation this past spring, where you offered me some seeds from which to grow the program. I heard there that you want to:

- Articulate our UU faith tradition and why we're part of it
- Explore and express our core UU values
- Gain a deeper understanding of faith traditions
- Increase our comfort with articulating and hearing religious language
- Formulate and deepen our religious understanding
- Explore how we experience Mystery and spirituality
- Integrate knowledge, experience, and feeling
- Practice navigating the relationship between the individual and the collective
- Learn and practice compassionate communication
- Practice staying in conversation when it's hard
- Nurture spiritual self-awareness and self-care

These ideas will inform the Statement of Purpose I'll draft for the program, which we'll review together at another congregational conversation in August. We'll also use that time to talk about possible topics to explore this year. Like everything else in our ministry, I can't do this alone! Please let me know if you're interested in working with me to find curricula or to facilitate upcoming offerings.

I'll be away from email throughout July, so I can be recharged and ready to go in August. Please remember to contact Cindy Rudd or Marla McFadden for pastoral care needs while I'm on vacation, and call or text me for emergencies only after July 15.

See you in August!
In faith and love,
Karen

July 10 AM Sunday Services

7/3 "Picnic Service"
Barbara Whitney

7/10 "The Delight of the Arts"
Carin Bringelson
How do The Arts inform our spirituality, and vice versa? During this art-filled service, we plan to explore the divinity of creativity.

7/17 "General Assembly"
Kim Reain and Friends
Come explore many of the inspirations from our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. Here are a few: We are called to be in authentic relationships. We can only be free when we are all free. We are better together. Be brave enough to face the future together. We hope you will join us.

7/24 “Called to Love, Justice, Vitality”
The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
This is a defining moment. The challenges we face for humanity and the planet are great. Yet, this is also a moment of opportunity. How is our faith calling us to respond to this moment? What skills do we need to be prepared to respond to that call? How can we be a vital voice for love and justice for our time?

7/31 “Hymn Sing”
Rachel Avery
Rachel will lead a service focused on music, including selected hymns. If you would like to submit a favorite hymn for consideration, please e-mail Rachel at rlave@hotmail.com by July 15.



Minister’s Office hours for July

There will be no office hours in July; office hours will resume the week of August 8.

Minister’s Summer Schedule

Rev. Karen will be out of the office from June 20 through August 4. Details on her availability:
June 29 – July 14: Rev. Karen will be out of town for vacation. Please call Marla McFadden or Cindy Rudd for pastoral care emergencies during that time, and they will contact the minister on call.
July 15 – August 4: Rev. Karen will be on study leave, or in Chicago for a leadership training. She can be reached by email, phone, or text during this time.
August 22-28: Rev. Karen will be in St. Paul for staff leadership training and the Mosaic Makers Conference. She can be reached by email, phone, or text during this time.



Need Help?

Call the JRUC Caring Tree!

The Caring Tree is one of the ways we take care of each other. Our pastoral and parish care system is here for all of us, it’s made up of all of us, and it’s managed by Marla McFadden, Cindy Rudd, and Rev. Karen.

Many Reebers have signed up to provide services you might find yourself needing:

- We make and deliver meals in times of need
- We provide rides when you’re stuck
- We run errands when you can’t do them yourself
- We send cards to acknowledge times of celebration and condolence
- We visit you at home or in the hospital, and provide respite care
- We provide emergency child care
- We provide mental health support and education

See here for more details:

<http://www.jruuc.org/caring-tree>

Please call us when you need help!

Marla: 608-279-0785

Cindy: 608-469-5269

Rev. Karen: 219-221-3371

President's Column

Greetings Reebers! Did you know that the Statue of Liberty was never intended as a symbol of immigration? The plaque bearing the famous lines "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." wasn't installed until nearly 20 years after the Statue of Liberty opened. Also, right before the "Give me" line is a great zinger: "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" I love that line. Lady Liberty is on my mind partly because neighbors in all directions are setting off fireworks in celebration of Independence Day. The famous poem on the base of the statue also came up during a long car ride home from General Assembly with a couple of members from FUS who had graciously offered me a ride.

I'm a little embarrassed to admit that in 10 years of living in Madison I have never managed to make it across town to the spiritual home of over a thousand Unitarian Universalists including the lovely people that let me share their car for eight hours. Without any other UU welcoming experience to compare against, one goal I have for this year is to attempt to look at Reeb with fresh eyes. Two ideas on this topic recently converged for me: one from a GA workshop, and one from my corporate life.

At General Assembly I attended a workshop on welcoming which focused on looking with new eyes on the entire "path" that a visitor might take, from the first time they hear about a congregation until they enter the sanctuary. From my professional life comes the acronym "NIHITO" which stands for "Nothing Important Happens In The Office." It is an admonition for product managers that only by being outside your doors and in your "market" can you successfully learn what people want or need from you and also what's driving them to competitor's products.

I certainly don't think of JRUUC as a "product" and it will be difficult to try to see our congregation through the lens of a first-time visitor; however, we can try to set aside our storied pomp and if we can't hold a golden beacon, we can at least hold the door open!

Charlie McNulty, Board President



The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, a former Madisonian, is running for UUA President And will be at Reeb Sunday, July 24!

Have you ever heard of a candidate running for the position of President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) who has strong ties to Madison?

Susan Frederick-Gray, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor's degree in molecular biology before going to Harvard Divinity School, is running for UUA President in 2017. You will be able to hear her sermon at 10 am Sunday, July 24th and to meet her at a fundraiser luncheon to be hosted by Reeb at noon that same day. UUs from the other congregations in Madison and the surrounding area are invited to join us.

So, Save the Date and bring your questions and your checkbook! It can be expensive to campaign for the UUA presidency, so Rev. Susan has to do some fundraising for the election at General Assembly in New Orleans June 2017.

Rev. Susan has served as the lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix (AZ) since 2008. She previously served as minister of First UU Church of Youngstown, Ohio, where she was a leader in congregation-based community organizing efforts, and interned at First UU Church of Nashville, TN.

After leading the UU response to Arizona's anti-immigrant laws in 2010, she became lead organizer for the Arizona Immigration Ministry and a key organizer of the 2012 Justice General Assembly. Rev. Susan is married to the Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray and they have a 9-year-old son, Henry.

The other candidates for UUA President are the Rev. Alison Miller, senior minister of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in NJ, and **the Rev. Jeanne Pupke**, minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, VA. Both of these candidates have been invited to JRUUC so we can meet them, too – stay tuned to hear if they’ve accepted our invitations! Learn more about the other two candidates and watch a Presidential Candidates Forum by going to: <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/president>



Financial Update

	May	Fiscal year to date
Income	\$12,985	172,340
Expenses	\$14,409	\$148,997

Though we had negative cash flow in May, we still look to be in good shape with one month remaining of the fiscal year (ending June 30, 2016).

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

Children’s Religious Education

Hello, Congregation!

As you may know, my name is Alice Mandt and as of June 1st I am pleased to be the new Director of Religious Education at James Reeb. I am very excited to be able to start building relationships with the children and youth in the RE program as well as with the adults in the congregation. As a third generation Unitarian Universalist and lifetime Madisonian, I am eager to share with the congregation the core values of Unitarian Universalism that have guided me throughout my life. These values especially inform the practices and ideas I hope to apply to the programming for children and youth at James Reeb. Thank you all for the warm welcomes I’ve received in my first couple

weeks here. I feel truly fortunate to have this opportunity to contribute my skills and knowledge to this beloved community.

Here at James Reeb we are gearing up for a “Wonder-full Summer” in our Religious Education Program. With the beginning of Summer comes a new curriculum in which our children will explore different themes including topics on science, nature and UU values. Our children will also spend time during each Sunday session outside doing activities as a collective and will also be guided to create their own individual “Sacred Spaces” which they will return to each week to reflect on what they experience in each session. “Wonder-full Summer” will run for eleven weeks, starting June 26th and ending September 4th with a party!

Instead of separate classes for different ages, all of the children (except those in the nursery), will be meeting together during our Summer sessions. It will be a wonderful chance for children of different ages to build fellowship. For each session, we need at least one teacher and a couple of assistants. If you are interested in getting involved with the RE program, this is the perfect time! It requires the commitment of one Sunday, leaving you free to pursue your other summertime activities. So far we have had a fair amount of willing congregants signed up for teaching. Thank you to those who have already demonstrated your willingness to spend time with our young people this season. We have also recruited some of the youth involved in COA (Coming of Age) and their mentors to teach, which is very exciting. That being said there are still a number of Sundays when we need teachers. Please contact me if you are at all interested in either teaching or assisting with RE this Summer.

We are still looking for **assistants** on these days:
 July 24th - Joseph Priestly - The Wonder of Oxygen & Soda Pop

July 31st - You’re Saved by Something Green
 Aug. 14th - If There Were No Bugs To Bug You

We need a **teacher and assistant** on these days:
 August 21st - Born With a Bang
 Sept. 4th - End of Summer Party!

Looking forward to an exciting Summer with all of you!

Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Education



Music Matters



The choir's final presentation for the season was a bouquet of talent, passion, skill, great attitudes and dedication! We celebrated with a group gathering and renewed our covenant while sharing great food, laughter, smiles, and ideas for the coming year.

Thank you Choir for your ongoing music ministry! I enjoyed your input and interaction and I am looking forward to sharing ideas that I may acquire while attending this summer's Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network Conference, right here in Madison.

Congregational members, consider joining this most excellent choir in the fall. We will invite you to sit in with us on a rehearsal occasionally to try it out. If time is a constraint, consider participating a month at a time. Invite your neighbors or the guy in the grocery line who is singing while waiting. Do you play an instrument? Would you like to plan to play on a piece with us or even provide a solo? The possibilities are endless. Let's talk!

I wish you a bountiful summer. Make some time for wistful daydreaming and singing your heart out into the blue skies.

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.

As of this writing, Wisconsin **inmates are refusing food** as a way to demand the end of the torturous practice of long term solitary confinement. Stay in the loop via:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mosesmadison/>

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

Upcoming meetings are July 9th and August 6th (both at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr.).

Saturday, Aug. 27th, from 1 to 4 pm, all are invited to a **Picnic / Potluck** at the Red Riley Barn (8283 N Riley Rd.) in Verona. There will be live testimonials, music and a chance to enjoy one another's company. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish.

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 July 11th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.



Nuns on the Bus is Coming to Madison! 7 PM Monday, July 11

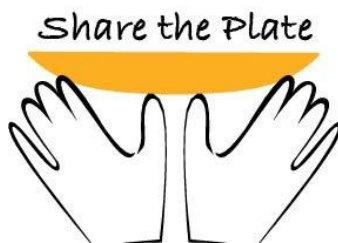
Hear from Sister Simone, Rev. Michael Schuler, and others as the nuns launch the MEND THE GAPS tour with a Pre-Launch Blessing at First Unitarian Society.

Network's Nuns on the Bus are hitting the road again – daring to call on elected officials and candidates to "Mend the Gaps" in income and wealth inequality in our nation. We will listen to the stories of the gaps that people are experiencing in our society and provide Network's proactive policy strategy that can bridge those divides.

Our goal is to bring a politics of inclusion to divided places, change the conversation to mending the vast economic and social divides in our country, and counter political incivility with our message of inclusion.

Sustainable Saturday Night July 23 is the 4th Saturday Potluck at 6pm. Program starts at 7pm.

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



Nominate a Worthy Organization

Do you know of a nonprofit organization that you'd like to have JRUUC "Share the Plate" with? If so, submit a nomination! Criteria and an online form are available at: <http://www.jruuc.org/share-plate>

Membership Committee News

Good-bye to Art & Sharon

Charter members Art Hackett and Sharon Bogert will move to Dubuque, Iowa this month to be closer to son Jim and the grandchildren. We will honor Art and Sharon at the end of the July 24th worship service followed by a short reception. Art Hackett helped to found JRUUC back in the day. Read more about this at:

<http://www.jruuc.org/sites/default/files/EastSideStory1998JRUUCearlyhistory.pdf>



August 10, Wednesday at 7:05 pm

Join fellow Reebers for a night of fun at the Mallard's Game on Wednesday, Aug. 10th. The Mallards will play the Willmar Stingers. We have a block of 30 tickets reserved at the \$10 +Mallard hat rate. To purchase your tickets go to <http://madison-mallards.northwoodsleague.tv/Buy/Tickets> In the promotions box, enter Promo Code: JamesReeb. Follow the steps to purchase tickets. Online orders include a \$1.50/ticket fee. Questions or concerns? Contact Sarah Elmore 608-257-2712 or sselmore@sbcglobal.net.



September 17, Saturday: Our JRUUC Campout at Lake Farm County Park. If you've never attended before, you're welcome to set up camp in our Group Camp Site or just come for the fun of a hike in the woods or to breathe in some fresh autumn air before enjoying a roaring campfire complete with good food, songs and stories.



Stewardship Stirrings

Thank you corner: Board of Trustees!

Every month the Stewardship Team thanks volunteers who help make our various programs run smoothly when they donate their time and talent. For July, we're highlighting our Board of Trustees (BOT).



Whether it's attending monthly meetings, communicating with committees, or counting attendance at worship, the BOT members serve our congregation in many behind-the-scenes ways. Special thanks go to outgoing Board President, **Virginia Harrison** and now-current President, **Charlie McNulty**. The other members of the BOT for 2015-2016 have been:

Andy Soth
Barb Whitney
Doug Erickson
Elaine Pridgen
Jeanne Lydon
Kelly Kearns
Mary Wagner

Read meeting minutes and learn more about the BOT at: <http://www.jruuc.org/board-trustees>.



From the Office

You may have heard about some of the amazing worship services, general sessions, workshops, and events that happened at the 2016 UUA General Assembly in Columbus, OH. Thank goodness, many were filmed and can be enjoyed anytime.

I want to watch of couple of 8 am worship services, missed because I couldn't get out of bed. All the videos from GA in Columbus are now on youtube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=uua%2Fga+2016

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.