

The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
Founded in 1841



February 2012 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Child care is available for infants and toddlers through age four.
9:45 am to 10:45 am First Session Religious Education Programming
11:30 am to 12:30 pm Second Session Religious Education Programming

February 5 **You Are This Universe** Sharon Wylie

The spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. We tend to think of these teachings as ancient, but they also intersect with and inform many of our modern ideas. Come, let us consider the many ways we connect with each other and with the Divine.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

February 12 **Lovable Beings of Infinite Worth** Rev. Philip Lund

Mega-church pastor Rob Bell's book "Love Wins" caused a stir last year when he wrote about topics our forebearers covered centuries ago. Whatever happened to the Universalist notion of God's infinite love in our tradition? Is there still a place for it among us?

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall
10:45 AM Visitor Q&A, Fireside Room
4:00 PM Installation Ceremony for Rev. Steven Protzman, Sanctuary

February 19 **Come Sing a Song with Me** Barbara Buddin

Barbara Buddin will lead a festival of music in hymns, songs, and anthems. We will journey through our service books and remember some of the old songs from past hymnals. There will be some variations and updates of familiar tunes. This could be considered an old fashioned 'Hymn Sing'.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary
RE Open House After Services
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

February 26 **What's Love Got To Do With It?** Rev. Steven Protzman

The word love is the most overused and least understood word in the English language. Each week we say that love is the doctrine of this church but as Tina Turner asks, "what's love got to do with it?" What do we mean by the word love in the context of our religious community and what does this love ask of us?

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Committee Fair, Channing Hall
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

FEBRUARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTRIBUTIONS HELP SUPPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The DVIP, since 1977, has worked "to provide comprehensive support and advocacy to victims/survivors, focusing on immediate and long-term safety, empowerment, dignity and hope. In collaboration with the community, we strive to end domestic abuse through education, accountability and social justice". Their direct services (incoming crisis phone calls, safe shelter for women and children) span Johnson, Iowa, Cedar and Washington Counties. Please be generous in helping this program continue its work, founded on the belief that "everyone has the right to live free of fear and harm". Cash or checks to UUSIC (DVIP on the memo line) may be given during Sunday collections or sent to the office. Thank you!

Sunday Attendance for January 1 through 22:

January 1	70 adults, children & youth	WASSAIL SERVICE
January 8	229 total: 165 adults, 64 children & youth	
January 15	186 total: 143 adults, 43 children & youth	
January 22	115 total: 71 adults, 44 children & youth	ONE SERVICE

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From Our Minister



February's Theme: Love

"Covenant... is the falling in of their spirits into communion in things spiritual" -Puritan Richard Mather, 1644

Our worship theme for February is love. Love is perhaps the most overused and least understood word in the English language and the best question I think anyone can ask when this word is used is "What do you mean by that?" In the context of religious community, love is a mutual care and respect for one another. It is a desire to seek out the best for ourselves and others, guided by reverence for the presence of the Holy in every person. Learning to love one another and ourselves is our ultimate spiritual task as human beings and a lifetime's work that brings both joy and struggle.

As Unitarian Universalists, we recognize that it is only in community that we can learn how to love. Since we are not bound together by dogma, creeds, doctrines or divine command, we create a spiritual agreement, or covenant, which affirms our mutual desire to love one another and provides a framework of expectations and accountability for our relationship. The word covenant means "to come together by making a promise." It is an expression of the reality that we need one another throughout life's journey. It also recognizes that there is a power at work in the world that sustains and embraces us and calls us to be together to love one another and all of creation. A prominent UU theologian, James Luther Adams, said of covenant, "Traditionally our churches have been grounded in a covenant binding us together... but this enterprise of maintaining the network is itself not to be understood as simply a human enterprise. It is a response to a divinely given creative power, a sustaining power, a community transforming power. This power is ultimately not of our own making..." The tradition of a covenant has its roots in the Hebrew scriptures and has always been a part of our liberal religious tradition. Our Puritan ancestors, in rejecting the hierarchy of the Anglican tradition, recognized that the free religious tradition could only be held together through a covenantal relationship. Our seven principles are a covenant that governs our relationship as an Association of interdependent congregations and provides an ethical framework based in love for every level of human interaction. Within this congregation, our covenant of right relations acknowledges that we are a theologically diverse people who do not agree on ultimate meaning in life and calls us to love and respect one another.

As your minister, I have entered into a covenant with you to care
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for you and love you, to call you to be a blessing to the world, and to help you live out the mission and vision you have for this community. On Sunday afternoon, February 12th, we will gather to publicly affirm this covenant as minister and congregation. I invite you to attend and join in this powerful act of promise making that is at the heart of our liberal religious tradition.

It is good to be together!

Walking with you in our covenant of mutual love and respect,
Steven



A CELEBRATION OF INSTALLATION AND COVENANT WITH OUR MINISTER: FEBRUARY 12TH, 2012:

Within the Unitarian Universalist religious tradition, the authority to call a minister lies wholly within the local church. It is a precious part of our freedom and an affirmation of our congregational polity, which grants to each church the right to make its own choices about its leadership, governance and resources. The installation of a minister is a public celebration of a congregation's desire to enter into a mutual covenant of care and respect and to share the journey of life together with the minister it has called.

On Sunday February 12th, at 4 pm, in the Sanctuary of our church, you are cordially invited to participate in an installation celebration and ceremony of covenant with our 30th settled minister, the Rev. Steven Protzman. A festive reception will follow downstairs in Channing Hall.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY 19

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Otto at 7 pm. Board members checked in and Rev. Steven Protzman shared opening words. Otto asked if any consent agenda items needed to be elevated, and there were none.

Doug Wallace then explained the rationale behind the proposed 2012 budget, acknowledging the work of budget task force members consisting of Jim Laughlin, Jerry Nordquist, Steven Protzman, Sue Otto and Wallace. Russ Lenth moved to approve the 2012 budget, and Pomrehn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Wallace then summarized the 2011 budget. The board applauded Wallace for his work encouraging congregants to pay pledges, for his preparations for the congregational meeting, and for the 2012 budget efforts. Several needs were discussed such as the building fund and teen scholarships.

Otto then summarized the plans for the Facilities Planning Task Force and Board retreat on January 21 at the Coralville Public Library. Next, Otto reviewed the agenda for the January 22 congregational meeting. The Board then went into a 30-minute closed session.

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The UUNews

Religious Education News Families and Community Service

Some UU families spend Martin Luther King Junior Day, now declared the National Day of Service, doing a community service project together, says Michelle Richards in the *UU World*. They serve meals in soup kitchens, work on community restoration projects, or donate time to stock a food pantry's shelves with food for hungry families. She shares how one Unitarian Universalist parent marches in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Atlanta with her children every year, marking it as an important annual tradition like Christmas and Thanksgiving. "It also makes a clear statement to her children that their presence is important in honoring the man and his work for non-violent social change," says Richards, author of *Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting*.

Had I read Richard's article earlier, I would have gotten the word out to families to take advantage of all the volunteer opportunities on our National Day of Service to engage in community service. This is one way a family can live their faith together and our Second UU Principle, "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Still, community service can be done any time of the year, and interestingly, the subject is on the minds of Children and Youth Committee members, who will feature the topic *Making a Habit of Kindness* at February's Parent Gathering (see Children and Youth Committee News on this page). This will be a time to discuss family service, project ideas, and organizations in need of volunteers here in Iowa City.

The inspiration for the topic came from Michelle Hosp, Children and Youth Committee Chair, who has actively explored service project ideas to do with her six year-old son Daniel. This past December Michelle saw an opportunity to join in the spirit of the season, first signing herself and Daniel up to ring bells for the Salvation Army. "My thought on why it is important for us to involve Daniel in service projects is that it is important to give back to your community in ways that require you to do something and meet people. Experiencing it firsthand is key," said Michelle. The project which was the most meaningful for them was distributing holiday greeting cards, made during CYC's Hanging of the Greens, among veterans at the VA Hospital. "We got to personally hand out each card," said Michelle. "And they were very much appreciated. The gratitude on the faces of the vets was priceless, and Daniel commented that he thought [the Veterans] would be much older . . . I think the impact for kids is greatest through providing the experience while doing it along side them."

Another UUSIC member, Rhonda Rowden, has long encouraged and supported her children, Claire and Graham Rowden's efforts to raise money for M.O.E. (Money Offering Effort), a social action group they formed with several children of other faiths. Their efforts, which raised \$10,000 for hunger and humanitarian projects, won Claire and Graham our district's Social Justice Award in 2005. This December, Rhonda assisted Claire in selling candy, felted ornaments, candles, soap and cards to raise money for a City High alumnus who was injured in Afghanistan last June and lost both of his legs, as well as for H.E.L.P. (Haitian Education and Literacy Program). It is Rhonda's hope that M.O.E. will

continue to be supported in some way at UUSIC, even when her children have moved on. Could this be a project for other parents and youth to take on?

Next year, I plan to get the word out about The National Day of Service, not just for families, for all of us. "For beyond his work on the civil rights movement and non-violent protest, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. presented a challenge to all of us when he said, 'Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?'" writes Richards. And to this challenge she adds: "What are you doing to teach your children what we need to be doing for others?" For starters, come and join us at February's Parent Gathering, *Making a Habit of Kindness*.

—Lois Cole, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



Michelle and Daniel Hosp ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE NEWS

Every other month, the CYC organizes a family-friendly activity as part of the UUSIC program series called Second Saturdays. On January 8, a small group of families met at Carver-Hawkeye Arena for a Second "Sunday" afternoon of Iowa Women's basketball. Iowa played Nebraska, but as one UU attendee remarked, it didn't matter who won or lost because it was so much fun! Prepare to be bowled over by even more fun at the next Second Saturday event: Family Bowling at Colonial Lanes on March 24 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, *Making a Habit of Kindness* will be the topic of the next Parent Gathering on February 12. We'll share personal experiences of random acts of kindness, and discuss service projects that families may undertake together. CYC members will provide a list of organizations in need of volunteers and invite participants to suggest additions to the list. If you'd like to meet other UU parents and make ways for more kindness, please join us between services on Sunday, February 12 in the church library. Childcare will be provided.

We hope to see you at the next CYC event!

—Elyse Myers

Events & Committee News

TIME WELL SPENT WORKSHOP, FEB. 4

Join other Unitarians Universalists from the Hawkeye Cluster — Cedar Falls, Ames, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Davenport and from the fellowships of Clinton, Burlington, Dubuque, Mason City and Decorah — for ***Sharing Challenges and Successes*** from 10 - 2 PM. We look forward to this opportunity to share congregational strategies and challenges within the different committees/groups that include Green Sanctuary, Immigration, Membership, Buildings and Grounds, Finance and Stewardship, Youth Programming, Marriage Equality, Partner Churches, Worship, RE/Adult Programming, Board leadership, Social Justice, Covenant groups, Unicare and others.

Zach Wahls, UUSIC member, will speak to the group and share his experiences of having the most popular YouTube political video in 2011. In 2010, Zach spoke to the Iowa Legislature in support of marriage equality.

This workshop is co-hosted by Peoples Church in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City and presented by the UUSIC Leadership Development Committee. Contact Mike Cervantes (319-834-1136) or mhcervan@hotmail.com if you have any questions. To RSVP and to request childcare please contact Tyler at admin@UUSIC.org by Jan 30th. —Mike Cervantes

ORIENTATION CLASSES BEGIN FEBRUARY 8TH!

Learn more about Unitarian-Universalism! We are having the three Orientation Classes in February for people who are interested in knowing more about us and/or seriously considering becoming members. The three sessions are February 8th, 15th, and 22nd. They begin at 7:00 p.m. and meet till 8:30 in the Fireside Room (off of the sanctuary). REGISTRATION is required — sign-up at the Welcome Table between Sunday services or inform the Office Administrator (319/337-3443 or administrator@uusic.org). Also, the classes occur during our usual Welcome Home Wednesdays in which an evening meal is served prior to Vespers and the meeting of classes. People who sign up for the orientation classes can eat with us for FREE on those evenings — but, we need to know who you are! We hope to see you soon.

—Membership Associates

FREE LUNCH, FEB. 10

No Triskaidekaphobia experienced on Friday, January 13th at the Wesley Center; the guests all felt very lucky and so appreciative of the special chicken dinner served by our UUSIC Free Lunch members. This special meal is an annual gift by one of our members as a holiday gift to her children!! Our next serving will be on Friday, February 10th with a chili meal being planned. If you wish to be part of any aspect of this community event, please email me at bonniepenno@gmail.com, or phone at 321-7828. We are searching for a coordinator of Free Lunch starting in April. It truly is an enriching experience — check it out!

—Bonnie Penno

INTERWEAVE, FEB. 13

As many of you know, LGBTQA members of our congregation joined the national UU Interweave organization after we became an “official” Welcoming Congregation in May, 1997. Over the years, we have sponsored political, educational, and social events. One of our main goals is to stop homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, and we will continue to work with such organizations as Onelowa, U of I Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union, Iowa Pride Network and Eastern Iowa GSA Coalition. However, we feel that now is the time for us to join with the UU Social Justice Committee in our efforts to create social change.

The next Social Justice Committee meeting is Monday, Feb. 13th at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. If you are not already a member of the Social Justice Committee, please consider attending. Let’s work together to create social change!

—Tova Vitiello & John Elson

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, FEB. 13

Come join us for our next meeting of the UU Book Discussion Group on Monday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. Our February discussion book is *Sarah’s Key* by Tatiana De Rosnay. You can start reading *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell as it’s our book for our March group. Bring a friend and come join in the discussion. It’s not required that you finish the book but we won’t guarantee that we won’t give away the ending. If you have questions about the group you can call me at 354-1231 or e-mail me at jayhawkeye@juno.com.

—Mary Lou Welter

RE OPEN HOUSE, FEB. 19

At the end of each service all are invited to come and visit the classrooms and discover the creative projects, rituals, learning and fun the children and youth get up to in the classroom while you’re sitting in the pew. A reception will be held in Channing Hall during coffee hour.

—Lois Cole

SECULAR HUMANISTS, FEB. 21

Every year our Secular Humanists group chooses a book to read and discuss. On Tuesday, February 21, we will gather at 7:30 PM in the Fireside Room to share a conversation about this year’s selection, *Why We Believe in God(s) – A Concise Guide to the Science of Faith*.

University of Virginia psychiatrist A.J. Thomson was motivated to write this book by the tragedy of 9-11. He wanted to clarify, for himself and for his readers, what neuroscience can tell us about the human propensity for religiosity. He also discusses its role in human evolution. Please join us for an evening’s conversation about this fascinating facet of human nature. —Susan Eberly

ALL-COVENANT GROUP POTLUCK, FEB. 26

The All-Covenant Group Get-together will be held Feb. 26, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Channing Hall. This is an annual event that allows all members of current covenant groups—as well as those interested in joining or finding out about covenant groups—a

chance to meet each other and share their experiences. After a potluck dinner, there will be activities to explore the issues and values of small group ministry. Come for the food, stay for the games and the talk. Everyone with an interest in learning about the covenant group experience is welcome.

The Covenant Group program at UUSIC offers members the opportunity to strengthen connections with each other and explore personal spirituality within a small group setting. Covenant groups give participants the chance to express their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while fostering closer ties to UUs they might not get to know otherwise. We are always looking for people to join an existing group or to help form a new one. If you're interested and want to find out more about covenant groups, please contact Jan Locher at 354-6260 or locherj@mchsi.com. And don't forget the potluck!
—Jan Locher

CALL FOR LEADERSHIP

Any voting member of UUSIC interested in being considered for nomination for elected leadership positions starting July 1, 2012, please contact a member of the Leadership Development Committee by February 9th. Members are Carolyn Johnson (338.8542 or cjiowa@gmail.com), Tom McMurray (351.2555 or tmcurray@mchsi.com), Mike Cervantes (834.1136 or mhccervan@hotmail.com), David Jepsen (338.6160 or David-Jepsen@uiowa.edu), and Deb Schoelerman (351.2811 or dschoelerman@gmail.com). Current positions include Board Trustees, Endowment Committee and Leadership Development Committee.
—Deb Schoelerman

SJCC - UUS SERVING TOGETHER

The Social Justice Coordinating Committee met in January. Final figures for 2011 were available for social justice monetary contributions. The following data highlights the increases in giving for the year.

- The average donation to the 12 agencies from the cash offering was \$1,175
- The total giving to agencies for 2011 was a \$1,460 increase over 2010
- Giving to the Common Fund and to support the Guatemala trip was up \$400

The entire financial report for social justice is available upon request and will appear in the 2011 Annual Report. Mary McMurray agreed to be the representative for UUSIC on the Common Fund Task Force. Future possible projects include a food drive for the Crisis Center in March and a congregation-wide day of service in June for those who can't attend the General Assembly. SJCC will meet on Monday, Feb. 13. We welcome new members!
—Diane Martin

THEN & NOW

Ten years ago nine people joined UUSIC. Of that number, Ronnie Wright, Kurt Anstreicher, Jane Van Voorhis, Julia Wasson, and Matthew Hayek remain members.
—Jean Reese

FIRESIDE MUSIC

I am pleased to welcome Younjung Cha to be our interim pianist for the UUSIC. She is a doctoral student in piano at the University and was at the Cleveland Institute doing prior graduate studies in music. She will be performing a Doctoral Recital in May. The Performing Arts Series will be rescheduled and you will be notified of the changes through the OOS and the Web site. As always the choir room door is always open for new and returning members. Whenever the service is being planned, the Director of Music will be coordinating the music with the minister and/or the person leading the service.
—Barbara Buddin

CLEAN OUT YOUR CUPBOARDS!

The Grades 4-6 class is having a food drive for the Johnson County Crisis Center. Top Ten Needed Donations:

1. Financial Donations
2. Canned fruit & 100% fruit juice
3. Hearty soups & stews
4. Canned meat & peanut butter
5. Pasta & rice
6. Canned vegetables
7. Baking supplies (sugar, flour, etc.)
8. Size 4 & up baby diapers
9. Baby formula
10. Laundry detergent

Bring your goods to Channing Hall any Sunday in the month of February and the Grades 4-6 class will deliver it to the Crisis Center.
—Shelby Myers-Verhage

UUSIC BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONT.

After a 10-minute break, the Board discussed the Faith in Our Future (FOF) Fund policy. Pomrehn moved to accept this policy with a slight revision, Nordquist seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Protzman, representing the Search Committee for a membership coordinator, reported that they hope to interview a final candidate soon.

Sally Hartman then reviewed the projected income and expenses for the May 5 Peter Mayer concert which UUSIC is sponsoring at the Englert Theatre. Hartman acknowledged that money from The Detiger Fund (one of the UUSIC's endowment funds) allows for such an event. Pomrehn moved to approve the proposal from the Endowment Committee for the concert. Lenth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Protzman gave an update on his Installment Ceremony, to be held February 12 at the UUSIC. (See page 2.) Guest Gordon Strayer agreed to assist with publicity.

Laughlin moved to approve the consent agenda; Nordquist seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Nordquist shared comments as process observer, Salterberg shared closing words and the Board concluded the meeting by singing two verses of the hymn, "We'll Build a Land." The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.
—Susan Salterberg

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The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
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