



James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Weekly News for 11/22/23 - 11/28/23

This Sunday, November 26, 2023

**“Gratitude, Generosity...and Unlearning Colonization”
with Rev. Karen Armina**

Thanksgiving weekend is complicated. This morning, we’ll explore how we might acknowledge the mourning of our indigenous siblings and challenge the myths that have been created and perpetuated by the colonizers of this land, while still practicing the generosity that’s come to be associated with this season. [Service website](#).

Our neighbors from Prairie Unitarian Society will join us for this **multigenerational service**, and to share a **potluck meal afterward**.



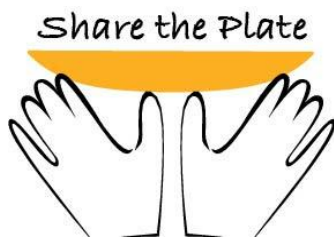
Image: “Fractal Cornucopia”

All are welcome!

[Click here to join us online via Zoom](#)

Next Sunday:

- [“Waiting on a Mystery”](#) with Rev. Karen Armina
- Joining Sunday
- Multigenerational service with RE for everyone after the service
- Workshop with Rev. Karen on “Reparations - Next Steps” - see below



The Share the Plate recipient for Nov. 19 and 26 will be [Worker Justice Wisconsin](#), in gratitude for this year's Labor in the Pulpit speaker. Worker Justice Wisconsin brings together faith and labor allies to build collective worker power. They advocate for a just and living wage and paid time off for all, as well as workplaces free of discrimination and harassment.

Please [nominate a local organization](#) for our Share the Plate Program!

Our November Theme: Generosity

Our November theme reminds us of the spiritual practice of giving and receiving generously. In this space, you'll find a new invitation into reflection every week.

Check-in question: What have you learned during your life about generosity?

Gratitude is so much more than a polite "thank you." It is the thread that connects us in a deep relationship, simultaneously physical and spiritual, as our bodies are fed and spirits nourished by the sense of belonging, which is the most vital of foods. Gratitude creates a sense of abundance, the knowing that you have what you need. In that climate of sufficiency, our hunger for more abates and we take only what we need, in respect for the generosity of the giver.

-- [Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer](#)

Ministry Connections

Minister's Musings for November

From Rev. Karen Armina



Dear Ones,

Our November theme is the "gift of generosity," and I feel like this should be an easy thing to reflect on. Generosity is about giving, right? So my first impulse is...[\(read more here\)](#)

November is also **Native American Heritage Month**. Please follow [this link](#) and [this link](#) to find public events you can attend to learn about local Native people and cultures. And I invite you to explore these gifts of generosity - relationship, transformation, and justice - as you offer your time, talent, and treasure to celebrate the gifts of our Native siblings. Here are some ways you can do that (thank you to the Wisconsin Council of Churches for this list from [Kaitlin Curtice](#)):

- [Grab all the you're on native land merch here](#), and make sure your favorite family members get something for the holidays!
- [This website](#) is an incredible resource for anyone who wants to know which children's books are appropriate in representation of Indigenous peoples. Use it often and buy the books recommended by Dr. Debbie Reese, the website's founder.

- Are you a fan of comics? Super Indian is a wonderful pick. [Grab them here](#).
- [Donate to The Kwek Society](#), an organization working to end period poverty for those in Indian Country.
- Subscribe to the [Liminality Journal](#). Supporting this work allows me (Kaitlin Curtice) to write and share resources like these with you all on a regular basis. Consider joining the Liminality community!
- [Buy medicine soaps and other products from Haipazaza](#), an Indigenous-run wellness brand. They make wonderful holiday gifts and the soaps are beautiful.
- And, of course, USE GOOGLE! There are so many incredible lists of companies and organizations out there. The tools are available if we are willing to find them.

I would love to meet with you! Please come by during office hours or send me an email to set up an appointment for another time. And, as always, please call or text if you have a pastoral emergency.

Minister's Availability

Rev. Karen's regular office hours are:

- **Tuesdays** at the [Victory Café](#) (2710 Atwood Ave) 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- **Tuesdays** on Zoom 5:00 – 6:00 pm – [Zoom link](#)
- **Wednesdays** at Reeb 2:00 – 4:00 pm, please call or text ahead so Karen knows you're coming
- **Evenings and other times by appointment** – Karen would love to meet with you! Please send her an email to set up a time.

And, as always, please [call or text her](#) if you have a pastoral emergency.

Religious Exploration Offering for Adults with Rev. Karen - Dec. 3

The next religious exploration offering for adults will be a **workshop on reparations** after the service on **Sunday, Dec. 3**. This will be a follow-up to the workshop led by Rev. Kerri Parker in October, and we'll reflect on the spiritual grounding for reparations and consider concrete actions we might take as a congregation.



Music Ministry

From Jennifer Hedstrom, Music Director

Due to the holiday, Jennifer will be working fewer hours this week and will not be checking email between November 22-26. On Thursday November 30, Sacred Breath Choir begins preparations for the annual Winter Solstice Celebration! Jennifer is looking forward to her first Winter Solstice Celebration with Reeb. The service is taking place on Saturday December 23 at 5pm.

This Sunday's shared music:

#21 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

#299 "Make Channels for the Streams of Love" HOM

#1017 "Building a New Way"

Religious Education and Family Ministry

From Genevieve McPherson-Shambarger, Director of Religious Education



This week: This Sunday will be a multigenerational service with our friends from Prairie UU joining us. There will be **NO RE or Youth Group this week**, apologies for the incorrect information about the youth group in last week's email.

Next Sunday: Next Sunday will be a multigenerational service with RE for all after the service.

Holiday Programming: As the winter holiday season approaches, Genevieve is interested in hearing any suggestions or memories from the past around holiday events at Reeb. If there is a pre-COVID tradition you would like to bring back or new ideas you want to share please reach out to Genevieve by email or at Reeb.

DRE Availability: Genevieve is currently out of town for the Thanksgiving holiday until Tuesday November 28th, but will be available by email for any RE questions or needs.

Adult RE Opportunity (Reparations Follow-up Workshop) - Dec. 3 - See below.

Small Group Ministries

Offering and Receiving Connection, Support, and Spiritual Practice

[Read more here](#)

Meditation With Friends - Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7 p.m. (Beginners Welcome) - [Zoom Link](#)

Sacred Breath Choir - Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., contact Music Director [Jennifer Hedstrom](#)

Folk Music Gatherings - Saturdays at 2:00 (taking a break for November), contact [Mike Stimson](#)

Our Congregation and Community Calendar

Meditation & Mindfulness Mini-Retreat - Saturday Nov. 25, 2-4 pm

Join us in person (or via zoom) to spend some time together practicing meditation and mindfulness as the busy holiday season gets underway. We will spend time with: a reading, guided meditation, walking meditation, silent meditation, drawing or writing, sitting or free movement with music, and brief discussion. No experience necessary! Questions? [Contact Susan Podebradsky](#). Please let Susan know if you plan to attend.

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Collecting Items for Nehemiah Essentials Pantry - Now through Dec. 3

As part of our Racial Justice Action Ministry (R-JAM) donation work, please be aware that there is a box in the foyer for your donations; we will continue to gather these through at least December 3rd (Nehemiah will have a December 5th distribution event and could also use volunteers). Items needed are listed below. [Contact Randy Coloni](#) with questions or for more information on volunteering:

- **For the Toiletries Kits:** Deodorant, Toothpaste, Shampoo & Conditioner, Lotion, Body Wash / Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products
- **For the Laundry Kits:** Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets, Bleach, All Purpose Cleaner, Rolls of Quarters

MOSES Transformation Celebration and Fundraising Gala
Dec. 9, 5:30 - 9 pm at Brassworks at the Goodman Center

Join us to hear the inspiring stories of our three Honorees to celebrate their accomplishments and to learn more about the work of MOSES. Tickets \$75, or \$65 for two. See [Mosesmadison.org](https://mosesmadison.org) for more [information](#). JRUUC is a founding member of MOSES.

Board and Minister Congregational Listening Session Sunday, Dec. 10

Your Board of Trustees and minister value what you have to say! We'll hold our quarterly listening session, after the service and a 15-20 minute coffee hour, on Sunday, December 10. Zoom participants can stay on the service link to participate in the listening session. We'll have someone monitoring the Zoom chat to facilitate online participation.

Here are the three questions for discussion. We'll plan to spend about 15 minutes on each:

- We are going to share with you a plan to change the duties of Treasurer back to the way they were a number of years ago. Do you have questions about it? Are you OK with this change? (Note: this change in plan will also be shared in the newsletter.)
- What time and talent do people have to offer to further our financial security?
- The Board in 2024-2025 is planning to begin work on a congregational vision statement. What is your understanding of the difference between a mission statement and a vision statement?

All-Reeb Read Book Discussion Workshops Coming in Early 2024!

Virginia Harrison and Deb Myrbo invite you to read—and participate in a JRUUC discussion group about—this year's UU Common Read, [On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World](#), by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, starting in mid-January.

You are invited to discover Unitarian Universalist resonance with the writings of the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides. With her interpretation, Danya Ruttenberg's book points people of any or all faiths toward modern day accountability practices that can really make a difference.

For more details about the discussion group, and to help us determine the best schedule and platform, please fill out the survey [here](#).

You can also find more detailed information about the book and workshops on the [UUA Common Read website](#), where you will also find links to videos about the book and interviews with the author.

We will be ordering bulk copies of the book from InSpirit, the UUA bookstore, and will receive a small discount per copy if we purchase at least 10. So even if you're uncertain yet whether you'd like to participate in the discussion groups, but know you'd like to read the book, please contact [Deb Myrbo](#) by December 4 at 5pm to order your copy. A copy will also be made available in the JRUUC library for anyone who is unable to purchase the book but would still like to participate.

For more information, please talk with Virginia or Deb.

[See our Online Congregational Activities Calendar Here](#)

Congregation News & Announcements

Thanks to Workday Participants & Meal Wizards!

Big thank you to the volunteers that came to help with the building work day on Saturday. Shout out to Randy, Kevin, Jean, Ellie, Elaine M, Tom M., Mary Wi. For several it was their first work day, and to quote one of them "It was fun!"

Also thanks to Jerry, Peggy, and Genevieve who made the food for Sunday's Community Meal, and to all who helped set up, clean up and participated in the meal.

Do You Love to Spend Time Outdoors?

Are you a fan of winter? Why not sign up to help with snow removal on our grounds? You can win the "Snow Lottery" if it snows during your week and you get to spend time outdoors! [Sign up here](#), or from the "Calendar" tab on our website.

Make Your Reeb Rave Connections!

We raised more than \$7000 and had a great deal of fun at this year's event. Tom McClintock has sent out a .pdf with the names of winners and donors so you can connect with each other if you need to. Statements for donors and bidders have also gone out. If you haven't already, please go to the [Auctria website to complete payment](#) of the items you won. We also want to thank our sponsors who donated items for the auction:

- PicklePro Pickleball Court time
- Green Life Trading Co.
- Bad Dog Frida
- Union Cab

Check out our [Reeb Rave Page](#) for the latest information about this year's event. Thanks to everyone in our community for your support!

News From the Caring Tree

Sarah Cook would like to share her experiences with the Caring Tree. "This November JRUUC has focused on how generosity cultivates relationship. That has been my Caring Tree experience both giving and receiving daytime rides. After my stroke a few years ago, I had a string of medical appointments and wasn't allowed to drive. While my husband and close friends took me to most, it was reassuring to have Caring Tree backup from drivers I wouldn't have thought to ask. Best of all, I came out of such a ride knowing a Reeber so much better for having spent that time in a car together.

The same thing happens offering Caring Tree rides to others. Deeper friendships form with people I'd known only on the surface. In fact, my experience giving the occasional ride is much the same as receiving one: deepening relationship while meeting a practical need. "Together we share, and from this we live."

Native American Heritage Month Events throughout November

If you attended the recent workshop on reparations with the Rev. Kerri Parker, you'll remember that one of her suggestions was to educate ourselves about our Native siblings by attending public events. There are many events happening this month, including an introduction to the [histories and traditions of Wisconsin's Native Nations with Tom Jones](#), and [activities throughout the month organized by the UW Indigenous Student Center Coalition](#).

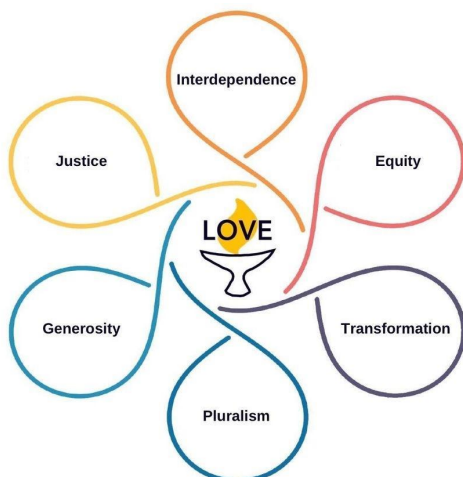
Need a New Name Tag?

If you have lost your name tag, or never got a printed one, please let us know so we can print one up. Anyone who has joined since the start of 2020 will be getting a name tag. Email us at office@JRUUC.org.

Assisted Listening Devices Available

If you need an assisted listening device during the service please ask a greeter to get one for you.

UUA News & Connections



Final Proposed Revision to Article II

The final version of the proposed revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws is now available! The UUA Board will officially receive the revision at the next board meeting, November 13, 2023, but it is available to you now. The deadline for submitting an amendment is 11:59 p.m. ET on February 1, 2024. All qualified amendments will be considered at the 2024 General Assembly.

[Read the Proposed Article II here](#)

General Assembly 2024 Theme Announcement: Love Unites, Stories Ignite

The 63rd General Assembly will take place **virtually** Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024. Participants will receive:

- Memorable, high-impact content for faith formation, with an easy and accessible experience
- Sense of belonging in the online community, with flexible approaches for a variety of needs
- Renewed connection to the wider faith of Unitarian Universalism.
- Inspiration and support to carry forward to your local congregations and beyond



[More UUA Updates](#)



SIDE WITH LOVE

[Click here](#) to learn what you can do to promote social justice along with our national organization.



[Click here](#) to learn how you can get involved in getting out the vote.

Please submit articles for the newsletter to news@jruuc.org by Tuesday at 5:00 pm.

[See our website for more information - jruuc.org](http://jruuc.org)