



# THE UUS NEWS

**WE ARE A WELCOMING, SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE HOME. WE ACT ON OUR VALUES:**

- \* HONOR THE EARTH
- \* ADVOCATE FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- \* NUTURE DEEP CONNECTIONS
- \* EMBRACE THE ONGOING QUEST FOR MEANING

October  
2019

## Sunday Services

*A social hour follows the 10 am service.*

*October 2019's Spiritual Theme is Belonging*

### **October 6th: "Beyond Categorical Thinking: What a T-Rex Named Penelope, Pittsburgh, and a Theologian Can Teach Us About The Future of Religion and Our Commitment to Equity and Justice," Keith Kron**

Religion, including Unitarian Universalism, is at a moment in time. Can it survive? And what must it do in order to survive? What must we do? We'll explore our place in today's world, and why it's metaphorical meteorites and not a comet that could wipe us out. UUA Transitions Coordinator Keith Kron will lead this service, followed by a congregational workshop. (See page 3 for details.)

### **October 13th: "What It Means to Belong," Rev. Diane Dowgiert**

We all long for a place where we are welcome, a place where we fit, a place where we belong. Finding that place is not an end but a beginning, for once we are inside the circle, we must participate in expanding it. Belonging is a verb—it takes active participation to nourish, expand, and sustain a community. What are the ways each one of us is called to nourish the beloved community that is UUS?

### **October 20th: "Reaching Beyond Borders," Rev. Diane Dowgiert**

In considering this month's theme of *Belonging*, we will hear stories of UUS members who recently traveled to the border between Texas and Mexico to give aid to those who have been uprooted from their homelands due to violence and climate catastrophe. To live in exile is the opposite of belonging. How are we called to respond to the exiles at our border?

### **October 27th: "Day of Remembrance," Rev. Diane Dowgiert**

We will gather as an entire multigenerational community to remember loved ones who have gone before. You are invited to bring a photo or memento of someone you wish to remember on this day. Together we will create an altar of memory.

### **October's Social Justice Offerings Benefit Shelter House**

The emergency shelter provides 70 beds, breakfast and dinner meals daily, clothing, laundry services, shower facilities, drop-in services, case management, a job lab and more. In 2019 Shelter House opened Cross Park Place, with 24 affordable apartments for individuals struggling with chronic physical and/or mental health issues. Onsite behavioral and primary healthcare services and cross system collaboration are included.

Cash or check donations can be given on Sundays, [online through Realm](#), or mailed to the office. (Write checks to UUS, with *Shelter House* on the memo line.) You can also text "GivetoUUSIC Offering \$--" to 73256.

### **October Birthdays**

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Jocelyn Ankenmann          | Bailey Kelley   |
| John Cunningham            | Grace Linley    |
| Sherry Dolash              | Emerson Linley  |
| Irvin Emig                 | Reilly O'Gorman |
| Emi Estudillo              | Sue Otto        |
| Stephanie Gilbertson-White | Mark Penno      |
| Michael Honey-Arcement     | Elizabeth Raley |
| Franklin Hornbuckle        | Bruce Randall   |
| Lois Hughes                | Joe Rasmussen   |
| Henry Ingersoll            | Chris Rode      |
| Charlie Ingersoll          | Rhonda Rowden   |
| Grace Ingersoll            | Jeff Walberg    |
| Sasha Jakob                | Julia Wasson    |
| Chris Johnson              | Mark Yuskis     |
| Emily Johnson              |                 |

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

### **Sunday Attendance**

- September 1st: 90 total (Labor Day Sunday)
- September 8th: 162 total (Water Communion)
- September 15th: 173 total: 138 service, 35 RE
- September 22nd: 162 total: 127 service, 35 RE

# Congregational News and Events



## From the Interim Minister's Study

October's theme is *Belonging*. These days I am immensely grateful for the place to belong that is Unitarian Universalism. When I travel and visit other UU congregations, I am always struck by how much at home I feel. The simple ritual of lighting a chalice lets me know that I am with my people. This sense of connection is vital to my well-being, knowing that I am not alone in this world.

We live at a time of disconnection, a time of political division and polarization, a time when we can feel alienated from our neighbors. Loneliness is not good for us humans, especially when our world seems to be spinning out of control. If you are like me, there are days when it's hard to feel balanced, hard to keep the fear and anxiety monsters at bay. Which is why I am so grateful for this Unitarian Universalist faith we share. Here we are part of a living tradition that has held a higher vision for whom we might become, a living tradition of people who have faced challenges, whose words and deeds remain as sources of hope in our time. Here we find companions for the journey, knowing that we don't have to go it alone.

There are some things we can all do to maintain balance during these challenging times. When so much seems out of our control, focusing on what we *can* do, helps:

- A daily spiritual practice. For me that means beginning each day in quiet. Sometimes I sit in meditation, sometimes I practice yoga or tai chi or qi gong. Sometimes I read something inspirational. Sometimes I journal. My practice is to make every morning sacred, that is, time set aside to nurture my spirit.
- Spend time outdoors. I love walking the many beautiful trails here in Iowa, feeling my connection to the natural world.
- Nourish your body. Eat healthy meals. Get regular exercise and adequate sleep. Hydrate. Breathe.
- Connect with family and friends. Many of my friends and family members live at a distance. We intentionally schedule times to get together via Zoom or by telephone.

- Play. Enjoy life. Whether it's playing board games, going out to a movie or a concert, or enjoying simple meals together, keeping social connections is vitally important during challenging times.
- News and social media breaks. When the news cycle is relentless with crises, tragedies, and political scandals, it's okay to tune it all out from time to time.
- Take action. Go to a march or protest. Volunteer to serve others. Support a political candidate, locally or nationally. Work to get out the vote. I try to take a no-driving day at least once a week. We may not be able to fix everything that's wrong right now, but these words of the Unitarian Edward Everett Hale come to mind:

*I am only one. But still I am one.*

*I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.*

*And because I cannot do everything*

*I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

- Have real conversations. Talk about the hard stuff. Even the scary stuff. Here are links to some resources for talking with children about climate change:
  - Article: "Yale Climate Connections: How To Prepare Kids for Climate Change" [bit.ly/2mHdV2U](https://bit.ly/2mHdV2U)
  - YouTube video: "Greta Thunberg Is Leading a Global Climate Movement" (8 min.) [bit.ly/2n8923a](https://bit.ly/2n8923a)
  - Children's book, *The Tantrum that Saved the World*, by Megan Herbert and Michael E. Mann (Book purchase link) [bit.ly/2IHJKZg](https://bit.ly/2IHJKZg)
  - Additional Resources: UUA Trauma Response Ministry [bit.ly/2mHYInC](https://bit.ly/2mHYInC)

Belonging, like all things of worth, takes time, attention, and care—care for ourselves and each other, care for the larger whole of which we are a part. We belong, not only for ourselves, but also for those who are still searching for what we have.

Light a chalice. Feel the connection. Know you are not alone.

Yours in the interim,

Rev. Diane

## From Your President:

As the dog days of summer come to an end, UUS is ramping up fall programming and events aimed at helping us attract the best candidates possible to our ministerial position. Here's a list of three important events coming up soon. We hope you will join us:

- Cottage Meetings and Focus Groups put on by the Ministerial Search Committee. (See MSC Report for details.)
- October 6th: Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop (11:30 am to 2:30 pm). Led by Keith Kron, UUA Transitions Coordinator. (See MSC Report on page 3 for details.)
- November 2nd: Mission and Vision Workshop (10 am to 3 pm). Our mission defines who we are as a community.

It answers the questions, "What do we want to be known for? Why do we exist?" Our vision statement tells others what we dream of becoming. It answers the question, "Where are we going?" The mission and vision statements are created and owned by the congregation. These statements inform our programming. Let's show our new ministerial candidates who we are and what we are up to! (Learn more about this workshop on page 4.)

I also want to give a big thank you to our Ministerial Search Committee: Dave Martin, Allison Oliver, Carol Adamson, John Bowman, Carolyn Johnson, Jodi Linley, and Jerry Wetlaufer. You are working tirelessly for all of us, and we appreciate all your efforts!

In community and peace, Amy Fretz, UUS Board President

## Annual Notice of Safe Congregation Policy

All members of the Unitarian Universalist Society have a responsibility to provide a safe and caring community in which our children and youth are respected, in which their self-worth is affirmed, and in which spiritual, social, and intellectual growth are encouraged.

We achieve these goals in part through the implementation of the Safe Congregation Policies and Procedures (SCPP). A complete copy of the SCPP is available on page 55 of the current Policies and Procedures Manual, available on the [UUS website](#) and in the office. Some important highlights are:

- Staff and volunteers working with children or youth will be screened and trained, and volunteers will have attended the Unitarian Universalist Society regularly for at least six months.
- Two appropriately screened supervisors will be present at all times in the nursery, religious education classrooms, and during any church-sponsored activity involving children or youth.
- The church building will not be open to children or youth for any activity until 2 supervisors are present.
- No child younger than third grade will be dismissed from religious education class without an appropriate parent, guardian, or other appropriate supervisor.
- Other children will be dismissed without supervision to join their parent/guardian or other appropriate supervisor.
- All children in the nursery will need to be signed in and out.
- Church functions providing childcare require two DRE-trained supervisors, an open door, and the presence of adults in the building.

## Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Report

Your Ministerial Search Committee has been busy tilling the soil, and now we invite you to join us in planting the seeds in this process of finding our new settled minister. If all goes as well as we hope, we will all celebrate the harvest next spring.

Here are a few examples of the upcoming opportunities where you will be able to collaborate with us.

- **Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop:** Sunday, October 6th, at UUS with Keith Kron of UUA. The deadline for registering was September 29th (online at [bit.ly/UUS\\_BCT](http://bit.ly/UUS_BCT) or in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday service).
- **Cottage Meetings:** October 10th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 27th and November 3rd at UUS or at the Iowa City Public Library. You will be notified soon about how to sign up for these meetings.
- **Focus Groups:** Various times and dates during October.

We also will be reporting on the analysis of the Congregational Survey results sometime in November.

## Stewardship Team: 2020 Pledge Campaign Begins in October!

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign slogan is “Tending Our Roots.” UUS is like a newly transplanted tree: our roots are getting deeper and stronger, but they need tending so they can support new growth. We have settled into our new space and are in the midst of a search for a new minister. Great things are in our future, but we need your participation to ensure we have the deep, strong roots necessary to sustain our congregation and its work for generations to come.

**The Board and Finance Committee have asked the Stewardship Team to raise \$460,000 in pledges for our operating budget in 2020.** This represents a 5% increase from 2019 and is necessary to cover our existing expenses. By meeting this pledge goal, we will be able to sustain the progress we have made and avoid having to cut programs or staff positions.

**The 2020 Stewardship Campaign officially kicks off this month on Sunday, October 13th.** Stewardship materials, including a pledge form and instructions for pledging and giving through Realm, have been mailed to all members and friends. By pledging in advance, you allow the Board to anticipate income and draft a workable budget for the coming year. We ask that you carefully consider your ability to contribute financially and make a commitment that is meaningful to you.

**Our Ceremony of Commitment celebrating our combined pledges will take place on Sunday, November 17th.** We ask that you submit your pledge in advance so it can be included in that shared total. You can return your pledge form to UUS using the return envelope provided in the stewardship packet, mail the form to the Administrator’s office or bring it on a Sunday, submit your pledge in Realm, or contact the office (337-3443 or [admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org)). Contact the office with any questions or if you did not receive a stewardship packet in the mail.

## Covenant Group Council Report

Covenant groups did not formally meet in August, as members travelled or otherwise enjoyed their summers. This month, however, we are reconvening and renewing our commitments to our groups and to each other. In the words of the UU Commission on Appraisal: “One of the deepest convictions that unites us as Unitarian Universalists is the belief in the possibility of a beloved community among people ... . We affirm such communities are in part a natural outgrowth of human life, but they also must be deliberately formed and reformed, nurtured and renewed.” In our groups, we will use our time to remake some of the small communities which comprise UUS.

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](mailto:locherj@mchsi.com)).



## **Hearing Assistive Technology Workshop, October 13th**

UUS has several hearing assistance devices (loops) that can be used on their own with the provided earphones or with your own headphones or earbuds during UUS services and other events that use our sound equipment. They can also connect to some personal hearing aids/hearing devices. After the service on Sunday, October 13th (at 11:30 am) Doctor of Audiology and A/V volunteer Christine Etler will host a training workshop in the Sanctuary to familiarize UUS members and friends with these devices.

If you have your own hearing devices, bring them in to learn about optimizing their use during UUS programming. Christine will help with your headphones, hearing aids, personal microphones, or other wireless hearing aid accessories. If you would like help with your own equipment, it will be helpful if you bring manual(s) and/or contact her in advance: piontkofsky@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

## **Pathway to Membership, October 15th**

### **Are You Looking to Deepen Your Connection to UUS? Consider Becoming a Member!**

Pathway to Membership is one of several steps to becoming a UUS member. It is a one-session class for those who want to learn more about how our congregation works, and the benefits and responsibilities of membership. Get to know others who are considering joining, and meet with our Interim Minister, Rev. Diane Dowgiert; Director of Congregational Life, Peggy Garrigues; and other leaders from the Board and Membership Associates. We will meet on Tuesday, October 15th, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Conference Room. Contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org) to RSVP, to request childcare, or to clarify other steps to membership.

## **Secular Humanists, October 15th**

The Secular Humanists meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 7 pm, in the Common Room at Old Brick. In October, the presenter will be Brad McDowell. He prefaces his topic: "Modern Secular Humanism emphasizes science as a method for understanding our world. The humanities also have a lot to offer." Brad will talk about the writings of poet and historian Jennifer Michael Hecht, the author of *Doubt* and other books.

## **Gender 102: Pronoun Workshop, October 17th**

As a way to welcome and support transgender and non-binary gender individuals, UUS now offers the option of putting a small sticker on your name badge indicating your personal pronouns: She/her, He/his, They/them, Xe/xem, Ze/zir, or your own choice. This class, which will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 17th, at UUS, will help us to learn more about the importance of personal pronouns as well as general issues facing transgender and nonbinary gender individuals overall.

## **Friday Family Night, October 25th**

UUS families are invited to join us for an evening of good food, good conversation, and good companions. Family Nights take place at UUS and are co-hosted by the RE program and a different family each month. We'll provide the main dish, and families are invited to bring a side or dessert to share. The evening will go from 6 to 9 pm, and families are welcome to come for part or all. The first Friday Family Night is scheduled for October 25th! Visit [bit.ly/Oct19FridayFamilyNight](http://bit.ly/Oct19FridayFamilyNight) to sign up to be a co-host family.

## **UUS Mission & Vision Workshop, November 2nd**

Who are we? Where are we going? The answers to these questions are important to us and to ministers we want to attract to UUS. We'll generate our mission and vision on the weekend of November 1st through 3rd, largely at a congregational workshop on Saturday, November 2nd, from 10 am to 3 pm.

If you were considering working here and you saw pictures of 100 members listening to each other, laughing and working together to collectively generate our mission and vision, or you saw pictures of one or two dozen people doing this work, where would you want to be? You are invited to be part of the large group listening, laughing, working together picture. Save the date. Lunch and childcare will be provided (registration is required). More details will follow.

## **Say Cheese!**

### **Be Part of the UUS 2020 Picture Directory**

Our last picture directory came out in 2015, so it is no longer an accurate record of who we are as UUS today. Many of us have photos in Realm, but people tend to use Realm differently than a photo directory. So we are encouraging all families and individuals related to UUS to consider having a photo taken for our new printed directory (we can also add those photos to Realm).

Photographers will be here on the following dates: November 4th, 5th, 6th, 25th, 26th, and December 5th, from 2 to 9 pm. Schedule your session by visiting [bit.ly/UUSPhotoDirectory](http://bit.ly/UUSPhotoDirectory) or using the link on the homepage of the website, or by signing up in person after Sunday services in October. In most cases it won't take that long, but plan on an hour for your photography session and choosing the photos you want for directory or optional purchase.

We'll be using photographers from LifeTouch, and you can receive prints in time for holiday gift-giving. Every household photographed will get a free 8x10 photo and a copy of the directory. There is no pressure to purchase additional photos, but you will have the option to purchase more. If you already have a photo you like, a limited number of people can submit previous photos for free to be included in the directory, but otherwise it will be \$10 per household. It is also much easier now to update the directories every year, so we can get it updated as a new minister arrives next fall.

Please contact Jean Hood (466-3127 or [jeanhood31@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhood31@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

## Social Justice Team News

**Service Trip to the Border:** The 5th Sunday offering in September raised money for a Texas group of immigration activists called the Angry Tias. A trio of UUs (who have named themselves the Tias from the Prairie) visited the Texas border in September to lend assistance and support to the group. You can read about their trip and see pictures on their Facebook page: [facebook.com/prairietias](https://www.facebook.com/prairietias). If you would still like to support the Angry Tias' efforts, please send donations to the UUS office and designate them for the Angry Tias.

**CWJ Gala October 5th:** The Center for Worker Justice (CWJ) invites all to their annual Gala here at UUS on Saturday, October 5th. Tickets cost \$50. The event includes a silent auction and music. Contact Sally Hartman ([sallyhartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyhartman@hotmail.com)) if you would like to sit at the UUS Social Justice Team table.

**IUUWAN Workshop on Climate, October 19th:** The Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) invites all Iowans to a workshop on the climate crisis on Saturday, October 19th, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Ahrens Family Center, 1436 Penrose Street, Grinnell. For the first two hours participants will choose between "Drawdown: an introduction to global warming," and a focused discussion on climate activism. A sandwich-bar luncheon will be served at noon (suggested donation \$10), followed by a discussion with Presidential candidate Marianne Williamson, as well as representatives from other campaigns. The location in Grinnell is central to Iowans interested in attending. We encourage carpooling if you can.

**Follow-up to Drawdown, October 9th to 29th:** A five-session follow-up workshop called "Drawdown Solutions: Getting Into Action" has been scheduled for those who have already attended a session of the "Drawdown: Introduction to Global Warming." This follow-up series will be held each Wednesday in October, starting on the 9th, from 6:30 to 9 pm in the Conference Room. A fifth follow-up session will be arranged for a later date. To register, contact Virginia Melroy ([virginia-melroy@uiowa.edu](mailto:virginia-melroy@uiowa.edu)) or Sally Hartman ([sallyhartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyhartman@hotmail.com)).

## UU Free Lunch Report

On Friday, September 13th, 31 dedicated UUS volunteers served a record 208 meals at the Free Lunch Program. The cost of the catered main dish, John's Grocery fried chicken (a favorite of our diners), was paid for by the Fifth Sunday donations in December 2018. This \$375 was designated by the Social Justice Team to be set aside for UUS Free Lunch expenses in 2019. A heart-felt thank you to the Congregation for their generosity and to the Social Justice Team!

In addition to our main dish, our well-rounded meal included vegetarian lasagna (thank you, Caryl Lyons!), cooked vegetables, fresh-fruit salad, green salad, delicious desserts, ice cream, and assorted beverages. It is important to remember that UUS volunteers donated food, prepared and served the meal, and cleaned up afterward. To learn more about the many ways you can participate in our Free Lunch Program, please email Carmen Griggs at [csgriggsiowa@gmail.com](mailto:csgriggsiowa@gmail.com).

## Message from MidAmerica Region

### Seeking Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the UUA MidAmerica Region is seeking candidates for the Regional Board and the Nominating Committee itself. We seek to nominate individuals to reflect the full diversity of the Region, especially with regard to historically marginalized communities, but also balancing across size of congregation, lay and ordained, geography, age (including youth and young adults), and gender, among other characteristics. Members in good standing of one of the member congregations of the Region or Church of the Larger Fellowship members residing within the MA Region are eligible to serve.

- The Board of Trustees is responsible for governance between annual meetings of the member congregations. There are nine members serving three-year terms. The members are elected directly by delegates at the annual meeting, and they elect the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer from among themselves.
- The Nominating Committee has seven members serving two-year terms. This committee recruits and nominates volunteers to serve on MA Region's Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, Midwestern UU Conference Board, and Camp UniStar Board.

The purpose of the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference is to further the interests of Unitarian Universalists and their institutions in the mid-continental states and provinces, to promote, foster and encourage the interests of the UUA, to support those institutions to spread the message of Unitarian Universalism, and to distribute the surplus income generated by funds in trust by Midwest Unitarian Universalist Foundation, a subsidiary corporation.

Please consider serving the MidAmerica Region of the UUA in any of these ways. We would appreciate your response by November 7th, so we can meet our deadlines. Please send your suggestions by email (Subject Line: MA Region Candidate Proposal), with email and telephone contact information of proposed nominees, to one of our Co-Chairs:

- Bob Lovell ([boblovell@comcast.net](mailto:boblovell@comcast.net))
- Helen Dwyer ([hdwyer1492@msn.com](mailto:hdwyer1492@msn.com))

We very much appreciate your attention to proposing candidates for MA Region leadership positions. If you do not receive acknowledgment of your candidate proposal from us within two weeks, please email one of us or send again.

# Upcoming UUS Events

Find more information on all UUS events online ([uus.org/upcoming-events](http://uus.org/upcoming-events)) or by contacting the office.

## Tuesday, October 1st

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

## Wednesday, October 2nd

- **UU Community Meal:** 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Pizza. RSVP at [bit.ly/Oct19CommunityMeal](http://bit.ly/Oct19CommunityMeal))

## Thursday, October 3rd

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

## Saturday, October 5th

- **Dinners for Eight:** in the evening at various member homes

## Sunday, October 6th

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (Short Q&A at the “?” table)
- **Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop:** 11:30 am in the Sanctuary (see page 3 for details)

## Monday, October 7th

- **Kirtan:** 6 pm at the Sycamore Rooms (2412 Towncrest Dr)
- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

## Tuesday, October 8th

- **Social Justice Team:** 7 pm in the Conference Room

## Wednesday, October 9th

- **Drawdown: Getting Into Action:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room (see page 5 for details)

## Thursday, October 10th

- **UUS Board of Trustees:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room
- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Search Committee Cottage Meetings:** Time and location TBA

## Friday, October 11th

- **UU Free Lunch Program:** 11 am at 1105 Gilbert Ct.

## Sunday, October 13th

- **Search Committee Cottage Meetings:** 8:30 am in the Conference, Hickory, and Oak Rooms
- **Inquirer Session:** 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (Engage with Social Justice opportunities at the “?” table.)
- **Racial Justice Circle:** 11:15 am in the Oak Room
- **CUUPs Full Moon Drum Gathering:** 6:15 pm at Terry Trueblood

## Monday, October 14th

- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll
- **UU Book Discussion Group:** 7:30 pm at Oaknoll, George St. Building, 4th floor Meeting Room A or B (*Becoming*, by Michelle Obama)

## Tuesday, October 15th

- **Search Committee Cottage Meetings:** Time and location TBA
- **Pathway to Membership:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room (see page 4 for details)
- **Secular Humanists:** 7 pm at Old Brick (see page 4 for details)

## Wednesday, October 16th

- **UU Grief Group:** 12:30 pm in the Conference Room
- **Drawdown Solutions: Getting Into Action:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room (see page 5 for details)

## Thursday, October 17th

- **UU Scrabble Group:** 1:30 pm in the Walnut Room
- **Gender 102: Pronoun Workshop:** 6:30 pm, room TBA at UUS (see page 4 for details)
- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

## Saturday, October 19th

- **Vegetarian Community “Plantluck”:** 5 pm at Prairie Hill Common House (140 Prairie Hill Lane, Iowa City)

## Sunday, October 20th

- **Search Committee Cottage Meetings:** 8:30 am in the Conference, Hickory, and Oak Rooms
- **Inquirer Session:** 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (Short Q&A at the “?” table, then come to “Engaging Our Theological Diversity.”)
- **Engaging Our Theological Diversity:** 11:30 am in the Sanctuary
- **UU News Submission Deadline:** 12 pm to the UUS office
- **Dances of Universal Peace:** 3 pm in the RE Commons

## Monday, October 21st

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

## Wednesday, October 23rd

- **Drawdown Solutions: Getting Into Action:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room (see page 5 for details)

## Thursday, October 24th

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

## Friday, October 25th

- **Friday Family Night:** 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall (see page 4 for details)
- **CUUPs Encounters:** 6:30 pm at Marsha Cheyney’s home

## Sunday, October 27th

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (Meet at the “?” table for a tour of the building and grounds)
- **Search Committee Cottage Meetings:** 11:30 am in the Conference, Hickory, and Oak Rooms

## Monday, October 28th

- **Girls’ Night Out:** 5:30 pm at Shakespeare’s (819 S 1st Ave, Iowa City, IA 52245)
- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

## Wednesday, October 30th

- **Drawdown Solutions: Getting Into Action:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room (see page 5 for details)

## Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights – September 5, 2019

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

**Present:** Amy Fretz (President), Joe Rasmussen (Vice-President), Jane DeWitt (Past-President), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Allison Bettine (Secretary), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex-officio)

**Absent:** Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), John Raley (Finance Trustee)

Board President Fretz called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Fretz provided opening words.

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

*Consent Agenda items: September Board Agenda; September Executive Committee Minutes; August Board Meeting Highlights; Minister's Monthly Report; Treasurer's Report and Financials*

*The Board received the Consent Agenda and approved the September Board Agenda; September Executive Committee Minutes; August Board Meeting Highlights; Minister's Monthly Report; Treasurer's Report and Financials.*

**Board Retreat:** Board members will participate in a retreat on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at the East Side Recycling Center from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Board covenant and goals are to be workshopped at the retreat while revised policies and bylaws are to be reviewed.

**Negotiating Team:** The Board approved Carmen Griggs to join Joe Rasmussen and Jerry Wetlaufer as the final member of the Negotiating Team.

**Gift Policy:** Rasmussen facilitated the first read of the proposed Gift Policy amendment and was met with positive reception. A second read will occur at the October Board Meeting.

**Membership Policy:** First read of the Membership Policy took place, and questions arose regarding certain phrasing and consistency between the policy and our bylaws. Amy is to follow up with Peggy Garrigues, and a second read will occur at the next board meeting.

**Library Collection Development Policy:** A first read of the proposed Library Collection Development Policy occurred, and the Board does not recommend any changes at this time. Second read will take place in October.

**Religious Education:** The state of religious education and its current challenges were discussed, and a Board Taskforce was formed to create a charge to our congregation encouraging the support of Family Ministry. Rev. Dowgiert recommended the Board examine national trends in faith formation and Sunday schooling.

**Finance and Budget:** Rode reiterated the need for congregational action to be initiated regarding our budget issues. Sunday, October 27, 2019, is the proposed date for the planned Budget Townhall.

**Closing:** Rev. Dowgiert read the closing words, Honey-Arcement gave process observer comments, tasks were reviewed, and Fretz adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m. The next Board meeting is Thursday, October 10, 2019, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Allison Bettine, Secretary



# The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society  
2355 Oakdale Road  
Coralville, IA 52241

Website: [www.uusic.org](http://www.uusic.org)

Office Phone: 319-337-3443

**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.

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## UUS Staff

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Diane Dowgiert (minister@uusic.org)

**Congregational Administrator:**  
Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org)

**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:**  
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**Building Steward:** Ron Wright (contact admin@uusic.org)

**Community Minister:**  
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## UUS Board of Trustees, 2019-2020

**President:** Amy Fretz  
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**Vice President:** Joe Rasmussen  
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**Past President:** Jane DeWitt  
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**Treasurer:** Chris Rode  
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**Finance Trustee:** John Raley  
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**Trustee:** Michael Honey-Arcement  
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**Trustee:** Colleen Higgins  
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**Trustee:** Paul Pomrehn  
(594-2371, paulpomrehn@gmail.com)