

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 26, Number 10 — October 2017

October Theme: What does it mean to be a people of courage?

“Our word 'courage' comes from the French word coeur, 'heart.' Courage is a willingness to act from the heart, to let your heart lead the way, not knowing what will be required of you next, and if you can do it.” -- Jean Shinoda Bolen

Dear Ones, I'm going to tell you a little secret. I've been dreading this month ever since I learned the theme would be courage. I have not been feeling courageous. In the barrage of daily attacks on people – non-white people, immigrant people, women, transgender people, Muslim people – I have been feeling small and frightened and beaten down. And in the face of personal and collective tragedies, I have been feeling helpless and inadequate. I expected to enter this church year with my capacity to hold the fear and hurt and anger that have become part of our daily conversation since the national election last fall mostly restored. I expected that my courage would return, and it frightens me that I cannot feel it in this time.

And then I remember. Courage doesn't come from feeling strong, but from taking action despite feeling small and scared. The Quaker activist and songwriter, Carrie Newcomer, wrote “Courage doesn't always shout but whispers and reminds, when we get up one more morning and we try another time.” Courage has not left me; rather, I have forgotten how it works. It doesn't just move me to engage in acts of witness, of sympathy, of forgiveness. It is something I learn to feel, over and over again, as I engage those acts with an open heart and in the company of others who are also afraid.

I was asked recently to share the story of my name change. Many of you know that I'm the daughter of German immigrants, and that my connection to my family of origin is tenuous at best. And so, when I decided not to keep Paul's name after our divorce, I chose not to reclaim my family name. Instead, I've found a different way, one that might remind me of courage: Armina is a German name that means “warrior maiden.”

We'll remember courage, together.

In faith and love, Karen

Same minister, new name!

Rev. Karen is changing her name, now that she has completed the transition to being single. We'll all get used to calling her **Karen Armina**, together. Armina is a German name that means “warrior maiden,” and Karen chose it to honor her German heritage.

10 AM Sunday Services

10/1 "The Song in Your Heart"

The Rev. Karen Armina

If courage is the willingness to let our Hearts lead the way, we must learn to know what is in our hearts. This morning we'll explore this way of being, and how it might move us toward being our full authentic selves in this world.

10/8 “True to You”

The Rev. Karen Armina & Alice Mandt

Sometimes we feel very different from others in our communities, and it can be hard to be ourselves. Today we'll explore, in a multigenerational service, ways we find the courage to do just that.

10/15 “Facing Our Fears”

Carin Bringelson

As a people of courage, we need to take time to name our fears so that we can then decide what our next steps might be. When it comes to racial justice work, there is no shortage of fears we encounter. (Cont'd)

Let's explore together how we might "lean

into" our discomfort. This worship is one of the many Teach-Ins on White Supremacy that UU congregations are holding across North America in October.

10/22 "Laughing with God"

Laura Jasiczek

How do we respond when life doesn't go as planned? This morning, join us to hear of one unexpected journey and the gifts it has presented.

10/29 "Still Say Yes"

The Rev. Karen Armina

We experience so many things in our lives that could be reasons to close off our hearts and protect ourselves. And yet, the same defenses that keep out pain and fear also keep out hope and love. Today we'll explore resilience.

Check-in question: What act of courage have you engaged in recently?



Minister's Availability & Office Hours

Rev. Karen will be out of town for a ministers' retreat and the Allies for Racial Equity Conference, from Saturday, October 14th until Wednesday, October 25th. She can be reached via call or text throughout that time.

Except for that week, Rev. Karen is in the office **Wednesdays between noon and 2 pm and at Café Zoma Thursdays between 1 and 3 pm.** And she's more than happy to meet with you for a cup of coffee/tea or a walk at any other mutually agreed-upon time – just call to set it up!

Wednesday Evening Vespers

Join Rev. Karen for a time of stillness, song, and reflection Wednesday, October 11th at 6 pm.

Covenant Groups for 2017-2018

This year's Covenant Groups will begin meeting this month! If you have signed up to be in a group, expect a call from a facilitator soon. There will also be an opportunity to form a short-term group that will follow the Membership Committee's "Exploring Membership" classes; this group will be for people new to JRUUC, and others who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and their connection to it. See Rev. Karen for more information.

Financial Update

August 2017

Income	\$11,521
Expenses	\$15,083

Yes, that's right: income is behind expenses. That's typical for this time of year; many folks fulfill their pledges by check rather than automatic withdrawal and tend to delay somewhat in writing those checks. We have the cash on hand to cover these expenses, but please submit your pledge check as soon as convenient. No: before then, please.

Actually, there is a financial problem that we must keep in mind throughout the year. In May we passed an annual budget in deficit by a large amount (\$14,142!) despite careful planning by a stingy Board of Trustees. Paying our staff properly dominated their thinking, as we agreed it should. That deficit has since been drastically reduced by the amazing generosity of many congregants. With some additional pledges, the total increased by an amazing \$6,153. Furthermore, we will refinance our loan with Park Bank, reducing our monthly payments and saving about \$2,900 for the fiscal year. That leaves a projected deficit of about \$5,600, one-third of the original estimate.

Fortunately, in previous years we had surpluses of income over expenses, so we have adequate funds to cover the projected deficit for this year (through June). We will try very hard to have a balanced budget for the coming year. We really appreciate the generosity shown by our congregants, putting their hard-earned treasure to work for a better congregation and world.

John Mathis, Treasurer



President's Column

It seems like every year we find ourselves having a “congregational conversation” and this year is no different! Our Sanctuary Task Force has been actively participating in Madison’s “New

Sanctuary Movement” which aims to both protect those fighting deportation and also to bring light to the injustice that immigrant families face in our community. As part of that work, they’re diligently and comprehensively studying the different ways that JRUUC can be a part of this movement, in keeping with our resolution of May 2017 to stand in solidarity with immigrants.

This work has included recruiting JRUUC members to help serve the needs of this community directly, in addition to determining the feasibility of JRUUC as a host-site for an individual or couple facing deportation. In order to host a family our building would need some modifications and in keeping with our bylaws, a vote of the congregation is required for those modifications.

The Board of Trustees has resolved that four conditions must be met before the Board of Trustees will consider calling a special congregational meeting in order to vote on becoming a “Sanctuary Congregation”. Those four conditions are:

- 1) A preliminary report of the fact-finding efforts of the Sanctuary Committee
- 2) Small-group “cottage meetings” centered on discussing our role in the movement
- 3) A congregational presentation on a Sunday following service
- 4) A formal recommendation by the Sanctuary Committee to move ahead with a vote

After those conditions have been met, the Board of Trustees will act expeditiously to vote on whether to call a special congregational meeting in accordance with the notice requirements of our bylaws. So, please (please!) attend a cottage meeting, keep an eye out for the Sanctuary Report, and participate in this conversation in whatever ways you can. We really need to hear the voice of our entire community in this discussion!

Charlie McNulty, Board President

Membership Events

Saturday, October 7th Exploring Membership Class 9 am to 1 pm with lunch included. For those of you who have taken the first step towards membership – coming to services and getting to know our community – this is your opportunity to take the next step: learning more about Unitarian Universalism, exploring your spiritual path, discovering the history of the denomination and of our congregation, and learning more about how we operate day-to-day.

Sunday, October 29th Joining Sunday! Maybe you’re ready to take the final step towards membership and sign the book. If so, our whole congregation would love to officially recognize you on this Joining Sunday. Signing our membership book is a requirement for membership. Recognition is optional but encouraged because everyone wants to welcome you!

Questions? Contact Membership chair Peggy Haack 608-469-7687 or phaack@gmail.com.

Your Membership Team: Peggy Haack, Sarah Elmore, Kelly Kearns, Kirsten Johnson, and Mary Wagner

Kids Music Rehearsals

This month, we return to the schedule we followed last spring – rehearsing Sunday mornings at 9:45. Please join us! I loved the small, but enthusiastic group we had last year and weren't they a joy to have in service? I'd like for our numbers to grow this year. Contact Laura J. at ldjasiczek@gmail.com with any questions or if you'd like to join in or contribute musically in another way! We could use some more help with accompaniment. Older kids welcome, too.



October Music Brew



The **Choir** at James Reeb UUC has been stirring the pot, preparing music potions that can cure ailments like closed minds, broken hearts, or living with that pesky rodent – Fear!
Come back for another sample of their sounds and intentions **October 1st**.

In September we welcomed back Allie Hendrick, who had the courage to take a solo on the first performance of the season! If you like to sing and would enjoy the fulfillment of this type of music ministry, make tracks over to JRUUC and visit a choir rehearsal some Thursday night at 6:45.

“You’ll Never Walk Alone” with this fine group of human beings you can both, **“Touch the Earth and Reach the Sky!”** If you have questions, or would like to share other types of music with us, please contact me at music@jruuc.org

Below, I invite you to enjoy these moving and powerful examples from this month’s Soul Matters Team on our theme of **“Courage.”**

Quiet

MILCK with GW Sirens and Capital Blend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9lond4SXgk>

Podcast: The Courage to Be Wrong - TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/kathryn_schulz_on_being_wrong

Most of us will do anything to avoid being wrong. But what if we're wrong about that? "Wrongologist" Kathryn Schulz makes a compelling case for not just admitting but embracing our fallibility.

“The reward for conformity was that everyone liked you except yourself.” - Rita Mae Brown



JRUUC September 24, 2017

Rebecca Everett, Allie Hendrick, Jeri Parrott, Heather Yonker, Amanda Werhane,
Sarah Hallas, Marla McFadden, Molly Mitchell, Rachel Avery
Kristen Johnson, Rand Hill, Craig McComb, Liam Dagnon

Heather Yonker, Music Director

Justice at JRUUC



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity

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

Upcoming events to attend

MOSES meetings occur on the first Saturday of the month, 9:30 am to noon.

October 7th, we will meet at Advent Lutheran / Community of Hope UCC, 7118 Old Sauk Rd. Can't make it then? Plan to join us at the Nov. 4th and Dec. 2nd meetings.

Learn more about the issues by listening in on the monthly WISDOM conference calls. Simply call 605-468-8012, then use the codes referenced below:

Old Law 2nd Saturday at 8:30 am code 423950

Solitary 2nd Tuesday at 4 pm code 423950

Prison Prevention 2nd Tuesday at 5 pm 423950

Post Release 4th Thursday at 7:30 pm: 423951

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, October 9th. All are welcome to participate the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email Barb at bwhitney@chi-squared.org.

Sustainable Saturday Night The 4th Saturday each month January through November October 28th

Potluck at 6 pm; Program begins at 7
We will learn about our drinking water from a researcher and a representative of Madison Water Utility.

Get your water questions answered.

Childcare is provided.

Everyone is welcome!

Black Lives Matter weekend Worship Service and Potluck at FUS Saturday, October 14th at 4:30 pm

BLM Saturday will include a spoken word presentation by UU Christopher Sims, with a potluck following the worship service. If you'd like to carpool from the Eastside, leaving at 4 pm, please contact Carin Bringelson at cmbringe@gmail.com.

Update from the Sanctuary Task Force

September opened with a service on Labor Day around the issue of Sanctuary. Sergio Gonzalez, one of the founders of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition, gave a wonderful overview of the history of sanctuary over the last few decades in the US, as well as the current need for sanctuary right here in Dane County. If you missed the Sunday service or would just like a copy of his words, please contact a member of Sanctuary Task Force and we will be glad to share it with you. (Jeanne Lydon, Leila Pine, Pete Haney, or Kirsten Johnson)

JRUUC became a member of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition back in May when we voted to become a supporting congregation. The Dane Sanctuary Coalition is currently building a network of volunteers from among its 36 member congregations who will be ready to support the individuals who will take sanctuary at one of the sanctuary congregation in the network. We have had several dozen Reebers sign up already. Thank you! If you are interested in providing meals, transportation, translation, or other roles please contact a member of the Sanctuary Task Force or visit our table in the foyer after service this month. The Dane Sanctuary Coalition will provide training.

Part of the work of the Sanctuary Task Force is helping the congregation to discern if we are being called to be a Sanctuary Site. We invite you to read *What Should Reeb's Role Be in the New Sanctuary Movement?* By going to: tinyurl.com/sanctuaryFAQ We have begun a series of small group discussions to listen to what you think about the issue, as well as to answer questions and concerns. Please sign up for one of these dates at tinyurl.com/sanctuarytalk or in the foyer. We will report back our findings Sunday, October 29th after service.

Jeanne Lydon, Sanctuary Task Force
jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Exploration

Courageous Conversations on Culture

"White Supremacy Culture" has been in the news lately, both nationally and within the denomination. What does it even mean and reference? What choices do we have to better understand it – and ultimately create something more just?

Join Rev. Karen and members of our congregation and First Unitarian Society to reflect on and discuss the characteristics of White Supremacy Culture

On these Mondays, 7 - 8:30 pm:

September – overview; right to comfort

October 16th – defensiveness

October 30th – perfectionism

November 20th – only one right way;
paternalism

December 18th – sense of urgency

January 29th – quantity over quality;
worship of the written word

February 19th – individualism;
I'm the only one

March 19th – objectivity

April 16th – power hoarding;
fear of open conflict

April 30th – either/or thinking;
progress is bigger, more

May 21st – final reflections

Samhain Autumn Celebration

Saturday, October 28th Noon to 2 pm

Join us for food, fun, and reflection as we celebrate the turning of the year. We'll share snacks, swap books, judge jack-o'-lanterns, and gather in a brief Samhain ritual.

All are welcome and you are welcome to bring: Pagan/ Paganesque books for the swap, a snack, and/or a carved pumpkin!

RSVP, for questions, or to contribute a baked good by contacting Laura.m.zimmerman@gmail.com.



Time To Find Your Space Suit! Reeb Rave Annual Auction Fundraiser "Outer Space" is on the horizon, Saturday November 18th, 5 - 8:30 pm

Bring your family and friends and enjoy music, dinner, live and silent auctions, and "out of this world" fun. Come as your favorite space character, human or alien, and participate in the costume contest!

Donations are the key to making this year's event an amazing success. Auction ideas include donating services (your skills, excursions, parties, etc.), art, handmade items, homemade specialty food items, one-of-a-kind items or things that spark joy! Use your imagination – the sky's the limit. We especially need some big ticket items, like a weekend vacation at your cabin, bicycles, boats or spaceships.

You may submit your donations online at www.jruuc.org/reeb-rave-donation-form. We have an online viewing catalog so you can preview all the wonderful auction items available from the JRUUC website. The 2016 catalog is on our website if you want ideas for donations. Please submit a picture if you can with your donation! You may also complete a paper donation form (in the foyer at JRUUC), or e-mail Tom McClintock.

We also still need volunteers to help with food, decorations, music, business donations, and child care. Please contact Tom at tlmcclin@wisc.edu or 608 206-1699.

Thanks and see you at the party,
Tom McClintock - Reeb Rave Chair



From the Office



At GA 2012, Sculptor Mordecai Roth lights the General Assembly Chalice he made

What act of courage have I engaged in recently? Not a huge act, but I took the lead in something that I was too timid to do before. Each year prior to General Assembly, the Traveling GA Chalice hits the road as an ambassador in the host Region (formerly District) to spread the good news of our annual UU General Assembly. The last time our area hosted this annual conference, I hoped that a Madison minister or congregational president would read and respond to the information, but did not mention the possibility to anyone – I just silently wished while thinking, “Who am I to suggest what our local congregations should do?” I also assumed that “everyone” reads all the notices we get from the larger UU community. Bwahaha.

Last month, our MidAmerica Region posted the news that the traveling Chalice will again be available to us because General Assembly will be in Kansas City, MO June 20-24, 2018. This time, I mentioned this fabulous opportunity to Rev. Karen and sent messages to the Rev. Kelly Crocker at First Unitarian and the Rev. Sandy Ingham at Prairie UU Society. After that, I completed the request form so that all three Madison congregations will have a visit from the magnificent traveling chalice. Now, I’m corresponding with the chalice’s volunteer escort to find dates that work for all of us. We will find out soon when to expect a visit from the Traveling GA Chalice.

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

"Change" Is a World on Wheels

By DeReau K. Farrar September 12, 2017

“If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change.” —Mahatma Gandhi

Every Sunday morning, the church choir and I spend time in reflection and silence before we begin the first worship service. I often offer my thoughts on the day's theme or the state of the world, providing context to the message we bring.

On a recent Sunday, I said to the choir, “So often, we make the mistake of living according to our hopes instead of according to our realities.” I didn't mean to say it, and I didn't know that I would. But as I did, the statement became immediately true.

I wonder if, in our efforts to “be the change we wish to see in the world,” we stop short at our ideal selves: the idea of ourselves we are most comfortable with. I wonder how often I think *I've already been the change* — and I'm waiting idly for the tendencies of the world to catch up. I'm unsettled by how frequently I'm surprised by my own social idiocy. How many times need I screw up the same person's preferred pronouns, or note that I am not surprised that the person who just nearly ran me off the road is of a certain race and/or age, or make immediate assumptions about someone because of what I perceive to be their class?

Or maybe this is a better question: How many times do I need to make mistakes at the expense of other people, or people's groups, before I'm ready to admit that I'm not any better at this than the bigoted and willfully ignorant?

I am liberal. Often painfully so. I am not enlightened. I am not elevated. I am not better. But I believe, with everything I am, that I *can* be.

“Change” is a word on wheels. It's not a destination, but a journey. If I am to “be change,” I must commit to humility and refuse to settle for my own comforting achievements.

[DeReau K. Farrar is director of music at First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and a member of the board and conference planning committee of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network.]

<http://www.uua.org/braverwiser/change-world-wheels>