James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Weekly News for 11/11/2026-11/17/2026

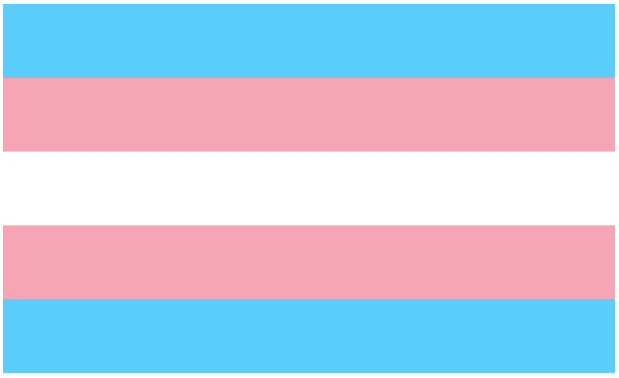
This Sunday, November 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

"A Song in a Weary Throat" with Rev. Denise Cawley



Pauli Murray was a lawyer, poet, activist, and priest whose ideas helped shape both the civil rights and women's rights movements. Murray also carried a lifelong, largely private struggle with gender, seeking understanding and care in a world that had no language or welcome for who Murray was. Their story holds deep pain, and remarkable courage, creativity, and faith.

As we approach **Transgender Day of Remembrance on Friday, November 20**, we gather to honor non-binary, transgender, and gender-diverse people whose lives were taken by violence and hatred, and to celebrate those who are living, loving, and leading among us. Through Murray's life, we'll explore how we can find healing, how we can become whole, and how each of us can help build a world where every person is free to be fully themselves. All are welcome. [Images from Wikimedia Commons]



Worship Associate: Kirsten Johnson
Special Music: David Lauth

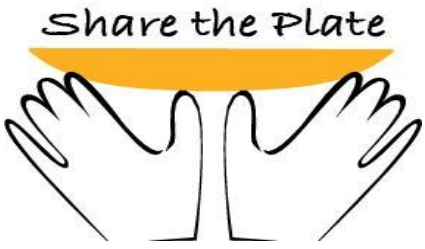
Service Webpage

Zoom Link for Service

After Service: *Coffee & Conversation*

Next Sunday Worship: *"Stories of Healing at JRUUC" with Virginia Harrison*
Next Sunday after Service: *Coffee & Conversation*

The Share the Plate recipient for Sunday, November 8 and 15, is the OutReach Rainbow Roof Fund, a rental assistance program providing financial aid to LGBTQ+ people in Dane County, to help prevent or relieve homelessness. They were nominated by Deb Myrbo.



Ministry Connections

Minister's Musings

From Rev. Denise Cawley, Interim Minister

A Listening Heart



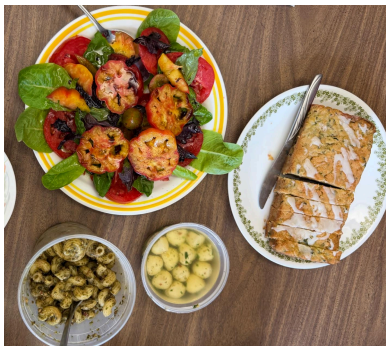
Listening is one of the most profound gifts you can give and many underestimate its importance and power. Pastoral companioning is key to all of our lives at home and work. Adding skills in this area will also aid in the growth of our congregation. To that end, I encourage everyone to sign up for the **December 6** Pastoral Listening Training. If you have complex issues with loved ones, workplaces or other places you volunteer, this training will help you have some phrases, practices and examples of things to say or not say in times of complexity. **Click here to sign up** so we can prepare for lunch and training materials.

Be a GEM please!



A new GEM Team concept (Generosity, Engagement, and Membership) would bring stewardship and membership work together, and the 2026–27 Stewardship and Fundraising Team is now forming. If you have a heart for how we welcome folks who reach our doors and travel with them into engaging with us, sharing in generosity of time, talent and treasure **let me know** if you want to be part of that journey. Your love and spirit are needed. (Note there are some time-limited jobs within this group.) (Photo by Girl with red hat on Unsplash**)**

Help Us Welcome Prairie UU Society Sunday Nov. 29



We are delighted that Prairie Unitarian Universalist Congregation will be joining us for the first Sunday of Advent on **November 29**. We are in need of a few more robust snacks that day to accommodate the extra folks. If you can bring one, please **let Rev. Denise know**.

Pagans? Wiccans? Religious Naturalists? Waldorf Folks?



Rev. Denise will preach on the pagan roots of this holiday reaching back 5,000 years and lead us in creating a ritual that we will build on each Sunday of Advent. This day marks the beginning of the Advent season in many Western Christian churches, however, many have forgotten the pagan roots of this holiday and how our religious ancestors built an Advent Scene together. We are creating a display to honor both Christian and Pagan roots of this festival of light. Please feel free to invite friends who may enjoy this tradition too!

Virtual Hymnal: Music Ministry Tech Request



Now that Manager of Music Ministry (MMM) Candie Douglas is now in place, worship is planned through the year-end. We would like to get a 13” iPad for our MMM and accompanists to use at Reeb. Now that we have a virtual hymnal this would let people at the piano play right from downloaded pages. If you have a newer 13” iPad or if you have other Apple Products that you are willing to donate to Reeb for the purpose of us turning them into gift cards from Apple I order to take that value off the price of an iPad we purchase, please **contact me** while this deal is going on. (Photo by Howard Bouchevereau on Unsplash)

What We CARRY - Resources



Some of you asked me about the books, videos and various authors I mentioned in this last **Sunday's Sermon**. In the sermon, I encouraged you to clean, declutter and order your homes as well as any other spaces you live in like work or church. It helps to set the tone for the holidays and new year with spaciousness to grow your spiritual life and have more of the kind of relationships you desire. Here are some of my favorite resources.

Peter Walsh: For the past 20 years, Peter Walsh has been working internationally helping families declutter and organize their homes and their lives. I have learned a lot from him. He has entertaining videos, podcasts and books.

Marie Kondo is the famous Tidying Expert, Bestselling Author, Star of the Netflix Show "Tidying Up With Marie Kondo and founder of KonMari Media, Inc. where you can find lots of tools to help. She is who Emily and I based our skit on Sunday about.

***The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* by Margareta Magnusson** describes a way to organize your earthly possessions before you die so that your family won't have to fight or stress over **what to do with the things** you leave behind.

Warmly,
RevD

Music Ministry

Sacred Breath Choir - Thursdays

The Sacred Breath Choir has begun practicing for Winter Solstice! All are welcome, no auditions, and you can sing in the section that best suits your vocal range. The choir meets **Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary**. Contact our Manager of Music Ministry and Choir Director, **Candie Douglas**, to learn more about the choir or other ways to get involved with music at Reeb.

Folk Group - 11/14

The folk group is meeting on **November 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon** to have some fun and to rehearse two songs we'll perform at the Reeb Rave that same night! These two songs are **Sweet Caroline** and **Keep on the Sunny Side**. These will be performed as audience sing-a-longs, so lend your voice!

December news: The worship team has a special Holiday Pageant planned for **December 20**, and the folk group will provide the music, which will be five traditional Christmas carols, a Solstice song and a Hanukkah song. The folk group is always looking for folks who love to sing and play, join us, we'll have a great time!

Religious Exploration and Family Ministry

From Emily Smith, Director of Family Ministry



Thanks to all who joined us last Saturday to watch and discuss The Princess Bride! We had a great showing - 15 attendees, including 2 from Prairie, and we had a rich discussion about the stories that are important to our lives and our relationships.

This Week: On 11/15, a religious exploration class for school-aged kids will be offered during worship. After the Time For All Ages, Emily will invite kids to join her in the front classroom for a lesson. Please note there will be no community meal because this is the weekend of Reeb Rave.

Next Week: On 11/22, people of all ages will be in the sanctuary for worship.

No community meal this month! Because our typical 3rd Sunday community meal falls on the same weekend as Reeb Rave, we will forgo the community meal.



Matinee & Musings - everyone welcome!: Join us for a new monthly event created and planned by two of our youth - Benny and Lottie! On the first Saturday of the month, we will watch a movie together, then discuss what we just watched through a chosen theme. People of all ages are welcome. We hope this can be a multigenerational discussion!

Saturday December 5 from 1-4 pm in the sanctuary, we will watch *Home Alone* and discuss it through the theme “first impressions.” This movie is rated PG.

The event is free to attend. A suggested $5 donation helps cover the cost of licensing the movies.

Small Group Ministries

Offering and Receiving Connection, Support, and Spiritual Practice

Read more here

Laughter Yoga - Second Monday of each month, 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 - Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., contact **Rachel Avery**
Folk Music Gatherings - Saturday, 11/14, 10:30 a.m. - noon, contact **Mike Stimson**

Zoom Link for Meditation

Our Congregation and Community Calendar

Reeb Rave - 11/14

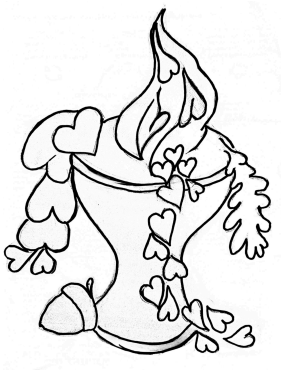
Reeb Rave, our annual fundraiser auction and party, will be **Saturday, November 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m.** Come celebrate the tradition of Fasching/Carnival – the world turned upside down! Indulge in food, music, costumes, and revelry, and mock authority!



- We are looking for volunteers to help with all aspects. **Click here to sign up to help.**
- We also need your donations of goods and services. **Here is our donation form.**
- Please register for dinner early. **Click here for the official auction website and catalog.**

See our website for more information. [Image from magnific.com]

Online JRUUC Covenant Group - 11/18



A Covenant Group is a small group that meets monthly to reflect, share, listen, and deepen relationships for mutual support. The group creates a covenant to protect confidentiality and trust. Each agenda follows the monthly theme that also weaves through Sunday services. November's theme is "Healing." JRUUC's 2026-27 Covenant Group will meet on Zoom **the third Wednesday of each month, November through June, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** **Contact Sarah Cook before November 18 (first meeting)** with questions or to sign up.

Potluck for People, Peace, & Planet - 11/21

Now that the election is done, we still need Unity! The 3rd Saturday Unity Potluck will happen on **Saturday, November 21 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary**. Let's look at what we have to work with after the election and talk about how to move forward. Good food and deep conversation is part of how we can make things work.

Thanksgiving Potluck - 11/26

You are invited to the Thanksgiving Potluck at **JRUUC** on **Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 3 to 7 p.m.** Bring a dish to pass! No alcohol please. Please bring a list of ingredients for the allergy prone among us. Bring a game! Bring a friend! Bring yourself!

Hosted by Ingrid Frances Stark and Stephen Lee Rich. Help setting up tables and cleaning up afterwards will be appreciated. We will start setting up at around **2:30 p.m.**

Invitation to Pastoral Listening Training & JRUUC Care Teams - 12/6

Life will always have its ups and downs. In difficult times, wouldn't it be ideal if EVERYONE had tools to help one another navigate challenges? To that end, pastoral listening is essential. It creates containers for care while also offering boundaries.

For those of you on the branches of our caring teams, we are asking folks to renew their commitments for specific help on a short-term basis. Whenever someone is asking for meals, rides, card writing, errands, visits, household help it often is a time of stress. We imagine that all the care team members as well as the whole JRUUC community could benefit from learning more. These skills are helpful in any family or work situation. We are offering training to learn pastoral skills. ALL JRUUC FOLKS ARE WELCOME – no need to be a current Care Team member to attend.



Pastoral listening principles include: Spiritual Presence; Caring, Not Curing; Nonjudgmental Presence; and Practice Active Listening.

Pastoral listening training will be **at JRUUC on Sunday, December 6, 2026**:

- **11:30 a.m.** - Lunch
- **Noon** - Training
- **1:45 p.m.** - Wrap Up and Clean Up
- **2:00 p.m.** - Conclude

Registration is limited. **Click here to sign up** so we can prepare for lunch and training materials.

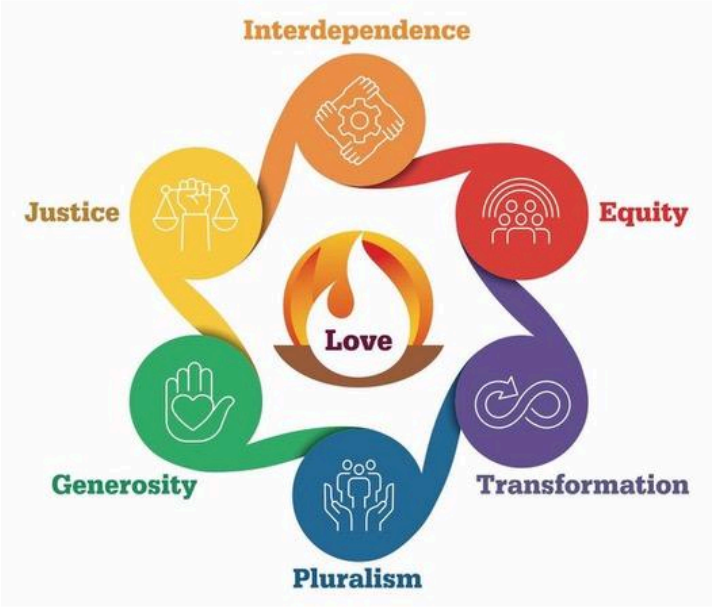
RevD will make vegetarian soup for lunch and you can bring sides (salads, bread, dessert).

This training will be in person. If there is enough interest, we will offer another session online. It may or may not include the same tools. **Questions? Ask RevD.**

Congregation News, Invitations & Announcements

TWO WAYS TO HELP OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS RIGHT NOW!

Reeb members and friends who want to help two of the immigrant neighbors that our Immigrant and Refugee Rights (IRR) Team is working with have two ways to help:



1. A woman from Colombia living on the East Side needs occasional rides to doctor or dentist appointments on weekdays. To be added to a list of volunteer drivers so you can respond to whether you are available for specific local trips (with details on times, dates and addresses) to drive her to or from the appointment, **contact Leila Pine**.

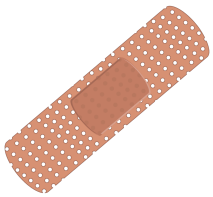
2. A loving, caring immigrant grandpa in his late 50s who is being treated for stage 4 prostate cancer and has no health insurance, and who has been a close friend of Reebers Leila Pine and Craig McComb for over 20 years, is in deep debt for hospital bills, so they have set up a GoFundMe for him. Please consider donating whatever you can to **Juan's GoFundMe**.

EASY FUN Volunteer Opportunity



Calling all builders, crafters, and time travelers! Our no-rehearsal holiday pageant on **December 20** needs a TARDIS. Do you have a big cardboard box, a blue sheet, or a knack for making signs? We also need help gathering props. No experience needed, just a willingness to be bigger on the inside. Contact **Rev. Denise** to volunteer! We also need help gathering a few props for the day. Let Rev. Denise know if you can help with the "Bigger on the Inside: A Time-Traveling Pageant of Solstice, Hanukkah & Christmas" that will debut on **Sunday, December 20, 2026 – note this is a NO Rehearsal Pageant – so tell your friends to attend.** [Image from Wikimedia Commons]

Please Update Your Annual Vaccines



Most Unitarian Universalists are strong believers in science, medicine, and epidemiology. Even if we fear needles, most of us overcame fears to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible (if we were able to). Likewise, we want to keep one another safer by getting all flu, COVID and other vaccines we need. Unitarian Universalists have a strong theology of interdependence and commitment to the common good. If you are able to update your vaccinations, please do so for the good of our whole community. **Public Health Madison & Dane County** has resources.

Share Your Flower Power!



Your Worship Team is offering you the opportunity to donate flowers, or longer-lasting seasonal arrangements, or to share green plants on a temporary basis, to add to the beauty of our Sunday services. If desired, you may dedicate these in honor of a special occasion, or in someone's memory. Flowers may be purchased bouquets or picked from your own garden. All sizes are welcome, and anyone can donate.

Here is a signup sheet where you can let us know when you plan to bring them, and any dedication information. If you indicate a dedication, we'll announce that during the service. Please arrive a little early for the service and give the flowers to the Worship Associate when you arrive. We have some vases, but you are welcome to bring your own and take it home after the service.

If you have questions, please contact **Deb Myrbo** or **Rev. Denise**. Thank you!

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!

Download the Breeze App to Access the JRUUC Directory

Breeze is JRUUC's online directory and giving platform. Download the app by searching "Breeze CHMS" in the iPhone App Store or Android Play Store; when it asks for the subdomain, put in "JRUUC." If you would like to create a new account, or if you need any help, email **Bryan Rainey**, our office administrator.

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!

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 through Tending SOIL – contact Eva Wingren if you're interested. **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!

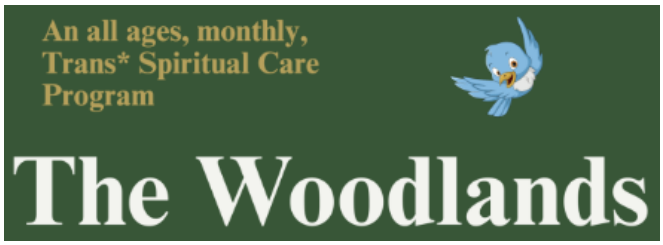
The Gathering:
Second Mondays at 7 p.m.
A monthly virtual event designed to offer:



- 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, to register to receive the Zoom link, and to view previous recordings.

The Woodlands:
First Sundays at 3 p.m.



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.

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.