



THE UUS NEWS

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

September
2018

Sunday Services

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

What Does It Mean to Be A Community of Vision?

September 2nd: "Labor and Justice,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

On this Labor Day weekend, we will gather in a more informal way than usual. We will begin in the Sanctuary at our usual 9:30 am service time for an all-ages time of worship, reflecting on our continued efforts for worker justice. The worship service will be followed by a potluck brunch on the patio.

September 9th: "Holy Waters," Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Water is a blessing in our lives, that is, a gift of life freely given. Water Communion is an annual ritual in Unitarian Universalist congregations; each person is asked to bring a small container of water gathered during their summer activities, which is then poured into a common bowl during a Sunday service. Each person will be asked to reflect on water as a blessing and, in turn, what blessing they bring to their congregation. The service will be multigenerational, a time for all ages to come together in ritual, story, and song.

September 16th: "Do You See What I See?"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

We each see the world from our own particular point of view. It can be no other way. Our own vision is therefore limited. We need each other to gain perspective, or as UU minister and author Mark Morrison-Reed says, "alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen."

September 23rd: "Conscious Choices and the Web of Life," UUS Vegetarian Community

The UU Seventh Principle encourages respect for and connection to the interdependent web of life. UU Vegetarians will lead this service focusing on ethical eating and conscious living, and how our choices relate to health, climate change, spirituality, and compassion for all beings.

September 30th: "A Dream and a Vision,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Today we commemorate "Universalism Day" by retelling the story of how John Murray and Thomas Potter first brought the universal message of hope, not hell to New England in 1770. This classic tale reminds us that it is possible to realize our dreams and visions but only if we keep them alive through tangible action.

September Social Justice Offerings Benefit The Emma Goldman Clinic

"Emma's" has existed since 1973 to empower women and men of all ages with quality health care, including reproductive care, abortion services, gynecology services, safer sex promotion, and active education. They support informed decision making, client rights, advocacy, and support of pregnancy choices. The staff acknowledges and celebrates diversity in employment policies and practices. They strive to increase economic, geographic, and language accessibility for clients through fundraising, outreach, and advocacy. In these difficult times for reproductive clinics, our help is especially valuable.

Cash or checks to UUS (Emma Goldman 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 29th through August 19th

July 29th: total: 178 service, 29 RE

August 5th: total: 158 service, 13 RE

August 12th: total: 174 service, 30 RE

August 19th: total: 212 service, 34 RE

September Birthdays

Ike Barrash	Diana Henry	Paula Miller
Kris Barrash	Nicholas	Deb Moore
Robert Burdinie	Johnson	Lula Palmer
Aster Cox	Haley Kamps	Emily Peck
Sofia Cox	Melissa Lehan	Virginia Stamler
Andy Douglas	Mackin	Judy Tokuhisa
Lori Enloe	Stephen Locher	Ethan Trepka
Mike Fenneman	Mary Losch	Kai Trepka
Prahlad Gupta	Robby Marvin	Glenn Wiltgen
Barbara Haring	Maxine Carlson	Ed Wolfe
Laurel	Gail McLure	Susan Kasal
	Haverkamp	Young
Otis Miller		

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

Staff Reports



From Your Interim Minister's Study

September's theme is *Vision*; more specifically, what does it mean to be a people of vision? Interim ministry is a time for looking to new horizons and casting new visions. In a religious community intentionally made of diverse theological and philosophical perspectives, this is no small task! Discerning a shared vision requires bringing divergent points of view—different lenses, so to speak—together—and then aligning them in such a way that the vision becomes clear. It's as

organizer/activist Margaret Wheatley notes: "there is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

Listening is crucial to the discernment process; listening to the yearnings of our own hearts and listening to the yearnings of others. It takes courage to be in conversation with people who see things differently than we do. It takes faith in our covenant of love and service to stay in relationship through differences of belief and opinion. To be a people of vision means that we must also be a people of courage. It means we must also be a people of faith.

Over the course of this interim ministry, there will be times when I will be asking you to come together beyond Sunday morning to do the work of moving the congregation forward into the future. I look forward to engaging in this work with you.

My contract with your Board of Trustees is for one year, renewable for two. Unless something unforeseeable arises, I should be here with you for two years. It is an exciting time that requires all hands on deck. It takes all of you coming together to discover what it is you care about.

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11 am to 5 pm. It is always best to call and make an appointment to assure that I am available. I have flexibility to meet with you at other times, too. Monday is my day off and Friday is my at-home writing day.

Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane Dowgert

2018-2019
Children & Youth
RE program
starts on Sunday, Sept. 16.

Register today:
bit.ly/uusrereg

From Your Music Director

How Can I Keep from Singing or Playing?

UUS talent is stepping forward from many musical arenas. Sunday morning services this year will be enhanced with the talents of singers, instrumentalists, and keyboard specialists.

The **Adult Choir** started the new church year with a potluck gathering and first rehearsals in mid-August. Three years ago 9 copies of music were purchased for the singers and now 25 copies are needed. Have you thought about singing in the choir? The choir is open to all singers (high school and beyond). There are no formal auditions or checking of your musical pedigree—just show up to our Thursday evening rehearsals at 7 pm and we promise you will enjoy singing! Being part of a warm and welcoming community is a bonus. By the way—the music selections for this year are exciting, some challenging, and all enjoyable.

The **House Ensemble** is open to anyone who plays an instrument. Any instrument, you ask? Yes, any instrument. Last year's ensemble included woodwinds, brass, keyboard, and strings. More details on this group as we approach November. March 3rd will be the first rehearsal to prepare for the Easter/Earth Day celebrations.

Recently UUS received the family grand piano from Martha and Joe Rasmussen. Currently it is in the Fellowship Hall, but this fall it will be located in the Sanctuary alongside the Steinway for a series of Sunday morning dedication "concerts." **UUS Pianists** are selecting literature written for two, four, six, and eight-hands. If you are a pianist, please reach out to Gloria Corbin, and your name will be added to the planning.

UUS String Quartet! Yes, our newest ensemble is a real string quartet. Isn't that exciting? The group is made up of Peggy Garrigues and Tabitha Rasmussen, violins; Alexandra Curtis, viola; and Ian Cawley, cello. The ensemble is anticipating their organizational meeting in September and will be selecting music to enhance the Sunday services.

Congregational Singing is a very important part of each Sunday service. The hymn singing becomes more robust with each passing week. Compliments to every person lifting their voice in song and a sincere word of appreciation for participating in congregational enhanced choral pieces, congregational rounds, and other singing challenges.

The UUS music environment promises to make a mark on those involved and those observing. We all can make music! If you have any questions about the various ways to sing or play at UUS, please contact me at music@uusic.org.

—Gloria Corbin

From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Now that fall is here, my office hours will be Mondays through Wednesdays, 9 am to 2 pm; and Thursdays, 9 am to 1 pm. I'm also available by appointment. I encourage members and friends to call the office (337-3443) or email education@uusic.org before stopping in, to ensure I will be able to meet with you.

—Jessica Zimmer

Congregational News and Events

Inquirer Sessions in September

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 September schedule:

- **September 2nd:** No Session. 10:30 Potluck Picnic Brunch (Building tours by request)
- **September 9th:** Introduction to Interest and Activity Groups
- **September 16th:** Realm Training
- **September 23rd:** Q&A with Rev. Diane
- **September 30th:** Introduction to Nurturing Mind & Spirit Groups

Endowment Party, September 9th

The UUS Endowment Fund is truly a success story—one that played an important part of our journey to our new home on Oakdale Road. We have a lot to celebrate looking back over the past few years, but the story doesn't end there! The Endowment Fund will continue to play an important role in the financial future of UUS, and we can all be part of keeping the Fund growing stronger and stronger!

Please join us on Sunday, September 9th, from 2 to 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall for the annual Endowment Party! You can enjoy music, food, drink, and conversation with UUS friends. Contributions to the fund will be gratefully received, but are not required.

To help us plan the refreshments, please RSVP to keatkinson@mchsi.com by Wednesday, September 5th, if you plan to attend (but you are welcome to join us even if you aren't able to RSVP). No childcare will be provided during the party. If you cannot attend the party, gifts to the Endowment Fund can be made by sending a check to the office (to UUS with "Endowment" on the memo line) or through Realm to the Endowment Fund.

UUS Board of Trustees Meeting, September 13th

The UUS Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting, open to all members, at 6:30 pm on Thursday, September 13th, in the Conference Room. Look for an agenda in the weekly email or on the website before the meeting.

Pathway to Membership, September 26th

Pathway to Membership is a one-session class for those who are considering becoming a member of UUS and want to learn more about how our congregation works, and the benefits and responsibilities of membership. You will get to know others who are considering joining, and meet with our Director of Congregational Life, Peggy Garrigues, and other leaders from the Board and Membership Associates. This class is one of the steps for membership. We will meet from 6:30 to 9 pm in the Conference Room. Contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org) to clarify other steps needed to become a member.

UUS Social Justice Action Fund

The Social Justice Action Fund (SJAF) was established by UUS in 2013 to create a funding source for ad hoc requests for social justice projects and events. Since its inception, the SJAF has provided nearly \$45,000 in support of numerous activities, including efforts at the Center for Worker Justice, the Crisis Center, and Shelter House. The Sunday offering on September 30th will go to SJAF as part of the "Fifth Sunday" initiative (see the SJCC article on page 4 for more information).

The SJAF Committee responds to proposals from the UUS community as to how funds are allocated. If there's a project or event you would like the SJAF to support, please complete the online request form: www.bit.ly/sjaf_request. If you have questions or need an alternative means of submitting a request, contact the committee chairs: Sara Feldmann (sara.feldmann@gmail.com) or Pete Brokaw (pete.brokaw@gmail.com).

Rummage in the Ramp Report

On Thursday, July 26th, UUS sent a team of 20 volunteers—the most ever—to this year's Rummage in the Ramp, the annual city rummage sale held under the College St. bridge. We performed a variety of tasks—receiving, recording, and pricing donations, organizing the display tables, unloading donated furniture and other large items, and helping buyers load up their purchases. It was a lot of fun, and this year the weather was perfect.

Many thanks to Sharon Beckman, Wendy Brown, Linda Fisher, Al Hood, Lois Hughes, Larry Kent, Diane Martin, Mary and Tom McMurray, Bonnie Penno, Ron Pile, Ju and Richard Reed, Hazel Seaba, Jill Stephenson, Dave and Judy Tokuhisa, Steve Vincent, Kaye Winder, and Phil Beck for their efforts.

UUS was one of over 20 local non-profit organizations staffing the event this year. It was a big success, saving 24.19 tons from going to the landfill and raising \$18,934.18—UUS earned \$540.98 for its shift. Rummage in the Ramp is a great way to combine service to the community with service to the Society.

From the Interim Ministry Transition Team

The Interim Transition Team is charged with assisting Reverend Diane in meeting the congregation in an organized fashion. The team's initial priority over the next two months is helping her to learn about our congregation. She will be meeting with the heads of many groups and committees and attending their meetings as she is able. She will later have more time to meet with individual members to continue her process of gathering information regarding the Society and its members.

There was a general welcoming session for Reverend Diane following the service on Sunday, August 5th, which allowed her to see many new faces (including the local fawns) and start her introduction to the Society. She led her first service at UUS on August 12th, which included a nice introduction to her role as a transitional minister for UUS. She will continue to be around to meet members and guests following services when she isn't whisked off to another meeting on her busy schedule. She does want everyone to know that she remains available to the congregation for any urgent issue or need.

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

Woodlands and Trails Workday, October 6th

Join us Saturday morning, October 6th, to help move dead wood and brush to vehicle-accessible areas to be hauled away and to remove small invasive vines and shrubs. Our objective is to remove some of the tangles of dead wood and small invasive shrubs and vines so that we can better enjoy and nurture the native plantings in our lovely woods. Contact Tom McMurray, tmc Murray@mchsi.com.

Save the Date: An All-UUS Special Event

Celebrating One Year in Our New Building

"An Evening with Walt Whitman"

Ed Folsom
Christopher Merrill

Saturday, October 27th, 7 pm
UUS Fellowship Hall

Justice News and Events

Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC)

The Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC) coordinates our congregation's community service and social action activities in Iowa City and beyond. Hats off to Dan Tallman for his service as SJCC chair. The new co-chairs are Mary McCann and Sally Hartman.

One of the UUS summer social justice activities SJCC led was the development of an African American History curriculum tie-in with the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids by Diana Henry and Mary McCann. They are working together to push for adoption by local school districts. Other summer social justice actions include serving Free Lunch; Write Here! Write Now! letter-writing to our senators; and enthusiastic support for an immigrant family in need. Nice work, UUS!

Next SJCC Meeting, September 11th

Our meetings are informal and fun, and we welcome new faces and ideas. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting scheduled for September 11th at 7 pm in the Conference Room. Join us! All are welcome! Contact socialjustice@uusic.org to get more information about the committee.

CRC Winter Clothing Drive Starts September 16th

In the coming weeks, as you sort through your family's warm winter clothing, please start a box or bag of gently used, clean items for all ages for the annual Consultation of Religious Communities Drive. (Many of the families we helped last year were immigrants.) Our giveaway location will be at the Community of Christ (2121 South Ridge Drive) on Saturday, October 13th, from 9 am to noon. There will be sign-up opportunities at the SJCC Table to volunteer for that day as well as the preceding Thursday and Friday for sorting and set-up. Your items may be brought to UUS on Sunday mornings or other times starting on September 16th. New items, Halloween costumes, and clean winter blankets are also welcome. Contact Gay Mikelson with questions: gay-mikelson@uiowa.edu.

5th Sunday Offering for SJAF, September 30th

On months with five Sundays, one Sunday is designated for a special offering benefitting an organization with a timely or pressing need, as determined by SJCC. The "Fifth Sunday" offering in September will be taken on the 30th, and donations will go to the UUS Social Justice Action Fund (SJAF). See the article on page 3 to learn more about SJAF.

Green Sanctuary Committee, September 4th

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.

Rise Up Against Climate Change, September 8th

The Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUWAN) promotes social justice activities across the state. This fall's focus is electoral justice, with UUs across the state learning more about social justice and developing strategies for getting out the vote at the state-wide meeting of UUs last July and continued networking.

IUWAN is helping to promote an event co-sponsored by the Clinton Fellowship and 350.org on Saturday, September 8th, in Clinton, IA, called Rise Up Against Climate Change. The event, which will take place from 10 am to 1 pm, will be held at the UU Fellowship of Clinton (309 30th Ave North). There will be speakers, family activities, and booths, all addressing climate change.

UUS Racial Justice Circle, September 9th & 23rd

The Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle (RJC) will meet on Sundays the 9th and 23rd of September, 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.

UU Free Lunch Program, September 14th

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, September 14th, at 11 am.

On Friday, August 10th, 30 dedicated UUS volunteers served 152 meals to grateful Free Lunch Program guests. The main dish was sloppy joe sandwiches generously donated by Carrie Norton in memory of her husband, Dee Norton. Side dishes included cooked vegetables, vegetable salad, fruit salad, and a variety of delicious desserts.

Get Out the Vote with the Rhema Church, September 15th

The UUS Social Justice Coordinating Committee and the Racial Justice Circle are joining the Rhema Church and the League of Women Voters for a Get Out the Vote event on Saturday, September 15th, from 2 to 5 pm at the Wetherby Park Shelter in Iowa City. The purpose is to register voters and to encourage absentee voting. Senate candidates and the House Representative have been invited, food and drink will be available, and activities are planned for children. If you would like to help with this event by joining a set-up or clean-up crew, making desserts, or supervising children's activities, email Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com).



Newly Forming Social Justice Group for Families: Planning Session, September 23rd

To provide opportunities for social justice action and reflection for families, we are exploring the formation of a multi-age social justice group for parents with their Jr. and Sr. high-age youth. (If one child in the family is younger, we will be glad to have conversation about including the younger child as well.) We imagine choosing five or six social justice projects to work on during the school year, with time set aside to reflect on the social justice issues the projects address. Families who would like to have conversation about this group are invited to a planning session on Sunday, September 23rd, at 11 am, following the service in the Sanctuary. Please RSVP to Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org) or Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com) to indicate your interest.

Write Here! Write Now! Campaign Continues

UUS had a successful second month participating in the Write Here! Write Now! campaign organized nationally by Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ). Each month UUSJ chooses an advocacy topic, and UU congregations from across the country submit copies of letters that are then reprinted and hand delivered on Capitol Hill by members of the UUSJ's Advocacy Corps. In August, UUS wrote more than 40 letters in support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.

A letter-writing table will be set up on the second Sunday of each month during social hour. Look for the next Advocacy topic in the weekly email and the UUS Facebook page.

(Left) UUS participates in the Write Here! Write Now! campaign in August.

(Right) Former UUS member Danielle Jones hand delivers advocacy letters to Capitol Hill.



Interest & Activity Groups & UUS Events

CUUPs Days of Balance, September 5th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) as we explore the magic of the equinoxes. As the Autumnal (Fall) equinox approaches, we've already noticed the days growing shorter as the sun sets a little earlier each day. On this day, light and dark will sit in balance for just a brief moment in time. What work does this energy support? How does it differ from the energy we feel at the Vernal (Spring) equinox? Do we humans ever sit at complete balance, and should we even try?

While there is certainly information to share, this is intended to be a discussion more than a lecture. Please come to share your beliefs and experiences of the energy of balance and how we can work with it to deepen our practices. We will gather at 6:45 and begin the discussion at 7 pm. Contact Marsha Cheyney (cuups@uusic.org) with any questions.

UUS Community Meal, September 5th

Kids, grown-ups—everybody come! We're hosting a series of suppers for all members, friends, and families of UUS that will offer casual dining at its best with meat, vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Community Meals are planned for the first Wednesday of each month through December 2018, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Don't miss this monthly chance to get out of the kitchen and get to know each other a little better! There is no set charge, but donations are always welcome to help cover costs. RSVP after services or online, and let us know if you can help with setup or cleanup: bit.ly/UUSCommunityMeals.

Friends of Friends, September 9th

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 will meet on Sunday, September 9th, at 11 am in the Hickory Room. To learn more, contact Michael and Rochelle Honey-Arcement at accessibility@uusic.org.

Kiirtan, September 10th

The next Kiirtan will be held on Monday, September 10th, 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.

Buddhist Sangha, Mondays in September

The Sangha gathers almost every Monday evening at 7 pm at Oaknoll for silent meditation and discussion of contemporary Buddhist teachings. We will not meet on Labor Day. We are currently discussing the book *being zen, Bringing Meditation to Life* by Ezra Bayda. To find out more, contact Cindy Spading (buddhistsangha@uusic.org).

UU Book Discussion Group, September 10th

The UU Book Discussion Group will start up again after the summer break on Monday, September 10th, at 7:30 pm in either Meeting Room A or B of the Oaknoll George Street building. *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. At the September meeting we will be picking the books for November through May from a wish list compiled over the summer from group member suggestions (the final picks will be listed in Realm). Everyone is welcome to come participate on a monthly basis or just when a book interests you. If you have questions, contact Mary Lou Welter at 354-1231, bookgroup@uusic.org, or post in the Realm group.

CUUPs Wheel of the Year, September 14th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) on Friday, September 14th, for an introduction to the Pagan Calendar with an explanation of the major Pagan holidays: Samhain, Yule, Imbolc, Ostara, Beltane, Litha, Lughnasadh/Lammas, and Mabon.

The depth and breadth of the information and discussion will be tailored in real-time to both the level of knowledge of the group and the specific interests which emerge through individual questions during the discussion. There is a fascinating history (both documented and also attributed to legend) surrounding these holidays that pertains to both those who identify as Pagan and those who do not.

All ages are welcome. Gathering will begin at 6:30 pm, and the discussion will start promptly at 7. We hope you will make time to attend. Contact UU member Craig Christophel for more information at craiglch@gmail.com or 461-6900.

Vegetarian Community “Plantluck,”

September 15th

The Vegetarian Community will enjoy a “plantluck” on Saturday, September 15th, from 5 to 8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

Freethinker Friendly Forum, September 16th

The Freethinker Friendly Congregation Committee of the UUS Secular Humanist group will hold a Forum after the service on Sunday, September 16th, at 11 am in the Sanctuary. An introduction to what this UUA-designation means to our UUS will be followed by a Q&A session. Please join us.

Dances of Universal Peace, September 16th

Participants will gather in the RE Commons at 3 pm for chanting and simple folk dance movements honoring various religious traditions. These prayerful, heart-opening dances create a sense of inner peace and foster connections between people. No experience is needed. All are welcome to attend. Contact Virginia Melroy (338-1778 or dancesofpeace@uusic.org) if you have questions.

UUS Board Game Club, September 18th

Join us for an evening of gaming on Tuesday, September 18th, 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 bring Costco pizza to share! RSVPs on our Facebook event are appreciated, but not required. You can also contact Emma (admin@uusic.org), who can take your RSVP, answer your questions, or provide you a full list of her games.

Secular Humanists, September 18th

The first meeting of the 15th season of the UUS Secular Humanists will be Tuesday, September 18th, at 7 pm in the Common Room of Old Brick (on Clinton and Market Streets in Iowa City). We will welcome Distinguished Professor Mark Blumberg, of the Dept. of Psychology and Neuroscience at UI. His talk “Do we have Free Will?” should be very interesting. All are welcome to attend.

Also, our Freethinker Friendly Congregation Committee has been working diligently to share with the congregation what this UUA designation means to UUS. We have something very special planned for October; stay tuned! Contact Mark Yuskis (resdoggie@aol.com) with questions.

UU Scrabble Group, September 20th

The UU Scrabble Group will meet Thursday, September 20th, 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.

CUUPs Mabon Ritual and Potluck, September 23rd

As day and night sit as equals, the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) will honor the ever-shifting balance of sacrifice and abundance in our lives. We'll begin with abundance—a potluck feast amongst beloved community! Please bring a dish to share along with a list of the ingredients in it. To conserve resources, we ask that you bring your own dinner service. We will gather at 5:15, and dinner will begin at 5:30 pm.

Following dinner, we'll enter sacred space to explore this place of balance in our own lives. What are we harvesting this year, and how do we celebrate those things? What sacrifices had to be made to manifest this abundance, and how can we honor them? And what must we now cut away to preserve (or create) the balance that will support next year's growth? What will we carry forward to plant again in the spring? The cycle of growth, harvest, and renewal marches on.

The ritual will begin at 6:30 pm. This ritual is most suitable for adults and mature youth; however, most children should be able to participate if they so desire. Weather permitting, we will be outside for both parts of the celebration! Contact Marsha Cheyney (cuups@uusic.org) with any questions about this event.

Girls' Night Out! September 26th

All UUS women are invited for conversation, lots of laughs, and refreshments at 5:30 pm for Girls' Night Out on Wednesday, September 26th, at Rapid Creek Cidery (at Wilson's Orchard, 4823 Dingleberry Rd. NE #2, Iowa City). Contact Anna Rode (acbphoto@hotmail.com) if you plan to attend.

No UU Grief Group in September

The UU Grief Group (UUGG) will not meet in September. If you are mourning the loss of a family member or friend and would like to talk to someone before we meet in October or would like to join us at future meetings and want to be on the reminder list in the future, please contact Gail Garwood at ggarwood42@gmail.com (note that Gail will not be available to talk between September 7th and 14th). The UUGG normally meets in the Conference Room most months on the third Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

Save the Date: UUS Opportunities Fair

Connect Beyond Sunday: Come learn about our many committees and activity groups!

Sunday, October 7th, 11 am in the UUS Fellowship Hall

VegFest of Eastern Iowa, September 29th

This is very exciting! The first-ever "VegFest of Eastern Iowa," a celebration of ethical eating and living and a plant-based, whole-food diet, will take place on Saturday, September 29th, from 10:30 am to 4 pm, here at UUS. Well-known speakers like Dr. Adam Woods (*Thriving with a Plant-based Diet*), Rae Sikora, Robert Grillo (*What the Food Industry Doesn't Want You to Know*), Sarina Farb (*How Social Change Happens*), Dr. Mylan Engel (*Eating for Health, the Earth, and Animals*) and our own Carol Throckmorton (*Becoming Vegan*) and Claire Jacobmeyer (*Waste Less*) will dazzle and inform! Look for awesome cooking classes led by Carolyn Howe and Cindy Spading, video presentations, fun children's activities, and a vegan marketplace. Vendors will offer food samples and vegan-related lifestyle information. The festival is hosted and sponsored by UUS and is being organized primarily by the US Vegetarian Community with assistance of another local group, the Vegan Community of Eastern Iowa.

We know that ethical eating is a priority for UUs, and respect for the interdependent web of life is one of our principles. Learn more about diet as it relates and connects to issues of health, the environment, social change, the rights of other living creatures, spirituality, and agriculture. Learn why a veg diet is one of the most important steps an individual can take to address climate change. Come, enjoy, and learn more! Admission is \$5 for adults (UUs receive a 20% discount), and free for kids under 18. Swag bags will be presented to the first 150 guests through the door. We also need volunteers to help ahead of time and on the day of the event. And you can support this program by your financial donation. For more info, go to vegfesteasterniowa.com.

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 September. Contact Joe with any questions.

Stewardship Report

Reflections on Building What We Value (by Jeffery Ford)

We have noticed that healthy organizations are populated by generous people. People who are generous with their stories. People who are generous with their time and their expertise. People who are generous with their hearts. And people who are generous with their financial resources. No organization can thrive if not adequately funded. Generous financial resources allow for programming and well-maintained facilities. And of course generous funds allow us to retain and train strong leaders and staff.

We are the stewards of the efforts done on our behalf by previous generations. We are the foundation for future generations. We understand that to ensure the future of the organization we must contribute to its cultivation. "Stewardship means taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow" (From *Stewardship: The Joy of Giving* from the UUA).

Sunday, November 4th, will mark the conclusion of our Stewardship campaign. We hope you will join us for a service of commitment and celebration.

The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
2355 Oakdale Road
Coralville, IA 52241
Website: www.uusic.org
Office Phone: 319-337-3443

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If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please check here and return.

UUS Board of Trustees, 2018-2019

President: Jane DeWitt.....621-5033
jane.dewitt@drake.edu

Vice President: Amy Fretz.....702-207-4513
amymhere@gmail.com

Past President: Jim Laughlin.....643-7224
jwl@lcom.net

Secretary: Peg Voelker.....330-2393
peg.voelker@gmail.com

Treasurer: Chris Rode.....520-241-1431
ccrode@gmail.com

Trustee: Sara Feldmann.....331-7756
sara.feldmann@gmail.com

Trustee: Michael Honey-Arcement.....563-289-7153
mike@gwn-ws.com

Trustee: Colleen Higgins.....646-6564
colleen_iris1950@yahoo.com

Trustee: Paul Pomrehn.....594-2371
paulpomrehn@gmail.com

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

Interim Minister — Rev. Diane Dowgert
Email: minister@uusic.org

Congregational Administrator — Emma Barnum
Email: admin@uusic.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education —
Jessica Zimmer
Email: education@uusic.org

Director of Congregational Life — Peggy Garrigues
Email: dcl@uusic.org

Music Director — Gloria L. Corbin
Email: music@uusic.org

Accompanist — Peng Zhang
Email: accompanist@uusic.org

Publicity Coordinator — Jeff Walberg
Email: publicity@uusic.org

Administrative Assistant — Nik Jakob
Email: admin.assistant@uusic.org

Childcare Coordinator — Anna Rode
Email: nursery@uusic.org

Facilities Coordinator — Lori Marshall
Email: facilities.coordinator@uusic.org

Building Steward — Ron Wright

Community Minister — Lois Cole
Email: community.minister@uusic.org

UUS Calendar for September 2018

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

FH- Fellowship Hall
G- UUS Grounds
H- Hickory Room (Sr. High)

J- Juniper Room (Pre-K)
K- Kitchen
M- Maple Room (3-4)

N- Nursery
O- Oak Room (Jr. High)
R- Redbud Room (1-2)

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Freethinker Friendly Q&A (FH)	27 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	28	29	30 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	31	1
2 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Labor Day Potluck Brunch (FH)	3 Labor Day	4 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee (C)	5 6 PM UUS Community Meal (FH) 6:45 PM CUUPs Days of Balance (C)	6 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	7	8 10 AM Rise Up Against Climate Change (Clinton, IA)
9 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) 2 PM Endowment Party (FH)	10 6 PM Kirtan (Sycamore Rooms) 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll) 7:30 PM UU Book Discussion Group (Oaknoll)	11 7 PM Social Justice Coordinating Committee (C)	12	13 6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting (C) 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	14 11 AM Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct., IC) 6:30 PM CUUPs Wheel of the Year (C)	15 2 PM Get Out the Vote (Wetherby Park) 5 PM UUS Vegetarian Community "Plantlucky" (FH)
16 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Freethinker Friendly Forum (S) 3 PM Dances of Universal Peace (REC)	17 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	18 6 PM UUS Board Game Club (FH) 7 PM Secular Humanists (Old Brick)	19	20 1:30 PM UU Scrabble Group (W) 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	21 12 PM October Newsletter Submission Deadline	22
23 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 UUS Family Social Justice Group (S) 5:15 PM CUUPs Mabon Ritual (FH)	24 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	25	26 5:30 PM Girls' Night Out! (Rapid Creek Cidery, Iowa City) 6:30 PM Pathway to Membership (C)	27 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	28	29 10:30 AM VegFest of Eastern Iowa (CW)
30 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)	1 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	2 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee (C)	3 6 PM UUS Community Meal (FH)	4 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	5	6 8 AM Trails & Woodlands Cleanup (G) 5 PM Dinners for Eight (offsite)

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).

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – August 9, 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), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex officio), Peggy Garrigues (DCL), and Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE)

Absent: Paul Pomrehn (Trustee)

Guests: Sharon Booker (Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry), Tom McMurray (Interim Transition Team), Mark Yuskis (Secular Humanist)

Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Rev. Diane Dowgiert provided opening words followed by the chalice lighting. Everyone warmly welcomed Rev. Diane Dowgiert to her first UUS Board meeting. DeWitt invited guests and the Board Trustees not at last week's Executive Committee meeting to introduce themselves.

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

Consent Agenda items: *Board Agenda; August Executive Committee Minutes; July Board Meeting Highlights and Minutes; Monthly Staff Reports (DLRE, DCL, and Administrator); Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements; Board Contact Information 2018-2019; Thank-you letter from Midwest Leadership School youth attendee. Other items: Final, Interim Ministry Transition Team Charge (Voelker); Social Justice Action Fund Policy, 03182018 (Feldmann).*

DeWitt reviewed several items from the Executive Committee meeting minutes. First, she noted that the Staff Relations Committee (SRC) submitted two process documents for Board review and approval. The Executive Committee decided to table their review until discussions take place with Rev. Diane about Policies versus Procedures and Board approval requirements. Sharon Booker and David Tokuhisa, co-chairs of the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM), also requested that the Board review and approve revisions to their mission statement. This review was also tabled until after Rev. Diane meets with CCLAM. The last item DeWitt reviewed was the work underway to finalize the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between UU Solar, LLC (our solar panel investors), and UUS. The PPA defines the investor reimbursement terms for the energy generated by the solar arrays that either offsets our consumption or is purchased by the electric company. Linn County REC has tiered pricing based on consumption and demand, thus the calculations are complex. Hopefully the PPA will be available for Board approval by the September Board meeting. *The Board received the Consent Agenda and approved the minutes.*

Interim Transition Team: Members of the Interim Transition Team (ITT) are: Tom McMurray (co-chair), Diane Martin (co-chair), Pete Brokaw, Jeanette Carter, Gary Lawrenson, John Lanaghan, and Virginia Melroy. Following review and minor changes, the ITT Charge was finalized. McMurray reported that their work is going well and that the team has met several times. They are prioritizing the groups and individuals that need to meet with Rev. Diane during the next weeks and making those arrangements. Future plans include reaching out to all past UUS Presidents. They will provide updates and information in the newsletter and to the Board as needed. DeWitt thanked the team for their work. Rev. Diane commented that they are a great group of people.

Social Justice Action Fund Policy (SJAF): Feldmann provided the proposed SJAF Policy Revision, noting that Pete Brokaw contributed significantly to the update. Elements discussed by the Board included the committee's composition and funding allocation sources, amounts, and carry-over across budget years. Additional comments should be sent to Feldmann before the Finance Council meets on August 29. Final changes will then be made, and the *policy presented for 2nd read in September.*

Choir Section Leader Proposal: Our Music Director, Gloria Corbin, submitted a request for approval to hire a section leader/soloist and to receive a gift of funds to support this position during the remainder of 2018 and 2019. This section leader would provide both leadership and balance for the tenor section, which has not grown like the other sections. The section leader would attend rehearsals, sing three Sundays each month with the choir, and occasionally perform solos. *The Board approved the request to accept the monetary gift and to fill the position.*

Gift of a Sculpture: DeWitt shared that Vicki Siefers contacted her about a sculpture for the community garden. Julia Lohrman Audlehelm and Larry Audlehelm would like to gift the sculpture, created by Julia's mother, to UUS. A plaque will be attached with the following, "FLIGHT 1987 by Rosemary C. Lohrman." *The Board accepted the gift.*

Board Start-Up Workshop: Rev. Diane recommends that the UUS Board take advantage of the MidAmerica Region's offer to provide an Interim Ministry Start-Up Workshop. This full-day workshop will help set the stage for a productive ministerial transition period by clarifying roles and responsibilities and establishing clear goals and the tasks needed to accomplish those goals. Rev. Diane emphasized that this Board work needs to take place before a congregational visioning workshop. DeWitt is communicating with Regional staff to schedule this as soon as possible.

Feldmann reported as process observer. Honey-Arcement provided closing words. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next Board meeting is Thursday, September 13, 2018, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary