

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin

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“If you can see your path laid out in front of you step by step, you know it's not your path. Your own path you make with every step you take. That's why it's your path.”
— Joseph Campbell

Connections

I find myself looking back and forward in this moment. Personally, my divorce has been finalized. I've arrived at a place of acceptance and forgiveness, finally, after a year or wrestling with all the questions. In my ministry, as I look back on this year, I see myself intentionally stepping back from some things and unintentionally dropping others, making space to try to come back to myself. And now that I'm looking forward, I can clearly see the companions that have stepped up in my absence, and a place for me in the work of creating beloved and resilient community ahead.

Denominationally, we're finally accepting the impact of some of the harms we've caused as an institution made of humans, and taking definitive steps toward being who we want to be. At General Assembly last week, we passed resolutions <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2017/business/alerts> to explore adding an Eighth Principle <https://medium.com/outfront/black-lives-of-uu-organizing-collective-urges-adoption-of-8th-principle-in-unitarian-universalism-377480e615ef>, to make the “Standing on the Side of Love” campaign more inclusive, and to call on our Board and staff for help on addressing escalating economic inequality. We changed the language of our second Source to reflect a more inclusive understanding of gender identity, and launched a new justice campaign, “Love Resists” <https://www.uua.org/lovesresists>. We witnessed the joyful return to Unitarian Universalism of Dr. Mtangulizi Sanyika, the founder of the Black UU Caucus and Black Affairs Council, after his bitter departure when our institution turned its back on their work in the 1960s. We watched the creators of the First Principle Project <http://firstprincipleproject.blogspot.com/>, who had sought to widen that principle to include every being, request to table this work to keep us focused

on creating an Eighth Principle. We chose our first elected female President. All this was by a group of delegates who maintained a non-anxious presence despite their individual concerns about how things should be done, and by innovative leadership teams to include every being, requesting to table this work to keep us focused on creating an Eighth Principle. We chose our first elected (Co-Moderators and interim Co-Presidents) that held the space for grace and real conversation.

And here, at Reeb, we've passed a resolution to become a solidarity congregation and explore the possibility of being a sanctuary congregation, and revised our Covenant of Right Relations, and passed an ambitious budget – all with the grace and real conversation that come out of our UU values. I look back and see the path you've been on to get here, and honor it. And I look forward to building beloved and resilient community with you.

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- 7/2 **“Building the Beloved Community”**
Kim and Quinn Reain
Because one way we build community is through sharing a meal, we will have a short service followed by a picnic in the Sanctuary.
- 7/9 **“My Journey Here”**
James Phillips
James will describe the physical and faith journey which brought him to James Reeb UU Congregation. It is a long one!
- 7/16 **“2017 UUA General Assembly”**

Tim Cordon, Joan Kemble, and Leila Pine

Joan, Leila, and Tim, our delegates, represented us in New Orleans at the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. They will share some of their experiences with us. This is a very volatile time in the UUA as tumultuous leadership changes and crucial issues are being pondered. Join us for reflection and prayers from our delegates. Where is our UU world headed?

7/23 “Atheist Spirituality – or the Spirituality of *this* Atheist”

Thomas Lund

There is a phrase in our religious tradition that at first sounds like a contradiction: spiritual atheism. Join Thomas in an exploration of this idea and where and how atheists may find a rich spirituality within the structure of Unitarian Universalism.

7/30 “Will You Come With Me?”

Joe Jencks and Rev. Karen

Join Joe and Karen for a service that weaves music and reflection about our human and spiritual journeys, and the many ways we connect with each other on the way.



Minister’s Summer Availability

Rev. Karen will be out of the office for vacation and study leave until August 8. Please call Marla McFadden or Cindy Rudd for pastoral emergencies during this time, and they will contact the minister on call. Rev. Karen will not hold formal office hours through the summer.

Wednesday Evening Vespers Services will begin again in September.



President’s Column

My mind is still on summer vacation, and so this will be a brief presidential report. First of all, thank you all for a successful 2016-17 church year! I really appreciate all of you who responded to our deficit budget by increasing your contribution. I’m also really excited by all of the creative fundraisers that we have throughout the year.

I’ve really come to appreciate the garbage-sorting duties that I perform on behalf of Reeb each year at Brat Fest. Not only does it raise money for our congregation, it allows me to wear my congregation on my sleeve (or more literally on my Brat Fest name tag) while out in public. I think JRUUC is really poised for several years of strong growth, but if we’re going to grow, each of us is going to have to engage in a spirit of invitation while outside the confines of our purple bricks. Although there is always room to improve, I think that we are extremely welcoming and friendly to our visitors.

Speaking of a spirit of invitation, how many of us have invited a friend or co-worker or neighbor to JRUUC? As pointed out in this article: <http://stewardshipforus.com/theres-new-t-town/> this next year could be the year of “ties” – strengthening our ties to each other and building new ties to our neighbors and acquaintances.

Charlie McNulty, President of the 2017-18 Board of Trustees

[Editor’s note: How wonderful – Charlie is president for another year!]



Financial Update

	May 2017	Year to Date
Income	\$16,950	\$180,223
Expenses	\$14,769	\$160,373

May was another good month for our congregation with respect to cash flow. Pledges were up, and rental income was paid. We are on track to finish the fiscal year with a surplus. The surplus is mostly due to staff health insurance costs coming in lower than anticipated.

This is my last report as Treasurer. It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve in this role the past two years. Many thanks to John Mathis for stepping into the Board Treasurer position for the next term.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer

Music Matters



End of season 2016-2017: music by the JRUUC Choir with Rachel Avery on harp.

“Without space, music is just noise, piling up on itself.” TR Kelly

At the close of another season of great music, hopefully, the choir and musicians are in rest and repose, out looking for ... Nothing at all in particular – perhaps cloud animals or the direction of the breeze. If you are reading this, accept my invitation. Rest and repose. Go ahead, you can do it! Make Space. Whether it be as delicate and fleeting as firefly wings or as booming and startling as fireworks, get lost in it, summer in Wisconsin.

Please enjoy some summer listening suggestions and an old story of mine (in the next column).

Ma Vlast Moldau, by Smetena

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdtLuyWuPDs>

The Sunken Cathedral, by Debussy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAVyKDDsM3s>

Reverie, by Debussy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRjllL-MP0U>

Nocturne, Op 9 #1, by Chopin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtIW2r1EalM>

Aahhhh!!

It's a real summer Saturday night on the farm in Wisconsin. July 3rd, 9:30 pm and it's still light. Venus is low, and sparkling in the azure sky. A full, hair, body, every inch of clothing shake, before rushing in a narrow crack of the door, so the voluptuous mosquitoes, large enough to summons a murderous vengeance, can't come in with you. Quick, shut the bedroom door! You know at least a few have finagled their way in. No other monotony can out-do a long, hot summer night, too hot for sheets, when a mosquito is buzzing around your ear. Light on, light off, now invisible, now vibrating their wings at such a frequency that you begin thinking about what torture might be like.

Draw a bath, the hottest you can make it, loads of soap to remove any bites, stings, scratches, dirt under the nails, allergic itches, and red bumps from the well-known as well as the unknown weeds you've been pulling all day...as if there was some point to it.

A glimpse back over the dusky cornfield, a thousand green twinkles amidst the black mass. The fireflies make the ground sort of seem like it's floating, just under the fading pink, just under the “Paradiso Blue.”

Dim the lights, nothing artificial yet, please, no sound, please no slamming doors, no heavy feet, no barking dogs, no TV blur, just a faint drip of the faucet beckoning your submersion into the stillness of underwater. Every follicle and molecule rejoice! Wait. Ouch! Sunburn, oh.

You can smell the fresh raspberries from the kitchen and you hope for a minute that someone else will cook for you. Yeah, those steaks you brought home ...but ... on second thought you remember that

there's no gas for the grill, and no old-school grill in the heap of nonsense left out in the garage. Just then someone calls downstairs and offers homemade creampuffs, with real whipped cream, and the raspberries you left on the table. So, dinner at 10 pm, creampuffs it is. No one complains.

10 miles away, Rhythm and Booms have begun, but none of us make for the hill this time. No firework splendor, no "oohhhs" nor "ahhhhs," unless someone's bending over to pick something up. We just eat the creampuffs and linger a few minutes, petting the dogs, in near complete silence.

“What are you thinking about?” Bed. Maybe that book, maybe not. “No campfire tonight.” Next time.



Heather Yonker, Music Director



Joe Jencks concert at JRUUC Saturday, July 29 at 7:30 pm

Joe is an 18-year veteran of the international folk circuit, an award-winning songwriter, and celebrated vocalist based in Chicago. Merging conservatory training with his Irish roots and working-class upbringing, Joe delivers engaged musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove and grit. From Festivals like Falcon Ridge, Kerrville, Mariposa, and Old Songs, to venues like Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, Jencks has enthralled diverse audiences with his approachable style. Joe is noted for his unique merging of musical beauty, social consciousness, and spiritual exploration. Blending well-crafted instrumentals and vivid songwriting, Jencks serves it all up with a lyric baritone voice that has the edgy richness of a good sea-salt caramel. This concert is part of a tour to celebrate his new release, “Poets, Philosophers, Workers, and Wanderers.”

See more information about Joe and his music here: <http://www.joejencks.com/> and here: <http://brothersun.com/>



Our 2017-2018 UUA Common Reads

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry has been announced as one of the two titles for the Common Read, along with an upcoming title from Beacon Press, *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*.

<http://www.uua.org/books/read>

Justice at JRUUC

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, July 10th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night The 4th Saturday each month January through November July 22nd

Potluck at 6 pm; Program begins at 7
Childcare is provided! For details, contact Tim Cordon at

Everyone deserves healthy food!

Save the dates for CAC Farmers Market Collection:

July 22nd and October 14th

Noon-1:30 pm

The Community Action Coalition of WI believes “no good source of food should go to waste, and no person should go hungry tonight.” Since its inception in 1992, CAC Gleaners, originally known as Wisconsin Harvest, has safely recovered perfectly good food from grocers, restaurants, bakeries, and caterers. This food would have otherwise gone to waste in landfills. CAC Gleaners distributes collected food to people in need through shelters, community centers, food pantries, senior centers, soup kitchens, and low-income apartment complexes at no cost. CAC Gleaners distributes over one million pounds of useable food annually that otherwise would have been thrown away to approximately 100 distribution sites throughout our area.

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 noon 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.

Please sign up for our second date, July 22nd.

Sign up online here:

<https://doodle.com/poll/ndqhbvqpzaa9wrnu>

or contact Jocie Luglio at 608-442-8814.



Madison UUs – Standing on the Side of Love and MUU-vin’ with Pride!

Join us for these fun and family-friendly events:

- **August 13th 12:30 pm** over at First Unitarian’s Gaebler living room and outside **Pride Parade Prep Session** - Gussy up your stroller, bike, buggy, or wagon (Mini-floats)! Make a sign, create a costume or a “Cardboard Boombox” for our “Boombox Broadcast” (WMUU will be streaming a Proudful Program during the PRIDE Parade. Help us create and record some powerful chants during our prep session.
- **August 20th: Let’s go to the Pride Parade!**
Noon - 1 pm - Join with other Madison Area UUs in the 500 or 600 blocks of State St. We’ll wear our yellow “Standing on the Side of Love,” our black “Black Lives Matter!” shirts, our JRUUC shirts, or whatever we want!
1:00 pm – Pride Parade to Capitol begins!
Be part our “UU Rainbow Color Guard” or simply march and roll to the sound of WMUU and our own chants!
- **If anyone has a pick-up or van that could help transport our “Mini-floats” on the day of the parade**, or if you have questions, ideas or comments, please contact Tim Cordon at: timc@fusmadison.org.



From the Office

Another great congregation year has come to an end! I want to thank the 2016-17 Board of Trustees for their visionary work. Thanks, also, to the JRUUC members and friends who have increased your pledges to help cover the deficit in the 2017-18 budget. What a generous congregation! We finished the 2016-17 budget year in fine shape.

Can you believe all the rain we've been getting? The perennials on the east side of our building look stunning, but the small ponds in our private parking lot never seem to go away. Be careful if you park back there!

Instead of traveling to General Assembly (GA) last month, I watched it on my computer and on television and voted as an online delegate from First Unitarian. Because of my router at home not working, I watched from coffee shops, the public library, Reeb, and even my mother's apartment. I can report that my mother thoroughly enjoyed the Synergy Worship service Saturday, June 24th. Being from California, my mother cheered every time a UU youth from her home state crossed the stage into young adulthood. Lots of youth were from San Francisco, Fresno, Pasadena, San Diego and Sacramento.

Don't miss the Sunday service July 16th when all three Reeb delegates will share their "GA" wisdom. It was an amazing Justice General Assembly: Resist and Rejoice! We had a triumvirate of Presidents (until the Rev. Susan Frederickson Gray was elected) and a triumvirate of Moderators presiding over everything. Seeing three Moderators arm-in-arm at the podium, collaborating together to model best practices a beautiful sight.

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

Winter WomanSpirit February 2 – 4, 2018



Holly Near

Women & Religion is proud to present

I AM WILLING with Holly Near

For 40 years Holly Near has been a shining light, combining her music and activism, sharing her joy and passion; she accesses all of these to celebrate the human spirit.

Holly will present a workshop on Saturday morning and sing a concert that evening. On Sunday Holly will participate in the worship service. We expect this conference to fill up so register early!

Entry to the concert is not included in the conference price; concert tickets will be made available to conference registrants first.

WWS2018 will be held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston: 1330 Ridge Avenue, Evanston IL 60201

The Women & Religion Committee, and all Committee sponsored events, are open and welcoming to all those who identify as female.



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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 deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month at 5 pm. Please put the word "newsletter" into the subject line of your message and limit articles to 200 words. Please be careful not to include sensitive information.

