

EAST BREEZE



Newsletter of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Madison, Wisconsin
Volume 28, Number 1 — January 2019

January theme: What does it mean to be a people of possibility?

“Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.” -- Jelaluddin Rumi

Connections

Of all our themes this year, possibility might be the most central to our faith. It has distinguished us UUs from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential. When many were preaching that this world was fallen and we should look to the hope of an afterlife, we found ourselves embracing the possibility of heaven on earth. Theologically, we were the people who believed that God hadn't given up on any of us and so we shouldn't give up on each other or this world. Psychologically, it's led to us being a people of “why not?” Why not give people another chance? Why not fight what seems a losing battle? Why not risk a little failure?

Here at Reeb, it's a wonderful time to be reflecting on what it means to be a people of possibility! Not only do we have a fresh new year ahead of us - we'll have cottage meetings this month to refine our new mission statement, and we will get to explore how we engage in faith formation. Our faith tradition's encouragement - to see our time on earth as the heaven we make, to keep encouraging each other through challenge, to risk a little failure - will serve us well as we work together to discern these things.

Of course, not all of us are able to trust in possibility in this moment. Maybe, in addition to the questions of possibility I posed above, we should also be asking “Who's beside you?” and “Who are you bringing along?” After all, no one makes it down the road of possibility alone. And maybe that's the real message of this month: remembering that “Why not?” is something we all have to say together.

In faith and love, Karen

10 AM Sunday Services

- 1/6 “The Beckoning Flame”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
This first Sunday of the New Year, we gather in multigenerational community to reflect on the possibilities we are called toward. This is our annual Fire Communion service, in which we seal our intentions in the ritual of the burning bowl.
- 1/13 “The Method Is the Message”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
Faith formation – the development of what we believe and how we express it in our lives – is one of the central tasks of religious education. This morning, we'll begin an exploration of where and how faith formation happens in our community.
- 1/20 “The Risk in Possibility”**
The Rev. Karen Armina
Sometimes it's exhilarating, and sometimes it's frightening, to be part of a religion that embraces change, that asks us to risk opening to new possibilities. This is how we build the muscles we need to make change in the world. On this MLK Sunday, we'll gather in multigenerational community to explore stories of dreaming big, and reflect on the risk inherent in them.
- 1/27 “Dreaming of the Possibility of Justice”**
Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Group
The PJS reflect on how their faith calls them to do justice work.

Wednesday Evening Vespers Service Cancelled for January

There will be no Wednesday evening Vespers Service this month. Join Rev. Karen in February.

Check-in question: What has being part of this congregation taught you about possibility?



Minister's Office Hours in January

Rev. Karen is in the office at JRUUC Thursdays from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm. She can also be found at Café Brittolli (formerly Café Zoma) Tuesdays between 1:30 and 3:30. 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!

Rev. Karen will be away on a mini-sabbatical January 21 through February 17. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, February 19. Please contact Marla McFadden (608-279-0785) or Cindy Rudd (608-469-5269) if you have a pastoral emergency during this time, and they will contact the minister on call.

Sabbatical News from Rev. Karen

I'm looking forward to the mini-sabbatical I have planned for January 21 through February 17. I plan to spend this time of rest and renewal rejuvenating some of my spiritual practices, spending time with Catherine and my new partner Kent, and returning to Tucson, Arizona. I will walk, write, pray, sing, practice yoga, and find out what I can learn from the desert.

While I'm gone, I will be completely away from my phone and email. Marla McFadden and Cindy Rudd will take pastoral care emergency calls and reach out to the Rev. Kelly Crocker at First Unitarian Society if they need a minister for any situation that arises. Please contact Colleen O'Hara, 608-332-

4478 or ohara1945@gmail.com, if we need to send a card to anyone. The Worship Team and I have planned for services that will engage you deeply, and Rachel Avery, rlave@hotmail.com, will oversee all aspects of worship. Planning for our children's RE program has happened as well; I will have supplied the curriculum for the time I'm away, and Virginia Harrison, 608-669-2822, can answer any questions about scheduling and current programming. The Membership Team will continue to greet and engage our visitors – and as always, they and **I appreciate the culture of welcome that all of you create on Sunday mornings.** I'm grateful to all these folks for ensuring that everything will run smoothly while I'm away.

My February column in this space will share a bit about how I spent my time, and how it will inform my ministry through the rest of this year.



President's Column

What does the Board of Trustees do? Part 2

In October I wrote about how the BOT follows a model called “policy governance” laid out by a UU minister named Dan Hotchkiss. We govern by **partnership**, through **conversation** and with written **policies**. Governance and ministry comprise the two overlapping parts of congregational life. In years' past, the board dealt with an enormous amount of congregational detail. For example, if the membership team wanted to purchase a new coffeemaker, they used to bring the request to the board for discussion and approval.

One of the board's purposes is to hold the vision for the congregation. It is hard to see the big picture vision while dealing with minute details. So, how do we purchase a new coffeemaker if we need one? We have been moving towards a system of governance and ministry in which authority, guidance, and accountability are transparent and hopefully well understood for all aspects of congregational life.

Around five -six years ago, the JRUUC board started having teams and committees draft charge documents for the work they were responsible for. The board worked collaboratively to give AUTHORITY to each group to do their work. Membership was given the authority to provide hospitality to members, potential members and guests, among other tasks. Many groups are also given a budget line. Both the charge, which lays out what the group is supposed to do, and the budgeted funds for that group give GUIDANCE about how the team or committee operates. The membership committee has a budget and if we need a new coffee maker, that group knows they can spend their budget on one. In fact, they have the ACCOUNTABILITY to follow through on their charge and do so. We expect the membership committee to provide warm beverages after service as part of hospitality. In fact, the board generally refuses to take appeals for proper decision-making and budget spending except in extreme circumstances. We also have an overspend policy in case a committee needs to spend more than they are allocated in a year. So, don't come to the board if you think we need a new coffee maker. Talk to the membership team.

After the initial writing of charges, ministry teams are accountable to the minister and Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM). Governance Committees are accountable to the board. The Board/Governance committees are: Finance, Operating Budget committee, Nominating Committee, Endowment Committee, Building (BOG, maintenance, etc.), and special task forces or short term groups as needed. Ministry is "everything else" including these teams: Worship, Music, RE (youth and adult), PJS/social justice, Membership, Library, Kitchen, FUNdraising, Sanctuary Leadership, and other groups as needed.

All of this means that the ministry teams and governance committees actually get to do the work they were created to do and the board of trustees gets to lead our congregation to where we dream to be.

It's actually pretty cool.

Peace,
Jocie

P.S. our coffee maker has been running much better since it was descaled.



Soup & Grilled Cheese Fundraising Lunch in Conjunction with Mission 25.1's Review of the First Draft of JRUUC Mission Statement Sunday, January 13

Please join members and friends of Reeb for good food and Conversation at an after-service meal.

Interested in providing soup?
Please contact Cindy Rudd
at 608-469-5269
or clrudd47@gmail.com.

Financial Update

	November 2018	Year to date
Income	\$16,272	\$78,562
Expenses	\$14,771	\$76,047

Our income was above our expenses for November, mostly due to a successful Reeb Rave. In fact, as of December 21, Reeb Rave's income total is \$6,317, which is above what was budgeted. Many thanks to Tom McClintock, Kelly Kearns, and all the people who helped with Reeb Rave, including those who already paid for their auction items!

Elizabeth Barrett

Mission Statement Musings

Background

October 20, 2018, JRUUC members gathered in a day-long workshop called "Mission 25.1." The 25.1 name recognizes that this is our 25th anniversary at JRUUC and our current mission statement has been in existence since our founding. More information about the workshop is available below. There was also a

"Mission 25.1." speed session November 4, with time for verbal and written feedback.

First Draft

Ideas that were gathered at the workshop and the speed sessions have been written into a first draft of a new mission statement by the Refining Team, Colleen O'Hara and Sarah Cook. Here it is:

*We are a faith community rooted in
Unitarian Universalist principles,
answering the call of love
to transform ourselves and
grow justice in our world.*

Next up - Cottage Meetings

It is now time to invite the congregation's feedback on the first draft. **This means you!** Whether or not you attended the workshop, but especially if you didn't, **you are invited to sign up for a cottage meeting.** At these meetings, the first draft will be presented and feedback gathered. This is an opportunity to participate in the creation of our new mission statement!

- 1. Tuesday, Jan. 8** 7 – 8:30 PM at Bev Buhr's home
- 2. Saturday, Jan. 12,** 10 – 11:30 AM at Reeb
- 3. Sunday, Jan. 13,** 11:30 am – 1 PM at Reeb
- 4. Thursday, Jan. 17,** 7 – 8:30 PM at Reeb

Cottage meeting sign-up sheets are in the Reeb foyer. You may also contact Jean Skinner at jeandelanddt@aol.com or 386-846-9648 and she will get you signed up for the day and time you choose (if space is available).

Our Jan. 8 and Jan. 17 Cottage meetings have limited space, so register soon if you want one of those dates! Registration is not required for the Jan. 12 and 13 meetings; however, we strongly encourage it.

Second Draft of Mission Statement

The Refining Team will then take the feedback

of the congregation's cottage meetings and write a second draft of our mission statement. Two congregational feedback meetings will subsequently occur in March, and finally, the Refining Team will present a finalized mission statement for a vote at the May 19 annual congregational meeting.

Longtime members, newer and "older" friends, youth, families, elders; everyone is encouraged to participate. We need you - the more Reebers involved in this process, the more our mission statement will represent the whole congregation!

More background: What has happened so far to create the first draft?

We began that work as a congregation Sunday, October 20 by going through a process of:

- **Reflection** -- thinking of important moments in our own lives and the life of our congregation
- **Sharing** -- in small groups and pairs discerning the values these experiences held for us
- **Celebration & Appreciation** -- discussing the important work of those who came before us and honoring the current mission statement as well as the provocative statements)
- **Contribution** -- putting forth the words and ideas that will come together in the 25.1 mission statement

At the conclusion of the workshop we had contributed our ideas to the following questions that make up a mission statement:

- Who are we?
- Why and for whom does this congregation exist?
- What differences do we want to make? How are our lives, and the lives in our community, transformed because this congregation exists?

These ideas were then written into a first

draft by the Refining Team; Colleen O'Hara and Sarah Cook.

Detailed next steps in our mission statement work include:

- First draft statement – was in the December newsletter
- Cottage meetings – January
- Second draft statement - March newsletter
- Congregational feedback meetings – March (one Sunday and one evening)
- Final statement completed – May newsletter
- Congregational adoption – at May 19 Congregational meeting

Article submitted by Rev. Karen, Beth Esser, Sarah Hallas, and Jean Skinner



MUSIC: POSSIBILITY

“Open the Window!” #1022 by Elise Witt: Our Hymn of the month for January
*Open the window children, open the window, now!
Open the window children, open the window let the dove fly in!*

Congratulations and many thanks to all of the talented and generous souls that made our Winter Solstice Program such a meaningful and memorable experience! It has been a spectacular season of music at Reeb, and there is more to come in 2019. Consider joining the choir! We are a welcoming bunch. There is no prerequisite. Considering coming to rehearsal, Thursdays at 6:45 pm. Tenors and Bases, we need you! Contact me at music@jruuc.org.

With open minds and hearts we look forward to the nourishment and lessons in song and sound. Don't miss the Burning Bowl Ceremony Sunday, January 6, *Closer to the Flame!*

Resources for Possibility

Song of the Universe

By Manish K. Mishra-Marzetti

Full reading found at

<http://www.uuberks.org/circle-group/song-universe>

Listen carefully. . . Can you still hear the song? The one sung for you when you were born. The song sung by a cosmos in motion rejoicing at your life... Listen carefully. . . Can you hear it still? A song of possibility...

Possibilities can be hard to pursue. Roads not taken, wrong turns, destinations that disappoint. Through this, the song persists. The universe sings no less because time and space wear us thin...

Songs for the People (and the possible waiting to be born)

By [Frances Ellen Watkins Harper](#) – abolitionist, writer, speaker, Unitarian

Full poem at

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/songs-people>

...Our world, so worn and weary,
Needs music, pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.
Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Till war and crime shall cease...

Open Up the Doors to Possibility

By Lindasusan Ulrich

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/open-doors>

Open up the doors
Push on looming wooden arches embroidered with ironwork
Brace shoulders against the weight of history unmoved
Slough off the musty smell of unused joy and stored up sorrow
Knock rust off the hinges if you have to
And let your breath precede you inside

Open the doors more
Make room for a shaft of sunlight to cross the
threshold
Give the dust motes something to dance about
Peek through a single slice of possibility
And name even the half-hidden truths you see

Open the doors wider still
Pour yourself through the gap
Strut or sneak or sidle, as suits you best
Cleanse whatever scrapes catch your skin
And bind up the wounds that keep you from
entering whole

Open the doors as far as they will go
Draw on the strength of the stones beneath you
Ground yourself in a firm sense of who you are
Stand as a beacon welcoming the next seeker
And shine far beyond the lintel and sill

Open all that you are
Heighten and deepen your connections to the
world around you
Broaden your definition of neighbor
Grow into the largest target for grace that you can
muster
And pray to become a gateway for even greater
love and compassion

Open up the doors, my friends,
[May today usher us through...]

For A New Beginning

John O'Donahue

Full poem found at <https://soulbridging.com/new-beginning-john-odonahue/>

In out of the way places of the heart
Where your thoughts never think to wander
This beginning has been quietly forming
Waiting until you were ready to emerge...

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the grey promises that sameness whispered
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled...

Things To Think

By Robert Bly

Full poem at:

<http://www2.cs.arizona.edu/~kece/Personal/Poems/bly.html>

Think in ways you've never thought before.
If the phone rings, think of it as carrying a message
Larger than anything you've ever heard...

When someone knocks on the door, think that
their about

To give you something large: tell you you're
forgiven,

Or that it's not necessary to work all the time,
or that it's been decided that if you lie down no
one will die.

Quotes

"Argue for your limitations and sure enough
they're yours." -- Richard Bach

"You are not too old, and it is not too late." --
Unknown

"Everybody's got a past. The past doesn't equal the
future unless you live there." -- Tony Robbins

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning,
but anyone can start today and make a new
ending." -- Maria Robinson

Special Dates This Month: National & Cultural:

- [New Year's Day](#) - Jan.1
- The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln - Jan. 1
- MLK, Jr. Day - Jan. 15
- [Rowe vs. Wade](#) Anniversary - Jan. 22
- International Holocaust ([Shoah](#)) [Remembrance Day](#) - Jan. 27

For Fun and On the Fringe:

- [National Hug Day](#) - Jan.21
- [I'm Not Going To Take it Anymore](#) Day - Jan. 7th
- [Belly Laugh Day](#) - Jan. 24

Music:

"If You Want to Sing Out" (Cat Stevens)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDq36YD1ESM>

"Cover" (Arbo & Mayhem):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3QRci5VYpU>

"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'

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

"Don't Stop Believin'" (Journey)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k8craCGpgs>

"I Hope" (Dixie Chicks)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKGjEvoEOUY>

"Má Vlast Moldau" (Bedřich Smetana)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdtLuyWuPDs>

Movies:

Man on Wire
https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/man_on_wire/

Billy Elliot
https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/billy_elliot

Big Fish
https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1127787_big_fish

Ratatouille
<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/ratatouille>

Book:

The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life

Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander
https://www.amazon.com/Art-Possibility-Transforming-Professional-Personal/dp/0142001104/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1538834867&sr=8-1&keywords=the+art+of+possibility+by+benjamin+zander

Related TED talk:
https://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_zander_on_music_and_passion

Related interview with Diane Rehm:
<http://wamu.org/programs/dr/01/03/29.php>

Our Spiritual Exercise: Possibilities in a Word: An Alternative New Year's Practice

In his early days, Abba Euprepius went to see an old man and said to him, "Abba, give me a word so that I may be saved."

— from the "Apophthegmata Patrum, The Sayings of the Fathers"

Catholics talk of a time in the third and fourth centuries when people would go to the desert and seek out monk-like hermits for guidance and wisdom. This tradition is referred to as "seeking a word." These wise "[desert mothers and fathers](#)" would offer people a word or a phrase to ponder for weeks, years and even a lifetime.

The idea behind this practice was that a simple word – when reflected upon with discipline –has the power to create possibilities in us and in the world. These words weren't instructions as much as invitations to open oneself in new ways. As one [writer](#) puts it, they are about deepening and unfolding, rather than fixing and improving.

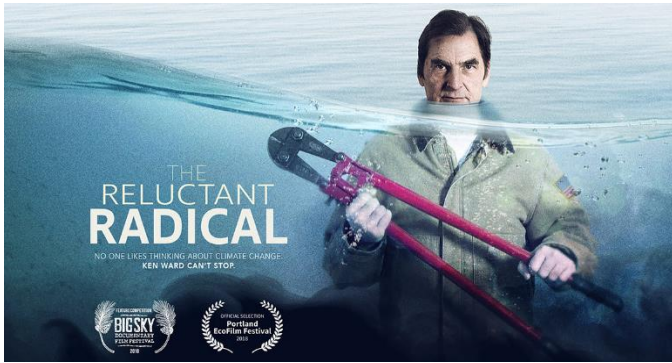
So this New Year's lets lean into that work of unfolding, rather than fixing. Forget about making a list of resolutions to improve yourself. Instead try out this ancient practice of picking a word that will help keep you open to new possibilities throughout the year. Here's mine!



Simplicity

Heather Yonker, Music Director

Justice at JRUUC



Friday, January 4 over at First Unitarian Society, a number of social justice groups (including the James Reeb PJS) will be co-sponsoring the showing of the film *The Reluctant Radical* – a documentary about Ken Ward, a climate activist who felt that he had to resort to non-violent civil disobedience in order to try to stop climate chaos. Visit this website: <https://www.thereluctantradicalmovie.com>. Come at 5:45 pm for a free meal, followed by the movie at 6:30 pm. A family friendly film will be shown at the same time. The film will be followed by a brief panel discussion. A collection will be taken to help benefit the work of **350 Madison** and **Mad Youth Climate Team**.

The Peace Justice & Sustainability Group will hold their monthly meeting Tuesday, January 22 in the Youth room 7 to 8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Sustainable Saturday Night January 26, 2019

“What are we to do in these challenging times?”
Free Community Meal at 6 pm, Program at 7 pm. Area leaders and residents will pose ideas and questions about how we can become a just and sustainable community. These will be shared with local candidates before the spring elections.

The Mad Youth Climate Team

Inspired by the 21 youth who filed suit against the U.S. government in *Juliana v. U.S.* (also known as *Youth v. Gov*) in 2015, Madison-area youth are organizing to build an area-wide youth movement to solve the climate crisis before it is too late. The JRUUC Peace, Justice, and Sustainability group, folks at First Unitarian Society (FUS), and the

climate justice group 350 Madison have set out to assist these young people.

Students from West and La Follette High Schools have been doing an amazing job of organizing themselves. Both James Reeb and FUS are offering up free space and the support of elders for the Mad Youth Climate Team’s two monthly meetings – the first Monday here at Reeb and the third Monday at FUS. Generally, meetings will run from 7 – 8:30 pm. Youth of any age are always welcome, and if you want to bring an elder with you, you can do that too.

One of their first projects that these brave and passionate youth are undertaking is to have a ‘Zine Making Party at their January 7 meeting at Reeb. Donations of old magazines and art supplies would be greatly appreciated for the productions of their first zines calling for climate justice! If you have any of these to donate or if you’d like to support this group in another way, please call Tim Cordon at 608-630-3633.

Building Sanctuary Project Getting Close to \$30,000 Goal

The Sanctuary Leadership Team (SLT) has raised **\$25,033** so far to meet its \$30,000 goal. The funds will allow us to hire contractors to expand the gender neutral bathroom in the church to include a shower, to build a secure bedroom in the storage section of the Multipurpose Room, and to meet city building code requirements.

Our congregation overwhelmingly voted in 2017 to become a Sanctuary site congregation so we can host immigrants and asylum seekers while they are waiting for their cases to be heard in the Immigration Court in Chicago. This project will help keep immigrant families from being torn apart by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Reeb is a member of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition, which includes 16 other churches and synagogues and seven supportive nonprofits in Madison.

Singer-songwriter Ken Lonquist performed his musical *Old Befana* at Cave of the Mounds for our Sanctuary project in December. The SLT has also been contacting other churches and synagogues to ask for donations, is lining up more restaurant fundraisers in Madison, and will apply for a \$3,000 grant. If you have any other fundraising ideas for us or if you know of anyone or any organizations you can contact who might be willing to donate in any amount to help us become a Sanctuary Site congregation, please contact SLT Chair Jeanne Lydon at Jeanne_lydon@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed: Men's Shelter Monthly Breakfast Prep

The first Saturday of each month, two Reeb volunteers join two volunteers from Prairie UU to serve up a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs to the men staying in the Grace Episcopal Men's Shelter, as well as anyone who comes in off the street. **Is this something that you'd like to do?** With enough volunteers, it means that you'd only be committing to two Saturdays in 2019. The fun part: doing something good in our community! The hard part: getting up to be there by 5 am on a Saturday! If breakfast prep is not your thing, you could consider the tasks of coordinating volunteers or doing occasional shopping of groceries. If you're interested, contact Peggy Haack: peggyhaack@gmail.com.

Unhappy Birthday Party for Citizens United Sunday, January 20, 2:30 pm at Reeb

South Central Wisconsin United to Amend will host an event to "celebrate" the Ninth Anniversary of the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, which unleashed a flood of campaign donations that have changed our political system. We will view the film *Dark Money* at 2:45 pm. Everyone is welcome!

SCWUTA is an all-volunteer, non-partisan group that supports a constitutional amendment to establish that a corporation is not a person and that money is not speech. As of December 2018, 142 communities in Wisconsin have passed resolutions supporting our amendment. For more information, contact Val Murphy at 608 833-5595.

DARK MONEY, a political thriller, examines one of the greatest present threats to American democracy: the influence of untraceable corporate money on our elections and elected officials. The film takes viewers to Montana—a frontline in the fight to preserve fair elections nationwide—to follow an intrepid local journalist working to expose the real-life impacts of the US Supreme Court's Citizens United decision.

Membership News

Join members and friends, old and new, anyone interested in bringing fun to the New Year. Here are our upcoming events:



Ice Skating at the Tenney Park Lagoon Sunday, January 27



Games Night at Reeb Friday, March 15 at 6 pm



Exploring Membership Class

Saturday, March 9 from 9 am – 1 pm

If you've been thinking about joining our congregation, this is the day for you! Rev. Karen, Membership Team members, and Congregational Leaders will engage you in some deeper thinking about your spiritual path and provide information on what it means to be a member to help you in your discernment process.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Religious Education is Faith Development

Karen attended a workshop in December for congregations interested in rethinking their Religious Education programs, and has reached out to UUA Regional Staff and colleagues for help with the process. She's learned a little about how to think about what we want for our young people – really, what we want for all our people – and what questions we might ask each other as we consider how to create the conditions for faith formation for us all. Karen and Virginia will be planning for congregational conversation about this, starting soon after Karen returns from her mini-sabbatical in mid-February.

In the meantime, RE classes will continue more or less as they have been. There may be more multigenerational worship services than we've been used to, and our youth may be invited to stay in worship or participate in multi-age classes more often as well. There are several reasons for this. The first reason is practical – neither Karen nor Virginia have the capacity to plan for weekly age-segregated classes for our children and youth. The second reason is to begin to do what we mentioned in our December column – to take stock of what we offer for our young people and our families. We believe that the process of visioning for our RE program will need to include some experimentation with various methods, and offering a wider range of opportunities for our children and youth will help us with that visioning.

We're grateful to our teachers and assistants for continuing to work with our young people during this time of transition, and to our Sunday morning greeters, who have agreed to take on some of the essential tasks of the Sunday RE Coordinator role. And to our parents and families, for past and future input on our program. It takes a village, as they say, and we're very thankful to be part of one!

Submitted by Virginia Harrison, Chair, Religious Education Committee (for children and youth), and Rev. Karen

Adult Learning and Reflecting

Covenant Café – a less formal way to gather and talk through some of life's big questions – will be held **Thursday, January 10 beginning at 7 pm**. Join Matt Finesilver at Barriques on Atwood for a lively discussion on this month's theme, possibility.

Adult Religious Exploration

Immigration as a Moral Issue

Are you curious about immigration issues? Do you see screaming headlines and wish for a little context? Would you like to learn about ways you can work for immigrant rights and how the immigration issue fits into the broader picture of social justice? If so, you may wish to attend an Adult Religious Exploration class titled "Immigration as a Moral Issue." Peter Haney, a member of the Congregation's Sanctuary Leadership Team, will facilitate the class over six Sundays beginning Sunday, January 20, 2019 from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

Originally developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2010, the course materials explore the various social forces that intersect around immigration issues and is intended primarily for those who do not yet have strong backgrounds in this topic.

The six 90-minute sessions will be held at Reeb on consecutive Sundays beginning at 11:30 am:

Week One (January 20): Understanding the Causes of Migration

Week Two (January 27): History of Immigration in the U.S.

Week Three (February 3): Economics of (Im)migration

Week Four (February 10): Security, Enforcement, and Human Rights

Week Five (February 17): Who Benefits from a Broken System?

Week Six (February 24): Seeking Solutions

The final session will highlight the organizing efforts of communities most affected by immigration issues and the UUA's engagement with

them. It will also highlight local efforts here in Madison.

Facilitator Peter Haney is a sociocultural anthropologist (Ph.D. 2004, University of Texas, Austin) who has worked with U.S. Latinx labor, arts, and immigration service organizations since 1990. He is currently the administrator for the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. If you have questions, please contact Peter Haney at phaneyster@gmail.com.

If you're interested, attend the first session Sunday, January 20. To continue, we will ask you to pay a \$30 fee (or what you can, on a sliding scale) to cover printing and expenses related to the class. Any funds not needed for the class itself will be donated to the Congregation's Building Sanctuary renovation effort. Paid participants will receive a printed copy of the course materials.

Daring Democracy

The next book for discussion will be ***Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*** by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen:

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Daring-Democracy-P18213.aspx>

We'll have three discussion sessions, beginning in March. We will place a group order for the books, which will cost \$12 each if we order 10 or more, or \$13.50 each if we order 5 to 9 (plus shipping). Please sign up on the sheets on the Religious Exploration table in the Foyer. And please let Rev. Karen know if you're interested in facilitating a session.

The Shared Pulpit

Erica Hewitt writes in her book *The Shared Pulpit*, "In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, we speak of shared ministry — the embodied belief that everyone, not just the ordained minister takes part in the ministry of the congregation." Our tradition calls us to lift up all voices, and preaching, which Ralph Waldo Emerson described as "putting life through the fire of thought," is a spiritual practice that is open to all.

This spring, Rev. Karen will facilitate a program in which we'll practice the art of writing and speaking authentically, using Erica Hewitt's book as a guide. This isn't just a course for people planning to preach — this program aims to deepen connection and trust among us. It contains advice, tools, and a process designed to equip you to be even more skilled, confident leaders (because anyone brave and curious enough to share their journey publicly with the congregation is, in fact, a leader). Along the way, you'll discover your authentic voice by writing a sermon to deliver to the congregation.

There will be eight three-hour sessions, beginning in early March. Please contact Rev. Karen if you're interested -- or just curious!

Administrator's Thoughts

I'm loving our fabulous Soul Matters curriculum for possibility. In fact, I'm about to quote extensively from the introduction to our theme:

Of all our topics this year, possibility is arguably most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start.

Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential -- sometimes with hardly any boundaries. When many were preaching that this world was fallen, and we should look instead to the hope of an afterlife, we found ourselves falling in love with the possibility of heaven on earth. Theologically, you might say that we were the people who believed that God hadn't given up on any of us and so we shouldn't give up on each other or this world.

Psychologically, it's led to us being a people of "why not?" Why not give people another chance? Why not fight what seems a losing battle? Why not risk a little failure?

I'm energized about the possibility of dismantling white supremacy culture, becoming a Sanctuary congregation, and fighting climate change. Why not?

Yours in growing faith,
Elizabeth Barrett, Congregational Administrator

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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.