



James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Weekly News for 2/25/2026-3/3/2026

This Sunday, March 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

“Watch it Grow” with Rev. Karen Armina

We begin our annual pledge drive today – the time of year in which we focus more explicitly on how we take care of our beloved congregation. This is a great time to reflect together on what we might need to pay attention to, to continue to become who we want to be as a community. This morning, we’ll explore what it might feel like to think of ourselves as a seed source for love and justice, how we might spread and plant those seeds, and watch them grow.



Worship Associate: Stephen Rich
Special Music: JRUUC Sacred Breath Choir,
Denise Jacobs

[Zoom Link for Service](#)

[Service Webpage](#)

[Image from needpix.com]

After Service: Coffee & Conversation, Coming of Age

Next Sunday Worship: “[Squirrel!](#)” with Rev. Lori Hlaban

Next Sunday after Service: Coffee & Conversation

The Share the Plate recipient for March 1 and 8 is the [Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development](#). The Nehemiah Center cultivates innovative Black and non-black leaders through culturally grounded programs including youth empowerment and leadership development, community leadership and capacity building, Justified Anger and criminal justice, and reentry services. They were nominated by Virginia Harrison.



Our February Theme: Embodying Resilience

Our February theme reminds us of all the resources we have to hold on during hard times, resources both within us and between us. In this space, you'll find a new invitation into reflection every week.

Check in question: How have your relationships helped you be resilient?

The truth is that things don't really get solved. They come together and they fall apart. Then they come together again and fall apart again. It's just like that. The healing comes from letting there be room for all of this to happen: room for grief, for relief, for misery, for joy.

-- [Pema Chödrön](#), from [When Things Fall Apart](#)

Ministry Connections

Minister's Monthly Musings

From Rev. Karen Armina



Dear Ones,

How are you doing? It seems like we're being pushed a little more every day, and every day we need a little more to keep going on. At least, that's how I'm feeling. My recent trip to Minneapolis sent me back with lessons about what our administration will do to the people they've identified as "other" (in this moment, that means Black and Brown people, Native people, and all who would defend them). It also sent me back with lessons about neighboring and witnessing and interrupting.

The call for faith leaders to go to Minneapolis explicitly compared it to the 1965 call to Selma. And I see many parallels to that time: [Click here to read more...](#)

Minister's Availability

Rev. Karen's regular office hours are:

- **In person Tuesdays** at Java Cat Coffee House 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **In person Fridays** at Reeb 12:00-2:00 p.m.
- **Virtual Fridays** on Zoom 5:00-6:00 p.m. ([Zoom link](#))
- **Evenings and other times by appointment**- Karen would love to meet with you! Please [send her an email](#) to set up a time.

Music Ministry

We've hired a Director of Music Ministry! Candie Douglas is a recently retired high school choir teacher, choral director, singer, and pianist, who has a deep love of teaching and a rigorous knowledge of choral music. Candie will start her work with us in mid-March, and we're super excited to have you all meet her!

Our Music Support Group will continue to work with Rev. Karen on March music until Candie arrives. Information about intermittent choir rehearsals and choir Sundays is currently being sent out via the choir google group email list. [Contact David Henry](#) if you would like to join the choir email list. See **Small Group Ministries** and the **Congregation and Community Calendar** below for updates.

Are you a musician looking for an opportunity to share your music? Maybe you played an instrument in a school band or orchestra and would love to be able to play again. Maybe you are a singer/songwriter who would like to introduce us to new songs. Maybe you would like to share your love of a non-traditional instrument from another part of the world. There are opportunities at Reeb to play and/or sing with others – or to play a solo. All are welcome. We would love to hear from you. Please [contact David Henry](#).

And... we're doing a Hymn of the Month! It's "My Religion" by Linda Koehler Smith, from the *Sing Out Love* virtual hymnal. Linda composed it after overhearing a conversation between two Christians about their faith, which inspired her to refine how she would explain her own 30-year-long UU faith. During a walk in the woods near her house, she got her answer in the form of this song - her elevator speech about her UU faith. Members of the Sacred Breath Choir will provide a preview of this "UU Elevator Speech" for the congregation on Sunday 3/1. We look forward to singing it with you in March!

Lyrics:

My religion is this beautiful Earth, forests and fields and seas.

My religion is this web of life and my connection to all beings.

My religion is the wheel of the year, and the moon and stars above.

My religion is to hold all of this with love, love, love.

Religious Exploration and Family Ministry From Emily Smith, Director of Family Ministry

This Week: Our service on 3/1 will be multigenerational with everyone together in the sanctuary. After the service, Coming of Age youth will meet with Emily in the youth room.

Next Week: Our service on 3/8 will be multigenerational with everyone together in the sanctuary.



March Community Meal: Join us for our regularly scheduled 3rd Sunday community meal! On **Sunday March 15**, we'll have a potluck after service to feed our stomachs and our spirits. Community meals are an important part of our family ministry because they serve as a reconvening of our congregation on the weeks our children leave worship for religious exploration classes. Plus they're fun! Please bring a dish to share. You can sign up to do so on the sheet posted next to the kitchen window.

Small Group Ministries

Offering and Receiving Connection, Support, and Spiritual Practice

[Read more here](#)

Laughter Yoga - Second Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., contact [Virginia Harrison](#)

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

Sacred Breath Choir - Intermittent rehearsals, contact [David Henry](#) to join the choir mailing list

Folk Music Gatherings - Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. - noon, contact [Mike Stimson](#)

Cheers and Fears - Sunday, March 8, after worship, contact [Rev. Karen](#)

Rainbow Reebbers - Friday, March 20, 6:30-8 p.m., contact [Rev. Karen](#)

Our Wild and Precious Lives - Sunday, April 12, after worship, contact [Rev. Bowie](#)

[Zoom Link for Meditation](#)

Our Congregation and Community Calendar

Folk Group - 2/28

Sing and have fun with the folk group **every Saturday in February from 10:30 to noon**. Let's keep warm by making music together these winter months!

Modern folk/Americana/protest singer-songwriter Carole King is coming to Madison on Thursday, May 14. Some folks are making a field trip of it, so buy your tickets early and join us. Finally, folks have expressed interest in singing Bruce Springsteen's new protest song [Streets of Minneapolis \(YouTube link\)](#), here are the [lyrics and chords](#) (UG link).

Book Club - 3/2

Our next book club meeting is **Monday March 2**. Come by between **6:30 and 7 p.m.** to chat and eat, and from **7 to 8 p.m.** we will talk about books. February is Black History Month, and we have picked a challenge and topic to coincide. As always, this is just a suggestion, please feel free to come talk about whatever book(s) you would like or please feel welcome to come without a book to talk about. The more the merrier!

Challenge: Choose a book from a Goodreads Books to Celebrate Black History Month list (or another list of your choice):

- [Books to Celebrate Black History Month](#)
- [New fiction and nonfiction](#)
- [100 Essential work for Fiction by black authors](#)

Topic: What is a book that you have read (or are reading) that is by a black author?

The Big Share - 3/3

Community Shares Wisconsin (CSW) will hold its spring fund-raising event on **Tuesday March 3** and surrounding days. The Big Share is your opportunity to contribute to some of about 80 local non-profits and social justice organizations that participate in CSW, or you can make an undesignated contribution for distribution by CSW. Learn more about MOSES and other familiar and new organizations and their work in our community. As you already know, the need is great among these and many other causes that we all want to support, and collective effort is a good way to make our wishes count. [See our flyer](#) for more information, or [contact Mary Anglim](#).

Getting to Know JRUUC Class - 3/21

Our next [Getting to Know JRUUC Class](#) will be held **Saturday March 21 from 11:30 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m.** Please [contact the membership team](#) if you'd like to attend, or if you have questions. More details coming soon.

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

Congregation News, Invitations & Announcements

JRUUC Justice Action Hour a Success!

Following service this past weekend the Justice Ministry Coordination Team held an informational session about current Justice work at Reeb (JAMs for Immigrant Rights and in partnership with MOSES, as well as service ministries - Lunch at Luke House, UU the Vote and Building Unity). We then put together care packages of household essentials that will be given to families in need who have just secured housing in conjunction with [MMSD Homeless Services - Transitional Education](#)



[Program](#). Thank you to our leaders, presenters, and many helping hands! [Contact Megan Barry-Luglio](#) with any questions.

New Book Group: Love at the Center

Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalist theologies, in an accessible way? A book group facilitated by Rev. Karen on [Love at the Center](#) is a great way to do that! The book is a series of short essays, focused on the value most UUs describe as central to their faith, love: “In these pages, you’ll find personal testimony to love’s power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from many different expressions of Unitarian Universalism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one’s deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins. May *Love at the Center* serve as an invitation to deepen your own understanding and practices of love.” You can **read a sample** that includes the first four essays [here](#).

Please [let Karen know](#) if you’d like to attend, and we’ll decide on a meeting time and platform together. And if you’d like to order the book (regardless of whether you’ll attend), let Karen know that too - she’ll place a bulk order by the end of February.

Meet A Reeber – Kathleen Henry

Every month or so, your Membership Team shares an interview with someone who is part of our JRUUC congregation, to help us all get to know each other better. This month’s interview is with Kathleen Henry. Thanks to Kathleen for agreeing to be interviewed!

[Kathleen Henry Interview](#)

Would you like to be interviewed for “Meet a Reeber”? If so, please contact Deb Myrbo. You can use this [contact form](#), or find Deb’s email address in the Breeze directory. You’ll be able to choose which questions you want to answer from a list of about 15, and the interview can be done in person, via Zoom, or by email. Thank you for considering!

Knit for the Resistance! Melt the ICE!

Calling all knitters and crocheters! You may have noticed the red knit hats being worn by anti-ICE protesters in Minneapolis recently. These hats have a long history as a symbol in resistance to oppression—in the 1940’s, Norwegians made and wore red pointed hats with a tassel as a form of visual protest against Nazi occupation of their country. [Minnesotans have revived this protest tradition](#), and a Minneapolis yarn shop has recreated the pattern, available in both knit and crochet. If you attended the service in person on 2/15, you may have seen Ellie C wearing one of these hats.

Do you have an extra skein of red yarn left over from another project? Consider knitting or crocheting a hat or two for yourself or friends, as your own symbol of resistance to ICE. The pattern is available

online from the designer at [Needle and Skein](#), and they donate all profits from this pattern to immigrant support organizations.

If there's enough interest, we could hold a JRUUC knit-in and create hats to sell in our congregation, donating the proceeds to Voces de la Frontera. If you think you might like to participate in such a project, please contact [Deb Myrbo](#) and we'll try to organize an event. **Take back the red!**

Prairie UU Seeks Office Administrator

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society is looking for a half time (20 hours/week) office administrator. Here is the [link to the job posting](#). If interested, email a cover letter and resume to finance@uuprairie.org by March 9th to be in the initial review of applications.

Early Sunday Socializing at 9:45 am

You're invited for tea and greetings before worship on Sunday mornings! As we receive more and more visitors, we're learning that they tend to arrive earlier than many of us. We'd love for them to have Reebers to talk with, so our greeters are now preparing hot water to be ready at 9:45, so people can enjoy some tea and greet each other in the foyer before the service. We hope you'll consider coming a little earlier and making this a lively new tradition!

Rent Reeb

Do you or someone you know want to rent a large space, centrally located in Madison? The JRUUC Board of Trustees would like to remind you that [our building is for rent](#), for very reasonable rates, and that building rental is an important way for us to drive revenue for our currently tight budget. Can you please help us? Could YOU get just one person to call to schedule a visit for a tour and to discuss building rental? We would greatly appreciate your referral. Thank you!

Deadline for the Weekly Newsletter Submission


Please send your submissions to news@jruuc.org by **10 a.m. 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!

 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:



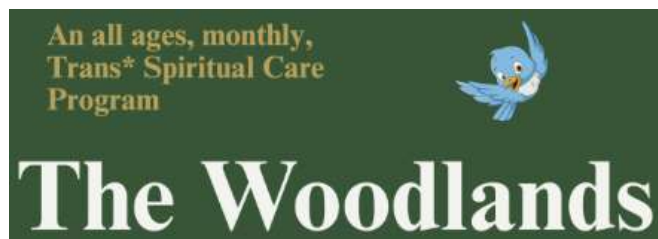
- Spiritual grounding - strengthen your heart and spirit for the work ahead
- Political analysis - understand the threats to democracy and justice
- Collective action - organize with others to block anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world

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

[Click here](#) to view the recording from the 8/11 Gathering.

The Woodlands:
First Sundays at 3 pm

A UUA monthly online gathering designed for trans children, youth, and adults – as well as the parents and caregivers of trans people. [Click here](#) to learn more about the sessions and to register online.



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.