



## My Real Experience

by Kelly J. Crocker, Minister of Religious Education

One of the holiday traditions in our house is to spend several evenings watching our favorite Christmas movies: *Miracle on 34th Street*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and my personal favorite, *White Christmas*. And this year when we were watching Big Crosby and Danny Kaye dance and sing Count Your Blessings, I thought that it was the perfect song for how Dan and I have been feeling lately. The song goes: *When I'm worried and I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep, And I fall asleep counting my blessings. When my bankroll is getting small, I think of when I had none at all, And I fall asleep counting my blessings, I think about a nursery and I picture curly heads, And one by one I count them, as they slumber in their beds, If you're worried and you can't sleep just count your blessings instead of sheep And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings*

Ever since watching that film, I have spent my sleepless nights (and at times there have been many) doing just this – counting my blessings. I realized how fortunate this growing person has been to be a part of this community over the past nine months. What an exciting nine months this baby has had! We've attended spiritual retreats, meditated in a labyrinth, listened to amazing music from our choirs, had a fantastic time with Tom Pease at Small Music Sunday, attended weddings and services of union where I was officiating, presented workshops at General Assembly in Fort Worth, learned about the Mennonite faith in an adult education class, and traveled to Europe to visit with our Partner Church in Transylvania and be steeped in Unitarian history! We couldn't have asked for a more exciting nine months.

On those sleepless nights I think often of

our wonderful FUS- Baby Shower and how generous this community has been. The planning committee of Lorna Aaronson, Janet Swanson, Barb Avery, Nelle Campbell, Teresa Radermacher, and Ellie Schneider definitely goes on our blessings list. What a celebration that was! We

felt so loved and supported by this community.

As I mentioned at the shower, my family is very concerned about Dan and I having a baby this far away from them. They have this idea that we are all alone out here in Wisconsin with no one to support us. During that shower I realized just how misguided that belief is.

We were overwhelmed by the immense amount of thought and planning that the committee put into the shower and the great outpouring of care and

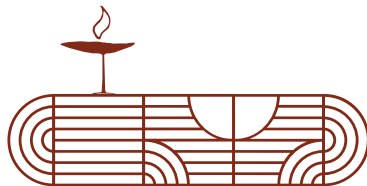
concern from this community. We know that we are not alone and that day was an incredible, visible reminder of that fact.

I have learned much throughout this pregnancy. There are many things in life (and in my own body) over which I have no control. Worrying will get me nowhere and I need to learn to trust in my own abilities and the love of those around me. And perhaps the most difficult lesson of all was that it is okay to ask for help. Dan and I couldn't have made it through the last nine months without the support of Michael and Scott, the amazing RE staff whom I am privileged to work with each day, and the FUS staff who frequently reminded me to rest or ask how they could help, and the encouragement and understanding of all of you. It is so difficult for us to admit that we are not totally self-sufficient. But we have realized that we cannot do this on our own. We know that it is going to take a strong community to raise this child, as is true for all children. We all have moments in our ❁ page 10



*At Trees for Tomorrow one of the old favorites is to ski in and feed the birds. Thanks to Gail Bliss for a nice photo!*

# Meeting House News



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## Membership Information

The Membership Book will be available for signing following all three services, January 28 and 29. Those who have attended the New UU orientation series, and are ready to accept the privileges and responsibilities of membership, are invited to go to the pulpit area following the 4:30 Saturday service, or either of the services on Sunday. People from the Membership Committee will be there to assist you as you make this important commitment to our community.

Those interested in learning more about membership at First Unitarian Society are encouraged to attend a Membership Information session on Sunday, February 12, following the 9:00 a.m. service (approximately 10:15 a.m.) in the Gaebler Library, half way down the Loggia.

There are still openings in the Thursday New UU series, beginning on February 16. Registration forms are available on the literature table in the front lobby of the Meeting House, or at <http://www.fusmadison.org/adult/newuu.shtml> on our web site. The Spring New UU will begin during the third week in April. Those registration forms will be available at the above locations in mid-February.

If you have questions about membership, please contact Coordinator of Member Programs Diana Vezmar-Bailey (233-9774, extension 16; [dianav@fusmadison.org](mailto:dianav@fusmadison.org)). ■

## Central Midwest District Assembly in Madison April 21-23 “Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right”

The Madison UU community is hosting this year’s District Assembly. It will take place at the downtown Concourse Hotel. Rabbi Michael Lerner, founder of the Tikkun Community and editor of Tikkun magazine will be the keynote speaker. More details on the workshops, worship services and evening entertainment for DA will be available soon.

If you can provide home hospitality for a Unitarian Universalist attending this conference from out of town, please contact Elizabeth Barrett at [ebarrett@chorus.net](mailto:ebarrett@chorus.net). Thanks so very, very much! – Elizabeth ■

## Snow Seeds

The snow hangs from the pine trees in elongated cones. They are waiting to drop their seeds to grow the next storm.

– Fran Rall ■





### Library News

Can you help fulfill the mission of the FUS Library Committee to "...provide library materials which support the individual quest of each participant in the Society for a better understanding of the meaning of life and the role of religion, which support the formal and informal religious education activities of the Society for children and adults?"



Specifically, after research into various titles of autism and Asperger's syndrome and adolescent homosexuality, the library Committee plans to acquire several new titles dealing with these areas. The more titles received in donations, the more we can purchase of the remaining titles. Your generous donations of any of these books would be greatly appreciated:

*Albert Einstein* by Ibi Lepscky; *Captain Tommy* by Abby Ward Messner; *Andy and His Yellow Frisbee* by Mary Thompson; *Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism* by Laurie Lears; *Dykes to Watch Out For* by Alison Bechdel; *Pedro and Me* by Judd Winick; *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters.

Donations may be placed in the upright wooden bin marked "donations" in the library. (The Library Committee has already acquired *And Tango Makes Three* and *Molly's Family*, both dealing with adolescent homosexuality.

The Gaebler Library is open during regular church business hours and during weekend services. Library Committee members are Jane Ayer, Nancy Fowell, Rose Stephenson, Ann Smiley (chairperson) and Chris Voigt. ■

### Partner Church News

On Christmas Eve, the following e-mail message was received from our partner church minister's family in Nagyajta. We replied with a similar wish to them, and with special emphasis on the peace part.

*Dear Friends From Madison,*

*We wish you from all our heart Merry Christmas and a Happy, and peaceful, New Year.*

*With much love,*

*– Levente, Jutka, Agnes, Hunor and Kincsó ■*



### Fight AIDS: 4th Annual Teen Performing Arts Fundraiser

**When:** Saturday, February 4, 7 p.m.

**Where:** The FUS Auditorium

**Why:** To raise funds for YouthAIDS, an organization working in more than 60 countries to educate and protect young people from HIV/AIDS. Don't miss the teen arts event of the year! This is a great way for families and individuals to spend a great evening supporting our teens and contributing to the fight against AIDS.

Pizza slices and soda will be sold in the Gathering Room from 6 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and will be on sale in the Loggia following services January 21, 22, 28 and 29.

**Feed your soul; feed your tummies; feed your need to fight AIDS! (Sponsored by the FUS Youth Advisory Council.)**



# Connections



## **Chalice Groups: Covenant Group Ministry**

Chalice Groups are small, relational groups of about ten people who meet regularly to build community, practice shared ministry and nurture their spiritual lives. To learn more and to register for a group, pick up a yellow Chalice Groups brochure around the Meeting House or visit the web at: <http://www.fusmadison.org/adult/chalice.shtml> Questions? Call Elizabeth Barrett at 257-2182.

### **We currently have several Chalice Groups with openings:**

**Groups in which participants take turns choosing the focus for each session:**

- Eclectic Community: 1st & 3rd Wednesday evenings

- “Choice” Topics: 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month.

### **Groups for Young Adults (18-35):**

- YA Chalice Group: 1st Wednesday evening each month.

### **Groups with evolving content:**

- Exploring Diversity: 1st Monday evening each month.
- Reflective Questions from ministers’ sermons: 1st & 3rd Thursday evenings.
- Spiritual Reflection & Connection with Social Issues: 3rd Tuesday evening each month. ■



## **Parish Meeting!**

**Sunday, February 5 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

### **“Parish Meeting and Vote”**

**Lunch available 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

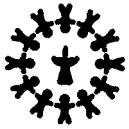
As in each step of the process, we stop occasionally, socialize, and vote as a congregation on the next step of the process. At this meeting we will vote on the question: “Shall we authorize a feasibility study to determine if we can afford it?” A light lunch and child care will be available.



### **More Information...**

**Childcare:** It would be helpful to know the number and the ages of the children coming; to sign up for child care please call or e-mail Leslie Ross at 233-9774 x 19, [leslier@fusmadison.org](mailto:leslier@fusmadison.org).

**Food:** All meals will be provided without charge, however your donation will be appreciated. Thanks!



## Religious Education

### Middle School Bowlers!

FUS middle schoolers are invited to gather for a night of pizza and bowling. We'll be meeting at Schwoegler Park Towne Lanes on 444 Grand Canyon Dr. on Saturday, February 25, 8 to 10:30 p.m. The cost will be \$10 and includes two games of cosmic bowling, shoes and pizza. If you have not received a registration form and would like one, please contact Leslie at 233-9774, x. 19. The deadline to register is February 19th. (Feel free to bring extra money along if you want to play arcade games).

### Awesome Adults Needed for Teen Habitat for Humanity Trip

We are looking for enthusiastic adults to chaperone this year's Habitat for Humanity teen work week. We will likely be traveling to New Orleans the 3rd or 4th week of July. Your costs would be covered. Requirements for this great opportunity to help the flood-ravaged city of New Orleans and to get to know incredible teens are:

- Must be 25 years old or older
- Must have a valid driver's license and a good driving history
- Must not only like teens, but be patient too.
- Must complete a fun and exciting application by February 28.

The FUS Youth Advisory Committee will review the applications, set up interviews, and decide who the lucky adults are who get to go on this trip! If you'd like an application, contact Leslie at 233-9774, x. 19 or at [leslier@fusmadison.org](mailto:leslier@fusmadison.org). ■

### Last Call for Teen Talent

Were you hoping to perform something at the Teen Performing Arts Fundraiser on February 4th? If so, you should let Leslie know ASAP as there is limited space available. Call her right away at 233-9774, x. 19. ■

### YRUU

Are you a high school teen looking for a place to meet other cool teens, to explore your religious and spiritual beliefs, to do good in the world, and to have lively conversation? Then come on by to YRUU!

You're welcome to join us at any Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Annex. Don't worry if you haven't been here before. Newcomers are always welcome! Here's a tentative schedule what we're up to during the next few weeks:

**January 29:** Discussion of what confession means to Catholics, its history, and whether or not confessing means Catholics can "do anything they want."

**February 5:** Get together with teens at the James Reeb UU Congregation. Contact Patricia for details (236-0496)

**February 12:** Discussion: handling the omnipresent drug culture

**February 19:** Discussion and social action: Responsible consumerism and how our dollars can support businesses that share our beliefs about human and environmental rights.

**February 26:** A night of personal check-ins and affirmations. ■

### New Religious Education Resources

There are three great resources available to parents and other groups that can help you carry the UU message into your home life through the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). CLF's mission is to provide a ministry to isolated religious liberals, and to offer a spiritual home within the Unitarian Universalist movement. CLF promotes the understanding and growth of Unitarian Universalism and institutes programs toward that end. They have created three exciting on-line resources that can be used to supplement your child's RE program:

• **CLiF Notes: A Monthly Curriculum for Families and Small Groups** A complete curriculum plan with a session each month on UU Identity, World Religions, Principles and Practice, and Worship.

• **KidTalk Web Page** Monthly information and activities on everything from holidays around the world to spiritual practices and social justice projects.

• **Resources for Living** Featured in their publication *Quest*, this column speaks to UU kids and families about how we practice our free faith.

Subscription to these resources is free to CLF members, or \$99 for a year's subscription to non-members. For more information, go to [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org). ■

# Social Justice

## Social Justice Begins at Home

**A**lmost weekly, a committee of the Social Justice Council bumps up against facility issues as we try to do the work of the Council. Over the last five years we have begun to self-limit our activities and our plans because there is inadequate or inappropriate space available to us at FUS. We have begun to schedule events off-site. The following is an attempt to capture some of our hopes for a new facility as it relates to our purpose and mission within First Unitarian Society.

1. The proposed facility will allow more face-to-face, personal dialogue between the congregation and our committee leaders about the work of the Social Justice Council. We depend on the congregation to support and participate in the social justice programs. Our hope is that a new facility will offer better space for after-service conversation and dialogue, as well as other more formal programs on weekends and weekdays. As a result, we will feel more confident that we know the concerns and interests of the congregation and that the congregation knows what we are doing and how to become involved.

2. The Social Justice Council has always recognized the importance of using our facility as a place for public gatherings around social issues. We have a community reputation as an organization that is willing to host forums and public discussions on challenging issues and to do so with balance and respect. Unfortunately, we increasingly turn down opportunities to engage the Madison community in this way because the space is not available at FUS. In the future, we hope that an expanded facility will allow FUS to accommodate speakers, conferences, and other community events that insure intelligent, challenging and diverse dialogue in the Madison area.

3. The Social Justice Council is helping lead the way toward a network of Unitarian Universalists throughout Wisconsin working together on

social justice issues. This work complements our work within the interfaith community here and statewide. Other forms of communication cannot replace opportunities to meet in person, to develop mutual understanding and respect, and to find the common ground between human beings. The potential exists for building coalitions of liberal and progressive



religious communities in Wisconsin – something that is needed in this state – and an expanded facility will help us to lead in this effort by allowing us to bring diverse people together in one place.

4. We want FUS to “be a beacon, not a shadow,” to borrow a phrase from a UU colleague in Brookfield, Wisconsin. We hope that FUS will take the opportunity to build a truly “sustainable” addition. Environmental issues are fundamental to our social justice work. Environmental degradation is intertwined with economic injustice, racial and ethnic conflict, hunger, poverty, and human conflict and war. We welcome the opportunity to be a beacon for change in the design, construction and operation of our building in order to reduce our ecological impact. Making the effort to live sustainably supports all of our social justice values.

– Submitted on behalf of the Social Justice Council by Wendy Cooper ■

### Peace Quote

*New York Times, September 16, 2005*

The Dalai Lama called war “out of date” and urged us to dream of a demilitarized world. “Eventually the whole world should be free of nuclear weapons,” he said, “but to arrive at external disarmament, people must first learn ‘internal disarmament.’”





# Musical Offerings



## What a New Building Would Mean for FUS's Music Ministries

The music program at First Unitarian Society — in all of its multi-facetedness — is something that many members of our congregation and the larger community cherish.

A new auditorium would mean that we would be able to accommodate all of these people: those who wish to attend our regular services, our All Music Sundays, and the many other important musical events that take place here all year long. It would mean being able to accommodate the (blessedly) large number of singers in our choirs during worship and our instrumentalists, too — and still have room for the congregation!

A new choir rehearsal room would allow us to warm up on Sunday mornings without being in the way of the sound system folks, the ushers, and the many others who are preparing the auditorium for worship. The music staff would have access to the choir library and could study music adequately — now there are times when every room with a piano is occupied, preventing us from doing our jobs. A new rehearsal room would also free up the Auditorium for its intended uses, and would include storage for our portable instruments and other supplies. Just imagine: we would be able to put our legs under our desks!

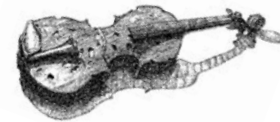
Dedicated office space for the music staff would let us study and create music in an appropriate environment: silence. We deserve the silence that's required to focus and to concentrate on the music that will inspire the FUS congregation. We also desire the freedom to make music without bothering our co-workers. We could actually do our jobs here at FUS instead of at home!

As a board member of the UU Musicians Network, I have been asked to host our annual conference. In the past, I've had to decline due to space limitations, but in the future, it would

be wonderful to affirm our role as a leading voice in our denomination.

Most importantly, having enlarged, improved, adequate facilities would inspire both the music staff and the congregation to do ever greater things to expand the influence of UU values.  
— Dan Broner, Director of Music ■

**“A new auditorium would mean we would accommodate...those who wish to attend our regular services, our All Music Sundays, and the many other important musical events that take place here all year long.”**



## Friday Noon Musicales

12:15 to 1:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

### January

**27 • Four Seasons Theatre: Season Sampler** with Tamara Brognano, Andrew Adams, Greg Reed and Amanda Poulson.

### February

**3 • French Favorites for Flute and Harp** Marilyn Chohaney, flute; Linda Warren, harp.

**10 • 100 Years of Romance: Love Songs from the 20th Century**  
Gay Thomas and Josh Dupont

Brown-bag lunches are welcome.  
Coffee & Tea are available.  
Admission is free!



**more than  
stones & mortar**

## Five Congregations

First Unitarian's assistance in helping other local UU congregations flourish serves many purposes. Mutually beneficial cooperation can enhance our contribution in the region. This is one priority as we strengthen our FUS facilities and programs.

At a recent meeting, ministers and lay leaders from regional Unitarian-Universalist societies (FUS, Reeb, Sauk Prairie, and Janesville) celebrated past examples of cooperation among two or more of our congregations and explored ideas for future cooperation. Although each congregation has a distinctive culture and priorities to be respected, we believe that all of our faith communities benefit from such exchanges.

Opportunities to get together are likely to be initiated by people who share an interest in specific programming, such as music, social justice, youth group gatherings, religious education, or worship topics. Holidays offer other times for shared activities. By joining forces, we can help increase UU visibility and presence in the larger community, spreading our liberal message. This in turn could contribute to growth in the other four congregations, which would welcome increased membership. ■

### Newsletter Deadlines 2006

#### Volume 57 #3

Contribution Deadline: January 30  
Publication and Assembly Date: February 6

#### Volume 57 #4

Contribution Deadline: February 13  
Publication & Assembly Date: February 20

#### Volume 57 #5

Contribution Deadline: February 27  
Publication and Assembly Date: March 6

☛ Please send your contributions to [newsletter@fusmadison.org](mailto:newsletter@fusmadison.org). Thanks! ■

## Transportation and the Meeting House Addition

One of the interesting dynamics of our new addition planning is that as we expand our square footage to meet our growth needs, we will be left with less on-site parking. The latest plans show our floor space more than doubling, while our capacity to park on-site is reduced by 30% to 90 parking stalls. Though at first blush this situation appears to be a negative, it also contains the seeds of new opportunity – opportunity for FUS members to exercise community-building while deepening our commitment to one another and to the natural environment around us.

In an attempt to determine existing transportation needs and brainstorm solutions, two focus groups comprised of members were

**“(with) our floor space more than doubling, while our capacity to park on-site is reduced by 30%...at first blush this situation appears to be a negative...”**

recently convened. Not surprisingly for our caring community, participants expressed a strong desire to make sure that preference for on-site parking be provided to the less mobile and to newcomers. In addition, some of the transportation alternative ideas which generated the most “traction” among participants included:

- Provide shuttle service from nearby lots like the University's lot 60
- Facilitate car pooling by publishing a Member directory organized by neighborhood
- Provide transportation to and from local coffee shops using volunteer-driven vans
- Improve bike parking

Out of the discussion also came some ideas for improving communication and safety for use of the existing FUS parking lot which the Administrator and FUS Operations Committee will be looking at near-term. Stay tuned for further updates as planning unfolds. If you have ideas, please share them with the focus group organizers - Doug Mitchell, [train2bu@yahoo.com](mailto:train2bu@yahoo.com); Liz Wessel, [lizwessel@yahoo.com](mailto:lizwessel@yahoo.com); or Susan Koenig, [susank@fusmadison.org](mailto:susank@fusmadison.org).

- Doug Mitchell ■



# Denomination

## Director of Youth Religious Education Needed in DuPage

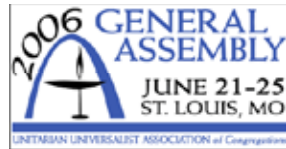
The DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church ([www.duuc.org](http://www.duuc.org)) of Naperville, IL (<http://www.naperville.il.us/>), a Welcoming Congregation, is looking for a full-time Director of Youth Religious Education to provide professional leadership for the youth religious education program starting in July, 2006. Compensation between \$46,300 and \$56,400 plus benefits, commensurate with education, experience, and duties performed. DUUC is a growing congregation of 250+ members with a strong and vibrant Religious Education program. For more information, including a complete Position Description, please send a resume and cover letter no later than January 25, 2006, to the DRE Search Committee, DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church, 45535 Old Naperville Rd, Naperville, IL 60563. Email: [DRE-Search@duuc.org](mailto:DRE-Search@duuc.org). Phone: 630-505-9408.

## General Assembly 2006 St. Louis, Missouri (only 6 hours from Madison!)

This year's General Assembly of the UUA will be Wednesday, June 21, through Sunday, June 25. General Assembly is the Unitarian Universalist Association's annual meeting of congregations. Thousands of Unitarian Universalists come together to be energized and enriched as we learn, connect, worship, sing and celebrate our liberal religious movement. Engagement opportunities will include Covenant Groups, dances, exhibits, lectures, meditation, music, performances, plenaries, seminars, service opportunities, workshops and worship services.

The FUS Denominational Affairs committee will be reserving at least one Van Galder bus to transport us to GA, leaving on Wednesday, June 21, and returning to Madison on Monday, June 26. Cost per person will be \$125 roundtrip.

Registration for GA and GA Housing begins March 1 at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) Questions? Contact Elizabeth J. Barrett at 257-2182 or [ebarrett@chorus.net](mailto:ebarrett@chorus.net) ■



## A Concert of Earth and Spirit with Jim Scott

**Friday, January 27, 7 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church West  
13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield, WI**

Acclaimed acoustic guitarist Jim Scott will perform an evening of his songs of peace, and the environment on January 27. With insight and more than a little humor, Scott makes his case for harmony in the world with a jazz/world folk music styling and great guitar technique in accompaniment.

General admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Known to many as the voice on the Winter Consort's "Common Ground," Scott's musical output runs from lyrical songs, and instrumentals, to choral compositions. He has performed in the company of luminaries of the jazz and folk worlds. Pete Seeger said of Jim's guitar virtuosity, "(Jim is) some kind of a magician." Paul Winter said of his long time collaborator "His music sings of the life spirit."

Scott's most recent project has been compiling "The Earth and Spirit Songbook," an anthology of songs of earth and peace and he has added many of these songs to his concert repertoire. From this widely varied background, Scott considers himself a contemporary folk artist in the sense that folk music represents people with a positive and hopeful spirit. "Folk follows a long tradition of social commentary," Scott said. "It's the voice of the people. That's what I like to think I'm representing."

He's released several CDs and taught at numerous colleges, including Oberlin College in Ohio, and conducted workshops throughout the country.

"My messages are of ecology and social conscience, but also of optimism," Scott says. "I believe in the power of song and self-expression for change."

For more information contact the Rev. Suzelle Lynch (262)782-3535 [rev.lynch@uucw.org](mailto:rev.lynch@uucw.org)



## Community

### AIDS Network Bike Ride Meeting

Come hear about ACT 4, the fourth annual AIDS Network fundraising bicycle ride on Tuesday, February 8, 7 p.m. at FUS.



ACT stands for "AIDS Network Cycles Together." ACT 4 will happen August 3-6, starting and ending in Madison. A major goal of the ACT rides is to raise awareness, educate the community, teach tolerance, and raise crucial funds for AIDS Network. Last year ACT III raised \$304,544 with a 90% return to AIDS Network.

FUS member David Beam will discuss his experiences on the rides and show a short video about the event. If you have been thinking about riding or volunteering as a crew member, come to this meeting! ■

### Melissa and Tamara Star in Local Production

FUS members Melissa Simonson and Tamara Brognano are the leading ladies in the Four Seasons Theatre (FST) concert production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love." Directed by UW-Madison Associate Professor of Theatre and Drama Tony Simotes, music directed by FST Artistic Director Andrew Abrams, and narrated by CTM Artistic Director Colin Douglas, this performance is the first of the FST Unsung Musical Series.

Based on the novel by David Garnett, "Aspects of Love" is a complex love story that takes place over 15 years and is set in France. Performances are Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 pm at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance at the Wisconsin Union Box Office, 800 Langdon Street, at (608) 262-2201 or in person during box office hours (Monday-Friday 11:30 am to 5:30 pm, Saturday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm). On the evening of the show, tickets will be available at the Middleton PAC one hour before the start time of each performance. For more information, please visit [www.fourseasons-theatre.com](http://www.fourseasons-theatre.com). ■

### My Real Experiences

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lives when we need to find the courage and take the risk to ask for help. I have been reminded of this almost daily these days and although it is still difficult to admit that I need help with things I can no longer do, it is a lesson well worth learning

**"Worrying will get me nowhere and I need to learn to trust in my own abilities and the love of those around me..."**

As for the future, I plan to return to FUS from Family Leave on June 1. Flower Communion on Sunday, June 4, will be my first weekend back. I look forward to returning for that beautiful UU celebration.

In the next few months I'm going to try to remember to sing these lines in my head on the many sleepless nights ahead,

*If you're worried and you can't sleep  
Just count your blessings instead of sheep  
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings*

I'm sure I will think of you often when I am counting my blessings. Thank you for all of your prayers and well wishes, please know how much they are appreciated. At the end of a meeting last night, the members of that group wished peace, love, joy, and compassion to me and my growing family. That is my wish for you as well. Thank you for being the Beloved Community that you are.

– *With much love and gratitude, Kelly* ■

### The Madison Unitarian

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# Meeting House Calendar

## Wednesday, January 25

Staff meeting	9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	W Living Rm
Alliance Creative Handwork	11:55 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Lay Worship Committee	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	C-7
Meeting House Chorus	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Children's Choirs	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	W Living Rm

## Thursday, January 26

Archives Open	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Archives
Women's 16 Step Group	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	C-3
Annual Campaign Training	6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Society Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Aud WLR

## Friday, January 27

MHNS Music and Movement	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Noon Musicale	12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Zen Buddhism Lecture	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Auditorium

## Saturday, January 28

Annual Campaign Training	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Global Warming Input Session	3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	W Living Rm
Children's Religious Ed	3:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	B & C Wings
Worship Service	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Facilities Slideshow	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	W Living Rm

## Sunday, January 29

Children's Religious Ed	7:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	B & C Wings
Worship Service	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Auditorium
Coffee Served After Worship	9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Loggia Tbl #4
Facilities Slideshow	10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	W Living Rm
Global Warming Input	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Library
Worship Service	11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Auditorium
MNHS New Family Open Hse	3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	West Lawn
Noon Musicale Rehearsal	4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Insight Buddhist meditation	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm

## Monday, January 30

Dance Fellowship	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Acting Group	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Auditorium

## Tuesday, January 31

Movement Meditations	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Centering Prayer	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	C-3
Communications Committee	7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Library

## Wednesday, February 1

Staff meeting	9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	W Living Rm
Quest Integration Facilitators	1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	C-3
Annual Campaign Meeting	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	C-11
Music Committee Meeting	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	W Living Rm
denominational affairs cte	6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	C-9
R.E. Child Care Committee	6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	C-11
Meeting House Chorus	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Lay Ministers	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Children's Choirs	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	W Living Rm

## Thursday, February 2

MHNS Music and Movement	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Archives Open	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Archives Rm
Movement Meditations	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Women's 16 Step Group	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	C-3

Neighbor meeting re: plans	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Society Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Aud WLR

## Friday, February 3

Newsletter Printing	12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	W Living Rm
Noon Musicale	12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
CUUPS	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Gilbert & Sullivan Concert	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Gilbert & Sullivan Panel	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	W Living Rm

## Saturday, February 04

Physicians for Social Responsibility	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	
Gathering Rm   Kitchen		
Children's Religious Ed	3:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	B & C Wings
Worship Service	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Pizza Dinner	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Teen Performing Arts	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Auditorium

## Sunday, February 5

Children's Religious Ed	7:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	B & C Wings
Worship Service	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Auditorium
Coffee Served After Worship	9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Loggia Tbl #4
Children's Chapel	9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	W Living Rm
Front Desk Volunteers'	10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Archives
Worship Service	11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Auditorium
Lunch before Parish Meeting	11:55 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Parish Meeting	1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Aud WLR C Wing Loggia
Noon Musicale Rehearsal	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Insight Buddhist meditation	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
YRUU Youth Group	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Annex Liv Rm

## Monday, February 6

Newsletter Assembly	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	W Living Rm
Dance Fellowship	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
O'Neill via Film	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	W Living Rm
Women's Spirituality & Ritual	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	C-7
Acting Group	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Auditorium

## Tuesday, February 7

Movement Meditations	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Centering Prayer	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	C-3
Economic Justice Committee	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	C-5
Quest Potluck and Integration Group	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	
Gathering Rm   Kitchen		
Quest Integration Groups	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	C-3   C-7

## Wednesday, February 8

Financial Stewardship Council	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	W Living Rm
Staff meeting	9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	W Living Rm
Alliance	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Gathering Rm
Worship Council Meeting	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	C-9
Adult Education Committee	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	C-5
Meeting House Chorus	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Parents of Teens meeting	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Annex Liv Rm
Facilitator Chalice Group	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	C-7
Children's Choirs	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	W Living Rm ■

# Upcoming Services at FUS

**Saturday, January 28 at 4:30**

**Sunday, January 29 at 9 & 11 a.m.**

## “Toward Right Relations”

by Associate Minister Scott Gerard Prinster,  
with Minton Brooks, Joyce Carey and Roger Chapman.

How can we better develop right relations with all people when Unitarian Universalists sometimes have trouble doing this even amongst ourselves? How can our annual General Assembly help us to uncover our prejudices at the same time as we celebrate our liberal religious movement? Discover how a gathering of 4,000 Unitarian Universalists can be a life-changing event, illuminating the right path for us no matter how much we stumble.

On Saturday, harpist Linda Warren will provide the musical offerings. On Sunday, The Meeting House Chorus will sing Moses Hogan’s arrangement of *This Little Light of Mine*.

**Saturday, February 4 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 5 at 9 & 11 a.m.**

## “Power to the People – Fact or Fantasy?”

by Michael A. Schuler, Parish Minister

On Sunday afternoon the members of First Unitarian Society will once again be asked to exercise their right to alter this community’s destiny. While the principles of representative democracy govern much of our routine policy-making, when major issues arise the rules of direct democracy come into play. But while the democratic ideal is alive and well at FUS, these days it is much less in evidence in the rest of society. If the United States would be a beacon to the planet’s disenfranchised, the citizens of our own nation must first be empowered.

On Saturday, Guest pianist Cory Mathieu will provide special music. Sunday, Nancy Vedder Shults, Beth Binhammer, Nick Schweitzer and Dan Broner will sing Bach arrangements by Ward Swingle accompanied by Joe Harris on bass and Michael Moore on drums.



### **The Madison Unitarian**

First Unitarian Society of Madison  
(Unitarian Universalist)  
900 University Bay Drive  
Madison, WI 53705

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