

EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 27, Number 2 — February 2018

February Theme: What does it mean to be a people of perseverance?

“Protest that endures, I think, is moved by a hope far more modest than that of public success: namely, the hope of preserving qualities in one’s own heart and spirit that would be destroyed by acquiescence.”

-- Wendell Berry

Connections

I believe that we need each other – to gather strength, to support our bodies and our spirits, to learn and to grow and to persevere in our lives and in our work. Our need for each other shows up in how we gather in community, in rites of passage, in worship, and in protest.

I believe that our need for each other isn’t limited to being around people who think like we do, or who look like we do, or who live their values in the same way we do. I believe that our strength and our ability to keep moving through these times, through our lives, is dependent on immersing ourselves in diverse community. When we can see and learn from our differences, we grow both our spirits and our resources.

And so this month, we’ll be exploring what it means to be a people of perseverance – how our relationships and communities are crucial to our ability to simply keep going. And because it is Black History Month, and because our faith tradition is deeply engaged in doing the work of dismantling our white supremacy culture, we’ll be exploring this topic through our ever-developing anti-racist framework.

As if that weren’t enough excitement, we’re also beginning to think about how we’ll mark JRUUC’s 25th anniversary this year! I’m looking forward to celebrating this special time, and to share with each other about how we’re living our vision that we based on those of the Rev. James Reeb. There are so many intersections between that vision and the work this congregation and our faith tradition are doing!

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2/11 | “Staggering Our Breaths”
The Rev. Karen Armina and Alice Mandt
The building of the world we dream about will not be completed in our lifetimes, and success depends on our cooperation, collaboration, listening, and breathing. In this morning’s multigenerational service, we’ll explore what keeps us going in this work. |
| 2/18 | “The Art of Perseverance and Self-Love”
Richard Johnson
Join Richard to wonder: Can self-love develop and sustain perseverance? Can self-love overcome or melt obstacles, allowing us to persevere? Can self-love be a path for you to reach your goal? And, where do see yourself today on the self-love continuum? |
| 2/25 | “Journeying Through Spiritual Wholeness”
The Rev. Karen Armina
People of Color in our faith tradition have been hanging on, hoping that our culture might someday shift enough for them to feel wholly welcome. This morning, we’ll learn about the movement to bring an Eighth Principle to our Association, and explore how it might feel for all of us to create a diverse multicultural Beloved Community. |

Check-in question: What do you lean on for strength when times are tough?



Minister's Availability and Office Hours in February

Rev. Karen will be taking a short vacation from February 14-19; please contact Marla McFadden or Cindy Rudd for pastoral emergencies during this time.

Rev. Karen is in the office Wednesdays between noon and 2 pm. She can also be found 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 February 21 at 6 pm

Join Rev. Karen for a time of stillness, song, and reflection. This month, the service will be held in the RE Multipurpose room.



Chili and Bread Fundraising Lunch Sunday, February 11

Please join members and friends of the congregation for good food and conversation at an after service meal. If you are interested in providing chili or bread please contact Cindy Rudd, crrudd47@gmail.com or 608-469-5269.

Suggested donation is \$6/adult, \$3 for kids. This event is coordinated by the FUNd Raising Committee.



Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective Urge Adoption of 8th Principle In Unitarian Universalism

The Black Lives of UU (BLUU) Organizing Collective encourages all Unitarian Universalists to advocate for the formal adoption of an 8th principle, articulating a commitment to the dismantling of white supremacy, within the stated principles of our faith.

It has been 20 years since the 1997 General Assembly, where delegates voted that the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) commit to intentionally becoming a multicultural and anti-racist institution. Notably, this act came some five years after the passage of the 1992 Resolution of Immediate Witness which, in part, affirmed the “vision of a racially diverse and multicultural Unitarian Universalism.”

The proposed 8th Principle was written by Bruce Pollack-Johnson and Paula Cole Jones. Since 2013, some Unitarian Universalists residing in the former Joseph Priestley District (now part of the Central East Region) have been advocating for the adoption of an 8th principle within the faith. In the same year, this matter was presented at the General Assembly Planning Committee retreat by Paula Cole Jones and later discussed by the members of the Council for Cross Cultural Engagement.

The proposed 8th principle states:

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Find out more at this website:

<https://medium.com/outfront/black-lives-of-uu-organizing-collective-urges-adoption-of-8th-principle-in-unitarian-universalism-377480e615ef>



25+ Years Ago...

Some members of First Unitarian Society of Madison dreamed of sharing the values of Unitarian Universalism with even more people!

They said,

"Let's start a new congregation!"

A committee was formed and a time of exploration, discussion, and planning began.

The dedicated committee members were dreamers and doers who had lots of ideas and big hearts.

The work was exciting, inspiring, and challenging.

There were lots of hopes, dreams, and questions:

Where will the new congregation be?

What will it be called?

Who will come?

When will it finally happen?

Stay tuned...

Each month this year we'll share a bit of JRUUC history and invite you to join in the adventure. We'll share stories, learn about our congregation and celebrate our community.

Check out the glass case in the foyer to see photos from our past and watch our story grow.

Celebrating 25 years of nurturing spirit, working for justice, and building community.

President's Column

Winter solstice marks the darkest day of the year. Social scientists have identified the third Monday of January as the most miserable day of the year. Combining these, it means that with February, things are officially looking up!

Our Board of Trustees has been working towards identifying how we can support our Sanctuary Congregation work. To that end we've determined that we need a separate building renovation team made up in part of Sanctuary team members, but also encompassing our other ministries. We've also been examining the risks and opportunities of the Friends of State Street Locker project, which again touches on how our building is interdependent on all of the ministries of JRUUC!

We'll be meeting for a mini-retreat in February with an eye on what projects we can wrap up by the end of the year, while also planning for the Congregational Meeting and the 2018-2019 budget. The end of the year tends to be more of a sprint than a jog, but it's nice to feel like we're running towards the light!

Charlie McNulty, Board President



Financial Update

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, January 16. The Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet for December raised no concerns regarding cash flow. Happily, pledgers have been paid early and expenses are slightly lower than the uniform rate would be. Of course, our present wealth does not mean that we will have our annual income exceed our expenses. Our budgeted deficit of \$5,427 still stands, and fiscal prudence is very much required.

Our financial system currently segregates the Opportunity/Emergency Fund (\$3,843.61) and Major Maintenance and Repair Fund (\$5,241.94) and displays them on the Balance Sheet. We decided to add the Sabbatical Fund to this list. Currently it is unfunded, but the 2017-18 budgeted amount of \$500 will be added this spring.

The committee showed keen interest in exploring replacing our financial software program, Church Windows, with one of those currently used by other congregations.

Best wishes,
John Mathis, Treasurer

Religious Education

Attention NEW Members and Frequent Attendees

Have you been wondering how you can *dip your toe* into volunteering at JRUUC? Does committee work sound *boring and pointless*?

If you answered “yes” to both questions, then consider joining the Religious Education for Children & Youth (RE) Committee! It promises to be enjoyable, engaging and meaningful.

We are in search of people who bring a love of children and learning—no teaching or committee experience necessary.

“The RE program is engaged in ministry to and with the children and youth of our church to deepen in spirit and nurture young souls—and to enable our youth to contribute to and shape the wider world for the greater good.”

* Come help us shape the program that shapes our children. *

*Learn more at our next monthly meeting
February 11 after Sunday Service*

Questions? Email Virginia Harrison, RE Committee Chair, at harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com.

Membership

Games Night!

Friday evening, March 2

6 – 8:30 pm

Bring your favorite games or plan to play some of ours. Games for all ages will be provided, so bring the family... and friends, too! We'll plan to do a group order of tamales from El Sabor next door, but you are also welcome to bring some healthy snacks for your family or to share. Brought to you by the JRUUC Membership Committee.

Are you a Friend who is considering Membership in James Reeb UU? Join us Saturday, March 10!

Our Spring Membership Class will be held **Saturday morning, March 10 from 9 am to 1 pm** (lunch is included). Rev. Karen and members of the membership committee will engage you in conversation about your beliefs and values, plus you'll learn more about our liberal faith and its history, and more specifically about the James Reeb UU Congregation – what it means to be a member, how our congregation formed and how it is currently governed, and how you can help shape our ministry as a member.

If you want to sign up or have questions, please contact Rev. Karen or contact Membership Chair Peggy Haack at 608-469-7687 or peggyhaack@gmail.com. If you need child care in order to participate, we must have advance notice of at least three days.

Coming to the class does not commit you to membership, but if you do choose to join us, we will welcome you on **Joining Sunday, March 25!**

Justice at JRUUC

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, February 12. All are welcome to participate the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email Barbara Whitney at salbwhitney@gmail.com.

Sustainable Saturday Night

February 24, 2018

Building Unity

Gather at 5:30; Dinner at 6; Program at 7 pm
In the spirit of intersectional solidarity, we have begun to pull together leaders from a number of different groups and causes. The groups that support SSNs are growing. Many of us are determined to find our unity, focus our people-power and shift the collective consciousness and the political climate of our state.

A new and growing movement was born at January's Sustainable Saturday Night. We are calling ourselves Building Unity. February 24, we will take our next steps together as we draw our circle ever wider to leave no person out of our fight for justice for all and the sustainability of our planet. Leaders from a number of statewide organizations will help us advance our course toward a world that is just, peaceful, and sustainable. For more information, write to BuildingUnityWI@gmail.com.

Follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/buildingunitywi/>



Lockers for Homeless Students

The Peace, Justice, and Sustainability group has recommended that JRUUC have lockers installed off the back parking lot against the side wall of the sanctuary.

Dane County has set aside \$20,000 to pay for school lockers re-engineered and installed by Sector 67 near locations frequented by the homeless. Our location, near East High, is optimal for homeless students. Lockers would provide a place to keep personal belongings safe and off the street.

Briarpatch Youth Service, Inc., a private non-profit organization, oversees the locker use for its clients. The Briarpatch mission is to provide innovative services dedicated to strengthening and improving the lives of youth. It is the sole agency dedicated to care for 16 and 17 year olds because this age group is not covered by other agencies.

Neighbors have reacted positively to our plan.

An after service discussion about the project was held in November. Another will be scheduled in the near future.

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:

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



Got Race?

America's Most Successful Ad Campaign

Free public lecture

Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

At First Unitarian Society

The Rev. Dr. Thandeka will be visiting Madison next month! She is an ordained UU minister and congregational consultant and founder of affect theology, which studies religious experience from the standpoint of emotions. She is also the author of *Learning To Be White*.

<http://revthandeka.org/about-rev-thandeka.html>



Music in February

The theme of Perseverance for February crosses tracks with Black History month and the persistent heartfelt work that is being done throughout UU congregations across America. The choir will be singing history, both indirectly and directly. Culture and music are inescapably bound and have been influencing each other and our attitudes for all time.

Our JRUU choir presented a raucous, driving “**Glory Train**,” paired with “**Go Down Moses**” Sunday, February 4.

Here is “**Go Down Moses**” sung by **Big Mama Thornton**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTZ4VyhLZOY>

For the multigenerational service February 11, we will share a singer’s technique that works well in sustaining community and connection. Come and practice with us!

Practice, live the joy of the process, persist, hang on! But, **How Long** will it take? You might be thinking. Just **Swing That Hammer**, and I’ll see you there.

Below I share a few selections to ponder what you might want to do about Perseverance. They remind me of some of my personal heroes and heroines. Many thanks to my mom, tough as nails, one of the strongest humans I’ve ever known! And to all of you Long-Haul People like her!

“Go all the way” by Charles Bukowski

Full poem found here: <http://natalia-bojanic.squarespace.com/news-blog/2016/2/29/go-all-the-way-charles-bukowski-poem>

Inspirational video reading:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6_QUhUPrF4

If you’re going to try, go all the way.

Otherwise, don’t even start.

This could mean losing girlfriends, wives, relatives and maybe even your mind.

It could mean not eating for three or four days.

It could mean freezing on a park bench.

It could mean jail.

It could mean derision...

...If you're going to try, go all the way.
There is no other feeling like that.
You will be alone with the gods, and the nights will
flame with fire.
You will ride life straight to perfect laughter.
It's the only good fight there is.

“Long-Haul People”

by the Rev. Rudy Nemser, UU minister

You find them in churches
when you’re lucky;
other places too, though I mostly
only know ecclesiastical varieties.

Long haul people
upon whose shoulders
(and pocketbooks and casseroles
and daylight/nighttime hours)
a church is built and maintained
after the brass is tarnished and
cushions need re-stitching.

They pay their pledges full and on time
even when the music’s modern;
support each canvass though the sermons aren’t
always short;
mow lawns and come to suppers;
teach Sunday School when
there’s no one else and they’ll miss the service.

Asked what they think of the minister,
or plans for the kitchen renovation,
or the choral anthem, or Christmas pageant,
or color of the bathroom paint,
they’ll reply: individuals and fashions
arrive and pass.
The church—their church—will be here, steady and
hale.

For a long, long time.

It will.

For long haul people bless a church
with a very special blessing.

“John Henry,” sung by Harry Belafonte

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4UihxOzF_w

Hold on to each other! Persevere!
Heather Yonker, Music Director



Administrator Thoughts

“What do you lean on for strength when times are tough?” What a great question! One of my favorite sources to lean on is nature – I gather energy from being outside, whether walking, bicycling, or just gazing at one of our lakes. During the winter, I feel strong and invigorated when outdoors, especially when it snows. When I shovel snow, trudge through it, or attempt to cross country ski, the exertion and fresh air give me a positive outlook. “I’m a Woman of the North!”

I also lean on my Unitarian Universalist faith of gratitude, interdependence, and compassion for all. Concentrating on what I’m grateful for helps immensely. I live in a house on a bicycle boulevard between two lakes, which is a dream come true. ☺ In addition to having wonderful people in my life, especially family and friends who love me, I experience live music every week and recorded music anytime. Dancing to music and singing replenish me.

At one time, I wrote a list of what strengthens me so that I’d have a whole repertoire to choose from when needed. Because if I’m having an extremely tough time, I might not be able to remember what gives me strength. My list is in a pink folder with flaming chalice stickers. What form would yours take?

The first weekend of February, a group of women from James Reeb UU and First Unitarian Society of Madison attended the **UU Winter WomanSpirit Conference** in Evanston, IL. Carin Bringelson and I went specifically to learn as much as we could to prepare us for our volunteer roles at **Winter WomanSpirit 2019, February 1-3 here in Madison**. Low-cost registration is already open, so if you might want to attend, please register now. If you discover months from now that you cannot go, another woman will be eager to take over your registration for the same low price.
<http://www.womenandreligion.org/>

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



2018-19 Annual Budget Drive (ABD) Where are we going?

Happy New Year to you! This year we celebrate 25 years as a Unitarian Universalist Congregation. These words from a favorite hymn fit perfectly: “Where do we come from? Who are we? Where are we going?”

As we prepare for Spring, our congregation calendar brings us to our Annual Budget Drive or ABD. Join us for Kick-off Sunday, March 4. Please see the sign-up sheets in the foyer for the ABD Café Conversations where you’ll join others in stewardship conversations about shared visions for James Reeb’s future and have a chance to complete your Financial Commitment Form.

The ABD mailing will go out the last week of February. Please look for this in your mailbox. There will be art in the foyer too. Are you interested in helping with Stewardship, the ABD, or the “foyer art”? Please let me, Kim Reain (608-698-5051), know.

I’d like to thank **Brian McNurlen** for all of his help with Stewardship and ABD. Thank you to the folks who are stepping up and hosting our tables at the ABD Café Conversations. **When you take on a leadership role, your success is directly dependent on the volunteers who are by your side along the way. I am deeply grateful.**

Let’s celebrate 25 years together as we dream and plan for our next 25 years.

Save these dates

ABD Kick-off: Sunday, March 4

Due date for Financial Commitment

Forms: Sunday, April 1

(That’s no April Fool’s Joke)

ABD Café Conversations:

Wed. March 14, 6 - 8 pm

Sat. March 17, 9 - 11 am

MidAmerica Region



Breaking Down the Silos: An Assessment Model for Social Justice-Rooted Congregations

Tuesday, February 13, 6:45 – 8 pm

Our MidAmerica Region and the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance will present part two of this free webinar February 13.

If you watched Part I, be sure to register for Part II, in which participants will share findings about their own congregations' social justice work through the lens of the assessment model presented in part one. We will then talk about processes and strategies for fostering change and moving toward system-wide integration of justice principles and practices in all areas of congregational life. Executive Director of the Minnesota UU Justice Alliance, Rev. Ashley Horan and Statewide Organizer, Pastor Danny Givens will help all our congregations prepare themselves better for social justice work.

<https://www.midamericaauua.org/events/eventdetail/765/breaking-down-the-silos-an-assessment-model-for-social-justice-rooted-congregations-part-2-2>

"I Am Who I Am" Wednesdays February 21 to March 21

The theme for Lent at Lakeview Lutheran will be the words God spoke to Moses when telling Moses who God is -- **"I Am Who I Am."** Special presentations have been arranged for Wednesdays 6:30 to 7:30 pm during Lent and are open to all.

- **Feb 21** James will speak about returning to the community of Madison as a sex offender
- **Feb 28** Annie Laurie Gaylor will speak about the Freedom from Religion Foundation and specifically the separation of religion and government. Her husband will join her and share his piano skills with us.

- **Mar 7** Juan will speak about being a teenage DREAMER and attending Verona High School. He will address issues of immigration and fears about deportation.
- **Mar 21** Ginger will speak about her transition from male to female and the obstacles in society and the joys of being honest with oneself.

Lakeview Lutheran is at 4001 Mandrake Road Madison, 53704
<http://lakeviewlutheranchurch.org/>

Agrace to Offer New Volunteer Orientation March 1 & 13

Agrace Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking local volunteers. You can brighten the lives of people with serious illnesses by volunteering. New-volunteer orientation sessions will be held

Thursday, March 1, from 5 to 9 pm and Tuesday, March 13, from 8 am to noon, at Agrace's Madison campus. Before they attend orientation, prospective volunteers will complete an application and interview about their skills and interests. Call 608-327-7163 with questions, or to register for orientation.



Proud Theater to Hold 3rd Annual LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Event "Connections III: Portraits of Us"

Saturday, March 10, 9 am to 4:30 pm

Proud Theater, Wisconsin's premier LGBTQ+ Youth Theater organization, in collaboration with Trinity United Methodist Church, PFLAG-Madison, and the First United Methodist Church of Madison, will hold its Third annual LGBTQ+ intergenerational conference, "Connections III: Portraits of Us." This event is open to members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community, and will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue in Madison.

Visit <http://proudtheater.org> to learn more.

“Lean in to Life” by [Tara Humphries](#)

February 7, 2018

“Uncross your arms, lean all the way in. Love is everywhere.” —Rev. Gretchen Haley

I recently found myself in a Kundalini yoga class with a new teacher. I'm a UU, but Kundalini Yoga is my spiritual practice. I'm wearing my white cotton clothing, my head wrap, sitting on my natural fiber blanket, moving contently through the exercises with care and focus and precision. All of a sudden, one of the exercises brought up a whole bunch of resistance in me.

“Sit in easy pose with your legs crossed, arms out to the side, hands in fists,” the teacher instructed.

Okay, I can do that.

“And begin to move your arms in circles as fast as you can.” It was challenging but doable. I closed my eyes and focused my attention at the brow-point, the third eye.

“Now,” she said, “begin to chant GOD GOD GOD GOD as you vigorously circle your arms.”

Oh boy, I thought, Here we go. Of course it couldn't just be arm circles.

I began to chant with her but my thoughts kept inviting themselves in to interrupt me. *Why do I have to chant GOD?*

“God, God, God...” *What do I even mean by god?*

“God, God, God...” *Is everyone else actually saying this out loud?*

“God, God, God...” *This is weird. I wonder if people are looking at me.*

“God, God, God...” *Okay, Tara, just get over it.*

“GOD! GOD! GOD!” I shouted. I began to smile, twirling my arms as fast as my shoulder socket would allow... giggling, then laughing. *I don't know if you're out there but if you are I hope you're laughing too because this is freaking awesome.*

“GOD!! GOD!!”

Then we settled into a comfortable, silence. The edges of my mouth had settled in up by my eyes. And there was this deep joy that maybe could have floated me right up off my natural fiber blanket and into the supposed heavens.

I'm beginning to learn that when we lean in — into the awkwardness, discomfort, and random hilarity of life in the very moment that life invites us forward — we can tap into the most holy, real, enveloping love that we could ever imagine.

Prayer

Holy love that swirls within us and around us, that holds us together in each and every moment, we thank you for the moments of pure joy... for the sweet nectar of life beyond the comfort zone. May we lean on you with trust and adoration when we Lean In to life, and may our hearts fill with the gifts that brave and vulnerable action bring forth. Blessed be!



Introducing “Side with Love,” a more accessible public witness campaign

UUA's public witness campaign changes name after criticism that Standing on the Side of Love privileged able-bodied people.

The shirts will still be bright yellow, and the logo will remain a sketch of a heart, but the name of the Unitarian Universalist Association's high-visibility public witness campaign is now much shorter—and less controversial for accessibility rights activists. The Unitarian Universalist Association announced January 10 that its “Standing on the Side of Love” campaign is now “Side with Love.”

The UUA chose Side with Love after discussion with many stakeholders. While the name is changing, the campaign's logo and colors remain the same. Congregations, individuals, and others are not expected to stop using banners and shirts featuring the old name, which the UUA introduced in 2009, but rather to phase them out.

Read the entire article at:

https://www.uuworld.org/articles/introducing-side-love?utm_medium=uua.org&utm_source=publication&utm_campaign=homepage



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 20-24

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, celebrate, sing, and make policy through democratic process.

This year's theme is **All Are Called**. Housing registration begins March 1.

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. Together, we'll ask:

**Who and how are we called to be at this time,
individually and collectively?**
How are we called to act and to live?
**How does our Unitarian Universalist legacy
strengthen us in living out our mission?**
**In what ways does our legacy present challenges
and impediments to answering our call?**

The call of our faith has a place for each of us. Join us in Kansas City to build courageous, collective leadership with tools, skills and connections.



**James Reeb Unitarian
Universalist Congregation**
2146 E. Johnson Street
Madison WI 53704
www.jruuc.org

Rev. Karen Armina, Minister
(219) 221-3371 revkaren@jruuc.org
Elizabeth Barrett, Congregational Administrator (608) 242-8887
office@jruuc.org
Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Education (608) 698-4636 re@jruuc.org
Heather Yonker, Director of Music (608) 628-3406 music@jruuc.org

Charlie McNulty, President (608) 334-6060
charlie@kzmf.com
Jocie Luglio, President-elect (608) 442-8814
jocie.jruuc@gmail.com
Jan Gordon, Secretary (608) 209-0263
janreads2@gmail.com
John Mathis, Treasurer (608) 230-3682
jsmathis@wisc.edu
Beth Esser, Trustee-at-large (608) 239-1353
beth_esser@hotmail.com

Sarah Hallas, Trustee-at-large (319) 621-0785
slhallas@gmail.com

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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.