



THE UUS NEWS

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

March
2020

Sunday Services

A social hour follows the 10 am service.

March 1st: “The Wisdom of Leaving Things Undone,” Rev. Diane Dowgiert

In our achievement-oriented culture, there is a drive to accomplishment and getting things done. There may be a spiritual cost to this orientation to life. Today we'll consider wisdom from the Chinese philosopher Lin Yutang who said, “Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone.”

March 8th: “A ‘Whole’ Church Vision,” Nancy Combs-Morgan

Imagine a covenant-centered, multigenerational community celebrating, learning, worshipping, and helping to change the world, together. Well, that is what we seek to experience in Unitarian Universalism. A “whole” church experience of transformation. UU faith development is at the heart of the “whole” church. Come and explore what that vision calls us to be and to do, together.

Nancy Combs-Morgan has been serving the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Congregational Life Consultant in the MidAmerica and Southern Regions for the last 16 years. As a Credentialed Religious Educator—Masters Level, she has an abiding and deep commitment to UU faith development.

A workshop on Faith Development will precede the service on Saturday, March 7th. See details in Jessica’s report on page 3 and in the event description on page 4.

March 15th: “Wise Choices/Compassionate Choices,” Rev. Diane Dowgiert

All our lives we make choices—some small and some large, some with consequences we regret and some with results we gratefully receive. Either way, exercising choice is an act of freedom. Too often, as the end of life draws near, there is a diminishing of freedom and a narrowing of choice. When so many decisions are driven by the medical system and state laws, what can we do now to increase the likelihood of a compassionate end for ourselves and our loved ones?

March 22nd: “Women’s Wisdom,” Jodi Linley

UU member Jodi Linley will share her message on Women’s Wisdom. She is the mother of three daughters. Look for more details in upcoming weekly emails.

March 29th: “Beginner’s Mind,” Rev. Diane Dowgiert

To approach life with a sense of openness, eagerness, and adventure is to have beginner’s mind, a clean slate, a state of innocence where everything is new and pure—full of possibilities. We all come into this life with a beginner’s mind. As we learn and accumulate experiences, the mind begins to take over, recalling memories, creating expectations and fears—limiting possibilities. Is there wisdom in cultivating a beginner’s mind?

The offering this 5th Sunday will go to Extend the Dream. Find more details on page 5.

March’s Social Justice Offerings Benefit Center for Worker Justice (CWJ)

CWJ’s priority issues are *Just Workplaces*: defending workers’ rights to proper payment and safe work; *Affordable Housing*: protecting and improving housing options for low-income residents; *Civil Rights*: confronting discrimination and ensuring equal access to community services for all residents; and *Immigration*: providing assistance to those affected by immigration policies.

CWJ was active in the development of the Community ID program, has recovered to date more than \$80,000 in unpaid wages from area businesses, helped immigrants in many ways, supported mobile home park residents as they fight for decent housing, and much more. This agency is our only new one following last fall’s congregational vote. Please support it well.

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

Congregational News and Events



From the Interim Minister's Study

Wisdom is the theme for March here at the Unitarian Universalist Society. Who among us would claim to possess wisdom, to be wise? Certainly not me, though my shelves are lined with books of wisdom—the Bible, the Qu'ran, the Tao te Ching, volumes of poetry, and

books of history, philosophy, psychology, and theology—plus how-to and self-help books of all kinds. Do they make me wise?

What is wisdom, anyway? Where does it come from? Who has it? Who doesn't have it? How do we know?

Here's some of what I think I know about wisdom.

Those who claim to be wise probably are not.

Knowledge and wisdom are not the same things.

Wisdom is elusive, not a fixed condition but ever-changing according to circumstances. What is wise in one situation may be foolish in another. The more one chases after wisdom, the more elusive it becomes.

Wisdom is about discerning; separating the wheat from the chaff, the useful from the not-useful, the true from the false.

Wisdom is less about filling or being filled than it is about emptying, less about acquiring than it is about shedding, relinquishing, and letting go. It is about being open and receptive.

Wisdom is less about doing and more about being, less about speaking and more about listening; listening to the wisdom of nature and the wisdom of one's own body, listening to the still, small voice within—the voice of intuition, the voice of conscience. It is less about stirring things up and more about quieting things down, settling into stillness. And, it is about knowing when to act, when to set things in motion.

Wisdom isn't an attainment or an achievement, rather it is grown into through experience, and as such, is always growing. Experience itself doesn't make us wise. It is the reflecting on and learning from what we do and what happens to us along the way.

This time of interim ministry is beginning to come to an end. Intentionally so. We all knew this time would come. My last Sunday with you will be June 7th—just three short months from now. By then you should know who will be your next called and settled minister and I should know where I am going and what congregation I will serve next.

I hope that each of you will take some time during these coming three months to reflect on all that has happened in your own life and the life of UUS over the past couple of years, the time of this interim ministry. Times of transition are times ripe with possibility. What are the ways you have grown and changed? What wisdom from this time do you want to carry forward into the next chapter of your life?

What I have learned from interim ministry—knowing that my time in a certain place, with a certain congregation is limited—is to cherish each and every moment.

What I know is there is wisdom in this approach to life.

Yours in the interim,

Rev. Diane

From Your Board of Directors

During this Interim Ministry period, the UUS Board of Trustees has undertaken significant work focused on the governance activities of the Society. In January the Congregation approved revised bylaws. In addition, five new Board committees have been formed. Some information about these changes have been shared previously in meetings and via the newsletter.

The Governance Committee has begun its work on creating a board policy manual. This includes reviewing and revising existing policies and writing new policies, especially as they pertain to the work of the new committees. The board policy manual only pertains to policies and procedures that relate to governance. The minister and staff will hold the policies that relate to ministry. The new minister will be in charge of those policies. The Governance Committee will post a draft copy of their ongoing work on the UUS website. If you have questions or comments about this, you can direct emails to Amy Fretz.

The Right Relations Committee has recently brought a UUS Covenant of Right Relations to the Board for a vote. The

Covenant is a revision of the UUSIC Right Relations Agreement that was previously adopted by the Society. There is a framed copy of the Agreement in the hallway just outside the east door of the coat closet. The Board has voted to adopt the new Covenant, and it will be brought to the Congregation for a vote at the May Congregational Meeting. At the time the initial Agreement was approved, members were invited to sign a book signifying their willingness to enter into covenantal relationship with one another as outlined in the Agreement. New members are also asked to sign the book, as they join UUS. This is not the Membership Book, but a separate book kept by Peggy Garrigues, Director of Congregational Life.

In an effort for the board to be as transparent as possible and receive input from members, the Governance Committee will post a working draft of their work. There will also be a town hall-style meeting each month. On Sunday, March 15th, we will be talking about the Covenant of Right Relations. We will meet at 11:30 am in the Hickory Room.

Ministerial Search Committee Report

Your Search Committee has had a whirlwind February. We are busy in the pre-candidating process, including interviewing three ministerial candidates and attending services at three neutral pulpits to witness their sermons. We are extremely encouraged by the quality and strength of all three candidates. We have established a set of qualities and needs/wants of the congregation that we are keeping in mind as we go through this process.

From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education

“Why are the old ways not working any longer? Is it that we don’t have enough staff? The right staff? Enough volunteers? A big enough budget? Is it because of Sunday morning soccer, or parents who just aren’t committed enough? Congregations can sometimes go in circles arguing about these questions and wondering “who’s to blame” for the decline in children’s participation. “If only we could do X, we could have a thriving program again like we did X years ago!” But the forces that are affecting family participation are multiple, and mostly, they come from beyond our congregations. Learning how to respond to societal trends and learning how to create engaging “sticky” ministries with families and children is not simple. Yet, to live into the power of our calling as Unitarian Universalist congregations, it is necessary.”

– Pacific Western Region of the UUA (PWR) “Faith Formation and RE”: <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/resources/faith-formation-and-re>.

I have spent a lot of time with questions like the ones above. Wondering all about the “what if’s” and the “how do we’s” to make our Religious Education program the best it can be. If we accept that: 1) our Sunday School model of RE was developed to serve children and youth of a different time, culture and generation; 2) we cannot change, at least not in any immediate way, a culture that upholds busyness and a packed schedule as one of its highest values; 3) we are in a community that is secularized with many competing programs and opportunities; and 4) we are a faith and community that has something unique, relevant, and of value to offer children, youth, and families in the greater Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty area, then the question we need to ask is “what should RE at UUS look like in the 21st century?”

The ultimate answer to that question is not simple, technical, a one-size-fits-all solution, nor does it come with a guarantee of success. In fact, if you scroll down the PWR page linked above, you will find a number of possible models, and there are even more out there. However, RE programs are finding that just because a model is successful with one program does not necessarily ensure success at the next program. Which makes sense when you think about the changes our families, communities, and congregations have gone through since the Sunday School model was created in the 1940s and 1950s. Our congregations and RE programs are no longer filled with roughly homogeneous families and needs. Each of our churches serves a multitude of family types, are in communities with differing demographics, have access to a wide spectrum of monetary and people resources, and are in communities with a variety of opportunities that parallel those of our RE programs. So a solution for small fellowship in the Bible and Conservative

Next: On April 2nd, we will be inviting the final candidate to Candidating Week later in April. At that time, UUS members will have the opportunity to meet the candidate and to hear them give the sermon at a Sunday worship service.

We are most grateful for the invaluable support of Rev. Diane throughout this effort. And we are pleased with how effectively those of us on the Search Committee are working together. We are excited about the final steps ahead of us.

Christian Belt will probably not be the same at a mid-sized church in a community with easy access to a variety of youth and justice-focused organizations, or at a large-sized church on the east coast with tight-knit cluster of UU RE programs.

What we are facing is an adaptive challenge, or as PWR’s site says, an opportunity for “experi-learning:” Experimenting, learning from failures and successes, and creating community together.

To help guide us in taking on this challenge, and to continue the conversation from Rev. Diane’s State of the Society address, we have mapped out an RE visioning plan that starts with a workshop on Saturday, March 7th. It will be led by Nancy Combs-Morgan, Congregational Life Consultant with the MidAmerica Region. The workshop is open to congregational teams (staff and lay) from around the region and to all UUS members and friends, and it will focus on three main areas:

- What is happening in and around RE on the larger scale. Specifically, the UUA Board’s charge for a new vision of youth ministry, and an opportunity for participant feedback.
- Where RE fits in our system, and how it is connected to the rest of the congregation (i.e.: how changes in RE affect the whole church, and how the things we do in church affect the RE program).
- Faith Formation stages, and what each age group needs from an RE program and congregation.

This workshop is to help us understand the metaphorical “water RE is swimming in,” both in the larger faith and culture, and to prepare us to take our next step, which will be a UUS-specific RE visioning workshop where we will look at answering the following questions:

- What is working well at UUS?
- What would we like to do more of?
- What are our hopes and dreams?
- What does our heart tell you we need to do most?
- What are we willing to support?

The learnings from both workshops will be examined in conjunction with the questions: “what resources do we have available (people, money and space)?” and “what do our children, youth, and families need?” to set goals for the Religious Education program.

We are in the process of scheduling our RE visioning workshop, but in the meantime, you can help us take the first step on our experi-learning journey by coming to “The Changing Landscape in Unitarian Universalist Faith Development” workshop. See details and a registration link on page 4.

Excited to be experimenting, learning from our failures and successes, and creating community with you, Jessica Zimmer

Workshop: “The Changing Landscape in Unitarian Universalist Faith Development,” March 7th

Knowing who we are and who we seek to become is at the heart of Unitarian Universalist faith development. Take part in a workshop to hear more about the changing landscape in UU faith development, and where that changing landscape leads us to a covenant-centered, “whole” church understanding of Unitarian Universalism. The workshop will include new models and resources in UU faith development and our enhanced and revised approach to UU youth ministry.

The workshop will be led by Nancy Combs-Morgan on Saturday, March 7th, from 10 am to 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Nancy has been serving the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Congregational Life Consultant in the MidAmerica and Southern Regions for the last 16 years. As a Credentialed Religious Educator–Masters Level, she has an abiding and deep commitment to UU faith development.

Lunch will be provided. There is no set charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to cover the cost. Participants are also welcome to bring a lunch. To register, visit bit.ly/UUSChangingLandscapes.

What’s New with Membership Associates?

Since UUS voted at the January Congregational Meeting to adopt revisions to the Bylaws that included changes to the Membership clause (read them here: bit.ly/UUSBylaws_Membership), the Membership Associates are now focusing on re-engaging members who haven’t been as engaged in the recent past. Sometime in early to mid-April, we expect to be contacting by phone about 70 people who have signed the book as members to assess their interest in becoming fully engaged members in Society life. Each of these members will be receiving a letter in March to let them know that someone will call them soon for a short phone conversation. Our goal is to have a satisfying and mutual covenant between members and the Society.

Seeking Summer Service Stories & Reflections

The UUS Worship Associates (WAs) Team seeks proposals from members, friends, and guests to share reflections, presentations, or other services this summer. Traditionally, our minister has a leave from the pulpit through much of the summer. UUS talents, as well as guests outside of our community, fill the pulpit during this time.

This summer, the service theme is *Trust*. Transitions are a time for trust. Trust in ourselves. Trust in others. Trust that things will work out. This time of transition between ministers is an especially good time to look at our relationship with trust. How did we learn to trust, and how do we discern whom and what to trust?

To learn more about this summer’s theme and to access a Call for Proposals form, go to bit.ly/uus-rfp-summer. You may also ask one of UUS’s Worship Associates for information. WAs are Julia Audlehelm, Valerie Bowman, Margaret Kinsman, Dan Gall, Diane Martin, Susan Salterberg, Heidi Sinderman, and Mary Kathryn Wallace.

Resiliency With the Help of Pastoral Care and UniCare

This past month the UUS community was invited to contemplate the meaning of resilience in our lives. Life challenges us to develop resiliency and to develop ways to move forward in the face of such challenges. And, as we all learn, there are times in our lives when, according to the Beatles refrain, we can use “a little help from our friends.”

The UUS Pastoral Care/UniCare team is here to offer support during challenging times. We often identify ourselves as a “caring community.” Don’t be shy about asking for companionship and comfort. Maybe just a phone call will help. Other times it may be the desire to have a quiet presence, just to listen. Sometimes that comfort includes the need for meals to lighten the daily load during illness or after surgery, or possibly the need for a ride to any follow-up medical appointments. Again, don’t hesitate to ask for help.

We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.

We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid. We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves again.

Develop resiliency by asking for help. Begin with a call to the UUS office: 337-3443. Or contact your UUS Pastoral Care Team, led by Winnie Ganshaw (pastoralcare@uusic.org) or your UniCare Team, led by Mary McMurray and Diane Martin (unicare@uusic.org).

Covenant Group Report

2020 has been a busy year for covenant groups so far. In January, members considered what it means to be a people of “Integrity.” How do we, individually and collectively, stay true to our values and beliefs in a world that seems to demand compromise at every turn? Then, last month, we questioned traditional ideas about “Resilience.” Typically, resilience is thought of as a quality of the individual—mental and emotional toughness, inner strength, the ability to spring back into action after hurt and hardship knock us down. But is that truly all there is to it? Don’t we benefit as much, if not more, from the love and kindness of family, friends, communities? Don’t we rely on others to get us through the difficult times? Unitarian Universalists place a special emphasis on supportive relationships, the interconnections that multiply individual strength by the strengths of everyone around us. Quoting from February’s *Soul Matters*: “Internal and individual grit only gets us so far; empathy, assurance and love from others gets us the rest of the way ... Resilient people arise from resilient relationships!”

This month we’re contemplating “Wisdom.” What does it mean to be wise, to possess wisdom (or lack it), and for UUs to become a People of Wisdom? Could we all be wise in different ways? Think about it! If topics like these intrigue you, you may be ready to join a covenant group. The covenant group program offers its members the opportunity to express their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while creating closer ties with other UUs. You can learn more about the program and how to join a group by contacting Jan Locher (354- 6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

Social Justice Team Report

What are UU State Action Networks?

Most states have established UU state-wide organizations that work on social justice. Our state network is IUUWAN, or the Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network. We focus on social justice education and providing connections between Iowa congregations. Our October conference in Grinnell gave UUs from seven congregations an opportunity to engage in a Reversing Global Warming: An Introduction to Drawdown workshop. The 2020 fall conference will focus on Democracy: Working for Justice. Here is the link to sign up for the quarterly newsletter, or to join the IUUWAN Facebook page: <http://iuuwan.com>.

Designated Agency for March: Center for Worker Justice

When the Sunday collection plate comes around on the first four weeks of March, the Center for Worker Justice will be the recipient of all donations. What will that mean for this agency? Immediate needs are sewing machines to initiate a sewing class for young adults and youth, and later for adults. In addition, the Center endeavors to restore stolen wages to workers, address housing issues, provide educational programs including English, and support workers starting their own businesses. The Center for Worker Justice touches many lives.

Fifth Sunday Offering to Benefit Extend the Dream Foundation, March 29th

On March 29th, a "fifth Sunday" collection will benefit the Extend the Dream Foundation and Uptown Bill's Coffee House. Extend the Dream Foundation (EDF), founded as a non-profit organization in 1997, provides services to all, but its mission is to serve those with disabilities and the aging. Projects include the Uptown Bill's Coffee House, Neighborhood Arts Center, a bookstore, media project, and the KICI Local Radio Project. These projects are sponsored in memory of Bill Sackter, a beloved, intellectually-challenged member of the Iowa City Community. He spent the last eight years of his life here, and he has gained notoriety in two award-winning movies.

In the spirit of Bill Sackter and respect for Iowa City's people with disabilities, Uptown Bill's had been a gathering place for people of all ages and abilities to work, play, listen and create in a safe and comfortable environment. Uptown Bill's encourages diversity and welcomes all. You are invited to enjoy music and other entertainment at the coffeehouse, browse the bookmark, tune in to KICI 105.3 FM, have a cup of coffee, cookie, or sandwich at the café, attend a meeting, or participate in an activity.

Through our recently passed friend and EDF board member, Joe Brisben, and with the UUS Social Justice Team, Uptown Bill's has organized concerts at UUS and has welcomed UUS members as volunteers on Days of Service.

CROP Walk, March 29th

This annual walk (about 2 mi.) will begin at 1105 Gilbert Ct. at 1 pm on Sunday, March 29th. More information will follow in Wed. emails and at the Social Justice table on Sundays.

Immigration Justice Team Report

Nine UUS members have volunteered to provide relief to the Mexican refugee community south of Brownsville, Texas. The fourth group returns to the border the first part of March. One of the important tasks of the trips has been to deliver essentials such as food, shoes, blankets, medicines, and toiletries to the refugee camp. Reading and playing with children, interpreting at the clinic, and providing witness are other important support activities.

Members of the Immigration Justice Team also continue to provide support to our local Circle of Friends immigrant families by providing bus passes, games and books for children, rides to appointments, and teaching English. The February party and potluck with the families was a success, with all nine children getting a chance to smack the piñata. Adults enjoyed the show and made new or renewed intercultural connections.

UU Free Lunch Report

UUs always serve Free Lunch on the second Friday of the month, and this February our Friday happened to be Valentine's Day. We decorated the serving table accordingly, and we served 123 hearty meals to hungry guests.

Our main dish, cheesy ham and hash brown casserole, was prepared by our junior and senior high youth here at UUS. An additional treat was provided by our pre-K through 4th-grade youngsters, who assembled snack bags (one ingredient was heart-shaped Cheerios!). Special thanks to all our great UU young people, and to Jessica Zimmer for coordinating their work.

For Friday's Valentine meal, 21 enthusiastic UU volunteers participated, some donating ingredients, and others preparing and serving the meal, and cleaning up afterwards.

During that busy time, one of our faithful volunteers, Jill Stephenson, tripped and fell while working in the kitchen. Larry Kent drove her to the ER at Mercy Hospital, where x-rays showed damage to her hip replacement and femur. Following surgery to repair the damage, Jill spent several days in the hospital and is now recuperating at Briarwood in Iowa City. She thanks everyone for their concern and explains that, for now, she'd prefer to keep visits to a minimum in order to focus her energies on rehab. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped care for Jill on Friday, and who then pulled together to serve our Valentine's Day meal.

If you would like to learn more about the UU Free Lunch team, just ask Diana Miller (dkmilleriowa@gmail.com) or Carmen Griggs (cgriggsiowa@gmail.com) to add your name to our Free Lunch email list. New volunteers are always welcome!

Sunday Service Attendance

February 2nd:	154 total: 134 service, 20 RE
February 9th:	156 total: 138 service, 18 RE
February 16th:	155 total: 129 service, 26 RE
February 23rd:	175 total: 141 service, 34 RE

Update on Our Picture Directories

Thank you for your patience waiting for the new directory. We are awaiting the proofs and then it will take about five weeks for the final copies to arrive, which should be early April.

You were greeted at your photo appointment by Carol Nordquist, Connie Peterson, Barbara Haring, Diane Martin, Carmen Griggs and Diana Miller, Jamie Sharp, Kim and Lula Palmer, Nancy Lynch, Peggy Garrigues, Jim Olson, Carol Throckmorton, Kelly O'Berry, or Marianne Mason. Nancy Lynch and Jean Hood helped you pick a photo appointment. Ron Pyle and Lori Marshall produced our front cover.

Peggy Garrigues worked to get the roster as up-to-date as possible. (All information was taken from Realm, so if you find errors after it is printed, please update your information in Realm, or let the office know to update your information in Realm.)

And all of you who came to get your photo taken, or submitted a photo, helped us to make this directory more complete! This was truly a team effort, and we thank all who helped!

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](#):

We will have two opportunities to discuss the Common Read: Tuesday, March 24th, at 10 am, and Wednesday, March 25th, at 7 pm, both in the Hickory & Oak Rooms. 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.

Declutter for More Peace, Space, and Freedom, April 1st

We know we'd feel better if we decluttered, so what keeps us from doing it? Do you ever have these thoughts: "I have to go through these boxes;" "Someone could use that;" and "But I need it!" Another one might be, "I'm sure my kids will want this someday."

These thoughts can keep us stuck with our clutter. Instead, ask yourself, "What do I long for?" Often, it's peace, space or freedom.

Martha Beck, life coach, says "Walk into any room of your home and focus on 10 random objects. As you consider each, ask yourself, Do I truly need it?, Do I truly adore it? and, Would I trade inner peace for this? The answers can help curb your pack-rat impulses, allowing you to clear out and move on."

Join us after our Wednesday, April 1st, Community Meal (around 7 pm) for tips from UUS member Valerie Bowman, who has been a professional organizer for 20 years. Her business is called Space for Grace.

UUS Garage Sale, May 2nd

As spring approaches, it seems that we have an innate desire to clean up our environments and to purge items no longer of use. You can harness these for your benefit—and for UUS!

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.

As you do your spring cleaning, decluttering, and downsizing, please deposit your contributions in a large box or bag designated for the sale. Remember—if you don't need it, use it, or love it, it's a candidate for our garage sale! Here is a listing of the categories of items we will have available:

Cooking equipment; Children's toys, books, equipment; Entertainment; Automotive; Home furnishings; Tools; Office supplies; Garden & patio; Books; UI memorabilia; Hobbies and crafts; Recreational and exercise equipment; Electronics; Adult and children's clothing (spring and summer only); and Miscellaneous.

All items should be clean and in good condition. Please do not bring soiled, torn, broken, or nonfunctional items. Donors can bring sale items to UUS on Thursday evening, April 30th, and all day on Friday, May 1st, or at other times by appointment. Please do not plan to drop off items before April 30th or leave anything with staff members.

Unsold items can be reclaimed by their owners after 1 pm on Sunday. All remaining items will be donated to local resale shops (using UUS's consignment accounts when applicable).

Many volunteers will be needed for this event. Please contact Carol Throckmorton if you would like to serve on the planning team or are available for setting up, pricing, assisting customers, cashiering, transporting, or cleanup.

If you have questions about any of the above, need to have items picked up, or would like to volunteer, please contact Carol Throckmorton at 337-3030 or carolthrockmorton108@msn.com.

We need everyone's participation—both donors and buyers—to make our garage sale a huge success!

March Birthdays

Dick Anderson	Jean Hood	Mark Profit
Philip Beck	Spencer Johnson	Jenny Reynolds
Aiden Bettine	Kathleen Kingman	Linda Rice
Alan Bohanan	Jodi Linley	Susan Salterberg
Reed Cheyney	Jan Locher	Jane Slaymaker
Lois Cole	Rory Marshall	Barbara Staib
Kay Eginton	Diane Martin	Maya Tallman
Betsy Fischer	Kathy McDonald	Sullivan Turner
Audrey Friestad	Shelby Myers	Mary Vasey
Rochelle Honey-	Laurie Neuerburg	Elaine Waples
Arcement	Alison Oliver	Jerry Wetlaufer

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 (uus.org/upcoming-events) or by contacting the office.

Sunday, March 1st

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:10 am in the Fellowship Hall (Engage with Volunteering Opportunities at the “?” table)
- **UUS Men’s Sunday Social:** 6 pm at 2 Dogs Pub (1705 S. First Avenue, IC)

Monday, March 2nd

- **Kiirtan:** 6 pm at the Sycamore Rooms in the basement of Acupuncture of Iowa (2412 Towncrest Dr., Iowa City)
- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Tuesday, March 3rd

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

Wednesday, March 4th

- **UU Community Meal:** 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Salad Bar. RSVP at bit.ly/CommunityMeal)
- **Declutter for More Peace, Space, and Freedom:** 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 5th

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

Saturday, March 7th

- **Workshop: “The Changing Landscape in UU Faith Development”:** 10 am in the Fellowship Hall (See page 4 for details.)

Sunday, March 8th

- **Racial Justice Circle:** 8:45 am in the Oak Room
- **Inquirer Session:** 11:10 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

Monday, March 9th

- **CUUPs Full Moon Offering, Tarot, & Drumming:** 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- **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 (*The Library Book* by Susan Orlean)

Tuesday, March 10th

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

Wednesday, March 11th

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

Thursday, March 12th

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

Friday, March 13th

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

Sunday, March 15th

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:10 am in the Fellowship Hall (Engage with Social Justice Opportunities at the “?” table)
- **Dances of Universal Peace:** 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 16th

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

Wednesday, March 18th

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

Thursday, March 19th

- **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

Sunday, March 22nd

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:10 am in the Fellowship Hall (Q&A at the “?” table)
- **Realm Training:** 11:10 am in the Conference Room

Monday, March 23rd

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

Tuesday, March 24th

- **Common Read Discussion:** 10 am in the Hickory & Oak Rooms (See page 6 for details)
- **Girls’ Night Out:** 5:30 pm at Red’s Ale House (405 No. Dubuque St., North Liberty)

Wednesday, March 25th

- **Common Read Discussion:** 7 pm in the Hickory & Oak Rooms (See page 6 for details)

Thursday, March 26th

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

Friday, March 27th

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

Saturday, March 28th

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

Sunday, March 29th

- **Inquirer Session:** 11:10 am in the Conference Room (UUS History Scavenger Hunt)

Monday, March 30th

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

Tuesday, March 31st

- **Secular Humanists:** 7 pm at a location TBD

The ACLU celebrates its 100th anniversary! We will host ACLU of Iowa’s Executive Director, Mark Stringer, on Tuesday, March 31st, at 7 pm. Place and details will be announced soon. Mark Stringer, former minister of the Des Moines UU church, will share efforts and activities of the ACLU of Iowa that strive for gender equity, immigrants’ rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive justice, racial justice, and more for Iowans. All are welcome. Contact: Mark Yuskis, resdoggie@aol.com.

Save the Date: Treats and Talents Auction, May 30th

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 30th, for the UUS Treats and Talents Auction, an evening of fun, food, entertainment and both silent and live auctions as a fundraiser for UUS!

More details will follow. If you already know what you would like to donate, contact Judy Tokuhisa at 331-3351 or judy.tokuhisa@gmail.com.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Who Joined on Sunday, February 2nd, 2020



Richard Anderson and Jeanette Corley

Dick grew up on a farm in Toledo, Iowa, and spent much of his adult life in Dubuque. He moved to Iowa City about a year and a half ago to be part of Prairie Hill Cohousing. He is a retired pilot and has two adult children. John and

Val Bowman motivated Dick to attend services here, where he finds the people at UUS to be genuine and sincere. He also appreciates the fact that many people here value nature and science. Dick likes tree houses, playing chess, drinking beer, and traveling. His latest project is the restoration of an old Jeep CJ5. He is looking forward to finding inspiration and meeting like-minded people here at UUS.

Jeanette moved to Iowa City from Van Buren County in 2018. Meeting Dick at Prairie Hill Cohousing, where they now both live, brought her here after becoming widowed. She spent her career in data processing and information technology. She has one son, two stepdaughters, and six grandchildren, who live in other parts of the country. When mulling big questions like “What am I here for?” she finds inspiration from all the world religions and from nature. She has found a wonderful sense of community here and a safe place to learn. Jeanette loves prairies and hopes to help with the native plantings on our land. She’s also willing to share her computer and data-mining skills. She says that she is more comfortable with one-on-one conversation and small groups than in large groups.



Beverly Bullard

Bev retired from a career as a music therapist in Minneapolis. She has also lived in Johnston, Iowa, La Grand, Oregon, and Cresco, Iowa before moving here to help with her grandchildren. She lives with her son, Kevin, and his children Kipson (12), Kamina (7), and Kage (5), who can also be seen around UUS on occasion. She was drawn to UUS because of our ministry of love and justice for all. She

appreciates all seven principles, and that she can converse with others about important issues. She hopes to find ways to make a difference in the world. Bev enjoys reading, biking, hiking, singing, flute, table games, knitting and crocheting, and sewing. She enjoys singing in the choir and hopes to offer gardening help when spring comes.



Karin and Peter Hoth

Karin grew up in New York and Minnesota, where she attended UU churches. She has lived in several other states over her life and moved to Iowa City 6 years ago with Peter and their three children: Caleb, Tyler, and Aubrey. Karin is a faculty member at the University of Iowa. She enjoys attending UUS because she has found it to be a welcoming place for their family. She enjoys incorporating multiple traditions, particularly nature, into spiritual learning and growth for herself and her family.

Peter is originally from Burlington, Iowa, and attended medical school at the University of Iowa. After living in New England and Denver, Colorado, their family returned to Iowa City in 2013, and Peter took a faculty position at University of Iowa. Peter was briefly involved with a UU congregation in Colorado and values the UU emphasis on an ongoing search for truth and meaning. He appreciates our openness about a variety of religious views and that we uphold those with other views. Peter is sharing his love of music as he sings in our choir, and he hopes to be involved in stewardship of our land and the earth.



Halie Lopez

Halie was born and raised in northeastern Tennessee. She and her children, Jacob (18), Kaylee (16), and Andrew (12) moved to Iowa City in 2012 in search of a better economy, better education, and a more

diverse community. She met Miguel Guerrero in 2013, and they have been a blended family ever since. Halie worked in healthcare for 15 years and is now furthering her work in that field as she trains for nursing at Kirkwood. She is passionate about patient-centered care, and palliative and hospice care. She heard about UUS from her friend Amy Fretz, and once she started attending, she knew she had found a community aligned with her goals and values. Halie enjoys nature photography, watercolor painting, and container gardening—especially with succulents and cactus plants. She loves volunteering with the Free Lunch program, teaching 5th and 6th grade RE, and helping out whenever help is needed in the community.

**Unitarian Universalist Society
Board of Trustees**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – February 12th, 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), John Raley (Finance Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex-officio)
Absent: Colleen Higgins (Trustee), Allison Bettine (Secretary)

Board President Fretz called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Honey-Arcement provided opening words.

Consent Agenda: *Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review prior to the meeting. The Board received the consent agenda and approved the February Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, the Staff Report, and the Treasurer's Report.*

Governance Committee: Fretz discussed the Governance Committee who will begin going through the policies we have in place. Discussed Board members having a master copy to for everyone so we can reference these policies as the Committee is revising or creating. Also discussed having policies online for members to be able to see work as a way of transparency. All felt this was a good idea.

Personnel Committee: Rasmussen gave an update on the Personnel Committee. They are looking at setting up co-chairs with a board member and congregational member to help with leading the group. They also are looking at 3-year term limits to alleviate turnover and burnout. Discussed if Board committees should have a staff person? Committees that could benefit would be Personnel, Finance and Assessment. In those cases, staff members should be Ex-Officio members since they are Board sanctioned committees. Also, it was felt by the Board that committee meetings should not be open due to time management and committees meeting off-site.

Right Relations Committee: UUS Covenant of Right Relations–2nd Read: *Motion to approve the Covenant of Right Relations made by Rode, seconded by Honey-Arcement. Motion carried.* DeWitt stated the Right Relations Committee completed their charge and policy guidelines.

Right Relations Committee: Conflict Management Policy and Procedure–1st Read: DeWitt presented the policy. This policy was adapted from CCLAM's Conflict Management Policy. Discussed importance of members knowing that they should follow the 1st paragraph of the RRC Conflict Management Policy and Procedure Agreement and that they should not go to the committee if they have not tried to do these measures first.

Finance Committee: Raley presented the Board with the Committee's charge and was given feedback. Will need policies on renewing contracts, audits, etc.

- **Reserve Amount Declaration:** Raley stated The Finance Committee will be developing a policy to have 3 months cash in reserves as best practice. The formula will be: 1 year of Expenses Divided by 12. To be reviewed each January to set new Cash Reserve amount.
- **Board Request for Endowment Funds:** Raley discussed that the Finance Committee will look at Bylaws and procedures for the board requesting money from the Endowment Fund. It is supposed to be 0 to a Max of 5% of the amount over Basis of General Endowment. It's important to have this request each year in January or in the budget process with Endowment being able to somewhat project amount. Endowment meets in January to review accounts, solidify the number, report to Finance Committee and Treasurer with procedures to collect funds in February.
- **Rental Income:** Raley discussed the member/staff perspectives – UUS rents the main room and smaller rooms. Procedures are organized well. What we run into is not having use of our space during the popular wedding times of summer into fall. Concerns were discussed by the Board and direction to staff about how to proceed with rentals will follow.
- **Move Accounting In-House:** Raley discussed problems with our current accounting management company. The Finance Committee met with a CPA who works with non-profit organizations and she feels that we would be better served by moving to Quick Books and bringing our accounting in-house. She would be able to set this up with us and Emma would take on a larger responsibility for this. This would take a large burden off the Treasurer's role as well. The CPA would also help write policies for UUS around best practices, so an annual audit is not necessary. The Board voted to accept the Finance Committees recommendation to proceed with the transition to bring our accounting in house.

Safety Team Update and Lois Cole's Ministerial Formation Team tabled until the next meeting.

Closing: Rasmussen gave Process Observer comments. Closing words were read by Fretz. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next board meeting is March 11th, 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)

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

Director of Lifespan Religious Education:
Jessica Zimmer (education@uusic.org)

Director of Congregational Life:
Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org)

Music Director: Gloria L. Corbin (music@uusic.org)

Accompanist: Aura Strohschein (accompanist@uusic.org)

Publicity Coordinator:
Jeff Walberg (publicity@uusic.org)

Administrative Assistant:
Nik Jakob (admin.assistant@uusic.org)

Religious Education Assistant:
Anna Rode (re.assistant@uusic.org)

Facilities Coordinator:
Lesanne Fliehler (facilities.coordinator@uusic.org)

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
(720-207-4513, amymhere@gmail.com)

Vice President: Joe Rasmussen
(721-7777, uusicc.joe@gmail.com)

Past President: Jane DeWitt
(621-5033, jane.dewitt@drake.edu)

Secretary: Allison Bettine
(630-272-6907, allison.bettine@gmail.com)

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

Finance Trustee: John Raley
(321-5437, jraley@amfam.com)

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

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

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