



THE UUS NEWS

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

December
2018

Sunday Services

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

What Does It Mean to Be A Community of Mystery?

December 2nd: "Mystery and Mysticism,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

In his book *Seven Types of Atheism*, author John Gray writes, "A godless world is as mysterious as one suffused with divinity, and the difference between the two may be less than you think." Today we'll explore mysticism as a form of spirituality, one that is rooted in the first of our six Unitarian Universalist sources that our living tradition draws from: direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder.

December 9th: "Unknown and Unknowable,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Using the Buddhist concept of the "Unknowables," we'll consider some of the unknowns that make the holidays a difficult time for many. Why are we born or adopted into our particular family of origin? Why do the people we love have to die? Why do bad things happen to good people? How do we live with the reality of pain and loss in a season devoted to love and joy?

December 16th: "The Miracle of Light,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

As the approaching winter spreads its blanket of darkness over us, as days grow shorter and nights grow longer, when natural light is in limited supply, we tell stories that celebrate the miracle of the returning light. This intergenerational service weaves together stories from Christian, Pagan, and Native American traditions, and our own Unitarian Universalism. Join us as we kindle the holiday lights of faith, hope, and love.

December 23rd: "Songs and Stories of the Season,"

UUS Choir and Musicians

A time to kindle a holiday spirit through the joy of music and telling of stories. We will sing some favorite Christmas carols and enjoy special music performed by various UUS musicians.

December 30th: "Through Discomfort to Growth,"

Dan Gall

For many people, the new year is a time of transition. We assess the past year and plan for a better next year. Each year we grow—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But growth, however well-planned, can be risky and leave us vulnerable. Join three UUs that span the generations as they share their stories of the discomfort, vulnerability, and ultimately the reward of growth and transition.

December Social Justice Offerings Benefit the Free Lunch Program

Your generosity this month helps pay the expenses of this important community program, which provides a healthy noon meal six days a week. The UUS Free Lunch volunteers are one of our most enthusiastic and energetic groups. Our first lunch was served to a few dozen hungry guests in the basement of the Wesley Foundation on August 8th, 1986 and we have not missed a second Friday since then!

Cash or checks to UUS (Free Lunch Program 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.

Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 and 7 pm, December 24th: "Christmas Blessings," Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Christmas comes with blessings of joy and celebration, mystery and imagination, poetry and legend, birth and new life. These gifts call us to bless the world with a renewed commitment to visions of peace and justice for all. What will you do with your Christmas Blessings?

The 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service is family-friendly with a lively spirit. The 7 pm service is more quiet and contemplative. Both include the tradition of lighting candles and singing *Silent Night*. All are welcome at either or both. There will be no childcare so that the UUS childcare staff can enjoy the celebration of Christmas Eve. A brief social time will be held between the services, at roughly 6:30 pm. The offering at the Christmas Eve services goes to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, to be used to help those in need in our community.

Sunday Attendance

October 28th:	154 total (Multigenerational)
November 4th:	169 total: 124 service, 45 RE
November 11th:	186 total: 137 service, 49 RE
November 18th:	148 total (Multigenerational)
November 25th:	Cancelled due to weather



From Your Interim Minister's Study

There's something about the dark nights of the coming winter that turns our minds to mystery, those timeless questions of life that are beyond our knowing—as the hymn we sing ponders—*Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Mystery. Mystery. Life is a riddle and a mystery.*

Our living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources. The first of our six sources is: "Direct experience of that

transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life."

Mysticism is a strain that runs through Unitarian Universalism. UU minister and author Tom Owen-Towle describes us as *Freethinking Mystics With Hands*, in his book by the same title. Each of us has different experiences that in turn lead us to answer the big questions of life—the mysteries—differently.

What we know for sure is that what we do in this life, what we do with our life matters.

Historically, the church has been a place to ponder the mysteries of life and death, of origins and destinations, of beginnings and endings, of meaning and purpose, of ultimacy and intimacy, and how it is we are called to live this one wild and precious life. Ours is a non-creedal faith. In other words, we are not agreed upon the answers to these questions. No one need give assent to a statement of belief or creed to be accepted into membership with us. Our task is not so much to answer the questions, but to live with the reality of mystery, ambiguity, and doubt—to live the questions.

This season is one that draws us into mystery. We tell ancient stories of people who came before us asking the same questions that we ask today. The stories remind us of the miracle of birth, even our own, the miracle of light that shines even in times of darkness, the miracle of our very existence on this tiny planet, our blue boat home. It is a season that invites us to be filled with hope and joy and wonder and awe, reminding us that we are connected to each other in mystery and miracle.

May this holiday season, these holy days of wonder and awe, be filled with gifts of the spirit, gifts of life and love that come to us from sources beyond our knowing.

—Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Congregational News and Events

Winter Weather Procedures

Sunday service cancellations or weekday office closures will be decided as far in advance as possible, and will be posted on our website, the UUS Facebook page, and on KCRG's cancellations list. We will also send an email to all weekly email subscribers. When possible a sign will be posted on the front door.

UUS groups and committees decide individually when to cancel or postpone events or meetings even if UUS is closed. Contact a group leader to find out if a scheduled event is happening. Remember to use your best judgment when deciding whether to attend a UUS event or activity during bad weather. If it feels unsafe, don't risk it!

Freethinker Friendly Congregation Committee

The UUS Freethinker Friendly Congregation (FFC) Committee invites all UUS members to visit the UUA's UU Humanist Association's website: humanists.org. Scroll down to and click on the FFC's "red heart" logo. There you can see a thorough explanation of the FFC designation, especially if you've missed our newsletter articles, our social hour information tables, or our forum. For a Sunday service next April, we have invited the Rev. Dr. David Breeden, President of the UU Humanist Association and Senior Minister at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, to speak to us about UU Humanism and the benefits of being a designated Freethinker Friendly Congregation. Then we'll present a vote to become an officially designated FFC at the May congregational meeting. The FFC committee encourages all questions; please contact any FFC committee member: Jeanette Carter (montehigh55@gmail.com), Caryl Lyons (clyons@southslope.net), Jerry Wetlaufer (gbwetlaufer@gmail.com), Hilary Strayer (hilary@strayerlaw.com), and Mark Yuskis (resdoggie@aol.com).

UUS Welcomes New Facilities Coordinator

The UUS Facilities Coordinator oversees all rental use of our building, as well as acting as a resource for congregational events. UUS member Lori Marshall has held the position since it was created in late 2017 but has stepped down for personal reasons. Della McGrath was hired to fill the position at the end of November. She is a retired business woman with a strong background in organization and nonprofit management. Please thank Lori for all her hard work, and welcome Della!

Covenant Groups

In November, groups considered what it means for UUs to be "a people of memory." Memory is fundamental to our understanding of ourselves as individuals. It gives us a history, a context, connections to others and to the world. But it can be elusive—it changes, it fades, it returns at unexpected times and in unexpected ways (sometimes disguised, as in dreams). Societies as a whole are bound together by collective memory, but that's where it gets tricky. We're all familiar with the conflicts that arise when we disagree over what that memory is or how to interpret it. What is your relationship to memory—happy, sad, indifferent, easy or challenging? And what role do you think memory plays in the life of the UU community? How exactly are we—or are we not—a "people of memory"?

If topics like this intrigue you, you may be ready to join a covenant group. 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 with other UUs. You can learn more about the program and how to join a group by contacting Jan Locher (354-6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

Inquirer Sessions in December

Everyone is invited to attend the Inquirer Sessions held each Sunday after the service. This series of orientation classes is designed to introduce newcomers to UU values and history and offer opportunities to get involved with groups and activities within the congregation. Feel free to grab some refreshments and bring them with you to the Conference Room

- **December 2nd:** Introduction to Interest and Activity Groups
- **December 9th:** TBA—Congregational Meeting
- **December 16th:** UU 101—Introduction to Unitarian Universalist History and Values
- **December 23rd:** Introduction to Adult Religious Education Opportunities and Volunteering
- **December 30th:** Tour of Building and Grounds (weather permitting)

Capital Campaign Donor Recognition Event, December 2nd

We will celebrate the generosity of all who contributed to our Capital Campaign on Sunday, December 2nd, following the service with brief remarks at 10:30 am and an unveiling of new art for the Fellowship Hall recognizing all our donors. A reception will follow. Please plan to join us!

Congregational Meeting, December 9th

The annual December Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, December 9th. (There will be a short break prior to the meeting so that people can get some coffee and a snack.) The agenda includes a report from the Stewardship Committee, a vote to approve the 2019 Budget, a vote on a revision to the bylaws related to the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry, and a report from the Interim Transition Team. Childcare will be available. See the insert in this newsletter for the meeting agenda, the proposed bylaw language, and a list of voting members.

Historical Records Committee, December 12th

The UUS Historical Records Committee collects, preserves, and organizes historical materials for both traditional and digital archives. We will have our next work day on Wednesday, December 12th, from 10 am to 1 pm. All are welcome! Contact Diana Miller at history@uus.org for more information.

UUS Board of Trustees Meeting, December 13th

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

Parking Updates and Announcements

We have approval from the City of Coralville to park on Oakdale Road on Sundays and holidays. However, there are some restrictions. In the block between Abbie Ct and our driveway, we must honor the “No Parking Here to Corner” sign so that fire trucks can access the houses in that development. That means no parking from that sign to Abbie Ct. We also should not park within 5 feet of the fire hydrant. Finally, please leave the crosswalk clear for pedestrians to walk on the sidewalk to the front door of UUS.

A few other reminders:

- Park to maximize the number of spaces of street parking. Don't leave half a car's length between you and the next car.
- Follow the arrows in the UUS parking lot. Turn right at the first drive to loop around by the front door and out the second drive.
- Reserve the charging station parking spots for electric cars. It's okay for a non-electric car to park there if there are no other parking spots left in the lot.
- Overflow parking is available in the UI lot to the south on Oakdale Rd and the Kirkwood Regional Center to the north on Oakdale Blvd.

Become a Leader at UUS

Get on the field, stretch, and fall in love. UUS is searching for leaders and team players who can help us continue to move forward with the strength and compassion that have been so evident these past several years:

- Our Board, our governing body who ensures our collective best interests are represented in management decisions, seeks a new Vice President, a new Secretary, and a new Finance Trustee.
- Our Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is seeking one member to join the LDC and assist the Society by helping members develop their leadership skills, and identify future leaders.
- Our Endowment Committee, which enhances our stability and offers flexibility in our Society's financial management, is also seeking a member who can help us continue this valuable work.

If you want to get off the bench and onto the field with other talented players, if you want to stretch your intellectual and emotional muscles, or if you want to fall more in love with UUS (or if you know someone else who does), please contact Maureen Patterson about the LDC, Jean Hood about the Endowment Committee, or Jim Olson about the Board. The above positions all have different term lengths, but nominees will be elected at the Congregational Meeting in May of 2019 to begin their terms in July.

December Birthdays

Margaret Burchianti	Dave Jepsen	Kasia Laskowska	Diana Miller	Julie Reynolds
Pat Ephgrave	Donna Johnson	Sherry Mangold	Kelly O'Berry	Peter Thorne
Carmen Griggs	Leah Kaminsky	Dave Martin	Michael Pavelich	Susan Wells

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

Interest & Activity Groups & UUS Events

Friends of Friends, December 2nd

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, December 2nd, at 11 am in the Hickory Room. To learn more, contact Michael and Rochelle Honey-Arcement at accessibility@uusic.org.

Kiirtan, December 3rd

The next Kiirtan will be held on Monday, December 3rd, 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 December

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 Christmas Eve. 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).

UUS Community Meal, December 5th

Join us for our next Community Meal for all members, friends, and families of UUS on Wednesday, December 5th, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This month we'll be having a baked potato bar (with meat, vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options). 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 appreciated.

UUS House Ensemble, December 6th & 13th

The UUS House Ensemble will continue to rehearse on Thursdays, December 6th and 13th, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Performances are planned for later in the month. New members are welcome! Please contact Gloria Corbin at music@uusic.org if you'd like to participate so a music folder can be prepared for your instrument.

UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal, Thursdays and Sundays in December

The UUS Adult Choir rehearses weekly on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm. The choir sings three Sundays of each month with one weekend off. On the Sundays when the choir sings, we gather in the sanctuary for a 9 am rehearsal before the service.

New singers are welcome! The choir is open to all singers (high school and beyond). No auditions or experience required. The choir sings in unison, two, three, and four parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). 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.

Family's Night Out, December 7th

On Friday, December 7th, from 6 to 9 pm, drop the kids off at UUS for a holiday pajama party while you enjoy an evening out! Put the kids in their favorite PJs and have them bring a pillow and blanket. We'll provide dinner, a movie, games, snacks, and holiday crafts. This is your chance to do some holiday shopping or just have a quiet night off. This event is open to UUS families—registration is required. Email Jessica Zimmer (education@uusic.org) with any questions, or register online at bit.ly/UUSFamilyNightOut2018.

UU Book Discussion Group, December 10th

The next gathering of the UU Book Discussion Group will be on Monday, December 10th, at 7:30 pm in either Meeting Room A or B of the Oaknoll George Street building. There will be a sign indicating the correct room. The December selection is *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. We incorrectly listed *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean as our December book last month—If you already started reading *The Orchid Thief* you can join us to discuss it in January. Lists of our selections for the rest of the year are available on Realm or at our monthly meetings. If you have questions, contact Mary Lou Welter at 354-1231, bookgroup@uusic.org, or post in the Realm group.

Secular Humanists, December 11th

The UU Secular Humanists will have our Annual Solstice Party and Potluck on Tuesday, December 11th, at 6 pm in the UUS Fellowship Hall. Barbecue pulled pork sandwiches & vegetarian lasagna will be provided, along with table settings. Please bring appetizers, sides, desserts, favorite dishes, or beverages to share. The party will take the place of our normal monthly meeting. All are welcome. Contact Mark Yuskis (resdoggie@aol.com) with questions.

UUS Board Game Club, December 14th

Join us for an evening of gaming on Friday, December 14th, from 6 to 9 pm at Lucky's Market in the Iowa City Marketplace (1668 Sycamore St, Iowa City). Administrator Emma Barnum will share her collection of modern board games (Anomia, Mysterium, Azul, and many more). If there's something specific you'd like to play, bring it! There will be no childcare for this event, but older children are welcome to join. Lucky's has pizza, snacks, and beverages for purchase. RSVPs on our Facebook or Realm events 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.

CUUPs Food for Thought, December 14th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for a potluck and discussion on a pagan topic on the second Friday of each month at Marsha Cheyney's home! We'll gather at 6:30 and begin dinner at 7, with the discussion to follow. Contact Marsha Cheyney at marshacheyney@gmail.com with questions and to get directions.

UUVC Ethical Eating for Personal and Planetary Health, December 15th

On Saturday, December 15th, the UU Vegetarian Community (UUVC) will host a discussion for those who are interested in exploring a whole-food, plant-based lifestyle, desiring a “refresher” on plant-based living, or just connecting with like-minded people. It will draw on the UUA’s Ethical Eating curriculum. Join us at 3:30 pm in the Hickory and Oak Rooms each month before the UUVC “Plantluck.” Reservations are required; contact Carol Throckmorton (vegcommunity@uusic.org or 337-3030) if you would like to participate.

UUVC “Plantluck” and Holiday Cookie Exchange, December 15th

The UU Vegetarian Community (UUVC) will enjoy a ‘plantluck’ on Saturday, December 15th, from 5 to 8 pm in Fellowship Hall. For the plantluck, please bring a favorite vegan holiday dish for 8-10 servings and your own reusable/recyclable table service and beverage. For the Cookie Exchange, bring three dozen of your favorite vegan holiday treats to exchange for three dozen others to take home. All are welcome. Contact Carol Throckmorton at 337-3030 or vegcommunity@uusic.org for questions.

CUUPs Earthbeats, December 16th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for Earthbeats, a drum and chant circle in the Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, December 16th, from 3 to 5 pm. We meet monthly, alternating between the afternoon on the 3rd Sunday and the evening on the 4th Friday of every other month. Contact Marsha and Dawn at cuups@uusic.org with any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace, December 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.

UU Grief Group, December 19th

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. 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: contact Gail Garwood (griefgroup@uusic.org).

UU Scrabble Group, December 20th

The UU Scrabble Group meets the third Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm in the Walnut Room. Beginners are welcome! Contact Gary Lawrenson for more information at 936-1291 or glawrenson@mchsi.com.

CUUPs Winter Solstice Celebration and Overnight Vigil, December 21st and 22nd

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for our annual Winter Solstice celebration and all-night Yule Vigil. This is the UUS Adult & Youth RE World Religions event for December.

The gathering will have three parts; it starts with an evening ritual and soup supper, then continues through the night in vigil and celebration, and concludes with a sunrise ritual to welcome the newborn Sun and breakfast. You are welcome to join us for all three parts or two or one as you desire. Join us at any time.

- Evening Ritual (Friday, December 21st): We’ll gather at 6 pm; the ritual will begin promptly at 6:30. In the ritual, we will bless the community that has formed, set intentions for the coming solar year, and prepare those who will sustain the vigil. We will provide the soups for dinner. Please bring bread, salad, or dessert to share. We ask that any food leftovers remain at the church to sustain those staying for the vigil overnight.
- Overnight Vigil: The vigil will follow dinner. Overnight activities include: songs, games, a mid-night candle walk, Sun crafts, spiritual activities, divination, food, drinks, spiritual shower, storytelling, reflecting, and opportunities to nap as desired. If you are staying overnight, please bring: suitable layers of clothing for the weather to wear during a candle-lit walk, sleeping gear if you expect you might need to nap, food and drinks to share, a towel, drums, and musical instruments.
- Sunrise Ritual (Saturday, December 22nd): We’ll gather at 7 am to make offerings, sing up the sun, drum in celebration, then have breakfast together.

All parts of this event are family-friendly; however, childcare is available for the Friday evening ritual from 6 to 8 pm. Parents/guardians will need to supervise their children at all other times.

Very Merry Vegan Plantluck, December 25th

The UU Vegetarian Community (UUVC) will host a Very Merry Vegan Plantluck on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th, at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Participants are not required to be vegan at the plantlucks, but they are asked to ‘eat vegan’ when attending. Please bring a favorite vegan holiday dish for 8 to 10 servings. If possible, please bring hot food in a crockpot or similar appliance. If transportation is a challenge, it’s likely one of the UUVC participants lives nearby and will be happy to provide it. Reservations are required to Carol Throckmorton at vegcommunity@uusic.org or 337-3030.

CUUPs Encounters, December 28th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for a monthly gathering to explore beliefs and practices of contemporary pagans, witches, and earth-based practitioners. In December we will meet on Friday the 28th from 6:30 to 9 pm in the Hickory and Oak Rooms to discuss the topic “Divination Exchange.” Contact Marsha and Dawn at cuups@uusic.org with questions.

Girls’ Night Out takes a Holiday/Winter Break

Girls’ Night Out will not meet during December or January. We plan to resume our monthly meetings in February.

Justice News and Events

Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC)

Next SJCC Meeting, December 11th

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11th, in the Conference Room at 7 pm. Our meetings are informal and fun, and we welcome new faces and ideas. Get more information by contacting socialjustice@uusic.org.

Project Holiday

The Crisis Center will again be distributing food for holiday meals to local needy families. A check to the Crisis Center or an online donation will help: \$25 for one family, \$100 for four. Reminder tags will be available at the SJCC table on Sunday mornings.

Holiday Remembering: California

For those of you who want to donate to Californians who are suffering losses because of the fires, these are ways to donate:

- Do a web search for "UU Disaster Relief Fund"
- Mail a check to Unitarian Universalist Association, Attn: Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210-1409
- Call the Unitarian Universalist Association: (888) 792-5885

Holiday Giving: Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends, a UUS program supporting immigrant families, invites you assist us in making the holidays brighter for five immigrant families. You are invited to "play Santa" for these families. On Sundays December 2nd and 9th, you may take a gift request tag for a child or parent. Buy the requested gift, wrap it, and return it with the tag to UUS on either December 9th or 16th. The Circle of Friends elves will deliver the items. Here is more information about our families:

- Griselda is from a famous weaving town in Guatemala. She has two sons, ages 6 and 9. She will be selling her weaving at UUS on the first two Sundays in December. Stop by and meet her.
- Vidal and Maria, also from Guatemala, have two daughters in college and three daughters at home. Maria works at UI Hospitals.
- Modesta arrived relatively recently from Guatemala and is seeking asylum along with her children, ages 10, 8, and 5.
- Montaser and Rabab, from the Sudan, have three children, including a baby born last spring with ongoing medical issues. The oldest is 10 and his sister is 5.
- Bdedreldin and Nsreen have very recently come from the Sudan with their five children, ages 10, 9, 5, 4, and 1.

Green Sanctuary Committee, December 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.

Uptown Bill's Benefit Concert, December 8th

On Saturday, December 8th, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, UUS and the Extend the Dream Foundation will host a benefit concert for Uptown Bill's, a local nonprofit that serves those with disabilities. Dave Moore, Pennies on the Rail, and Al Murphy will perform. Attendees will have the opportunity to indulge in Bill's shakes, cookies, and pop. Suggested donation is \$20 at the door.

UU Free Lunch Program, December 14th

The mission of the Greater Iowa City Free Lunch Program (located at 1105 Gilbert Court) is to provide free, hot meals six days a week to any community member who needs them. The guiding principal of respect and hospitality is as much a part of the program as the hearty, hot meals. UUS supports the program by sending a group of volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean up on the second Friday of each month. If you want to join our team, email Carmen Griggs at csgriggsiowa@gmail.com. Our next service date is Friday, December 14th, at 11 am.

On Friday, November 9th, 34 dedicated UUS volunteers served lunch to 139 Free Lunch Program guests. The main dish, pulled pork sandwiches prepared by the gourmet chef at John's Grocery and generously donated by David Jepsen, received rave reviews! Side dishes included cooked vegetables, vegetable salad, fresh fruit salad, a variety of delicious desserts, and beverages.

Recently, we have had difficulty getting enough volunteers to prepare main dishes. We are asking UUS Covenant Groups to consider preparing a main dish as a service project. Another idea is for individuals to donate a main dish purchased from a grocery store or restaurant. Sometimes friends chip in together. Having a main dish purchased or prepared would be a huge contribution to our efforts. If you are interested, please contact Carmen Griggs at the above email address.

CWJ Allies Meeting, December 14th

The Allies meeting for the Center for Worker Justice (CWJ) is open to all interested in immigration issues and workers' rights. This meeting will be held at their new offices in Iowa City at noon on Friday, December 14th. The address is 1556 1st Avenue, #C (near Wendy's).

UUS Racial Justice Circle, December 16th

The Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle (RJC) will meet on the third Sunday of December 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.

Circle of Friends Holiday Party, January 5th

A Holiday party for immigrant families will be held on Saturday, January 5th. Time and place to be announced. Contact Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com) if you would like to help plan the event.

UUS Day of Service, January 26th

The Day of Service scheduled for Saturday, January 26th, connects UUS members with an agency that needs some extra pairs of hands. For more details, check the January newsletter. If you know of an agency that could use some good UU workers, contact Diane Martin at dianemartin@mchsi.com.

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – November 8, 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), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex officio Interim Minister). **Absent:** Sara Feldmann (Trustee) and Colleen Higgins (Trustee). **Guests:** None.

Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Fretz provided opening words.

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

Consent Agenda items: Board Agenda; November Executive Committee Minutes; October Board Meeting Highlights & Minutes; Minister's Monthly Report; Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements; 2019 Draft Budget; Staff Relations Committee report; Email Vote – Approval Uptown Bill's Fundraising Request; and Email Vote – Approval NAACP Fundraising Request. *Other items:* Congregational Meeting Agenda Draft (Voelker); Proposed Changes to By-laws Draft (Voelker); Proposed Library Donation Policy (Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman); and Board Position Job Descriptions.

Voelker noted that when necessary, the Board votes via email on matters occurring between meetings. A summary of such voting and related communications will now be included in the Consent Agenda. During the past month, the Board voted by email to approve UUS-sponsored fundraising events for Uptown Bill's and NAACP. DeWitt shared that she was contacted by Jim Olson, representing Leadership Development (LDC). He would like people in leadership positions to give testimonials to boost the interest of members to serve. Honey-Arcement offered to do so on December 2nd and DeWitt can on January 6th. Olson also requested a job description for the Finance Trustee, invited Board members to share with LDC the names of potential nominees for elected positions, and opened a discussion about LDC involvement with Board Orientation. Also shared was that UUS received a Community Partnership Award from the Arc of Southeast Iowa for hosting their summer camp and Art Show in 2018. Michael and Rochelle Honey-Arcement attended ARC's annual meeting to accept the award. *The Board received the Consent Agenda and approved the November Executive Committee meeting minutes and October Board highlights and minutes.*

Library Donation Policy Proposal: Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE) submitted a draft library donation policy to the Board. Rev. Dowgiert explained that Zimmer-Saltzman is seeking guidance on how to respond to requests to donate materials. Discussion included whether there are multiple "libraries" (e.g., youth, adult, historic); material locations (e.g., Reception Area, RE Commons, Conference Room); and who and/or what groups (e.g., DLRE, Adult RE Committee, Historic Records Committee) should have oversight of the materials. Rev. Dowgiert will take this issue back to the staff to resolve – obtaining input from members and potentially forming a task force as warranted.

2019 Budget Discussion: Rode provided three potential 2019 budgets – a Need, a Want, and an In-Between. The In-Between budget will be presented for a congregational vote. Rode enumerated the major elements he will present at the meeting – which include the 2019 budget, the facility mortgage, fixed building expenses, and the solar-power purchase agreement. Also discussed was the upcoming switch by UUA from congregational fees calculated from the number of members to the Annual Program Fund (APF) calculation which is based on certified expenditures. UUA will cap our contribution at a 10% increase over last year. Rode reported that the 2019 pledge drive results thus far are promising – with return pledge units increasing their 2019 pledge by 18%. However, after the remaining pledges are received, we may still face a manageable budget shortfall.

December Congregational Meeting: The congregational meeting will focus on the proposed 2019 Budget but will also include a vote on changes to our by-laws related to the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM), an overview of the upcoming ministerial search process, and a report from the Interim Transition Team. The agenda and proposed by-law changes were finalized.

Safety and Security Policy Plan: The scope of the Building Security Task Force's work is limited. A different group needs to be formed to work on overall security and safety and to update our Policies and Procedures (P&P) manual. Several people were suggested to recruit for this effort. DeWitt will contact them and schedule an initial meeting.

Closing: Rev. Dowgiert provided closing words. Rode reported as Process Observer. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next Board meeting is Thursday, December 13, 2018, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

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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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 Dowgiert
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 — Della McGrath
Email: facilities.coordinator@uusic.org

Building Steward — Ron Wright

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

UUS Calendar for December 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
<p>2 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Capital Campaign Donor Recognition & Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Friends of Friends (H)</p>	<p>3 6 PM Kiirtan (Sycamore Rooms) 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>4 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee (C)</p>	<p>5 6 PM UUS Community Meal (FH)</p>	<p>6 5:30 PM House Ensemble Rehearsal (FH) 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>7 6 PM Family's Night Out! (CW)</p>	<p>8 7 PM Benefit Fundraiser for Uptown Bill's (S&FH)</p>
<p>9 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Brief Social Time (FH) 10:40 AM Congregational Meeting (S)</p>	<p>10 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll) 7:30 PM UU Book Discussion Group (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>11 6 PM Secular Humanist Solstice Party (FH) 7 PM Social Justice Coordinating Committee (C)</p>	<p>12 10 AM Historical Records Work Day (C)</p>	<p>13 5:30 PM House Ensemble Rehearsal (FH) 6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting (C) 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>14 11 AM Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct., IC) 6 PM UUS Board Game Club (Lucky's Market) 6:30 PM CUUPs Food for Thought (Marsha Cheyney's home)</p>	<p>15 3:30 PM Ethical Eating Class (H&O) 5 PM UU Vegetarian Community "Plantluck" (FH)</p>
<p>16 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Racial Justice Circle (O) 3 PM Dances of Universal Peace (REC) 3 PM CUUPs Earthbeats (FH)</p>	<p>17 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 12:30 PM UU Grief Group (C)</p>	<p>20 UUS Newsletter Submission Deadline 1:30 PM UU Scrabble Group (W) 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>21 6:30 PM CUUPs Winter Solstice Overnight Vigil (S&FH)</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service (S) 6:30 PM Social Time (FH) 7 PM Christmas Eve Service (S)</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Office Closed 1 PM Very Merry Plantluck (FH&K)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6:30 PM CUUPs Encounters (H&O)</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>	<p>1 News Year's Day Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

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).

UUS Congregational Meeting Agenda

Sunday, December 9th, 2018 at 11 am

2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville, IA 52241

Voting Members, please pick up your yellow voting card in the Atrium prior to the meeting

AGENDA

OPENING

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting
Establish Quorum & Call to Order

Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Jane DeWitt, Board President

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Transition Team Report
2019 Pledge Drive Report
2019 Budget Presentation, Discussion, and Vote
Changes to By-Laws (see below)
Overview of Ministerial Search
Announcements

Jeffery Ford
Chris Rode
Jane DeWitt
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Jane DeWitt

CLOSING

Extinguishing Chalice & Closing Words
Motion for Adjournment

Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Jane DeWitt

*Touching hearts, changing lives, and transforming the world.
The Unitarian Universalist Society, a liberal religious congregation since 1841.*

Proposed Changes to By-Laws

CURRENT

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

A. There shall be the following standing committees: Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry, Endowment, Leadership Development. Additional committees may be established or dissolved by the Board.

ARTICLE V – QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINEES; PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS

A. The following leadership positions shall be filled by election by the congregation at the annual meeting: Trustee, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Endowment Committee member, Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry member, and Leadership Development committee member.

PROPOSED (changes in bold)

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

A. There shall be the following standing committees: Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (**except during periods of interim ministry**), Endowment, **and** Leadership Development. Additional committees may be established or dissolved by the Board.

ARTICLE V – QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINEES; PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS

A. The following leadership positions shall be filled by election by the congregation at the annual meeting: Trustee, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Endowment Committee member, Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry member (**except during periods of interim ministry**), and Leadership Development committee member.

Voting Member List

According to UUS's bylaws, members are eligible to vote at the Congregational Budget Meeting on December 9th, 2018, if they 1) have signed the membership book, 2) are over 14 years of age, 3) have made an annual financial contribution of record to the annual operating budget or are Life Members of the Society, and 4) have been members at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Our Policy on Membership Voting Eligibility and Contributions of Record also requires applicable donations to the operating budget be made between January 1st, 2017 and November 9th, 2018.

If you think your name has been omitted from this list in error, please contact the office.

Dean Abel	Jonni Ellsworth	Donna Johnson	Ed Moreno	Vicki Siefers
Carol Adamson	John Elson	Emily Johnson	Ruth Muir	Katherine Simmering
Tim Adamson	Irvin Emig	Nicholas Johnson	Shelby Myers	Jane Slaymaker
Bobbe Akre	Lori Enloe	Susan Kaliszewski	Laurie Neuerburg	Jean Snodgress-
Bruce Alexander	Jim Ephgrave	Haley Kamps	Leigh Nida	Wiedenheft
Alice Atkinson	Pat Ephgrave	Miriam Kashia	Carol Nordquist	Jerry Snodgress-
Ken Atkinson	Christine Etler	Sandy Keller	Gerald Nordquist	Wiedenheft
Julia Audlehelm	Sara Feldmann	Bailey Kelley	Jim Norris	Cindy Spading
Larry Audlehelm	Mike Fenneman	Larry Kent	Nancy Noyer	Renee Speh
Joe Barrash	Betsy Fischer	Kathleen Kingman	Liz Noyes	Virginia Stamler
Kris Barrash	Linda Fisher	Margaret Kinsman	Kelly O'Berry	Jill Stephenson
Kara Beauchamp	Dawn Fitzpatrick	Garry Klein	Terri O'Berry	Faye Strayer
Barbara Beaumont	Jeffery Ford	Margaret Koenig	Alison Oliver	Hilary Strayer
Philip Beck	Amy Fretz	Juanita Kosier	James Olson	Alan Swanson
Daniel Benton	Donna Friedman	Susan Krohmer	Sue Otto	Liz Swanson
Aiden Bettine	Dan Gall	John Lanaghan	Cecile Owings	Dan Tallman
Allison Bettine	Meredith Gall	Pat Larson	Ron Owings	Danielle Tallman
Alan Bohanan	Dave Gallaher	Barbara Laughlin	Kim Palmer	Christopher Taylor
Sharon Booker	Winnie Ganshaw	Jim Laughlin	Lula Palmer	Vanessa Taylor
Peg Bouska	Gail Garwood	Gary Lawrenson	Maureen Patterson	Al Thomas
John Bowman	Joel Gilbertson-White	Dave Leavitt	Dorothy Paul	Sharon Thomas
Valerie Bowman	Stephanie Gilbertson-	Judy Leavitt	Michael Pavelich	Arllys Joy Thompson
Susan Boyd	White	Russ Lenth	Pat Pavelich	Peter Thorne
Joseph Brisben	Brian Glidewell	Lisa Lepic	Amy Pearson	Carol Throckmorton
Pete Brokaw	Carmen Griggs	Carol Liguori	Gerry Pearson	Dave Tokuhisa
Wendy Brown	Prahlad Gupta	Marta Little	Natalie Pearson	Judy Tokuhisa
Margaret Burchianti	Kurt Hamann	Jan Locher	Emily Peck	Jim Trepka
Kris Canfield	Julie Hammer	Stephen Locher	Sriram Pemmaraju	Emily Uhl
Lynne Cannon	Barbara Haring	Mary Losch	Kathy Penningroth	Theresa Ullerich
Theresa Carbrey	Claudine Harris	Nancy Lynch	Bonnie Penno	Carly van der Heide
Jeanette Carter	Sally Hartman	Caryl Lyons	Mark Penno	Dana van der Heide
Dixie Cassady	Lisa Haverkamp	Elaine Mahler	Ron Pile	Stephanie Van Housen
Ian Cawley	Mike Haverkamp	Cari Malone	Paul Pomrehn	Mary Vasey
Michael Cervantes	Santhi Hejeebu	Heather Marshall	Dale Prediger	George Verhage
Kirk Cheyney	Diana Henry	Lori Marshall	Judith Quinn	Steve Vincent
Marsha Cheyney	Colleen Higgins	Lynette Marshall	John Raley	Tova Vitiello
Lucy Choisser	Sarah Holmes	David Martin	Bruce Randall	Peg Voelker
Craig Christophel	Michael Honey-Arcement	Diane Martin	Christina Randall	Terry Lynn Wahls
Rachel Clark	Rochelle Honey-	Matt Martin	Joe Rasmussen	Jeff Walberg
Judi Clinton	Arcement	Hilary Marvin	Martha Rasmussen	Doug Wallace
Sam Cochran	Al Hood	Robby Marvin	Tony Razavi	Mary Kathryn Wallace
Cathy Cole	Jean Hood	Karen Mason	Jacqueline Reger	Elaine Waples
Chris Coretsopoulos	Keri Hornbuckle	Marianne Mason	Jenny Reynolds	Julia Wasson
Ernie Cox	Kathy Hotsenpiller	Kathy Mathews	Linda Rice	Connie Webb
Ron Crawford	Peggy Houston	Mary McCann	Tom Rocklin	Mary Lou Welter
Dan Cummins	Carolyn Howe	Jake McCusker	Anna Rode	Laura Westfall-Christophel
Laurie Cummins	Jan Hubel	Jess McCusker	Chris Rode	Jerry Wetlaufer
Jo Cunningham	Kenn Hubel	Kathy McDonald	Shona Roeder	Kristin Wildensee
David Curry	Lois Hughes	Brad McDowell	Linda Rohret	Faith Wilmot
Alexandra Curtis	Merle Ihne	Janet McKee	Jaia Rosenfels	Glenn Wiltgen
Jane DeWitt	Lynne Ikach	Gail McLure	Sarah Ross	Kaye Winder
Monique DiCarlo	Adam Ingersoll	Mary McMurray	Charity Rowley	Ruth Wirtz
Peggy Dietrich	Brigette Ingersoll	Tom McMurray	Susan Salterberg	Scott Wittenkeller
Rob Dietrich	Isaac Ingersoll	Virginia Melroy	Paula Sanan	Kirk Witzberger
Mary Dix	Kate Ingersoll	Gay Mikelson	Ricardo Sauro	Star Wojciak
Sherry Dolash	Katrina Ingersoll	Diana Miller	Kay Schneider	Edward Wolfe
Andy Douglas	Nik Jakob	Paula Miller	Deb Schoelerman	Ron Wright
Lee Eberly	David Jepsen	Tony Miller	Hazel Seaba	Rich Young
Susan Eberly	Carolyn Johnson	Virginia Miller	Jamie Sharp	Susan Kasal Young
Bill Eginton	Chris Johnson	Deb Moore	Nicole Sheldon	Mark Yuskis
Kay Eginton	Debbie Johnson	Carol Moreno	Dick Siefers	Lenda Zelinskas