

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 27, Number 6 — June 2018

June Theme: What does it mean to be a people of blessing?

“To bless something or someone is to invoke its wholeness, to help remind the person or thing you are blessing of its essence, its sacredness, its beauty, and to help remind yourself of that, too.” -- Rev. Elea Kemler

Connections

Blessing is such a “religious” word! It often brings to my mind the church of my childhood – a cross and a perpetually burning candle, a solemn pastor in formal robes, and a feeling that I better be deserving of the blessing that has been bestowed upon me through the redemptive act of Jesus’ crucifixion. Through my conversion to Unitarian Universalism, I’ve come to understand the idea of blessing very differently – we are blessed not because of the suffering and death of one child of god, but because of the love that surrounds us every minute of our lives. We are blessed by the presence of the many gifts around us, not the least of which is the company of other humans on our life journey. And we bless those gifts in return, with our attention and acknowledgement. So blessing is still a religious word, when we consider the origins of the word religion – the Latin “religare,” or “to bind.” We participate in the act of binding with each other and the whole we make together when we offer or receive blessings.

So I’ve learned to think of blessings as things I get to do. I get to notice beauty when I go for my morning walk. I get to feel my muscles move over my bones when I work out. I get to breathe, to feel, to sing, to dance. I also think of blessings as things I get to share, or have shared with me. I get to teach and learn, to pray, to witness, to protest, to share ideas, to laugh and cry and rage and hold. We are blessed, and we bless each other, by being here together, by noticing each other and what surrounds us, and by working to bring peace and justice to our world

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- 6/3 “Gather and Release”**
The Revs. Karen Armina and Jonalu Johnstone
We are blessings to each other, and our blessings move as our relationships do. In this morning’s multigenerational service, we’ll share a flower communion as a symbol of the gifts we bring and receive, we’ll thank our children’s RE teachers, we’ll release Carin Bringelson to her internship – and the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone will tell us a story about Reeb’s early days. **Please bring a flower!**
- 6/10 “Blessings of Ordinary Life”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
Unitarian Universalists tend not to say a lot of blessings – instead, we point to them. This morning, we’ll explore what it can look and feel like to help each other notice what has already been given to us.
- 6/17 “The Longest Day”**
The Rev. Karen Armina and
This week, our Pagan cousins will celebrate the Summer Solstice – the peak of the power of the Sun. This morning, we’ll take some time to reflect on the blessings of the longest day of the year.
- 6/24 “Webs and Nets”**
Sarah Cook
Entanglement in community can hold us in loving connection or obscure the authentic self under a jumble of expectations, roles, and responsibilities.

Check-in question: What is your favorite thing to do, and when is the last time you got to do it?

Minister's Availability and Office Hours in June

Rev. Karen will hold office hours through June 13 before leaving town for our General Assembly June 18-25. She'll be back in the office June 27-July 1, then will be away on vacation and study leave for the month of July. Until then, she 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 is on hiatus.

Vespers services will resume in September, after a summer break.



Sunday, June 3

Special 25th Anniversary Service and Potluck Picnic

JRUUC held its first worship service as a congregation June 6, 1993. We didn't have a building to call our home at that point, so folks gathered each Sunday that summer at Lake Edge Park in Madison to worship.

To celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we will gather Sunday, June 3 in our Sanctuary for a special service, then head to Lake Edge Park (511 Park Ct, Madison, WI 53716) for a potluck picnic.

All are welcome, and we encourage everyone to invite family and friends, especially those with any connection to JRUUC in the past or present.

To learn more about JRUUC History, check out the rotating display in the foyer and listen for stories from the Collective Memory Project featured in each Sunday service this year.

Please contact Stephani Pescitelli at stephanipescitelli51@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.



In 1993, the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone came to JRUUC to serve as our full-time extension minister.

25 Years: the story continues...

A big step for a new congregation is hiring a minister.

In 1993, First Unitarian Society and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) provided a subsidy, phased out over five years, to help pay a full-time extension minister, the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone. When Johnstone's five-year subsidized extension ministry ended in 1998, the congregation voted enthusiastically to call her as JRUUC's settled minister.

Congregations experience many changes including the changing of ministers. Rev. Johnstone resigned at the end of 1999 due to personal reasons. We hired an interim minister and a search committee was formed to find a new minister.

Learn more about the ministerial history of the congregation this month. See photos of our past ministers and interim ministers. We also have photos of members who went on to become ministers themselves and others who are currently studying ministry.

If you have photos of our community to share please contact Colleen O'Hara: ohara1945@gmail.com. To read more of our history or view the timeline visit <https://www.jruuc.org/about-us/history-jruuc>

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



President's Column

What an amazing church year it has been! We've overcome challenges, been inspired, and cried a lot, usually in front of the entire congregation. There are a lot of people in groups to thank, but in particular **I want to thank Jocie Luglio** for everything she's done this year. She's been the scheduler-in-chief. She's been our building guru, both in planning mode and in hands-on mode. She's been a calm voice of reason and has modelled amazing balance and boundary setting. Please, in the coming year, I urge you to ask Jocie how you can help. She'll need all of our help if only because she won't have the luxury of having Jocie Luglio as her President-Elect.

It hard to believe that after 25 years of JRUUC, the party is still just getting started! As I conclude my stint as board member, I'm filled with gratitude for all that JRUUC has given me, and with hope and excitement for all of the potential that is still to be unleashed. We are an amazing presence in the lives of our members and friends, in our Madison community and in the world. But we can touch more lives! We can be more radically welcoming! We can change the world with our love! JRUUC is still just a baby in this world, and I can't wait to see what it will be 25 years from now.

The final thing I want to say as board president is that serving on the board has been far more reward than sacrifice. Being a board member and president hasn't been, for me, a way of "giving back" to JRUUC. One of JRUUC's many gifts in my life has been to demonstrate that in this beloved community there are no transactions of sacrifice for reward. To give of my time is to receive the gift of living the JRUUC mission. I'm looking forward to deepening my involvement some of JRUUC's other ministries, though I will admit that I'll do a little dance after I finish my last agenda! Thanks everyone for your enthusiasm, patience, and generosity of spirit the past four years.

Charlie McNulty, out-going President



Financial Update

April 2018

Income \$11,444
Expenses \$14,441

Fiscal Year to Date

\$159,293
\$159,787

This month's April 30 Treasurer's Report was peculiar because it did not include the April automatic pledge payments. On the other hand, we received another lovely, generous donation to our Endowment Fund of \$5,000. The total contributions to the Endowment Fund have totaled an amazing \$45,000 since it was started in 2013. The fund will grow without withdrawals until it exceeds the amount of our operating budget, just adopted as \$194,345 for the 2018-19 congregation year.

Our cash assets were a very satisfying \$43,973 larger than our liabilities (mainly withholding taxes that we will pay to the federal and state governments). However, we expect a deficit for this 2017-18 congregation year of perhaps \$6,000 (with considerable uncertainty), and on May 20 we passed a 2018-19 budget with a deficit of \$6,745.

From these facts I conclude that:

- a) our congregation is very generous regarding donating to the Endowment Fund, with very little publicity
- b) we can continue operating on deficit budgets for a long time before we deplete our cash seriously
- c) We really do have a long-term financial problem.

We are at least \$10,000 per year short of paying reasonable staff salary increases and reaching our fair share contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Association and our UU MidAmerica Region. The Board of Trustees has found it very painful to fall short of these goals while adopting two consecutive deficit budgets.

Eventually we must get our annual income to exceed our expenses. The Board of Trustees plans to study how to increase our income outside of congregational donations, probably through increasing rental income. Fortunately, we do have some time to bring this about.

Best wishes, John Mathis, Treasurer

Membership



What's Summer without a little baseball? Mark your calendar for an evening at the Duck Pond! Thursday, August 2 at 7:05 pm James Reeb UU Members, Friends, and Families have seats reserved at the Duck Pond to watch the Mallards play! For just \$10 you'll get a game, a FREE mallard's cap, and the chance to cheer on the home team with some of the best folks around! Put it on your calendar today, and watch for a sign-up sheet and collection as the date approaches. Or get your tickets online by following these steps:



1. Go to <http://www.Mallardsbaseball.com>
2. Click Buy Tickets on right side of the screen
3. In Promotions Box on the right side of the screen, enter Promo Code: JRUU
4. Choose your preferred seats on the Map
5. Click Buy Tickets – online tickets are \$11.50 each

Don't miss out on this (almost) annual event brought to you by your Membership Committee.

PS: We have a fall camp-out scheduled October 6-7 at Lake Farm Park... more on that later!

Librarians Needed!

Elsbeth Thexton Eric Library

Our JRUC library is in need of some organization and care. We have lots of resources on a wide range of topics: Unitarian Universalism and other world religions, theology and spiritual practice, race studies and queer studies and gender studies, societal issues, parenting, education, works for children, and more. We'd like a couple of book-loving humans to take charge of sorting them and making them more visible and available to our congregation. Please contact Rev. Karen if you're interested in this: revkaren@jruc.org.

Justice at JRUC

The Peace, Justice, & Sustainability Group (PJS)

This month, our meeting will be Monday, June 11. All are welcome to participate the second Monday of each month at 7 pm. Questions? Email Barbara Whitney at salbwhitney@gmail.com.



Everyone deserves healthy food!

Sign up now for JUNE 9 11:45 am to 1 pm

The Community Action Coalition of WI believes “no good source of food should go to waste, and no person should go hungry tonight.” Since its inception in 1992, CAC Gleaners, originally known as Wisconsin Harvest, has safely recovered perfectly good food from grocers, restaurants, bakeries, and caterers. This food would have otherwise gone to waste in landfills. CAC Gleaners distributes collected food to people in need through shelters, community centers, food pantries, senior centers, soup kitchens, and low-income apartment complexes at no cost. CAC Gleaners distributes over 1 million pounds of use-able food annually that otherwise would have been thrown away to approximately 100 distribution sites throughout our area.

For many years, JRUC has participated in the Community Action Coalition's Farmers Market Collection at the Saturday Dane County Farmers Market on the capitol square. We meet at noon at the white CAC truck on the East Washington side of the capitol building, and collect left-over food or plants for about 60-90 minutes. The food is then distributed to local food pantries and shelters for meals. It is rewarding and fun! We need 8-12 people each Saturday; friends and kids are all welcome to help. **This year our dates are JUNE 9, August 25, and a fall date to be determined.**

Sign up online: CAC Doodle Poll

<https://doodle.com/poll/c4yt8iby3s9qebw6>

or contact Jocie Luglio at jocie.jruc@gmail.com.



The Promise & Practice of Our Faith Campaign

Imagine what our faith would look like if we *upheld* and *centered* the **history**, the **perspectives**, the **voices**, and the **leadership** of Black UUs...

The UUA launched **The Promise and the Practice of our Faith** following our June 2017 General Assembly. It is a historic commitment to address our denomination's history of upholding white supremacy, and all Unitarian Universalists are invited to be part of it through:

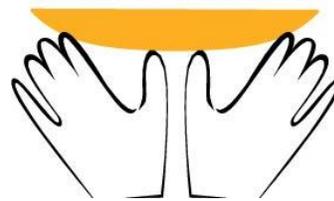
- 1) Holding at least one worship service around the campaign's themes,
- 2) Financial support,
- 3) Making a long-term commitment to dismantling white supremacy, racism, and oppression within our congregations, our Association, and beyond.

In the late 1960s, Unitarian Universalism was asked to take steps to address the silencing and marginalization of Black Unitarian Universalists. Though there was an initial affirmation of this commitment at the time, the commitment went unfulfilled and the promise was broken. Many Black UUs left our faith, and the loss of their voices was a huge impact. In October 2016, the UUA Board of Trustees made a bold \$5.3 million commitment to support ministry to Black-identified Unitarian Universalists. The Board's decision reflects an understanding that Unitarian Universalism has benefitted from the system of white supremacy that advantages white people and white institutions. See here (<https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice/frequently-asked-questions>) for more information.

Our JRUUC Board of Trustees has voted to pledge to this campaign as a congregation, and our contributions will be matched if we pledge the equivalent of \$10 per member. More information may also be found in the foyer, along with pledge forms, on the table under James Reeb's picture.

Please make your pledge by Sunday, June 10.

Share the Plate



Recent Share the Plate Totals

QuARE Endowment Fund	\$187.63
Safe Haven	\$166.50

Sanctuary Leadership Team Update

In November 2017, our congregation voted to offer sanctuary to an immigrant facing deportation. In order to accommodate privacy and comfort of someone who may stay with us in the future we need to do some renovations on our building, adding a shower to the gender neutral bathroom and converting part of the multipurpose room to a private sleeping space. The Sanctuary Leadership Team has been busy the past few months laying the groundwork for raising funds for this construction project. We will be launching a crowdsource funding campaign in early June through Faithify, a Unitarian Universalist crowdfunding site. You can learn more about Faithify at <https://faithify.org/>.

In addition to the crowdfunding project we are exploring other means of fundraising. Plymouth United Church of Christ, a supporting congregation member of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition located on the east side, has committed to partner with us in our fundraising efforts. They are writing a UCC grant on our behalf and we are planning several benefit concerts with their help for later this summer and fall. We are continuing to research other grants that might be available to help us make this renovation a reality. If you have (or know anyone who has) experience researching grants and would be willing to help our Team please be in touch.

Thank you,
Jeanne Lydon, Sanctuary Leadership Team
jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com 608-957-9320



June Music Notes

May was a whirlwind this year, but a blessed month of marvelous music at JRUUC – a Capella quartet, trio with Molly Mitchell on guitar, Persian music with guests from Iran, the new piece “Become the Sky,” the courage of choir members stepping up to try solos and duets, and Becca Everett taking the reins for music leadership for my birthday off. Whew! I hope you didn’t miss a note because it has been spectacular.



June’s theme is **blessing**, and this choir is exactly that! Let me thank all of you for the commitment, positive energy, practice, smiles, patience, fun, laughter, sharing, and music making! We will celebrate with a choir retreat Saturday June 2, beginning at 9 am and ending at approximately 2 pm. Lunch will be provided. Any current or previous choir members may attend and participate. Please send me a confirmation so I know how many people to prepare for!

If you are interested in providing some special music over the summer while the choir is on hiatus, please contact me at music@jruuc.org. Vocal, instrumental, across genres, let me know. We would be happy to receive you!

Don’t miss Flower Communion June 3, when we will present “The Lord Bless You and Keep You,” as well as a special “Alleluia Amen” honoring the hours, days, months, and years of beautiful work that Carin Bringelson has shared here at JRUUC.

Amen!

Heather Yonker, Music Director, JRUUC



Administrator Thoughts

The bud
stands for all things,
even for those things that don't flower,
for everything flowers, from within,
of self-blessing;
though sometimes it is necessary
to reteach a thing its loveliness,
to put a hand on the brow
of the flower
and retell it in words and in touch
it is beautiful
until it flowers again from within,
of self-blessing.

-- Galway Kinnell, adapted

The above poem has been a favorite for about fifteen years ago. I’ve recited it in covenant groups and at other gatherings of UUs. I used to have it memorized because of its truth – occasionally, we need to be reminded of our inherent worth, our gifts, our blessings, by someone else in order to flourish.

Because our theme is Blessing, I Googled the author’s name and “everything flowers” to discover that the above is only the first part of a poem called “Saint Francis and the Sow”! Part two provides details of Saint Francis putting “his hand on the creased forehead of the sow” and helping her to remember “the long, perfect loveliness of sow.”

Read the entire poem here if you like:
http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/g_l/kinnell/online.htm

Why would a pig need to re-learn its inherent worth and what does that have to do with us?

According to Kinnell, this particular sow is lying on her side, feeding fourteen piglets. As the fourteen are nourished so they can thrive and grow, the sow is depleted. I don't personally know anyone with fourteen children, but lots of us are depleted by current events, especially injustice that gets worse day by day. The Rev. Craig Schwallenberg (former member of First Unitarian of Madison) recently wrote "many of us are dealing with a low-grade, constant level of stress. We feel unsettled. Our foundations feel like they are shifting and sinking beneath us."

What better time to remember and celebrate blessings – people and things conducive to happiness – than June? Peonies are blooming all over town, including here at JRUC, school is almost out, and mosquito repellent is on sale at Community Pharmacy! One of my favorite things to do is dance to live music outdoors at parks within walking distance of my house. ☺ This summer, the newly-named Milton McPike Park will be the site of a number of concerts. Anticipating celebrating at a park named for the greatest leader of our neighborhood high school fills me with happiness.

I must also mention a beautiful anthem the UU chorus I'm in has sung several times. Called "The Blessing," it features the line, "**I bless you, and you bless me, too.**" Unfortunately, I couldn't locate a choral version on Youtube, but take a listen to a solo version by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYZ9uB987Uk>

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



2018-19 Annual Budget Drive Where are we going?

Thanks to everyone who has completed and turned in their Financial Commitment Form. We had **87%** of FCFs/Financial Commitment Forms returned (our goal was 100% return). If you would like to make a pledge, please contact office@jruc.org.

86 pledgers/pledging families pledged \$157,488
for our 2018-19 congregation year

Jane Aldrich

Linda Alfinito

Mary Anglim

Anonymous (several pledgers)

Karen Armina

Megan Barry-Luglio & Jocie Luglio

Mary Wagner & David Barton

Rebecca Beach

Bryan Benwitz

Roger Boissonnas

Tom Boswell

Dorothy & William Breisch

Bev Buhr & Carin Bringelson

Adria Brooks

Laurie Buchholz

Julia Cechvala

Ellen Connolly

Sarah Cook

Timothy Cordon

Martha Crawford

Rebecca Cuningham

Steven & Sarah Elmore

Doug Erickson

Beth Esser & Derek Peterson

Rebecca Everett

Carol Falk

Autumn Fell

Matt Finesilver

Brian Gehring

Christine Glad

Glen & Jan Gordon

Cindy Rudd & Peggy Haack

Sarah Hallas & Laura Yin

Peter Haney

Suzanne Harp

Virginia Harrison

Rand Hill

Laura Jasiczek
Barbara Jenkin
Kirsten Johnson
Sabe Jones
Lindsey & Paul Jones
Kelly Kearns & Tom McClintock
Joan & Thomas Kemble
Jeanne Koranda
Ed Kuharski & Liz Green
Beverly LeBlanc & Tim Hansen
Thomas Lund
Mark & Jeanne Lydon
Devin Martin
Carol & John Mathis
Craig McComb & Leila Pine
Marla McFadden
Charles McNulty & Anna Rue
Brian McNurlen
Molly Mitchell & Laura Zimmerman
Colleen O'Hara
Larry Orr
Jeri Parrott
Terri Pepper & Rachel Avery
Sandy Person
Stephani Pescitelli
Shaili Pfeiffer
James Phillips
Susan Cook & Roger Pierson
Susan Podebradsky
Elaine Pridgen
Laura Ragland
Kim & Dan Reain
Laura Reger
Mary & Tom Richards
Ian W. Riddell
Heike Saynisch
Mary Schaper
Ginny Scholtz
Jean Skinner
Ruth Flanagan & Andy Soth
Chelsea & Ian Stapleton Cordasco
Betsy Swenson
Arthur Thexton
Betsy Tuttle
Adam Tyksinski
Dale Watterson
Amanda Werhane

Barbara Whitney & Marilyn Meade
James & Pamela Younger
Cynthia Zick

Our Beloved Community is deeply grateful to all the folks who were willing and able to give to JRUUC and completed their FCFs/Financial Commitment Forms.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees: Charlie McNulty, Jan Gordon, Sarah Hallas, Beth Esser, Jocie Luglio, and John Mathis. Thank you to Rev. Karen for her guidance and support. Thank you to Elizabeth for all the behind the scenes support. Everything done with this year's ABD was not possible without the help of the Stewardship Team – Brian McNurlen and Ellie Connolly.

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.

And thank you to Kim Reain for her hard work!



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**.

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

Going to General Assembly?

We have been asked to prepare for GA by doing a bit of reading and thinking beforehand. Go to:

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

General Assembly Orientation Webinar

Wednesday, June 13, 7 to 8:30 pm Madison time

Onsite attendees will have hundreds of opportunities to connect and learn -- it is a lot to take in even if you've attended before. You can learn to take a small sip from the General Assembly firehose by attending an online GA Orientation session June 13.

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/webinars/webinar-general-assembly-orientation>

What if I'm Not Going to GA?

Much of General Assembly will be webcast live beginning June 20 at 7 pm and going through June 24 at about 4:30 pm.

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

Here are just a few highlights:

Welcoming Celebration and General Session I

Wednesday, June 20, 7 – 8:30 pm

GA officially begins with a joyful, worshipful opening celebration with inspirational music and speakers. The opening celebration sets the tone for the days ahead and will include a procession of banners from hundreds of UU congregations and organizations. We will also gavel in the General Assembly.

Service of the Living Tradition

Thursday, June 2, 7 – 8:30 pm

Led by the Ministry and Professional Leadership Staff Group, this service honors fellowshiped and credentialed religious leaders; remembering those who have died, recognizing those who have completed active service, and welcoming those who have received fellowship or credentialed status in the past year. Be sure to watch our own Rev. Karen Armina be publicly acknowledged for having achieved Final Fellowship with the UUA!

Synergy Bridging Worship

Friday, June 22, 4 – 5:30 pm

This is a transformative multigenerational worship. Come be inspired and illuminated at a celebration of treasured worship elements, rites of passage and brilliant contemporary musical performances.

Ware Lecture by Brittany Packnett

Saturday, June 23, 7:30 – 8:30 pm

The UUA President, in consultation with the General Assembly Planning Committee, invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly. Learn more about Ms. Packnett here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>

Sunday Morning Worship

June 24, 9 – 10:30 am

Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. UUA President the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray will deliver the sermon and the GA Choir will sing.



Be A Blessing

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/be-blessing>

By S.J. Butler, May 30, 2018

"The thing to do, it seems to me, is to prepare yourself so you can be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud. Somebody who may not look like you. May not call God the same name you call God — if they call God at all. I may not dance your dances or speak your language. But be a blessing to somebody."

—Maya Angelou

Look up. Look around. I'd gotten in the habit of keeping my head down when running errands, stuck in my own dark cloud, closed off, and hardly noticing where I was or who was around me.

On this day, I decided to greet the world differently.

I stopped for gas and started filling up when I noticed a man several rows down. His car was old and packed with junk — so what? He had old work clothes on and looked to be in his 20s — again, so what? All I did was look at him. Although there were other people around, he came over to me, said hello, and tried to explain something to me in half-English, half-Spanish.

I finally understood that he had to get somewhere and needed directions. No problem — except I didn't speak Spanish.

He pulled out his cell phone, punched in a number, and handed me his phone.

“Hello?” I said.

The voice on the other end told me that her son had just driven straight through from another state, had only forty-five minutes to get to a job in another town, and didn't know which direction to go. Did I have any kids? she asked.

I have sons, too. Mom to mom, I explained to her where he should go, she looked it up on Google maps, and together we came up with the best plan to avoid rush hour traffic and get him out to his job without a minute to spare.

I gave the phone back to the young man. His mother gave him directions in Spanish while I pointed in the right direction. Then he handed the phone back to me.

“What's your name?” his mother asked. She said she wanted to thank me by name for helping her son.

I'm sure the mother and son from Texas have forgotten about this day, long ago, but the named blessing I gratefully accepted that day has long stayed with me, a reminder of the simple act of looking up with an open heart.

Prayer

May you give and receive the blessings of kindness. May the compassion you show another be a light in your life, as well.

Life is full of hard edges and complicated choices. UUA Braver/Wiser gives you a weekly message of courage and compassion for life as it is. Every Wednesday we deliver an original written reflection by a contemporary religious leader, and brief prayer, grounded in Unitarian Universalism. Join the Braver/Wiser community and sign up today!

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/subscribe>



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- ❖ *East Breeze* is published monthly by James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your mailing address, contact the newsletter editor (Elizabeth).
- ❖ Newsletter submissions may be emailed to office@jruuc.org. The **deadline for submissions** is the 20th of the month at 5 pm. Please limit articles to 200 words. Please be careful not to include sensitive information.
- ❖ Read *East Breeze* online at www.jruuc.org.

Religious Education (RE) & Childcare: Childcare & Children's RE are available most worship services.

*Karen Armina takes Mondays off and reserves Fridays for sermon-writing.