



THE UUS NEWS

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

August
2018

Sunday Services

Services begin at 9:30 am, followed by a social hour

Summer Service Theme: *The Quest for Truth*

August 5th: "This I Believe," Kim and Lula Palmer

Truth—what a huge, enormous, and sometimes complicated topic to address. What is the truth? What should we believe? Or rather, what do YOU believe? Kim and Lula Palmer will explore our 4th principle, "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning," in the style of Edward R. Murrow's 1950 story-telling program called "This I believe." Kim and Lula will share a few "simple truths" they have acquired throughout their travels, their eye-opening life experiences, and their commitment to Unitarian Universalist principles, these having shaped their beliefs surrounding racial justice, care of the earth, and social activism.

August 12th: "The Wisdom of Uncertainty," Rev. Diane Dowgiert

We never know for sure what the future looks like, at least not with any degree of certainty. Religious thinkers across time and different faith traditions have taught that there are gifts to be discovered in an embrace of uncertainty; opening doors of possibility. What possibilities await as we live through these uncertain times?

August 19th: "Epistemic Humility and Rational Belief," Dr. Richard Fumerton

What response is it rational to have when we discover our peers disagree with us? We know that people just as smart, well-read, and thoughtful as we are have reached conclusions incompatible with ours. Should that knowledge weaken our views or lead us to abandon them entirely? These questions arise for just about anybody engaged in the search for highly theoretical and controversial truths, as University of Iowa philosophy professor Richard Fumerton will discuss.

August 26th: "A Secular Humanist Considers Our 4th Principle," Mark Yuskis

In a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, are we totally free? And, what constitutes a responsible search? Is the "basis" of one's belief more significant than one's actual belief? And then there's truth: enlightenment, skepticism and reason-based, or postmodern dilution?

August Social Justice Offerings Benefit The Free Medical Clinic

The Clinic has recently been able to expand the scope of its diabetic care offerings after receiving a grant from the AMA Foundation. And added to its overall program is prenatal care for uninsured women in our community. This was made possible through an expanded partnership with UIHC Family Medicine.

Begun in 1971, the FMC has been an important part of Iowa City medicine, and a number of UUs have volunteered at the clinic over the years. Through our Sunday service contribution program, we have long supported this vital work. Thanks for your personal generosity.

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

Sunday Attendance for July 1st through July 22nd

July 1st:	215 total: 191 service, 24 RE
July 8th:	137 total: 118 service, 19 RE
July 15th:	159 total: 127 service, 32 RE
July 22nd:	157 total: 135 service, 22 RE

UUS Members & Friends with August Birthdays

<i>Amara Ballantyne</i>	<i>Margaret Kinsman</i>	<i>Abigail Patterson</i>
<i>Aubrey Ballantyne</i>	<i>Garry Klein</i>	<i>Ron Pile</i>
<i>Tim Adamson</i>	<i>Brian Lehan</i>	<i>Teagan Roeder</i>
<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Mackin</i>	<i>Deb Schoelerman</i>
<i>Beaumont</i>	<i>Kiara Malloy-</i>	<i>Nicole Sheldon</i>
<i>Allison Bettine</i>	<i>Salgado</i>	<i>Ada Turner</i>
<i>Peg Bouska</i>	<i>Cari Malone</i>	<i>Dana van der</i>
<i>Jacelyn Cheyney</i>	<i>Cameron Miller</i>	<i>Heide</i>
<i>Peggy Dietrich</i>	<i>Tony Miller</i>	<i>Mira Wilmot-</i>
<i>Aiden Gillespie</i>	<i>Jim Norris</i>	<i>DiCarlo</i>
<i>Al Hood</i>	<i>Julian Oliver-</i>	<i>Star Wojciak</i>
<i>Katrina Ingersoll</i>	<i>Shaw</i>	
<i>Susan Kaliszewski</i>	<i>Kim Palmer</i>	

If you would like your birthday listed in the newsletter (or removed from our list), please contact Peggy: dcl@uusic.org.



From Your Interim Minister's Study

Greetings! It is with joyful anticipation that I begin interim ministry with you. I am eager to get to know your congregation: its history, its traditions, and of course, its people.

There is an old saying that you can never step into

the same river twice. The same can be said for congregations. Gender-exclusive language aside, when the Greek philosopher Heraclitus said "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man," he was speaking to the ever-present reality of change.

As I prepare to step into your congregation, I am aware that with my presence, things will inevitably change. Not only will the congregation change, I will be changed in the process, too. This is the beauty of congregational life. We are all both the changer and the changed. Each time someone new walks

through the doors for the first time or when someone leaves, the congregation changes. Though it endures over time, it is never the same congregation twice.

Interim ministry is intentionally time-limited, one year at least, two at most. The beauty of this arrangement is that it affords the opportunity to bring awareness to the ever-changing nature of the shared life of a spiritual community, taking time to ask, "Who are we now?" and, "Who do we want to become?" The answers to these questions will inform who it is you will call as your next settled minister.

My contract with you begins on August 1st. The month of August will be a time of settling in. My first Sunday in the pulpit is August 12th. Since I am just beginning to learn the particular rhythms and routines of your congregation, I will wait until September to establish regular office hours. During the month of August, Monday will be my "Sabbath" day, a day off, free from church duties, and Friday will be my at-home writing day. You can call or text me at 520-465-8804 or email me at minister@uusic.org.

I am looking forward to taking this journey with you, travelling the waters of change, discovering who you are as a people, deepening relationships within the congregation and the community at large, and sharing the good news of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

From the Interim Ministry Transition Team

Welcome to Rev. Diane Dowgiert! We're excited to have you with us. Rev. Diane comes to us as Interim Minister after more than 17 years of experience in a variety of UU congregational settings. For the past two years she has served as interim minister in Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to that, she spent ten years as the settled minister in Tucson, Arizona. Accompanying her is A.J. Dowgiert, her husband of 43 years, who is now semi-retired following two different careers.

On Sunday, August 5th, there will be a welcome reception for

Rev. Diane following the service, and all are invited. She will not be in the pulpit that day but will be attending as part of the congregation.

The UUS Board, in accordance with UUA procedures, appointed the Interim Ministry Transition Team to assist the Interim Minister in working with the congregation and leadership to achieve a successful and productive two-year interim ministry. The Transition Team will help establish Rev. Diane's schedule and arrange for introductions and appointments during her first weeks at UUS.

The Interim Ministry Transition Team: Diane Martin and Tom McMurray, Co-chairs; Jeanette Carter, Gary Lawrenson, Virginia Melroy, and Pete Brokaw



Introducing Our New Publicity Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Jeff Walberg to be our new Publicity Coordinator. Jeff is a UUS member who joined us in 2003. He has been active on our Publicity Committee and took charge of our recent website redesign. He previously worked for ten years as Director of Web Content at Cornell

College, and has played a wide variety of leadership roles in both community and Unitarian Universalist settings. We welcome him to our UUS staff! In his new job, Jeff will focus on promoting our congregation, events, and rental facilities in the community and online. You can reach him at publicity@uusic.org, or by calling the UUS office.

Reflections from General Assembly: John Bowman

The highlights of the Kansas City General Assembly for me were:

- *The inspiring worship services and music, especially the choirs.*
- *Getting to spend some quality time with other UUSIC members and having dinner with our new interim minister.*
- *The Ware Lecture speech by Brittany Packnett, because she told us what we needed to hear about white privilege.*
- *The workshop "Is Real Democracy Possible?" with Ashi Bolden and Adam Eichen. I was motivated to commit to helping to register more voters in Iowa this year leading up to the November elections.*
- *Joining a gathering of a group of about 60 GA attendees outside the convention hall in answer to Westboro Baptist anti-LGBTQ protestors across the street.*

Congregational News and Events

Sunday Parking At UUS in the Summer

We request that the spaces in our lot be saved for people who need to park close. The two auxiliary parking lots (the Old Hospital Road lot to the south and the Kirkwood parking lot to the north) are both available for excess parking on Sunday mornings, as is the east side of Oakdale Road. There are sidewalks and bike path connections to each lot, and you are welcome to pull up to our front doors to drop off passengers before parking elsewhere. The UUS Shuttle Service to and from the auxiliary lots will resume in September. Please contact Kelly O'Berry (kelly-oberry@uiowa.edu or 541-0326) if you have any questions.

Inquirer Sessions in August

Anyone who wants to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, and our programs is welcome to attend an Inquirer Session, which takes place after each Sunday service, at around 10:40 am in the Conference Room. Feel free to grab some refreshments first and bring them with you. The Inquirer series includes sessions on eight topics. Here is the August schedule:

- **August 5th:** UU101: a brief introduction to UU values and history
- **August 12th:** Introduction to Social Justice Opportunities: meet group leaders of several of our Social Justice groups
- **August 19th:** TBA: possibly a Q&A with Rev. Diane Dowgiert, our new Interim Minister
- **August 26th:** Introduction to Religious Education Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults with Jessica Zimmer, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education

UUS Board of Trustees Meeting, August 9th

The UUS Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting, open to all members, at 6:30 pm on Thursday, August 9th, in the Conference Room. Look for an agenda in the weekly email or on the website before the meeting.

Capital Campaign

Last Call – Donor Recognition

We are getting very close to completing the Building a New Way Capital Campaign which raised over two million dollars to buy our land and build our new facilities. The Campaign began in 2014 and ends in December 2018. If you would like to be recognized for as a campaign contributor, please do so before September 1st so you can be included in the recognition display, which will have a grand unveiling in mid-December.

Meanwhile, if you have not completed your pledge, please try to complete it before the end of December. Every dollar received goes toward our mortgage! Thank you to everyone!



Stewardship Committee

Let's Celebrate Our Shared Commitment On November 4th. Mark Your Calendar

Money, get away ...

Money, it's a gas ...

Money, get back ...

Money, it's a hit ...

Money, it's a crime ...

Money, so they say ...

Pink Floyd articulated its convoluted feelings toward money in its song *Money* and in so doing reflected our own convoluted feelings about money.

The most awkward conversations around the UU society often revolve around money. Yet how are we to thrive and share our vision? Money must be talked about. Throughout October we will be talking about our shared responsibilities o the future of UUS.

The most important event of the campaign will be a celebration of commitment on Sunday, November 4th. We want every member of the congregation to be in attendance. During this service and the reception following, we will celebrate our society, make our financial commitments, and eat cake!

Money, let's talk ...

Money, let's commit ...

Money, let's celebrate!

Land Ministry Update

Landscaping continues. Several hydrangeas and verbenas have been planted on the west side of the building. Hostas and dogwoods have been planted along the NW side of the building. The rain in mid July was very welcome. The buffalo grass, although still short, is visible in many parts of the open areas. UUS has registered with the Good Neighbor Program, a statewide public education campaign out of the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy & Environmental Education. This program aims to reduce unnecessary urban pesticide use and to transform lawn- culture to encourage appreciation of diverse lawns as a way to protect child health, water quality, pets, pollinators, and biodiversity.

Planning for the **labyrinth**, which will be located in the area south of the sidewalk south of the solar array, is well underway. This location was chosen because of accessibility to those with mobility challenges as well as easy access for the public. A date for construction has yet to be determined, but hopefully it will be this fall.

A work day for the **trails and woodlands** is being planned for early fall.

The boulders for the **natural playscape** have been delivered and placed on the slope on the SW corner of the building (pictured left). Construction of the deck, mud kitchen, tables, and stage will begin soon.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have helped to pull weeds or to water plants during the past few weeks. It is greatly appreciated!

Community Garden Update

The UUS community garden is located in the northwest corner of the building. There is a downspout that empties into a drain running underneath the area. The ground cover is crushed limestone. Volunteers built the seven raised beds in February and filled them with a mixture of soil, compost, and peat. The gardens are currently planted using a “Square Foot Garden” plan with vegetables in the long boxes and flowers in the square boxes. Veggies are being donated to the Coralville Food pantry, and members and friends of UUS are free to help themselves to the garden produce.

Art for the garden has been donated by Julia Audelhelm and was installed July 14th with help from Merle Ihne and Lois Hughes. The piece was made by Julia’s mother, an artist, and is made of metal and evokes images of flying birds.

Future plans for the garden include adding a barrier of metal panels and shrubs around the perimeter to deter the deer. The panels are being constructed by Precision Metalworks of Washington, IA. They will feature phrases from the 7 principles and will be finished sometime later this summer and installed with volunteer labor. The panels were funded with memorial funds approved by the board earlier this summer. One handicapped-accessible raised bed will be ordered later this year and will be installed in the NE corner. Hopefully it will be ready for planting next year. Future plans for the garden may also include trellises and seating.

The UUS Community Garden Committee maintains the garden and is always looking for new members. Contact Vicki Siefers at vicki.siefers@gmail.com if you have any interest in joining.

Covenant Groups

In July, groups discussed what “Identity” means to each of us. We all have a sense of who we are, even if we don’t spend a lot of time thinking about it. But what happens when you have to describe yourself to a person you’ve just met? What forms the basis of your sense of identity? Professional or educational accomplishments? Jobs or hobbies? Aspirations? World views? Gender? Family roles? Group membership? Age? Most likely you take all these into account to some extent. But which ones are the most important, which are keys to the identity you think is yours or that you want to project to the world?

This month we pause—groups have no formal meetings—and take time to reflect on our experience with covenant groups over the past year and prepare to commit, if we choose, to our fellow members once again in September. The Covenant Group program offers its 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 this kind of activity intrigues you and you’d like to learn more about covenant groups, please contact Jan Locher (354- 6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

Reflections from General Assembly: Sally Hartman

Some UUs go to General Assembly (GA) because of an ardent search for meaning, and they keep going each year because they feel closer to finding it! The treasures of GA include knock-your-socks-off worship services, unbounded learning opportunities, and poignant UU stories.

The stories are incredible and give you an opportunity to explore life through the perspectives of other UUs. Imagine what it would be like to be wearing a collar and be taunted



Solar Update

The solar array (150 panels on the roof and 280 panels ground mounted) has been generating clean electricity since May 3rd.

Approximately 56 MW of electricity has been produced in this 10-week period. Production of this amount of electricity with fossil fuels would have generated about 75,000 pounds of carbon emissions. The array was designed to produce all of power needed to keep things running in UUS’s all-electric building.

Electricity produced by the array flows through the meters of the Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC). UUS receives a detailed accounting of electricity production and usage every month from the REC. For example, in the May 21st through June 21st reporting period, the system produced 15.5 MWh and UUS consumed 3.4 MWh. The array produced more than UUS needed. In summer months, electricity production will exceed usage. In the winter, the opposite will happen. In the summer, the array’s peak daily production sometimes exceeds 90 KWh.

The solar array, which cost \$330,000, was paid for by a group of UU members who have formed a Limited Liability Company (LLC) named UU Solar. UU Solar owns and maintains the array and sells all of the electricity it produces to UUS at a rate that is 10% lower than the rate Linn County REC charges. Linn County REC purchases excess power produced by the array at a fraction of the retail price for electricity and credits UUS for the excess in its monthly statements. In the last statement, UUS was credited with \$366 for excess production by the array.

A power purchase agreement (PPA) between UU Solar and UUS governs the relationship between the two entities and is currently being reviewed by the UUS Board. This arrangement allows UU Solar “investors” to take advantage of tax credits unavailable to nonprofit organizations and to get some return on investment by selling power to UUS. The PPA addresses plans for UUS to purchase the array at some future date, say 10 years from now, at a depreciated cost. Prior to that, the investors are paid by UUS for the power that the array produces.

This is a financial win-win for both entities. More importantly, this arrangement allows UUS to pursue its aspirational goal to be the Greenest Church in Iowa while seeking “Net Zero” certification through the Living Building Challenge.

by menacing neo-Nazis carrying torches. You could take a trip vicariously with a black woman through the south in 1954. One feels the heartbreak of responding to the tragic shooting of a UU journalist working for a newspaper. What a reward to hear the success in New Jersey, where all 23 churches signed on to be involved in the Sanctuary movement!

General Assembly is truly a gift to those who attend. The power of thousands of UUs working together is palpable and unforgettable. We can feel lucky to be a part of such richness.

Social and Racial Justice News and Events

UUS Racial Justice Circle, August 5th

The Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle (RJC) will meet on Sunday, August 5th, from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the Oak 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 Dave Martin and Peg Bouska at racialjusticechair@uusic.org.

Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC)

Write Here! Write Now! Letter-Writing, August 5th

The Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ), a national UU organization based in Washington, DC, has an initiative called *Write Here! Write Now!*, which SJCC has begun participating in. UUSJ advocates close to DC politics choose a timely topic every month, and congregations from across the nation write letters, which are collected, sorted by state, and hand-delivered by the advocates for the biggest impact. We will announce the topics each month, write our letters together at a table after services, then end them to the advocates to be delivered. A flood of letters influences politicians.

In July we sent in almost 30 handwritten letters urging our Senators to vote against legislation on child detainment. Join us during social hour on Sunday, August 5th, for the next letter-writing campaign. Make your voice heard as part of a national wave of UUs siding with love.

Supply Drive for DVIP in August

The mission of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) is to provide comprehensive support and advocacy services to victim/survivors, focusing on immediate and long-term safety, empowerment, dignity, and hope. DVIP provides services to victim/survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

They are currently in need of supplies. Items needed include: diapers and wipes, coffee and coffee filters, deodorant, cooking oil and sprays, baby formula, African American hair products, underwear (new adult and children's), and Hy-Vee gift cards.

Please bring these items to UUS starting Sunday, August 5th. Add these to your shopping list, please!

Next SJCC Meeting, August 7th

The Social Justice Coordinating Committee (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, August 7th, at 7 pm in the Conference Room. Contact socialjustice@uusic.org to get more information about the committee.

Green Sanctuary Committee, August 7th

The Green Sanctuary Committee invites you to join us from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Conference Room the first Tuesday of each month as we collaborate on ways to live our 7th Principle (respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part) in the life of our church community, in our personal lives, and in our world.

UU Free Lunch Program, August 10th

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. If you want to join the team, email Diana Miller at dkmilleriowa@gmail.com. Our next service day is Friday, August 10th, at 11 am.

On Friday, the 13th of July, the UUS Free Lunch team served 158 meals of mexican casserole, mixed vegetables, green salad, fruit salad, and desserts to very happy diners. Of particular interest on this hot July day were the ice cream and ice-cold drinks. UUS members of two covenant groups led by Vicki Siefers and Phil Beck prepared the casserole, which had seasoned ground beef, onions, and beans on the bottom and a cheesy cornbread topping. Thanks to all who donated food, time, and energy.

Racial Justice Circle Forum, August 19th

The Racial Justice Study/Action Circle will sponsor a forum on Sunday, August 19th, at 11 am in the Sanctuary. The focus will be a response to the disturbing results of research conducted in the local school district regarding the well-being of kids of color in our school system. Local leaders of color have requested mentoring and tutoring as one way to counter some of these issues. Options will be presented including ideas from representatives of three local organizations: Dream Center, Neighborhood Centers and Big Brother/Big Sister. Please join us!

Reflections from General Assembly: Peggy Garrigues

This year was the fourth UU General Assembly (GA) I have attended. I went last year to GA in New Orleans, and previously I had attended GA twice when I was on staff at the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

This year I started off gathering with about 30 UU Membership Professionals from around the country. We had time to get to know each other better, and we had a presentation on keeping people engaged in our congregations. I will be having discussion with our own Membership Associates about some of the ideas from that gathering.

It was wonderful to have 12 of us from UUS at GA this year in Kansas City! We definitely didn't spend all of our time together, but it was great to have an opportunity to check in with each other throughout the week and to meet Rev. Diane Dowgiert, our new Interim Minister.

I stayed at the home of a local UU who is a civil rights lawyer and had some great conversations with her (and I also enjoyed her two cute dogs). I attended workshops that focused on multiracial community and leadership, resisting oppression by working to get UUs and allies elected to local and state government, and ways to combine social justice and caring for the environment through earth justice projects. That last session was led the authors of Justice on Earth, which is the next book in the UU Common Read series. The worship was inspiring, and the music was amazing and in a variety of styles, led sometimes by choir, sometimes by jazz band, sometimes in more of a folk style.

We hope to coordinate a Sunday forum soon to share more of the experiences from those who attended GA this year.

Interest & Activity Groups & UUS Events

Buddhist Sangha, Mondays in August

The Sangha gathers every Monday evening at 7 pm at Oaknoll for silent meditation and discussion of contemporary Buddhist teachings. We are currently discussing the book *Seeking the Heart of Wisdom: The Path of Insight Meditation*, by Goldstein and Kornfield. To find out more, contact Cindy Spading (buddhistsangha@uusic.org).

Friends of Friends, August 5th

Friends of Friends is a support group where people with a disability and their friends and caregivers can swap stories and share coping skills. We meet on the first Sunday of the month at 11 am in the Hickory Room. To learn more, contact Michael or Rochelle Honey-Arcement at accessibility@uusic.org.

Kiirtan, August 6th

The next Kiirtan will be held on Monday, August 6th, from 6 to 7 pm at the Sycamore Rooms in the basement of Acupuncture of Iowa (2412 Towncrest Dr). Kiirtan is a combination of music and spiritual practice—it is the chanting or singing of a certain phrase that is charged with meaning. Kiirtan uplifts the spirit, calms the mind, and opens the heart. It is a wonderful prelude for meditation and a good practice in its own right. It can be combined with a variety of instruments (we'll start out with guitar) and also with dance. Done within a group of people, powerful healing energy is generated. For more information, contact Andy Douglas at kiirtan@uusic.org.

CUUPs Crafts & Handwork Social, August 8th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for a quarterly craft-night, Wednesday, August 8th, from 6:30 to 9 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to bring your own hand-work (knitting, crochet, cross-stitch, or any other portable craft) or plan to partake in a planned craft. This quarter we will be painting mandala rocks. No childcare will be provided, but children over the age of 8 are invited to attend and participate with the adults. Arrive at 6:30 to greet other participants; a grounding ceremony and craft instructions will begin at 6:45. Contact Dawn Marshall at materurasum@gmail.com or 430-1338 if you have questions.

Nature's Healing Connections, August 11th and 25th

The natural world keeps in balance through nonverbal sensory attraction relationships. In much of the time that we spend indoors and in human-focused environments, we are over-stimulated in some ways and under-stimulated in others. Through outdoor exercises that gently stimulate your senses, become more aware of your nonverbal wisdom. Align yourself more with the natural world by rediscovering some of your more than 50 different ways of sensing in nature.

Peggy Garrigues took two years of ecopsychology classes that led to a Certificate in "Educating and Counseling with Nature" through Project NatureConnect. She is offering two different introductory sessions from 9:30 to 11 am on Saturday mornings in August. The session on Saturday, August 11th, is geared toward adults and older youth and will start in the Conference Room. The session on Saturday, August 25th, will be geared for interested people of all ages (children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult) and will begin in the Maple Room. You are welcome to attend either one or both. Dress for being outdoors at least some of the time, no matter the weather. A link to sign up will appear in upcoming weekly emails, or contact Peggy at dcl@uusic.org.

Freethinker Friendly Congregation Q&As, August 12th & 26th

On Sundays, August 12th and 26th, there will be an information table set up in the Fellowship Hall after the services so that the congregation can ask questions about the Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation.

Vegetarian Community, August 12th

Jake Gratzon, owner of the Old Capitol Food Company, has invited us to "Making Tofu" on Sunday, August 12th, at 2 pm. He will educate us about the tofu-making process from fresh, locally grown soybeans through to the end product. There will be tasting of fresh tofu, as well as their new product, "Mayu," a vegan mayonnaise made from tofu. The address is 3569 Dolphin Drive SE, Iowa City. Reservations are required due to space limitations in their facility. Contact Carol Throckmorton at 337-3030 or vegcommunity@uusic.org.

This event will follow the Second Sunday Lunch at the Trumpet Blossom Café (310 E. Prentiss, Iowa City) at noon. Lunch reservations are also required.

UUS Board Game Club, August 14th

Join us for an evening of gaming on Tuesday, August 14th, from 6 to 9 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Administrator Emma Barnum will share her collection of modern board games (Anomia, Mysterium, Azul, and many more). Don't worry if you've never heard of any of those—she has a wide variety of games with different learning curves and accessibility levels, and we can find something we'll all enjoy. If there's something specific you'd like to play, by all means bring it! There will be no childcare for this event, but older children are welcome to join. Bring a snack or nonalcoholic drink to share if you'd like—we'll buy a Costco pizza to share! Contact Emma (admin@uusic.org) with questions or to see a full list of her games.

UU Grief Group, August 15th

The UU Grief Group (UUGG) meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Conference Room at UUS. 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. The group is led by Gail Garwood. While you do not need to pre-register, it is always nice to hear from you if you think that you may want to join us. Gail can be reached at griefgroup@uusic.org.

UU Scrabble Group, August 16th

The UU Scrabble Group will meet Thursday, August 16th, 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@uusic.org) for more information.

Choir Rehearsals Resume, August 16th

How Can I Keep From Singing?

The new church year for the adult choir will “kick off” with a 6 pm potluck supper in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, August 16th. Pulled pork or a portabella mushroom/quinoa mixture will be provided for sandwiches. Ice tea will also be provided. Singers, please bring your favorite summer dish. If you plan on joining the choir this fall, you will be our honored guest and you do not have to bring anything! A rehearsal of the new music will follow supper from 7 to 8:30 pm.

The adult choir rehearses weekly on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm. The choir will sing three Sundays of each month with one weekend off each month. The calendar for the entire year has been established and will be available on the 16th. On the Sundays when the choir sings they gather in the sanctuary for a 9 am rehearsal before the 9:30 am service.

New singers are welcome! If you haven't sung for some time or are questioning your skills, don't worry, we will find your voice placement once rehearsals have started. You will be welcomed with open arms. Questions? Give Gloria Corbin a call or send an email: 338-5012 or music@uusic.org.

CUUPs Crafting Your Practice Workshop, Part 3, August 19th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) on Sunday, August 19th, for the third of a three-part workshop on crafting a regular spiritual practice. In this workshop we cover the routines and cycles that can be the basis of a regular spiritual practice, discuss and experience some practice techniques, consider why we practice and why we resist, and explore the mundane and the spiritual and how they connect and interweave.

Each session builds on the one before, so having attended the previous sessions is suggested but not required. This workshop is best suited to adults and teens. A follow-up session to check in about our practice will be held October 14th. All sessions will be held in the Conference Room from 3 to 5 pm.

Please arrive a few minutes early to greet each other and get settled. We will begin the workshop with a grounding and centering exercise. Please bring a journal or notebook for taking notes and a small item for the altar if you wish (it can be anything you find beautiful or special). We will meet inside for most of the session, yet may move outside for brief periods, weather permitting. If you have questions, please contact Dawn Marshall at materursasum@gmail.com or 430-1338.

Communication through the Art of Bumper Stickers, August 19th

Ron McCall, who has been involved with UUS since the early 1960s, has always been inspired to live a better life by reading memorable quotations. Although he isn't really drawn to public speaking, he has found a way to pass on some of his inspiration through the art of creating bumper stickers with short statements commenting on current events. Some of his bumper stickers will be on display in the Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday, August 19th. At 11 am that same day, join him in the Walnut Room, where he will share some reflections about the bumper stickers he has created and the process that led to creating them.

Girls' Night Out! August 23rd

All UUS women are invited for conversation, lots of laughs, and refreshments at 5:30 pm for Girls' Night Out on Thursday, August 23rd, at Guild Wurst Tavern (53 2nd St., Coralville). Contact Jamie Sharp (girlsnightout@uusic.org or 400-2551) if you plan to attend.

CUUPs Drumming a Vision, August 24th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) on Friday, August 24th, for a drum circle visioning ritual. We'll gather at 7 pm for greetings and to get settled, and the ritual will start at 7:30 and go until 9 or 9:30. Immerse yourself in the beating of the drums. Hear the individual “voices” come together to create a powerful song. A question will be asked, then we'll follow the drum beat as it takes us within to access our desires for community. What do you want from your community? What do you need? What gifts do you have to share?

Light refreshments will be available. Please bring drum(s) and/or rhythm instrument(s) if you have them. There will be extra drums and other instruments available to use as well. You'll also want a camp chair and bug spray—we will be outside if weather allows. If you have questions, please contact Marsha Cheyney at cuups@uusic.org or 321-2307.

Vegetarian Community “Plantluck,” August 25th

The Vegetarian Community will enjoy a “plantluck” on Saturday, August 25th, from 5 to 8 pm in Fellowship Hall. Following dinner, Carolyn Johnson, Cindy Spading, and Carol Throckmorton will report on their experiences at Vegan Summerfest, held from July 4th through 8th in Johnstown, PA.

For the plantluck, please bring a favorite vegan dish for 8-10 servings and your own reusable/recyclable table service and beverage. Everyone is welcome. Contact Carol Throckmorton at 337-3030 or vegcommunity@uusic.org for questions.

UU Book Discussion Group Returns in September

The UU Book Discussion Group is on break for the summer and will start up again on Monday, September 10th. *Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer* by Barbara Ehrenreich is our book for September. The October selection is *Reading with Patrick: A Teacher, a Student, and a Life-Changing Friendship*, by Michelle Kuo. Come join us in September even if you haven't read the book if you'd like to participate in choosing the books for the rest of the year. To add a title to the list of options, or for more information, contact Mary Lou Welter at 354-1231, bookgroup@uusic.org, or post in the Realm group. The deadline to submit titles for the upcoming year is August 5th.

Dinners For Eight Begin Again in October

Interested in spending an evening of conversation and dinner with other UUs? Then UU Dinners for Eight are for you! Dinners for Eight are small potluck dinners hosted in members' homes. The host provides the main entree and the guests provide the appetizers, side dishes, and dessert. You don't need to be a chef; store-purchased contributions are acceptable. These are informal adult-only social gatherings on the first Saturdays of October, December, February, April, and June. Register for one or as many as you can attend. Hosting is voluntary, not required. Registration forms for the next church year are available by emailing Joe Rasmussen at uUSDinnersforeight@gmail.com or look for them following church services in August and September. Contact Joe with any questions.

The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
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If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please check here ___ and return.

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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.*

UUS Staff

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Children & Youth RE

THIS FALL MARKS A NEW BEGINNING



The Religious Education (RE) classes we hold each week are more than just a place where kids go to keep busy while their families and other adults take part in the serious business of church; it is more than memorizing principles and sources; and it is more than glue sticks, glitter and macaroni crafts. It is about listening carefully, laughing wholeheartedly, caring deeply and nurturing relationships. It is about creating a community and supporting families as the primary religious educators of their children.

The need for change

In recent years we've seen that our traditional RE program has not kept pace with cultural and societal changes and the needs of our families today. It's based on a "Sunday School" model born out of a time when children worked in factories six days a week.

Sunday was their only day for schooling, and scripture and catechism were used for instruction in reading and writing.

While our children may no longer be working in factories, they are certainly still working hard—spending their days at school and evenings and weekends in extracurricular activities. When families are struggling to juggle competing priorities, adding another "school day" to an already full schedule is not appealing.

So what are we to do with an RE model that was created in a different time, for a different culture, and to address a different goal?

How do we support families and children, and how do we convey our faith?

How do we provide families and kids opportunities to live out their values when we are likely to see them for only 10-20 hours per year?

How do we create rewarding opportunities for volunteers when they too have overbooked calendars and don't have time to commit to preparing lessons, or don't feel like they have the knowledge needed to "teach"?

And how do we honor the memories of a program that has served us for so long and that so many volunteers have poured their love and energies into?

These are just a few of the questions that we, along with many other RE professionals, have been grappling with in recent years.

How it will work

Starting this fall, we will be making an intentional move towards being a family ministry program and approaching religious education from a new perspective. Our goal is to create welcoming spaces where it will be easy for families to nurture friendships and build community, and where families will find support in helping their children explore a wide range of spiritual sources. We will keep the programs that are working well like Our Whole Lives and classes on world religions. The pieces that will be changing are those that have been creating barriers to best serving our families and volunteers.

This year, changes will mainly be focused in the elementary grades.

Starting in September, we will shift the 1st-6th grade classes to a studio model. Instead of dividing out into aged-based classrooms, the 1st-6th graders will have their choice of three multi-age spaces centered on the themes of head (mindfulness), heart (creative expression) and hands (STEM and social justice). Each Sunday, kids will head into the room of their choosing to take part in activities directly related to that Sunday's worship theme and story. For instance, September's worship theme is vision. So, on a given Sunday, a 4th grader might have the choice in taking part in an outdoor vision quest, attending a mediation, or making a peace pinwheel—all tied to creating a vision for the world. In any given month, activities might include games, yoga, discussion, stories, mediation, social justice projects, science experiments, nature hikes, and arts and crafts.

How it will help

This change in structure is designed to address several challenges:

- The Studio model will create a program, unlike traditional school, that honors the interests and spiritual journey of each participant, and creates community and friendships across many ages.
- It will make the program friendly to visitors and families who cannot attend frequently. Kids won't be walking into long-standing groups; children who are shy can stay with siblings and friends. And no one needs to know what happened last week in order to fully participate in this week's activities.
- It will create a natural bridge between RE and worship. For many years RE and worship have operated almost as independent entities. RE volunteers will no longer need to "miss" worship. Instead, they will have the chance to expand and enrich the message in their own way. And each week's shared theme will spark opportunities for deeper discussions within families and the congregation.
- It will make it easier to involve adult volunteers because we won't be asking people to prepare content—the content will be delivered in the all-ages portion of the worship service. Instead, we will need people who can help facilitate conversations; lead an activity; share a talent or passion; and help our children make connections between the activities we are doing in RE, their passions and values, and the things they are experiencing in their lives.

This year is going to look very different, in more ways than one, but I am so excited for the possibilities ahead. If you'd like more information about how this program will work, or how you can help, please feel free to chat with me after RE on a Sunday or email me, education@uusic.org.

In community,

Jessica

Important Dates:

August 1 - RE Registration Opens
families must register each year

August 26 - Last Sunday of
Summer RE

September 2 - No RE or Childcare
Labor Day Picnic

September 16 - First Sunday of
2018-19 RE Program

**2018-2019 Program**

Sundays, Sept - May @ 9:30am

Childcare for 0-3 yr olds

Pre-K/K: Chalice Children

1st-6th Grades: Studios

Jr High - World Religions

Sr High - Youth Group

*See uusic.org for full
program details*

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – July 12, 2018

Board meeting minutes are made available on the website or can be requested from the UUS administrator.

Present: Jane DeWitt (President), Jim Laughlin (Past-President), Amy Fretz (Vice-President), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), Peggy Garrigues (DCL), and Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE)

Absent: Chris Rode (Treasurer), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), and Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio)

Guests: Sharon Booker – representing the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM), Kelly O’Berry, Kirk Witzberger, and Joel Gilbertson-White

Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Rode is at the Unitarian Universalist Association’s MidWest Leadership School serving as staff. Protzman is away on leave. DeWitt provided opening words followed by the Chalice lighting.

Board Covenant: DeWitt called attention to the fact that, at times, working as a member of the Board can be stressful and involve tense situations. During those times it is particularly important that we honor our covenant with each other and practice right relations. DeWitt shared the UUS Board Covenant, and members of the Board read it aloud. She also encouraged everyone to reread the UUS Right Relations Agreement.

Consent Agenda: Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda items: Board Agenda; June Board Meeting Highlights and Minutes; Monthly Staff Reports (DLRE, DCL, Administrator, Minister, and Facilities Coordinator); Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements; UUS Right Relations Agreement; Social Justice Action Fund (SJAF) Policy – draft03182018 (Feldmann); SJAF Background and Update (Feldmann); Board Contact Information 2018-2019 (Voelker). *Other items included:* UUS Board Covenant July2018; Johnson County Interfaith Cluster Covenant (JCIC) (Joel Gilbertson-White); Proposal to Join JCIC (Joel Gilbertson-White); It’s Time Visioning Workshop Planning Pre-Proposal, version 071218 (Kelly O’Berry and Kirk Witzberger); Interim Ministry Transition Team Charge (Voelker).

Feldmann noted that the consent agenda includes a report from the Social Justice Action Fund (SJAF) committee. They will begin submitting quarterly reports to the Board. They also provided a draft SJAF Policy revision which will undergo 1st read at the August Board meeting. *The Board agreed to lift from the Consent Agenda a question related to publicity plans.*

Publicity Coordinator Request: Garrigues shared a written request from our new Publicity Coordinator, Jeff Walberg. In it he states that before spending the remaining Chalice Lighters Grant funds, the Publicity Committee needs clarity from the Board about future efforts to rename the congregation; specifically, whether our name is likely to change in the next two years or so. *The Board responded that it is very unlikely that any effort to change the name of our congregation will be initiated in the next 2-3 years. Further, the Board supports the Publicity Committee using their funds in ways they feel most appropriate.*

Johnson County Interfaith Cluster Proposal: Joel Gilbertson-White presented a proposal for UUS to join the Johnson County Interfaith Cluster (JCIC) and shared the JCIC Covenant. He gave an overview of JCIC, which is committed to long-term, productive, interfaith collaboration that creates justice, especially for persons of color experiencing racial and economic inequality. Highlighted was that JCIC’s work is a clear match with UUA values and those we hold as a congregation. Gilbertson-White also emphasized that this partnership is not about simply signing a petition but rather enables people to get to know each other – one on one. Discussion included the financial and time commitments required, the role of the UUS minister or representative, the national structure of JCIC and the Gamaliel organization, and the decentralized nature of social justice work by UUS. *JCIC will be placed on September’s Board agenda to allow for more discussion time and Rev. Diane’s input.*

Workshop Proposal Discussion: Kirk Witzberger and Kelly O’Berry submitted a “Visioning Workshop Planning Pre-Proposal” and asked whether the Board supported offering a congregational visioning workshop this fall. If so, they requested Board approval to move forward with forming a core planning group (to include a Board member) that would finalize a proposal and budget. Board members expressed gratitude for their efforts and willingness to provide leadership. Discussion included: concerns about the timing of visioning work within the interim period, the need for Rev. Diane’s involvement, request for more information about the workshop’s structure and an outline detailing what will be covered, and how/who will follow-up on the enthusiasm and information gained from the event. The following motion was approved: *“The Board encourages Witzberger and O’Berry to move forward with plans to assemble a core planning group for a visioning workshop this fall. Furthermore, the Board understands the need for considerable participation by the congregation and will actively support that effort.”*

Other: DeWitt recapped the Board’s previous work to create the *Augusta Chapin Meritorious Service Award*. This award recognizes, celebrates, and thanks individuals who have shown sustained high levels of service to UUS. DeWitt emphasized that the Board needs to move forward and present this award to its first recipient soon. Voelker shared the Interim Transition Team’s charge. She will forward it to the co-chairs and encourage them to begin planning Rev. Diane’s August meeting schedule.

Laughlin reported as process observer, and Zimmer-Saltzman provided closing words. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. to Closed Session. The next Board meeting is Thursday, August 9, 2018, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

UUS Calendar for August 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
29 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 3 PM CUUPs Crafting Your Practice Workshop, Part 2 (C)	30 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	31	1	2	3	4
5 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Racial Justice Circle (O) 11 AM Friends of Friends (H)	6 6 PM Kiirtan (Sycamore Rooms) 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	7 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee (C) 7 PM Social Justice Coordinating Committee (C)	8 6:30 PM CUUPs Crafts and Handwork Social (FH)	9 6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting (C)	10 11 AM Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct., IC)	11 9:30 AM Nature's Healing Connections (C & Grounds)
12 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 2 PM UUS Vegetarian Community "Making Tofu" (Old Capitol Food Company)	13 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	14 6 PM UUS Board Game Club (FH)	15 12:30 PM UU Grief Group (C)	16 1:30 PM UU Scrabble Group (W) 6 PM Fireside Choir Potluck (FH) 7 PM Fireside Choir Rehearsal (S)	17 12 PM July Newsletter Submission Deadline	18
19 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Racial Justice Forum (S) 11 AM Communicating Through Bumper Stickers (W) 3 PM CUUPs Crafting Your Practice Workshop, Part 3 (C)	20 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	21	22	23 5:30 PM Girls' Night Out! (Guild Wurst Tavern, Coralville) 7 PM Fireside Choir Rehearsal (S)	24 7 PM CUUPs Drumming a Vision (Grounds)	25 9:30 AM Nature's Healing Connections (M & Grounds) 5 PM UUS Vegetarian Community "Plantluck" (FH)
26 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)	27 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	28	29	30 7 PM Fireside Choir Rehearsal (S)	31	1

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