



THE UUS NEWS

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

February
2020

Sunday Services

A social hour follows the 10 am service.

February 2nd: "On Being an Elder," Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Traditionally, elders are keepers of wisdom and leaders through times of change. They are keepers of stories that hold communities and society together, providing a sense of identity. Elderhood is not necessarily tied to age but to qualities of character such as courage and resilience. How do we nurture these qualities in ourselves? How do we, no matter our age, act as elders, passing on our wisdom and stories to the next generation of Unitarian Universalists?

February 9th: "Love Resists," Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Love is a source of resilience. It nourishes us through times of challenge and adversity. It calls us to resist that which diminishes love: hatred, violence, and oppression in all its forms. Today we'll look at how acts of resistance can be an embodiment of love.

February 16th: "White Lies," Rev. Diane Dowgiert

The Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian Universalist minister, was murdered in 1965 in Selma, Alabama. He was there to march with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reeb's murder has never been solved. No one has been held accountable. The story of that day and what has happened since reveals the ways racism and white privilege are upheld by looking away and denying the truth.

February 23rd: Lay Led (TBA)

Look for details on this service on our website and weekly publications later in the month.

February's Social Justice Offerings Benefit United Action for Youth

With downtown and eastside locations in Iowa City, UAY provides assistance services for all teens 12-18 years old, offering counseling, development, and prevention programs. It is a place for youth to have a voice and give back creatively to their community. It provides support, education, and counseling for teen parents.

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

February Birthdays

<i>Audrey Adamson</i>	<i>Jim Laughlin</i>
<i>Alice Atkinson</i>	<i>Ronald L. McCall</i>
<i>Sharon Beckman</i>	<i>Virginia Miller</i>
<i>Susan Boyd</i>	<i>Nancy Noyer</i>
<i>Joseph Brisben</i>	<i>Maureen Patterson</i>
<i>Lucy Choisser</i>	<i>Gerry Pearson</i>
<i>Judi Clinton</i>	<i>Jaia Rosenfels</i>
<i>Susan Eberly</i>	<i>Paula Sanan</i>
<i>Christine Etlar</i>	<i>Jill Stephenson</i>
<i>Karen Fox</i>	<i>Vanessa Taylor</i>
<i>Amy Fretz</i>	<i>Carly van der Heide</i>
<i>Kurt Hamann</i>	<i>Peg Voelker</i>
<i>Kathy Huedepohl</i>	<i>Kylie Wetherell</i>
<i>Brigette Ingersoll</i>	<i>Nora Wittenkeller</i>
<i>Juanita Kosier</i>	

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

Sunday Attendance

December 24th: (Christmas Eve Services)	
5:30 Service: 186 total	
7 pm Service: 98 total	
December 29th: 86 total (Wassail Multigenerational Service)	
January 5th: 194 total: 156 service, 38 RE	
January 12th: 163 total: 129 service, 34 RE	
January 19th: 137 total: 110 service, 27 RE	
January 26th: 177 total: 162 service, 15 RE	

Congregational News and Events



From the Interim Minister's Study

A supple reed bends in the wind, a rubber band stretches and springs back to its original shape; images of resilience, the ability to withstand and bounce back from adversity. Resilience is built not by avoiding life's challenges but by meeting them. As they say, a tea

bag doesn't know its own strength until it's in hot water. To be resilient is to draw on inner sources of strength when life gets tough.

At the same time, a rubber band under too much stress can lose its springy-ness. If stretched too far it breaks. The supplest of reeds can be shredded by the gale-force winds of relentless storms. The same is true for people—even the most resilient ones. The old adage, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger," doesn't always apply. Some events and experiences are so deeply wounding—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—that we are left with diminished capabilities. In other words, it isn't always possible to bounce back.

During the month of February, we'll be exploring the theme of resilience. How do we nurture resilience in ourselves and each other? How do we resist forces that are oppressive and destructive of life?

February is also Black History Month. I am challenging myself to center the voices of people of color in choosing readings for Sunday services. It's my way of resisting the tendency I too often feel to retreat into the safety of privilege afforded me by virtue of the color of my skin.

The thing about privilege is that it can work to shelter and protect us from the harsher realities of life. Privilege can make us less resilient, not more so. That's not to say that my life has been free of struggle, adversity, and challenge. It hasn't. It's just that none of the adversity in my life came about due to the color of my skin.

Reading poetry, literature, and essays written by people who are different from me opens my eyes and takes me out of my comfort zone—which is where I learn and grow. For white folks like me, moving out of our comfort zones is one way of building resilience to stay in the struggle for racial justice. It means looking at our own unconsciously held biases and prejudices so that we don't unwittingly perpetuate patterns and systems that uphold inequity and oppression. This is never easy and is often uncomfortable.

That we do this work together, in community, is vital. Together we can face hard truths and forge a better way forward. Together we can hold our principles and values up so they can be as guiding stars. Together we can live into being the people we say we are, people of worth and dignity working for equity, compassion, liberty and justice for all—people of resilience.

Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Report Pre-Candidates Selected

After extensive review of a remarkable pool of ministerial applicants, we have selected the "pre-candidates" for the position of settled minister in our beloved Society. We heard from you about the various attributes you want with this new minister—data from cottage meetings, focus groups, and the Congregational Survey. You made it clear that you desire a minister who is strong in the pulpit, balancing intellectual and spiritual aspects. You indicated you want someone who will be effective with staff in our new Chief of Staff model.

You said you wanted someone who can lead in a justice-centered, environmentally aware congregation. And you told us you want someone who is effective with adult and youth RE, and who has a good sense of humor. We are pleased to tell you that all of the pre-candidates meet your expectations. You have helped us immensely through your diligent and collaborative participation. You will not have access to these candidates now, but eventually you will meet the final candidate. From our perspective, the future is very bright!

Become a Leader at UUS

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 that ensures our collective best interests are represented in management decisions, seeks a new Vice President, a new Treasurer, and a new at-large Trustee.
- Our Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is seeking two members to join the LDC, which assists the Society by helping members develop their leadership skills and identifying 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 a bigger role in guiding UUS policy and activities, if you want to help others grow in their leadership skills, or if you want to assure an abundant future for 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 2020 to begin their terms in July.



Welcome Our New Staff Accompanist, Dr. Aura Strohschein

On January 2nd, 2020, Dr. Aura Strohschein became the UUS staff accompanist. We welcome her and look forward to benefiting from the many skill sets she brings with her to this very important position.

Aura completed her undergraduate work at Ball State University and a combination of work as an international student at

the Université de Charles de Gaulle and the Conservatoire National de Région de Lille, France, graduating with a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts with departmental honors in French. She earned a Master of Music Performance with a concentration in piano from The University of Toledo and went on to complete all aspects of Suzuki training. In 2017 she completed her Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from The University of Iowa.

Aura's rich and multifaceted education resulted in opportunities to work with teachers who impacted her professional career in piano, harpsichord, pedagogy, accompanying, sight-reading and chamber music. Aura cites Paul Badura-Skoda, her piano professor in Vienna, as a mentor of stature. And she describes her harpsichord professor, Konstanze Rieckh, as someone who comes close to embodying divine characteristics.

Collaborative experiences include accompanying instrumentalists, vocalists and choirs throughout the Iowa City and Cedar Rapids area. Aura was an Artist in Residence at Cornell College and has also worked as a church music director and organist. She was a guest soloist for the Ball State Symphony Orchestra and the University of Toledo Orchestra. In 2012, GIA Publications, Inc. (Chicago) published Aura's book, *Creative Pedagogy for Piano Teachers: Using Musical Games and Aural Pedagogy Techniques as a Dynamic Supplement for Teaching Piano*.

Currently Aura is on the piano faculty at Iowa Wesleyan University, Mt. Pleasant, and is on the piano faculty at the Marion Music Academy, Marion. She maintains a private piano studio and teaches beginners to advanced students: children and adults. Her holistic approach to teaching and performing music supports a connection to students that fosters a safe learning environment and spiritual well-being.

After church one Sunday, very soon, step up to the Steinway and introduce yourself to Aura. She would like to meet you.

UUS Wins Best Sustainable Development Award

In December, UUS was recognized as one of the best sustainable development projects in Iowa. The 1,000 Friends of Iowa presented the award on January 21st at their annual awards ceremony in Des Moines. UUS was recognized in the "New Civic" category for the many sustainable features of the land and building.



Peggy Garrigues, Deb Schoelerman, Sally Hartman, and Amy Fretz (pictured above) attended the Awards Ceremony at the Capitol Building in Des Moines. A number of other UUS members and friends were also in attendance at the ceremony for Prairie Hill Cohousing in Iowa City, which won in the category of "Owner-Occupied New Residential Building." The Solarize Johnson County 2018 program also won in the category of "Innovative Leadership." Johnson County was well represented!

The mission of 1,000 Friends of Iowa is to promote sustainable and responsible land use. To learn about the UUS award and others, go to the 1,000 Friends website (1000friendsofiowa.org) and click on Best Development Awards.

Covenant Group Council Report

In our December covenant groups, we asked ourselves what it means to be a "people of awe." How do we experience or even recognize awe? Some psychologists define it as the attempt to "assimilate the experience of vastness (something we think to be greater than ourselves) into one's current mental structure." If that's too clinical for you, think of the emotions you experience when something fills you with awe. Extreme happiness, fear, wonder, confusion? All of the above? What kinds of things have evoked awe in you? Beauty, nature, history-making events, important people in your life? Or contemplating the mystery of it all?

To begin 2020, we will consider the importance of *Integrity*. Honesty and adherence to moral principles ought to underlie all human actions, but of course they don't. How does one live a life of integrity amid all the complexities and compromises of modern society? Is it possible, or was it ever? This topic might call for some serious soul-searching if we are to examine it as fully and deeply as it deserves.

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).

UU Free Lunch Report

On a very cold Friday, January 10th (with ice and snow expected), 32 intrepid UUS volunteers served 146 meals at the Free Lunch Program. Thank you to Jeanette Carter for donating John's Grocery fried chicken, the ever popular main dish. Jama Lidral, Co-Director of Free Lunch, dropped by and said she met two separate guests as she was coming in who said enthusiastically, "They're serving John's fried chicken today!" We love making people happy! Thanks also go to Caryl Lyons for her delicious vegetarian lasagna and to the many UUS volunteers who donated ingredients, desserts, ice cream, and beverages and prepared and served food, washed dishes, and cleaned up. Welcome to our newest and youngest volunteers, Ethaen and Aedan, who plan to return to help again next month. A very special thank you goes to Lee Eberly who has served as a dishwasher at Free Lunch for 14 years! Lee is taking a well-deserved retirement from dish washing but thankfully will continue to volunteer in another role.

To learn more about the many ways you can participate in our Free Lunch Program, please email Carmen Griggs at csgriggsiowa@gmail.com.

RJC "1619" Discussion, February 2nd

The "1619" audio podcast series is part of The 1619 Project, a major initiative from *The New York Times* observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. The UUS Racial Justice Study/Action Circle (RJC) will gather before the service on Sunday, February 2nd, in the Oak Room, to listen to Episode 7 together, followed by discussion. (You can listen to episodes 1-6 on your own before the gathering, available at www.nytimes.com/column/1619-project.)

"The State of the Society" Forum, February 2nd

After the service on Sunday, February 2nd, at 11:30 am, Rev. Diane Dowgiert will give "The State of the Society" report to the congregation. This is an opportunity for you to hear her reflections on the interim ministry so far and the scope of work still ahead.

Part of the work that lies ahead is to take a good look at our vision for faith formation and religious education. From Rev. Diane's January newsletter report: "Families with children are engaging with their congregations differently than previous generations. ... Old models don't work well anymore, and new ones have yet to be created. ... Visioning something different is both an end and a beginning. It means building on all that has come before. At the same time, it may mean letting go of the way things were before so that something new can begin. It's a step toward greater integrity, aligning vision with values and then aligning resources with the vision."

Rev. Diane will share more on this and other topics. We hope you will plan to attend.

UUS youth enjoy a Jumbo Game Day during RE



on Sunday, January 5th

Buddhist Sangha Begins New Book

The UU Buddhist Sangha is a community of people who gather weekly on Mondays at 7 pm at Oaknoll for silent meditation and discussion of contemporary Buddhist teachings. Diversity of view is welcome as a foundation for collective wisdom. Our mutual support promotes clarity, compassion, and ethical behavior through the practice of mindfulness. At the end of January we began discussing a new book: *Radical Acceptance*, by Tara Brach. There will be no Sangha on Monday, February 3rd, so members can attend the caucuses. To find out more, contact Cindy Spading (buddhistsangha@uusic.org).

Writing Meditation Class, Thursdays in February

In this class we will discover how spontaneous writing can bring insight, creativity, and well-being, and why it is a technique being utilized in hospitals, mental health facilities, and even churches. Each session will introduce a topic, writing prompts and techniques, interspersed with readings, reflection, voluntary sharing, or silence. We will draw from a range of resources. No need to be a writer; just bring a willingness and curiosity. This is an opportunity in the cold, inactivity of winter days, to awaken to your inner voice and to the richness of the world around you. You may experience how a regular practice can have a positive influence in your life and with the people around you. This class will be led by our Community Minister, Rev. Lois Cole, and will meet from 7 to 8:30 pm on Thursdays, February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, in the Maple Room. Participants can register at: bit.ly/writingmeditation.

Circle of Friends Potluck, February 8th

The UUS Immigration Action Team invited all UUS members and friends to a potluck on Saturday, February 8th, from 4 to 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our relationship with our Guatemalan and Sudanese Circle of Friends families. Please bring a dish to pass; drinks and place settings will be provided. Games are planned to entertain the children. For more information, contact Sally Hartman at sallyahartman@hotmail.com, or Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com.

Border Trip Forum, February 9th

The Immigration Action Team will present a forum on the recent trips taken by UUS members to the US/Mexico border, where they provided assistance and supplies to the migrant families in the border camps. The forum will take place at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. Future trips to the border are also planned (see below for details on the March trip).

Caleb “The Negro Artist” Rainey, February 22nd

The Racial Justice Study/Action Circle will host Caleb Rainey at UUS on Saturday, February 22nd, at 7 pm. Caleb will perform spoken word poetry. Light refreshments will be served after the performance, and a freewill donation is requested to benefit the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County. Join us! Look in the weekly emails for more details.

Border Trip Planned for March

A fourth UUS Texas/Mexican border trip planned for the first week in March will support aid agencies working with refugees in the tent city. This support involves transporting necessities across the border, providing activities and reading to children, shopping for needed items, and witnessing the results of our country’s policies. The two-day driving trip down and back takes about 20 hours. Accommodations for the week stay may be at the All Souls UU Church or at an Airbnb. For additional information, contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com or Sally Hartman at sallyahartman@hotmail.com.

UUA Common Read Discussions in March

This year’s UUA Common Read is *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States*, by Indigenous scholar and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, and the adaptation *An Indigenous Peoples’ History for Young People*, by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. From the [UUA’s website](#):

“In 2015, Beacon Press published an extraordinary book ... that challenged readers to learn US history through a narrative that centers the story, the experiences, and the perspectives of Indigenous peoples. Upending myths and misinformation that have been promulgated by leaders and media, it asks readers to reconsider the origin story of the United States taught to every US school child.

The year 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the much-mythologized encounter at Plymouth between colonists and those native to the land. The UUA General Assembly 2020, in Providence, RI, will speak to the truths that contradict the mythology. At the same time, movements in response to global and local environmental emergencies, many involving UUs, are increasingly recognizing the connection between Indigenous rights and climate justice.”

We will have two opportunities to discuss the Common Read: Tuesday, March 24th, at 10 am, and Wednesday, March 25th, at 7 pm. If you are not familiar with this history, it is recommended that you read the *Young People’s* adaptation. Reading either will allow you to take part in the conversation, and both books are available for purchase from Jessica, education@uusic.org, for \$16. Registration for the Common Read Discussions is not required but appreciated: bit.ly/UUSCommonRead.

Dinners for Eight in April

The Dinners for Eight event scheduled for April has been moved back to the first Saturday from its previously rescheduled date of April 11th. If you are signed up for a dinner, please note this date change and plan to participate on Saturday, April 4th. Contact uusdinnersforeight@gmail.com with questions.

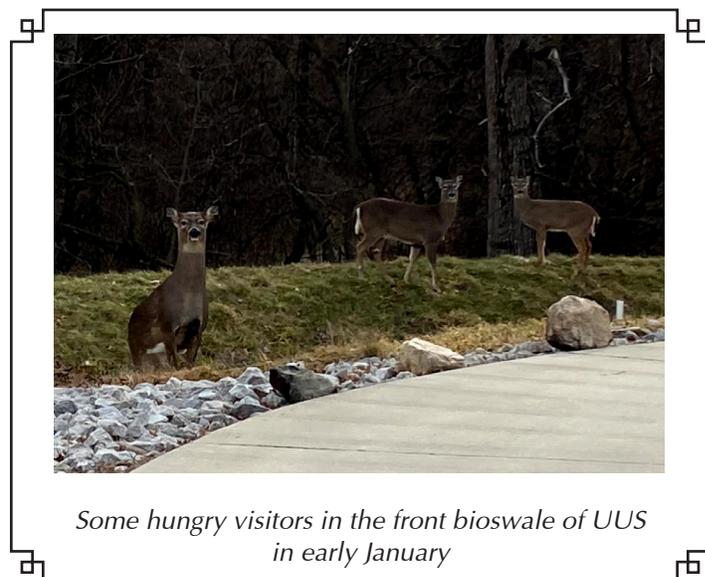
UUS Garage Sale, May 2nd

The City of Coralville’s Annual City-wide Garage Sale will occur on Saturday, May 2nd, and UUS will participate again this year. Our sale will take place in the Fellowship Hall from 8 am to 1 pm on that day, and again from 9 am to noon on Sunday, May 3rd. This is an opportunity for all UUS members and friends to recycle their excess possessions for the benefit of the UUS operating fund. (Last year’s sale netted \$2,500!) As you do your spring cleaning or downsizing, please set aside anything worthy of contributing. All items should be clean and in good condition.

Many volunteers will be needed for this fun event! It would be beneficial to have two coordinators to plan and manage our sale. If you are available to serve as a coordinator or for setting up, pricing, assisting customers, cashiering, or transporting items, please contact Carol Throckmorton at 337-3030 or carolthrockmorton108@msn.com.

Service Learning Trip to Guatemala, June 2020

Depending on interest, the Immigrant Action Team is in the beginning stages of planning a June trip to Guatemala. The trip would leave early in June and would last ten days. This would include a stay in a small town on the shores of Lake Atitlán, and planting trees at the Chico Mendes Reforestation Project. In the past, our accommodations have been with local families. Please contact Sally at sallyahartman@hotmail.com, or Deb at dschoelerman@gmail.com by February 15th if you have an interest in going on the trip.



Some hungry visitors in the front bioswale of UUS in early January

Upcoming UUS Events

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

Saturday, February 1st

- **Dinners for Eight:** Various times in member homes

Sunday, February 2nd

- **RJC "1619" Discussion:** 8:45 am in the Oak Room (See page 4 for details.)
- **Inquirer Session:** 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (Short Q&A at the "?" table, then you are welcome to attend the forum on the State of the Society)
- **"The State of the Society" Forum:** 11:30 am in the Sanctuary (See page 4 for details.)
- **UUS Men's Sunday Social:** 6 pm at 2 Dogs Pub (1705 S. First Avenue, IC)

Tuesday, February 4th

- **Green Sanctuary Team:** 12:30 pm at the Coralville Panera Bread (213 1st Ave)

Wednesday, February 5th

- **UU Community Meal:** 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Chicken Dinner. RSVP at bit.ly/CommunityMeal)

Thursday, February 6th

- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Writing Meditation Class:** 7 pm in the Maple Room

Saturday, February 8th

- **Circle of Friends Potluck:** 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall (See page 4 for details.)

Sunday, February 9th

- **Racial Justice Circle:** 8:45 am in the Oak Room
- **Inquirer Session:** 11:15 am, meet in the Conference Room (UUS History scavenger hunt)
- **Border Trip Forum:** 11:30 am in the Sanctuary (See page 5 for details.)

Monday, February 10th

- **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 (*Varina* by Charles Frasier)

Tuesday, February 11th

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

Wednesday, February 12th

- **UUS Board of Trustees:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, February 13th

- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Writing Meditation Class:** 7 pm in the Maple Room

Friday, February 14th

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

Saturday, February 15th

- **Vegetarian Community "Plantluck":** 5 pm at Prairie Hill Common House (140 Prairie Hill Lane, IC)

Sunday, February 16th

- **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
- **Dances of Universal Peace:** 3 pm at Prairie Hill Cohousing (140 Prairie Hill Lane, IC)

Monday, February 17th

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

Tuesday, February 18th

- **Secular Humanists:** 7 pm in the Common Room at Old Brick

Our discussion topic for February is "In the News/ On Your Mind!" This will be sort of Joys, Sorrows, and Concerns conversation pertaining to primary/ election year politics, global issues, religious-based laws and legislation, and issues of importance to the secular community. Come enjoy lively conversation. All are welcome at our meetings and events. We are often joined by members of Secular Students at Iowa (SecSI) who add their enthusiasm and curiosity to our discussions.

Wednesday, February 19th

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

Thursday, February 20th

- **UU News Submission Deadline:** 12 pm to the UUS office
- **UU Scrabble Group:** 1:30 pm in the Walnut Room
- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Writing Meditation Class:** 7 pm in the Maple Room

Friday, February 21st

- **Friday Family Night:** 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 22nd

- **UU Knitting Group:** 10 am in the Conference Room
- **The Racial Justice Circle Hosts "The Negro Artist":** 7 pm in the Sanctuary (See page 5 for details.)

Sunday, February 23rd

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:15 am in the Conference Room (UU 101—Introduction to UU History and Values)

Monday, February 24th

- **Girls' Night Out:** 5:30 pm at Red Ginger (1301 So. Gilbert St., IC)
- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Thursday, February 27th

- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Writing Meditation Class:** 7 pm in the Maple Room

**Unitarian Universalist Society
Board of Trustees**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – January 8th, 2020

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), John Raley (Finance Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex-officio)

Absent: Colleen Higgins (Trustee)

Board President Fretz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Bettine 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: December Board Meeting Minutes; January Executive Meeting Minutes; Staff Report

The Board received the Consent Agenda and approved the December Board Meeting Minutes, January Executive Meeting Minutes, and the Staff Report.

Board Committees Updates: Fretz provided drafts of the mandates for each of the five Board Committees: Assessment Committee, Governance Committee, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Right Relations Committee. Chairperson position appointment processes are yet to be determined, while each committee will set their own regular meeting times as needed.

Right Relations Committee Update: DeWitt presented on the Committee's draft of the updated Covenant of Right Relations for the UUS which was derived from the current UUSIC Right Relations Agreement. A first reading took place and a second is set to occur at the February Board Meeting.

Safety Team Update: Pomrehn discussed the current projects of the Safety Team. Projects include the development of plans for various safety risks, the acquisition of first aid kits and an AED, and the organization of an educational safety workshop for the congregation.

Self-Study Review: The Board discussed the outcomes of the self-study completed by the Ministerial Search Committee and what the results tell us about opportunities for growth in the congregation.

Closing: Rasmussen provided the closing words, Pomrehn gave process observer comments, the Board entered an executive session, and Fretz adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, February 12th, 2020 at 6:30 pm, 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

Office Phone: 319-337-3443

Our Mission: *We are a welcoming spiritually diverse home. We act on our values: Honor the Earth; Advocate for racial and social justice; Foster deep connections; Embrace the ongoing quest for meaning*

Our Vision: *We aspire to be a more inclusive, loving, diverse congregation that welcomes all people. We will defend and celebrate the Earth, confront racial and social injustice, and nurture deep connections.*

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.

UUS Staff

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

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Building Steward: Ron Wright (contact admin@uusic.org)

Community Minister:
Rev. Lois Cole (community.minister@uusic.org)

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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Secretary: Allison Bettine
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Treasurer: Chris Rode
(520-241-1431, ccrode@gmail.com)

Finance Trustee: John Raley
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Trustee: Michael Honey-Arcement
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Trustee: Colleen Higgins
(646-6564, colleen_iris1950@yahoo.com)

Trustee: Paul Pomrehn
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