

Sunday, December 1, 2019 — 10 am

**Pulpit Guest: The Rev. Joyce Palmer, Child Welfare Supervisor,
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

"Caring for Our Children"

Worship Leader: Deb Ruesch

Children in foster care face a unique set of experiences full of moments of heartbreak and beauty. Join UUCW's former Assistant Minister as she shares what she has learned about protecting children and strengthening families in her child welfare ministry.

About our Guest: The Rev. Joyce Palmer received her Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Rev. Palmer worked at Unitarian Church North in Mequon and All Souls Church UU, in Washington, DC.

Sunday, December 8, 2019 — 10 am

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch

"Meaning, Morals, Logic and Awe"

Do you eschew all belief in the supernatural, yet still feel a deep sense of meaning when you experience the wonders of nature? Do you believe that even though science can explain most matters, there are still things that inspire awe? Do you feel that existence is a beautiful mystery that has the capacity to inspire feelings of joy, poignancy and sublime awe? If you answered yes to these questions, today's service is definitely for you! **Special Music from UUCW members Craig Siemsen and Patty Stevenson.**

Sunday, December 15, 2019 — 10 am

**UUCW Adult Choir, Multigen Choir, and special guests, with the Rev. Suzelle Lynch,
Jen Nicolosi, Lead Music Director; and Ruben Piirainen, Music Director**

"Songs of Awe and Wonder"

The holidays are a time for awe and wonder — and music has the power to spark them in us — setting our hearts and minds ablaze with joy! Traditional, contemporary, and unexpected holidays songs and awe-inspiring stories and reflections will lift your spirits this morning. Invite your friends for a marvelous experience of how Unitarian Universalists celebrate the season!

Friday, December 20, 2019 — 7 pm

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, EarthSpirit Team & Dancers, Solstice Singers and You!

"Celebrate Winter Solstice!Service"

We honor the moment when night is longest with darkness, drumming, stories and a powerful earth-based ritual to "call for the sun's return." Children who are able to enjoy a dramatic, hour-long worship experience are welcome to attend with their parents or guardians. Our Earth Spirit worship services tune us in to the beauty and seasons of the earth.

Sunday, December 22, 2019 — 10 am

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Dave Cicero, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, YRUU Youth Group, and YOU!

"Awesome Love in Hard Times: A Multigenerational Nativity"

It's time for a new telling of the Nativity story. Come hear a tale where gentle people prevail, the powerful and violent lose, and the poor are raised up like kings. A story that reminds us that Love is too awesome to leave us unchanged. **Beautiful Music today from multi-modal musician Julie Thompson.**

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 — 4 pm & 8 pm

**The Rev. Suzelle Lynch and Readers, with Jennifer Nicolosi, Lead Music Director;
Ruben Piirainen, Music Director; the Christmas Choir and Special Musicians**

"Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: The Heart of Christmas"

Tonight we are fully present to the wonder-filled heart of Christmas. With carols old and new, readings light-hearted and serious, we honor this ancient holiday in our modern way. Christmas Choir sings at 4:00 pm and Special Musicians at 8:00 pm.

Sunday, December 29, 2019 — 10 am

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch and the Kaleidoscope Worship Band

"Rockin' Into an Awesome New Year"

The New Year is coming! With that single turn of a calendar page, a new world is born. Join us for fabulous music from Kaleidoscope and time to reflect on your life as we prepare to step over the threshold into Awesome 2020.



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- A MESSAGE FROM REV. SUZELLE LYNCH -

Awesome!

Do you remember when “Awesome!” entered the common vernacular?

Our friend the internet says that this use of “awesome” originated in 1960s surfer slang, and became popular due to films like the 1982 Hollywood hit “Fast Times at Ridgemont High,” and the hilarious song “Valley Girl” by Frank Zappa and his daughter Moon Unit.

It’s funny how the meaning of words can change, isn’t it? Awesome used to mean “something that inspires awe” -- something that makes us feel reverential respect, tinged with fear or seasoned with wonder. It was a spiritual sort of thing because awe is that feeling that makes us say, “Wowwww...” or “Whoaaaa!” or “Oooooooh...” Awesome used to mean “something that sends shivers down my spine.”

For December, our Soul Matters theme is “We are a People of Awe.” It’s connected to one of the sources we Unitarian Universalists name as foundational to our living faith tradition: “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life...”

When did you last experience awe? Awe makes us feel we belong to something greater than ourselves. It reminds us that we can take action for the common good, and leave something of ourselves behind in the world when we are gone. In the midst of mystery and sacredness, our egos take a backseat. If it’s been a while since you felt awe, I hope you’ll come to church during the December holiday season for music to touch your soul, stories, and readings to warm your heart, and company that can link your spirit to community. We have awesome worship services planned for you!

Two recent experiences of awe in my life: Listening to my college-student son singing with the UWM Chorale – hearing his rich bass-baritone voice weaving the powerful complexity of a song sung in the language of Estonia; and listening to one of our church members, as he lay in an observation bed in the Emergency Room, speaking of his deep caring for his wife. So much beauty, so much love...

There is beauty and community and love here at UUCW for you. But wherever you are this month of December, I pray that you will be blessed by beauty and community and love there, too.

With joy in the present and hope for the future,

Suzelle

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister



That Holiday Feeling

Scott Shulick

UUCW Board of Trustees President

Our first visit to UUCW as a family was around the holiday time. Taking the lead on finding a spiritual home, my wife Lisa had attended service a few times and, feeling it would be a good fit, suggested we attend as a family. And so along we went.

As we made our way from the front doors to the sanctuary, we were immediately swooped up by Maria O'Connor, the then Director of Religious Education at UUCW. That particular Sunday happened to be the day where the Worship for All Ages portion of the service was a "reenactment" of the Christian story of Jesus' birth. Maria was looking for "extras" to participate in the retelling.

Our daughter Isabel was offered the role of star. A star, not *the* star. It involved a sparkly, silver tiara and a wand with a star on the end. Perfect! Easy. She agreed. Our two boys,



neither of whom had been to church on a regular basis until that point in life, took a hard pass on the casting offer. Just before the start and frantic to fill roles, Maria asked Carter to be a cow in the stable. He begrudgingly agreed, his face telling all.

The skit was adorable and familiar — a story I'd heard year in and outgrowing up Catholic. But seeing that presented at the beginning of my relationship with UUCW created a powerfully simple bridge — one that connected my past upbringing to what would become my new faith community. It was the beginning of my exposure to our "living tradition" of drawing wisdom and spirituality from many sources from science, poetry, and scripture to world religions, humanist teachings, and Earth-centered traditions. Something I find refreshing and engaging as well as humbling.

Years later, we attended another service in which the story of the nativity was acted out. Feeling a bit more at home during the holidays made it a little easier the second time around to get everyone involved.



Contact Scott Shulick, UUCW Board of Trustees President, via the church office.



Care and Presence Needed During the Stressful Holiday Season

Most people already are balancing work and family. Now they need to find time to shop, decorate, and celebrate the season in various ways. Also, some wonder how they can afford to give their children a memorable holiday. Probably the major stress factor for many is family dynamics. Why, when the family is together, does your sister Sally revert to a spoiled ten-year-old? Why is it that Aunt Julie and Aunt Marge, two intelligent women, have refused to talk to each other for ten years? And who is going to help Uncle Bob now that he's been diagnosed with Alzheimer's?

There is help for these people who are stressed out over the holidays. The Lay Pastoral Care Team is a group of trained, confidential, non-judgmental listeners who will not offer advice. Talking about the stresses they are under, individuals feel relieved and often find their own solutions to their problems.

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 at laypastoralcare@uucw.org or call Rev. Suzelle Lynch via the church office. All inquiries will be handled confidentially.



UUCW Office Holiday Hours

The office will be closed on **December 24th-25th** and **December 31st-1st**. If you need assistance, you can reach the office staff during normal business hours which are Tuesday through Friday, 9 am-3 pm. Questions? Contact the church office.

Article Key:

Church Life



Fellowship & Learning



Living Our Values



Dinner Anywhere in the World Raffle Starts Now!

Sunday, December 1 is the first day to purchase raffle tickets to win Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World! It's our fabulous winter fund-raiser!

Here's how it works:

Four ways to buy tickets

ONE: Volunteers will be selling tickets at church on Sundays. Check and cash only – No credit cards accepted.

TWO: Buy at ticket at our “Hot Chocolate and Chances” event on Wednesday, December 11 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Santa Claus will be available for picture-taking, free hot chocolate and cookies will be served, too!

THREE: Church members will “sign out” packets of tickets to sell to family, co-workers and friends. You can buy a ticket from a fellow UUCW member when you meet for coffee, a walk, or at a church meeting or event!

FOUR: You can stop by the church office during the week to buy tickets.

Note: online or by-mail ticket purchases are not permitted.

Chances of winning: Your chances of winning are much higher than most raffles or lotteries. For example, for the Wisconsin lottery, your chances are usually no more than one in a couple million! We will sell up to 2500 tickets – much better odds!

Raffle Tickets are \$20 each – the perfect gift for everyone on your holiday list!

Register at the Raffle Table to sell tickets: Vicki Banville or one of our lead volunteers will be at the Raffle Table on Sundays and can assign you raffle ticket packets to sell to family or friends.

Winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, January 12, 2020 during the worship service. We're inviting an extra-special secret guest to draw the winning ticket for us!

Ticket sales end January 9 – so don't wait!

For full details, answers to frequently asked questions and raffle terms and conditions, visit our website uucw.org/RAFFLE/



It's Not Too Late to Join the Holiday Music Opportunities!

The Holiday Music Services on December 15 will feature a Multigenerational choir. All ages are welcome to participate, no experience necessary! Rehearsals will be Tuesday, November 26, 6:00 – 6:45 pm, Tuesday, December 3, 6:00-6:45 pm, and Thursday, December 12, 6:00-6:45 pm. Participants should plan to attend at least 2 of the 3 rehearsals.

The 7:00 pm Winter Solstice Service on Friday, December 20 will feature the Solstice Singers singing special music and leading the congregation in singing. All are welcome to join the Solstice Singers for this special service. Rehearsals will be Tuesdays, December 10 and 17, from 6:00 – 6:45 pm.

The 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service on December 24 will feature a Christmas Eve Choir. All are welcome to join the choir! Rehearsals will be Tuesday, December 17 from 7:00-8:00 pm and Sunday, December 22 after service.

Rehearsal tracks will be available for all of these choir opportunities. For more information, contact Lead Music Director Jennifer Nicolosi via the church office.

Calling All Hymnals Home!

Now that there's only one Sunday service, we need to inventory the hymnals and determine whether additional copies need to be purchased for the church. If you happen to have a hymnal at home, please return it to the hymnal shelves as soon as possible so that Jennifer can assess the church's hymnal needs. If you'd really like to have a hymnal at home, good news! You can purchase your own copy from the UUA Bookstore by visiting their website at <http://bit.ly/UUASongBooks>

For more information, contact Jennifer Nicolosi, Lead Music Director via the church office.

UUCW Celebrates an Anniversary

Congratulations to UUCW Members **Erich Zuern** who is celebrating his **15-year membership anniversary** this December! For more info about UUCW membership, contact Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office.



RE-flections...

Dave Cicero

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Awesome!

I love this word. Casual and slang-y (and sometimes a bit trite), but profoundly descriptive of that which is beyond our understanding. Which, when you think of it, applies to just about everything in life that we encounter...life, nature, people, accomplishment, beauty, sadness, fear, creativity, convenience, wealth, hardship. Experiencing awe, however, usually requires mindfulness. A careful payment of attention to that which we might otherwise take for granted. And so this month especially, I invite you to express gratitude for all things, big and little — for even the seemingly small things in life embody some form of the miraculous.

Neighboring Faiths

It's incredible (isn't it?) how many ways we humans have invented to worship that which we find sacred. Last month our 5th- and 6th-graders and their teachers visited the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Milwaukee and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's Brookfield mosque. This month they are scheduled to visit Congregation Emanu-el in Waukesha. After the New Year, there will be more opportunities for them to experience other ways that our community neighbors are religious.

We do not currently have a group of adults organized to make these types of "field trips", but if you are interested in joining our Neighboring Faiths class on theirs please ask me for the schedule. Families of those students are already invited to attend, and I welcome you, too, to learn from our youth while experiencing another faith tradition with them.

Holiday Gift-giving

This time of year is a traditional one for giving to others...which can be an inspiring gift of oneself. This month at UUCW our young families (mostly, although everyone is invited to participate) will be submitting their Guest at Your Table contributions, supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). This year's UUSC partner groups are led by women who are bravely and boldly creating social change in their communities. Details can be found in the Guest at Your Table materials in the church foyer, and we ask for contributions to be submitted on December 15.

Our youth will also be preparing a Giving Tree this holiday season, which will benefit the Food Pantries of Waukesha

County – this month's designated beneficiary. Monetary and food donations will be accepted throughout December. Specific needs/wishes of the Food Pantries that you may fulfill will be listed on tree ornaments you'll find on the tree itself. Please stop there in the foyer this month to see if there's some wondrous effect you can have on reducing food scarcity for people in Waukesha County.

Volunteers

I just can't say enough about how remarkable the teachers and advisors of our children and youth are! They continue to amaze me with the creativity, thoughtfulness and caring they bring to their work here at UUCW. From establishing meaning in craft projects to sharing ideas about the divine, from educating about UU history to chaperoning overnight youth conferences...our RE volunteers do some pretty incredible work. I continue to be delighted by their energy and gifts of love.

And I conclude without once, after my initial paragraph, saying "That's awesome!" But we are...

Contact Dave Cicero, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, via the church office.



December Food Collection Benefits Food Pantry of Waukesha County

December's non-perishable food collection will be given to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. The Food Pantry provides food, hope, and dignity to county residents in need, and advocates to increase awareness of hunger through community partnerships. This pantry receives surplus food from the Government and distributes it to small pantries near Waukesha.

Items currently needed:

- canned fruit, especially pineapple & Mandarin oranges
- whole grain cereal
- shelf-stable protein (stews, tuna, chicken and tofu)
- meal makers (Hamburger Helper)
- gravy and broth
- chunky soup (ready to eat)
- canned pasta with meat
- shelf stable almond or soy milk

Thank you to our Religious Education youth who will be promoting the Food Pantry in their display of the Holiday Giving Tree in the church foyer. If you have any questions, call Ellen via the church office. Thank You! Ellen Newbauer and Melanie Weston, Co-chairs.

Build 2020 Update



The Build 2020 construction is on schedule to wrap up in December! The process took a lot of time and energy but the excitement builds as the detail work is being completed.

Work Completed in November

On the Main Level

- The main level restrooms received a complete facelift.
- A fully accessible/all gender inclusive/family restroom was created.
- The main and upper-level offices were painted and the former foyer carpet was installed.
- The upper level classrooms were painted, received new light fixtures and ceilings, and new carpet was installed.
- The main level foyer received paint, woodwork, carpet, tile, ceilings, and lighting.
- Coat racks were built in the foyer with ADA compliance.
- Larger openings to the Community Room were created.
- The kitchen ceiling and lighting were replaced.

Mechanicals and Electrical

- The rooftop HVAC was moved.
- Classrooms and foyer were equipped with sensor lights.
- Emergency lighting was installed in the foyer.
- New fire panels were installed and the fire communication system was upgraded.
- New air handler unit and boilers were installed in the mechanical room.
- WE Energies upgraded power into the building to meet our current needs.
- The electrical panel was upgraded to meet our current energy consumption.

Work to be Completed in December

- The electrical panel needs to be connected to our building and the old panel removed.
- The elevator needs to be installed.
- The flat roof which joins the older part of the building with the newer part of the building will have a new membrane installed.
- The ramp near the West entrance needs to be built.
- The lower level elevator foyer/hallway will be finished.
- The main level elevator foyer needs to be finished.
- Final touch-ups will be completed around the building.

If you have more questions, or simply want to discuss the project in more detail, contact Phil Kroner, Chair of the Build 2020 Task Force via the church office.

Deck the Church Halls for the Holiday Season



Join members and friends at **10:00 am on Tuesday, December 3** to help decorate the church foyer and Sanctuary for the upcoming holiday services. You do not need to have a special talent for decorating... just an interest in helping to make it happen! Guidance and decorating supplies will be provided. We'll have cookies, tea, coffee and festive music! Decorating will finish around 12:30 pm. Come and stay for as long as you are able.

For more information, contact Kelly Bognar, Publications Coordinator, via the church office.

Wisdom & Whimsy Group Shares Moments of Awe



Wisdom and Whimsy is a fun and friendly group for people over 50, which meets the second Wednesday of the month from October through May. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 11th from 11:30 am until 1:15 pm**. We will share things that we are in awe of. Bring a bag lunch and a beverage. Please contact Susan Foley or Kathy Allison via the church office with any questions.

Healing After Loss Group Provides Opportunity to Share



Wednesday, December 15, 1:00– 3:00 pm

This confidential group is for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one at any time. Whether you feel comfortable sharing or just listening, you are most welcome. We are all here to support one another. This group will meet from **1:00 – 3:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month through May**. We look forward to talking to you and seeing you this fall. If you would enjoy a beverage, please bring one along.

If you have any questions, please call one of the co-facilitators, Charlene Carter or Susan Foley via the church office.

December Split the Plate Supports Prevent Suicide Greater Milwaukee



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.

Prevent Suicide Greater Milwaukee (PSGM) is an all-volunteer coalition whose mission is to promote suicide prevention by providing education, increasing awareness, and facilitating community collaboration. Their Coalition Partners represent local agencies and organizations as well as the general community.

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. In 2017, over 47,000 Americans took their own lives. In Milwaukee County, the number was 154 and in Waukesha County, 60. Suicide was the second leading cause of death among Wisconsin adolescents (10-19 years of age) in 2017.

Since 2010, PSGM has collaborated with the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office to track deaths from suicide in Milwaukee County, including demographics and means of death of persons who have died by suicide. They have supported similar data reports in Waukesha County.

PSGM's policy priorities focus on school-based suicide prevention programming, reducing access to lethal means for those acutely at risk for suicide, providing continuing professional education to mental health practitioners, and prioritizing populations at elevated risk.

In its educational initiatives, PSGM employs evidence-based strategies for suicide prevention and aligns its strategies with best practices put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and other national leaders in suicide prevention. In 2018, PSGM gave 93 suicide prevention training sessions reaching over 1900 persons. 2019 is on track to end with similar numbers.

For more information about Prevent Suicide Greater Milwaukee, see <http://www.preventsuicidemke.com> For more information about Split the Plate, contact the Committee Chair, Kathy Herrewig via the church office.

PieceMakers Group Creates and Contributes to Community



November was a busy month for the UUCW PieceMakers quilting group. In addition to an outing to the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts in Cedarburg, group members joined UUCW member Kathy Herrewig in delivering fleece blankets they had made to the Epilepsy Monitoring Center at Children's Hospital. The delivery trip included a tour of the center.

PieceMakers is an affinity group for people interested in sewing and quilting. All ages and levels of sewers and quilters are welcome, from beginners to experts. Members enjoy fellowship and learn from and are inspired by other members. Activities include demos by group members, outings to quilting related events, and sharing ideas and projects. In addition to personal projects, members make quilts for the benefit of UUCW and charity quilts which serve as an outreach between UUCW and the community.

PieceMakers meets the **third and fifth Saturdays of the month at 9:30 am**. Contact Carolyn Lawrence, via the church office.

Meditate and Befriend Who You Are



"Meditation isn't about trying to throw ourselves away and become something better. It's about befriending who we are already. The ground of practice is you or me or whoever we are right now, just as we are. That's the ground, that's what we study, that's what we come to know with tremendous curiosity and interest."

Awakening Loving-Kindness by Pema Chödrön

We welcome you to meditate with us.

Tuesdays: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Wednesdays: 10-11 am

We do not advocate a particular meditation style. Typically, it is a 20 or 45-minute silent period (your choice) either on a cushion on the floor or in a chair. We start promptly but permit late entry. Afterward, we join in fellowship and dharma talk. We look forward to sitting with you.

If you have any questions, please contact Helen Klimowicz via the church office.

Beloved Conversations Program on Race at UUCW Registration Now Open!



Begins with retreat Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm and Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Beloved Conversations is a powerful program that can help us build skills for more authentic cross-racial relationships. Join in and explore the role of race/ethnicity plays in your life and at UUCW.

The Beloved Conversations program recognizes how centuries of racially-informed social, emotional, and spiritual practices wound every person, no matter our racial and/or ethnic identity. It uses a small-group ministry format to help us talk with one another about our experiences, while we work to identify places where we need to grow. It helps us learn how to live and act in a spirit of reconciliation that brings growth and spiritual healing. Beloved Conversations also offers real-time faith formation resources designed for people of color, and it offers support to help us make change at UUCW: real, institutional change.

BELOVED CONVERSATIONS BEGINS with a Large Group Opening Retreat held in Milwaukee First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N Astor St, Milwaukee, in collaboration with United UU Congregation of Waukesha. **The retreat will be on Friday, January 17, 2020, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm and Saturday, January 18, 2020, from 8:30 am to 5 pm.**

The Retreat will be followed by eight two-hour sessions of small group conversation all held at UUCW.

Sunday Group - 12-2 pm (with childcare)

DATES: January 26, February 9 & 23; March 8 & 22; April 5 & 19; May 3

Saturday Group - 9:30 - 11:30 am

DATES: Feb 8 & 22; March 7 & 21; April 4 & 18; May 2 & 16

Monday Group - 6:30 - 8:30 pm

DATES: Feb 3 & 17; March 2, 16 & 30; April 13 & 27; May 11

REGISTER NOW: <http://bit.ly/BelovedRegistration>
Space is limited!

For more information about Beloved Conversations, contact Ann Heidkamp, Social Action Council Chair, or Rev. Suzelle Lynch via the church office.

Early Morning Coffee and Conversation



The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast Group will be on **Tuesday, December 14 at 7:45 am at Bakers Square at 15300 Bluemound Road, Elm Grove**. Come again, or for the first time, for conversations on current events, philosophy, movies, vacations, seminal books, current UUCW developments, in a small group, usually 6-10. For info, contact facilitator Jerry Kashmerick via the church office.

It's Time to Talk About Reparations



A Conversation/Learning Session for Unitarian Universalists sponsored by Black Lives Matter to WI UUs (BLM2WUU)

Saturday, December 14, 1- 4 pm
Unitarian Church North
13800 N. Port Washington Rd., Mequon
Free, Childcare available

Why are so many people including prominent Black leaders, all of the Democratic presidential candidates, and Ben and Jerry of ice cream fame, talking about reparations? What is congressional bill HR 40? How does this subject relate to our UU faith and principles? How can we act? Our five-congregation collaborative, Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs, invites interested UUs to take part in this conversation/learning session about reparations and how they might impact our work to support black lives and dismantle white supremacy culture. Rev. Marilyn Miller, president of MICAHA, will be the moderator and presenter. The workshop will also include a panel of representatives from local grassroots organizations. Questions? Contact Ann Heidkamp at heidkama.ah@gmail.com

Register at: <http://bit.ly/ReparationsTalk>

Q Youth Club



Join the Q Youth Club on **Friday, December 13th from 6-8:00 pm**. Q Youth Group is a social group for LGBTQI+ youth ages 13-18 and provides facilitated support and social opportunities for youth. The group creates a safe space where youth can hang out with other LGBTQI teens and meet people in a respectful environment! For more info, contact Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office.

Women's Book Group Makes Reading Selections for 2020-21



The Women's Book Discussion Group read some great books in 2019! Now it's time to pick our books for 2020. Bring your suggestions to our next meeting at the church on **Wednesday, December 11 from 7 to 8:30 pm**. Questions? Contact Kathy Schwei or Marilyn Swanson via the church office. All adults are welcome.

Pick up Your Guest at Your Table Box or Envelope Today



Every year, friends and families of Unitarian Universalist Church West participate in the UU tradition of Guest at Your Table, a human rights program sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). This year, UUSC is partnering with women leaders who are increasing representation for women in their communities, while strengthening access to justice for all.

It's not too late to pick up your Guest at Your Table box or donation envelope from the display in the church foyer. Boxes and envelopes will be collected during the service on Sunday, December 15.

Participating households put their Guest at Your Table box or envelope in a prominent spot, often the family meal table. Then every time families gather for a meal; they think about the people around the world who need our support and put their spare money in the box or envelope.

The UUSC puts our shared UU principles into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

And thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched, doubling your good works!

Your generosity with the Guest at Your Table is tax deductible! Be sure to turn any cash into a check made out to UUSC and complete the form on your box or envelope. If you would prefer not to bring home a box or envelope, you can support UUSC directly online at www.uusc.org. For more info, contact Dave Cicero, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, via the church office.

The Great Books Group Explore the Los Angeles Library Fire



Due to inclement weather, last month's Great Books meeting was canceled. On **Monday, December 9 at 10:00 am**, the Great Books group will plan to discuss *The Library Book* which was originally planned for November's meeting. Written by Susan Orleans, *The Library Book* is the story of the 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire which destroyed more than 400 thousand books and damaged 700 thousand more and demonstrates the crucial role libraries play in our lives.

Reading ahead? Great Books will be discussing *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue on **Monday, January 13**.

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

It's Time to Close Green Bay Correctional Institution



It's Time to Re-invest in Programs to Restore Our Communities. Let's spend \$1 billion on community instead of cages!

After 121 years Green Bay Correctional Institute is nearing the end of its useful life. That means that Wisconsin's Governor and State Legislature have a big decision to make: Will our state spend \$1 billion over the next 20 years to build and operate a new prison, or will we join the states around the U.S. that are reducing their prison populations? Will we spend \$1 billion on a new prison, or will we invest \$1 billion over the next 20 years on programs that can uplift people, reduce crime, and re-build our communities?

If we choose not to replace GBCI, Wisconsin could invest \$50 million each year, for the next 20 years, in programs like Treatment Alternatives and Diversions, programs for at-risk youth, and innovative public health approaches to violence prevention, which would not only help to restore lives, families and communities; but would also further reduce the prison population.

You can support this new campaign! Contact the WISDOM office, wisdomforjustice@gmail.com, to have a WISDOM leader give a presentation in your house of worship or community organization. For more info: www.wisdomforjustice@gmail.com

For more information, contact Barbara Pfarr via the church office.



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

Come As You Are, Leave Inspired!



Join us for our “Santa, Hot Chocolate and Chances” event on **Wednesday, December 11 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm**. Santa Claus will be available for picture-taking, free hot chocolate and cookies will be served, too!

This is a fun opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World! It’s UUCW’s fabulous winter fund-raiser! For full details, answers to frequently asked questions, and raffle terms and conditions, visit our website www.uucw.org/RAFFLE/

Look inside on page 4 for other opportunities to purchase tickets and additional details...