



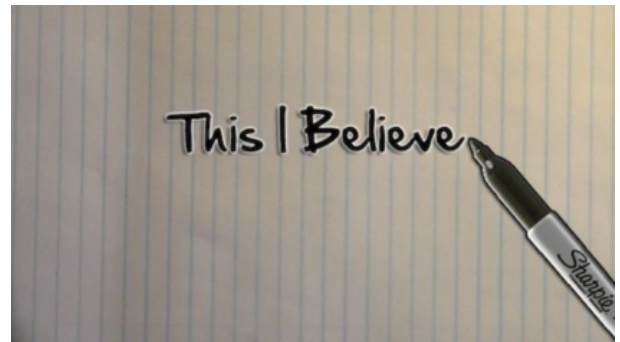
James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Weekly News for 3/20/2024-3/26/2024

This Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 10:00 am

This I Believe – 2024 with Craig McComb, Elaine Morrison, Mary Wichita

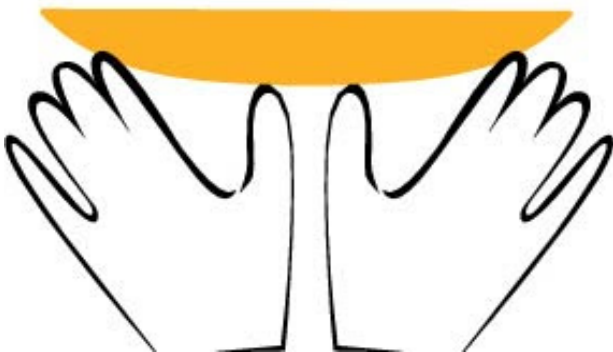
In this service, we'll hear from three JRUUC members about what they believe, why they believe it, and how their belief has transformed them. *After service:*
UUA Common Read Book Discussion (11:30 pm)



[Service website](#)

[Zoom Link for Service](#)

Share the Plate



The Share the Plate recipient for March 17 and 24 will be the [Teacher Support Network](#), a program of the Madison Public Schools Foundation, which helps MMSD teachers buy needed resources for their students. From pencils to snacks to winter gear, this fund allows teachers an option other than their personal funds to address unmet student needs. They were nominated by Joan Kemble

Please [nominate a local organization](#) for our Share the Plate Program!

Next Sunday:

- [Labyrinths as Tools for Transformation with Genevieve McPherson-Shambarger and Rev. Suzelle Lynch](#)

Our March Theme: The Gifts of Transformation

Our March theme reminds us that transformation does not come only from intense, directed, individual effort. Transformation needn't be a long and lonely struggle, but instead can be more like learning a new dance with a new friend.

Check-in question: How has your congregation or community changed the way you accept and embrace transformation?

This I now know for certain: I do all of growing during the times in my life when I am offering compassion to the parts of myself that have not yet grown. I never once managed to shame myself into a version of me I loved more

[Andrea Gibson](#)

Ministry Connections

Minister's Musings From Rev. Karen Armina

Rev. Karen will be away on sabbatical leave until May 1, 2024. There is information about what's planned for both Karen and Reeb during this time, including names and contact information for people responsible for various areas of ministry, in a brochure that's available in the foyer. You can also [click here for complete information](#) about her leave and who to contact in her absence. Read her ["Minister's Musings" here](#) from December or [click here](#) for more about Rev. Karen.



Music Ministry

From Jennifer Hedstrom, Music Director



Hymn of the Month: As We Sing of Hope and Joy

Our hymn of the month was written by Elizabeth Alexander. Alexander (b. 1962) grew up in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio, but currently resides in St. Paul, Minnesota. Alexander's choral music is performed by thousands of choirs across the globe and she is one of the most performed composers in the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network.

This month's theme is "The Gift of Transformation" and this song explores the ways we can transform our world with our hands and our songs. As we enter the transformative season of spring, I am especially fond of the hymn's final lyric: "May every Alleluia bear a seed." Interestingly, Elizabeth Alexander has completely re-written this hymn since its publication in "Singing the Journey." On her website, she writes, "this song is about rolling up one's sleeves and doing the hard work of restorative justice!" She also writes that, "Despite its publication, I was never completely satisfied with the song, for reasons I couldn't exactly understand." After years of changes - both big and small - she published a new song in 2020 titled, "No Ordinary Song." I find it beautiful that our Hymn of the Month has undergone its own transformation since being published in "Singing the Journey." We will sing the version in the hymnal this month, but I hope [you'll explore her new rendition here](#). It will definitely make an appearance at Reeb in the future.

Shared Music:

#1060 As We Sing of Hope and Joy (HOM)

#21 For the Beauty of the Earth

#170 We Are a Gentle, Angry People

#1024 When the Spirit Says Do

Religious Education and Family Ministry

From Genevieve McPherson-Shambarger, Director of Religious Education



This Week: This Sunday children and youth will be in the sanctuary for a multigenerational service. Our youth group will NOT meet after the service due to several families being out of town. Instead we will have our youth group and Easter celebrations next week after the service.

Next Sunday: Next Sunday we will have our fifth Sunday fair featuring different forms of labyrinths throughout the building. Walk a floor labyrinth, trace a mini labyrinth with your finger, or learn how to make your own. After the service Children and Youth of all ages are invited to an Easter celebration in the multiple

room (see below).

Easter: Children of all ages are invited to join us for an Easter egg hunt and egg dying after the service next Sunday, March 31st (note this date has changed). Please let Genevieve know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Volunteers Needed: Genevieve is looking to form an RE team to better serve the needs of children and families at Reeb. If you are someone who is interested in teaching, providing nursery care, or just

have an interest in planning for RE please see Genevieve after the service or email her at re@jruuc.org.

Community Meal: We are always looking for volunteers to help cook for our community meals! Vegan, vegetarian, Gluten/Dairy Free items are always appreciated! Please contact Genevieve at re@jruuc.org to sign up with a dish! Your support is what helps us be able to continue this important community building and fellowship. Thank you!

Small Group Ministries

Offering and Receiving Connection, Support, and Spiritual Practice

[Read more here](#)

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

Sacred Breath Choir - Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., contact Music Director [Jennifer Hedstrom](#)

Folk Music Gatherings - Saturdays, 2 to 3:30pm, contact [Mike Stimson](#)

[Zoom Link for Meditation](#)

Our Congregation and Community Calendar

Come Sing and Play Folk Music in March! 3/23

We had another great time on Saturday and some of us folks sang "Ripple" in Sunday's awesome music service! Please join us on **Saturdays in March and April at 2pm** for singing anything we want. Bring your voice and/or an instrument and we'll make joyful noise! *Anyone interested in singing "Lean on Me" during the service on Sunday, April 7, we'll sing it together a couple times each Saturday until the service.* All talent levels are welcome, as long as you sing loudly, and if you don't want to sing, we have drums and tambourines, or bring your own instrument.

Remembering Brian Gehring - 3/23 and 4/7

Beloved member and friend Brian Gehring died on February 28, 2024 after a long battle with cancer. His full obituary can be found [here](#).

Brian's visitation will be held at GUNDERSON EAST FUNERAL AND CREMATION CARE, 5203 Monona Drive, Madison, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, March 23, 2024, followed by funeral services led by Rev. Bowie. Brian's family knows how special JRUUC was to him and invites our community to attend.

A Sharing Circle will be held in Brian's memory in the JRUUC sanctuary after the service Sunday April 7th. Come with your memories and your stories of Brian.

If you find yourself in need of additional support as you process this loss, email our Caring Tree Coordinators at care@jruuc.org. Rev. Bowie is available through the Caring Tree if you need a minister.

Save the Date

March 23 - **CANCELED:** Outdoor potluck/fire at Burrows Park shelter

March 31 - **CANCELED:** [Justice Ministries Listening Session](#)

April 7 - [Joining Sunday at Reeb](#)

April 7 - Sharing Circle Remembering Brian Gehring after service

April 19-20 - [UUA MidAmerican Assembly](#)

April 26-27 - JRUUC Annual Rummage Sale

April 27 - Rev. Carin's installation

April 28 - Community Meal after service

May 19 - Congregational Annual Meeting

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

Congregation News & Announcements

Changes to Danica's Office Hours Next Week

The week of March 25, Danica will have reduced hours. *She will not be in the JRUUC office on Wednesday the 27th.* Danica will still be sending out the JRUUC Newsletter and handling Sunday service prep. As always, the best way to reach Danica is sending her an email at office@jruuc.org.

Send Kelly Kearns Love and Support

Our congregation member Kelly Kearns is in hospital recovering from an infection following surgery. If you would like to see updates on her progress and send messages of support on her Caring Bridge website, email care@jruuc.com for the link.

Capital Chats with WISDOM

Sent by Joan Kemble. MOSES and WISDOM members continue to advocate for an end to the inhumane lockdown in Wisconsin prisons due to staff shortages. A 14 minute interview with WISDOM staffer Mark Rice provides a great deal of information. [Capitol Chats with WISDOM re Prison Lockdowns](#).

For Rent! For Rent!

Do you or someone you know want to rent a large space, centrally located in Madison Wisconsin? Your JRUUC Board of Trustees would like to remind you that our building is "For Rent", for very reasonable fees. Building Rental is a unique resource for JRUUC revenue because rental income generally comes from businesses and organizations that are outside of the membership, therefore can ease the burden on the congregants of our beautifully small congregation. Your Board of Trustees is concerned that this income resource is mostly untapped at this time, and we still need to do better here. Can you please help us? Please consider if YOU could get just one person to call to schedule a visit for a tour and to discuss building rental. Thank you so much for your referral.

Join the UUA MidAmerica Regional Assembly 4/19-4/20

The Unitarian Universalist Association's MidAmerica Regional Assembly is being held at First Unitarian Society in Madison on April 19-20. There will be a variety of workshops, an address by our UUA President, and a chance to meet other UUs from throughout the midwest. This year we have a very rare opportunity to attend this event in person without having to travel. You can find more details and register to attend at <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra>.

Sunday Tech Help Wanted

Interested in keeping our zoom services streaming? We need more tech help! We can train you. [Contact Rachel Avery](#) to learn more.

Help Coordinate JRUUC's Share the Plate

If you are interested in helping coordinate JRUUC's Share the Plate recipients please contact [Julia Richards](#)

New Deadline for the Weekly Newsletter Submissions, Tuesday 10 am

Please send your submissions to news@JRUUC.org by 10 am on Tuesdays, so we have time to get them in the newsletter. 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 Improvements? 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. Thanks!

UUA News & Connections

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General Assembly 2024 Theme Announcement: Love Unites, Stories Ignite

The 63rd General Assembly will take place **virtually** Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024. Participants will receive:

- Memorable, high-impact content for faith formation, with an easy and accessible experience
- Sense of belonging in the online community, with flexible approaches for a variety of needs
- Renewed connection to the wider faith of Unitarian Universalism.
- Inspiration and support to carry forward to your local congregations and beyond



SIDE WITH LOVE

[Click here](#) to learn what you can do to work for justice along with our national association



[Click here](#) to learn how you can get involved in getting out the vote

[More UUA Updates](#)

[See our website for more information - jruuc.org](http://jruuc.org)

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