



James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Weekly News for 10/7/2026-10/13/2026

This Sunday, October 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

**“Theology and the Apocalypse: Courage in Community”
with Rev. Denise Cawley**

In a time when loneliness is deepening, violence is rising, and truth feels increasingly like fiction, Rev. Denise Cawley reminds those who believe in love that they hold a secret recipe. Fewer and fewer people know how to build Beloved Community, let alone one that is just, equitable, and fosters a sense of belonging. She challenges us to see nuance where others push us into binary thinking. In this moment that feels like apocalypse, she argues, the answer is community, and she calls on each of us to go all in on making that community what we dream it can be. [Image from openclipart.org]



Worship Associate: Marti Everett

Special Music: Candie Douglas, Molly Mitchell

[Service Webpage](#)

[Zoom Link for Service](#)

***After Service: Coffee & Conversation, Greeter Meetup,
Why We Record Exhibit***

Next Sunday Worship: “[The Courage of a Housewife: Viola Liuzzo](#)” with Rev. Denise Cawley

Next Sunday after Service: Community Meal

The Share the Plate recipient for Sunday, October 11 and 18 is the [Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission](#). Since 1984, GLIFWC has served eleven Ojibwe tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan who reserved treaty rights with the US government in 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854. GLIFWC advances land and water stewardship, restoration, education and outreach in support of indigenous treaty rights throughout the ceded territories.



Ministry Connections

Minister's Musings

From Rev. Denise Cawley, Interim Minister

Deepening Our Call, Covenant and Relationship

In the past few weeks, covenant, spiritual practice and even the courage to disappoint have all been showing up as worship topics to help you deepen your commitment to our faith. I am hoping for those of you who have not signed our membership book, you will do so or inquire about our membership process. We want to be in relationship with people who share our values and are willing to be vulnerable in their journey to shared, covenanted community.

This past weekend, my husband and I were in Cape Cod where we participated in a weekend of activities [installing another clergy couple as co-ministers of the Brewster, MA](#) congregation. That church is also celebrating its 325th anniversary. We were excited to meet ministers from the five Cape Cod congregations, and to tour the church in Provincetown, which was also built by ship captains in the era of the pilgrims and first colonial settlers. This had me thinking a lot about the systems we set up, the legacy we leave, the time and treasure we offer to our communities. Consider what the JRUUC of 325 years from now might look like. I wonder what you would imagine. Feel free to [email me](#) if you have ideas.

Rev. Matt Aspin called the congregation to support the co-ministers. [You can view what we said here.](#) Rev. Matt spoke at the 1:38 mark. Beginning at the 1:47 mark, I spoke about how we are all aiming to be healers together: I called our colleagues to build a “**we**,” a community that heals, with every piece of the map in its hands. I offered ways we all can be healers making healing **irresistible**.

Indeed, I think we can all do that if we work together to build this community into one that is resilient, growing, learning, vulnerable, joyful and even a place for irresistible healing. I hope you will continue to join us on that journey.

I am including photos of some of the churches we saw, colleagues gathered, the lecture we attended with author Robin Wall Kimmerer and a few elements of the area.

I send you blessings,

RevD



Left: Many churches in the area were built by ship captains hundreds of years ago.

Right: Provincetown Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ministers at the Brewster Installation getting ready to process.



Left: Interfaith Clergy. Right: Rev. Matt offering the charge to the congregation.



Left: Rev. Denise charged the ministers to not go about ministry alone and to create a congregation of irresistible healing.

Right: Rev. Denise admired congregation t-shirts that celebrated the 325 years of the congregation.



Left photo: Three clergy couples: Rev. Matt Aspin, Rev. Denise Cawley, Rev. Debra Haffner, Rev. Joel Miller, Rev. Verdis LeVar Robinson (who is also in a clergy couple - his partner was not in attendance) and Rev. Scot Hull and Rev. Julia Jones who we were there to honor.

Right photo: Author Robin Wall Kimmerer from the Potawatomi Tribe being welcomed to speak by an elder in the Wampanoag Tribe.

Bring a Friend Sunday - October 25, 2026

Please invite your friends, family, neighbors and those interested in a covenanted religious community to our Bring a Friend Sunday, where we are also celebrating and learning from the life of Dolly Parton. If you know someone who would benefit from spiritual deepening, this will be a great service to ask them to join. After the service we will have an opportunity for newcomers to learn more about us and ask questions. Emily, our Director of Family Ministry, will also partner with me on a chat to learn what caregivers and parents might be seeking for children and youth.

For those of you who often attend online, we encourage you to visit that day in person if you are able. The music is going to be fantastic. Many people miss seeing you, and it would be great for Rev. Denise to meet you face to face as well.



FILM NEGATIVE

GATIVE



FILM NEGATIVE

FILM NEGATIVE



FILM NEGATIVE

**BRING A FRIEND WORSHIP
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**

**DOLLY PARTON
THEOLOGY:
HONORING A
LEGACY,
ENCOURAGING
COURAGE**

10:00am Music & Message
11:15-12:30 Info Sessions,
Coffee, & Conversation
Families Welcome

**James Reeb UU
Congregation**

2146 E Johnson St,
Madison, WI 53704

JRUUC.org

Music Ministry

Welcome Candie Douglas!

We're thrilled to welcome Candie Douglas as our new Manager of Music Ministry (MMM) and Choir Director. You may have met her as one of the accompanist musicians at JRUC. We are delighted that after Candie got to know us, she became more interested in being part of our staff. She brings more than 30 years of experience in choral and general music education, including 24 years as a high school choir director in the Sun Prairie Area School District, and holds a Master of Music Education from UW-Whitewater and a Bachelor of Music Education from UW-Madison. Her work has been recognized with the 2024 Kohl Fellowship Award for creating equitable access to private voice instruction, and the 2021 Rockwell Award from UW-Madison for mentoring more than 30 student teachers. She also created the inclusive Unified Choir program, and continues to coach and accompany soloists and ensembles.

I want to note, Candie's title reflects the new direction the Music Support Team has taken JRUC music this past year that we aim to continue. There are more congregants offering music than in years past. That team has led us coordinating more collaborations and styles of music with a more inclusive approach that we want to continue. I'm grateful for their willingness to partner with me: Specifically Rachel Avery and Sandy Ligon partnered with me in revamping the job description and David Lauth reviewed our materials. I've also been assisted by Vera Leone and David Henry, our most recent search team members. We could not have done this without the tireless work of Susan Podebradsky and Rachel Avery on the earlier search that took numerous twists. The Board has also worked to support the many iterations this search has gone through and I'm grateful for their endorsement of Candie as well. Please join us Sunday when Candie will be competing her last time as our accompanist before beginning work October 19. Welcome Candie! -RevD

Message from Candie: I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident and spent most of my career teaching high school choir in Sun Prairie. My family includes my husband and two adult children. Since retiring from teaching two years ago, I have enjoyed having more free time to travel with my family and work as an accompanist for Sun Prairie Schools. I look forward to sharing music and fellowship with everyone as your new Manager of Music Ministry at James Reeb. Thank you for your kind, welcoming spirits!



Sacred Breath Choir - Thursdays

The Sacred Breath Choir has begun! 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**. For the time being, Rachel Avery and the Music Support Group are organizing music at Reeb and directing the choir. We will share more news regarding musical leadership when we have additional information.

And, choir and the folk group are not the only way to participate in music at Reeb. 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](#).

Folk Group - Saturdays in October

In October, we'll have several opportunities to get together to practice for the special Dolly Parton Theology service on October 25. The folk group plans to meet **Saturdays in October from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the multipurpose room**. We will have special rehearsals with the choir on **Thursday, October 15 and 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** There will be choral arrangements of "If We Never Meet Again," "In the Sweet By and By," and "Nine to Five." Come to a rehearsal for the sheet music. We will also have folk arrangements for "Coat of Many Colors," "Everything is Beautiful in its Own Way," and "Joline." Sarah Hallas will lead the congregation in "I Will Always Love You." Everyone is encouraged to come and sing! [Here is a link to the music packet.](#)

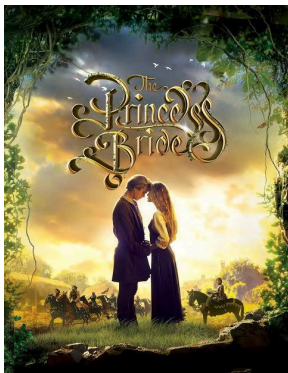
Religious Exploration and Family Ministry From Emily Smith, Director of Family Ministry

This Week: On 10/11, worship will be multigenerational with everyone together in the sanctuary.

Next Week: On 10/18, we will offer an RE class for elementary-aged children during worship service. Come explore our October worship theme, Courage, through crafts, conversation, and play! After worship and classes, we will reconvene in the sanctuary for our **October community meal**. A sign up sheet for that is linked below.



Community Meal: Our October community meal will be on **Sunday October 18** after worship. Come feed your stomach and your spirit! If you can, please bring a dish to share and/or help with set up and clean up. You can sign up to do so (and see what others are bringing!) at [this online form](#).



Matinee & Musings - all ages 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 November 7 from 1-4 pm in the sanctuary, we will watch *The Princess Bride* and discuss it through the theme of the stories we share with each other. This movie is rated PG.

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

[Zoom Link for Meditation](#)

Our Congregation and Community Calendar

Pause and Play Benefit Concert - 10/8

All are invited to join Building Unity on **Thursday, October 8, at 5:30 p.m., at Atwood Music Hall**, for a Pause and Play benefit concert to help raise the funds needed to finish "The People's Film" (placeholder name), a documentary about the Fight For Our Lives Democracy Tour and the wonderful people we've met along the way. [See flyer](#) for more details.

Book Club - 10/10

Our next book club meeting is planned for **Saturday, October 10**. From **9:30-10 a.m.**, we will chat and snack, and from **10-11 a.m.**, we will talk about books. For this month, the suggested topic is "Out of Your Comfort Zone," a genre you normally avoid.

Palestine Olive Harvest Solidarity Fair - 10/10

Madison's Palestine solidarity community will host a Solidarity Fair in honor of Palestine's fall olive harvest on **Saturday, October 10, open house from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at JRUUC**. [Why We Record: Defying](#)

[Fragmentation and Erasure in Palestine](#), a visual exhibit, will be on display. This drop-in event is free and open to the public. [See flyer](#) for more information.

Why We Record Exhibit - 10/11

After the Palestine Olive Harvest Solidarity Fair, the Madison-Rafah Sister City Project will be leaving their [Why We Record](#) exhibit in the foyer at JRUUC on **Sunday, October 11**. The exhibit fits the sermon topic of “courage in community” and demonstrates how the answers to many issues lie in community.

Meetup for Greeters and Anyone Interested in Greeting - 10/11

The membership team would like to extend a warm invitation to those who might be interested in joining our greeter team. We are a fun group of folks that help make Reeb so awesome and welcoming. Come and be a part of the team that meets you at the door, puts a warm cup o’ Joe in your hand and really cares that you’re here.

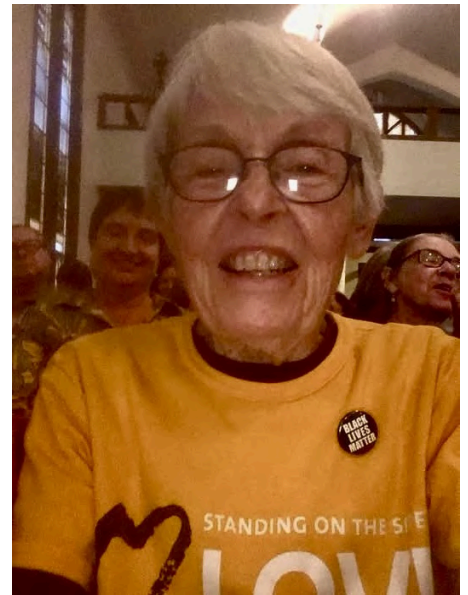
Greeters and those interested in becoming greeters will gather on **Sunday, October 11, approximately 11:15 a.m., in the multipurpose room**, to chat about duties and schedules, and to discuss any questions from new and current greeters.

Joan Kemble’s Celebration of Life - 10/11

A celebration of Joan Kemble’s life will be held on **Sunday, October 11, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Madison Public Market** (202 N First St). Please join Joan’s family and friends in the Market Hall to celebrate her extraordinary life of creativity, nurture and care of the land, and her devotion to peace and justice.

We will gather at 2 p.m. with a program to begin at 2:30 p.m. Some of Joan’s creations will be on display, and several of the organizations she participated in and cared about will have informational displays and tables so you can learn more about their work. FEED Kitchen vendors will provide finger foods. There will be singing!

There is a parking lot on site, but it is limited. There is street parking across First St on Mifflin and Dayton. There is plenty of bike parking and also a Madison Metro Bus Rapid Transit station a half block away from the market, so if you are able, please take the bus!



Building Work Day - 10/17

Our next work day is scheduled for **Saturday, October 17, from 1 to 4 p.m.** Please come help keep our building looking sharp if you are able. At this workday, please expect either yard work outside or help with a deep clean of the kitchen. If you are aware of other tasks, please let [Renee Buchanan](#) know. We

will also have a second workday on Saturday, November 7, from 9 to noon, and the focus will mainly be on yard work, particularly cleaning up leaves.

Potluck for People, Peace, & Planet - 10/17

The next Potluck for People, Peace, & Planet is on **Saturday, October 17, at 6 p.m.**, the evening of the next “No Kings” Nationwide Demonstration Day. There will be a new “chip in for pizza option.” [See flyer](#) for more details.

Save the Date

Saturday, November 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m. - Reeb Rave, Our Annual Fundraising Auction and Party

Congregation News, Invitations & Announcements

Reeb Rave: Volunteer and Donate!

Reeb Rave, our annual fundraiser auction and party, will be **Saturday, November 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

- We are looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of it. [Click here to sign up to help.](#)
- We also need your donations of goods and services. [Here is a link to our donation form.](#)
- And we need ideas for a theme so we can pick music and people can dress in costumes! Send your ideas to [Tom and Bret](#).

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

Snow Plowing Needed for 2026-2027

The building team has not yet secured snow plowing services for 2026-2027. If you know someone who is able to snow plow our building when there is 3 or more inches of snow for our parking lot and for the two apartments next door, please contact [Renee Buchanan](#).

Share the Plate Donation Totals for August

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 **August**, we raised:

- \$190.17 for [United Way of NE Minnesota](#) for Ely Wildfire Recovery
- \$262.82 for [Outreach LGBTQ+ Community Center](#)

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.*

JRUUC Online Giving and Directory

[Breeze](#) is JRUUC's website for online giving and the directory. If you would like to create an account, or if you need any help, email Bryan Rainey, our office administrator, at office@jruuc.org.

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.