



NEWS FROM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH WEST

WE ARE A PEOPLE OF BEAUTY

Sunday, June 2, 2019 — 10:00 am

"Art for the People"

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, with Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Intern Minister

Have you ever wondered about the beautiful wall sculpture in our Sanctuary? Today, as we celebrate and say farewell to our Intern Minister, Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson and prepare for our Annual Congregational Meeting following the service, we learn about the life and philosophy of Jordi Bonet, the artist who created our sculpture. A reception for Kimberlee follows the service — **Annual Meeting will begin at approximately 11:30 am. Today is also "You Choose the Music Sunday," with selections chosen by Auction winner Larry Hawley.**

Sunday, June 9, 2019 — 10:00 am

"PRIDE SUNDAY: What's in a Pronoun?"

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, with UUCW Member Trevor Murbach

So much of our culture and what our society thinks of as "normal" is embedded in our language. But it is possible - and wonderful - to use language in ways that create liberation and fight oppression! On this Pride Weekend in our Milwaukee area, let's remember that the way in which we use language says everything about our values and the world that we are trying to create and consider language patterns that are more aligned with our best and highest values. Wear your rainbow gear today in honor of PRIDE, and join us for the MKE Pride Parade, too! **Music today from the UUCW Kaleidoscope Band.**

Sunday, June 16, 2019 — 10:00 am

"Walking Alongside Our Youth in Milwaukee"

Pulpit Guest: The Rev. Ron Ballew**Worship Leader: Eddee Daniel**

As a Christian school Chaplain, the Reverend Ron Ballew engages every day with young people who live with broken minds, bodies and spirits. The school's mission includes addressing the suffering, healing the brokenness and building strong character. Come share in the journey with Reverend Ballew as he explores what it means to work with this community. . **Music today from Jen Nicolosi, Lead Music Director, and the special Family Choir.**

About Our Guest: Rev. Ballew is an ordained minister in the Congregational Church and spent 20 years in parish ministry. Rev. Ballew is now semi-retired and serves as a Chaplain at Hope Christian School in Milwaukee.

Sunday, June 23, 2019 — 10:00 am

"The Human Animal"

Pulpit Guest: The Rev. Michael A. Schuler**Worship Leader: Steve Frey**

It has sometimes been said that one of the reasons our species has now reached the point that it poses a threat to its own (and many other sentient creatures) survival is because we have refused to see ourselves as one animal among many. This weekend we'll consider what it means in the broadest sense to be a "human animal." **Beautiful music provided by YRUU Youth Spencer Harris.**

About Our Guest: Rev. Dr. Michael A. Schuler is Minister Emeritus of the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin, and the author of *Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living*.

Sunday, June 30, 2019 — 10:00 am

"Beauty of the Solo Dance"

Pulpit Guest: Omega Burckhardt, UU Seminarian

Dance has long been used as an expression of beauty, the magic of the movement of the human body, and a celebration of space and sound. What does it look like to use that power and celebration as a protest? What does it mean to dance beautifully alone in the face of immeasurable sadness and anger? **Music today provided by Ruben Piirainen, UUCW Music Director.**

About Our Guest: Omega Burckhardt is studying for the ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Her passions include interfaith collaboration and justice for migrant families. She is currently completing a unit of clinical pastoral education at the hospitals in Hartford and Grafton. She lives in Milwaukee.



13001 West North Avenue
Brookfield WI 53005-5219

Phone: 262-782-3535

Fax: 262-784-9479

E-Mail: uucw@uucw.org

Web Site: <http://uucw.org>

Send comments and
submissions to
West Wind Editor

Minister

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch

Intern Minister

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Church Administrator

Vicki Banville

Publications Coordinator

Kelly Bognar

Religious Education

Coordinator

Marsha Thrall

Community Builder

Brianna Laux Kocis

Administrative Assistant

Mamie Garner

Lead Music Director

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- A COLUMN FROM THE REV. SUZELLE LYNCH -

June is a month for Beauty

*"Seek not afar for beauty; lo, it glows
in dew-wet grasses all about your feet,
in birds, in sunshine, childish faces sweet,
in stars and mountain summits topped with snows..."*

Those words from Hymn #77 in our grey hymnal, "Singing the Living Tradition" come to my mind when I consider our June Soul Matters theme: We Are a People of Beauty. They were written by Minot Judson Savage, a renowned 19th-century Unitarian minister. I also think of Emily Dickinson's Poem #1654:

"Beauty crowds me till I die
Beauty mercy have on me
But if I expire today
Let it be in sight of thee —"

Beauty really is everywhere if we tune our senses to take it in. Beauty, and the awe and wonder it inspires. Beauty in the natural world, including human beauty — but also beauty in human-made creations. You might find a well-tuned engine beautiful, or experience beauty in the gravitational pull of navigating a sleekly-designed highway interchange. Perhaps your ears are tuned to the beauty in electronic music, or your soul lights up at the beautiful scent of spaghetti sauce cooking on the stove... Seek not afar for beauty, it crowds us, every single moment of every single day.

Even so, it is possible to move past Beauty, to not notice, to ignore its delights. There's something about our busy, over-communicated lives that draws us into dullness. As we screen out the stimuli of "too much" we mute our capacity for experiencing the wonder that opens our hearts. It's a fine balance — we can't give our attention to everything, yet we know that our human health and wholeness asks us to be open to growth, change, inspiration, and hope.

I don't have the answer to this dilemma — but I do have some advice. Pause where you are right now, and take in something you find beautiful: a deep breath, the view from your window, the texture of your clothing, the voice of a companion... And in an hour, pause, and do it again. Before you retire for the evening, try it again... And again, when you wake, when you sit down to a meal when you brush your teeth or put on your clothes.

And please do come to seek Beauty at UUCW, too. Our last Sunday with our Intern Minister, Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson is June 2, and that's also Annual Meeting day (after the 10:00 am service there will be a reception, and then the Meeting).

Blessings to you,

Suzelle

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister

Final Pledge Drive Results - What You Give Matters



A message from your Treasurer and Stewardship Team

In early March, we launched our Pledge Drive for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which began on May 1. You might remember that our goal for the "Bold Vision, Bright Future" campaign was \$420,000. This modest figure represented no budget increases over the last year (May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019).

We wanted to let you know that as of early May, we had not yet reached our modest goal, but our past experience tells us that the difference between the \$411,000 we have raised and the goal will be made up by UUCW members and friends who do not pledge but do contribute financially each year.

Thank you for your pledges. Thank you for all you give! **Your generous giving matters.** We need to share some difficult truth with you, too. At the end of the Pledge Drive, we were faced with a tough choice: to come back to the congregation with a request that you increase your pledges, or to balance the 2019-2020 budget by making some uncomfortable cuts in staff compensation.

Giving to your church is a personal decision — and we trust that you give as generously as you can. Many of you remember that we have encouraged you to pledge and give 3-5% of your income to UUCW each year. We also know that many of you made five-year pledges to the Build 2020 Capital Campaign that you are also paying down. Thus, we did not make a "second ask" or do a "bump up your pledge" campaign this year.

The result is that for the second year in a row, **our UUCW staff will receive no cost of living increases or pay raises of any kind. In addition, Rev. Suzelle is absorbing a 3% pay cut so that other staff salaries might be preserved at current levels.** We also have eliminated professional expense budgets for all staff except Rev. Suzelle, and her professional expense budget has been cut in half. All other budget categories are equal to last year's budget.

This is clearly not the direction we wish to go at UUCW. There is a Financial Future Task Force commissioned by the Board of Trustees looking at our income, expenses, pledging trends, membership and involvement trends, and at research from the broader knowledge base of religious

communities beyond Unitarian Universalism on these same trends. Shifts in generations and their attitudes towards congregational involvement mean that what we are experiencing is far from unique. The Gallup organization reported in April that membership in churches has gone down sharply over the past decade. Over the past four years at UUCW, we have lost 19 longer-term members (deaths and people moving to be closer to children or grandchildren) whose pledges accounted for about \$59,000. We have gained many lovely new members as well, but newer members rarely give at the same rate as longer-term members.

What can you do to help? Trust that UUCW is well-managed financially. Our staffing is lean for our size. We also ended the 2018-19 fiscal year with a small surplus. The Board will monitor the budget as the year unfolds to see if Rev. Suzelle's full salary and the professional expense budgets that allow our staff to learn and grow can be restored. If you are able to increase your pledge, please do. Simply contact Vicki Banville, Church Administrator via the church office.

Thank you again for all you give. If you have questions about UUCW's finances or budget, please contact Treasurer Leslie Peterson or Deb Ritchie Kolberg via the church office.



Meditation Group Announces Summertime Hours

"Meditation... there's no magic or mysticism required — it's just exercise. If you do the right amount of reps, certain things will happen reliably and predictably. One of those things, according to the research, is that your brain will change in positive ways. You will get better at not being carried away by your passing emotional squalls; you will learn — maybe 10% of the time, maybe more — to respond, not react."

— Dan Harris, author of *Meditation for Fidgety Skeptics: A 10% Happier How-To Book*

Summer Morning Meditation Group meets Every Wednesday - 10:00 to 11:00 am

You are welcome to drop in and set the time you wish to meditate. Tuesday evening meditation will reconvene in September. For more info, contact Dennis Wanless via the church office.

All-In-Milwaukee is the Split the Plate Recipient for June and July



Split the Plate is one of UUCW's programs of outreach and generosity. Each month we give half of all undesignated offering monies to a non-profit organization as a way to help us live our Unitarian Universalist values and serve our community.

All-In Milwaukee is a college completion program. It offers comprehensive support including maximized financial aid, customized advising and career readiness to ensure low-income students complete college and matriculate into the Milwaukee workforce.

More low-income students than ever are enrolling in college, yet only 12% of low-income, first-generation students of color will earn a college degree in the United States. In Milwaukee, the challenge is even greater. Only 9% of all Milwaukee students will earn both a high school diploma and a college degree.

This year's inaugural class has 40 students consisting of 100% low-income, students of color- 15% Asian, 25% Black, 60% Latino, 52% female and 48% male. 53% of the students are from high schools in the Milwaukee Public Schools and 47% are students from Choice High Schools; in total, the students represent 15 Milwaukee high schools.

These 40 students will each receive \$18,000 in college financial aid and extensive advising support and career development throughout their college experience. Ninety-five percent of the scholars will attend a university in Wisconsin, ensuring close proximity and the ability to advise, coach, support and mentor the students throughout their college experience.

To learn more about All-In Milwaukee, visit www.allinmilwaukee.org For information about Split the Plate, contact Lisa Larson via the church office.

Men's Breakfast Group



Join this early-rising group on the second Tuesday of the month. The next gathering is **Tuesday, June 14 at 7:45 am at Bakers Square at 15300 Bluemound Rd., Elm Grove**. Come again, or for the first time, for conversations on current events, philosophy, movies, vacations, seminal books, new knowledge, current major UUCW developments, in a small group, usually 6-10. Contact facilitator Jerry Kashmerick via the church office.

Earth Ministry Invites All to Creation Care Network Meeting



On June 23rd at 1:00 pm, join members of Earth Ministry and members of Waukesha County churches for Creation Care's Quarterly Meeting. The focus will be "Reducing Waste in your Congregation". Creation Care Network was founded by the Waukesha County Green Team and is designed to develop, support, mentor and inspire Creation Care (Earth Ministry) Teams in Faith Communities, by sharing resources, programs, and ideas. Come and network, share ideas and learn about resources available to us. For more info, contact Almuth Sofsee via the church office.

Children's Summer Program Continues Through September 2



Join us for a summer filled with games and activities. Children can register on the first Sunday of attendance.

Friendship Finders Nursery — Pre-K

Let's discover new friends as we read stories, play games, and sing songs, all while learning about our Unitarian Universalist faith. Each session is based upon a UU Principle. Great summer-time themes include sharing and caring, families, animals, and nature.

UU Play! Kindergarten — 5th Grade

Children experience true learning when they are having fun so get ready this summer for sharing, games, and activities. Through team-building games and group activities, we'll develop the skills of cooperation, communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. Selected games will require the skills of everyone in the class and give opportunities to work together toward a common goal.

For more information, contact Lead Summer Program Coordinator Kelly Bognar via the church office.

UUCW Welcomes a New Member and Celebrates an Anniversary



Please welcome our newest Member, **Barbara Glasgow**.

Congratulations to **Richard Greer** who is celebrating their 15th membership anniversary this June!

For more information about UUCW membership, contact Brianna Laux Kocis, Community Builder, via the church office.



Pridefest is Almost Here: Join the UU Presence

PrideFest Milwaukee is three days of fun music, comedy, food, self-expression, and family-friendly activities held on **June 6-9**. This exciting community experience is produced each year by the non-profit organization Milwaukee Pride, Inc. PrideFest is a celebration of the culture and accomplishments of our local LGBTQ+ community, a time for needs and issues to be communicated, and for networking and support to be shared!

Pride Parade

For the past several years, UUCW has organized the SE Wisconsin UU presence in the Milwaukee Pride Parade. **Gather at 1:30 pm on Sunday, June 9, on S. 2nd St. near Lapham Blvd. in Milwaukee** (parade steps off at 2:00 pm). Trevor Murbach will be our Parade Marshal. Contact him via the church office with any questions. He will be taking responsibility for communicating with participants from local UU congregations and will be on site at the parade to marshal our group.

Interested in taking part in the parade? SIGN UP at <http://bit.ly/2GGRYbZ> and be prepared to get all decked out in your best rainbow gear (optional)!

Blessed@Pridefest

Once again UUCW will be a part of the Blessed@Pridefest booth in the Health and Wellness Commons alongside our many Milwaukee-Area LGBTQ+ affirming faith communities. We're partnering with the Queer and Allied Faith Leaders of Milwaukee (QAFL) to host a part of the festival where attendees can know they are "blessed and beloved."

We'd love to have your help as volunteers in the booth — sign up at <http://bit.ly/2UBBrd0>

Read about 2018 Blessed@Pridefest at <http://bit.ly/2KZeIz3> and check out the Blessed@Pridefest Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/2vfNPVY>

For more info, contact Brianna Laux Kocis, Community Builder, via the church office.



Brigadistas Accepting Donations on Sundays, June 9 and 16

Sixteen Brigadistas are busy preparing for their trip this summer to the Dominican Republic and they could use some help with donations. When you clean out your basements and closets this spring keep your eyes open for: old suitcases, baseball supplies, summer clothes for kids and adults, shoes, computer disks and CD's, laptop computers, and school supplies. Bring your donations to **Room UL3 on Sundays, June 9 and 16**. Please place them under the sign in the corner of the room. Gracias!

For more information, contact Andy Beorner via the church office.



Women's Book Group Meets All Year Round

Are you looking for a new summer activity? The Women's Book Discussion Group continues to meet on the second Wednesday of the month year-round. On **Wednesday, June 12 at 7:00 pm**, we will be discussing *Nine Perfect Strangers*, by Liane Moriarty. Nine people meet at a health resort in Australia to work on their various health problems. We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Kathy Schwei or Marilyn Swanson, via the church office.



Q Youth Club Seeks Adult Advocates

As Intern Minister Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson moves to her new role at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Brianna Laux Kocis, UUCW's Community Builder, will be taking over Q Youth Club in June. Brianna needs adult help leading the group so safety policies can be followed when working with minors. Please consider chaperoning/co-leading on a Friday night from 6-9 pm. More information and sign up can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2QiCMVB>

The next meeting of the Q Youth Club is **Friday, June 28 at 6-9:00 pm**. Q Youth Group is a social group for LGBTQI+ youth ages 13-18 and provides facilitated support and social opportunities for youth and their families. The goal of Q Youth group is to create a safe space where youth can hang out with other LGBTQI teens and meet new people in a respectful environment! Q Youth group is open to the public and free! Check out the Q Youth Club on Facebook or contact Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office.

Article Key:

Church Life



Fellowship & Learning



Living Our Values



Song Circle for Summer Solstice



Friday, June 21, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

We will celebrate the longest day of the year, Summer Solstice, with our songs! Singing is good for your brain, and it's a fun social time, too!

We enjoy using our copies of the book *Rise Up Singing*, along with our two UU hymnals, to give us ideas for songs to share together. This is not a concert and no instruments are required! Easy to learn songs will include classic songs of peace, nature, social justice, hymns, and rounds. This adult Song Circle is open to the public, so bring your friends, too! Please bring a snack to share (optional), and/or your water bottle. Contact Sarah Stokes via the church office with any questions.

Earth Ministry Donation Rotation Offers Outdoor Items on June 30



The month of June is a good time to look around your house and see what outdoor items you may want to swap out for a change! Bring the things you use outdoors: Garden tools, outdoor games, BBQ tools, and outdoor decorations. These items should, of course, be in good condition so that your fellow UUCWers will be happy to have/use them in their homes!

Bring the items to the Community Room on **Sunday, June 30** and place on the tables. Anyone is free to take whatever they want for free! You do not have to bring anything to take something. For more info, contact Almuth Soffee via the church office.

UUCW Saves Paper, Ink, Stamps, and the Earth



Members and Friends were recently asked to “Go Green” as part of a campaign to reduce the number of newsletter mailings. We are happy to report that we have increased our newsletter *email* list to 151 and reduced the *paper* mailing list to 113. This change is enough to eliminate our USPS bulk mailing fee as well as make our church a little more friendly to our earth. Thank you to all those who made the switch to digital communications.

If you have any questions, contact Kelly Bognar, Publications Coordinator, via the church office.

New Library Book Arrivals



New books are available in the library for your summer reading. Several books have been donated and added to the African American History Collection and the Welcoming Congregation Collection.

In addition, the library has purchased a copy of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This book has been mentioned in several sermons at UUCW.

A God That Could Be Real: Spirituality, Science, and the Future of Our Planet by Nancy Ellen Abrams has also been added.

These books are all located in the NEW BOOKS section and can be checked out for four weeks. For more information, contact Carolyn Lawrence via the church office.

The Great Books Group Continues with Great Summer Reading



The Great Books Affinity Group meets regularly the 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 am including during the summer. Great Books is discussing *Barracoon: The Story of the Last Black Cargo* by Zora Neale Hurston on **Monday, June 10**. Based on the author's interviews in 1927 with Cudjo Lewis, it is the story of the last living survivor of the last slave ship to land on American shores. The book initially could not find a publisher and languished in a vault until 2018.

Looking ahead, Great Books will be discussing *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith on **Monday, July 8**.

If you have any questions, please contact co-facilitator Joyce Prewitt or Kit Hansen via the church office.

Tap Roots Returns in June



After a short break, Tap Roots, A Pub Spirituality Group, will reconvene on **Monday, June 26 at 7:00 pm at Benno's 7413 W Greenfield Ave, Milwaukee**. This convivial drop in affinity group is for anyone, member and non-member alike, who likes dialog, not debate, over deeper philosophical, ethical and theological issues. Jim Gerber will host. RSVP's unnecessary but appreciated to the church office.

Seeking Support This Summer?



Finally, it's summer. Most years, you're looking forward to all the fun that warm weather brings. This year, not so much. The joy is gone. You've had so much stress in your life. Maybe there have been problems at work, or in a relationship. Possibly it's a financial or health issue. In any case, all you want is to get that joy back and have an enjoyable summer. It's possible the Lay Pastoral Care Team can help you.

Lay Pastoral Care Team members are trained, nonjudgmental listeners who are the embodiment of confidential and compassionate support during stressful times. They do not offer advice nor therapy, but by active listening are able to often help individuals recognize they themselves have the solutions to their problem.

Individuals may seek support for themselves, or a friend or family member may suggest that the Lay Pastoral Team contact the person. A team member will make an initial phone call to introduce himself or herself and Lay Pastoral Care services, and to ask if this would be helpful.

Contact Lay Pastoral Care or Rev. Suzelle Lynch via the church office. All calls will be handled confidentially.

Summer Donations Help Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative



The June, July and August non-perishable food donations will go to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative, which serves 300 to 400 homeless and 5,500 at-risk veterans in Milwaukee. There are "specific items" of food they need. Nothing else, please.

Please donate ONLY:

Mac and cheese	Pasta sauce	Spam
Knorr pasta sides	Peanut butter	Fruit cups
Box or rice packets	Canned fruit	Cereal
Canned stews and chili	Pudding Cups	

Thank you for your generosity! Please call Ellen via the church office for details. Thank you! Ellen Newbauer and Melanie Weston, Co-chairs.

Earth Ministry Focuses on Climate Change



In the interest of confronting the threat of global warming, the Earth Ministry Team will now focus on sharing information on some of the community and national efforts which are working to reduce Climate Change. Energy consciousness via the cars we drive and other conservation efforts we make in our homes and community do have immediate impacts and affect positive change. But greater efforts are needed to reduce carbon emissions. Market-based approaches, like a carbon tax or cap-and-trade programs, help reduce emissions at the lowest possible cost. One organization Citizens' Climate Lobby, CCL, is endorsed by the UUA (www.citizensclimatelobby.org). This advocacy organization, ten years in existence, is now enlisting the support of Congress through the "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019" (HR763). With 400 CCL chapters nationally, we have access to its Milwaukee West chapter, which meets monthly at the Unity Church in Tosa. To get involved, go to <http://bit.ly/2VV44rd>

The youth within our own families and future generations provide ALL the incentive needed for our immediate attention and action. Impressively, the youth of the planet, 1.4 million throughout 128 countries, including the U.S., recently stepped up as strong advocates to protect the land they will inherit.

In next month's West Wind, we will announce the dates of upcoming Earth Ministry events to better inform our congregation and to encourage action. We are planning a movie event showing the National Geographic film "Paris to Pittsburgh." At a later date, there will be an opportunity to hear presentations about the market-based approaches to reducing greenhouse gases. Stay posted for further details. We hope you'll join us in this important work. For more information, please contact Mary Ross via the church office.

Article Key:

Church Life



Fellowship & Learning



Living Our Values





Unitarian Universalist Church West
13001 West North Avenue
Brookfield WI 53005-5219
Return Service Requested

Come As You Are, Leave Inspired!

Join Us for Summer Worship!

Here's a sneak peek at the Worship Schedule for this summer. Our wonderful Worship Ministry Team has assembled a broad spectrum of pulpit guests for our 10:00 am services. Speakers' topics will be announced as they are made available. For more information, contact Worship Ministry Team Chair Steve Frey via the church office.

**Unitarian
Universalist
Church West**
13001 W. North Ave. Brookfield, WI
262-782-3535 uucw.org

Date	Pulpit Guest
6/16	Rev. Ron Ballew
6/23	Rev. Michael Schuler
6/30	Omega Burckhardt
7/7	Rev. Suzelle Lynch with the UUCW Writing Group
7/14	Rev. Suzelle Lynch
7/21	Guest TBA
7/28	Rev. Tony Larsen
8/4	Rev. Suzelle Lynch
8/11	Denise Cawley
8/18	Isiah Holmes with Rev. Suzelle Lynch
8/25	Rev. Drew Kennedy
9/2	Janet Veum

