



James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Weekly News for 8/6/2025-8/12/2025

This Sunday, August 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

“Time, Age, and Memory” with Michael Nunley



Time, Age, and Memory are phenomena we all experience, but those experiences are necessarily subjective, varying among different people. This week we'll consider some aspects of Time, Age, and Memory that can affect how we think about them and what meanings they might hold for us in our own lives.

Image from Wikimedia Commons

Worship Associate: Susan Podebradsky

Special Music: Bryan Rainey

[Service Webpage](#)

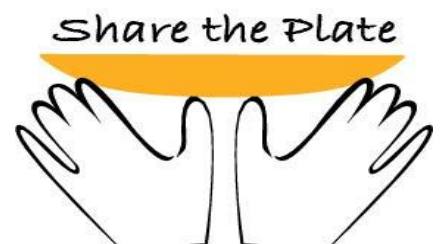
[Zoom Link for Service](#)

After Service: Coffee & Conversation

Next Sunday Worship: [Held By One Another](#) with Rev. Bowie Kling-Garcia

Next Sunday after Service: Coffee & Conversation, Just Bakery

The Share the Plate recipient for July 27 and August 10 is the [Wisconsin Abortion Fund](#). WAF provides financial, logistical, and emotional support to people seeking abortion care. Their work is to cultivate collective care and to remove barriers to abortion access. They champion the self-determination of all people and foster a community rooted in compassion for the purpose of empowering abortion care seekers. They were nominated by Rachel Avery.



Our Summer Theme: Meeting the Moment

We're part of a national UU program called Soul Matters, in which administrators gather materials on monthly themes from participants and organize them so we easily offer them in worship and other parts of congregational life. Soul Matters takes a break over the summer - so our summer theme comes from various sources of inspiration from this year's General Assembly of Congregations. Some weeks we'll offer direct quotes attributed to a speaker, and others will be ideas that bubbled up in participants during GA programming. We'll go back to sharing Soul Matters materials in September.

Check in question: What does your UU faith call you to be or do in this moment?

We have always found new ways to advance the values that we hold together, and I have every faith that our collective efforts can change the landscape of this hurting and beautiful world.

-- Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President

Ministry Connections

Minister's Monthly Musings

From Rev. Karen Armina



Dear Ones,

I've had two recent experiences that gave me a chance to remember who we are as a faith tradition. The first was our annual General Assembly, which was based on the theme "Meet the Moment" - a clear intention to inspire and comfort us in these days of chaos and violence. It was a beautiful reminder that we have power as a faith tradition - power to offer each other companionship and healing, power to advocate for those rendered powerless by systems of oppression, power to show up and resist, power to move the values of peace and justice into the world. The second was a conversation with a new visitor, who had never attended a UU congregation before. They had all kinds of great questions, prompting me to think more intentionally about who we are and what we believe.

These two experiences have prompted me to share a few things about our faith tradition that I want to offer you toward your own comfort/inspiration: [Click here to read more...](#)

Minister's Availability

Rev. Karen will be away on study leave from Tuesday 8/5 through Wednesday 8/14 - please call or text her if you have a pastoral emergency during this time.

She will then be away on vacation from Thursday 8/15 through Tuesday 8/19 - please contact Jeanette Clawson if you have a pastoral emergency during this time.

Karen would love to meet with you when she's here! Please do [send her an email](#) to set up a time.

Regular office hours will resume the week of 9/8.

Music Ministry

From Jennifer Hedstrom, Director of Music Ministry

Sacred Breath Choir is on summer break! If you're interested in joining the Sacred Breath Choir, we'll be starting up again at the end of August.

Shared Music

#354 "We Laugh, We Cry" (gray hymnal - verses 1, 3 and 4)

#6 "Just As Long As I Have Breath" (gray hymnal)

#1064 "Blue Boat Home" (teal hymnal)



Religious Exploration and Family Ministry

This Week: All Sundays will be multigenerational services with everyone together in the sanctuary, until we hire a new director.

August Community Meal: The next community meal will be on the fourth Sunday, August 24.

While the Director of Family Ministry position is in transition, we need you to share your time and talent! Please [email Rev. Karen](#) if you can help:

- Greet families on Sunday mornings, and connect with new and visiting families
- Make follow up contact with new and visiting families
- Organize our third Sunday community lunches, starting with August 24 (we've shifted to the fourth Sunday for this month)
- Bring food for our community lunches – Genevieve often brought a main dish
- Staff the Busy Hands Table on Sunday mornings – materials will be provided
- Offer a Time for All Ages on Sunday mornings (we have lots of resources from Soul Matters to help choose stories)
- Coordinate and/or teach the children and youth religious exploration classes in the fall, including Coming of Age for our youth, if we haven't hired anyone by then

Small Group Ministries

Offering and Receiving Connection, Support, and Spiritual Practice

[Read more here](#)

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

Sacred Breath Choir - Not meeting in the summer, contact Music Director [Jennifer Hedstrom](#)

Folk Music Gatherings - Saturday August 23 and 30, 10:00-11:30 a.m., contact [Mike Stimson](#)

[Zoom Link for Meditation](#)

Our Congregation and Community Calendar

Nagasaki Day Peace Summit - 8/9

Members of the Peace & Justice Community, join us for a Nagasaki Day Peace Summit. The summit will take place on **Saturday August 9 at 2 p.m. at First Unitarian Society** at 900 University Bay Dr. in Madison. This gathering will give Wisconsin peace and justice groups and activists an opportunity to share information, plans, ideas, and to explore possibilities for future collaboration. [Share the event on Facebook](#), and [sign up here to endorse or get more information](#).

Sign Up for Local Festivals - 8/16 and 8/17

Signup sheets are out for staffing our JRUUC tables at Eken Park Festival on **Saturday August 16** and PrideFest on **Sunday August 17**! We're very excited to have a confirmed spot for PrideFest this year, and Eken Park Festival is a great way to connect with our neighborhood.

Would you like to spend an hour or two helping others find out about our awesome congregation, while enjoying the vibe of a local festival? Then please consider signing up. We need a minimum of two people at the table at all times, so it's great to sign up with a buddy. All materials will be provided. People who have done our JRUUC tabling in the past tell us they've had a great time, too.

For details, see the signup sheets in our lobby, or sign up online for [PrideFest here](#) and [Eken Park Festival here](#). Please contact Liz Chapa or [Deb Myrbo](#) if you have questions.

Just Bakery - 8/17

Get your goodies in the foyer on **Sunday August 17 after the service**! Both cash and cards are happily accepted. Just Bakery, an initiative of [Just Dane](#), is a 12-week educational and vocational training program. The program works with individuals who are experiencing significant barriers to employment (homelessness, justice involved, lack of education, and/or a lack of work history or skills). [Learn more about Just Bakery here](#). Just Bakery visits Reeb about once every quarter. Watch your newsletter for the most up-to-date information.

Folk Group - 8/23 and 8/30

In August, the folk group will NOT meet on the first and third Saturdays. Instead we will meet on **Saturday August 23 and 30 at 10-11:30 a.m.** The focus of these gatherings will be to work on two songs for performing on the **Sunday August 31** Labor Day service. First, we will accompany Tom Wernigg on his song "That's the Way of the World." Please [take a look at the lyrics](#) and [listen to his performance on YouTube](#). Second, we will perform "Deportees" by Woody Guthrie. Please [take a look at the lyrics](#), and [here's a version in the key we will perform it in \(G\)](#).

Building Work Day - 8/23

Please join the building stewardship team on **Saturday August 23 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** for a work day. Tasks may include tuning the lawn mower, weeding garden beds, clearing brush in the back parking lot, inspecting and cleaning the roof, cleaning and painting graffiti on the building, and picking up trash. Please come help anytime between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Please [contact Renee Buchanan](#) with any questions. Light snacks will be provided!

A People, Peace, & Planet Potluck - 8/23

Join us for a potluck on **Saturday August 23 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at JRUUC**. At this community potluck, members of the JRUUC and larger Madison-area community will share fellowship, information, ideas, dreams, and more, related to building community around the promotion of people, peace, and planet. Anyone interested in helping JRUUC to host this Saturday August 23 potluck, and possibly future monthly potlucks, should [reach out to Timothy Cordon](#).

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

Congregation News, Invitations & Announcements

Please Help Carolina and Salvador in their Healing Journey

Please help the JRUUC Justice Team raise money through our GoFundMe for a wonderful, generous, hard-working immigrant couple from Colombia whom we have been working with, who are already in debt with uninsured medical costs and both need extensive testing and medical care so they can start working again and get back on their feet.

See all the details and donate at [our GoFundMe page](#). Then please spread the word by sharing this GoFundMe on your Facebook page and with at least five friends, family and your networks.

Thank you so much for your UU compassion and your support,
Leila Pine, Immigrant Rights Co-Chair, JRUUC Justice Team

Job Opening: Director of Family Ministry

JRUUC is seeking a part-time Director of Family Ministry to support a community in which families are centered, to begin on August 1. Please check out the [job description](#) and [email Rev. Karen](#) with a cover letter and resume if you'd like to apply, or with any questions you have about the position. JRUUC members aren't eligible to work as paid staff, but please do pass the job description along to others who might be interested!

While this position is in transition, we need you to share your time and talent! Please [email Rev. Karen](#) if you can help:

- Greet families on Sunday mornings, and connect with new and visiting families
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Share the Plate Donation Totals: June 2025

JRUUC is committed to serving our community, so we give half of all Sunday offerings to local organizations whose work furthers our mission. In the month of **June**, we raised:

- \$281.28 for [Outreach LGBTQ+ Community Center](#) for their Juneteenth event
- \$209.23 for [Just Dane](#)
- \$120.00 for [South Baltimore Community Land Trust](#)

Sanctuary Chalice Update - and Loaner Program

Our Chalice Team is working on having a chalice made for our sanctuary by a local artist. We have a general idea of what we're looking for - a piece that incorporates some meaningful recycled materials, including wood from an old Joys and Sorrows candle stand we no longer use, and copper bits from the roof at First Unitarian Society. We're now creating a "call for art" and seeking proposals. If you're interested in creating a chalice or you know someone we should solicit a proposal from, please reach out to us! In the meantime, we've landed on an idea to fill the empty chalice space - a loaner program! **If you have a home chalice you'd like to see in the sanctuary** for a couple of weeks, please contact [Rev. Karen](#) or any of Liz Chapa, Jeanette Clawson, and Ingrid Stark.

Deadline for the Weekly Newsletter Submission

Please send your submissions to news@JRUUC.org by **10 am on Tuesdays**. *Remember to include relevant event and announcement information, such as date, time, location, links, contact information, and how long you would like the information included in the newsletter.*

Website Errors or Suggestions? Contact web@jruuc.org

If you notice an error or something important missing from our website, please let Susan Podebradsky know by sending an email to web@jruuc.org. It helps if you send a link to the specific page in question. You can also let us know if there is something you can't find, something new you would like to see, or something you really like to see. Thanks!

Unitarian Universalist Association News & Connections

Want to act but you're not sure how? Join forces with other UUs!



SIDE WITH LOVE

A public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression, with four intersectional justice priorities:

Climate Justice, Decriminalization, Democracy, and Reproductive Justice & Trans Rights. [Click here](#) to learn more. We build strong movements when we take action together. Organize teams and networks that can take these actions together, and get support on practical organizing skills and support at our [Organizing School](#) and [Skill Up](#) resources. **Side with Love offers two ways to take concrete action:**

Weekly Action Update features essential resources, upcoming events, and spiritual reflection to support work across our intersectional priority areas. [Click here to view this week's update!](#)

The Gathering:

Second Mondays at 7 pm

A monthly virtual event designed to offer:



- Spiritual grounding - strengthen your heart and spirit for the work ahead
- Political analysis - understand the threats to democracy and justice
- Collective action - organize with others to block anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world

[Click here](#) for more information and to register to receive the Zoom link for The Gathering.

[Click here](#) to view the recording from the 6/9 Gathering.

LOVE *RESISTS*

Activates people of faith and conscience to resist the harm inflicted by criminalization, to create safer, more just, welcoming, and sustainable communities. [Click here](#) to learn about current actions, and to download resources and tools to bring the Love Resists campaign to your community by expanding sanctuary, growing solidarity, and raising your voice.



UUs support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large, and UU the Vote engages in year-round movement-building work toward building a truly inclusive democracy. Wisconsin is a key state for UU the Vote's action initiatives. [Click here](#) to learn how you can get involved in getting out the vote.

And here are some other UUA resources relevant to these times:

[Community Resilience Hub](#)

[ICE and Immigration Enforcement in Congregations](#)

[Expanding Sanctuary](#)

[Wisdom and inspiration from UUA President, the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt](#)

[More UUA Updates](#)

[See our website for more information - jruuc.org](#)

Please submit articles for the newsletter to news@jruuc.org by Tuesday at 10:00 am.