

EAST BREEZE



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

Volume 27, Number 4 — April 2018

April Theme: What does it mean to be a people of emergence?

“Emergence is the way complex systems and patterns arise out of the multiplicity of relatively simple interactions.”
-- Nick Obolensky

Connections

This month's theme inspires so many thoughts and feelings! My Pagan heart dances at the arrival of spring, as I see crocuses poking up and tree buds swelling where there will soon be tiny bright green leaves, and I step in mud on the recently-thawed ground, and I hear the songs of the returning birds. I find such joy and rejuvenation in the re-emergence of life from the slumber of winter! My music-loving heart remembers that April is jazz appreciation month. What better metaphor could there possibly be for emergence than the amazing sound that comes from a jazz band's collective improvisation? And my creative heart thrills to hear that National Tell a Story Day is this month, as I'm reminded of the amazing potential for our shared learning and trust to build as we tell each other our stories.

We each emerge individually, stretching and growing like those crocuses, as we absorb and process our experiences. Ideas and inspiration emerge from within as we go about our daily lives, especially when we're paying attention. New possibilities emerge as the sum of various parts, like that jazz band, or the beautiful harmony we create when we sing together. A group's identity can emerge when folks with a common purpose collaborate or interact, like the synergy of a march.

Our congregation practices this kind of emergence regularly. As we interact with each other, we create relationships – often simultaneously. Like the well-used metaphor of the interconnected web, a complex system that is our congregation's identity and focus emerges. In learning to embrace being people of emergence, we stretch into the possibility of creating something new – and wonderful – in the sum of our parts. Happy Spring, Dear Ones!

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- 4/1 **“Wisdom from Unexpected Places”**
The Rev. Karen Armina and guests
- 4/8 **“Emergent Strategy”**
The Rev. Karen Armina and Stephani Pescitelli
adrienne maree brown, the author of the book after which our service is named, writes about how we can embody the just and liberated worlds we long for: by collaborating, embracing change, and letting go of the status quo. Today's service will be an exploration of how we see these strategies emerging in the natural world, and how they can emerge in our lives.
- 4/15 **Service Sunday with the Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group**
Come ready to work! After a short worship service with Virginia Harrison and James Phillips, we will break into groups of choice to work on service projects, then reconvene at Reeb for a potluck lunch. Projects will include: Donations and sorting of clothes and personal care items for Briarpatch Youth Services, preparation for the Interfaith March for Peace and Justice on April 29, litter pick-up of JRUUC grounds and surrounding neighborhood, gardening. It feels good to do good. Bring the family!
- 4/22 **“Because It Is”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
What happens to us when we learn to care for something for its own sake? On this Earth Day, we'll explore how an environmental ethic can emerge from the

practice of paying attention to the workings of nature, and the interconnectedness between peace, justice, and sustainability.

4/29 “Loving Each Other into Being”

The Rev. Karen Armina

Part of caring for each other is allowing space for our stories to emerge. This morning, we’ll explore how trust, and with it, the possibility for real truth-telling, can come out of practices of listening and witnessing.

Check-in question: What ideas or inspirations are emerging from within you this spring?

Minister’s Availability and Office Hours in April

Rev. Karen is in the office on Wednesdays between noon and 2 pm. She can also be found at Café Zoma on 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
April 18 at 6 pm**

Join Rev. Karen for a time of stillness, song, and reflection.

Donations for Service Sunday

In preparation for Service Sunday, please purchase one or more of the items from the list in the next column and bring them before or on April 15 to Reeb. Questions? Contact Virginia Harrison at harrisonvirginia@rocketmail.com. Our youth requested that the congregation support **Briarpatch Youth Services**. The agency offers a broad array of services to run away, homeless, and at-risk youth. Every year, Briarpatch programs serve approximately 3,000 Madison area youth.

Briarpatch Donation Wish List

Clothing Items

New Men's and Women's Socks
New Plain Black or White T-Shirts
Men's and Women's Underwear (sizes Medium-XL)

Household Items

Laundry Detergent
Laundry Baskets
Blankets
Toilet Paper
Dish Cloths and Bath Towels
Plates
Pots, Pans
Silverware
Cups
Cleaning Supplies
Shower Liners with Hooks

Personal Hygiene Items

Hand/Body Soap
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene Products
Foot Powder
Chap Stick/Lip Balm
Packs of Facial Tissue
Hand Sanitizer

Service Sunday and Potluck April 15

This year we will be:

- Preparing the foundation for a new greenhouse at the Occupy Madison Village
- Organizing the Briarpatch clothing collection (the youth group will be leading this)
- Preparing signs for the 4/29 Interfaith March for Peace and Justice
- Litter pick up on our property, in Demetral Park, and possibly the new small park between 1st and 2nd street and the park next to the Occupy Village
- Possible projects at or for East High School and/ or the Emerson school garden, or our small garden

This will all be followed by a potluck – outdoors if weather permits. Please bring a dish to share.



Rummage Sale and Book Sale Saturday, April 14

The success of the sale depends on help from the Congregation! First, we need donations. We don't sell clothes, but we welcome all other household items, such as kitchen items, linens, arts and crafts, sporting, collectibles, tools, toys and games. We will need help setting up on Friday night beginning at 5 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm for selling and at 2 pm to clean up and take leftovers to St. Vinnies.

Sign up in the Reeb foyer For more information, contact Cindy Rudd at 608-469-5269 or clrudd47@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Building Remodel Taskforce (BRT) forming NOW!

The Board of Trustees has approved the design plans for remodeling our building for housing an immigrant in need of sanctuary. This remodel will include adding a shower area to the all-gender restroom and adding a sleeping room in the back of the building that is part of the multipurpose room currently used for chair and junk storage. The BRT will be a limited-term group that will work with Ed Kuharski our member-architect to choose a contractor for the needed work, help decide what projects/preparations can be done by Reeb volunteers, make decisions about fixtures and style items, and communicate with everyone about timeline and construction details as needed. We need a variety of people on this taskforce with different experience and expertise to represent our community during this process. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Karen or Jocie Luglio jocie.jruuc@gmail.com by Sunday, April 15.

2018-2019 Annual Budget Drive ABD Where are we going?

Thank you to everyone who joined us for ABD Cafe Conversations where we were able to have stewardship conversations about shared visions for James Reeb's future. We had about 20 folks participate. I'd also like to thank all who have completed and turned in their Financial Commitment Form. **We have over 60% of FCFs/Financial Commitment Forms returned to JR and our goal is 100%.**

Have you ever been asked to volunteer at JR? How are you able to help our community? Are you interested in helping with Stewardship? The Annual Budget Drive or Year Round Giving? Please let me, Kim Reain (608-698-5051) know.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped host our tables at the ABD Cafe Conversations: Charlie McNulty, Marla McFadden, John Mathis, Mary Wagner, Jan Gordon, Brian McNurlen, Beth Esser, Jocie Luglio, and Ellie Connolly. Thank you to Rev. Karen for her guidance and support. Thank you to Elizabeth for all the behind the scenes support. I'd also like to thank the 25th Anniversary group for their inspiration and art.

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.

We are thoughtful compassionate stewards who commit our money toward building community, working for justice, and nurturing spirit.

Phone calls begin the second week of April to ensure we have 100% return on all Financial Commitment Forms/ FCFs/ Pledges.

If you need ABD information, please access the three parts of the mailing by going here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ci275JOWFvj153EqGjAr7LF3kbpJyBrX6eJVm3gaLV4/edit>

Kim Reain, ABD Chair



25 Years: the story continues...

1993:

Summer services were held at Lake Edge Park and Rev. Jonalu Johnstone joined us in July. Services were moved indoors in the fall to the Tenney Nursery and Parent Center.

1994:

Art Hackett and Sharon Bogert were taking a walk and spotted a building "For Sale" on the corner of E. Johnson and 4th Street. Could a building that was a t-shirt factory become our religious home instead? Members voted. YES!

See photos in the foyer this month of our early members — including our children — as they pitched in to make the transformation happen!

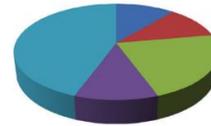
If you have photos of our community to share please contact Colleen O'Hara at: ohara1945@gmail.com.



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

Collective Memory Project JRUUC Stories

This congregation began 25 years ago to serve Madison's east side and beyond. Lots to celebrate; lots to remember. Beginning this month, we're hoping to share one minute (100 words) of JRUUC history each Sunday during the worship service. We envision mostly personal reminiscences of memorable moments along the way: nuggets or anecdotes that amuse, inform, or inspire. We can help edit for length if that's an issue, or provide a reader if you prefer not to read it yourself. We'll keep a copy for the archives. Do you have a JRUUC story you'd like to share? Contact Sarah Cook at sarah_cook@tds.net.



Financial Update

February 2018

Income \$13,441
Expenses \$15,115

Fiscal Year to Date

\$134,827
\$126,089

Yes, our financial trend continues: our income for the year exceeds our expenses, but not for the month because many folks paid off their pledges during the last calendar year. Another indication of the same thing is that our income for the year-to-date was \$11,319 ahead of our budgeted income if it arrived at a uniform rate, while our actual expenses are only \$125 ahead of the uniform-rate expenses. Expenses occur uniformly because most of them are in salaries (72%) and the building (14%: mortgage, utilities, water). The other main expenses are for UU activities and MOSES (4%) and administration (4%: telephone, copier).

The point is that our income will almost surely be behind our expenses from now on, and our budgeted shortfall of \$5,427 looks reasonable. I do not yet have results from our Annual Budget Drive, ending April 1, but Elizabeth tells me that a few new members and others have set their pledge increases to begin this month rather than waiting for our next congregation year to begin (July 1). Thank you! This will lower our shortfall a bit.

I'm hoping that this budget drive can provide enough funding to balance next year's budget and to continue to pay our staff and other activities as they should be. That calls for generosity, but money can buy happiness when it is donated to a great cause like Reeb.

Best wishes,
John Mathis, Treasurer



Membership

Welcome to our seven new members!



Pictured from left to right:
Tim Hansen, Beverly LeBlanc, Paul Jones (with little Ira), Lindsey Jones, Linda Alfinito, and Becky Beach



Devin Martin, caught in the act of signing the membership book.

Justice at JRUUC

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, April 9. All are welcome to participate the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email Barbara Whitney at salbwhitney@gmail.com.

Wisconsin UU State Action Network (WUUSAN) What is it, and should JRUUC join?

Over the last year, representatives from most of the UU congregations in WI have been meeting to form the Wisconsin UU State Action Network, or WUUSAN. Many other states have such networks, allowing the UU congregations to take collective action on issues of concern. For more info, see the website for MUUSJA, the very effective Minnesota Network: <http://www.muusja.org/>.

The Wisconsin group has recently developed a mission and vision statement (below) and by-laws and is now prepared for individual congregations to join. At this time we hope to have congregational dues relative to the number of members. These funds would help to hire a half-time coordinator. If JRUUC joins, we could initially cover dues through a Share-the-plate donation. If the Board of Trustees chooses to have a vote on JRUUC's membership in WUUSAN at our May congregational meeting, we will have several opportunities to learn more about it. In the meantime, if you have questions, see Kelly Kearns, Tim Cordon or Rev. Karen for more details.

Mission Statement: The Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network aims to build a statewide advocacy network employing the power of the collective voices of Unitarian Universalists in Wisconsin. We uphold the worth and dignity of every person while acting to further justice, equity, and compassion.

VISION STATEMENT

By 2022, the WI UU State Action Network will be a strong network of UUs and allies with a track record of:

- A. discussing social justice issues;
- B. collaborating on influencing public policy; and
- C. bringing about systemic change for those within our reach needing social justice in any form.



Administrator Thoughts

Good heavens! Last month I wrote about finally getting over a cold. Now, at the beginning of April, I'm recovering from a sinus infection, dehydration, and low oxygen. I missed a week of work, during which forty-some Financial Commitment Forms came streaming in and seven people signed the book. Congratulations to all of you!

March 1 was my tenth anniversary of working here in the office. I plan to celebrate by taking a vacation the third week in April.

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

*Looking for Heather Yonker's music column?
Here is at the end of this newsletter.*



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 is open, both for hotels and home hospitality.

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

INTERFAITH MARCH FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE Sunday, April 29

Gather at 3:15 pm, kick-off at 3:30 at the Catholic Multicultural Center at 1862 Beld Street.

Celebrate the diversity and lift up the unity of our faith communities, as we affirm religious freedom and condemn all acts of violence and harassment against people based on race, color, beliefs, or place of origin. To learn more, volunteer, or to RSVP, email: wifaithvoices4justice@gmail.com or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/603835763302816/permalink/603835963302796>

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:

April 16th – power hoarding;
fear of open conflict

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

May 21st – final reflections



MidWest Leadership School July 15-21

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) will be held from July 15 - 21 on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Please mark your calendars and spread the word!

There is an Adult School and a Youth School, and we are unique among UU leadership schools in that the schools are designed to do several activities together and safely interact.

MWLS creates opportunities to learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism, about yourself as an individual, and your role as a member of a congregation in a larger movement grounded in liberal theology. MWLS attendees come away from the experience with a better understanding of healthy organizational practices.

Is MWLS for you or someone you know? Anyone wishing to increase their leadership skills in a church context are encouraged to talk to us. Many incoming board members and presidents find this to be an excellent preparation for their service. Many youth enjoy being with like-minded peers, and the supportive environment enables them to help discern and activate their leadership passions.

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

Putting the Pieces Together

By [Amanda Poppei](#)

April 4, 2018

"Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so that each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry."

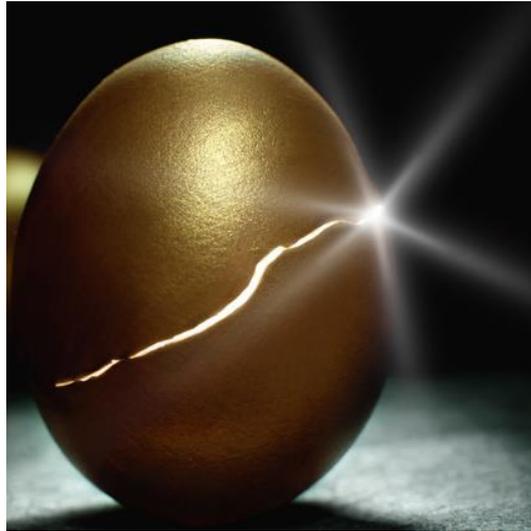
—Richard P. Feynman, physicist

I love jigsaw puzzles. I love that moment of satisfaction when you finally find the fourth corner piece, and the smooth feel of the completed puzzle under your hand. But what I love most is seeing the picture emerge. How many times have I stared at the original mess of pieces — jumbled, upside down, totally disorganized — and then, little by little, noticed the patterns? *Ah, these are all the boat because look, there's the same blue. These — which looked brown — must be the pier, and those tan pieces must be the tree trunk. And how could I have missed the texture on these green ones, which are clearly the leaves!*

Life has often felt to me like a jigsaw puzzle... or really, like the mess of pieces when you first dump out the box. When I've been faced with multiple decisions at the same time, it's felt as though I'm not sure which piece to fit in first. Little by little, I try piece after piece until one clicks. Then I can recognize the pieces that might fit around it, and eventually the pattern emerges — not just in the picture I'm creating, but in the mess of pieces I have still to pick up.

Of course, jigsaw puzzles are for weekends away and snowed-in vacations. The times when I've really struggled, it hasn't felt relaxing at all. Years ago, I was trying to decide whether to leave town for a school that was the right fit, or stay in town for a new partner who I thought might be The One. Then again, he might not be. I wasn't at all sure what the picture would look like in either scenario, but it felt like a decision that would change the course of my life. (It was, actually.) For weeks, I agonized over making the right decision: *if only I could go twenty years in the future, I thought, to see how each choice turned out. If only I knew my choice were the right one.*

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/putting-pieces-together>



source:<http://thecontentwrangler.com/2011/01/15/the-emergence-of-intelligent-content/#>

Crack Up! In Music at JRUUC

Come out, come out, wherever you are! You are a golden egg! Let's break wide open. Reach for the light. It's springtime! During April here at James Reeb we are focused on Emergence and I am looking forward to you sharing your "True Colors" and hearing your joyful songs of "Alleluia!" The choir is celebrating many musical achievements and welcoming the "new" voice and commitment of **Bev Buhr**. Thank you!

Please don't hesitate to contact me at music@jruuc.org if you would like to try singing with us. Singing with the JRUUC choir IS everything it's **cracked up** to be! Rehearsals are Thursday nights from 6:45-8:15 and Sunday mornings prior to service on days that the full choir sings.

If you are not inclined toward singing but would like to support the music in other ways, for Service Sunday, I am **seeking volunteers** to complete the re-filing and organizational efforts with our printed music in the staff room. We are about one-third of the way through the collection filing and will still need to generate a new electronic list. If you are interested in helping with this project, please let me know. I would be humbly grateful. As an incentive, I will take a musical request from you for the coming season or give you a personal lesson in reading hymns!

April 1, we were grateful for guest **Annemarie Newman**, who sings with the Madison Symphony Chorus and the Madison Festival Choir. She is also a regular practitioner of Buddhist Chant, Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō (homage to the true dharma of the Lotus Sutra). I was impressed by her warmth and presence.

Our hymn of the month #1050, "Jazz Alleluia," is in 5/8 meter – yes that means five beats per measure! A tiny challenge not to veer over into 6/8, but the lyric is easy and joyful!

April 22, we will sing "Round for Peace" and praise the earth cycles in "Kore Evohe." In Greek mythology, Kore is the goddess of the spring.

*Kore, bright and wild
Summer's blessed child
Spring incarnate and joy in bloom
Corn is reaching high
Fledgelings test the sky
Life uprising from winter's tomb Kore Evohe!*

*Kore walks in Summer's garden
Kore dances in the rain
All around her the earth astounds*

*With how life abounds
In each leaf and root
Song they sing to her
Fruit they bring to her
Gifts unnumbered on every shoot Kore Evohe!*

Below I've provided you links of my favorite picks from the Soul Matters Resources.

If none of this music, nor word makes you feel good, then please reach out for help!

My intentions are a mindset of lightness this month.

“Black as Night,” Nahko and Medicine for the People

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkGBLLjAXEA&list=RDm3rLLALWYyk&index=9>

“I believe in the good things comin', comin', comin' comin'

Out of darkness, lion heart pumpin', pumpin', pumpin' pumpin'

Into white light, all things runnin', runnin', runnin' runnin'

Who have I been, who am I becomin'? 'comin', 'comin', 'comin', 'comin' ...”

“Follow The Sun,” Xavier Rudd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E1bNmyPWww&list=RDm3rLLALWYyk&index=11> “Tomorrow is a new day for everyone, Brand new moon, brand new sun

“Rise Up” by BiFrost Arts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2Kft4bfsSk>

“Revolution,” John Butler Trio

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnwWl_sMrwA&feature=youtu.be

“Roll Away The Stone,” Kelly Joe Phelps https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK_4Srp9KAQ

“Feeling Good,” Nina Simone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5Y11hwjMNs>

“Die Slowly” (Lentamente Muore) Pablo Neruda

Full poem here: <http://eleternoretorno.blogspot.com/2005/06/pablo-neruda-die-slowly.html>

“Last Night as I Was Sleeping,” Antonio Machado

Video meditation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNfSKMINquE>

Here's a brief personal story: I was going through all of the right motions recently, while helping a music composition student with her first piece. I shifted the time signature, tweaked a rhythm, added some chords and turned to ask, “Is this what you meant?” Unexpectedly, the music moved her to completely break down into tears and she cracked wide open, which in turn cracked me wide open. In that moment we were blessed. All barriers and intrusions dissolved. Pure life, pouring out all over the place. Keep it real people, try to keep it real.

Heather Yonker, Music Director



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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.