

★ PRE-CAMP ★

MUSE

Midwest Unitarian Universalist
Summer Assembly
July 5-11, 2026



WELCOME TO MUUSA!

MUUSA 2026 is just around the corner and we could not be more excited! The Planning Council has organized a week full of fun and engaging activities for campers of all ages. This special pre-camp Muse—an advance edition of the MUUSA newsletter—includes information to help you prepare for the week. During MUUSA week, the daily Muse will keep you informed about upcoming MUUSA activities and events.

DAILY

CLICK HERE FOR DAILY MUSE

MUUSA is committed to practices that are in keeping with our UU values. To that end, we will no longer be printing the daily Muse at camp. Campers can go to this link to access the Muse. The newest edition of the Muse can be accessed at 5:00 PM each day

CLICK HERE FOR DAILY SCHEDULES

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CLICK HERE TO FORMAT YOUR MUUSA NAMETAG!

THEME



REV. SUZELLE LYNCH

2026 THEME - "HEARTS WIDE OPEN"

MUUSA WELCOMES 2026 THEME SPEAKER
REVEREND SUZELLE LYNCH (SHE/HER)!

"The times we're living in are frightening and disturbing, to say the least. Working to preserve our democracy, protecting our vulnerable friends and neighbors, and resisting tyranny while doing our best to take care of ourselves... It's a lot! It's easy to go numb. A good antidote? Hearts Wide Open! Practicing vulnerability, playfulness, empathy and joy helps us renew ourselves and build strong and resilient communities."

PACKING LISTS FOR CAMP

PACKING LIST FOR ADULTS & TEENS

- Casual clothing (shorts, tops, underthings)
- Long pants for hikes or chilly evenings
- A device for accessing daily E- MUSE
- Supplies for charging your device(s)
- Arts & Crafts supplies for leisure
- Musical instruments/music
- Sports equipment (tennis or pickleball racket, etc.)
- Swimsuit and towel if you plan to use the pool
- Note pad/journal/pens
- Rain jacket and/or umbrella and/or poncho
- Reusable water bottle and/or coffee mug
- Sturdy walking shoes
- Sunscreen, sun glasses, hat
- Toiletries
- Flashlight and/or headlamp
- Room fan
- Bug spray if planning to spend time outdoors
- Camping chairs or hammocks for hanging out outside
- Puzzles, Books and Tarot Cards that are no longer wanted for the exchange

PACKING LIST FOR MEYER/BURT

Items from the adult/teen list plus

- Shoes that you can run in
- Something for the Talent/No Talent show

PACKING LIST FOR CHILDREN

- Sturdy walking/closed-toe shoes
- Shorts, tops, underthings
- Long pants
- Swim suit

Each day, children should bring a tote or backpack with everything labeled:

- Beach shoes
- Rain jacket
- Swim suit
- Reusable water bottle
- Beach towel
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Bug repellent

STAYING IN DORMS?

- Linens (fitted sheet, flat sheet, and a blanket), a pillow (with pillowcase), and a towel are provided for each camper staying in the dorms. (If you have strong preferences about your bedding, you may want to bring your own.)
- Replacement linens will be limited during the week, but the dorms have free washers and dryers so that you can refresh your linens as needed (laundry detergent not provided – machines are not HE).
- Each dorm also has a common refrigerator that will be available to campers.
- There are communal bathrooms on each floor of the dorm. There is also one ADA-accessible, single-use bathroom on each floor.

Things to consider adding to your packing list if you are in the dorm:

- Robe
- Shower shoes/flip flops
- Bathroom caddy
- Pillow
- Blanket
- Additional towel(s)

- Folks can bring their own fans and possibly a small air conditioner.
- Current forecasts show a high of 84 degrees and nighttime temps in the 60's.
- If you bring an air conditioner like THIS, campus maintenance must install it for safety.
- Please let the registrar know if you would like to bring one ASAP.
- There is a limit on how many they will be able to install.
- We will attempt to accommodate as many people as possible.

GETTING TO CAMP AND CHECKING IN

HOW TO START YOUR MUUSA JOURNEY

- Pack the car, realize you packed way too much, unpack and remove 50% of your clothing; repack the car.
- Take a selfie of your travel group!
- Be amazed at how much nicer the weather is in Ripon than Potosi
- Get lost trying to find your way to our new spot
- Finally make it and go to registration!

WHAT IF REGISTRATION ISN'T OPEN?



- Walk around downtown Ripon! [Click here for Ripon Main St. Info](#)
- Do the campus scavenger hunt we have prepared
- Hang out on the lawn!

CHECK-IN

2:00 - 5:00pm in the Great Hall in Harwood Memorial Hall



At check-in, you will receive your room key (if you are staying in the dorm) and a weekly schedule. You will have an opportunity to confirm workshop registrations and to add workshops that are not yet full. Youth will be able to meet their program leaders and learn more about what is planned for the week ahead.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

- Please do not park in the fire lanes at dorms
- Parking is available in a lot on the corner of Seward and Woodside. It is a short, level walk from this parking lot to the Harwood Memorial Union, where registration will be.
- Check in, get your name badge & MUUSA merchandise, pay any outstanding balances (personal check preferred), and get your camper bracelet.
- Check children in at Children's table.
- Teens check in at Junior High Table (Meyer) or at Senior High School Table (Burt).
- Young adults stop by the YA table.
- Review your workshop sign-ups.
- Decorate your name badge.

AFTER CHECKING IN...

If you are in the dorms..

There are parking lots very near each of the dorms we will be using. We will have more information for you at check in. But, please keep in mind that the dorms have fire lanes, and it is not permissible to park there!

If you are staying off campus...

You may park at the corner lot by Seward and Woodside for registration. More parking information will be given at check-in.

Note for Late Arrivals...

Check in will be open from 2:00-5:00pm. If you arrive after 5:00pm, check in with Cheryl Heinz, the Registrar, around campus or at the Welcome Party.

NOTE...

Camp Closing Ceremony will be at 9am Saturday, July 11, with youth pick up by 10am. Closing often lasts only 30-45 minutes so people should be able to be on the road by 10am at the latest.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Nursery/Preschool/Elementary
Parent/Sponsor and Child Meeting
Sunday at 6:30 Todd Wehr Hall #104

Meet the leaders and learn about all the details for the week. Kids will meet their counselors for the week and get to know each other during the meeting.

JR. HIGH PROGRAM

Junior High Parent/Sponsor Meeting
Sunday at 6:00pm in Todd Wehr Hall #107

In the Junior High Program or "Meyer," junior highers live together on one floor of Johnson Hall with their hardworking counselors who create a safe place for sharing, learning their own boundaries, and building a fantastic community.

All Meyer activities are designed to support emotional and spiritual growth, and empower junior high youth. Questions?

Contact Blaine Teppema

blaine.teppema@gmail.com and
Frances Sheets Fesheets@gmail.com

SR. HIGH PROGRAM

Senior High Parent/Sponsor Meeting
Sunday at 7:00pm in Todd Wehr Hall #108

In our Sr. High program, which we call "Burt," we create a community where we love and support everyone no matter what, where we become courageous and responsible, discover ourselves, make life-long friends, and have a ton of fun.

Programming for "Burtoids" will include workshops, worship, music sharing, games, talent shows, and other yearly traditions. Be on the lookout for a detailed pre-camp email coming soon! For more information, contact Margaret Mitchell at coronamadonna@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

Young Adult Meeting
Meeting TBD, find us at registration!

The Young Adult (YA) program offers attendees ages 18-35 a unique and flexible sense of community. YAs have the full freedom to take part in any of the adult programming offered, but can also choose to take part in YA specific activities and spaces!

The YA program is less structured than Burt or Meyer, and includes YA specific workshops, events, and nightly worships planned by our community, which will take place across camp. Highlights include our yearly Smash Bros tourney and our own mid-week YA Proch party.

Keep an eye out for upcoming YA communications via email! Also feel free to reach out to Lou Whiting, louwhitingart@gmail.com and (617) 433-7018 or Delia Lonroth, lonrothdelia@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list to receive more info about what to bring and what we'll be getting up to.

The best way to stay in the loop on YA stuff is by joining our Discord! Reach out to Lou (@definitelynotlou) or Delia (@deliaiscool) either via email or add us on Discord.

We can't wait to see you!!



RIPON CAMPUS POLICIES/RULES

For the health and safety of our intergenerational community, please be aware of the following:

- There is no smoking or use of vaping devices permitted anywhere on campus.
- Alcohol is permitted for adults 21 and over. You can have it in your room, in our lounges, and designated meeting spaces, including the speakeasy. Please do not walk on campus with open containers. There will be several lounges available for Proch parties. Look for more information, locations, and how to sign up during announcements and in the Monday Muse.
- Neither recreational nor medical marijuana has been legalized in the state of Wisconsin. MUUSA policy prohibits use of marijuana or other illegal drugs while attending camp.
- Neither MUUSA nor Ripon College provide medical first responders in the case of an injury or illness. Basic first aid supplies will be available to campers in the dorm buildings. If needed, medical care is readily available in the city of Ripon.

For further information regarding MUUSA policies and procedures, [click here](#).

RIPON ACTIVITIES

- Willmore Center is the athletic complex that has lots of weights, a pool, pickle ball courts, and workout equipment
- Game/Puzzle room will be B18 in the Pickard Commons
- Crafting Room will be the MLK Lounge in the Harwood Memorial Union
- If you are looking for a space for a quiet, contemplative walk to start your week, head to the center of campus and look for the labrynth

Click here to view the Campus Map



COFFEE!

Coffee...Coffee...Coffee...

The College has a coffeeshop that will be open daily at our request from 6 am - 11 am where you can purchase specialty coffee drinks. Need a pick me up outside of the dining hall hours? Head to the lower level of Pickard Hall before breakfast opens or between breakfast and lunch.

HOW CAN I GET AROUND AT CAMP?

The parking lots on campus are all available for us to use. There will not be a shuttle or golf carts this year.

HUNGRY?

	MEAL TIMES
Breakfast	7-9AM
Lunch	11AM-1PM
Dinner	5-7PM

Meals are in the Dining Hall in Pickard Commons.

We have reserved a private dining room that holds 12 people. This will be designated as a quiet dining room. Many people benefit from a space with reduced noise and movement to give their senses a break during the day. Please maintain minimal/quiet talking for anyone who might need a calm place to eat a meal.

MONEY MATTERS

All costs of the week are covered by your camp fee. Some campers bring cash or checks for things like going into town, the Artists and Authors Expo, for bidding at the Burt Pie Toss, and for gratuities for the Ripon College staff at the end of the week.

Still have an outstanding balance on your MUUSA registration? Please pay and remaining balance before camp if possible, Any outstanding balance on your MUUSA registration must be paid at check in. You balance may be paid by check, credit card, or paypal at registration.

Paypal payments can be made to this address:
muusatreasurer@gmail.com.

Please note: If you choose to pay through PayPal, you will be responsible for covering any associated transaction fees.

PUZZLE AND BOOK EXCHANGE

We will be having a puzzle and book exchange at camp this year.

- Bring puzzles and books that you no longer want. Try to be fairly certain that the puzzles contain all their pieces
- Drop off puzzles and books in the tubs at registration
- Books and puzzles will be available all week in room B18 in the Pickard Commons starting on Monday morning
- If you brought a donation, see if there is anything that you would like to take home with you. If you were not able to bring anything but would like some items, you can make a donation to the MUUSA scholarship fund



MUUSA 2026 PHOTO ALBUM

Any pictures taken during the week can be added to the Google Photo Album and will be used for the slideshow at the Closing Celebration.

It is a MUUSA tradition to take a selfie of yourself or your travel group as you depart for MUUSA!

Click here for the MUUSA 2026
Google Photo Album

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service is traditionally held during camp to honor campers that have passed away in the last year.

If you have a name that you would like to submit for the Memorial Service, please contact Ruellen Fessenbecker at rfessenb@iu.edu or Alec Pecc at worship@muusa.org

AMAZON LOCKERS

There are Amazon lockers on campus if you need to have anything delivered. You can go here <https://www.amazon.com/ulp> and put Ripon, WI in the address search, and the details will come up. You will be able to add the locker as a shipping address in your amazon account.

TICKS & MOSQUITOS

Ticks and mosquitos have been more prevalent this year in Wisconsin. Please consider bringing and using some kind of bug repellent. More information on ticks can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01434.pdf>

DO YOU HAVE MUSINGS?

During camp, we will be taking submissions for the daily MUSE. Just email photos and news by 10:00 AM every day to Cait Warner at caitlinwarnero@gmail.com.

Also remember to add photos to the [MUUSA photo album](#) to be used in the MUSE!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MUUSA 2027 has a variety of elected and appointed positions available. Some require availability year around or a certain skill set. Some are jobs that start when you arrive at camp, a desire to make sure MUUSA happens next year, and follow-through! Have a conversation with our Nominating Committee or our president Jane McLeod to see what you can do to make MUUSA 2027 happen.

ALCOHOL POLICY

Alcohol is permitted for adults 21 and over. You can have it in your room, in our lounges, and designated meeting spaces, including the speakeasy. Please do not walk on campus with open containers. There will be several lounges available for Proch parties. Look for more information, locations, and how to sign up during announcements and in the Monday Muse.

MORE CAMP INFO

PLANNING COUNCIL

Please take a moment to thank the planning council members for all their hard work and countless hours behind the scenes to make MUUSA magical.

Jane McLeod, President & Scholarships
Chris Cooper, Omsbuddy
Karen Seymour-Ells, Secretary
Gregory Redfeairn, Treasurer
Cheryl Heinz, Registrar
Margaret Fowler, Webmaster and Marketing
Jennifer Oskins, Camp Coordinator
Alec Peck, APC Worship Coordinator
Natasha Warner, Workshop Coordinator
Lee Goss, Adult Planning Council Co-Chair
Danette Jeffries, Adult Planning Council Co-Chair
Rob Miroballi, Intergen Coordinator
Will VanDyke, Nominating Committee
Thom Robertson, Nominating Committee
Meredith Enersen, Nominating Committee
Cal Morgan, Brochure Editor
Delia Lonnroth, YA Rep
Lou Whiting, YA Coordinator
Margaret Mitchell, Burt Coordinator
Avery Hermann, Burt Rep
Sophia-Jo Pyrchla, Burt Rep
Blaine Teppema, Meyer Coordinator
Frances Sheets, Meyer Coordinator
Ann Dorwin, Children's Program
Cassie Kaminsky, Children's Program
Steve Cooper, Youth Program Coordinator

MUUSA ANNUAL MEETING

The MUUSA annual business meeting will be held on Thursday at 4pm in The Great Hall. We will share information about this year's registration and budget numbers and will hold elections for new members of the Adult Program Committee. We will also consider changes to our Bylaws that revise our organizational structure. You can find an annotated copy of the Bylaws below. Please plan to join us!

[Bylaw Changes Here](#)

COFFEE HOUSE PERFORMANCES

Come and share your talent on the stage at Coffee House! Coffee House is each night from 9-10:30 in the Great Hall except for Tuesday and Wednesday it will be in The Spot. On Wednesday it starts at 7:45 for intergen. Everyone is welcome to perform!

If you would like to perform, please contact Meredith Enersen at meremaren@gmail.com or by text at (402) 570- 4780

MUUSA T-SHIRTS AND THEME ART



The 2026 MUUSA T-shirt is still available to purchase. Click the link below to go to the Bonfire Store.

Thank you Cait Warner for our theme art!

[Click here to order your shirt!](#)



Unofficial Very Important Camp Lingo Guide

MUUSA terms that have evolved over the years

APC: The Adult Programming Committee of the Planning Council; organizes all adult activities and workshops; members get a lot of steps every day; rumored to have superpowers.

Burt: The name of the High School Youth Group—a name honored since MUUSA’s roots at Lake Geneva Summer Assembly; also **Burtoid:** a member of Burt, who will be happy, but sleep-deprived and may or may not acknowledge a parent or sit with you at mealtimes.

Burt Pie Toss: A Burt fundraiser in which people, usually parents and siblings, pay to squish a “pie” (typically whipped cream) into the face of the Burtoid. Held on Friday.

Choir aka Awesome Choir: A Workshop and the choir for the week; sings for Morning Celebration; led by the Awesome Pam Blevins-Hinkle, accompanied by the Awesome Jasmine Maller.

Coffeehouse: Camper performers of all ages sing, act, read, and entertain. Give it a try!

Great Hall: This lovely, well-lit space in the Harwood Memorial Union is where Morning Celebrations, Coffeehouse, and some Intergenerational Events, Vespers, and Workshops happen. The MUUSA Annual meeting is held there on Thursday.

Johnson Hall: Our junior high (Meyer) and senior high (Burt) programs will be in Johnson Hall. This hall has a fun lounge with colorful handprints on the walls. Every floor has it’s own lounge. It also has a full kitchen with home-sized appliances that are available for use.

Knitters: People who knit—everywhere—at Morning Celebration, in workshops, on the grass. We welcome knitters and crocheters and yarn of all worsted weight varieties, color, and content.

Meyer: The name for the Junior High School group—name honored since MUUSA’s roots at Lake Geneva Summer Assembly; also, **Meyerite**—a teen affiliated with Meyer. See “Burt” above for typical behavior.

Meyer Cornstarch: This is a Friday afternoon mystery that campers must experience for themselves...if it happens. The availability of cornstarch varies from year to year.

Morning Celebration: Every morning sermons by our theme speaker, story for all ages, Awesome Choir, fellowship, singing and spontaneous whoops and dancing. Takes place in the Great Hall.

MUSE: Newsletter with MUUSA info. Submit info to Cait Warner caitlinwarnero@gmail.com by 10AM each day. [Click this link to access the daily Muse](#)

MUUSA Toes: Some campers like to arrive at camp after group pedicures; typically each toe is painted a different color. See photos posted on Facebook the day before camp!

Napping Workshop aka Napshop: Spontaneous, self-led, and highly recommended. Multiple locations including Pickard Commons, dorm lounges, dorm rooms, and possibly your hotel room.

Nomination Committee or Nom Com: Friendly committee who just know you would like to fill one of our vacant positions on the Planning Council! Please find them if you are interested in joining!

Omsbuddy: Nickname for Ombudsman, a position of the Planning Council who makes sure camp rules are respected; mediates if needed; all around sensible person.

PC: Planning Council—Made up of the APC, plus the Omsbuddy, Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary, Children’s Program, Camp Coordinator, and Burt/Meyer leads

Burt, and Meyer leaders; also rumored to have superpowers. Please thank them for all they do, and feel free to ask them any questions you wish.

Proch: A long time ago, a hard-working newsletter editor spelled “porch” wrong. Proch is a reference to that micro-blunder and refers to a Porch Party and/or a gathering of MUUSAns. We will have several lounges available for these this year. Example: “Come to our Proch.” Still SO MANY Proch jokes.

The Quad: There are two dorms we may use that are a part of the Quad: Anderson Hall and Mapes Hall. (We will not be using Bovay Hall or Brockway Hall, and Bovay Hall is off limits, as another group is using it.) Young adults will be housed in Anderson hall. These dorms do not have lounges except on the first floor, and not all of those are open to us. There is also no kitchen. (But see Johnson and Scott Halls if you are looking for a kitchen!)

Raunch Night: At Thursday night Coffeehouse. Adults only.

Ripon College: Our new home for MUUSA! Located in Ripon, WI. Future place of memory making, community building and new lingo. See you next week at Ripon! <https://ripon.edu/>



Unofficial Very Important Camp Lingo Guide

continued

Scott Hall: This year, adults and families will be housed in two parts of Scott Hall – Middle Scott and East Scott. Each floor of each Middle and East Scott has a lounge. Note that Scott Hall has a kitchen with home-sized appliances that are available for use.

“See you next week”: MUUSAns don’t say “goodbye” at the end of a wonderful week—we say “See you next week.” We say it all year long. Again and again. Hilarity ensues when camp really is only one week away.

Ultimate: Like soccer but with a disc. Every night—all ages.

Vespers: A spiritual end to the day, after dinner, led by campers.

YAs, YYAs: Young Adults (21-35), and Young, Young Adults (18-20).



GETTING AROUND

This is our first year on a new campus, so we will all be learning how to navigate together. Ripon college has an interactive map on their website, which should be a very helpful resource. Common buildings we are using are also listed here (correlated to the number above and on the Ripon map, not exhaustive):



2/3/4: Harwood Memorial Union, The Great Hall (Morning Celebration, Workshops and Evening activities), The Spot (Karaoke, Coffee House some nights) rooms B12 and B18, Amazon lockers, MLK Lounge, Puzzle and Game rooms

5: Franzen Science Center, Workshops

6: Todd Wehr, Children's Programming, Circus Workshop, Improv Workshop

11: Pickard Hall (The Commons), Dining Hall, Heritage, Pickard and Mihaly private dining rooms, lunch and dinner discussions, Sensory Dining room, and coffee spot!

14: Johnson Hall, Meyer and Burt dorm building

15: Scott Hall, adult and family dorm building

16 & 18: Mapes and Anderson halls, respectively. Together with two other dorms known as the Quad, YA dorms this year

19: The Terrace, Lower level of Bovay Dorms

(To the left of 19 above, 22 on the campus map): Demmer Auditorium, Located in the Rodman Center. Morning Celebration will be held here on Wednesday morning

(To the left of 19 above, 24 on campus map): Willmore Center, Athletic complex on campus. Contra Dance (Tuesday and Wednesday only), Pickleball, General workout facilities, Pool. A waiver will be required before you will be allowed to use the facility.

★ : MUUSA Central, Green Space between Harwood Memorial Union and S. N. Pickard Commons, Fire Pit. Volleyball, Geneva Square, Labyrinth, general socializing

If you are ever lost during camp, feel free to ask your fellow campers for help!