

EAST BREEZE



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

One of my seminary professors once said that faith was less about what one believed, and more about one's trust in that belief. This fit so well with my Unitarian Universalist sensibilities that I immediately adopted it. We believe what we have come to believe, after all, as we read and learn and experience and share – and what we believe will change over time as what is true for us changes over time. Can we trust that will happen, and that what is true for us at any given time is real? Can we stay open to the change as it's happening? This is faith.

The Soul Matters packet put it this way: “UU faithfulness is not just about doubting what we've been told, but trusting what can be. The arc of the universe bends towards justice. The societal problems we face are not greater than our collective power to solve them. The personal burdens we carry are not greater than our capacity to overcome and grow from them. Life can be better. We can be more. These are all statements of faith that can't always easily be backed up by objective proof, airtight logic or personal experience. And yet we lean into them anyway. We risk living as though they were true.”

And so, this month, I'll be inviting us to reflect on what our process of faith looks like. How is faith related to hope, and where do we find hope? How is faith related to love, and how can we use that intersection for the greatest good in ourselves and our world? How do we develop trust, and practice it?

My faith is in the possibilities that arise when we practice love, compassion, and grace. I want to hear what your faith is in. Because I trust that we're stronger, braver, and wiser when we companion each other.

In faith and love, Karen

February

10 AM Sunday Services

February Theme: Faith

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2/5

“Leap of Faith”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Hope is one of the fundamental promises of religion, and it can inspire what we sometimes call leaps of faith. In many Pagan traditions, for example, Brigid brings the hope of spring at Imbolc, the Sabbat that as celebrated this week. Today we'll explore some sources of hope, and what leaps they might inspire.

2/12

“Love Wins”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Paul, the first evangelist, wrote that “these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” Today we'll explore how faith and love intersect – in what ways has love won, and what are we willing to do to make sure it keeps winning?

2/19

“In ___ We Trust”

The Rev. Karen Quinlan

Faith is a practice of trust. In these days of doubt and fear, our holding and nurturing trust can sustain us. Today we'll explore a theological grounding for trust, and share the practices we've developed to lean into trust.

2/26 "Our Voice in the Wilderness"

The Rev. Jim Coakley

Unitarian Universalism has a proud history of being a prophetic voice in a world often driven by fear and hatred. And now again, we are being called to take our place in this history. How shall we make our voice heard in the wilderness of today's society, together as a faith community? Jim serves the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship as a part time consulting minister, and attended seminary with Rev. Karen.



**All-Congregational Workshop
The Welcome Table
Saturday, February 4th
9 am – 12 noon**

You're invited to gather as a congregation and explore our shared mission, and how we live it. Rev. Karen and the Board are planning a workshop where we'll talk about some of the parts of our shared ministry – welcoming, worship, religious exploration, pastoral and parish care, and justice work. Come join the conversation! We'd like to hear what you need from our congregation, how we want our congregation to be part of our larger community, and what we might do to create those things. Snacks and child care will be provided.

**Wednesday Evening Vespers
February 15th at 6:30 pm**

Join Rev. Karen for a quiet reflective time of meditation, music, and sharing.

Vespers services will continue the third Wednesday evening through May 2017.

Check-in question: In what do you have faith?



Minister's Office hours for February

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

As always, please set up an appointment if you'd like to meet with her outside of office hours, and please call or text if you have a pastoral emergency.



Ice Skating Party! Sunday February 5th

Join members and friends of James Reeb after service at the Tenney Park shelter. You can bring skates or rent them, bring snacks or buy them, skate because you love it or accept the challenge of trying to stay on your feet... with the support of your community! This is a walkable distance from Reeb, but we can also carpool.

President's Column

Almost five years ago we completed work on a Covenant of Right Relations (CoRR) – a document that describes how we promise to be with each other, both individually and as a community. A lot of really hard work went into our CoRR, both in the drafting of it and in the discernment of how we can be our best selves and be a healthy community. At the time of its crafting it was explicitly hoped that the Covenant of Right Relations would be a living document that would change as our congregation changed and our needs changed. A year ago Virginia Harrison helped lead an effort to look at our CoRR and determine to what degree it was still serving our needs. From that exercise we received a lot of excellent insights and ideas.

One refrain we've heard a lot is that the CoRR document itself isn't a regular part of our congregational life. It doesn't tend to come up in committee meetings or in conversation – and it's certainly not visible to friends and visitors. Part of that might be because the CoRR is a large document that spells out many of the various relationships that we encounter at Reeb. It's a Swiss-Army Knife of Covenants.

There are two problems with a Swiss-Army knife CoRR. The first is that when so many tools are represented any omission is all the more glaring. In our case, our CoRR doesn't speak to a Covenant between members and youth or children. Secondly, because it is so large it can be cumbersome to use in a practical manner, whether that's referring to it in committee or displaying it to a new visitor. Sometimes you don't need a whole Swiss-Army knife – you just need a Spork!

This year our Board of Trustees (and especially Elaine Pridgen and Doug Erickson) has been hard at work molding a new CoRR. We'd love to talk with you more about how it's shaping up!

Charlie McNulty, Board President



emma's revolution CD-Release Concert

Tickets \$22 at door, \$20 online
at <http://www.emmasrevolution.com/live/>
For more information call 608-206-0644.

Smart, funny and informative--like Rachel Maddow and Jon Stewart with guitars, emma's revolution is the duo of award-winning activist musicians, Pat Humphries & Sandy O. Called "inspiring, gutsy and rockin'," emma's revolution's songs have been sung for the Dalai Lama, praised by Pete Seeger and covered by Holly Near.



Financial Update

| | December 2016 | Year to Date |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$33,352 | \$117,719 |
| Expenses | \$14,302 | \$86,346 |

Our congregation's income was very high in December due to three main reasons. First, more members completed their 2016-17 pledges. Second, a member made a generous contribution to the JRUUC Endowment fund near the end of December that did not get sent off to the fund until January. And, third, we received donations to purchase hymnals.

Jeanne Lydon, Treasurer



Appreciation Reception for
Fair Share Givers
Friday, February 17th at 7 pm
At First Unitarian Society
900 University Bay Drive



Music Matters

“Our Faith Is but a Single Gem,” February’s hymn of the month, focuses on the diversity of different faiths and their common cause. “May we, at length, the truth embrace, and in the sacred mission share” love, faith, **hope** **things with feathers** that can take flight like a bird, soaring at times, disappearing at others. . . . Let us choose faith, it most often requires consciousness.

The choir has been expanding! We welcome back John, and greet Ashley, as well as Atrehyeu, Barb, Catherine, and Jeri. I am celebrating these additions! I am so grateful for the way the choir members demonstrate their faith, hope, and love toward serving the congregation and worship. It is beautiful to witness and I hope that it feeds your faith as well.



Let your voices be heard! “**The Caged Bird**” sings for freedom! “**How Long**” “**Row On**” my friends, row on!

Heather Yonker, Music Director

Justice at JRUUC



Updates from MOSES

JRUUC is a congregational member of MOSES (<http://mosesmadison.org>) – an interfaith coalition working to increase justice in our state as part of WISDOM (<http://wisdomwisconsin.org/>).

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly meetings on the First Saturday of the month. Socializing with coffee and cookies starts at 9:30 am; the meetings run 10 am – 12 noon.

February 4th at First Unitarian Society
900 University Bay Dr.

Madison Day of Action: Madison’s Action Day will be **Thursday, March 30, 2017**. Members and friends of WISDOM congregations from across the state (including JRUUC) will be in Madison for a day of inspiration, education and action. The day will begin at Bethel Lutheran. The cost is \$25 per person, with scholarships available.

If you have questions, contact Carin B. at cmbringe@gmail.com.

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, February 20th. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night **The 4th Saturday each month** **January through November** **February 25th**

Think you know a lot about climate change? Come school us! Sustainable Saturday will host a **Climate Change Trivia Night**. Come with a team of four to six people or form a team on the spot. The delicious potluck starts at 6 pm, the fun starts at 7, and we’re finished by 8. We environmentalists are not all about gloom and doom! And if you’re no expert, come have fun learning things!

Jail Ministry Winter Clothing Drive Saturday, February 11th 10 am to 2 pm!

Please invite your friends and coworkers to drop off adult-size warm winter outwear at James Reeb on Saturday February 11 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm! The Madison Jail Ministry requests donations of warm clothing all through the winter because people incarcerated during the summer are often released in the winter without appropriate outerwear. You can help by donating winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Men's sizes and large sizes are especially needed. .

There is now a big red box in the narthex, so donations can also be dropped off anytime the church is open until the 11th.

Chris Glad to volunteer – 628-2069 or
chrisgladwalks@gmail.com.

Introducing the Fourth Friday Films at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Dr. February 24 6:45 to 9 pm MILWAUKEE 53206

MILWAUKEE 53206 tells the story of three people who live in Milwaukee's mostly African-American 53206 ZIP code, where 62% of adult men have spent time in prison, making it the most incarcerated ZIP code in the nation. Through the powerful journeys of Beverly Walker, Dennis Walton and Chad Wilson, we witness how incarceration has shaped their lives, their families and their community. These intimate stories reveal how a community fights to move forward even as a majority of its young men ends up in prison.

Important meeting of the City Council Tuesday, February 28 at 6:30 pm

Room 201 of the City County Building

The Sustainable Madison Committee has proposed a resolution for city of Madison operations to achieve goals of **100% renewable energy and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions**. This is BIG! We would be the first in Wisconsin to do this and join only about twenty other cities in the country. The more people who register approval or speak in favor, the more the City Council will be influenced. Come show your support for a sustainable future for your children and all the children!



From the Office

Faith is our theme for this month. I think of faith as trust, and being a trusting person, I usually have lots of faith in human growth and potential as well as in our capacity for empathy, kindness, and compassion. For our ability to bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice. But right now, it seems as if the arc slipped out of our collective hands and SPROING back up, flinging everyone aside, leaving people hurt and afraid.

I am very thankful that I have a faith community for inspiration, stability, friendship, and healing. I'm finding solace in "The Holy Work of Showing Up" by Ashley Horan.

You are loved beyond belief. You are enough, you are precious, your work and your life matter, and you are not alone. **You are part of a "we,"** a great cloud of witnesses living and dead who have insisted that this beautiful, broken world of ours is a blessing worthy of both deep gratitude and fierce protection. Our ancestors and our descendants are beckoning us, compelling us to onward toward greater connection, greater compassion, greater commitment to one another and to the earth. Together, **we are resilient and resourceful** enough to say "yes" to that call, to make it our life's work in a thousand different ways, knowing that we can do no other than bind ourselves more tightly together, and throw ourselves into **the holy work of showing up**, again and again, to be part of building that world of which we dream but which we have not yet seen.

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

**Mark your calendar for
Friday, March 10th Games Night
at James Reeb!**

We will have games for kids,
kids and adults, and adults only
Sponsored by the Membership Committee



Stewardship Stirrings

Thank you corner: Membership 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 Membership Committee. The Membership Committee coordinates our fabulous cadre of Sunday morning greeters; strives to make JRUUC a welcoming place always; communicates with visitors; supports “new member” classes and “Joining Sundays” with Rev. Karen; and plans some fun member events like a ball game and picnic in summer, fall camping, and coming soon, some winter events. All are invited for **skating at Tenney Park** Feb. 5th after the Sunday service, and an **indoor night of games** Friday evening March 10th!

Membership committee members are: Peggy Haack (chair), Sarah Elmore, Kelly Kearns, and Kristen Johnson. Our four fabulous greeter teams are:

1. Kirsten Johnson, Joan Kemble, Jocie Luglio and Andy Soth
2. Sarah Elmore, Steve Elmore, Martin Knapp-Cordes, and Colleen O’Hara
3. Peggy Haack, Cindy Rudd, James Phillips, Laura Ragland, and Amanda Werhane
4. Kelly Kearns, Tom McClintock, Ellie Connolly, and Charlie McNulty

Annual Budget Drive 2017-18

The Annual Budget Drive (ABD) is a wonderful opportunity for our members and friends to explore how we give to and receive from James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation (JRUUC) as part of our Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Please save these dates:

- **March 5th Kick-Off** Sunday Service
- **March 12th** Transformation Circle
- **April 2nd** Sunday Multigenerational Service and Open House Celebration
 - Financial Commitment Forms (FCF) Due Date
 - Enter the Early Bird Drawing by turning your FCF in prior to April 2nd

This year’s theme is all about Transformation. Your ABD team members are Kelly Kearns, Sandy Persons, Barb Whitney, and Kim Reain (ABD Chair). Contact Kim with any questions you have: kim@reain.net or 698-5051.

Join us at our March 12th Sunday Service for Rev. Karen’s inspirational sermon as we begin the first day of our Annual Budget Drive. We will be mailing the ABD pack the week before the kick-off. Please let us know if you do not get your packet.

During the ABD, we spend time reflecting on financial commitment and support. In the past, we have had both one-on-one and small group gatherings. You will see a few differences this year.

- **Have you ever wondered how to complete the FCF?** Or use the FCF calculation form or the Fair Share Giving Guide? Please look to our lobby, officially called the Narthex, as we will have posters and bulletin boards with helpful information and details that are sure to inspire conversation.
- **This year we will host a Transformation Circle.** On March 12th, there will be an after- service gathering for those who are new to the ABD experience, as well as for those who may be more familiar with financial giving, ABD forms and pledge distribution. Let’s get together and chat about any questions you may have around the ABD process. We will also provide some information you might find helpful.

- **A hungry caterpillar will arrive soon** and will need our financial commitment forms to grow in strength, sustainability and to transform at our April 2nd Open House Celebration.
- **There will also be opportunities for our children** and our young at heart members and friends to feed the hungry caterpillar artwork.
- Mailing in your FCFs or handing them in is completely acceptable too.
- **The video challenge is coming!** How have you been transformed by your involvement with JRUUC? We will have fun sharing the answer.
- The Sanctuary will be transforming.
- **The Open House Celebration April 2nd** will include food, fun, art, thoughtful conversation and the Early Bird Drawing. You can participate in one thing or everything.

We hope everyone will be inspired by the Early Bird Drawing and turn in their FCF before Sunday April 2nd. The earlier you turn in your FCFs, the more entries you will have.

Here's how it works:

- 3/5-3/11: 4 Entries
- 3/12-3/18: 3 Entries
- 3/19-3/25: 2 Entries
- 3/26-4/1: 1 Entry
- 4/2 Due Date and Prize Drawing

Thank you for your participation in this year's ABD.

Brat Fest 2017 Memorial Day Weekend

The FUNdraising Committee is again planning Brat Fest Volunteer sign up. This volunteer activity brought in over \$500 last year for JRUUC from everyone donating their time over Memorial Day Weekend. Each organization is paid \$8/hr for every hour a volunteer works. Signing up for more than one shift throughout the weekend is allowed. The FUNdraising Committee is hoping to beat our total from last year. The dates for the event are May 26th through May 29th. If you would like to sign yourself up, visit www.volunteer.bratfest.com and either create an account or log-in (if you created an account last year). Be sure to select James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation as your organization. FUNdraising members will be

available to help you sign up before and after service beginning Sunday, February 19th. Again each volunteer will get a T-Shirt if you don't have one from previous years, and a coupon for free food. More details will be forthcoming as they are received. Thank you again for considering helping JRUUC and our community.



**Chicago Oak Brook Marriott
Friday, April 28- Sunday, April 30**

Registration for the 2017 MidAmerica Regional Assembly is now open! This year's theme is "Finding Our Partners: Faith in Action." In spite of our small numbers in the national religious scene, Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of every significant social change in our nation's history. Now, more than ever, we need to work with partners to have an impact in our cities, states and country. Join for an exciting weekend celebrating Unitarian Universalism in the MidAmerica Region. Find out more at www.midamericauua.org/ra Register now and receive the early bird rate.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 21-25 <http://www.uua.org/ga>

Come worship, witness, learn, and connect!



MidWest Leadership School July 9-15

Mark your calendars and spread the word! After many successful summers at its Wisconsin location on the campus of Beloit College, MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) will take place this coming summer on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

MWLS creates opportunities to learn about Unitarian Universalism, about themselves as individuals and as members of congregations in a larger movement grounded in liberal theology. MWLS attendees come away from the experience with a better understanding of healthy organizational practices. This week-long intensive program is offered separately and yet collaboratively for adults and for youth, and seeks to provide its attendees with an experience of acceptance and love that transforms and inspires.



Is MWLS for you? A 2016 participant said that the program provided extremely helpful insights into the history of Unitarian Universalism, as well as an understanding of the ways current issues move today's congregations. The well-structured program of input, application and reflection provides a varied approach that appeals to diverse learning styles. Another participant was especially pleased to find the creation of intergenerational worship effectively modeled and implemented. MWLS is an experience rich in ideas for participants to take home to their current or future leadership roles.

Read more about MidWest Leadership School at <https://www.mwls.org/> and follow us on Facebook for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/mwls.org>



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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.