



# The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City  
Founded in 1841

April 2017

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### April's Social Justice Offerings Benefit THE CRISIS CENTER

Financial support for the Crisis Center of Johnson County helps to pay for: crisis counselor training and general operating expenses of the 24 hour crisis line; the food bank, a heavily used and highly important component of the Center; emergency assistance that helps to keep utilities from being turned off; suicide prevention training; and others. Cash or checks to UUSIC (CC on memo line) may be given during Sunday offerings, online, or sent to the office. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

## Upcoming Sunday Services

at Sanctuary Church (2205 E. Grantview Dr #200, Coralville, 52241)

**Service Times:** We gather each week at 1:30 pm for announcements and a music prelude for centering preceding our Sunday Service. Services will begin promptly at 1:45 pm, followed by social hour.

**Religious Education & Childcare:** Childcare in our nursery is available from 1:20 to 3 pm. We offer religious education classes for preschoolers-8th graders. Children usually attend the first part of the service with their families and then leave with their teachers for classes that run until 3 pm.

### April's Theme: What Does it Mean to be a Community of Transformation?

#### April 2nd: "Living Love Out Loud," Rev. Eva Cameron

This year, as our country is undergoing so much upheaval, I think as UUs we must consider just what justice means and how we can stand up for justice. How can we resist the creep of injustice, of standards for how we treat each other, of what is right and fair? How do we transform love into justice? We hope you'll join us for this reflection on living love out loud.

#### April 9th: "Creative Change," Rev. Rebecca Hines

According to Process Theology, creativity is the foundational human activity. Everything we do is a creative event with the potential to transform the universe. So how can we harness our innate creative potential for goodness and give birth to a better world?

#### April 16th: "Affliction, Resurrection, Transformation: A Difficult Hope," Sue Otto and Alison Oliver

In living out our third principle, acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations, we honor the rich traditions—pagan, Jewish, and Christian—that are woven into our Unitarian Universalist lives during the Easter season. We will reflect on how these traditions seek to bring hope and celebration in the face of struggle and uncertainty.

#### April 23rd: "Ain't Misbehavin': Resistance & Reclaiming an American Tradition and Faith," Jeff Biggers

Resistance to civil authority, not simply protest or fleeting moments of dissent or vague calls for freedom, set the stage for our quintessential American story. Jeff Biggers, writer in residence at the UI Office of Sustainability and founder of the Climate Narrative Project, will help us to understand the words of Henry David Thoreau: "The greater part of what my neighbors call good I believe in my soul to be bad, and if I repent of anything, it is likely to be my good behavior. What demon possessed me, that I behaved so well."

#### April 30th: "Good Without God," Rev. Kent McCusick

In a world full of unsettling challenges, questions, and change, many find comfort and direction through belief and faith in the divine and religion. It has been reported that half of the US population holds prejudice against non-believers. Living an ethical life can be difficult with or without God. What might non-believers find in a search for commonality with others and something to believe in? How might a belief in life before death offer a transformative difference?

Sunday Attendance for February 26th through March 19th	
February 26th: 120 total: 111 adults, 9 children	March 12th: 106 total: 92 adults, 14 children
March 5th: 112 total: 101 adults, 11 children	March 19th: 98 total: 87 adults, 11 children

# A Brief Guide to Rev. Steven Protzman's Sabbatical April 1st, 2017 to June 30th, 2017



*Sabbath is more than the absence of work; it is not just a day off, when we catch up on television or errands. It is the presence of something that arises when we consecrate a period of time to listen to what is most deeply beautiful, nourishing or true. It is time consecrated with our attention, our mindfulness, honoring those quiet forces of grace or spirit that sustain and heal us.* —Wayne Muller, *Sabbath*

A sabbatical is a very old concept that relates to a period of rest or change, usually after six years. The root is from the word "Sabbath", the biblical term, meaning the day of rest after 6 days of labor. There are several purposes for a ministerial sabbatical: rest, renewal, spiritual growth, ministerial discernment and academic study that "benefit both the minister and the congregation. In our agreement with Rev. Steven, UUSIC grants one month of sabbatical leave for every year of service." In honoring that agreement, the Board of Trustees has approved a sabbatical for Rev. Steven from April 1st through June 30th.

## Rev. Steven's Sabbatical Goals and Plans

Rev. Steven will use his sabbatical in a variety of ways, including:

- Self care that includes lots of exercise, rest and good nutrition, gardening, regular spiritual practices
- A week-long retreat to space and focus for spiritual reflection, deeper spiritual practices and ministerial discernment
- Attending the MidAmerica Regional Assembly, April 28th-30th
- Professional reading and study focused on creative worship, congregational growth and organization, Universalist history and theology, and worship resources
- Travel to provide inspiration, broaden perspective, and offer some adventure.

## Contacting Rev. Steven During Sabbatical

Rev. Steven's sabbatical is intended as a complete break from his ministerial responsibilities. It is our responsibility to assist him in making the fullest use of this sabbatical time. He will not be checking or responding to email, and he will have a new phone number as of April 1st. Instead we will call upon members of our church, our church leaders, and the staff. Our Administrator, Emma Barnum, and the President of the Board of Trustees, Kelly O'Berry, will be able to contact Rev. Steven in case of serious circumstances or an emergency that may require his immediate attention and/or presence. Rev. Steven has requested that Emma or Kelly notify him in the event of a UUSIC member's death.

## Sunday Services

During Rev. Steven's sabbatical, we will continue our regular Sunday afternoon schedule of one service that begins at 1:30 pm with ingathering. Our Worship Associates, church members, and Rev. Steven's Iowa colleagues will be in the pulpit. The schedule is as follows:

### April theme: Transformation

- April 2nd: Rev. Eva Cameron, Minister of the Cedar Falls congregation
- April 9th: Rev. Rebecca Hinds, Developmental Minister of the Cedar Rapids congregation
- April 16th: Easter—A service for all ages led by the Worship Associates
- April 23rd: Earth Day—Jeff Biggers, University of Iowa Office of Sustainability
- April 30th: Rev. Kent McCusick, Minister of the Ames congregation

### May theme: Delight

- May 7th: Rev. Jay Wolin, Minister of the Quad Cities congregation
- May 14th: Flower Communion—A service for all ages led by the Worship Associates
- May 21st: Joel Gilbertson-White, University of Iowa Hospital Chaplain
- May 28th: Memorial Day Picnic (no church service)

June, July and August services will be coordinated and led by the Worship Associates as is our standard practice. The newsletter will provide information about service topics.

## Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care needs (hospitalization, death of a member or a member's immediate family, or crisis situation), please contact the following people:

During the month of April: Winnie Ganshaw (wganshaw@mediacombb.net or 359-1733)

During the months of May and June: Rev. Rebecca Hinds (minister@peoplesuu.org, 319-362-9827 (Church), or 319-200-7650 (Home))

For other non-emergency pastoral care needs, please contact the church office, and a member of the Pastoral Care team will be notified.

## Church Operations

The church will operate as it usually does. The only thing that will be different for most people is Rev. Steven's absence. Most questions or concerns can be answered by the staff or they will know whom to contact. On the back page of this newsletter, you will find a list of our Staff and our Board of Trustees and their contact information.



## From Your Director of Religious Education

*I've found that there is always some beauty left—in nature, sunshine, freedom, in yourself; these can all help you.*

*It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all of my ideals because they seem so absurd and difficult to carry out. Yet I keep them because, in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.*

—Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*

Later this month, April 20th through 30th to be exact, the Iowa City Community Theatre will be presenting *The Diary of Anne Frank*. This production will be noteworthy for me, because it marks the end of my 15-year hiatus from the world of theatre-making. I graduated from Grinnell College with a theatre major in 2002 and proceeded to do nothing on stage (or stage-adjacent) up until now. I agreed to assistant direct Anne Frank for two reasons: 1. A dear friend from high school is the director, and 2. The play is lovely, important, and unfortunately—bears some current relevance.

Not just any story would pull me in like I knew Anne Frank's would. If you read the book or play long ago, we are using a new adaptation by Wendy Kesselman that is my favorite yet. The eight who share one hiding space, the "secret annex," in the center of Amsterdam from 1942 to 1944 are a colorful, strong, nuanced bunch. Though they are so desperately vulnerable—as all who were in hiding during the war, effectually hunted by nazis—Anne's original writing and Kesselman's adaptation brings them to life in their daily humanity amidst the terror outside.

Hopefully ICCT's production will do the same, and we are working hard to bring the audience into a bit of the reality of Anne's annex. The experience will begin when one enters the theatre's front door. The lobby will be filled with educational materials to bring the historical events to life (pictures, timelines, contemporaneous literature) as well as to highlight current analogous events and organizations fighting for human rights today.

Miep Gies, an integral character in the play based on the historical young woman who hid the two families (among others), will escort audience members through the bookcase in the wall and take them into the secret annex through the same path that the characters will take as the play begins. The Franks, the van Daans, and Mr. Dussel will then stay (cramped) on stage for the remainder of the show—as there was no chance for the real eight to get away from each other or these cramped quarters for 2 years. And for the audience, there will be no intermission.

We are offering two school-day matinees and have arranged for high school classes to be bussed in to make sure that the experience is accessible to all of our community's youth. UUSIC's Jr. High RE class will be attending a Sunday matinee on April 23rd—which is Yom HaShoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day. After the show that day, there will be a panel discussion that is free and open to the public. The panel will include religious leaders, legislators, and activists from the community to bring the conversation into our present situation and talk about what "never again" requires of us. I hope folks from the congregation will be able to join this conversation after service that Sunday afternoon.

Last week, Paul Pomrehn told me a juicy bit of UUSIC history. A good bit of years ago, UUSIC youth regularly put on full productions for the congregation. It seems that there were two invested adults who championed the program, and it went on for some time. As Paul and I were talking, we agreed that if there is interest from the youth and a few committed adults, UUSIC theatrical productions need not be a thing of the past. If the idea sparks your interest, do let me know! —Saunia Powell

### From Your Administrator

It's good to be back in the office! If you're ever in the vicinity of the Oakdale House, feel free to stop by and see me and meet my three-month-old, Henry. He's pretty cute, if I say so myself, and will be with me in the office until the summer.

The office has been in fantastic hands in my absence, and I am so grateful for the hard work that Bailey, Nik, Rev. Steven, and the rest of the staff, volunteers, and committee members have put into keeping UUSIC running so smoothly.

Looking forward, submissions to the 2016-17 Annual Report will be due April 17th. The final report will be distributed at the May congregational meeting. Then all efforts will turn toward our second and final transition to the new building. Things never stop here at UUSIC! —Emma Barnum



# From Your Director of Congregational Life

Spring is a time for celebrating new beginnings: from seeds sprouting and flowers blossoming, to Pagan celebrations of spring, to the Jewish Passover celebration of freedom from oppression, and the Easter story of the transformation of despair into new life.

In the story of the Passover, Moses is called by God to go speak to the Pharaoh and tell him to let the Hebrew people go free from slavery. At first Moses is very reluctant: he has a speech impediment, and he is in hiding after he murdered an Egyptian slavemaster who was beating a Hebrew man. When he finally agrees, it turns into a complicated story about ten plagues, and bringing unleavened bread because there wasn't time to let it rise, Jewish households being "passed over" by the angel of death, and crossing the Red Sea (or alternatively a "sea of reeds") to claim their freedom. The story of Passover brings together the Jewish people as a new community, under a covenant with their God and as a free people on a journey to a new home.

I enjoy the Easter traditions of dying eggs (including a few intricate Ukrainian Easter eggs on occasion, since I am one quarter Ukrainian), and hiding Easter baskets, and seeing the beautiful colors of spring flowers. Those traditions all have pagan roots.

But out of my previous experience in Christian congregations, I have appreciated a possibly different message than many of you who are from Christian backgrounds may have gotten at Easter. The point for me is not an affirmation that because he came back to life Jesus was the "Only Son of God," or an affirmation that we get to go to heaven after death, or that Jesus suffered and died for our sins. Those were never the main messages I got out of, or appreciated from, Easter.

The main message that stuck with me was the transformation of fear and despair into hope. Easter and the days leading up to it for me are about a wise man and teacher willing to risk his life to stand up to religious and political authorities of the day with his message of love and radical welcome and healing. And the image of resurrection for me is that the way we find

new life on this earth is not through escaping from suffering and oppression and evil, but by being willing to face them head on, knowing that it will take courage, and that it won't be easy, but that digging into the messiness of human life and society can lead to the hope of transformation and new life.

So it didn't matter to me whether Jesus actually was resurrected from the dead, but it did matter that the story was a powerful metaphor for finding new life and community in the midst of ugly and messy situations and human cruelty. I also liked that the stories of Easter, in a time when women could not be legal witnesses, all had women as the first ones to witness Jesus alive again.

As we think about transformation and the transformative power of community in this month of April, I encourage you to consider these possibilities for programs and activities as you read more about them in this newsletter:

- Love Reaches Out workshop on April 8th
- CROP Walk on April 9th
- Brunch with the Sudanese immigrant families we are supporting on April 2nd, or learning what you can do to help support the four immigrant families to whom we are connected
- Free lunch program on April 14th
- "Transforming Despair and Anger into Hope and Action" workshop on April 15th
- Climate Run/Walk on April 22nd
- Being engaged in the naming and branding process
- Imagining our new building as construction progresses, and learning how we are designing the land around it
- Joining the discussions of the Racial Justice study/ ACTION Circle
- Taking advantage of other spiritual growth and community-building opportunities to increase your resilience and support for transformation
- Coming to hear inspiring words from a variety of guest speakers at our Sunday services, as Rev. Steven begins his 3-month sabbatical

—Peggy Garrigues

## April Birthdays

Joe Barrash  
Daniel Benton  
Leiden Cervantes  
John Elson  
Linda Fisher

Kurt Friese  
Nathan Gall  
Adam Ingersoll  
Sandy Keller  
Noah Lehan Mackin

Russ Lenth  
Marcela Linley  
Raina McFarland  
Samuel Myers-Verhage  
Jerry Nordquist

John Raley  
Tabitha Rasmussen  
Tony Razavi  
Tom Rocklin  
Anna Rode

Emily Uhl  
Theresa Ullerich  
Steve Vincent

# Upcoming Events

The following events occur regularly and all are welcome to attend. Find details on our website or in our Opportunities booklet.

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact	RSVP?
Sundays 4/2 & 16	9:30 am	Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle	Oakdale House	Alison Oliver (alison-oliver@uiowa.edu)	No
Mondays 4/3, 10, 17, & 24	7 pm	Buddhist Sangha	Oaknoll (735 George St)	Brian Glidewell (brianandmark711@msn.com)	No
Tuesday 4/4	7 pm	Social Justice Coordinating Committee	Oakdale House	Diane Martin (351-7616, dianemartin@mchsi.com)	No
Wednesday 4/5	5:15 pm	Green Sanctuary Committee	Oakdale House	Deb Schoelerman (594-2373, dschoelerman@gmail.com)	No
Wednesdays 4/5, 12, 19, 26	7:15 pm	Spirit in Practice: UU Approaches to Spirituality	Sanctuary Church	Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org)	Yes
Thursdays 4/6, 13, 20, & 27	7 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary Church	Gloria Corbin (338-5012, cgcorbin@mchsi.com)	No
Sunday 4/9	10:30 am	Vegetarian Community Brunch	Trumpet Blossom Cafe (10 E Prentiss St, IC)	Carol Throckmorton (337-3030, carolthrockmorton108@msn.com)	Yes
Sunday 4/9	6 pm	Dances of Universal Peace	Eastside Recycling (2401 Scott Blvd. SE, IC)	Virginia Melroy (338-1778, virginia-melroy@uiowa.edu)	No
Monday 4/10	6 pm	Kiirtan	Oakdale House	Andy Douglas (andy.c.douglas@gmail.com)	No
Monday 4/10	7:30 pm	UU Book Discussion Group ( <i>Nightingale</i> by Kristin Hannah)	Oaknoll (Meeting Room A, 735 George St.)	Mary Lou Welter (354-1231, welteremig@hotmail.com)	No
Tuesday 4/11	6 pm	Singing Bowl Meditation	Judi Clinton's home (945 Applewood Court #4, CV)	Judi Clinton (541-6957, judiclinton@gmail.com)	Yes
Thursday 4/13	6:30 pm	UUSIC Board Meeting	Oakdale House	Kelly O'Berry (541-0326, kelly-oberry@uiowa.edu)	No
Friday 4/14	11 am	UUSIC Free Lunch Program	1105 Gilbert Ct, IC	Sherry Dolash (358-2546, bridge_2_learning@yahoo.com)	No
Tuesday 4/18	7:30 pm	Secular Humanists	Old Brick (26 E Market, IC)	Mark Yuskis (resdoggie@aol.com)	No
Wednesday 4/19	12:30 pm	UU Grief Group	Oakdale House	Gail Garwood (ggarwood42@gmail.com)	No
Thursday 4/20	1:30 pm	UU Scrabble Group	TBD	Gary Lawrenson (936-1291, glawrenson@mchsi.com)	No
Thursday 4/20	12 pm	April UU News Submission Deadline	Oakdale House	Emma Barnum (337-3443, uusic.office@gmail.com)	No
Saturday 4/22	5 pm	Vegetarian Community Potluck	Iowa Farm Animal Sanctuary (2485 Highway 6 Trail, Marengo)	Carol Throckmorton	Yes
Tuesday 4/25	5:15 pm	Girls' Night Out	Trumpet Blossom Cafe (10 E Prentiss St, IC)	Carol Throckmorton	Yes

# Upcoming Events, cont'd

## **Sunday Brunch with the Sudanese, April 2nd**

You are invited to partake in an elegant Sunday brunch prepared and served by Nagla and Mahdaya, the two Sudanese women in the Circle of Friends families we support. Come to the Oakdale House on Sunday, April 2nd, from 11:30 am to 1 pm for amazing appetizers and other delicacies. To RSVP, contact Sally Hartman at [sallyhartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyhartman@hotmail.com) or Leigh Nida at [leighnida@gmail.com](mailto:leighnida@gmail.com). Please be generous in your donations!

## **Summer Worship Service Proposals Due, April 7th**

The Worship Associates invite UUSIC members and friends to share your wisdom and reflections for our summer lay-led services, a rich and fruitful tradition in our faith community. This summer's theme is: *Love is a Muscle—How Do We Work It?* In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, we proclaim, "Love is the doctrine of this church." As a "Deeds, not Creeds" faith community, our conceptualization of love is as an act of labor, a muscle to be worked. We must build and nourish our muscles daily in order to be strong and healthy. Our muscles develop strength when faced with resistance. If love is a muscle, how do we work it? How is love a part of our regular exercise routine? When do we encounter resistance to practice love and work through it toward growth? When do we experience fatigue or find the weight of the resistance unbearable? How do we demonstrate the strength and power of love in our daily efforts? This summer, we invite reflections and topics that highlight the effort, the resistance, and the nourishment of love. We are accepting proposals and would like summer service proposals to be submitted by Friday, April 7th. For more information or to receive a proposal form, please contact Alison Oliver or speak to one of the Worship Associates.

## **Love Reaches Out Workshop, April 8th**

You are invited to attend *Love Reaches Out*, a UUA sponsored workshop for congregations committed to growth through outreach action. Phil Lund, MidAmerica Region Congregational Life Consultant, will lead the workshop on Saturday, April 8th, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Coralville Public Library. According to Phil, "Now more than ever we need each and every congregation in the MidAmerica Region reaching out into their local communities to bring about more love, justice and peace into the world." The workshop focuses on how UU congregations can attract new members through outreach activities that match members' interests with their community's needs.

We have invited other congregations in Iowa and Western Illinois to attend, and we'd love to have a good participation from UUSIC members and friends. If you are interested in sharing the good news of Unitarian Universalism and reaching out to people who have not yet found our congregation, this workshop is for you!

Lunch will be provided. Please attend if you are interested in helping UUSIC respond to the changing American religious landscape, examine who we are as a congregation and as a faith movement and whether we are effectively communicating this to the wider world. This workshop will help those of us who attend develop a plan for our congregation to reach out into the community while staying grounded in our core identity or mission.

To register, or for more information, contact Steve Vincent at [stephen-vincent1@live.com](mailto:stephen-vincent1@live.com) or 847-650-1634. Registration ends Monday, April 3rd. We hope you will join us!

## **Johnson County CROP Walk, April 9th**

Please support the 2017 CROP Hunger Walk by walking or donating on behalf of a walker from UUSIC. Sign-up sheets are available at the SJCC table on Sundays. Both walkers and pledgers are needed to support this important cause. Donations can also be made to the UUSIC team online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/iowacityia> (the name of our team is Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City).

The Iowa City Walk retains 25% of funds raised, for the Crisis Center. This year's walk will begin and end at the Crisis Center of Johnson County, 1121 Gilbert Ct. The walk begins at 1:30 pm.

## **Workshop: "Transforming Despair and Anger into Hope and Action," April 15th**

No one will disagree that hard, chaotic, disturbing, and frightening times are upon us. We have not experienced anything quite like this before, and we are mostly ill-equipped to manage the overwhelming emotional states that arise regularly. It is a well-understood psychological reality that enormous amounts of emotional energy are required to keep fear, anger, sorrow, and despair at bay, robbing us of the ability to experience joy or to use that energy constructively to work toward solutions.

Join other UUSIC members in safe community for a retreat day on Saturday, April 15th, from 9 am to 4 pm at the Coralville Public Library. Together we'll journey through the darkness of personal and global despair toward the unfolding experience of healing and hope. This retreat has been created and presented by Kristin Wildensee and Miriam Kashia and based on the inspirational work of Joanna Macy from her book *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy*. Please pre-register by Monday, April 10th, to Miriam Kashia ([miriam.kashia@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.kashia@gmail.com) or 459-1154). There is a registration fee of \$10, which includes lunch.

# Upcoming Events, cont'd

## **UUSIC Staff Accompanist Recital, April 18th**

Mr. Peng Zhang, UUSIC's staff accompanist, will play his graduate recital at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, April 18th, in the Voxman Music Building recital hall. The program, about sixty minutes long, includes Robert Schumann's *Kreisleriana*, Op. 16, and Sergei Prokofiev's *Concerto No. 3 in C Major*, Op. 26.

The Schumann consists of eight smaller and dramatic movements and contains the familiar and much loved "Clara" theme. Schumann considered this piece his favorite and composed it in only four days. The Prokofiev composition is considered a "virtuoso" piece that contains challenging fingering and phrasing. The identifiable and characteristically witty dissonances of Prokofiev are present. A second keyboard person will be joining Peng for Prokofiev's *Concerto*.

## **Climate Run/Walk, April 22nd**

Does your covenant group need a service project? Do you want an opportunity to wear your Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt in public? Do you want to support the Iowa Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund? Then take part in the Barbara Schlachter Run/Walk for victims of climate change on Saturday, April 22nd, at 9 am. The run/walk, sponsored by the Iowa City Climate Advocates, begins in City Park and finishes at Terry Trueblood Park. Let's get a group together and show UU support for victims of climate change. There is a registration fee of \$30 but children 12 and under are free. More information and pledge sheets will be available at coffee hour after the service.

The route, along the Iowa River, can be found at this link: <https://runforvictimsofclimatechange.org/route/>. Runners and walkers can sign up here: <https://runforvictimsofclimatechange.org>

## **Take Your UU Experience to an Inspiring New Level at Our Regional UUA Meeting, April 28th–30th**

Each April our Unitarian Universalist Association's MidAmerica Region hosts a weekend annual meeting that brings together five hundred or so UUs from across its 12-state region. The weekend gathering provides a special opportunity to attend workshops, worship, dine, and spend informal time with others from across the entire Midwest. This year's MidAmerica Meeting will take place in Oak Brook, Illinois, from April 28th through 30th.

In 2016 a dozen Society members attended the MidAmerica conference, making ours one of the region's largest delegations. All felt the experience was one that enriched their lives, deepened their understanding of our shared faith, and provided a chance to bond with fellow UUSIC members, the latter through ride sharing, the opportunity to share rooms, and informal time together. UUSIC provides a number of \$50 stipends to help pay members' \$165 registration fee. Preference goes to those who have not attended MidAmerica before.

This year's MidAmerica will include 16 workshops on topics ranging from Standing Rock to building bridges across race and class to matters of outreach, congregational governance, and more. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Lee Barker, President of our Meadville Lombard Theological School.

# Committee Reports & News

## Covenant Groups

In our March meetings, we addressed the timely and vital topic of “Resistance.” What constitutes resistance in a civil society? Sometimes it involves disobedience, standing up and fighting against rules, laws, or behaviors we consider unfair and wrong; sometimes it means simply being who we really are. Always it demands witnessing the reality of our world and refusing to turn a blind eye to unpleasant or inconvenient truths. What role does resistance play in your life? What kinds of things have you resisted and what form has your resistance taken? How has it shaped you?

This month we’re examining the experience of “Transformation.” Transformation implies more than simple “change”—it’s the most profound kind of change, a deep and thorough alteration in the form or purpose of something. Or someone. We all undergo changes every day, but in what ways during our lives have we been “transformed?” Or have we? And do you agree with Marianne Williamson, who said: “Personal transformation can and does have global effects. As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us. The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one.”

If questions like these intrigue you, you might be ready to join a covenant group. The Covenant Group program offers members the opportunity to express their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while fostering closer ties to other UUs. If you’d like to learn more about covenant groups, please contact Jan Locher (354-6260 or locherj@mchsi.com).

—Phil Beck for the Covenant Group Facilitators

## Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends volunteers who work with our two Guatemalan and two Sudanese families are learning how hard it can be to find work in Iowa City as well as live in a city where expenses are high. The fifth Sunday service offering on April 29th will support our Circle of Friends’ efforts. Past donations have gone toward rent for our refugee family and utilities for the other immigrant families.

There are many ways everyone can pitch in to support our families as they search for jobs. Here are a few:

- Hire someone for house cleaning, odd jobs, or yard work
- Donate your old microwave
- Purchase gently used games or books for ages 5-9
- Write a note of encouragement
- Attend a fundraiser brunch (See the Sudanese Brunch on page 6)
- Donate generously to the 5th Sunday offering on April 29th
- Arrange to visit the families.

To participate in the above or offer other sources of support, please contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com or Sally Hartman at sallyhartman@hotmail.com. Thank you to all who have supported our families!

—Deb Schoelerman and Sally Hartman

## Johnson County Food Bank Baby Drive

Through the month of April we will shower the Johnson County Food Bank with baby wipes, diapers, and baby food. We will collect your generous donations at the Sanctuary Community Church all month and then we will deliver them to the Food Bank. Thank you! —Jill Stephenson

## Free Lunch

On March 10th, a dynamite crew of UUSIC Free Lunch volunteers served 117 meals of burritos, mixed vegetables, southwestern salad, fruit salad, and Latin American desserts. The burritos came to Free Lunch as a donation from Pancheros and the University of Iowa Dance Marathon. The lunch was very filling, so fewer patrons had second helpings, but many took some food to-go.

This month, several Free Lunch patrons expressed their gratitude that the former downtown UUSIC building has been available for the winter shelter. They reported that they have been staying there and were glad to be able to thank our team at Free Lunch.

Our team will next serve Free Lunch on Friday, April 14th. If you would like to volunteer or donate food, please sign up for the email list by emailing Diana Miller at dkmilleriowa@gmail.com. —Carmen, Diana, and Leigh

## Eco-Survey Results

What do UUSIC folks do on a regular basis to help preserve the environment? The second “Pom-Pom” survey, held on March 2nd, gave insight into what sustainability actions are common for us and which are harder to own. In order of frequency, here are the results of the survey from that Sunday as well as the online survey:

- 29 people wash full loads only.
- 28 people wash clothes in cold water.
- 24 people wash dishes by hand or air dry when they use the dishwasher.
- 14 people line dry as much as possible.
- 9 people set water heater at 120 degrees AND turn it down more when they are gone.

Way to go, environmental sustainers! Would you like to reduce about 12% of your electricity costs per year? Hang up your clothes instead of using the dryer. Maybe it isn’t your thing, but you won’t know unless you try it a bit!

—Green Sanctuary Committee

# *UUSIC Welcomed New Members on Sunday, March 5th*



## **Ernie Cox**

Ernie has been attending UUSIC off and on since 2011 and decided it is time to make his commitment to our community official. He came to Iowa City from Oklahoma for graduate school and earned his MA in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa. He previously earned a BA in Human Resource Development. Ernie works as an educator for the College Community School District. Ernie is married to Samantha Solimeo, and their girls, Sofia (12) and Aster (8), often attend here on Sundays.

Ernie was attracted to the religious education for children that we offer, along with our social justice work and our willingness to embrace the journey to truth. He was previously involved with the Eno River UU Society in Durham, North Carolina. He is looking for study and action opportunities to make society better for all. In his free time, Ernie enjoys crossfit, running, reading, cooking, gardening, watching baseball, and genealogy.



## **Matt Martin**

Matt grew up in Waterloo, Iowa, lived in Omaha, Nebraska when he was working on his Bachelor of Science at Creighton University, and came here to Iowa City for graduate school. He earned his Master of Science and PhD here at University of Iowa. After previous work in environmental science, microbial analysis, and behavioral science, he now works as a postdoctoral research scientist. Matt also enjoys reading, traveling, and the outdoors. He is willing to try anything once.

Matt had a brief introduction to Unitarian Universalism in Cedar Falls and began attending UUSIC after the election, when he felt a need to be more involved in the world. He appreciates many of our UU values, as reflected in the Seven Principles. He is looking for a group of people that encourages each other in spiritual growth, who will challenge his thinking and assumptions, and will help him work toward making the world a better place. Although he tends to be a quiet person, Matt is really looking forward to getting to know the people of the UUSIC community and finding out how he can best contribute.



## **Jean and Jerry Snodgrass-Wiedenheft**

Jerry is originally from Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and came to UUSIC initially out of curiosity; he encouraged Jean to come with him. Jerry enjoys mathematics and has worked in roofing, painting, plumbing, electrical, and as a mechanic. He appreciates the inclusiveness and liberal values of Unitarian Universalism. Jerry is married to Jean, and they live in Cedar Rapids.

Jean grew up in Illinois, and currently works as Director of Land Stewardship at the Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids. She got her BS in journalism with a focus on science communication. She appreciates that UUSIC is welcoming and encourages participation. Jean never believed in the trinity and is glad to be part of a community that embraces more than individual salvation while helping to make the community better and the earth healthier. She values that we encourage gaining knowledge, sharing ideas, and respecting the earth. Jean enjoys writing, beekeeping, horseback riding, cats and dogs, edible landscapes, and hiking.



## **Tanner Lee Woody**

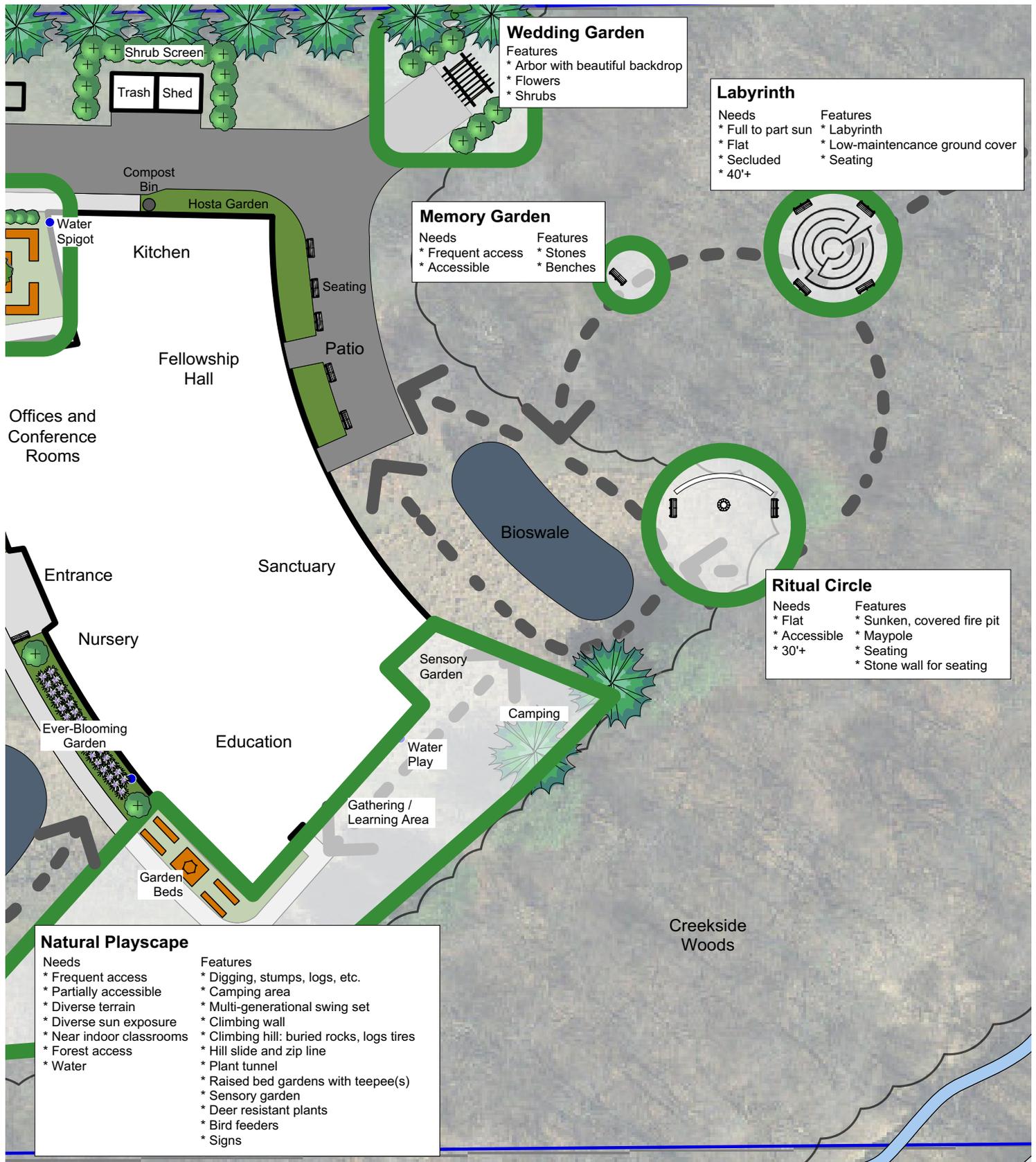
Tanner is originally from Newton, Iowa, and came to Iowa City to attend the University of Iowa, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in math and a Bachelor of Arts in computer science. He currently works as a software developer for Leapfrog Technologies here in Coralville. He has varied experience as a software engineer, web developer, barista, construction worker, and custodian. He started attending here to spend his free time in a healthy way to give back to the community. He values the acceptance and tolerance he finds here, and he appreciates a place where he can feel rinsed of the daily bigotry he sees and be motivated to act otherwise.

Tanner is very computer/web/video and sound-oriented and may be volunteering soon to help with the tech aspects of Sunday services. He is also a strong writer and a great organizer.

# Concept Design for Our New Landscape



This concept design was created by Fred Meyer of Backyard Abundance, as he worked with the Land Ministry and its subcommittees, with congregational suggestions and input from two workshops in May 2016 and February 2017. Land Ministry Committee members will be available after most of the Sunday services in April to answer questions.



# The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City  
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**Mission:** We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.

**Vision:** Our vision is to be a loving, inclusive, and growing spiritual community. We celebrate life and a liberal tradition that leads social justice work, heals the earth, and nurtures the lifelong journey of mind and spirit.