

**First Congregational UCC, Madison**  
is excited to host an evening with  
**Playwright, Actor, Storyteller, and Inspirational Speaker**  
**KEVIN KLING**

**Saturday, September 23 at 7:00 pm**

Kevin Kling, best known for his popular commentaries on **NPR's All Things Considered** and his storytelling stage shows like *Tales from the Charred Underbelly of the Yule Log*, delivers hilarious, often tender stories about life. Kling's autobiographical tales are as enchanting as they are true to life: hopping freight trains, getting hit by lightning, performing his banned play in Czechoslovakia, growing up in Minnesota, and eating things before knowing what they are. Kevin was featured in a recent **PBS documentary: "Kevin Kling: Lost & Found"**

Born with a congenital birth defect — his left arm is about three-quarters the size of his right arm, and his left hand has no wrist or thumb, Kevin grew up as a 'normal kid' in a colorful Osseo, Minn., family. In 2001 Kevin was in a motorcycle accident which paralyzed his right arm. Kevin uses all these life experiences and weaves them into profound messages of love, respect, and persistence. Shared in a *talk* about forgiveness, Kevin's response to people's question about forgiving the driver who hit him, paralyzing his right arm, "I didn't have to forgive him, I forgave him before I met him, because he didn't do it on purpose." He continues, "Forgiveness is when you aren't stuck in the regrets of the past or the anxieties of the future, you're sitting right in the middle of the path." He goes on to share that a direct translation of God's response to Moses "I am what I am" more accurately should be "I am what I need to be" ... explaining that God is not a noun of the past or the future, but a verb living in the here and now, and we are called to do the same. His talk on forgiveness can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0wYYeRUdMo>

Kevin will share his true-to-life story of overcoming barriers in a special presentation at First Congregational Church on Saturday, September 23 at 7:00 pm. ALL are welcome, and encouraged to experience the profound and inspirational message of this gifted storyteller. Bring your friends to laugh, and cry, and enjoy! A free will collection will be taken to help defray costs. Kevin will also be the guest preacher for First Cong's *Accessibility Worship Service* on Sunday, September 24. Please contact Jeff Rabe for more information. [irabe@firstcongmadison.org](mailto:irabe@firstcongmadison.org) 608.233.9751 x 106

Here are a few clips of Kevin in action:

"Kevin Kling: Lost & Found" PBS hour documentary  
<http://www.pbs.org/program/kevin-kling-lost-found/>

"On Being" interview with Krista Tippett  
<http://www.onbeing.org/program/kevin-kling-the-losses-and-laughter-we-grow-into/1863>