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November’s Social Justice Offerings Benefit
FREE DENTAL CLINIC
Over the preceding year dentists, dental students, dental hygienists, and dental hygiene students volunteered their time to provide services to 235 patients during 510 visits. This care included cleanings, cavity fillings, and tooth extractions. Our generosity helps these volunteers continue this important healthcare to community members without insurance. Cash or checks to UUSIC (FDC on memo line) may be given on Sundays, online or sent to the office. Thank you!

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. Preschool through Jr. High Religious Education classes start at 1:45, so our youth can join the beginning of service with their families. RE also runs to 3 pm.

November’s Theme: What Does it Mean to be a Community of Story?

November 6th: “A Light on the Prairie,”
Rev. Steven Protzman
On November 6th, 1841, a small group of settlers met in Ed Foster’s cabin to form a new congregation, the First Universalist Society of Iowa City. Today we will tell the story of the founding of our congregation, begin a year-long celebration of our 175th anniversary, and reflect on how we will continue to be a light of love and hope on the Iowa prairie in the years to come.

November 13th: “Expanding Our Ministries,”
Lori Emison-Clair
What will be our community’s story of how we live out our mission and vision in the years to come? What opportunities await us for new programming, even more radical hospitality, healing the earth, doing social justice work, and growing in mind and spirit? After a brief service, guest facilitator Lori Emison-Clair will lead us in an extended afternoon workshop to help us expand the ways we serve one another and the world.

November 20th: “Stories of a Grateful Heart,”
Rev. Steven Protzman
While there are many songs and stories of Thanksgiving, some funny, others powerful and inspiring, the most important story of Thanksgiving is the grateful heart, a heart that is able to say thank you for all of life’s blessings, even in challenging or painful times. On this Sunday together as a community of all ages, we will celebrate Thanksgiving and seek to have grateful hearts as we tell and sing some of the stories of this holiday.

November 27th:
“Framing Our Journeys as Stories,”
Susan Salterberg, Jane DeWitt, and David Jepsen
The stories we tell shape who we are and who we will become. In this interactive service, you will have an opportunity to tell stories and listen to stories. We’ll examine such ideas as where our journeys began and what traditions shaped the paths taken. We’ll also explore other possible influences on our stories: culture, history, religion, work, and education. Finally, we will address the question of what the stories mean for our spiritual work today.

November Board Highlights
November Calendar & Project Holiday Details

Sunday Attendance for October 2nd through 23rd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Total Children</th>
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<tr>
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<td>132</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9th</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>(Multi-gen. Service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16th</td>
<td>134</td>
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<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 23rd</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our theme for November is this question: What does it mean to be a community of story?

Stories have always existed—to entertain, teach, pass on wisdom, record history, represent beliefs, explore new ideas, share experiences, build community, and express creativity. The story is the basic unit of learning and as such is very important from our earliest years, listening to stories from our parents and caregivers. We seem to have a natural tendency to think, speak, be receptive to, and process our experiences in story. The appeal of storytelling is the appeal of the imagination. When we listen to story it gives us the opportunity to create our own images, our own personal blend of imagined sights, sounds, feelings, and much more. Stories help us make sense of life, understand our experiences, and figure out their significance, and they create relationships with others.

Story is also the heart of religion. Victoria Safford says: “The way you enter your story, locate your plot, the way that you write history, is the way you do religion. What matters here? What’s true? Where’s the thread of meaning? How do the threads connect?” In an article in the Summer 2015 UU World titled “The spiritual practice of story sharing,” Christine Organ writes: “Story-sharing is a way of opening ourselves up to the truth within, allowing ourselves to be seen fully and completely, and honoring the sacred connection that can flow from sharing a piece of ourselves with others. We can get caught up in philosophy, facts, statistics, and finding the rational reasons for this social cause or that outreach program, but when you get down to it, the thing that moves us, the thing that calls us to action, the thing that connects us is our stories.”

“Storytelling is dangerous to those who profit from the way things are because it has the power to show that the way things are is not permanent, not universal, not necessary. Having that real though limited power to put established institutions into question, [the storyteller] has also the responsibility of power. The storyteller is the truth-teller. ... We will not know our own injustice if we cannot imagine justice. We will not be free if we do not imagine freedom.”

This quote from Ursula K. Le Guin’s The Wave in the Mind reflects a truth about Unitarian Universalism. We do not believe that the outcome has been predetermined—revelation is not sealed and no text or tradition holds the future of the world or can predict the outcome of human history—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. Our faith calls us to be the storytellers who are truth tellers, imagining justice and freedom. Our congregation has a long history of not only imagining but working for justice and freedom, including civil rights for Black Americans and Native Americans, feminism and women’s rights, LGBTQ rights and marriage equality, economic equality, immigration, environmental protection, and declaring ourselves a nuclear-free zone. Most recently, members of this congregation began a Racial Justice study/ACTION circle to change the story of race in our country. As we continue a dialogue through regular Circle meetings, worship services, and participation in racial justice work, we are seeking to tell a new story: that racism and white privilege, although deeply entrenched in our country’s social fabric, are false constructs and that justice and freedom need to be imagined, told, and lived.

Our theme for this liturgical year is “Stories of our Past, Dreams of our Future,” and our services this month will include stories of our history as well as invite us to start creating the stories of our future. On November 6th we will celebrate our congregation’s founding. One hundred-seventy-five years ago, a group of settlers met on the banks of the Iowa River in Ed Foster’s cabin because they found hope in the Universalist story, which rejected the predominant theological story of a God who would save some people and send the rest to hell. While Universalism has evolved since its beginnings and many Unitarian Universalists no longer believe in life after death, the fundamental idea of a love that excludes no one is still part of our religious story. On Sunday, November 13th, we will have a brief service, but the rest of our time together will be devoted to creating a story of who we intend to be as a community in the years to come. Lori Emison-Clair will facilitate as we seek to answer these questions: What new opportunities to heal the earth, do social justice, and grow in mind and spirit will we create to engage ourselves and the people who seek us out? What creative ways will we discover to invite others to join us in living out our mission? How will our radical hospitality expand to welcome people who are searching for the hope, the joy, and the love, that our inclusive, creative, liberal faith has to offer? How will we continue to touch hearts, change lives, and transform our world?

The future of UUSIC and the world is a story waiting for us to create. As members and friends of this congregation who support its mission and vision with your presence, energy, and financial contributions, you’re part of the story, and I invite and challenge you to help write the next chapters. I hope you’ll join us as we worship and work together in November and we ask what it means to be a community of story.

Grateful to be here with you as we journey together and we tell the stories of our past and our future,

Rev. Steven
“We have been deformed by educational and religious institutions that treat us as members of an audience instead of actors in a drama, so we become adults who treat democracy as a spectator sport.”

Parker Palmer had this to say to me while I wasn’t watching the final presidential debate. I was reading instead, surrounded by a lively Welcome Home Wednesday session where discussions (and songs and new ways to move) spilled out of makeshift classrooms and, as always, lingered in parking lot conversations. These caring, connecting, debating, and scheming moments seem baked into every UUSIC happening I have witnessed. I honestly believe that this congregation is not set up to create consumers of “religion” or “education” but rather to encourage and support all who come as actors in our drama of community-making, truth-seeking, oppression-halting, and radical care for ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth.

In the most recent New Member class, 17 participants echoed a similar refrain—they are drawn to this community because they see UUSIC “walking the talk.” In case you can no longer see it, I want to remind you how especially passionate and committed a group this is. In defiance of a spectator sport mentality, you refuse to passively consume the reality TV show playing on screen from comfortable armchairs. Whether members are organizing a transportation program for disabled voters or being arrested in protest of the Dakota Pipeline, this is a community of folks who are willing to stand up and play their part on the civic stage.

Beyond recognizing and encouraging this “thespian” culture, I want to challenge us all to be intentional about how we encourage our kids to grow in these same roll-up-our-sleeves values. We’re modeling it, for sure. But are they present to witness it? And while our example matters deeply, don’t forget how much of that consumption-based democracy is being modeled for them everywhere else they look. Intentionality and creativity are necessary—I don’t want to simply create programming for our children and youth to consume—but rather provide opportunities for them to witness, participate, experiment, lead, form lasting relationships, and continue learning about themselves and their world in action.

This November, we’re calling all Senior High youth back “home” to join us each Wednesday evening at the Sanctuary at 7 pm to reconnect, organize, and prepare to practice leadership outside of a classroom, in service-based engagement. Adults are traveling to Des Moines for an Our Whole Lives training to begin a sexuality education program for our elementary-age kids for the first time ever, equipping them with developmentally appropriate information and an early love for the amazing responsibility of having a body among all these other bodies that we share the earth with. And last, but not least, November 18th is the next Family FUUN Night, with a potluck at the Ingersolls’. Never underestimate the value of fellowship, friendship, fun, and coalition building! All are welcome—and if you want to be more involved with the awesome young folks in this community, please reach out.

Saunia Powell
From Your Director of Congregational Life

As UUSIC looks forward to using our new building and fully inhabiting our new land, the congregation has made many plans and taken many steps to orient us towards growth.

One of those steps was creating the position I am now in—Director of Congregational Life, a full-time membership professional position. Several folks in the congregation did research and found that the UU churches that were growing the most were ones that had a full-time person focused on outreach to the community, welcoming visitors, nurturing visitors to become members, and working to make sure that the programs and processes were in place to fully engage members in getting connected with others, learning, volunteering, making a difference, growing in leadership, and claiming their UU identity.

I am excited about the work you have already been doing to make this congregation attractive and welcoming. We have 17 participants in our October Journey of Discovery class for those considering becoming members of UUSIC! Many of those may become members on November 20th.

In order to continue to attract new members, we will be focusing more over the next several months on how we do publicity and outreach to the community. In addition to expanding our social media presence, using traditional media more effectively, and enriching our website, we want to create new programs for the community, and create partnerships with other organizations that can help us let people know about what we offer.

Plans are in the works to allow Bailey, our current Administrative Assistant, to focus more time on publicity rather than primarily on administrative support. She has experience that will be helpful to us in that area. She will also help to coordinate a new Publicity Committee that we are working on creating. If you have skills or interest in writing, social media, photography or video, web design, other forms of publicity, or being on the Publicity Committee, please contact me or fill out the Gifts, Talents, and Interests Survey indicating your interest.

When I first started asking people here about why they joined UUSIC, several of you said that you had really been UU before you even knew there was such a thing—that a church like this is just what you were looking for. I assume that there are a lot of others in the Iowa City and Coralville area who long for community, who want to work with others to make a difference, who are exploring and asking questions about their life’s purpose, who may consider themselves spiritual but not religious, and who don’t want the ready-made answers sometimes offered by other religious traditions. I have always especially appreciated the fact that if your spiritual searching leads you to new beliefs, in a UU community you don’t have to change congregations when your beliefs change!

Over the next several months (and years) we will be exploring new ways to reach people who share our values but haven’t been to our programs, groups, or Sunday services yet. Especially in a university town, there can be a lot of appeal in a community that encourages free thinking and spiritual exploration and taking action for social justice and healing the earth.

We will also be looking to leverage interest as we become the “greenest church in Iowa” to reach out to the community and develop partnerships with those interested in sustainability and natural areas as well. For example, there is a program called Abundant Safari (www.abundantsafari.com) in the Iowa City area that offers a list of destinations for children and adults who want to explore naturally abundant places in the community. We could get our land added as one of the destinations for people to explore and discover.

As we look at the theme of “Story” in our November Sunday services and Covenant Groups, may we imagine new ways to tell our stories and the UUSIC story. It will take creativity from a diverse group of us together to reach more people about what is unique and compelling about belonging to our UU community, as we live out our values, touch hearts, change lives, and transform the world.

—Peggy Garrigues

November Birthdays

Please wish the following members and friends a happy birthday this month!

Jeanette Carter
Dixie Cassady
Rachel Clark
Stephen Dunbar
Ava Su Gan-Wei
Gail Garwood
Joel Gilbertson-White
Kenn Hubel
Noah Johnson
Clare Lanaghan
Judy Leavitt

Jane Miller
Ruth Muir
Cecile Owings
Emma Peterschmidt
Paul Pomrehn
Jonathan Raley
Rai Tokuhisa
Hudson Turner
Tova Vitiello
Kirk Witzberger
From Your Administrator

Have you logged into your Realm account recently? Is it up to date? We’re still asking all members and friends to:

• Set up a login if they haven’t already.
• Confirm their contact information (and their family’s) and set each individual item (address, phone, etc.) as PUBLIC if they want those items to show up in the online member directory.
• Join Realm groups that they’re already a member of, and express interest in any they’d like to join.
• Make a pledge through Realm for the 2017 Operating Budget and/or STEM Fund if they haven’t already done so by mail.
• Look over their giving history in Realm and be sure they are on track for any pledge giving to the 2016 Operating Budget and Capital Campaign.
• Set up online giving (recurring or one-time) for any of our various funds and budget lines.

Realm is only useful if we use it, and we’d love for a majority of the congregation to have all of the above completed by the end of the year. Some of these items are important enough that we’ll be doing one-on-one follow-up with members who have not completed them, so please help make the process easier and tackle them on your own if you can!

As always, let me or Bailey know if you have questions or need help with any of these items (or anything else Realm or UUSIC-related!).

Fireside Choir Spotlight: Damian Pieper

Have you ever taken a hike in the woods, strolled through a prairie, or scaled a rocky hillside? Without a doubt you encountered at least one mushroom species. Did you ask, “I wonder if that mushroom is edible?” After picking the mushroom and examining it you probably remembered not to scratch your eye, cover your mouth when coughing, or eat your picnic lunch before washing your hands—just in case. If you would have been on this outing with Damian Pieper you would not have had to question the safety of the mushroom, as Damian is a mycologist (i.e., the branch of biology concerned with the study of fungi). Furthermore, your hike, stroll, or scale would have been called a “foray.”

Damian’s interest in mushrooms began as a five-year-old growing up on the 120-acre family farm in Mt. Hamill, Iowa. It all started during an especially wet year in 1946 which was very hospitable to mushroom growth. He claims, “Mushrooms were my favorite toys as a child.” Over the years Damian has eaten over a hundred varieties of native mushrooms, and in his many years of experience, not one person he knows has experienced mushroom poisoning.

Damian arrived in Iowa City in 1961 to attend the University of Iowa. In 1967 he bought his home with an acre of land and immediately went to work creating an edible landscape out of what he called “a mud pit except for a few wild plum trees.” Don’t think he was solely dedicated to urban agriculture, as Damian’s life has taken him to many places and provided him with many experiences. Traveling the continental United States has taken him to every state except Alaska, Hawaii, and South Carolina. Many of his trips turned into extended stays: a month each in Miami and Fort Lauderdale, four months in Oklahoma City, three months in the San Francisco bay area, a month in San Antonio, and this is only a partial list. Favorite sites include Niagara Falls (three visits) and two visits to Yellowstone National Park. He has been as far North as Quebec, Canada, and as far South as Mexico City. Europe? For sure: Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Switzerland, and Italy. Accommodations include stays with friends and relatives, but his favorite resting spot is “sleeping with the sound of the surf on a beach, beside a tree-nest of singing screech owls, sleeping anywhere outdoors lulled by a symphony of the songs of tree frogs, crickets, and other creatures of the night.”

Music is an important aspect of Damian’s life. He sings baritone/bass with the Fireside Choir and enjoys the broad range of compositions and musical styles that provide challenges. Benefits include learning from choir directors that “coach,” and working with fine accompanists like Dr. Jonathan Tauscheck. The continuity of the choir make-up is an additional benefit, as fellow singers have become treasured friends. Damian is no stranger to the keyboard and has on numerous occasions played before choir rehearsal starts. In 1980 he sang leads in three productions of the Iowa City Community Theater: “Oklahoma,” “The Sound of Music,” and “Beauty and the Beast”—for a total of 75 performances!

When asked about his favorite music he said, “I am especially fond of ragtime but like all kinds of music with the exception of Bebop. Can’t stand the stuff!” This Renaissance man finds pleasure in taking courses at the Senior Center, collects old sheet music, stained glass windows, and reed organs. For as long as he can remember he has been a seeker of truth.

Damian is available and willing to lead field trips or forays. Iowa’s famous morel season is an option, or any other time of the year is possible. After a personal jaunt with Damian to dig Jack-in-the-Pulpit plants, I can guarantee no plant or fungi will go unnamed.

Contact him at damianrpieper@yahoo.com.

—Submitted by Your Music Director, Gloria Corbin
Upcoming Events

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11/1</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Social Justice Coordinating</td>
<td>Oakdale House</td>
<td>Diane Martin (351-7616, <a href="mailto:dianemartin@mchsi.com">dianemartin@mchsi.com</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/2</td>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Green Sanctuary Committee</td>
<td>Oakdale House</td>
<td>Deb Schoelerman (594-2373, <a href="mailto:dschoelerman@gmail.com">dschoelerman@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/3</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Kriitán</td>
<td>Sycamore Rooms (2412 Towncrest Dr, IC)</td>
<td>Andy Douglas (<a href="mailto:andy.c.douglas@gmail.com">andy.c.douglas@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Thursdays 11/3, 10, &amp; 17</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Sanctuary Church</td>
<td>Gloria Corbin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11/6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daylight Savings Time Ends (Adjust your clocks!)</td>
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<td>Sundays 11/6 &amp; 20</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle</td>
<td>Oakdale House</td>
<td>Alison Oliver (<a href="mailto:alison-oliver@uiowa.edu">alison-oliver@uiowa.edu</a>)</td>
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<td>Sundays 11/6, 13, &amp; 20</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>Children’s Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Sanctuary Church</td>
<td>Gloria Corbin (338-5012, <a href="mailto:cgcorbin@mchsi.com">cgcorbin@mchsi.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Mondays 11/7, 14, 21, &amp; 28</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Buddhist Sangha</td>
<td>Oaknoll (1 Oaknoll Ct.)</td>
<td>Brian Glidewell (<a href="mailto:brianandmark711@msn.com">brianandmark711@msn.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/10</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>UU Board Meeting</td>
<td>105 Iowa Ave. (Suite 231)</td>
<td>Kelly O’Berry (541-0326, <a href="mailto:kelly-oberyi@uiowa.edu">kelly-oberyi@uiowa.edu</a>)</td>
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<td>Friday 11/11</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>UUSIC Free Lunch Program</td>
<td>1105 Gilbert Ct.</td>
<td>Sherry Dolash (358-2546, <a href="mailto:bridge_2_learning@yahoo.com">bridge_2_learning@yahoo.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Sunday 11/13</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Vegetarian Community Brunch</td>
<td>Trumpet Blossom Cafe (10 E Prentiss St, IC)</td>
<td>Carol Throckmorton (337-3030, <a href="mailto:carolthrockmorton108@msn.com">carolthrockmorton108@msn.com</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11/13</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Dances of Universal Peace</td>
<td>Eastside Recycling (2401 Scott Blvd. SE, IC)</td>
<td>Virginia Melroy (338-1778, <a href="mailto:virginia-melroy@uiowa.edu">virginia-melroy@uiowa.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11/14</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>UU Book Discussion Group</td>
<td>Oaknoll (735 George St.)</td>
<td>Mary Lou Welter (354-1231, <a href="mailto:welteremig@hotmail.com">welteremig@hotmail.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/16</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>UU Grief Group</td>
<td>Oakdale House</td>
<td>Gail Garwood (<a href="mailto:ggarwood42@gmail.com">ggarwood42@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/17</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>UU Scrabble Group</td>
<td>Kim &amp; Lula Palmer’s (803 McCollister Ct.)</td>
<td>Gary Lawrenson (936-1291, <a href="mailto:glawrenson@mchsi.com">glawrenson@mchsi.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/17</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Special Needs Committee</td>
<td>Oakdale House</td>
<td>Rochelle Honey-Arcement (<a href="mailto:Rochelle.r.honey@gmail.com">Rochelle.r.honey@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11/18</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>December UU News Submission Deadline</td>
<td>Oakdale House</td>
<td>Emma Barnum (337-3443, <a href="mailto:uusic.office@gmail.com">uusic.office@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/24</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving (Office Closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11/28</td>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Girls' Night Out</td>
<td>The Vine (39 2nd Street, Coralville)</td>
<td>Carol Throckmorton</td>
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PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) Investment Meeting, October 30th

After the service on Sunday, October 30th, Barry R. Shear, CEO and President of Eagle Point Solar, joined us to explain the advantages of UUSIC setting up and running our own PPA to finance the solar array at our new facility. Mr. Shear shared the history of PPAs in Iowa and the potential investment dividends for our members and friends, who will have the opportunity to invest in the PPA and, at the same time, offer a lower electrical rate to UUSIC. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com.

Vegetarian Community Celebrates World Vegan Day, November 1st

To celebrate World Vegan Day on Tuesday, November 1st, the Vegetarian Community will meet at 6 pm for a Dine Out at Red’s Alehouse (405 N. Dubuque Street, North Liberty). if you would like to attend, please make your reservation with Carol Throckmorton at carolthrockmorton108@msn.com or 337-3030.
Upcoming Events, cont'd

175th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration, November 6th
Sunday, November 6th, marks our congregation’s 175th anniversary, an event worth celebrating! Our Sunday service on the 6th, “A Light on the Prairie,” will highlight the earliest days of our UUSIC community (which was then USIC, for in 1841 our little congregation was simply the Universalist Society of Iowa City). Following the service, we will have an anniversary reception during social hour, with cake and other treats, to launch a year filled with anniversary events.

Singing Bowl Meditation, November 8th & 28th
Judi Clinton will host a Singing Bowl Meditation on the second Tuesday (6 pm) and 4th 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 (judiclinton@gmail.com or 541-6957) to reserve your space.

Green Sanctuary Event: “Community Rights: Roots & Split Ends,” November 12th
Corporate anthropologist, activist, and writer Jane Anne Morris will be at the Coralville Public Library on Saturday, November 12th, at 1:30 pm for a talk on “Community Rights: Roots and Split Ends.” This program is co-sponsored by UUSIC’s Green Sanctuary Committee, the 100Grannies Community Rights Working Group, and numerous other environmental groups. Join us in an exploration of what we can do when we free ourselves from the colonization of our lives and minds that “conventional activism” brings.

Coming of age during the Viet Nam War, Jane Anne has been active in a wide range of issues: antiwar, environment, U.S. intervention in Central America, human rights, police brutality, and labor organizing, Morris currently lives in Madison, Wisconsin. Her book, Gaveling Down the Rabble: How “Free Trade” is Stealing Our Democracy, explains the century-old domestic “free trade” zone within the United States. Gaveling was cited in an amicus brief (for the good guys) in the Citizens United case. More about Morris’s writings and views can be found at her blog site, Democracy Theme Park (democracythemepark.org).

CUUPs Ancestors Ritual, November 12th
We gather to honor those who came before us ... We who descend of their blood and through their power join to unlock the gates between this world and the next. We call out their names and hear them echo through space and time .... We invite them to join us once more for a ritual meal together. Will they answer? Please join us for a ritual meal on Saturday, November 12th, to honor our ancestors. The meal, lovingly prepared by the gathered, will be served in three courses and eaten in silence. Toasts will be made, and blessings shared, until it is time for our guests to leave us once again.

This ritual is intended for adults and mature youth (must be able to sit/eat in silence for up to 20 minutes). An RSVP by November 7th is required for attendance so we can set the table for the meal. You will receive additional information on when to arrive and what to bring in response to your RSVP. Please contact Marsha Cheyney (marshacheyney@gmail.com or 321-2307) with your RSVP and any questions or concerns.

Expanded Ministry Workshop, November 13th
On Sunday, November 13th, after a brief service we will have an Expanded Ministry Workshop. Lori Emison-Clair will be leading us as we continue to dream together and discover more ways to live out our mission and our vision. Please mark this event on your calendar and plan to attend. Childcare will be available as this event is scheduled to last until 4 pm. Please contact Trudy Gullette to arrange for childcare: t.a.gullette@gmail.com.

Secular Humanists, November 15th
We often hear someone exclaim, “It’s a miracle!” Just this year we’ve seen Mother Teresa made a saint on the strength of two “verified” miracles. A certain presidential candidate “miraculously” endured in spite of withering controversy. Do miracles really happen all the time? What exactly makes a miracle anyway? Join the UU Secular Humanists for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 15th, at 7:30 pm in the Common Room at Old Brick, when Peter Nothnagle will discuss “The Truth About Miracles.”

New-member Ceremony and Reception, November 20th
A New-member Covenant Ceremony will be held during the service on Sunday, November 20th, followed by a special reception during social hour. Please plan to attend and welcome our newest members!

Chalice Society New Member Recognition, December 4th
The Chalice Society is composed of individuals who have made plans to leave a deferred gift to UUSIC. “Deferred gift” refers to the many ways in which members and friends can make a charitable gift to our church, such as a bequest, trust, annuity, or life insurance policy. During the Sunday service on Sunday, December 4th, the newest members of the Chalice Society will be recognized and honored. There will be a reception following the service.
**Committee Reports & News**

**Operating Budget Campaign Update**
Thanks to everyone who has turned in a pledge card or pledged via Realm. During the first week of November the Stewardship Committee plus some other volunteers will begin contacting those we have not heard from. Our Board needs to create an operating budget for 2017, and the congregation will vote on it in mid-December. So please get those pledges in! If you have questions or concerns, please contact me (351-7616 or dndmartin1@mchsi.com).

—Dave Martin

**Land Ministry**
At the Land Ministry workshop in May, we brainstormed many ways to use and care for the land we have. We identified six areas of ministry to address all our ideas:

1. **Edible Landscape:** This committee will focus on the community garden and other edible trees and plants on the property.
2. **Woodland Management:** This committee’s focus will include our wooded areas, trails, birding areas, and wildlife.
3. **Building Landscape:** This committee will address the landscaping needs for the areas immediately surrounding the building, including the back patio as a potential outdoor wedding space.
4. **Outdoor Play and Recreation:** This committee will focus on outdoor play space such as a natural playground, an outdoor classroom, camping space, and open areas for outdoor sports.
5. **Worship & Meditative Spaces:** This committee’s focus will include a labyrinth, outdoor worship space, and a memorial garden.
6. **Education and Outreach:** This committee will create and plan opportunities to use all of our outdoor spaces to educate both members and the public.

Volunteers will be needed to serve in these areas and to help clarify more specifics about what each area needs and how they fit together in the overall land design. We will continue to have opportunities for the congregation to learn about our plans and designs as they develop, and to give input.

The Land Ministry will have an information table set up after worship most Sundays in November. Stop by the table to learn more and to volunteer, or contact Deb Schoelerman (dschoelerman@gmail.com) or Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org).

—Deb Schoelerman & Peggy Garrigues

**New Facilities Committee**

**Construction Update**
The geo-thermal tubing installation is almost complete. The tubes are going in at depths of 15, 30, and 45 feet. The concrete has been poured for the RE wing and the office wing. Wood has been delivered for the walls of the RE and office wings, and the steel beams should be delivered by the end of October.

Ron Pile and Admin. Assistant Bailey Kelley are maintaining three time-lapse cameras at different vantage points around the property. Footage from the cameras will be assembled and made available at the end of construction. Administrator Emma Barnum is taking weekly photographs of the construction progress to share in the weekly emails and on the UUSIC Facebook page.

The construction site is now live and dangerous. While all are welcome to visit the property and view the progress from outside the orange construction fence, no one aside from construction workers is allowed inside the fence. More No Entry signs will be posted soon to alert the public of the dangers. There will also be signage coming soon that identifies this site as the future home of UUSIC.

**NFC Update**
The New Facilities Committee continues working on action items and answering follow-up questions regarding the new building. Sue Otto and Emma Barnum met with the AV subcontractor to plan the sound and video systems needed for the sanctuary and the rest of the building. Theresa Ullerich and her team are working on the design and implementation of the Donor Recognition art piece. NFCers are also working to address questions surrounding the kitchen, building signage, security & telephone needs, custodial care, and several other areas where planning work still needs to be done. The NFC is also starting to think about new or updated policies and procedures needed for the new facilities, as well as planning for a second Transition Team to organize and facilitate the actual move next summer. If you would like to help with either effort, please let us know!

Deb Schoelerman met with Amy Foster about planning the three bio-retention cells on the property. We will be seeking volunteers in the spring to help with planting of the native flowers. She has also submitted the application for cost-share program with the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District to help with the cost of the bio cells.

The Aesthetics Committee will be meeting in November and will begin to look at furniture needs for the sanctuary, the conference room, the fellowship hall, and the classrooms. As much as possible, we will reuse the furniture that we have.

For questions, please feel free to talk to any one of the members of the NFC: Deb Schoelerman, Adam Ingersoll, Sue Otto, Jane DeWitt, Steve Locher, Jeffrey Ford and Kirk Witzberger.

—Deb Schoelerman & Emma Barnum
Committee Reports & News, cont’d

Covenant Groups
In our October meetings, members shared their views on “Racial Justice.” We began our conversations by acknowledging the uncomfortable truth of white privilege, a necessary step toward eliminating it and creating an equal society with justice for all. Acknowledging white privilege is not about blaming but “about finding ways of seeing an entire system of racial bias in our society—a system that is bigger than any one of us. When we work to see how that system plays out in our lives, it is then that we can begin to empower ourselves to bring about positive changes toward equality.” This month we’re investigating the power of “Story.” Story is central to our lives in many ways. We all read and watch stories for entertainment but also for information about the world we live in. And we tell stories about our own lives, both to ourselves and to others. Do these stories control us, determine the directions our lives take, or do we actively shape them, creating our lives and influencing the world around us as we go? The tension between these two views reveals the great power Story has for each one of us.

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, locherj@mchsi.com).

—Phil Beck

Social Justice Coordinating Committee—UU Serving Together

Monthly Agency Nominations
The nominations are in and it’s time to make choices! Starting Sunday, November 6th, you (friends and members) may vote either on Sundays or online for twelve agencies to receive our cash/designated checks for 2017-2020. As of this writing, we have 29 agencies for you to choose from. The ballot will have the agencies and brief description of their work. You may vote for up to 12. Please be careful—ballots with more than 12 selections will be discarded. Watch the Wednesday email and/or the website for electronic ballots or stop by the SJCC table on Sundays to vote on paper. Voting will continue until Sunday, December 4th.

Recent CRC Winter Clothing Drive
The annual distribution was held in three locations on October 15th: Iowa City, North Liberty, and Coralville. About 1,100 individuals chose winter coats and other warm clothing. UUSIC participated with members’ clothing donations, and Jane Slaymaker, Jeanette Carter, Mary McMurray, Nita Kosier, and Gay Mikelson volunteered at the Coralville site. Diane Martin, Pete Brokaw, and Gay provided snacks and drinks for the guests. Thanks to all who volunteered.

Project Holiday
This year UUSIC will again participate in Project Holiday, a series of community events and projects to ensure everyone in Johnson County enjoys a happy holiday season. Please see the back of the calendar insert for details on some of the upcoming opportunities. —Gay Mikelson & Diane Martin

Partner Church
In its latest issue, the UU Partner Church News published this item by Melinda Simo, wife of the minister of our partner church in Janosfalva, Romania, about her experiences at the U-U Women’s Convention in Houston, Texas, in 2009:

For me, the Houston Convocation was an emotional and a restructuring experience. An experience is like a snow globe: It needs time to resettle. Time has helped to provide a lens on things, and now I can say that it strengthened my faith in my pursuit of dreams. One must dream and act for their dreams. The logo of the second convocation held in Marosvasahely, Transylvania, in 2012 was created by a friend of mine. To this day, we refer to it as a ‘smart second.’ Whenever I look at that logo, I feel strengthened in the belief that we can do a lot for our communities, but the greatest community of all is Earth.

By the way, Joe Brisben and Mary Kathryn Wallace, who have been leading our partner church effort, feel that at their age it is time to step down. We have plenty of people willing to help but no one willing to lead. If you are willing to lead this important function in the lifeblood of our society, please contact them or the office. —Mary Kathryn Wallace

Free Lunch Program (FLP)
Thanks so much to all who prepared, cooked, and served 119 patrons at Free Lunch on Friday, October 14th. Our team made great use of donated pre-cooked, frozen chicken breasts and made chicken enchiladas for a grateful crowd. As the holiday months are upon us, the Free Lunch Team will endeavor to create some special meals that remind patrons of the joys of the season. We are always appreciative of new volunteers, regular volunteers, and those who have been with Free Lunch for up to 30 years. If you are not yet on the Free Lunch email list, reach out to Diana Miller at dkmilleriowa@gmail.com. Our next Free Lunch date is Friday, November 11th.

—Carmen Griggs, Diane Miller & Leigh Nida
Gay Mikelson

Gay Mikelson first arrived on the scene in 1971, when her then-husband, Tom, was selected as our minister. They had three small children, Dana, Kelly, and Joel. Gay immediately thrust herself into the life of the Society: her first accomplishment was sewing carpet samples into a 9’ x 12’ rug for the nursery. In the early 1970’s she co-taught the first high school sexuality course, “About Your Sexuality,” which was a year-long weekly class. At the end of the course, she and several other adults took the youth to the Boundary Waters.

She has served in many capacities during her 45 years as a UU. She taught RE for several years; was on the first Aesthetics Committee with Virginia Stamler and others; was Landscape chair for many years; and was one of three who started the UU involvement in Free Lunch in 1986. She has continued to be a strong participant in Free Lunch. Gay was the Building and Grounds trustee and later became Vice-president and President of the Board of Trustees. As trustee she supervised minor repairs and the semi-annual cleanup of the building. She has been a member of a ministerial search committee and the staff review committee. She has represented UUSIC at meetings of the Consultation of Religious Communities, and provides leadership for the annual CRC winter clothing distribution and Project Holiday gifting.

Social justice is a passion of Gay’s. She is a member of the Social Justice Coordinating Committee and was active in the Interweave Welcoming Congregation process. She serves as treasurer of SJCC, oversees the account, prepares vouchers for the contributions we send to our designated agencies, and makes monthly and annual reports. In addition to these activities, Gay has always been a willing volunteer to help with dinners, auctions, and tasks that need attention. She feels she has given a gift to all by not singing in the choir.

Beyond UUSIC, community involvement has been an important part of Gay’s life. It began when as a college freshman she and a friend helped with an after-school program in a neighborhood center. In Iowa City she has been active in Shelter House, serving on its board and coordinating its annual UU benefit luncheon. For over a decade, Gay collected household items and passed them on to individuals and families in need.

In recognition of her many achievements in community service, she was awarded the Governor’s Volunteer award in 2010. An avid women’s basketball fan, Gay received the “NCAA Women’s Basketball Volunteer of the Year Award for Iowa” in 2013-14.

The UUSIC recognized Gay’s many contributions to church and community by naming her the recipient of the Evans Worthley Social Justice Award in 2014.

In presenting the Life Member Award, we recognize and celebrate Gay’s many accomplishments and cherish her presence among us.

Virginia Stamler

Virginia and Fred Stamler came to the UU Society (Church at that time) after attending a funeral of their landlady, Carrie Bartlett, done by Evans Worthly. Fred and Virginia lived in her upstairs apartment. They both liked the humanism of Worthly and became members in 1952.

Virginia taught Sunday School and gathered furniture for the nursery in the 1950s, and she painted both the furniture and the walls. She also made and hung curtains to help with the sun in the rooms.

She, Mary Kane, Gay Mikelson, and some others made up the Aesthetics Committee. Some of their projects over the years included such things as scrapping old glued-down carpeting from the back stairs and painting the Hendriksen Library and other rooms. She worked with others the many times the sanctuary needed cleaning—especially the rafters. She also supervised the cleaning from the misguided painting and repair of the windows in the sanctuary and the large window in the back. That back window also required releading of the glass.

Virginia came back after Mary Kane’s death to work with Deb Schoelerman to deconstruct and reconstruct the kitchen to the status it was when UUSIC moved out of the Gilbert Street building.

Virginia held other leadership positions as well. She served on the Board of Trustees as Secretary in 1979. She was very active in the Women’s Federation/Alliance, where she held major positions over many years. She regularly volunteered for the Men’s Club (Worthly Club), preparing meals for its monthly meetings. She remembers hiring babysitters for the afternoon and evening and having fun preparing and serving the meals.

Virginia was ready to jump in and help wherever needed. At one point, members of the congregation were involved in a project to help First Nation persons with medical conditions who had to stay overnight in the area for treatment. There were some sheets, towels, and washcloths collected from our congregation that needed to be delivered to a place in Phoenix, Arizona. Virginia and Fred had a trip planned to California, so they decided Phoenix was on the way, and they made the delivery in person.

Virginia and Jan Hubel worked together to make a blue banner representing the UU Society of Iowa City that was used at many District meetings and at General Assembly.

Virginia has a long history of involvement and volunteering here at UUSIC, so she is appropriately honored as a Life Member this year.
Highlights from the Oct. UUSIC Board Meeting

Present: Kelly O’Berry (President), Jim Olson (Past-President), Jim Laughlin (Vice-President), Adam Ingersoll (Treasurer), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Steve Vincent (Trustee), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Kris Barrash (Trustee), Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio), Saunia Powell (DLRE - Ex officio), and Peggy Garrigues (DCL)

Absent: Steve Locher (Trustee)

Guest: Brian Glidewell, representing the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry.

President Kelly O’Berry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 13th. Rev. Steven opened the meeting by asking everyone to share how, in the past month, they had been touched or inspired by their involvement in this congregation.

Announcements: Rev. Steven reminded us of the Shared Ministry Workshop on Sunday, November 13th, and asked that we encourage participation.

Board Retreat: All board members, including Rev. Steven and staff members Peggy Garrigues and Saunia Powell attended the annual retreat, September 25th. The board covenant was renewed and each member shared their dreams for the future of our congregation. A lengthy and lively discussion took place as goals were identified for the coming year—The year we move into our new home! Board members formed subgroups that are working post-retreat to refine a set of goals (including action steps and achievement measures) for the year.

Consent Agenda: Monthly staff reports, board minutes, financial statements, 2016-2017 proposed goals, annual budget campaign update, Capital Campaign Committee report, staff search policy, and revised parental leave policy were received for review prior to the meeting. The board approved the minutes from the September 8th board and the October 6th executive committee meetings. Ingersoll reported that the staff and NFC recently had a good meeting and that tasks were divided up.

Bylaw Revisions: O’Berry outlined potential bylaw revisions to present at the upcoming congregational meeting. The only change that will be forwarded relates to staff as members of the board. Voelker and O’Berry will each provide alternative wording for the revision. This will be discussed and the wording finalized at the November board meeting.

Parental Leave Policy, 2nd reading: The board approved, with minor changes, the parental leave policy.

Program Councils: O’Berry reported that the board liaisons nominated by the executive committee to the program councils all agreed to serve. They are: Ministry: Steven Locher, Congregational Life: Steven Vincent, and Religious Education: Kris Barrash.

Land Ministry Charge and Committee Structure: Garrigues presented a document outlining the mandate and structure of the Land Ministry Committee (LMC). The Building and Grounds Committee will remain separate. A LMC table will be up during social hour through November 6th, to inform the congregation and to recruit leaders and members of the six newly formed subcommittees.

Renaming/Branding: The board agreed that as many members as possible need to participate in the renaming process. Also discussed was the need for research and potentially input from an expert in “branding.” While a decision needs to be reached soon, concern was raised that we not hurry a vote. O’Berry will talk with Jeanette Carter about these issues.

O’Berry invited guest and process observer comments. The Board adjourned at 8:56 pm to a closed session.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary
Our Mission Statement: We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.
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*Look for new events, updates or cancellations, and event details on the calendar at uusic.org.*
**Project Holiday**

The annual events and projects of sharing will be taking place again this year, and some will happen about the time the December newsletter is published, so here’s an early heads up. We’ll give more details in Wednesday emails and at the SJCC table—watch for them.

**Homeless Children’s Trust Party: Saturday, December 10th, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Moose Club**
Sponsored by HACAP & Mary Larew. Information about volunteering to follow.
- Cash donations are needed.
- Toiletry items and sweatshirts for teens.
- Toys, games, books, mittens for younger children.

**Gifts for Parents: Saturday, December 3rd, from 9 am to 12 pm at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church**
Sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities. UUSIC will have a box for gifts starting on November 13th.
Please bring new or gently used gifts for adults, especially men (no clothes). Suggestions: tools, jewelry, kitchen gadgets, wallets, Hawkeye items, flashlights, etc. Use your imagination!
Volunteers needed:
- * On Friday, December 2nd from 9 am to 1 pm: Help set up tables of gifts at St. Mark’s.
- * On Saturday, December 3rd: Help 3 to 14 year-olds shop at St. Mark’s for adults in their lives.
- * On Saturday, December 3rd: Wrap gifts children have chosen.
All will enjoy a pancake breakfast all morning, provided by St. Mark’s men, a tradition.

**Gifts for UUSIC Circle of Friends Families**
Specific gift suggestions for each member of the two families will be available at the SJCC table at a later date.

**Holiday Meals**
Sponsored by the Crisis Center. Take a card from the UU Christmas tree and send a check to provide holiday food for a family.

Other suggestions for holiday giving may come up.