

Sunday, February 2, 2020 — 10 am**"Seeds Stirring: Imbolc"****The Rev. Suzelle Lynch and the EarthSpirit Team**

The earth-centered holiday of Imbolc is a time of celebration and ritual, often including Brighid, the goddess of the hearth. It's also a time of purification and new beginnings — "the first stirring of seeds" in the winter earth. ***Come consider what's stirring and honor the earth today with the EarthSpirit Team and Kaleidoscope worship band!***

Sunday, February 9, 2020 — 10 am**"Love, Love, Love"****Worship Leader: Kathy White and Friends**

Love is a word with many meanings and many expressions. With the help of the Worship Ministry Team and friends, and our glorious Adult Choir, we explore a wide expanse of love's meanings today.

Sunday, February 16, 2020 — 10 am**"Speaking Out: Why I Stand"****Pulpit Guest: Peighton Carter,
Intern Minister, UU Church of Eau Claire, WI****Worship Leader: Eileen Gleeson**

Advocate and minister-in-formation Peighton Carter joins us during this month themed on Resilience to speak about her experiences with military sexual trauma, Post-Traumatic Stress, invisible disabilities, and how Unitarian Universalism influenced her road to ministry and healing. ***Singer-songwriters Craig Siemsen & Patty Stevenson offer Special Music today!***

About our Guest: Peighton Carter lives in La Crosse, WI and will finish her two-year ministerial internship in May. Her focus is storytelling and narrative justice, particularly around the topics of disabilities and veterans' issues. She loves preaching at a variety of UU congregations and enjoys their differences.

Sunday, February 23, 2020 — 10 am**"What the Frog Knew"****The Rev. Suzelle Lynch**

Resilience is the ability to cope, despite setbacks, roadblocks, or lack of resources. It's a quality that helps us "bounce back," when we've been knocked down. What helps us build resilience in ourselves, and in our community? The Frog knows, and after today, you'll know, too! ***Special Music today from the UUCW Adult Choir.***

Saturday, February 29, 2020 — 6 to 8 pm — LEAP!

Join us for delicious food and drink, enjoyable entertainment, friend-making and fund-raising at LEAP — our Annual Pledge Drive Launch! We've named our Drive after Leap Day this year, that lucky, extra day we get once-every-four-years — and we invite you to make it magical at UUCW. Children of all ages will enjoy a special LEAP party and activities downstairs as adults gather upstairs.

**Watch your mail, e-News, and Sunday announcements
for RSVP timelines and more opportunities.**

We look forward to LEAPing with you!





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- A MESSAGE FROM REV. SUZELLE LYNCH -

Lying, thinking

Last night

How to find my soul a home

Where water is not thirsty

And bread loaf is not stone

I came up with one thing

And I don't believe I'm wrong

That nobody, But nobody

Can make it out here alone.

(Maya Angelou Full poem here: <https://poets.org/poem/alone>)

Many years ago, when I graduated from seminary with the precious M.Div degree that I needed to become a Unitarian Universalist minister, the tradition was to have each graduate give a short, individual speech during the commencement ceremony.

I began my speech with Maya Angelou's poem, "Alone." And then I broke all the rules. I invited my friend and colleague Melinda McCormick to join me at the podium, and the two of us gave a commencement speech TOGETHER.

Why? Because ministry is never a solo act - it's shared! Because the home for our souls that offers water and bread that are real and satisfying is Community, not isolation. Because the work of Unitarian Universalism requires resilience - and resilience requires companions we can turn to for solace, support, and celebration!

Our western culture is full of messages like these:

"Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps"

"You've got to stand on your own two feet!"

"If you want something done right, do it yourself."

"It's my way or the highway!"

Can't you just feel the rigidity in those statements? To be human, we have to have a strong and sturdy structure of values, but we also need a webworks of elastic, resilient, muscles, tendons, and ligaments to help us bend and flex and stretch our way through life's challenges and changes.

For February, we're exploring the theme "We are a People of Resilience." UUCW is a community of resilient people — and a community that is, itself, resilient. And best of all — a community for all of us. Because, in the poet's words, "Nobody, but nobody, can make it out here alone."

Blessings to you all,

Suzelle

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister

Christmas Eve Offering Shared with Sanctuary



On Christmas Eve, the offering is traditionally dedicated to UUCW's Ministers Make a Difference Fund (MMDF), which was initiated in 2013 when we celebrated 10 years of shared ministry with Rev. Suzelle. The MMDF allows Rev. Suzelle to help members of our congregation and others who have small financial urgencies. It has helped pay for needed medications, and electric bills during a cold winter, and it has funded a few small-but-important needs at church from time to time.

This year, in response to a request from the immigrant advocacy organization Voces de la Frontera and Ascension Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, half of the Christmas Eve offering was shared to support individuals living in Sanctuary who are fighting deportation. Right now, that's Luz, an undocumented immigrant who has been living in sanctuary in a classroom at Ascension Lutheran since early October. Luz has been in Wisconsin for more than 20 years and her whole family, including children and grandchildren, is here. She has been fighting deportation since 2013 when she was arrested in a raid on a factory where she was working.

On Christmas Eve, your offerings for Sanctuary totaled \$850, and every gift within that total will help make life better for Luz and those like her. Thank you for your generosity!

2019-20 Guest at Your Table Campaign a Success



Members and Friends of Unitarian Universalist Church West always look for ways to build a better community beyond the walls of UUCW. Each autumn, we participate in the UU tradition of Guest at Your Table, a human rights program sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. It is one of many ways we live out our values for social justice in the world.

UUCW is happy to report our 2019-20 collection of \$972 was nearly double last year's collection. Thank you to all those who contributed this year. The UUSC is always appreciative of our generous support.

It's never too late to give to UUSC and their efforts. To contribute or for more info, go to www.uusc.org

Build 2020 – The End is Near!



Vicki Banville, Church Administrator

Have you been wondering what's happening with the Build 2020 renovations? The project's end is in sight!

Here's what was completed in January:

1. The elevator has been installed and is waiting for the final inspection.
2. The ramp from the main west entrance to the Gathering Area was built.
3. The flat roof which joins the older part of the building with the newer part had a new membrane installed.
4. New doors were installed in the back of the Sanctuary and in room UL5.

Tasks yet to complete include:

1. Controls for the new main HVAC system will be passed over to UUCW.
2. The exterior doors at the main west entrance and the exterior doors at the top of the ramp in the lower level near the Gathering Area are installed but still require some final finishes.
3. Railing for the ramp on the lower level.
4. The elevator foyer on the main level will be finished with new flooring, ceiling, and paint.
5. The elevator foyer and hallway on the lower level will be finished with new flooring, ceiling, and paint.
6. Final cleaning and touch-ups will be completed around the building.

Artwork, signs, and name tags, oh my!

A Task Force of the UUCW Exec Team was created and will be working on artwork, signage, and placement of things like name tags, furniture, and other displays. Watch for updates!

If you have 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.

Article Key:		
Church Life	Fellowship & Learning	Living Our Values
		

Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World Raffle Winner Selected



The winning ticket for our delightful fund-raising Raffle was drawn on Sunday, January 12, 2020, during the worship service. It was a fun-filled time with our special guest drag queen Dear Ruthie drawing the winner.

The winner was Cyndy Marcello from Lombard, Illinois. Cyndy is excited to have won and is looking forward to planning a trip for her family.

A big thank you goes out to everyone in the congregation who sold tickets. We sold 1172 tickets and realized a gross amount of \$23,440. Net proceeds are estimated to be \$14,500 after expenses are paid. This fundraising effort would not have been possible without all the support of the congregation. We hope to hold this fundraiser again in the future!

The Stewardship Committee and many other volunteers were instrumental in making this raffle run smoothly. Thank you to the Stewardship Committee including Leslie Peterson, Chair of the Stewardship Committee and UUCW Treasurer, Jean Baker, Ann Bertz, and Lynn Kapitan. Other valuable volunteers include Heather Bartlett, Betsy Gomoll, Larry Hawley, Deb Ritchie-Kolberg, Rob Schneider, Mary Schneider, Linda Weitzer, and Karen Zimmerman. Staff efforts were also appreciated, especially Kelly Bognar, who designed the tickets and "postcard" images of members and their dream destinations if they won. UUCW is amazing!

Library News – New Location



The Library is now open in its new home in UL-3. It will be open every Sunday during coffee hour. Library volunteers will be there to assist you in finding and checking out books. Stop in and see what's new.

Many thanks to Library Committee members Ruth Heimler, Karen Huth, Norma Keller, Barbara Mikula, and Marilyn Swanson for the countless hours they spent putting the library back together after its move. Thanks also to Vicki Banville for facilitating the move.

For more information, contact Carolyn Lawrence, Library Committee Chair, via the church office.

Getting Your House in Order: Four Sunday Sessions on End-of-Life Issues



Planning in advance for how you'd like medical, legal, financial, and spiritual decisions to be handled at the end of your life is a gift to yourself and your loved ones. In this four-session offering from the Lay Pastoral Care Team, local experts will provide information and answer your questions. Each session takes place on a **Sunday afternoon from noon to 1:30 pm**; register for any or all of them by emailing your name, contact information and chosen sessions to via the church office or watch for online registration opportunities in the weekly e-News.

Sunday, February 23 – Having “The Conversation” with Your Family – Living Wills, Advance Directives – Lay Pastoral Care Team & Rev. Suzelle

In American culture, it's difficult to talk about death and dying, let alone make plans for how we want things to be taken care of when it is our time to die. This session will help us figure out how to "talk about it," plus ensuring that our Living Will/Durable Power of Attorney forms are up to date.

Sunday, March 22 – Wills, Estates, and Trusts – Presenter to be determined

This session will provide basic information on estate planning, use of wills and different types of trusts (revocable and irrevocable), probate v. non-probate assets, gifting, & tax considerations.

Sunday, April 5 – Planning Your Funeral or Memorial Service – Rev. Suzelle Lynch

Planning a service to remember a loved one — or your own memorial service — is an act of love. We will walk through the details of planning a service and receive resources and ideas to help us and our families. Choices about cremation and burial will also be discussed.

Sunday, May 3 – Embracing the End of Life – Rev. Suzelle and Hospice Presenter

Can we embrace the end of life with courage and honesty? What we need to know about hospice care and other compassionate choices around dying.



RE-flections

Dave Cicero

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

The new year is now well-under-way, and the depths of winter (i.e.: sub-freezing temps, if not the requisite snow) have arrived. But as I write this the sun is at least shining. And lots going on...

Religious Education (RE)

February RE classes start with a **Group RE** game day — specifically, a “Get Back in the Game” tournament of games reinforcing the idea that “failure” is only a temporary state and that all good sports, like life, afford multiple opportunities for “success.”

For the rest of the month, Nursery/**Chalice Children** can expect stories and creative play celebrating the wonders of love, rainbows, and imagination. Children in the **Welcome Home** classroom will learn about the chalice, our UU symbol of faith, and the gifts of spirit and stewardship.

Stories of World Religions students will review what they’ve learned about Judaism & Buddhism and be introduced to Islam, while **Neighboring Faiths** students review their trip to Gurdwara Brookfield and learn more about Buddhism and Hinduism before visiting the Hindu Temple of Wisconsin on Feb. 23.

Middle School students in the **Coming of Age** class continue their exploration of what it means to call oneself a UU. Some have also elected to explore the subject of sexuality in the **Our Whole Lives (OWL)** program starting this month. If you haven’t yet expressed interest in OWL for a 7th- to 9th-grader in your life, contact me ASAP to inquire about joining before the class begins on Feb. 8. We don’t plan to offer this class again until 2022.

High school students in **YRUU** continue planning their Boston 2020 summer trip. They will also be “taking their show on the road.” A visitor to UUCW from the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), in Elm Grove, happened to see our multi-gen program, “Pigs, Wolves, and the House of Belonging” back in October. She has invited us to present it again at SSND sometime in February.

Adult RE

Thanks to the efforts of Helen Klimowicz, UUCW is hosting a free **Intro to Meditation** class, generously offered to us by Joseph Knasinski, on Tuesdays, 6-7 pm, starting February 4. See the article on page 6 for more details. If you are interested in suggesting or planning other Adult RE programs, please let me know. I am currently arranging for a **Spirituality in Art** series of workshops to begin in March.

UUA: Regional Assembly '20 & General Assembly '21

I invite adult and youth leaders to attend, with me, the MidAmerica Regional Assembly (RA) at **Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford, IL on Saturday, April 18**. This multigenerational day-long assembly provides opportunities to reflect, gain skills, and re-frame your understanding of justice, equity and inclusion. The day includes a keynote address and a selection of workshops. For more info, see www.uua.org/midamerica/ra/2020 Registration is due by March 12. Please contact me for sponsorship (if a youth) and/or carpooling options.

General Assembly is coming to Milwaukee in 2021! It’s not too early to start thinking of ways to help host and attend this assembly of UUs from across the country. I recently attended an informational reception/meeting for regional congregations and can help connect you or your group to those planning the 2021 business, worship and learning activities. Volunteer opportunities abound, and decisions regarding social action events and sponsorship will be made shortly after GA '20 in Providence, RI in June.

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



Leadership Learning Opportunity for Youth and Adults

The MidWest Leadership School for Youth and Adults is being held on **July 12-18, 2020**, at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. Every summer, about 75 adults and high-school youth come together for a week-long experience of leadership development grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith. MidWest Leadership School has been an inspiration to a lifetime of service for many of the participants over the past 30 years. It is an intense and exciting week for all who participate - a week where spiritual growth is nurtured, and lifelong friendships are formed.

While the adult school and the youth school have separate curriculum and staff, both groups come together every day to plan and participate in worship services. As a result of these intergenerational planning opportunities, all the participants go home to their congregations with a commitment to bringing youth and adults together to serve their faith communities. Learn more at mwls.org You can also contact Karen Engelking, an MWLS alum, via the church office, for more details.

Winter Blues?



The decorations and lights are down, the parties are over, family gatherings have come and gone, winter has truly set in. The months of February and March are often months when people feel let-down or may experience the “blues.”

Many factors contribute to the feeling of post-holiday let down or what some call winter blahs. Here are just a few possible reasons:

- The anticipation and planning for the holidays energize and carry most people through the early winter. We spend lots of energy doing everything we think is required for holidays, and often feel depleted once the holiday excitement is over.
- For some people, the holidays may not measure up to expectations, so feelings of disappointment may result.
- Over-spending for the holidays may lead to buyer’s remorse, as bills come due.
- Over-eating and drinking may result in a different type of remorse, as the numbers on the scale move upwards.
- Lack of sunshine and vitamin D during the winter months can negatively affect our physical and emotional health.

If you find that after adjusting for the winter weather and post-holiday let-down that your mood remains down, remember that the Lay Pastoral Care Team is available for conversation and support.

The UUCW Lay Pastoral Care Team can be contacted via the church office, by phone at 262- 782-3535, or by Sharing Card to Rev. Suzelle Lynch. Our team of trained caregivers provides a compassionate listening ear. All inquiries are handled confidentially.

Healing After Loss Group Provides Support for Each Other



If you have experienced the death of a loved one at any time, you’re invited to join our confidential group who meets monthly. Whether you feel comfortable sharing or just listening, we offer each other ongoing support for your grief. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, February 19th from 1:00-3:00 pm**. Please bring a beverage if you wish.

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

Introduction to Meditation Class



Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

February 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 3, 10, 17, 24

This free 8-week meditation course designed for beginners, as well as anyone who has tried meditation but has quit practicing and would like to start again. Sessions are once a week for approximately one hour.

The course topics include:

- What is meditation?
- How to begin to meditate.
- Types of meditation.
- How to deal with thoughts during meditation.
- Using meditation apps - the pros and cons.
- The science behind meditation.
- Advanced practice, and much more.

Sessions begin with a short lecture/discussion, then practice and end with a Q & A. Handouts are included. To RSVP or for more information, contact: Joseph Knasinski via the church office.

Weekly Meditation Group



"It is not a question of faith or belief, but of looking deeply. To meditate is to look deeply and see the things that others cannot see, including the wrong views that lie at the base of our suffering."

The Art of Living by Thich Nhat Hanh

We welcome you **Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00** to meditate. You can choose to meditate for 20 or 45 minutes. You can sit on the floor or a chair. We meditate in a room at the upper level. We look forward to having you meditate with us. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Klimowicz via the church office.

Great Books Follows Hiker’s Life



Great Books is discussing *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel on **Monday, February 10 at 10:00 am**. *The Stranger in the Woods* is the true story of a man who preferred to live on his own alone in the woods of Maine for 27 years, escaping modern life.

Great Books will be discussing *Circe: A Novel* by Madeline Miller on **Monday, March 9**. Questions? Contact co-facilitator Joyce Prewitt or Kit Hansen via the church office.

How Do I Become a UUCW Member?

Let's say that you've been coming to UUCW on Sundays for a while — a month or two, perhaps... Or maybe it's been longer. And now you wonder, ***“Is there something I need to do to make my relationship with the UUCW community official?”***

The answer is YES! You need to sign the Membership Book. This is how people become official members of UUCW. Your signature in the Membership Book symbolizes that you are in accord with UUCW's mission and purpose; that you are now “owning” the church in a new way!

While taking the UU Orientation class is a beneficial way to further your knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and UUCW, it is not required in order to join — you can join UUCW at any time. When YOU are ready, contact Community Builder Brianna Laux Kocis or Rev. Suzelle Lynch, and they will witness your signature in the Book.

What's required of members? UUCW invites members to participate regularly in congregational life, which means things like coming to Sunday services, volunteering, joining an Affinity Group or committee. This is important because it is the best way to get to know people and make friends at church. Doing these things can also help you learn more about Unitarian Universalism and nurture your personal spirituality.

The second basic requirement of membership is making an annual financial contribution. Members' financial contributions fund more than 80% of the church's annual budget — that's why you'll be asked to make a pledge of financial support each year. But also, it feels good to give!

Need more information about Membership, Volunteering, or Giving at UUCW? Contact Community Builder Brianna or Rev. Suzelle Lynch via the church office.

Q Youth Club

Join the Q Youth Club on **Friday, February 7 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.

UUCW Celebrates February Membership Anniversaries

Congratulations to UUCW Members celebrating these anniversaries:

1 year: Kristin Busse and Lynda Westbrook.

2 years: Katie Petitt, Steve Schaffer, Lauryl Schaffer, Carolyn Ruck, Melissa Anderson, Sofia Delgado, Thayer German-Fisher, Hayley German-Fisher, Kaleena Frankulin, and Chris Frankulin.

10 years: Kathy Herrewig and David Herrewig.

15 years: Sue Swearingen, Gladie Strom, Jerry Strom, Susan Wincell, and John Meurer, Linda Meurer, Vicki Brzeski, and Darthe Jennings.

25 years: Karen Engelking

50 years: Darryl Boyer

For more info about UUCW membership, contact Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office.

Register for UU Orientation Class!

UU Orientation is open to newcomers and those interested in becoming members of UUCW. The next two-part UU Orientation class will be held **Sunday, February 2nd and 9th from 11:45 am - 1:45 pm**.

Every individual's faith journey is different. During UU Orientation we explore these journeys and how Unitarian Universalism can fit into one's future spiritual path.

UU Orientation offers:

An opportunity for prospective members to explore and share their personal spiritual journeys.

- Information about Unitarian Universalism - our ideals and principles.
- An overview of Unitarian Universalist history.
- An overview of UUCW history.
- Information on ways to get involved at UUCW, through our programs, committees, music, education, etc.
- Answers to any other questions you may have.
- A community of other newcomers and a Membership Committee mentor to turn to for guidance.

Please contact Community Builder Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office to register or answer any further questions.

Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates



Each year about this time the Nominating Committee begins seeking a slate of candidates for the board, nominating committee and endowment committee, to be installed the following June at the annual business meeting. This year we are seeking 3 for the board for 3-year terms, 3 for the nominating committee for 2-year terms and 2 for the endowment committee for 3-year terms, to replace those who will be leaving their positions.

These are great opportunities to serve your congregation, make new friends and use your leadership skills.

We will have a table set up in the Community Room on Feb. 2nd after the service with descriptions of each position. Nominating Committee members will be present to answer your questions. We would also love to hear your ideas on others you think might be good candidates.

For more information, contact Vicki Brzeski, Nominating Committee Chair via the church office.

The Endowment Fund Committee May Have the Support You Need



Need financial support for a good UUCW cause? The Endowment Fund Committee facilitates gifts, requests, and memorials to UUCW. We also disperse earnings annually to committees in the congregation. We are blessed to announce that sufficient funds may be available for grants for the next UUCW fiscal year. Grant application forms are available on the table in the Community Room and at <http://bit.ly/UUCWendowment>. Grant requests should be returned to the Endowment Fund Committee office mailbox by February 29. Awards will be announced in March for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The Endowment Fund Committee eagerly awaits receipt of your innovative ideas. For more information, contact Barb Mikula via the church office.

Join the Early Morning Conversation



The Men's Breakfast Group will have its next meeting on **Tuesday, February 11 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, new knowledge, current UUCW information, contact facilitator Jerry Kashmerick, via the church office.

Register for General Assembly



This year's General Assembly will be held in **Providence, Rhode Island, June 24-28.** The GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

The 2020 General Assembly theme is "Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!" We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

Registration Payment Plan: With a \$50 down-payment, the cost of registration can be paid over the course several months. Final payment must be received by February 29. Anyone may attend. To register or learn more, visit <http://www.uua.org/ga>

Save the Date for Spring Songfest!



Join us **Sunday, March 22**, for the Spring Songfest! Our theme is "Musical Wisdom from Many Cultures." The service will feature the adult choir, a multigenerational choir, and soloists. If you are interested in singing with the multigenerational choir or performing a solo (all instruments are encouraged) or would like more information, please contact Lead Music Director Jennifer Nicolosi via the church office.

Rehearsals for the multigenerational choir will be Sunday, March 8 after service, Thursday, March 12, from 6:30 -7:15 pm, and Tuesday, March 17, from 6:00 - 6:45 pm.

Song Circle to Warm Our Hearts Friday, February 21, 7- 8:30 pm



Our Song Circle gathering will warm us up with songs of love, community, peace, and winter beauty. Singing is good for your brain, and it's a fun social time, too! Our gatherings are usually held on the third Friday of each month, so mark your calendars.

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. This is not a concert and no instruments are required! Easy to learn songs will include classic songs, 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.

February Split the Plate Supports the International Institute of Wisconsin



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 nonprofit organization as a way to help us live our Unitarian Universalist values and serve our community.

The International Institute of Wisconsin began as a branch of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in the early 1900s. It was established separately in 1936 with the purpose of assisting immigrants and refugees in their transition into the community by offering programming and support services. The Institute promotes international cooperation, understanding, and a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural perspective by providing a range of services that includes refugee resettlement, immigration, as well as educational and social services.

Integration into society is the overall goal of the IIW resettlement program which currently provides a range of services to two main groups of refugees, people from Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Iraq. Both groups are fleeing ethnic conflict and religious or political persecution in their country of origin. The services provided by IIW include safe and secure living arrangements, basic necessities, and links to resources to address their physical, medical, economic and social needs, cultural orientation, case management and adjustment of legal status.

IIW also offers services to immigrants in the U.S. on their path to permanent residency and citizenship, including interpretation and translation. Its experienced and multi-lingual staff assists individuals and families in providing low-cost legal immigration and citizenship services, such as adjustment of status for refugees and non-refugees, travel documents, petitions for family members and naturalization.

IIW also runs the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), an affiliate of the U.S. State Department's National Council for International Visitors. This program hosts groups of emerging international leaders from a variety of professional fields. Its overall mission to promote citizen diplomacy is carried out by IIW through the coordination and facilitation of professional, cultural and interpersonal exchanges between the visitors and their counterparts and experts in their fields throughout the state of Wisconsin.

IIW's educational programs include a wide range of activities that focus on promoting cultural, ethnic and international exchange and understanding. Some programs focus on a particular country, such as the Japan America Society and Japan Outreach Initiative, the publication of the magazine Viltis (Lithuania), or are more general, such as the Sister Cities program (Milwaukee's sister cities are Galway (Ireland), Carora (Venezuela) and Buffalo City (South Africa), the Consular Corps (with events such as the World Trade Day), and the Zeidler Lecture Series that aims to honor Frank P. Zeidler's commitment to educating the general public about the great challenges facing humanity.

For more information about Split the Plate, contact the Committee Chair, Kathy Herrewig via the church office.

UUCW Donations Support Menomonee Falls Food Pantry



The February choice for the non-perishable food collection is the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry. Known as the "Cart with a Heart," Falls Food Pantry is proud to serve residents from Lannon, Colgate, Hubertus, Richfield, Butler, Brookfield, Germantown, and Menomonee Falls.

Currently Needed Items:

- Canned broth and chili soup
- Dry soup mixes
- Boxed potatoes
- Tuna, salmon and other seafood
- Spinach, Sauerkraut, and Beets
- Pork'n Beans, Refried Beans
- Sugar
- Cereal
- Canned or Bottled Juices

A volunteer is needed to deliver collected food at the end of the month. The food may be dropped off 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in the unlocked foyer. The food is taken inside the pantry every day. Anyone who would be able to drop off this food, please contact Ellen via the church office. The pantry is located near Appleton Rd. and Pilgrim Rd., very close to the Community Center. More information about this pantry can be seen at www.fallsfoodpantry.org Thank you!

Ellen Newbauer and Melanie Weston, Co-chairs.

Join SOPHIA's Integrated Voter Engagement Campaign



The stakes couldn't be higher in the 2020 elections. All our values, our work for justice, the communities we love and the beloved community we seek to create are under attack. Our religious community must speak with moral courage and act with prophetic clarity and determination in the 2020 electoral cycle. We're poised to make a significant contribution toward making sure the elections this year reflect our most deeply held common values.

Thirty SOPHIA Members, including many from UUCW, participated in the webinar launch of the combined UU/SOPHIA Integrated Voter Engagement Campaign. You can watch the webinar and check out resources here: <http://bit.ly/UUVOTEwebinar>

There's opportunity for engagement by everyone!

- Door-to-Door Canvassing
- Voter Education
- Using the Relational Voter App (it's easy!) from home

Join us for the next opportunities, right here at UUCW:

Sunday, February 23, 2:30 pm - Canvass Planning Meeting

Sunday, March 22, 2:30 pm - First Canvas Day

Sunday, March 29, 2:30 pm - Second Canvas Day

For more information or to join the local campaign, contact Barbara Pfarr via the church office.



DUUiversity Theatre Attends *No Wake*

This is the world premiere of a play about an elderly man who wants to save the dying loons of Lake Winnepesaukee but is thwarted by a townie teenager who is hired to clean the house next door. Both must acknowledge their loneliness and loss as they slowly forge a unique intergenerational bond.

No Wake by Wisconsin playwright Erica Berman

Sunday, March 1 – 2:00 pm

Milwaukee Chamber Theater at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway

For tickets: 414-291-7800 or www.r-t-w.com

Buy your own tickets and then contact Kristin Fewel via the church office to join the group for dinner and conversation. If you are interested in attending other performances, pick up the DUUiversity Theatre Group brochure on the table in the Community Room or go to <http://bit.ly/DUUiversity19-20>

SOPHIA Presents “Reinvesting in People Not Prisons; Making Our Communities Safer and Stronger”



Sunday, February 16 from 2 pm – 4 pm
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
300 Carroll St, Waukesha, WI 53186

UUCW is now a member of SOPHIA, Stewards of Prophetic, Hopeful, Intentional Action. Learn about the campaign to close the Green Bay Correctional Institution and how you can be part of this important work.

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 many states around the nation that are reducing their prison populations? Will we spend \$1 billion on another prison, or will we invest \$1 billion over the next 20 years on programs that can uplift our people, reduce crime, and rebuild our communities? Help us make it happen!

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



Women's Book Group Discusses Bestseller

The Women's Book Discussion Group meets **Wednesday, February 12** to discuss the best-seller *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens. A young girl, deserted by her family, raises herself in the marshes of North Carolina. When a young man in a nearby town is found dead, the "marsh girl" is suspected. Please join us at the church at 7:00 pm. All adults are welcome.

Questions? Contact Kathy Schwei or Marilyn Swanson via the church office.

Climate Change: Our Personal Actions Still Matter



Do you think that your small actions to fight climate change don't matter? Frequently we hear, stop worrying about what you can do, just focus your action on the corporations and policymakers who refuse to stop emitting them! But WE are the ones consuming the resources and energy which result in the emission of carbon dioxide that lead to climate change.

While some people choose to bury their heads in the sand about the devastating effects of climate change, most UU's try to take steps to reduce their contribution to the crisis. We see an increasingly grimmer picture of the future life emerging for our children. Our moral sensibilities tell us that we must do the right thing, even if nobody else does it, or its impact is small. And the right thing to do is to respect other life forms, and as much as we are able, take care and not waste our precious resources.

We also know that individual and social change are intertwined in significant ways. Enough individuals making changes does equal social change. As each of our behaviors affects those around us, our actions can have a ripple effect that we should not discount.

There is no avoiding the most catastrophic effects of climate change without major changes on a global scale. And that starts with campaigning and voting for politicians who will act on climate change. But it also involves shopping less and more ethically and doing what you can to disrupt business as usual. In other words, social change starts with all of us.

Upcoming Earth Ministry Events:

On **February 2nd**, during our Sunday Service, we will present some of the ways you can reduce your carbon footprint. You will be able to commit to taking certain actions. Then in March, Earth Ministry will announce the collective carbon reduction achieved by our church members.

During all of February, after each service, members of Earth Ministry will staff a table in the community room to highlight some additional actions, both big and small we can take to lower our contribution to the greenhouse gases which threaten our very existence. For more info, contact Almuth Soffee via the church office.

It's a Donation Rotation for Puzzles, Games, and Pet Supplies



Keep busy this winter — refresh your selection of jigsaw puzzles and board games by coming to Earth Ministry's Donation Rotation on **Sunday, February 9**. Browse the gathered puzzles and games for all ages and skill levels.

But wait, there are pet supplies too!

Whether your family pet is furry or slimy, you need supplies that keep your companion happy and healthy. Or maybe your pet days are over, and now is the time to clean out your garage and closets of old aquariums, dog dishes, and cat toys. We will be accepting clean and gently used carriers/crates, beds, pet clothing, or pet-themed gifts.

Before the service, bring your items to the Community Room. After service, browse and find treasures. Everything is free and you don't need to bring an item to take one.

Mark your calendar for upcoming Donation Rotations:

- Sunday, March 8 – Books and Entertainment
- Sunday, April 12 – Anything in the Kitchen
- Sunday, May 10 – Clean Out the Garage

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

PieceMakers Attend Quilt Show



PieceMakers will have a regular meeting at **9:30 am on Saturday, February 15** to discuss "What basic tools do you need to start quilting?"

On **February 29**, the group will attend the Winter Quilt Show held at the Washington County Fair Park in West Bend. The show includes quilt displays, lectures, and hourly raffle drawings. To RSVP or for more information, contact Carolyn Lawrence via the church office.

Wisdom & Whimsy Group Shares Most Influencing Persons



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, February 12th from 11:30 am until 1:15 pm**. We will share "Who is the most influential person in your life?" Bring a bag lunch and a beverage. Please contact Susan Foley via the church office with any questions.



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

Come As You Are, Leave Inspired!

LEAP!



**Unitarian
Universalist
Church West**

**LEAP! Our Annual Pledge Drive
February 29 6:00-8:00 PM**

Join us for delicious food and drink, enjoyable entertainment, friend-making and Financial Pledging at LEAP — our Annual Pledge Drive Launch! We've themed our pledge drive after Leap Day — that lucky, magical extra day we get once every four years! Children of all ages will enjoy a special LEAP party with food and activities downstairs as adults gather upstairs for the LEAP LAUNCH.

Watch your mail, e-News, and Sunday announcements for RSVP timelines and opportunities to volunteer.

We look forward to LEAPing with you!