



THE UUS NEWS

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

May
2019

Sunday Services

A social hour follows the 10 am service.

May's Spiritual Theme is "Curiosity"

May 5th: "Stepping Into the Abyss: On Suffering and Making Our Way," Jeffery Ford

UUS member Jeffery Ford will talk about how he moves past his pain and loss, makes meaning, and finds joy.

May 12th: "Flower Communion," John Ashby and Jessica Zimmer

This multi-generational service welcomes new members and celebrates Mothers Day with a traditional Flower Communion. Remember to bring a flower to share. We will also welcome our newest members in a Covenant Ceremony.

John Ashby holds an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. John has worked in the financial industry but ultimately made his career in organic and natural foods. He is currently a student at the Graduate Theological Union, Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, where he will graduate this spring. After living in California where they were active members of the UU Church of Davis, John and his wife Barbara retired and moved to Grinnell to be close to their grandkids in Tama. They love their new small-town life and new church community and look forward to living together with you all.

May 19th: "All is Grace," Andrea Hawkins-Kamper

Brennan Manning wrote that "if I've learned anything about the world of grace, it's that failure is always a chance for a do-over." In this service, we will explore what grace means to our active faith, how compassion can fuel our work, and the strength that is found in community.

Andrea Hawkins-Kamper is a student at Meadville Lombard Theological School and is a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Andrea is currently completing a ministerial internship at the UU Congregation of the Quad Cities in Davenport, Iowa.

The May Congregational Meeting will immediately follow the service. Find details on page 3.

May 26th: "Memorial Day," Worship Associates

The Worship Associates of UUS will lead a Memorial Day service. The service will be followed by a potluck picnic (details on page 3).

May's Social Justice Offerings Benefit CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank

Formerly known to us all as the Crisis Center, CommUnity is at the same location and providing the same services: the food bank, housing and utility assistance, help for people in new jobs, bus tickets, the crisis hotline, and much more.

Cash or checks to UUS (CommUnity 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.

Our Mission: *We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.*

Our Vision: *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.*

Our Seven Principles

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Sunday Attendance

March 31st:	169 total: 133 service, 36 RE
April 7th:	191 total: 155 service, 36 RE
April 14th:	218 total: 172 service, 46 RE
April 21st:	220 total (Multigenerational)



From Your Interim Minister

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition that draws from many sources of wisdom and truth. The principles and purposes, which are a part of the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association, list six sources.

The first source 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.

In other words, we are called to engage a sense of wonder and curiosity as we ponder the mysteries of this life we share.

Curiosity is the theme for May, a fitting theme for this particular time in the life of UUS. Interim Ministry is rooted in curiosity. It is a time for asking questions. Where have you been together as a congregation? What in your history has shaped you into who you are now? How do you welcome those who are seeking to be part of our faith tradition? What are the possibilities for the future? How might you best live into your shared principles and values?

Right now there are some pertinent questions about the immediate future of the Society. Who will you select to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee? Whom might be your next called and settled minister? How will you be changed in the process?

One of my important teachers in life and ministry is the Quaker author, Parker Palmer. One of his touchstones for living is, “when the going gets tough, turn to wonder.” Turning to wonder can be a valuable tool when times are uncertain, challenging, or difficult. Try it the next time you are feeling worried or anxious

or defensive or reactive. Try getting curious, asking yourself questions like: “I wonder how things will turn out?” “I wonder what my part will be in shaping the outcome?” “What will I be saying about this time in my life five years from now?”

Turning to wonder is an especially valuable tool for being part of a pluralistic faith tradition such as ours. Coming as we do from differing belief systems and faith perspectives, we can’t assume that we all agree on matters of spirituality and religion. When we encounter someone who believes differently than we do, turning to curiosity can open the door to greater understanding of ourselves and each other. We can ask ourselves questions such as: “I wonder what life experiences led this person to their beliefs?” “I wonder what my reaction teaches me about myself?”

This is an exciting time in the life of UUS, a time for awaiting the answers to open questions, a time when a spirit of wonder and mystery moves through the Society. I am grateful to be on this journey with you. One of the things I love about Interim Ministry is that I can never anticipate exactly how things will unfold.

As you read this, I will be recuperating from total knee replacement surgery. I will be using medical leave time until May 12th. From May 13th to June 9th, I will return to work on a part-time basis, working mostly from home. I will be available by email and telephone. If cleared to drive, I will attend meetings at the church. If not, I will attend remotely by video conference. I plan to be present for the congregational meeting on May 19th. Vacation time for me will be from June 10th to July 21st, returning to work on July 22nd.

During my absences, your very capable Pastoral Care Team is available for you. Your Worship Associates have Sunday services well in hand. In the spirit of curiosity—I wonder—how will these next few weeks unfold?

—Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Congregational News and Events

Now Accepting Summer Service Proposals

Planning for UUS Sunday Services is now underway. The theme is “Identity.” We are called to consider:

- How do identities form? What forces shape them?
- How are identities expressed in different contexts and places such as home, relationships, and communities?
- How are identities challenged and how do we find the resilience to rebound from these challenges?
- How do our identities shape our spiritual lives and beliefs?
- How do roles such as parent, child, advocate, leader, and follower shape our identities?
- How do our UU principles and the sources of our living traditions shape, and how are they shaped by, our identities?

Submit a proposal and share your stories, thoughts, and insights into these and other questions as we gather to explore the role identities play in our lives. Consider Proposal forms can be found on our website or by contacting worshipassociates@uusic.org. Completed forms can be emailed to the Worship Associates, mailed or dropped off at the UUS office, or uploaded directly to the Worship Associate Dropbox: bit.ly/2019SummerServices.

Covenant Groups

In April, covenant groups talked about what it means to be a “People of Wholeness.” We seek wholeness in our own lives in many ways, through physical health and spiritual well-being. Often we work toward it through a state of brokenness, when life seems to have fallen to pieces. Unitarian Universalists are oriented toward the belief that to make things whole again, one can never truly put them back exactly the way they were before. All we can do is strive to make something new. Brokenness presents us with opportunities to find a new arrangement of pieces, to find creative solutions to conventions, behaviors, and attitudes that no longer serve our personal or our community’s needs. Might we not consider wholeness as an ideal to strive for, the continual effort to make the world a better place, rather than an actual, sustained state of being?

The covenant group program offers members the opportunity to express their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while creating closer ties with other UUs. Learn more by contacting Jan Locher (354- 6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

UUS Garage Sale, May 4th

UUS will be participating in the City of Coralville's Annual City-wide Garage Sale on Saturday, May 4th, from 8 am to 1 pm in the UUS Fellowship Hall. We will continue Sunday morning from 9 am to noon. This is an opportunity for all UUS members and friends to recycle their excess possessions for the benefit of the UUS operating fund. Please do not bring soiled, torn, broken, or non-functional items. You can bring your sale items to UUS on Wednesday evening, May 1st (after the Community Meal ends at 7:30 pm), Thursday, May 2nd by appointment, or Friday, May 3rd between noon and 8 pm. Please do not drop off items before May 1st or leave anything with staff. Many volunteers will be needed for this event. If you are available for setting up, pricing, assisting customers, cashiering, or transporting, or if you have questions about items, please discuss with Carol Throckmorton at 337-3030 or carolthrockmorton108@msn.com.

World Religions: Jainism, May 5th

Join us for a World Religions forum after the service on Sunday, May 5th, at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. Subhash Jain will be presenting on tenets of Jainism and modern issues. Mr. Jain is a retired professor from University of Iowa College of Engineering and practitioner of Jainism. Since retiring, he has focused on refining his understanding of the karma doctrine within the Jain faith; He has written a doctoral dissertation as well as a book and several articles on the topic, and has presented to a variety of groups.

Tree planting at UUS, May 5th & 12th

Tree planting will occur on the Sunday afternoons on May 5th and May 12th. Volunteers are encouraged to stay after services and help place pieces of cardboard around each tree and the surrounding bed. The trees will need to be staked. Then mulch will be spread on top of the cardboard. Later, volunteers will be needed to help water the trees.

Mulch will be delivered the week of April 29th. For a few days of that week, the mulch will be piled in the parking lot. We thank you for your patience and support during this labor-intensive process of landscaping!

If you would like to sponsor a tree or trees at UUS, please look at the large printed landscape plan and tree binder on Sunday mornings. The binder contains a listing of all trees and grasses that will be planted along with pictures and size information. For more information or questions, contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com or Jim Laughlin at jwl@lcom.net.

Shelter House Luncheon, May 17th

Please join us for the popular annual fundraiser on Friday, May 17th, from 11:30 to 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a meal of delicious homemade salads and desserts, breads and beverages. This will be the 14th benefit luncheon UUS has offered to the Iowa City/Coralville community to support Shelter House. Invite your friends to come! Tickets will be available in advance and at the door for a \$10 donation.

The UUS Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC) encourages you to jump in and volunteer with homemade salads and desserts of your choice. We're also looking for volunteers to work one-hour shifts for the set-up, serving, and clean-up for the event. Several UUs will be making calls to solicit help; you can also stop by the SJCC table on Sundays to volunteer, or call Gay Mikelson at 354-1160.

May Congregational Meeting, May 19th

The next UUS Congregational Meeting will be held at 11 am on Sunday, May 19th, immediately following the service. As part of the meeting we will vote on candidates for elected positions, including the Board of Trustees. Short biographies of those nominated by the Leadership Development Committee appear on an insert in this newsletter. UUS bylaws provide that candidates may also self-nominate, or be nominated from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

The meeting agenda will also include a vote on the members of Ministerial Search Committee; approval of the ministerial compensation package; and the Freethinker Friendly Congregation vote. A few minutes during the meeting will be spent informing the congregation about fire and tornado safety procedures.

A list of all voting members can be found on the back of the Nominee Bios insert and will also be posted at Sunday services. Please contact the office if you feel your name has been omitted in error.

Memorial Day Potluck, May 26th

On Sunday, May 26th, we will have our annual Memorial Day potluck picnic after the Sunday service. The service will be at the usual time of 10 am, and we will begin the hospitality setup all together at 11 am and finish with everyone helping clean up when the picnic is over. We will have lemonade, iced tea, and water available. Please bring your own table service along with a favorite brunch or lunch dish to feed 10-12 people. Please keep in mind that some people eat vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free diets, and consider bringing something that can be eaten by those with dietary restrictions. If possible, please label ingredients on a small card so people are clear on what dishes they can eat. We will eat on the grounds if the weather is nice. We do have some seating on the patio, but you may want to bring a blanket or camping chairs to make sure you have a comfy place to eat if you plan to eat outdoors!

UU Wellspring: Info Sessions for 2019-20 Class

This year we offered our first year of UU Wellspring, a program for those who want deepen their spiritual practices and expand their understanding of UU values. UU Wellspring incorporates five elements designed to balance a knowledge of UU history/theology with personal spiritual practice and engagement with the world:

- A commitment to daily spiritual practice
- Participation in a small-group community
- Individual work with a spiritual director
- Readings and resources for knowledge and reflection
- Reflection and commitment to live out our values in the world

We will be forming another Wellspring group for 2019-20. The program will begin with a Saturday retreat in September, then meet for two hours every two weeks, most likely on a Tuesday or Wednesday, from September through June. There will be articles to read and/or video clips to watch before each session.

We will offer information sessions at 11:30 am, after the Sunday services, on Sunday June 9th, and Sunday June 23rd, in the Oak Room. Contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org) with questions.

Green Sanctuary Team News

Intro to Drawdown Workshop, May 8th

Kristen Wildensee will present "An introduction to Drawdown" on Wednesday, May 8th, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This two-hour workshop includes videos, discussion and information about the possibilities of reversing global warming. The ideas that will be presented are based on the book *Drawdown, the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken. The general public will be invited, and youth are encouraged to attend.

Results of the Pom Pom Poll

The Green Sanctuary Team's commitment to concepts in *Drawdown* led them to conduct a pom pom poll in April. The book *Drawdown* rank orders the solutions that would reduce global warming. We chose five of the top ten solutions. Participants put pom poms in five jars to reflect their own environmental practices. The number of people reporting to be engaged in these solutions is as follows:

- Solution #3 Reduce food waste: 66
- Solution #4 Plant-based Diet: 32
- Solution #5 & #12 Plant Trees: 28
- Solution #6 Educate Girls: 31
- Solution #10 Rooftop Solar: 12

Good work, UUS members, on reducing food waste! The jar was spilling over! In contrast, most of us could do better in moving toward a plant-based diet (#4). Ask around or go online for recipe ideas. As for planting trees (#5 & #12), this is the time for it! UUS has two tree planting days planned, on May 5th and May 12th. Efforts to educate girls worldwide (#6) will enable them to make wiser choices as adults. They will be better prepared to work as stewards of food, soil, trees and water. They will also tend to have fewer and healthier children. Earle Canfield will be at UUS on June 9th to present ways to be involved in educating girls in Nepal. Not everyone can have rooftop solar (#10), but there are many ways to cut electricity use such as LED lights, energy-efficient appliances, and turning off lights.

"Write Hear Write Now" Goes Green, April 28th & May 5th

UUs for Social Justice and the UUs for Ministry for the Earth are partnering for a letter-writing campaign called "Spring for Change: A Season of Sacred Activism." They are asking us to write letters to our U.S. Senators urging them to address the climate crisis. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays April 28th and May 5th to write these important letters. Join the momentum for growing public support for new climate policy! The letters will be mailed directly to our Washington Advocates who will hand deliver them to the Iowa Senators.

Justice News and Events

UU Free Lunch Report

On Friday, April 12th, 39 dedicated UUS volunteers served 146 meals to Free Lunch Program guests. The main dish was homemade meat loaf. Many thanks to the Social Justice Coordinating Committee for organizing and funding this popular main dish and to the volunteers who prepared it at the Day of Service in January. Other dishes included vegetarian lasagna (as always, prepared by Caryl Lyons), French bread and cheese, cooked vegetables, fresh vegetable salad, fresh fruit salad, and a variety of fabulous desserts. The main dish was a hit with diners and received many compliments. "The meat loaf was delicious!" "You people are beautiful! Thank you!" If you are interested in volunteering for Free Lunch, please email Carmen Griggs at csgriggsiowa@gmail.com.

A5 Art Show a Success!

UUS hosted the annual Awesome Autism Awareness and Acceptance Art Festival (A5) on April 13th. The theme was "Stitching a Community—Themes on Quilts and Connection." We had a huge crowd of families, individuals on the spectrum, and art admirers. Several community service providers and artists engaged kids in art projects (Stephanie Van Housen brought her loom!). Our favorite therapy dog, Luke, provided extensive support and encouragement to all. The Yahoo Drummers shared a drumming circle.

This year's festival was in honor of Lisa Burns, who founded the show in memory of her mother, who was an artist. As the mother of an autistic child, she wanted to showcase the multi-faceted talent of autistic people. She believed in the inherent good and brilliance in everyone. We lost her to cancer last fall. We had the privilege of presenting one of her sons with a quilt honoring her memory and the work she did for the autism community in the Iowa City area. This quilt was sewn by volunteers from the Old Capitol Quilter's Guild from squares designed by local students.

We heard countless compliments on the space, and comments on how well A5 fits in with the building. Thank you sincerely from all of us at A5! Check out pictures at: www.facebook.com/TheAwesomeAutismAwarenessArtProject.

The May CommUnity Baby Shower

UUS will be participating in the Baby shower sponsored by the CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank (formerly the Crisis Center). Imagine 200 babies each week coping with no diapers! Imagine the parents! The need is great in our community, so all during the month of May, bring in donations of diapers, wipes, and formula. A collection bin can be found near the coat room. Imagine those adorable baby smiles!

May Birthdays

Valerie Bowman	Sally Hartman	Elaine Mahler	Bonnie Penno	Mary Kathryn Wallace
Ian Cawley	Carolyn Howe	Clara Martin	Dale Prediger	Doug Wallace
Sam Cochran	Jan Hubel	Eleonora Marvin	Charity Rowley	Mary Lou Welter
Mary Dix	Teddy Ingersoll	Micah Neuerburg	Mike Schmitz	Laura Westfall-
Henry Gilbertson-White	Nik Jakob	Terri O'Berry	Dick Siefers	Christophel
Vivien Gillespie	Cassie Kaminsky	Cora Patterson	Dave Tokuhisa	Kristin Wildensee
Brian Glidewell	Brenda Linley	Sally Peck	Harper Uhl	Haven Witherspoon

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

Upcoming UUS Events

Find more information on all UUS events online (uusic.org/upcoming-events) or by contacting the office.

Wednesday, May 1st

- **UUS Community Meal:** 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Cookout! RSVPs appreciated: bit.ly/May19CommunityMeal)

Thursday, May 2nd

- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Saturday, May 4th

- **UUS Garage Sale:** 8 am in the Fellowship Hall (page 3)

Sunday, May 5th

- **UUS Garage Sale:** 9 am in the Fellowship Hall
- **Inquirer Session:** 11:10 am in the Conference Room (Intro to Social Justice Groups and Opportunities)
- **Racial Justice Circle:** 11:15 am in the Oak Room
- **Jainism & Modern Issues Forum:** 11:30 am in the Sanctuary (page 3)

- **CUUPs Beltane Ritual:** 4 pm on the UUS Grounds

Join the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) for our annual celebration of Beltane, weaving the abundance and fertility of the season with a celebration of the blooming of nature. Weather permitting, this family-friendly ritual will be held in our ritual circle, followed by a Maypole dance and finger-food potluck. We will gather at 4 pm, with ritual starting promptly at 4:30. Email cuups@uusic.org with any questions & to rsvp.

Monday, May 6th

- **Kiirtan:** 6 pm at the Sycamore Rooms in Iowa City
- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Tuesday, May 7th

- **Green Sanctuary Team:** 5:30 pm in the Conference Room

Wednesday, May 8th

- **Introduction to Drawdown Workshop:** 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall (page 4)

Thursday, May 9th

- **UUS Board of Trustees:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room
- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, May 10th

- **UU Free Lunch Program:** 11 am at 1105 Gilbert Ct., IC
- **CUUPs Food for Thought:** 6:30 pm at Marsha Cheyney's home

Sunday, May 12th

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:10 am in the Conference Room (Realm Training)
- **UUS Accessibility Meeting:** 11:30 am in the Hickory Room

Monday, May 13th

- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

- **UU Book Discussion Group:** 7:30 pm at Oaknoll (George St. Building, 4th floor)

Our May book is *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson. We will not meet again until September, and are currently selecting the first two books for the new year. To add a title to the list of options, or for more information, contact Mary Lou Welter at 354-1231, bookgroup@uusic.org.

Tuesday, May 14th

- **Social Justice Coordinating Committee:** 7 pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, May 16th

- **UU Scrabble Group:** 1:30 pm at Kim & Lula Palmer's home
- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, May 17th

- **UU Shelter House Luncheon:** 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall (page 3)
- **Board Game Club:** 6 pm at The Hobby Corner in Iowa City

Sunday, May 19th

- **Congregational Meeting:** 11 am in the Sanctuary (page 3)
- **Inquirer Session:** There will be no separate Inquirer Session. Learn about our congregation by attending the congregational meeting.
- **Dances of Universal Peace:** 3 pm in the RE Commons
- **UU Vegetarian Community "Plantluck":** 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 20th

- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Tuesday, May 21st

- **Secular Humanists:** 7 pm at the Eberlys' home

The Secular Humanists will gather in May for a Dessert Social at 7 pm in the home of Sue and Lee Eberly (1840 Friendship Street, IC). We'll enjoy sweet treats and their beautiful yard as we discuss the status of the Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation and where we go from here. Everyone needn't bring a dessert, but if you have a special one you'd like to share contact Sue at susan17eberly@gmail.com. Also contact Sue for directions or other questions. There is ample street and driveway parking. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday, May 22nd

- **UU Grief Group:** 12:30 pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, May 23rd

- **Girls' Night Out:** 5:30 pm at Twelve01 Kitchen & Tap (1210 First Ave., Coralville)

Sunday, May 26th

- **Memorial Day Potluck:** 11 am in the Fellowship Hall and Grounds (page 3)
- **Inquirer Session:** Join us for the Memorial Day picnic/potluck after the service. Visitors are welcome to stay for lunch/brunch and meet people, even if you didn't bring any food to share!

Monday, May 27th

- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – April 11, 2019

Board meeting minutes are 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), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex officio Interim Minister).

Guests: Mark Yuskis, Jeanette Carter, Caryl Lyons, and Jerry Wetlaufer (Freethinker Friendly Congregation Committee).

Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Honey-Arcement provided opening words.

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

Consent Agenda items: April Board Agenda; April Executive Committee Minutes; March Board Meeting Highlights; Interim Minister's Monthly Report; Treasurer's Report & Financials; Staff Relations Committee Report (Mary McMurray); Governance Committee Meeting Minutes 02/26/18 & 03/28/19 (Fretz); UUS Transition Coach Visit Handout 03/23/19 (Voelker); Various Resources related to Ministerial Search Committees (Voelker).

Other items: Ministerial Compensation Package Recommendation (Rode).

DeWitt noted from the Executive Committee minutes that Garrigues will represent UUS on the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition board. *The Board received the Consent Agenda and approved the March highlights and the April Executive Committee minutes.*

Mission/Vision Workshop – September 2019: Rev. Dowgiert noted that an important interim ministry task is for UUS to revisit its Mission and Vision. She recommended that the Board reserve either September 7, or September 28 for a Saturday congregational workshop related to mission/vision work. She plans to involve members of the congregation in planning and facilitating the workshop.

UUS Ministerial Compensation Package: This fall the Ministerial Search Committee will prepare our congregational packet – which will include ministerial compensation information. The new (August 2020) settled minister's maximum compensation package needs congregational budget approval before the December 2019 meeting. Rode provided a recommendation – consistent with UUA Fair Compensation Guidelines. The Compensation Package includes salary & housing (\$85,250), benefits, professional allowance, and moving expenses (\$20,250) for a total of \$140,825. *The Board unanimously accepted the Treasurer's recommended compensation package to present for approval by the congregation at the May 19th congregational meeting.*

Congregational Meeting: The next *Congregational Meeting is May 19, 2019* – immediately following the service and a brief, 5-minute restroom break. The Board agreed on the following agenda items:

AGENDA

- Board of Trustees, Leadership Development Committee, and Endowment Committee Nominees – Vote
- Ministerial Search Committee members – Vote
- Settled Minister's Compensation Package – Vote
- Freethinker Friendly Congregation – Vote
- Information on Fire/Tornado procedures

Ministerial Search Committee Process: DeWitt will send a letter to the congregation informing them that every member will be contacted and asked to recommend individuals to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). Information about the work of the MSC will also be shared. Members who were frequently recommended will be encouraged to complete an MSC application. Members may also self-nominate by completing the application. The application deadline and voting instructions will be forthcoming.

Freethinker Friendly Congregation: DeWitt recounted that in April 2018 the Board authorized the UUS Secular Humanists to undertake a year-long process to fulfill the criteria to become a UU Humanist Association (UUHA) designated Freethinker Friendly Congregation (FFC). The Board then discussed the FFC designation requirements, UUHA application, and need for and desired outcome of a congregational vote. *The Board agreed to put the FFC vote on the May 19th meeting agenda.* Also agreed was that pending congregational approval, the *Board would review and approve the UUHA application before its submission.* Rev. Dowgiert agreed to complete the Minister's Statement section and sign the application.

Closing: Voelker provided closing words. Feldmann reported as Process Observer. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next Board meeting is Thursday, May 9, 2019, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

Nominees for Elected Positions at UUS

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is pleased to present the following talented candidates to be elected to the Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee, and the LDC for terms beginning in July, 2019. We ask you to thank these members for their willingness to serve and contribute to our community, and to endorse them with a “yes” vote at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 19th, 2019 at 11 am in the Sanctuary.

Joe Rasmussen, Board Vice President

Joe was an Iowa farm boy who came to Iowa City for his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He has had three careers: first as a teacher/coach/athletic director in a rural Linn County high school; second as a full-time research analyst on the staff of the Iowa State Senate’s majority leader; then almost 30 years as a public employee union business representative doing contract negotiations and arbitration hearings before retiring. Joe has served as a small-town city council member and mayor, business manager of a state-wide local union, and president of a three-state union district council. He and his spouse, Martha, were members in Peoples UU Church in Cedar Rapids for 20 years before transferring to Iowa City. At Peoples he served on buildings and grounds, a ministerial search committee, the Board of Trustees, as parliamentarian, and on their leadership nominating committee. At UUS he has assisted the Transition Team II, Buildings and Grounds, a Hospitality Team, and coordinates the Dinners for Eight program. Joe is impressed with the difference between the pastoral Peoples Church and our program Society. He would like to see a later Sunday church service with an adult issue forum preceding the Sunday service. The arrival of a new minister is an exciting time for a congregation, and he would work to help facilitate our next step forward.

Allison Bettine, Board Secretary

Allison Bettine hails from Chicago but is now proud to call Iowa City and the Unitarian Universalist Society home. She and her husband, Aiden Bettine, just celebrated their first year as members of this congregation. Allison has been an active member of UUS, serving on the Historical Records Committee and working as an RE volunteer. She is known for her cookies, which have made appearances both at the Treats and Talents Auction and the Open House. Allison is finishing a degree in art history at the University of Iowa and works as the food bank floor manager at CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank.

Kris Canfield, Endowment

Kris Canfield joined UUS in July of 2017. She appreciated the warmth and joy she found in this community. She has joined a hospitality team and is co-leader of a covenant group, both of which she thoroughly enjoys. After 37 years of employment at University of Iowa Health Care, Kris retired in 2011. She is currently serving the last year of a second three-year term as treasurer and board member of the University of Iowa Retirees Association. Kris dotes on her family: husband Larry; daughter Nicole; son-in-law Kevin; granddaughters Delaney and Phoebe; and Dobermans Mazy and Caesar. Music and books add pleasure to her days.

John Raley, Board Finance Trustee

John Raley grew up as a Unitarian attending church in Hinsdale, Illinois, and then North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois. He came to Iowa in 1977 to attend Coe College, where he did his undergraduate work and played basketball and tennis. After graduation, he started his own insurance agency from scratch in Iowa City with American Family Insurance. He is in his 38th year with American Family and enjoys helping individuals with their insurance needs. While active in his business, he attended night school and received his MBA in 2000. John became a member of UUS in 1982. He has three children: Jonathan, 22; Nicholas, 20; and Elizabeth, 18. All three are currently attending college. All three have participated in the OWL program. John felt so positive about the program that he served as a leader two times. He has served on the Endowment Committee of the Society for 10 years and has participated in the Finance Council. Many endowment parties have been held in his home, and he continues to be supportive of this work of the society. He was among the first members of the Chalice Society when it was formed. He was an early contributor of funds for our new building. He values all the people before him who took on leadership roles while he was raising his children; he feels it’s his time to serve.

Marsha Cheyney, Leadership Development

Marsha Cheyney was born in east-central Iowa and has lived here most of her life, with the exception of a couple years working as a nanny in Denver and four years in the U.S. Army. She returned to Iowa to finish her degree in psychology and went on to earn a master’s degree in public health at the University of Iowa. She currently works at the College of Public Health, doing outreach and program evaluation for the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health. Marsha joined UUS about 5 years ago, looking for community and a diverse religious education program for her children. Since then, she has taught the senior high youth group and junior high Our Whole Lives; served on a hospitality team; been a member of Green Sanctuary, CCLAM, and the outdoor worship spaces committees; assisted with Pagan/earth-centered holiday worship services; and is the co-leader of the Owl Moon CUUPS group.

Voting List for May 19th Congregational Meeting

According to UUS's bylaws, members are eligible to vote at the Congregational Meeting on May 19th, 2019, 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. If you think your name has been omitted from this list in error, please contact the office (admin@uusic.org or 337-3443)

Dean Abel	Mary Dix	Keri Hornbuckle	Lynette Marshall	Sriram Pemmaraju	Arlys Thompson
Carol Adamson	Sherry Dolash	Kathy Hotsenpiller	David Martin	Bonnie Penno	Peter Thorne
Tim Adamson	Andy Douglas	Peggy Houston	Diane Martin	Mark Penno	Carol Throckmorton
Bruce Alexander	Lee Eberly	Carolyn Howe	Matt Martin	Ron Pile	Dave Tokuhisa
Alice Atkinson	Susan Eberly	Jan Hubel	Hilary Marvin	Paul Pomrehn	Judy Tokuhisa
Ken Atkinson	Kay Eginton	Kenn Hubel	Robby Marvin	Dale Prediger	Jim Trepka
Julia Audlehelm	Jonni Ellsworth	Lois Hughes	Kären Mason	Mark Profit	Cheryl Tugwell
Larry Audlehelm	John Elson	Merle Ihne	Marianne Mason	Judith Quinn	Emily Uhl
Joe Barrash	Irvin Emig	Lynne Ikach	Mary McCann	John Raley	Theresa Ullerich
Kris Barrash	Lori Enloe	Adam Ingersoll	Kathy McDonald	Bruce Randall	Dana Van Abbema
Kara Beauchamp	Jim Ephgrave	Brigette Ingersoll	Kathy McGowan	Christina Randall	Carly van der Heide
Barbara Beaumont	Pat Ephgrave	Isaac Ingersoll	Janet McKee	Joe Rasmussen	Dana van der Heide
Philip Beck	Christine Etler	Katrina Ingersoll	Gail McLure	Martha Rasmussen	Stephanie Van
Daniel Benton	Sara Feldmann	Nik Jakob	Mary McMurray	Jacqueline Reger	Housen
Aiden Bettine	Mike Fenneman	David Jepsen	Tom McMurray	Erica Reschly	Mary Vasey
Allison Bettine	Betsy Fischer	Carolyn Johnson	Virginia Melroy	Jenny Reynolds	George Verhage
Sharon Booker	Linda Fisher	Chris Johnson	Gay Mikelson	Julie Reynolds	Steve Vincent
Peg Bouska	Jeffery Ford	Debbie Johnson	Diana Miller	Linda Rice	Peg Voelker
John Bowman	Amy Fretz	Donna Johnson	Paula Miller	Tom Rocklin	Terry Lynn Wahls
Valerie Bowman	Donna Friedman	Emily Johnson	Tony Miller	Anna Rode	Jeff Walberg
Susan Boyd	Dan Gall	Nicholas Johnson	Virginia Miller	Chris Rode	Doug Wallace
Joseph Brisben	Meredith Gall	Susan Kaliszewski	Carol Moreno	Shona Roeder	Mary Kathryn
Pete Brokaw	Dave Gallaher	Haley Kamps	Ed Moreno	Sarah Ross	Wallace
Wendy Brown	Winnie Ganshaw	Miriam Kashia	Craig Mosher	Rhonda Rowden	Elaine Waples
Margaret Burchianti	Gail Garwood	Bailey Kelley	Ruth Muir	Charity Rowley	Julia Wasson
Kris Canfield	Joel Gilbertson-	Larry Kent	Shelby Myers	Susan Salterberg	Mary Lou Welter
Lynne Cannon	White	Margaret Kinsman	Laurie Neuerburg	Paula Sanan	Laura Westfall-
Jeanette Carter	Stephanie	Margaret Koenig	Leigh Nida	Ricardo Sauro	Christophel
Dixie Cassady	Gilbertson-White	Juanita Kosier	Carol Nordquist	Mike Schmitz	Jerry Wetlaufer
Ian Cawley	Brian Glidewell	David Kramer	Gerald Nordquist	Kay Schneider	Faith Wilmot
Michael Cervantes	Carmen Griggs	Susan Kramer	Nancy Noyer	Deb Schoelerman	Glenn Wiltgen
Kirk Cheyney	Prahlad Gupta	Susan Krohmer	Liz Noyes	Hazel Seaba	Kaye Winder
Marsha Cheyney	Kurt Hamann	John Lanaghan	Kelly O'Berry	Jamie Sharp	Scott Wittenkeller
Lucy Choisser	Julie Hammer	Barbara Laughlin	Terri O'Berry	Nicole Sheldon	Kirk Witzberger
Craig Christophel	Barbara Haring	Jim Laughlin	Alison Oliver	Dick Siefers	Star Wojciak
Judi Clinton	Claudine Harris	Gary Lawrenson	James Olson	Vicki Siefers	Edward Wolfe
Sam Cochran	Sally Hartman	Dave Leavitt	Sue Otto	Katherine Simmering	Ron Wright
Cathy Cole	Lisa Haverkamp	Judy Leavitt	Cecile Owings	Jane Slaymaker	Rich Young
Rev. Lois Cole	Mike Haverkamp	Russ Lenth	Ron Owings	Cindy Spading	Susan Kasal Young
Chris Coretsopoulos	Patricia Hayek	Lisa Lepic	Kim Palmer	Renee Speh	Mark Yuskis
Ernie Cox	Santhi Hejeebu	Marta Little	Lula Palmer	Virginia Stamler	Lenda Zelinskas
Ron Crawford	Diana Henry	Jan Locher	Maureen Patterson	Jill Stephenson	
Dan Cummins	Colleen Higgins	Stephen Locher	Dorothy Paul	Hilary Strayer	
Laurie Cummins	Michael Honey-	Mary Losch	Michael Pavelich	Alan Swanson	280 Members
Jo Cunningham	Arcement	Caryl Lyons	Pat Pavelich	Liz Swanson	
David Curry	Rochelle Honey-	Elaine Mahler	Amy Pearson	Christopher Taylor	
Alexandra Curtis	Arcement	Cari Malone	Gerry Pearson	Vanessa Taylor	
Jane DeWitt	Al Hood	Heather Marshall	Natalie Pearson	Al Thomas	
Monique DiCarlo	Jean Hood	Lori Marshall	Emily Peck	Sharon Thomas	

Final Newsletter article about FFCD (4.11.19)

At our May 19 congregational meeting, we will be voting on moving ahead with acquiring the Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation—the one we've been working toward over the past year.

Our Unitarian Universalist Society (UUS) has long welcomed a broad spectrum of religious perspectives ranging from deists and theists to agnostics, atheists, and other freethinkers. Those of us who are already UUs know about the openness of Unitarian Universalism. However, this openness may not be apparent to non-theists seeking to join and participate in an active, socially aware community such as ours. The purpose of UUS getting the Freethinker Friendly Congregation (FFC) designation is to openly welcome those people in our broader community who might find a home with us at UUS if they knew that we would specifically welcome non-believers.

Please note: Just as being a Welcoming Congregation for LGBTQ people, approved nearly unanimously by this congregation in 1997, does not imply being unwelcoming to straight people, being Freethinker Friendly does not imply being unwelcoming to theists. The humanist/theist discussion remains settled with the understanding that UUs choose to respect, engage, and welcome all.

What UUS can offer to area residents is access to a loving community that doesn't require belief in a set doctrine. Sixty-four UU congregations around the country currently either already have or are applying for the FFC designation, which has been available for only a few years.

To get the FFC designation, we need to do the following: *(What we have already done or plan to do follows in italics.)*

1. Include language in published welcome statements that includes atheists, agnostics, humanists, and other non-theists.
(In coordination with others, we are working on the creation of such a welcome statement that will be published on our website and in our materials after a positive congregational vote.)
2. Discuss, as a congregation, ways to be more inclusive and welcoming in our language and rituals.
(In the past year, there have been two post-service forums, one led by Mark Yuskis and the other led by Reverend Diane, specifically discussing the Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation. We have also presented information about FFC in various ways, including writing a number of articles for the monthly newsletter, providing a brochure explaining the FFC designation process, and holding information tables after the service on various occasions over the past months to address any questions people might have.)

3. Provide times and spaces that celebrate the humanist worldview, such as regular humanist services or a humanist local group.
(For about fifteen years, UUS has had a Secular Humanist group that meets from September through May, ordinarily on the third Tuesday evening of each month. Currently we are meeting in Old Brick to make it more convenient for Secular Students at Iowa to join with us, as they do regularly. In most recent years, there has been at least one humanist service. Mark Yuskis led the August 26, 2018 service with the title: "A Secular Humanist Considers Our Fourth Principle: A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning." Rev. David Breeden, pastor of a UU Humanist congregation in Minneapolis, came to lead our April 28, 2019 service. To help celebrate the first year of UUS in our new building, the Secular Humanist group sponsored "An Evening with Walt Whitman," featuring University of Iowa Whitman Scholar Ed Folsom and Christopher Merrill, Director of the International Writing Program.)

4. Reach out to the wider non-theist community and let them know we exist and that we want to support them.
(The Secular Humanists have connections with several other humanist groups in the area including Secular Students at Iowa, Humanists of Linn county, and the Iowa Coalition of Reason. We will reach out more broadly through our publications, etc., as soon as we have received congregational approval.)

Reverend Diane, in a recent talk, referred to the following Edwin Markham poem that can be read as a summary of the hopes of the Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation committee:

Outwitted
He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

We hope that acquiring this designation will help us to draw a larger circle to include more people who would find a welcoming community for themselves and would also be valuable additions to our Unitarian Universalist congregation. While the Unitarian Universalist Humanist Association doesn't require a congregational vote to get this designation, we think it will be effective only if there is congregational buy-in.

As soon as there is congregational approval, we will proceed with sending in our official application for this designation, first to the UUS Board and then to the organization that grants the designation, the UU Humanist Association.

The UUS News

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