

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 24, Number 9 — September 2016

Connections

Dear Ones, it is good to be back among you. I'm thrilled that there are lots of new people for me to meet, as many people have visited over the summer. And I'm excited to catch up with those of you who I haven't seen in a while.

And I'm looking forward to delving into the themes from the *Soul Matters* program with you. It feels very right to be starting off the year with the theme of covenant, as this is the foundation for our faith tradition. When we describe Unitarian Universalism, we tend to focus on how we don't have a single creed or belief we have to follow. We often pass over what replaces creed in our history and our theology: covenant. While the faith journey is important to us, individually and collectively, the meaning in that journey is derived from how we live out what we find. Living in covenant provides a chance for us to do that—to take care of each other, to risk vulnerability, to risk making mistakes, to offer and to find forgiveness and reconciliation.

We live in covenant when we speak openly and directly to each other and when we listen fully, when we meet to explore ideas about faith and justice and what they mean to us, when we participate in our Caring Tree, when we respond to what we experience in worship with our minds and hearts engaged, when we work toward mending relationships we have harmed or been harmed in. We disappoint each other in all of these, and other ways, of being together. When we're living our covenant, it's possible to use those disappointments to help us build or rebuild right relationship – to create beloved community. I'm grateful to be taking this journey with you.

In faith and love,
Karen

September 10 AM Sunday Services

September Theme: Covenant

“Our culture teaches us that what it means to be human is to be an individual – self-defined, self-determined, separate even. But our UU covenantal theology affirms that being human comes down to the commitments we make to and with each other – the relationships we keep. We become human through our promises to and with each other.”

-- The Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister of Foothills Unitarian Fort Collins, Colorado

9/4 **“Seeking Justice Amidst Divisiveness: Worker Rights in the Election Season”**
Rabbi Renee Bauer, Director of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice
On this Labor Day weekend we will explore how we, in Wisconsin, can think about and seek worker and economic justice during this important election season. We will also discuss how our spiritual paths can help bring unity at this time of divisiveness.

9/11 **“Enter, Rejoice, and Come 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 is a celebration of covenant. This service will be multi-generational.

9/18 **“Whose Are We?”**
The Rev. Karen Quinlan
Unitarian Universalism is often described as a covenantal, rather than a creedal, faith. Covenant is traditionally defined as a

promise between God and God's people; because UUs have such a wide variety of God concepts, including none at all, we might ask who we covenant with. Join us as we explore this question this morning.

9/25 "Defying Hate: Widening Our Covenant"

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

The story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, Unitarians who traveled to Prague to help refugees fleeing the Nazis, is the basis for a nationwide preach-in this weekend. The need for a focus on right relationship and embodied love are a clarion call in today's culture of polarized opinions and hateful rhetoric. How can covenant guide us in answer to that call?

September check-in question: What promise did you make when you joined JRUUC?



Minister's Office hours for September

Wednesdays, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm, at JRUUC

Please let me know if you're coming.

Thursdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, at Café Zoma on

Atwood Ave. Stop by for a chat!

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment

Adult Religious Exploration News

Planning for our adult RE offerings has begun! Rev. Karen has drafted a Statement of Purpose for the program, which was reviewed at last month's congregational conversation. Several offerings are being planned for the 2016-2017 church year, and their schedules will be available later in September.

Please contact Rev. Karen if you would like to be part of the planning team for continued programming, if you think you might like to facilitate some of the planned offerings, if you have ideas for additional programming, or if you're just curious about these offerings.

Adult RE Program Statement of Purpose

The vision for the Adult Religious Exploration Program at JRUUC is to facilitate the faith development of adult members and friends of the James Reeb UU Congregation, by holding the space for them to engage with a variety of educational materials and each other.

The Program's purpose is to fulfill this vision by:

- Providing a space to reflect theologically, in community, on our lives
- Providing opportunities to explore our Unitarian Universalist identity and history, and faith formation
- Providing opportunities to explore core concepts of other faith traditions
- Encouraging spiritual practice
- Providing a space to deepen our relationships

To meet this purpose, the Program will:

- Provide appropriate curricula for relevant topics in Unitarian Universalism
- Create a variety of opportunities that engage head, heart, and hands
- Focus on co-creative and interactive approaches to exploring together

Opportunities for religious exploration will include:

- Covenant groups
- UUA and other curriculum-based offerings
- Multigenerational opportunities
- Book discussions
- Films and other media
- Creative expression in community

Adult RE Offerings being planned

Covenant Groups

This year's Covenant Groups will form in September, with a gathering for all people interested in the program. Brochures and sign-up sheets are on the Religious Education table in the Narthex. We're hoping to form several year-long groups, and there will be two opportunities to form short-term groups that will follow the Membership Committee's "Exploring Membership" classes. The short-term groups will be for people new to JRUUC, and others who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and their connection to it.

Racial Awareness as a Spiritual Practice

Facilitated by Carin Bringelson with assistance from Devon Hase, we will gather with curiosity and compassion as an intentionally interfaith group of Buddhists and Unitarian Universalists who desire to read, reflect, and respond in a suffering world. The first of nine monthly classes will be held Monday September 12th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. The other Monday class dates are: 10/3, 11/7, 12/5, 1/23, 2/13, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1.

Articulating Your Unitarian Universalist Faith

"You're a Unitarian Universalist? What does that mean?"

"What do you believe?"

If you would like to practice answering these questions with confidence and ease, this offering is for you! A five-session curriculum produced by the UUA, it's designed to help people learn how to talk about Unitarian Universalism in a way that is informative and accessible.

Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement

This four-session curriculum written by UU minister Rev. Kate Lore has four goals: to prepare white activists to be effective in supporting Black Lives Matter, to deepen awareness of how our white racial identity impacts our social/racial justice work, to build courage by forging relationships with each other, and to understand this work as spiritual / personal work. The workshops will be facilitated by members of Reeb's new anti-racism task force.

Pastoral Care: When to Call the Minister

Catherine asked me the other day what I do when I meet with people at Reeb. I told her we talk about things, and when she asked what we talk about, I said "everything!" **I want to take the opportunity of our coming back together in September to invite you to call on me when you need someone to walk with you through something in your life.**

You might say, Rev. Karen seems really busy, and I'm not sure if I should bother her with this. I wondered how to articulate all of the possibilities, and learned that the Rev. Dr. Peter Lee Scott has provided many generations of ministers with the starting point in answering this question. So I adapted his ideas. Here's when you should call your minister:

- When you don't know me, but would like to
- When your child doesn't know me, but would like to or you would like them to
- When your family doesn't know me, but would like to
- When you're going into the hospital or someone else in the congregation is
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill
- When you have suggestions for a sermon, or about the worship service
- When you'd just like to visit or know someone else who'd like to
- When you'd like share your gifts in our shared ministry of programming, committee work, or Religious Exploration
- When you are looking for a way to deepen your spiritual life
- When your children have questions of faith and you would like me to visit with them
- When you have religious or spiritual questions
- When you are celebrating one of life's joys and want to share the good news
- When your child has joys and accomplishments to share with their minister

- When you or someone in your family are feeling sad or lonely, or lost
- When you have lost your job, found a new job, been promoted or demoted
- When you or a family member is ill
- When you would like to make plans for a memorial service; when you would like to make plans for your own memorial service
- When you are planning to be married; when you are challenged by the demands of marriage; when you are separated or thinking of getting a divorce
- When you are pregnant and glad you are or wish you weren't, also if you want to be pregnant but aren't
- When you would like your child dedicated
- When you feel ready to join the congregation
- When you want to share your experience of or appreciation for our beloved community; when you have concerns about the church or our faith community.
- When you have a good story to share
- When you want a listening ear
- When you're not sure you should call me, but think you might like to talk

You may reach me pretty much any time on my cell phone, 219-221-3371. Or email me to make an appointment, or stop by during office hours at Reeb or Café Zoma. I'll also continue to reach out to folks I don't know well, to set up a get-to-know-you-better conversation.

SEPTEMBER

Need Help?

Call the JRUUC 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

Worship Associate

Orientation / Re-Orientation

Are you interested in working with Rev. Karen to prepare and/or lead worship on Sunday mornings? We're planning two orientation sessions for Worship Associates this fall:

Saturday, September 24, 10:00 am – noon

Wednesday, September 28, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

There will be lots of new information in these sessions, so new and returning Worship Associates are both encouraged to attend. Please let Rev. Karen know which session you plan to attend.

President's Column

During a workshop at General Assembly this summer, **we were listening to various ways that congregations determine and define their mission. They often do soul-searching to determine what it is that their community most needs, and what special skills and talents the congregation can offer to fill that need.**

One congregation, after spending hours talking about the spirit and love and community of their congregation decided that in fact, what they could best offer their community was pies. So they became the “pie-church.” The nice thing about being the “pie-church” is that it’s pretty self-explanatory. After all, pies may not solve every problem, or really hardly any problems, but they never hurt, and they almost always help.

The problem with being the “pie-church” however, is that you can get pie at a grocery store, or if you really want to treat yourself, Monty’s. Of course, there’s two ways to think about a pie church. One is that people come to Sunday services and stay for the pie during fellowship hour because it’s delicious. The other is that the congregation uses pies as a tool to reach out to and support the larger community. The Rev. Fred L Hammond, in a blog post on his web site, writes about someone saying they came to church for the pie. That’s fine for that one person, but what happens when you find a better pie that doesn’t make you pay for it with an hour of your time! The answer can’t be to better cater to the person who is only coming for the pie.

I began attending church for my daughter, but I kept coming for myself. I didn’t come because JRUUC catered to me, but because it was already busy being who it was. We don’t give out pies in the face of crises, but we do show up when our community needs us. We’re in the streets and in the jail cells and in the nursing homes and living rooms and meeting-rooms. I’m a little jealous of a congregation that can wrap up their identity as neatly as being the pie-church, but I’m pretty happy with being the showing-up, broken-hearted, open-hearted, quiet and angry, loud and joyful congregation.

Charlie McNulty, Board President



Children's Religious Education

Here at James Reeb we are gearing up for a new Fall curriculum in our Religious Education Program. The RE committee and I are very excited to introduce this to the children and the congregation as a whole. This year we will be using curriculum provided by the *Soul Matters* Sharing Circle, which is a group of over 190 UU Congregations who follow the same monthly worship themes.

Soul Matters provides Children’s RE lessons each month that are related to the month’s theme. What is appealing about *Soul Matters* is that it also provides Rev. Karen and Heather Yonker with resources on the month’s theme for worship and music. My hope is that this will make religious education more relevant and engaging to the children and congregation who will be immersed in these monthly themes.

As you know from page one of this newsletter, September’s theme explores “What does it mean to be a community of covenant?” Our children will delve into talking about what agreements they need to have to make their space safe and fun for everyone. The children will not only learn how to build a covenant but how to use one.

As always there are opportunities for you to be involved in Children’s Religious Education here at James Reeb. This is your opportunity to be in covenant with the young people of the congregation. We are always looking for volunteers to bring snack, teach, and assist with religious education classes. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out in any of these areas.

Upcoming Events in RE:

September 4th: End of the Summer Party!

September 18th: First day of RE classes.

Regards,
Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Education



Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War

**A new film directed by Ken Burns
and Artemis Joukowski**

Tuesday, September 20th

**JRUUC and First Unitarian Society will co-host
a screening of this film at First Unitarian**

7 pm Welcome and Film; 8:30 Panel discussion
and Q&A with Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
and representatives of Jewish Social Services, the
UU Service Committee, and more. If you can help
with set up or clean up, contact Kelly Kearns at
kearns@uwalumni.com.

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War is an account of
a daring rescue mission that occurred on the
precipice of World War II. It tells the story of the
Rev. Waitstill and social worker Martha Sharp,
Unitarians from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left
their children behind in the care of their
congregation and boldly committed to a life-
threatening mission in Europe. Over two dangerous
years they helped to save scores of imperiled Jews
and refugees fleeing Nazi occupation across
Europe.



Financial Update

July 2016

Income \$23,339

Expenses \$14,078

We've begun the year with a high income due to
moving the \$6000 Chalice Grant into the Operating
Budget, some pre-paid pledges coming in, and
increased pledging with the start of the new
congregation year (July 2016 – June 2017). Thanks
to those who increased your pledges!

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



Music Matters

“**We Begin Again in Love**” a new season together,
with the freshness of September breezes. The bonds
and covenants will be revisited while we catch up
on summer adventures and bring our intentions and
our water for Communion during the service on the
11th. You're invited to “**Come Down to the Water
to Pray.**”

“You say your heart's been turned to stone?
You say you wanna be left alone?
You say love only made you weep an' moan?
Let me tell you something that you know in your
bones!

Love is the water that wears down the rock,
Love is the water that wears down the rock,
Love is the power that can't be stopped
Love is the water the wears down the rock.”

-Brother Sun



**Join the Flow! The JRUUC Choir rehearses
Thursdays at 6:45-8:15 pm.** Sing your heart! It
feels grrrrreat. Bass? Baritone? Novice or
Professional? There is room for all. Come back if
you've been away, visit if you are new, explore
music ministry. If you play an instrument and
would like to play with the choir or as a soloist for
special music, please don't hesitate to contact me.
Thank you for inviting me back for another season
at James Reeb, I am looking forward to the
music.....with ***flow and intention.***

Heather Yonker, Music Director



Worship 3D!

There can be more to worship than the hymns we sing, the words we speak and hear, and the silence we share together. Each month we have a different theme at JRUUC (September is Covenant, October is Awe, November is Story, and December is Presence). We are looking for some volunteers to brainstorm new ways to build on these themes.

How about colors, texture, patterns, or symbols that enhance the monthly themes? If you have a crafty side and/or have some ideas for building a sensory rich worship space, please contact Rachel Avery at 608-663-2912 or rlave@hotmail.com.

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.

- The Wisconsin **inmates who are refusing food** as a way to demand the end of the torturous practice of long-term solitary confinement are now being force-fed by the Department of Corrections. Read more at: <https://solitarytorture.blogspot.com/>
- The **water** at Fox Lake Correctional Institute continues to be contaminated.

Learn about the above topics and others at the **upcoming monthly meetings:**
Saturday, September 10th at Lake Edge Lutheran, 4032 Monona Dr.

Saturday, October 1st at JRUUC.

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

If you have questions about MOSES (or want to get a ROC Wisconsin Prayer Card) contact Carin Bringelson 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 September 12. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night (SSN)

September 24 is the 4th Saturday

Potluck at 6pm; Program begins at 7pm.

Featuring the Neighborhoods for Justice Project, a collaboration between SSN and the WI Network for Peace & Justice. Our goal is to engage and unite neighborhood members to create racially just communities. Hear more about this project as well as the Racial Justice Tipping Point Campaign. SSN is always a family-friendly event. For more information, contact Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633.



Earth Care: A Faith Imperative Sunday, September 18th 1-5 pm

St Bernard Catholic Church,
1617 W Pine St, Appleton, WI

All people of faith are invited to attend this WI Interfaith Power and Light event in Appleton. You will hear from many great speakers including Dr. Jonathan Patz, director of the UW Global Health Institute, who will present “The Global Climate Crisis: Health, Ethics, and Opportunities through Action.” Much more info can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2afNHe7>. If you would like to carpool to Appleton, indicate that when you register.

Membership Committee News

Are you—as so many of our James Reeb members are—a friendly, welcoming person? Want to get to know folks at Reeb? Become a Greeter! The Membership Committee is looking for people who are willing to come early for Sunday service once a month and greet visitors and relative newcomers. It's a great way to get to know long-time and new attendees.

Tuesday evening, September 13th 7 - 8:30

**We invite ALL greeters,
Current and Prospective,**

to an orientation or re-orientation to the responsibilities (and the joys!) of being of Greeter.

Dessert and coffee will be served. Interested? Contact Peggy Haack for information and to RSVP at 608-244-8428 or peggyhaack@gmail.com.

Or talk to Sarah Elmore, Kirsten Johnson, or Kelly Kearns for more information. Interested but can't join us on Sept. 13th? Let Peggy Haack know.

Would you like to join us on the Membership Committee? Please contact Peggy. 😊

Considering becoming a member? Please mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 22nd 9 am - 1:00 pm** Pathways to Membership Class!



September 17, Saturday Annual JRUUC Campout Lake Farm County Park

Come for just the campfire and potluck or set up your tent for the night. Share songs, s'mores and laughter with fellow Reebers. \$5 per person to camp. Sign up in the Narthex (lobby). Have questions? Contact Sarah Elmore for more information, sselmore@sbcglobal.net or 257-2712.



From the Office

Here we are welcoming September with all sorts of James Reeb activities, including the super-fun Reeb Campout, Religious Education classes for children, youth, and adults, covenant groups, JRUUC Choir rehearsals, a Gathering of Greeters, an Orientation of Worship Associates, and what was that about wearing 3D glasses to the service? (Bwahaha.)

I'm orchestrating another September activity—a changing of the locks. The locks to all James Reeb building exterior doors and my office will be re-keyed beginning the afternoon of Tuesday, September 6th. If you have a key and did not know this already, please check your email for a message from me sent August 24th.

Why are we changing the locks? This time, it is not because someone has been gaining entrance to JRUUC at odd hours (hooray!). It is simply a good safety measure to change the locks when five years has elapsed or five keys are missing. We've had the same locks since 2013, but five keys are lost.

In keeping with our September theme, I asked Rev. Karen about having a staff covenant. Karen, Alice, Heather, and I may discuss this at our September staff meeting.

The Pride Parade was great fun! Here is a photo!



Rev. Karen, Rachel Avery, JRUUC and FUS members, including Amanda Werhane, Rachel Avery, and Carol Angel (Sara Goodman's mother) wearing the big hat

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



Heart Teachings on the Dharma Path 7 pm Wednesday, September 28

First Unitarian Society – Landmark Auditorium
Please join us for a presentation by Dr. Will Tuttle, author of *The World Peace Diet*, former Zen monk, and meditation practitioner for 40 years. Dr. Tuttle will explore the connections between spiritual practice and our interconnectedness with all life. His book relates our food choices to a broad range of problems—psychological, social, and spiritual, as well as health and environmental. It offers powerful ways for us to experience healing and to contribute to a positive transformation of human consciousness. The suggested donation is \$10, with everyone welcome to attend. Sponsored by the First Unitarian Society of Madison and Dharma Voices for Animals – Madison Chapter. For more information, please visit: meetup.com/Dharma-Voices-for-Animals-Madison-WI-Chapter.

UUA Common Read 2016-17

[The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement](#), by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016), has been chosen as the 2016-17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. UUs were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. *The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. **For more information and to watch a powerful video of the Rev. Dr. Barber, speaking at UUA General Assembly**, go to: <http://www.uua.org/re/adults/read>



Stewardship Stirrings

Thank you corner: The FUNdraining Committee

Every month the Stewardship Team thanks volunteers who help make our various programs run smoothly when they donate their time and talent. This month, we are highlighting the FUNdraining Committee.

As you can see by the name, we have so much Fun at their events, we don't even notice they are Fundraising! They organize everything from those delicious lunches after service (salads, chili and corn bread, soup and bagels, grilled cheese) to holiday fairs, the Spring rummage sale, raffle, tee shirt sales, participation in Brat Fest and Taste of Madison, and more! The committee would like to thank the many volunteers who have made these events successful! If you would like to join in on the FUN, email Jane Aldrich, jaldrich7788@charter.net.

The members of this committee include:

Jane Aldrich (chair)
Cindy Rudd
Betsy Tuttle
Sarah Hallas
Pam Younger
Jim Younger
Elaine Pridgen (board representative)

**Did you see the cover of the fall issue of
UU World? It looks like this, only larger!**

<https://www.uuworld.org/issues/fall-2016>



Mandalas, “Religions of the World” Leather Mosaic™ Series (UU Congregation of Fort Wayne, Indiana), © 1988–2016 Omni Art Design LLC, by Dianna Thornhill Miller with Jim Miller and Branden Thornhill Miller. Photographs by Branden Thornhill Miller and Tom Galliher.

We receive one print copy of this quarterly publication here at James Reeb UU. All members of receive a copy at their homes. If you would rather not receive the print edition, please let me know.

Elizabeth Barrett



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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.

