



# THE UUS NEWS

A DIVERSE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY THAT TOUCHES  
HEARTS, CHANGES LIVES, AND TRANSFORMS THE WORLD.

Issue:  
January  
2018

## Upcoming Sunday Services

*Services begin at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary,  
followed by a social hour in the Fellowship Hall*

*What Does it Mean to Be a Community of  
Possibility and Promise?*

### **January 7th: "A New Threshold," Lois Cole**

Positive change is the dream of every human heart. Yet we resist change and fail in our New Year's resolutions. When change seems to arrive out of nowhere and suddenly we are crossing a new threshold, we are also unprepared. Lois will share insights from her work as a hospital chaplain about the spiritual work of acknowledging what's emerging in our lives, and the flourishing of promise and possibility in crossing a new threshold, even in facing death.

### **January 14th: "Shed a Little Light,"**

**Rev. Steven Protzman**

The lyrics to the song "Shed a Little Light" invite us to "turn our thoughts today to Martin Luther King and recognize that there are ties between us." Those ties call us to shed a little light in the world through service to others. After a short worship service, there will be a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to participate as we learn about social justice, we do a variety of service projects, and we put our faith into action.

### **January 21st: "The Promise and Possibilities of Shared Ministry," Rev. Steven Protzman**

Rev. Gordon McKeeman writes: "Ministry is a quality of relationship between and among human beings that beckons forth hidden possibilities." Ministry, once thought to be the work of ordained ministers, is the way we serve one another and the world. This service will invite us to reflect on shared ministry as a promise all of us make to live out our values as Unitarian Universalists for the benefit of the congregation and the greater community.

### **January 28th: "The Promise of Spring," Rev. Steven Protzman**

As the days begin to grow longer, there is a promise in the air that spring is coming and with it, new life is stirring. With rituals, songs and meditation, we will celebrate Imbolc (also known as Candlemas and Groundhog's Day), a pagan festival that marks the middle of Winter, and we will also honor Brigid, the Celtic goddess of fire, poetry, childbirth, and healing, who breathes new life into the death of winter.

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### January Social Justice Offerings Benefit

#### The Abbe Center for Community Mental Health

"Reaching out to improve lives in our seven communities through advocacy, support, and the integration of mental health and wellness services" is the mission of the Abbe Center. Its professional staff provide outpatient mental health services, as well as specialty services.

Cash or checks to UUS (Abbe Center on memo line) can be given on Sundays, online through Realm, or mailed to the office. You can also text "GivetoUUSIC Offering \$--" to 73256. Thank you!

### Sunday Attendance for December 3rd - 24th

December 3rd:	243 total: 175 service, 68 RE
December 10th:	241 total: 173 service, 68 RE
December 17th:	231 total (Multigen. Service)
December 24th:	
Morning:	~120 total (Multigen. Service)
Afternoon:	~260 total (Multigen. Service)

## From Your Minister



*Infinite possibility in all things is a certainty.  
That pretty much covers theology  
and philosophy for me.*

—Robert Fulghum

The author Robert Fulghum (perhaps you're familiar with his book *All I Really Wanted to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*), who is also a Unitarian Universalist minister (and has been since 1961!)

was described by a colleague this way: "He has a lullaby voice and a great booming laugh. He carries a French horn case instead of a briefcase. At motels he sometimes registers as "representing" Mother Earth or the Cutting Edge of Reality. If a Seventh Day Adventist comes to the door, he whips out his stopwatch and says 'O.K., but I get equal time.'" Fulghum has made a life out of looking beyond the obvious in life, believing that life is a sacred mystery and that a rich life is filled with both endless possibilities and the promise of discovering things about ourselves and about life we may not have dreamed possible. In a wonderful story called "The Chair Men," Fulghum tells how he encountered some young men who were challenged by a college philosophy professor to "do something unique and memorable—not dangerous or foolish, but something creative, inventive, and instructive. Write it up and explain what was learned and how it might apply to their philosophy of life." So the two young men decided to eat a chair. Fulghum goes on to tell us how they are achieving their goal: "They bought a plain wooden kitchen chair at an unfinished furniture store. Using a wood rasp, they have been shaving away at the chair, mixing the dust into their granola for breakfast, and sprinkling the dust on their salads at dinner. So far they have consumed most of a leg, two rungs and a back piece." And yes, they did check with a doctor to make sure the wood dust is not harmful.

As Unitarian Universalists, our tradition has always been one grounded in promise and possibility. Our spiritual ancestors challenged the dominant theologies and social conditions of their times and dedicated their lives, sometimes sacrificing their lives, as they envisioned new possibilities and the promise our faith offered of a better world. Today Unitarian Universalism is an expression of possibility grounded in a pluralistic approach to life's deepest questions. We do not believe that the outcome of human history has been predetermined—revelation is not sealed nor is humankind beyond redemption. We also do not believe that one text or religious tradition or philosophy holds the future of the world or can predict what will happen; nor do we believe that the way things are is universal or permanent, but that it is up to us to create and shape the human story. Truth for us is not neatly packaged in a creed, dogma, or closed canon of writings. Instead, in practicing our fourth principle, a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, we affirm that new possibilities are always being revealed and we seek to keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and new wisdom. In our own lives, if we are serious about our spiritual growth, it is important that our spiritual life includes time to reflect on what we believe about Ultimacy as well as challenging beliefs we have



about ourselves, especially "I can't ...," or "that's just not me ...," or "I could never ...," and proving those ideas and beliefs wrong, or that something we dream of doing is not impossible. As a congregation, living into promise and possibility is about seeing the world as it is and seeking to answer the question of how the world could be, what possibilities we can imagine, and then committing ourselves to making those possibilities real. Living the question of what is possible and has promise means we ask: How do we challenge the stories we hold about our shared life (all too often told to preserve a status quo and sometimes holding us back from realizing our potential) and what new stories are we willing to write that help us as a community to live out Unitarian Universalism more fully? What "chairs might we eat" together?

Our worship and reflection theme for January is this question: What does it mean to be a community of promise and possibility? This month we will have opportunities to live out our promise and potential to be a community of justice by joining Unitarian Universalists across the country in the Thirty Days of Love, a month-long spiritual journey and commitment to social justice action and service to others. This journey grew out of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, which the Unitarian Universalist Association launched in 2009. Its goal is "harnessing love's power to challenging exclusion, oppression, and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity." A year later this campaign re-imagined Valentine's Day as a social justice holiday, and from there this event evolved in 2012 into the "Thirty Days of Love." Our Thirty Days of Love at UUS will begin with a short worship service on January 14th followed by a Day of Service for people of all ages. The month will include the presentation of Courageous Love Awards and a closing all-ages worship service on February 11th. Our work on racial justice will continue beyond the Thirty Days of Love with ongoing meetings of our study/ACTION circle, and opportunities to stand in solidarity and witness as situations of injustice or oppression arise where our message of love, our presence, and our support are needed.

As we begin the new year of 2018 together, as we participate in the Thirty Days of Love, and as we continue to live into the future that Unitarian Universalism, our mission, and our new building invite us to imagine together, may we be open to the promise and possibilities for a life more abundant both as individuals and as a community.

With wishes to each of you for a peaceful new year and with gratitude for being here with you as we journey together as a community of promise and possibility,

Rev. Steven

# Congregational News and Events

## Looking Ahead to Adult Programs and Religious Education

Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman, Peggy Garrigues, and Rev. Steven Protzman are working together as Program Staff to create some new opportunities for adult programming and classes on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Jessica is in process of pulling together an Adult Religious Education Committee (let her know if you'd like to join!), Peggy is working with a variety of groups and individuals to create Sunday morning forums and other programs and classes, and Rev. Steven has plans to offer a class this spring as well as working with Social Justice Coordinating Committee on the Sunday Day of Service in January.

We are trying to have programs available in five different areas: Spiritual Practices, Growing in Mind and Spirit, Nurturing Relationships, Social Justice, and Caring for the Earth. We are hoping to create programs in each of those five areas for those just looking for an introduction ("Wading in the Waters"), for those who want to explore more ("Swimming Around"), and those who want to make a significant or more ongoing commitment of time or energy, including taking on leadership ("Diving Deep").

Here are some possibilities to look towards:

- In Spiritual Practices: a Zentangle class in February, a Conscious Dance class series, celebrating Nature's Healing Connections through our senses, and learning about a new yearlong program for UU spiritual growth called Wellspring.
- In the area of Growing Mind and Spirit: a forum or two on world religions, a forum hosted by the Secular Humanist group, a possible class to help clarify your own beliefs, and a leadership development class.
- In Nurturing Conversations, some Face2Face conversation opportunities on Sundays, an LGBTQ potluck, a Friendly Visitors training, a possible group or program for parents of younger children, and an option to revive Sages and Sherry for Seniors.
- In the Social Justice area, a new Sunday format for Day of Service will take place in January, a class on gender and sexuality issues is in the works for the end of February, and we hope to offer a UU Community Read sometime this year.
- In Caring for the Earth, a Community Rights program and film will happen in January (read about it on page 7), an Active Hope class this spring, and a Guatemala trip is scheduled for June (see below).

## UUS Group Trip to Guatemala

To extend social justice work beyond our own community, a group from UUS will travel to Guatemala in June for about ten days to work planting trees, distributing shoes, and volunteering in a school. Plans include a short visit to Antigua, the former capital, followed by a two-day work project in San Juan, a village on the shores of Lake Atitlan. The final destination will be the Chico Mendes Reforestation Project, where we will spend five days planting trees.

Those interested in joining this service trip should contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com or Sally Hartman@hotmail.com by January 30th.

## Inquirer Sessions in January

Anyone who wants to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, and our programs is welcome to attend an Inquirer Session. Inquirer Sessions take place after each Sunday service, at around 10:30 am in the Conference Room. Feel free to grab some refreshments first and bring them with you. There are about 8 different sessions that rotate through about every two months. Upcoming sessions include:

- **January 7th:** Realm training (our software for connecting with each other)
- **January 14th:** Day of Service—No Inquirer Session
- **January 21st:** Q&A with Membership Associates
- **January 28th:** Religious Education Opportunities for All Ages, Q&A with Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman

## Program Council, January 21st

If you are a committee or group leader, please plan to attend our full Program Council meeting on Sunday, January 21st. It will be held in the sanctuary from 11 am until noon, after the Sunday service and social hour.

We will look at the overall calendar for major events of UUS and our various groups, and share excitement and some ideas for a vision moving forward. We will also go over guidelines and resources such as childcare and alcohol policies, procedures for unlocking and locking the building, room setup, scheduling, getting reimbursed for expenses, the structure of the three smaller program councils, and using Realm as a group leader. If you are a group or committee leader, watch your email for some of these resources to come to you electronically before the meeting, and be prepared to ask questions.

Thank you for all of the good work and relationship building that is done by our groups and committees!

## Face2Face Conversations, January 28th

On Sunday, January 28th, after the social hour, you are invited to stay to have one or two conversations to get to know someone you don't already know well. In half of the Fellowship Hall, we will have tables set up for one-on-one conversations, with suggested questions and conversation topics. We'll help pair you up with someone you don't know well. There will be one round of conversations for about 20 minutes beginning at 11 am, and a second round of conversations with different pairs of people beginning around 11:30, when the first conversations have wrapped up. Learn some things about people you haven't yet had conversation with, and share some things about yourself and your connections to UUS.

## UUS Members & Friends With January Birthdays

<i>Johanna Burdinie</i>	<i>Meredith Gall</i>	<i>Ricardo Sauro</i>
<i>Marsha Cheyney</i>	<i>Jerry Grahs</i>	<i>Roan Shriver</i>
<i>Ron Crawford</i>	<i>Olivia Headings</i>	<i>Lisa Stover</i>
<i>Jo Cunningham</i>	<i>Sarah Holmes</i>	<i>Danielle Tallman</i>
<i>Maggie Dale</i>	<i>Merle Ihne</i>	<i>Noelia Tellez</i>
<i>Jane DeWitt</i>	<i>Emma Kaboli</i>	<i>Arlys Joy</i>
<i>Keith Friestad</i>	<i>Barbara Laughlin</i>	<i>Thompson</i>
<i>Laura Friestad</i>	<i>Jess McCusker</i>	<i>Lara Wasserman</i>

## Volunteer Opportunities at UUS

- **Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee:** B&G is looking for a few additional members. Our new building has several new systems: geo-thermal, lighting, heat pumps, solar, new kitchen appliances, and HVAC. B&G members also provide routine maintenance and help oversee organization and improvements to our facilities. If you are interested in being part of the team learning about these systems and helping to maintain our new facilities, please contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com. You do not need to be trained on every system to be a member of B&G.
- **Hospitality Teams:** We are excited to have so many people attending on Sunday mornings! But that also means it is more work for the Hospitality Teams, especially for those preparing, serving, and cleaning up for the social hour. So we need to add some more volunteers. Each Hospitality Team is scheduled for four Sundays a year. If you would like to volunteer to be on a team, please contact Kim Palmer (kalpal2@brentopalmer.com) or Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org). There are also many tasks that children (at least 8 years old) and youth are easily able to do. If your family would like to volunteer together to be on a Hospitality Team, or your child or youth likes to be helpful and wants to volunteer on a team (while a parent is in the building), feel free to let us know!
- **Religious Education Subs:** In addition to Religious Education teachers (we are still looking for a few teachers for Spring!), we frequently are in need of volunteers to sub in our Sunday classes. RE subs are not expected to lead any of the class, but rather, are there to support the lead and to help the kids engage in the lesson. On days we have larger classes, we often also need extra sets of hands to help supervise and help out in the class. Neither of these roles requires a regular commitment, and you can do them when/if it fits with your schedule. If you'd like more information, please contact Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (education@uusic.org).
- **AV Team:** Do you love technology? Would you like to be a part of the Sunday services team? We have a need for more A/V team members. The work includes getting the microphones and screens set up before the service, advancing the Powerpoint slides during the service, and making sure everything gets put away when the service is over. AV Team members may also be asked to assist at other UUS events or before facilities rentals. Please contact Rev. Steven (minister@uusic.org) or Chris Rode (ccrode@gmail.com) for further information.

*For many other ways to get involved at UUS, contact Peggy Garrigues at dcl@uusic.org*

## Welcome Our Newest Members Who Joined on Sunday, December 17th, 2017



**Aiden and Allison Bettine:** Aiden is a PhD student in history at the University of Iowa. His focus is on public history and community-engaged scholarship. He strongly values the Seven Principles and appreciates the sense of community and the LGBTQ acceptance extended here. He is excited to find allies interested in working on social justice issues. Aiden is currently teaching youth in the RE program and is interested in leading a class for adults on gender and gender non-conforming/trans people. Aiden enjoys board-gaming, reading, and crafts.

Allison was excited to find a church that welcomes her and Aiden's identities and that seeks to contribute to the larger community. She really values the opportunity to experience community, spiritual encouragement, and values-driven activities with her husband Aiden. She loves teaching junior high RE and hopes to stay involved in RE for a long time. Allison enjoys quilting, board games, and baking. She expects to make and decorate many more sugar cookies!



**Christine Etler:** Christine was an active member of this congregation from 2002 to 2009. As she gets engaged again, she participated in the Pathway to Membership process and is reaffirming her membership. She grew up in Milton, Massachusetts, near Boston, and moved to Iowa "temporarily" to do a fellowship at the University of Iowa. Christine works as an audiologist at the University of Iowa Hospitals. She values that Unitarian Universalism focuses on "deeds not creeds."



**Elaine Waples:** Elaine grew up in west-central Iowa and graduated from the University of Iowa. At various times she has lived in Texas, Colorado, California, Nebraska, and northwest Indiana. She's worked as a medical technologist and more recently as an accounting professor, but is now happily retired. For her, moving back to Iowa City was "coming home." Elaine hopes to become an active member of this welcoming and diverse congregation. She loves our commitment to being a "green church" and hopes to participate in small groups that serve the community and encourage spiritual growth. She plans to be involved through the Fireside Choir, the Free Lunch Program, Kiirtan, Dances of Universal Peace, and caring for the building and grounds. Elaine enjoys gardening, hiking, music, taking online science courses, and traveling in her van with Harry the dog.

# Religious Education & Spirituality

## From Your Director of Religious Education

Did you know, according to the Washington State University (WSU) Extension<sup>1</sup>, it is estimated that only 1 out of 1,000 acorns turns into an oak tree? They can dry out before they are “planted” by Mother Nature, rot, or become food for a host of different animals. Then, even if they do manage to sprout, they have to contend with invasive species and other plants that will crowd them out for resources, like sunlight. The odds are definitely not in the little acorns’ favor.

The WSU Extension article goes on to describe how humans can help cultivate oak trees. First, it involves putting a tarp down to catch fresh acorns, but be careful—you don’t want the first ones that fall—those are likely bad. Then you have to sort the acorns, take off their caps, see which ones float and discard them, dry the ones that sank, keep them in your refrigerator until the weather turns cool, plant outside about an inch down (preferably in a place where they won’t be out-competed for resources), and hope that the acorn and Mother Nature can do the rest. Cultivating oaks is definitely not a guarantee, and definitely not an insignificant amount of work, but the odds of tree survival are greatly improved.

All the possibility and promise of an oak tree in that tiny acorn is like the possibility and promise of the UUS Religious Education program. We have selected and built a wonderful environment for the program to grow in. And yes, with not a little effort, some acorns and mighty oak-like programs can take root, but again, the odds are definitely not in their favor. Rather, it takes time and effort to cultivate those beginnings and possibilities.

We need help to nurture RE’s possibilities. We need volunteers to do everything from one-time tasks—like helping with plays or events, bringing snacks, teaching an adult RE class—to semi-regular tasks—like subbing in RE classrooms/the nursery or assisting with classes, or outdoor supervision during forums—to ongoing commitments—like teaching RE this spring, helping with summer programming, working with the RE library, joining an RE committee—and so much more.

This is where you come in:

- On Sunday, January 7th, I will be hosting a forum in the Sanctuary after social time (11 am) to answer any and all questions about volunteering in RE. If you have ever considered volunteering in RE, this would be a great way to find out more about what is involved with each volunteer role without making any commitments.
- Also on Sunday, January 7th, the Children & Youth Committee (CYC) will host a pizza lunch for RE families and RE teachers at 11:45 am, and we’d like to invite any interested RE volunteers to come meet some of the great families you’d be working with.
- Finally, as we transition towards a more robust Adult Education/Enrichment program, we will be starting an Adult RE Committee. The group is looking at meeting in mid-January, and if you have ever wanted to get more involved with Adult Education Classes, teaching or planning, please join us! You can email me, [education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org), for more details.

<sup>1</sup> <http://ext100.wsu.edu/gardentips/2008/12/12/grow-oaks-from-little-acorns/>  
—Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman

## Covenant Groups

In December, groups considered what it means to be a people of “Hope.” How do we practice hope as a community? Certainly it must start with how we experience it as individuals. Do you have a personal story about being saved by hope or discovering hope in someone else? If you’ve ever felt hopeless, how did you overcome it? Maybe instead of having a personal story, you’re inspired by stories in the culture that express hope. In the end, the origin of our stories is less important than the act of sharing them, giving them to each other as gifts.

We begin the new year examining what it means to be a people of “Promise.” Other religious traditions emphasize specific beliefs as the foundation of moral behavior, but UUs place their faith in the act of making and keeping commitments. “Promise is a big word,” it’s been said. “It either makes something or breaks everything.” There is great power in a promise. Is living up to the promises we make a form of spiritual practice?

If questions like these intrigue you, you might be ready to join one of our covenant groups. The Covenant Group program offers members the opportunity to express their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while creating closer ties to other UUs. If you’d like to learn more about covenant groups, please contact Jan Locher (354-6260 or [covgroups@uusic.org](mailto:covgroups@uusic.org)).

## Buddhist Sangha, Mondays in January

The UU Buddhist Sangha is a community of people that gathers weekly to explore contemporary Buddhist practice and teachings in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles and for meditation. The Sangha is currently discussing the book *It’s Up to You: The Practice of Self-Reflection on the Buddhist Path*, by Dzigar Kongtrul. Self-reflection is the spirit and practice of looking at whatever arises in our experience, without judgment, and is the common thread that runs through all traditions of Buddhist practice. We meet weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm at Oaknoll. Please contact Brian Glidewell and Cindy Spading at [buddhistsangha@uusic.org](mailto:buddhistsangha@uusic.org) to find out more, or request to join through Realm.

## Fireside Choir, All Thursdays in January

The Fireside Choir rehearses weekly on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 pm in the UUS Sanctuary. The choir is open to all singers (high school and beyond). No auditions or experience required. The choir sings in unison, two, three, and four parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). The Fireside Choir often contributes to the Sunday worship services. If you have considered joining us, don’t think twice, just show up and we will go from there. If you have any questions, give Gloria Corbin a call at 338-5012 or email her at [choir@uusic.org](mailto:choir@uusic.org).

## Singing Bowl Meditation, January 9th and 28th

Judi Clinton hosts a Singing Bowl Meditation on the second Tuesday (6 pm) and last Sunday (12:30 pm) of each month at her home (945 Applewood Court, #4, Coralville). The harmonics of the bowls are used to amplify intention and focus as participants create a healing, relaxing field for all present. Plan to arrive 5 minutes before the start time to get settled and comfortable, and bring your water bottle. If you would like to participate, contact Judi ([singingbowls@uusic.org](mailto:singingbowls@uusic.org) or 541-6957) to reserve your space.

## Interest & Activity Groups

### Three Kings' Day Holiday Celebration and Potluck, January 6th

A Holiday Celebration and Potluck will be held Saturday, January 6th, from 6 to 8 pm in the Fellowship Hall at UUS. Join our Circle of Friends families for dinner and help our Latino families celebrate Three Kings' Day, when the three kings arrived at the stable with gifts. When celebrated in Latin American countries, the children leave carrots and hay for the camels the night before and receive gifts from the three kings. Join the festivities by bringing a dish to pass and your own plate, glass, and eating utensils. Beverages will be provided.

### Vegetarian Community Movie Night, January 6th

The UUS Vegetarian Community will enjoy a movie night on Saturday evening, January 6th, at 5:30 pm in the Hickory and Oak Rooms. We'll view *Eating You Alive*, a documentary revealing the truth of why Americans have chronic diseases and what can be done about it. Please bring a vegan snack to share and your own beverage. Everyone is welcome.

### UU Book Discussion Group, January 8th

The UU Book Discussion Group meets monthly on the second Monday, at 7:30 pm at Oaknoll (735 George Street, Iowa City) on the 4th floor in Meeting Room A. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho is our book for January discussion. You can also start reading *Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill*, which is our book for February's meeting. To get a copy of the book list for the year, to request to join our Realm organizational group, or if you just want more information, contact Mary Lou Welter at 354-1231 or [bookgroup@uusuc.org](mailto:bookgroup@uusuc.org). We welcome new regular members, guests who choose to drop in when a book interests them, or friends of members who share your joy of reading.

### CUUPs Herbal Self-Care: Extracts and Syrups, January 13th

Join us at 9 am on Saturday, January 13th, in the Oak and Hickory (Jr. and Sr. High) Rooms for the final session of a series of four Herbalism classes, sponsored by the Owl Moon CUUPs (Covenant of UU Pagans) and led by Stephany Hoffelt ([www.naturallysimple.org](http://www.naturallysimple.org)). In this final class, we will talk about pulling this all together. How do we incorporate these preparations into our daily life, in an enjoyable manner? We will talk about different ways to sneak herbs into our food and beverages including a brief tutorial on making herbal mead. This event is free to attend, but advance registration is required. Contact Marsha Cheyney and Dawn Marshall at [cuups@uusuc.org](mailto:cuups@uusuc.org) for more information.

### UU Grief Group, January 17th

The next meeting of the UU Grief Group (UUGG) is Wednesday, January 17th, 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Oak (Jr. High) Room in our new building. The group is open to those mourning the loss of a family member or friend. We provide a safe and supportive environment where you can talk about your loss confidentially to other UUs who have also experienced loss. You may come away from the group feeling more reconciled about your loss or with helpful ideas about how others are handling their grief. While you do not need to pre-register, it is always nice to hear from you if you think you may want to join us. The group is led by Gail Garwood ([grieffgroup@uusuc.org](mailto:grieffgroup@uusuc.org)).

### Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle, January 21st

The Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle will meet on Sunday, January 21st, from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the Conference Room of UUS. RJC is UUS's next step to visibly and responsibly answer the call from communities of color to stand and act in solidarity for racial justice. The group's work includes critical reflection and discussion in conjunction with the development, implementation, and evaluation of actions that emerge out of our discussions. Please join us as we collaboratively build our vision to effectively engage in racial justice efforts in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Oliver ([iasw.alisonoliver@gmail.com](mailto:iasw.alisonoliver@gmail.com)).

### UU Scrabble Group, January 18th

The UU Scrabble Group will meet Thursday, January 18th, at 1:30 pm in the Walnut Room. Everyone is welcome to join in regardless of skill level! Beginners are welcome! Contact Gary Lawrenson (936-1291, [scrabble@uusuc.org](mailto:scrabble@uusuc.org)) for more information.

### Girls' Night Out! January 23rd

All UUS women are invited for conversation, lots of laughs, and refreshments at 5:30 pm for Girls' Night Out on Tuesday, January 23rd, at Rusciano's, Authentic Taste of Napoli (710 Pacha Parkway, Suite 5, North Liberty). Please contact Jamie Sharp ([girlsnightout@uusuc.org](mailto:girlsnightout@uusuc.org) or 400-2551) if you plan to attend.

### Vegetarian Community Potluck, January 27th

The Vegetarian Community's January potluck will be held at 5 pm on Saturday, January 27th, at the Thrive Gym (2205 East Grantview Drive in Coralville). Gym owners Erin and Bruce Elgin will provide the program, which will include a cooking class featuring plant-based recipes. Participants are encouraged to bring a 'new year, new recipe' plant-based dish to share, along with their own reusable/recyclable dinnerware and their own beverage. Everyone whose New Year's resolution is to observe a healthier lifestyle and want to learn how to do it is encouraged to participate. Please contact Carol Throckmorton at [carolthrockmorton108@msn.com](mailto:carolthrockmorton108@msn.com) or 337-3030 if you plan to attend.

### No Dinners for Eight in January

Many UUs have been enjoying the chance for informal conversation in people's homes over a potluck dinner through our Dinners for Eight program. Dinners for Eight are scheduled for the first Saturday of the month, several months a year, but there will not be a dinner in January. We have the basic roster full for the rest of the Spring, but if you have not already signed up, you can be added to a substitute list for when we have room at a dinner in February, March, or April. Contact Joe Rasmussen at [uusdinnersforeight@gmail.com](mailto:uusdinnersforeight@gmail.com), or ask Peggy for a paper sign-up form. Please be ready to indicate if you have any dietary needs, accessibility needs, or pet allergies.

### No Secular Humanists in January

The Secular Humanists will not meet in January. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20th, at 7:30 pm at Old Brick's Common Room and will feature a discussion led by Sue Eberly and Brad McDowell on Greg Epstein's (Harvard's Humanist Chaplain) book *Good without God*. Sue still has a few copies left at \$15. Call her at 594-9597 for a copy. For more information about the UUS Secular Humanist Group, contact Mark Yuskis at [resdoggie@aol.com](mailto:resdoggie@aol.com).

# Social Justice News and Events

## UU Free Lunch Program, January 12th

Thirty dedicated UUS volunteers prepared and served food, and yes, did all the dishes, for the Free Lunch Program on December 8th. 155 meals were served, and our guests enjoyed baked ham, sweet potato casserole, veggie and fruit salads, and a variety of delicious sweet treats. Special thanks to Star Wajciak for donating all the hams and to Joe Rasmussen, who lifted more heavy pans of food than anyone could count!

The objective and mission for the Greater Iowa City Free Lunch Program (located at 1105 Gilbert Court, IC) is to provide free hot meals six days a week for the needy in our community. UUS supports the Free Lunch Program by sending a group of volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean up after a lunch on the second Friday of each month. We expect that the numbers will stay high in the cold months. Please let Diana Miller know if you want to know more about how to get involved with Free Lunch. Our next day is Friday, January 12th.

## Days of Service, January 14th and 20th

The UUS annual Thirty Days of Love campaign kicks off by designating Sunday, January 14th, and Saturday, January 20th, as two Days of Service. These Days of Service address our second principle: justice, equity and compassion in human relations. To participate, there will be sign-ups on line in the Wednesday e-mail and at church on January 7th and 14th.

**January 14th:** All members and friends are invited to attend a shortened Sunday worship service at 9:30 am on January 14th, which will be followed by opportunities for children and adults to engage in twelve different social justice activities.

For those wanting hands-on experience, there will be blanket making, cooking for The Free Lunch Program, decorating cookies, weaving potholders, knitting, constructing bird feeders for bat houses, and organizing items for re-entry citizens.

For those wanting a more reflective experience, there will be movie watching, writing postcards to legislators, and discussing social justice issues on the environment, immigration, and mass incarceration. A special session called "Keeping Your Flame of Hope Alive" will be presented by Miriam Kashia.

Donations of toiletries are being collected for our project supporting Inside Out, a nonprofit supporting returning citizens who had been incarcerated. = Needed items include shampoo, deodorant, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, snack food such as granola bars, towels, and new, white crew-neck T-shirts (large or extra large). Donated items can be placed in a box in the church's coat room.

Following the social justice activities, a Guatemalan themed lunch will be provided at noon. Donations will be accepted and will benefit the Circle of Friends, the UUS group supporting immigration.

**January 20th:** To further our social justice outreach, UUS members and friends can sign up online (check the weekly emails for a link) or on Sundays to join a half-day clean-up crew at Uptown Bills, organize items at the Crisis Center, or make a meal at the Ronald McDonald House.

## Circle of Friends Thank You

The Circle of Friends group expresses a big Thank You to all the many generous souls who donated needed items for our five immigrant families. Your kindness is much appreciated! For those wishing to meet some of our families, come to the January 6th Three Kings' Day Holiday Celebration (see details on page 6).

## Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC), January 2nd

SJCC coordinates our congregation's community service and social action activities in Iowa City and beyond. Our meetings are informal and fun, and we welcome new faces and ideas. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 2nd, at 7 pm in the Conference Room. Contact [socialjustice@uusic.org](mailto:socialjustice@uusic.org) for directions or to get more information about the committee.

## CRC Winter Clothing Drive Update

The annual Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) clothing distribution was held in three locations on October 14th: Iowa City, North Liberty, and Coralville. About 1,500 individuals chose winter coats and other warm clothing, up from 1,100 in 2016. UUS participated with clothing donations, and several UUs volunteered at the Coralville site—sorting, escorting families through the room of clothes, offering snacks and drinks to all, checkout, and finally, the big cleanup. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!

## We the People 2.0 Film Showing and Community Rights Program, January 29th

Join us in a community gathering hosted by UUS's Green Sanctuary Committee to learn about the growing Rights of Nature and Community Rights movements. We will watch the film *We the People 2.0*, a visual essay about a grassroots effort to reclaim our rights from corporations and states, specifically to protect our waters, air, soil, and way of life.

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) has worked with over 200 communities around the United States and the world, including with Ecuador, who recently recognized rights of nature in their constitution, and with the Colorado River, in the first-ever lawsuit filed on behalf of an ecosystem. CELDF also specializes in working with communities when the law preempts their rights to set their own boundaries, for example, when communities are prohibited from saying "no" to fracking, factory farming, or pipelines.

In October, CELDF's International Center for the Rights of Nature partnered with the Myrin Institute and the Tulane University Law School to hold the first U.S. Rights of Nature Symposium.

The film will be followed by updates on local Community Rights efforts, discussion, and a Q&A. The program will be led by Miriam Kashia and the local Community Rights Working Group, which is a subgroup of 100Grannies.

# The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society  
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## UUS Board of Trustees, 2017-2018

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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.

**Website:** www.uusic.org  
**Office Phone:** 319-337-3443

## UUS Staff

**Minister** — Rev. Steven Protzman  
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**Congregational Administrator** — Emma Barnum  
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**Community Minister** — Lois Cole  
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# UUSIC Calendar for January 2018

A- Atrium  
C- Conference Room  
CW- Church-Wide

FH- Fellowship Hall  
H- Hickory Room (Sr. High)  
J- Juniper Room (Pre-K)

K- Kitchen  
M- Maple Room (3-4)  
N- Nursery

O- Oak Room (Jr. High)  
OW- Office Workroom  
R- Redbud Room (1-2)

REC- RE Commons  
S- Sanctuary  
W- Walnut Room (5-6)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Service (S) <b>10:30 AM</b> Social Hour (FH) <b>10:30 AM</b> Inquirer Session (C) <b>11 AM</b> Wassail Service (S) <b>12:30 PM</b> Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home)	<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Green Sanctuary (C) <b>7 PM</b> Social Justice Coordinating Committee (C)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>7 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5 PM</b> Three Kings' Day Celebration and Potluck (FH) <b>5:30 PM</b> Vegetarian Community Movie Night (H&O)
<b>7</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Service (S) <b>10:30 AM</b> Social Hour (FH) <b>10:30 AM</b> Inquirer Session (C) <b>11 AM</b> RE Volunteer Forum (S) <b>11:45 AM</b> RE Family Pizza Lunch (FH)	<b>8</b> <b>7 PM</b> Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll) <b>7:30 PM</b> UU Book Discussion Group (Oaknoll)	<b>9</b> <b>6 PM</b> Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Board Meeting (C) <b>7 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>12</b> <b>11 AM</b> Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct.)	<b>13</b> <b>9 AM</b> CUUPs Herbal Self-Care: Body Care (H & O)
<b>14</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Service (S) <b>10:30 AM</b> Social Hour (FH) <b>10:30 AM</b> Inquirer Session (C)	<b>15</b> <b>7 PM</b> Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> UU Grief Group (O)	<b>18</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> UU Scrabble Group (W) <b>7 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>19</b> <b>12 PM</b> February Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Service (S) <b>10:30 AM</b> Social Hour (FH) <b>10:30 AM</b> Inquirer Session (C) <b>11 AM</b> Program Council (S) <b>11 AM</b> Racial Justice Circle (O)	<b>22</b> <b>7 PM</b> Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	<b>23</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Girls' Night Out! (Rusciano's, North Liberty)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>7 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>5 PM</b> Vegetarian Community Holiday Potluck (Thrive Gym)
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Service (S) <b>10:30 AM</b> Social Hour (FH) <b>10:30 AM</b> Inquirer Session (C) <b>11 AM</b> Face2Face Conversations (FH) <b>12:30 PM</b> Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home)	<b>29</b> <b>7 PM</b> <i>We The                      People 2.0</i> Film Screening (H&O) <b>7 PM</b> Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>7 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>6 PM</b> Dinners for Eight (member homes)

Find more events by visiting our website calendar ([www.uusic.org/upcoming-events](http://www.uusic.org/upcoming-events)) or by signing up for our weekly emails ([www.uusic.org/news/weekly-email](http://www.uusic.org/news/weekly-email)).

## Highlights from the December Board Meeting

Minutes from all regular Board & Congregational meetings may be requested from the UUS Administrator or found on the UUS website.

**Present:** Jim Laughlin (President), Kelly O'Berry (Past-President), Jane DeWitt (Vice-President), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Steve Locher (Trustee), Kris Barrash (Trustee), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio), and Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE)

**Absent:** Peggy Garrigues (DCL) – attended Interplay Workshop

**Guests:** Pete Brokaw, Tom McMurray, and Paul Pomrehn

President Laughlin called the Board meeting to order at 6:35 pm on Thursday, December 14th, in the Conference Room at UUS. Protzman provided opening words, followed by the Chalice Lighting. Laughlin welcomed guests and thanked everyone for their efforts these past weeks and months.

**Consent Agenda:** *Board Agenda; December Executive Committee Minutes; November Board Highlights and Minutes; Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements; Congregational Meeting Agenda; Budget Handout & Slides; December Voting Member List; Monthly Staff Reports (DLRE, DCL, Administrator, and Minister). Other items included: Finance Council Recommended Allocation of Reese Bequest; Historical Records Memorial Fund Request (Susan Eberly); Committee on Congregational Life and Ministries (CCLAM) December 2017 Report (Sharon Booker and Winnie Ganshaw); Facilities Coordinator Job Description (Emma Barnum); Building Steward Job Description (Emma Barnum).*

Rode recounted from his report for these minutes that in closed session on December 10th, 2017, the Board approved the hiring of a Facilities Coordinator for up to 600 hours per year, adding up to \$9,000 in expense to the proposed 2018 budget. Also of note from the Executive Committee minutes: Laughlin asked our insurance agent, John Raley, to provide the Board with a quote for Dram Shop insurance.

**Historical Records Memorial Fund Request:** The Historical Records Committee submitted a request for \$800 from the Memorial Fund to purchase a much-needed file cabinet. It will also have a brass plaque added stating "In Memory of Marilyn Jennewein." The Board unanimously approved the request.

**Finance Council (FC) Recommended Allocation of Reese Bequest:** The FC recommended allocating the Reese Funds as follows: 1) unpaid 2017 Operating Budget (\$1,400); 2) unpaid Capital Campaign Pledges (\$5,000); 3) 2018 Budget for Land Ministry (\$5,000); 4) STEM Fund goal deficit (~\$10,520); 5) Jean Reese Named Endowment Fund (\$100,000); and 6) the remainder Capital Campaign (~\$383,080). Guests were invited to comment. There was general agreement that given the congregation only recently learned of this bequest, members need more time to comment. The timeline to finalize the allocation of the bulk of the funds (~\$383,080) will be extended. The Board approved allocation recommendations one through five.

**Review Building Steward Position:** The Board discussed the need for a Building Steward. This new position would be supervised by Congregational Administrator, Emma Barnum. The Steward would have responsibilities outside those of the Facilities Coordinator or the custodial contractor. Further work is needed to define, fund, and hire for these duties. The Board gratefully accepted Peg Voelker's offer to work in collaboration with Building & Grounds, Emma, and the Board to explore and help define this position and the roles volunteers and others might play. Over the next six weeks, and with the help of volunteers, Voelker will also see that necessary facilities tasks are performed.

DeWitt reported as process observer. Barrash provided closing words. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm to a closed session. The next Board meeting is Thursday, January 11th, 2018, 6:30 pm at UUS.  
—Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

## Highlights from the December Congregational Meeting

President Jim Laughlin called the meeting to order at 11 am after the service on Sunday, December 10th. A quorum was established with 93 of the 280 voting members in attendance. Laughlin asked if there were any motions to amend the agenda. None were made.

**Recognition of Green Sanctuary Designation:** In May, the congregation approved the Green Sanctuary Committee's resolution that UUS apply for accreditation as a Green Sanctuary Congregation. Laughlin read the UUA letter informing us that we received accreditation. It stated that, "your congregation is on a trajectory to provide leadership for environmental justice and sustainability for a long time to come."

**Lois Cole's Ordination Request:** Rev. Steven Protzman explained how UUA congregations have the responsibility and opportunity to ordain ministers. He introduced Lois Cole, stating that she has the education, gifts, and calling to serve. He then moved that the UUS congregation ordain her. The motion was approved unanimously.

**2018 Pledge Drive:** Dave Martin, Chair of Stewardship, reported that they are optimistic that UUS will reach the 2018 Pledge Drive goal. There was a standing ovation when Rev. Steven noted that this was Dave's 17th and final year on Stewardship.

**Jean Reese Bequest:** Chris Rode, Treasurer, announced that UUS was notified by the estate of Jean Reese that it was a named beneficiary of her retirement account. UUS will receive approximately \$505,000. Jean was a long-time member who died suddenly, May 18th, 2017. She obviously loved the Society and is/will be missed.

**2018 Proposed Budget:** Chris Rode, Treasurer, presented a detailed overview of the 2018 budget. He also provided members with a budget summary document that listed the proposed 2018 budget at \$543,454. The congregation unanimously approved the budget as presented.

**Committee on Congregational Life and Ministries (CCLAM) Report:** Winnie Ganshaw, representing CCLAM, underscored that our congregational goal is to have a shared ministry with our minister. She noted that there is strength in many of the 37 committees and activity groups that they are evaluating. However, creative effort is needed to recruit new leaders and involve new members.

After announcements and closing words the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary