

# THE UUS NEWS

2022 | April



## From Your Minister Rev. Diana Smith

During this season, what is awakening in you? This month, when our Soul Matters theme is *Awakening*, we'll get to explore this in many ways together as we finish our Sources series, learn more about the 8th Principle, celebrate Earth Day with a special service and activities (read more on page 6), continue to develop our all ages religious education, and welcome changes in our congregation. You can read more about these here and throughout the newsletter.

Many of the changes we'll be experiencing in April and May will help us continue to emerge into our post- or next-stage pandemic reality. First, throughout April we'll be beta testing broadcasting our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube Live. Our hope is to begin broadcasting services only on YouTube Live rather than on Zoom beginning in May. We're making this switch to resolve some technical difficulties and to ease volunteer and paid staffing challenges as we move towards operating multiplatform long-term. If you're participating in services online, you can help us with our beta testing by joining them on YouTube Live and sharing feedback about things that are working well or problems in the chat. We'll be sharing information about how to do this in weekly emails.

Throughout February and March, a wonderful team of members, Board Vice-President Rochelle Honey-Arcement, and Religious Education Program volunteers and parents Marsha Cheyney, Alice Atkinson, and Jason McGinnis, have been working with me on the Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) hiring process.

We hope to be able to announce our new DLRE in April, so look for a special email from me sharing who our new DLRE will be and when they'll begin at UUS. We've also been restructuring some of our part-time staff positions to meet our current needs and hope to hire a new Facilities Coordinator and a new Communications Coordinator soon.

We'll also be continuing our exploration of the proposed 8th Principle for Unitarian Universalism as part of the process of deciding whether, at our May 22nd congregational meeting, UUS will adopt the 8th Principle and join other congregations in encouraging Unitarian Universalism as a whole to adopt it. In April, covenant groups will be discussing the 8th Principle, we'll have a special guest at our April 10th service to discuss it, and we will continue holding informational sessions after worship services. We're also excited that on Saturday, May 7th from 1 to 4:30 pm Paula Cole Jones will be leading a workshop for us about the 8th Principle. Look for more information on this workshop in the weekly emails.

I'm excited to begin engaging in this work with you this month as we awaken to what's emerging in our lives and congregation.

Love and Blessings,  
Rev. Diana

# Upcoming Services

Join us at 10 am on Sundays,  
in-person or virtually

**April 3rd:**

## **“Finding Inspiration Amidst Chaos”**

Join us as we continue our exploration of the Sources that our living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from. This week we'll hear the stories of 19th century Universalist Clara Barton and Unitarian Dorothea Dix as we celebrate and explore the Source of the words and deeds of prophetic people, which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

**April 10th:**

## **“Eighth Principle”**

Join us as Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe leads us in our exploration and understanding of the 8th Principle. Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe is Congregational Field Staff for the Central East Region serving congregations in western Pennsylvania and across Ohio. Ghe hails originally from Indiana where ghe learned to sing, dance, and cause trouble- the social justice kind. Ghe is currently a member of TRUUSt (Transgender Religious professional Unitarian UniversalistS Together) and DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary Multicultural Ministries).

**April 17th:**

## **“Awakening to Love and Action”**

Join us for our All Ages Easter service as we continue our exploration of the Sources that our living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from. This week we'll celebrate and explore the Source of Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

**April 24th:**

## **“Spring Into Change!”**

This Earth Day, Rev. Diana and UUS's Green Sanctuary team will lead a special service celebrating Earth and exploring what we can do as individuals, with our friends and family, as a community, and legislatively to steward Earth's health.

*Find more information on upcoming services  
and how to join us [on our website](#).*

# From Your Board President

**Alan Swanson**

Some of the many strengths of our UUS congregation are acceptance of diverse views, a shared sense of exploration and wonder, and eagerness to do what we can to make things better and safer for all. Along with you, I've been reminded and inspired by Rev. Diana's March series of messages on the sources from which Unitarian Universalism are drawn. We're proud of our big picture.

Your trustees are dedicated to conducting and improving the ongoing business of UUS. Concurrently we're looking to the future, listening to what congregants and life's multiple environments are telling us. Along with our talented ministerial staff, we want to assess where we are now in our mission and where we should be headed? As always, this will need to involve every UUS member and attendee. What should the next big picture be?

The Board is developing open questions that will help guide our mission and will feed into the vision for UUS ministry for 2022-23 and beyond.

We'll continue in a multi-platform world that allows greater accessibility to those who share our values and wish to be with us even when they can't attend in person.

Of course we're striving to have our building and grounds open, as they deserve to be, but we're moving ahead with protection and inclusion in mind.

We've set out to solve our perennial operating budget issues. Impressive, cooperative work is in progress toward that goal, formulated by the Balance and Growth Initiative (BGI) and endorsed by the UUS membership.

We see the importance of UUS furthering its efforts to help resolve stubborn social, racial, and environmental issues. Along these lines, the board is encouraging UUS adoption of the Eighth Principle at the May 22nd Congregational meeting. Additional opportunities for the congregation to learn about this important step are being planned (also see [8thprincipleuu.org](http://8thprincipleuu.org)).

It's an exciting time to be a Unitarian Universalist, supporting one another to achieve even more together than we can one by one.

Caring and acting together,  
Alan Swanson



## Mental Health FIRST AID

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
MENTAL WELLBEING

### Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

UUS is very pleased to announce that we have arranged for a private training for adults who would like to be

more prepared to assist the youth in their lives who may at some point struggle with mental health.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based program created by practitioners and people with lived experience that teaches adults how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a mental health challenge, how to provide help and what to do in a crisis. This training teaches the lifesaving skills of assessing for risk of suicide and harm, identifying alternatives to calling the police in a mental health crisis, and putting someone who's overdosed in the recovery position. Lifespan Faith Engagement offers trainings infused with UU values of youth empowerment and agency, community care, and cultural humility. Find out more at [uua.org/ymhfa](http://uua.org/ymhfa).

The training totals eight hours, which includes two hours of self-paced content and two three-hour, instructor-led group learning sessions on Zoom (**April 9th & 10th, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm**). Upon completion of the course you will receive a Mental Health First Aider certificate and access to a community forum with other Unitarian Universalist mental health first aiders.

We are asking participants to pay \$60 if they can; this helps to offset the cost for folks who may need a reduced registration fee.

Please register here: [https://bit.ly/UUS\\_YMHFA\\_2022](https://bit.ly/UUS_YMHFA_2022). Space is limited, and the workshop is open to those outside of the UUS community, so please register as soon as possible. You are welcome to share this email if you know of someone who would benefit from this training.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in attending the workshop and desire financial assistance to do so, please email Anna Rode at [education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org), or our course facilitator, Jennica Davis-Hockett at [JDavis-Hockett@uua.org](mailto:JDavis-Hockett@uua.org).

Practice radical inclusion by assuming that at least one young person you know will experience a mental health challenge this year. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in five youth and young adults in the US lives with a mental health condition.

## UU 8th Principle

*We, the member congregations of the UUA, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

This is the wording for the 8th principle, currently being discussed by this congregation. Over 155 UUA congregations have voted to adopt this statement. In Iowa, UU congregations in Ames, Cedar Rapids, and the Quad cities have voted to adopt this statement. One of the values in our UUS mission/vision statement is "advocate for racial and social justice". Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in our UU denomination have asked us to support them and specifically affirm our commitment to becoming more diverse, equitable and inclusive.

We have already had a couple of information sessions to discuss this statement and plan to have more during April and May. Then at our annual congregational meeting on May 22nd, we will vote on whether we as a congregation should support this effort. Our UUS Board voted to endorse this principle at its February Board meeting.

Look for dates and times of future information meetings in the weekly email. Go to <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org> for more info.

## April Offerings Benefit The Domestic Violence Intervention Program

The Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) provides comprehensive support and advocacy services to victim/survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking, focusing on immediate and long-term safety, empowerment, dignity, and hope. In collaboration with the community, they strive to end domestic abuse through education, accountability, and social justice. DVIP services include a 24-hour hotline, in-person advocacy, criminal justice and economic support, an emergency women and youth shelter (with kennel services), and more.

All cash collected during the Sunday service offerings benefit our monthly community partner, unless otherwise earmarked on a donation envelope. Checks for the offering baskets should have "CWJ" on the memo line. You can also donate online at <http://bit.ly/UUSPartner>, text "GivetoUUSIC Partner" to 73256, or mail a check with "CWJ" on the memo line to our office (2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville, IA 52241).

You can also donate to our Operating Budget on Sundays. Donate online at <http://bit.ly/UUSOperating>, text "GivetoUUSIC Operating" to 73256, or mail a check to the office with "operating" on the memo line (also write "pledge" if you'd like to apply to an existing stewardship pledge).

# From Your Religious Education Coordinator

Anna Rode

In April, we shift our focus to the Soul Matters theme of *Awakening*. We will complete our study of the Six Sources of our faith. You can expect a family email mid-month, with resources and some activities extracted from the Soul Matters curriculum. I will also continue to post to the [UUS Families Facebook page](#).

**We have returned to multi-platform services.** You can continue to enjoy the Sunday service from home via Zoom, or if your family is comfortable attending in person, we welcome you into the sanctuary. The sanctuary is set up with some social distance built in, as well as divided into 3 sections (green, yellow, and red, based on your comfort level with distance to other attendees). Families are welcome to sit in the RE Commons area if they prefer. Some Sundays, the service is all-ages, in which case children will remain with their families during the entire service. When the service is not designed to be all-ages, we will sing the children to the RE Commons area, where they can engage in an activity which will be related to our monthly theme and/or the sermon that day, and will be geared toward fun, learning, and community-building. On these Sundays, please plan to pick up your children after service.

**We are also excited to have a permanent welcoming space for children in the Sanctuary.** We ask that parents/guardians plan to sit nearby if their child would like to be in the children's area. This area includes a large carpet, floor cushions, lap tables, coloring supplies and focus toys for children to enjoy. There are also clipboards and activity baskets with coloring materials and focus toys at the table outside the Sanctuary.

## Preschool

Alice Atkinson and I continue to co-lead our Parents of Preschoolers (POP!) support group on Zoom. Our next meeting will be on April 24th at 12:30 pm.

## Elementary

In April, we will continue hosting a pet food drive for the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center; there is a box in the front vestibule for donations. Related to this drive, some elementary kids met on March 20th and made cat scratchers and mini tie blankets for cats.

Children are invited to come to UUS on April 24th from 11:30 am to 1 pm to make toys and some additional blankets for the shelter animals. If you have any old and clean towels or fleece blankets that we can upcycle for the animals, please bring them in. Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/UUS-Animal-Service-Project>.

## Our Whole Lives (OWL)

We continue hosting Junior High OWL this year, Sundays at 12 pm. Information for each session is emailed to OWL families and volunteers the Monday prior to each workshop.

## Junior & Senior High Youth

In March, the Jr./Sr. High youth helped construct a corn hole game for use at UUS. They co-created the design for the top of the game boards. On April 10th, from 1:30 to 3 pm (after OWL), they will paint their design and also sew some bean bags for the game.

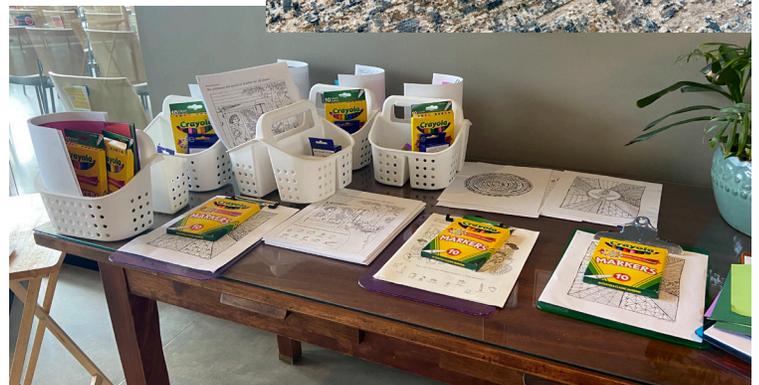
Some of the youth have created endangered species costumes/projects. Youth will have the opportunity to participate in the **April 24th Earth Day service**, with those projects or with a reading or helping with the chalice. Please watch your email for announcements from the youth coordinators.

Then on **May 1st, at 1:45 pm**, the youth will volunteer at the Muddy Creek Preserve to learn about nature and help eradicate invasive species. This 40-acre Bur Oak Land Trust property was donated by UUS members Barbara Beaumont and Kurt Hamann, and has oaks nestled into rolling terrain. Parents: please watch your email as you will need to sign up (so coordinators can arrange enough transportation and chaperones) as well as turn in permission forms.

Our Jr./Sr. High youth leaders are Jim Trepka, Dave Tokuhisa, Deb Schoelerman, and Sally Hartman; they are delighted to offer UUS youth fun and meaningful opportunities to gather. We welcome all youth and hope to see even more faces in the coming weeks and months.

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to volunteer with the Religious Education program in any capacity, please email me at [education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org).

*A dedicated children's space in the Sanctuary and activity baskets with coloring supplies and focus toys help make our Sunday services welcoming and accessible.*



# From Your Director of Congregational Music Alex Heetland

## Thursday Night Singing

Join me and members of our choir and congregation for singing and music making on Thursday nights from 7 to 8:30 pm in the UUS Sanctuary. This Spring, we will focus on rehearsing for Music Sunday, which will take place on May 1st. Our plan is to sing and play in person on May 1st.

All are welcome to join us. You can begin participating in the Thursday Night Singing at any time. Contact me with questions: [music@uusic.org](mailto:music@uusic.org). We're looking forward to making music with you!

## Join Us in Celebrating Our April Birthdays:

Joe Barrash	Mary McCann
Emily Cooper	Craig Mosher
John Elson	Gerald
Linda Fisher	Nordquist
Nathan Gall	Peter Palmer
Liam Gupta	John Raley
Linda Hartford	Tabitha
Adam Ingersoll	Rasmussen
Jan Jacobson	Tom Rocklin
Sandy Keller	Anna Rode
David Kramer	Sarah Ross
Russ Lenth	Theresa Ullerich
Macy Linley	Macy Van
Dawn Marshall	Abbema



*Our Aesthetics Team  
keeps our spaces  
beautiful with regularly  
updated arrangements  
and decorations.*

## Save the Date! UUS Community Garage Sale

UUS is planning our Community Garage Sale, scheduled for the weekend of the Coralville Citywide Garage Sale, April 29th through May 1st! Many hands make light work and we are looking for volunteers to:

- Help coordinate the effort
- Set up tables
- Pick up larger items before the sale
- Price, sort, and organize incoming items before the sale
- Help at the sale
- Haul items after the sale if there is anything left

Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/2022UUSGarageSaleVol> for a volunteer shift, or contact Judy Tokuhisa ([judy.tokuhisa@gmail.com](mailto:judy.tokuhisa@gmail.com)) or Peggy Garrigues ([dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org)) with questions.

Do you have things that are still in good shape, but you are ready to let go of? Furniture? Household items? Books? Clothing? Start collecting your items to donate to our sale. We'll begin accepting donations on April 24th—look for more details in upcoming weekly emails!).

## Past Sunday Attendance

**February 27th: Celebrating Mystery and Wonder**

78 virtual participants, 43 in-person

**March 6th: Celebrating Muslim and Jewish Mysticism**

73 virtual participants, 38 in-person

**March 13th: Celebrating Humanist Traditions**

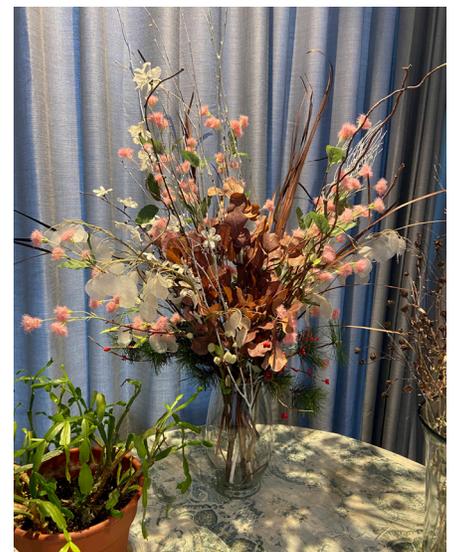
59 virtual participants, 48 in-person

**March 20th: Celebrating Earth-Based Traditions**

74 virtual participants, 55 in-person

**March 27th: Trans Day of Visibility**

67 virtual participants, 43 in-person



# From Your Director of Congregational and Community Engagement

## Peggy Garrigues

### Taking Sabbatical in May

The national Unitarian Universalist Association has Compensation Standards for staff at UU congregations, including recommendations for benefits. One of the recommendations is that congregations should “provide adequate time for continuing education for all staff. For professional staff, this includes study leave and sabbatical leave.”

The section on recommendations goes on to explain, “Well-equipped, spirit-filled staff provide consistent, skilled, accountable leadership. This in turn builds capacity and ownership among the laity, enabling congregations to thrive. In addition to strengthening the ministries of the congregation, regular professional development averts burnout, amplifies professionalism, and reinforces collegial relationships through shared learning.”

I am grateful that this congregation supports our professional staff in this way. I am also clear that I wouldn’t want to take a several-month-long sabbatical all at one time. So I am glad that the UUS Personnel Committee and Board is developing our sabbatical policy to allow for between one and three months at a time of sabbatical leave, as it is accrued.

My current plan is to combine several aspects of renewal and refreshment with some study and learning time, for a total of six weeks (or four weeks plus General Assembly and some vacation time).

I plan to begin my sabbatical on May 12th, as I travel to Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey, to celebrate my son Isaac’s graduation with a Master of Divinity degree. I will then visit for several days with another UU membership professional at the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, NY, to see what her church is like, and to learn about how they handle rentals.

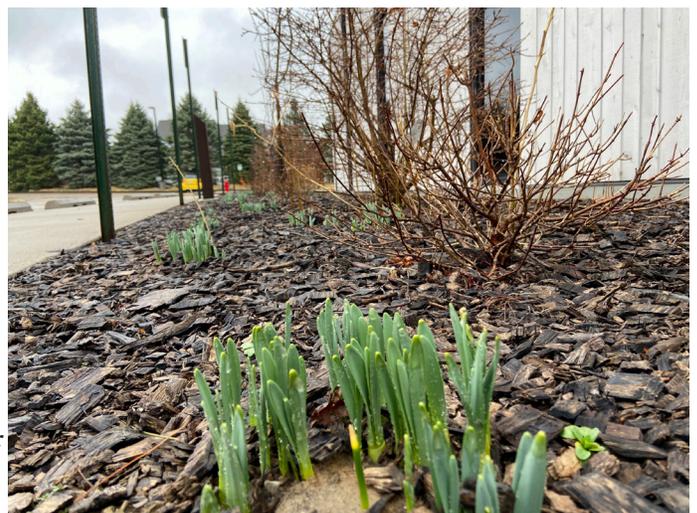
From there I plan to spend a week living and volunteering in the Fellowship Community outside of New York City. The Fellowship Community, founded in 1966, is a dynamic, work-based, intergenerational community centered on the care of the elderly. Approximately 140 elder members, co-workers, and their children live together in the rural setting of a bio-dynamic farm, with woods and orchards, and studios for weaving, pottery, and candlemaking, located 30 miles northwest of New York City. In addition to a complete change of setting, and time of service, I hope to get some ideas for ministry with our elder members here.

I will come back home for a bit, and work on completing the last module and a half for my official certification as a UU Membership Professional. I expect to be one of the first officially certified membership professionals, since it is a new program within the last several years.

In June, I will spend several days at a natural building workshop at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage, just a couple hours south of here in Missouri. I wanted to do something very hands on, and maybe get some ideas for something we could do here on our land. I will also spend a couple days on a mini-retreat for my Diamond Approach spiritual practice, and visit another UU membership professional outside of Chicago to learn how her congregation (Unity Temple in Oak Park, IL) nurtures members and potential members (she also happens to live in the town of Elmhurst, Illinois, where I grew up).

I may come back to UUS to work for a week or so before attending General Assembly (GA) in Portland, Oregon, June 22nd through 26th, where I will gather with many UUs and also other Membership Professionals for our Pro Day, and stay with a classmate from the Spiritual Entrepreneurship class that I took online last fall. Sarah is still clarifying if she can join me in Oregon before or after GA for a few days. So my plans are not all finalized, but I am excited and grateful for some additional time of renewal and learning this year!

We have scheduled a round of Starting Point classes and a new member ceremony before I leave, and we’ll also schedule another after I return, so that will not be needed when I am gone. I will be working with the Membership Associates to cover a few of the tasks with visitors that I normally do. I plan to recruit volunteer Zoom hosts for the Sundays that I will be gone. We hope to hire an event host or two to be on hand for a couple of the larger rentals scheduled while I am gone, as well as for some future rentals. Congregational Administrator Emma Barnum will handle rental requests that come in during that time. Some other things I normally do will just have to wait until I return. UUS has great staff and volunteers, so I am hopeful that there won’t be too much of an additional burden on anyone while I am gone.



*First signs of Spring at UUS!*

# Earth Month Activities and News



## Drawdown: Get Into Action Workshop

**Starting Wednesday, April 13th, at 7 pm**, UUS is partnering with the Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) for a five-week Drawdown: Get into Action Workshop via Zoom. The goal of the workshop is to encourage involvement in environmental collaboration and to amplify the environmental work that is underway. With deeper knowledge and support for action, you can join others who have taken on such projects as making connections with city government, forest preservation, and composting. To register, contact KoKo Lwin ([kokolwin2489@gmail.com](mailto:kokolwin2489@gmail.com)).

## Clean Water Webinar

Along with UUs nationwide, you are invited to a virtual presentation entitled “The Condition of Cornbelt Streams and A New Path Forward,” **on Thursday, April 28th at 7 pm**. The presenter of this webinar is Dr. Chris Jones, University of Iowa research engineer on water quality in agricultural watersheds. Dr. Jones will discuss how his career experience led him to view clean water as an issue of justice, as well as his ideas for a new agricultural production system to achieve desired environmental outcomes. For a chuckle and additional insight into Dr. Jones’s work, read his blogs, for example, “[Iowa is Addicted to Cornography](#).”

This webinar is co-sponsored by the Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) and the [UUs for a Just Economic Community](#). To get a Zoom or Facebook Live link to the presentation, go to the IUUWAN website: <https://iuuwan.com/>, and scroll down to the sign-up link. Contact Sally Hartman ([sallyahartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyahartman@hotmail.com)) with questions.

## Community Purchases for Climate Action

The quickest, easiest, and cheapest way to start playing a part in slowing climate change is making sure the light and water in your home is as energy efficient as possible.

UUS and the Green Sanctuary Team are partnering with the [Johnson Clean Energy District](#) (JCED), to purchase LED bulbs and low-flow showerheads for members and friends of the congregation. JCED is a nonprofit citizen initiative working to implement efficient, affordable, and clean energy in Johnson County while increasing environmental benefits, community access, business opportunities, and consumer demand for clean energy.

Why should you participate?

- LEDs use 90% less electricity and last 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs. If 50 UUS households switched 10 incandescent bulbs to LEDs, collectively they could reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e by as much as 11.8 metric tons/year.
- Low-flow showerheads reduce water consumption by as much as 60%, cutting water and energy needed to heat water. The Kohler Awaken is a high-quality showerhead that received top billing from JCED families. If 50 households upgrade to this product, we could collectively reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e by 40 metric tons and save 383,250 of gallons of water in the coming year.

And, because we’re doing it together, it’s cheaper! JCED is working with two local distributors—Sitler’s LED Supplies in Washington, Iowa and PSC Distribution in Iowa City—to get the lowest prices possible for bulk orders of high-quality products and to support the area’s green economy.

Please join us! If you haven’t made these simple upgrades, or you know someone who hasn’t, don’t miss this opportunity! We are accepting orders from low-income families who would like to purchase items but can’t contribute financially, and we are also accepting donations to support those orders. Any donations received that exceed the final order total will be used by JCED to support low to moderate income families participating in future programs.

[Download the Order Form](#) (PDF) or pick up a copy at UUS. You can also find this information, along with the order form, on our website for easy sharing: [www.uusic.org/community-purchase-for-climate-action](http://www.uusic.org/community-purchase-for-climate-action). Completed order forms can be sent to UUS (2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville, IA 52251) or emailed to the UUS office ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org)).

Payments can be made online (<https://onrealm.org/uusic/give/JCED>), or cash and checks with “JCED” on the memo line can be sent to the UUS office.

Order forms and payments should be received by May 1st, 2022. Delivery of all orders to UUS is estimated for June 12th. Notifications will be sent informing purchasers of when and how they can collect their items. Contact Craig Mosher ([craig.r.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:craig.r.mosher@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## Group Reports

### From Your Free Lunch Team

Friday, March 11 marked the 24th time that UUS volunteers have donned pandemic gear to provide a nutritious meal to Free Lunch guests at the Free Lunch Program. During this period of time, our dedicated volunteers have remained incredibly flexible ranging from serving meals out a side door window to distributing meals from behind a pull-down shield at the serving counter to a combination of both. Thanks to team leader, Bob Littlehale, and volunteers Carrie Norton, Donna Simonton, Gary Lawrenson, Janet McKee, Terri O'Berry, and Theresa Ullerich who served 105 meals to our diners. Donna once again brought music which made the meal even more enjoyable. Bob did report that on this unusually cold, windy day, the coffee machine in the kitchen broke down but our warm-hearted volunteers persevered!

Thank you to the UUS Wanderers Covenant Group for purchasing the main dish of chicken strips and to our many Free Lunch volunteers whose donations paid for all the side dishes of cheesy hash brown potatoes, carrots, cookies, bananas, and juice. It was truly a team effort!

If you are interested in learning more about the ways you can contribute to the Free Lunch Program, please contact Carmen Griggs at [csgriggsiowa@gmail.com](mailto:csgriggsiowa@gmail.com).

### Covenant Group Facilitators

In March, covenant groups thought about the various meanings of the phrase, "Renewing Faith." Some see faith as simple and innocent—the "faith of a child." Others might view it as something more problematic, an investment in ideas so strong that it can resist facts and alternative points-of-view. But we all have faith in something—in ourselves, in others, in the knowledge that the sun will come up tomorrow. Perhaps in a system of spiritual ideas. An existence without faith in anything sounds pretty bleak. As Sharon Salzberg writes, "The opposite of faith is not doubt. It's despair."

What do you mean by "faith?" Is it the same as "trust," "belief," or "conviction?" Or something deeper? What do you have faith in? Is there something you used to have faith in that you no longer have today? How do you get that faith back, or do you even want to? Perhaps it's time to look around for something else to believe in.

If questions like these intrigue you, you might be ready to join a covenant group. The covenant group program offers its members the opportunity to share 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)).

### From Your Immigration Action Team

#### Afghan Refugee Family Sponsorship

By the time you read this newsletter, it is possible the Afghan family we are sponsoring will have moved into their new home on Deforest Street in Iowa City. We can assume they have been through a challenging experience, and that they will need rest and privacy at first. For many of us, there will be cultural differences we need to learn about. For example, in general, Afghan men do not shake hands with women. The Afghan Sponsor Circle Team will be providing the latest about the family in the weekly email updates and will provide an opportunity for UUs to learn about Afghan culture. A get-acquainted event for the family will be held in the future.

#### Circle of Friends

Our goal in Circle of Friends is to provide a means for immigrant families to become independent. The trajectory toward that independence is not a straight line. Two of our Guatemalan mothers, Modesta and Blanca, had babies in the last two months, and support was needed for transportation to doctor appointments, infant clothing, formula, and diapers. In addition, we connected the Guatemalan teenager with the UI Law Clinic for support with his asylum quest.

Should you wish to donate to help support these families, you can do so [online through Realm](#) or write a check to UUS with Circle of Friends in the memo line.

### From Your Social Justice Team

#### IUUWAN Newsletter

The Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) March newsletter focused on racial justice, with Iowa UUs writing about actions their church community and associated organizations have taken to address racial justice. To sign up for the IUUWAN monthly newsletter go to the IUUWAN website: [iuuwan.com](http://iuuwan.com). To submit articles for the April IUUWAN newsletter, which will focus on environment, send them to Sally Hartman ([sallyhartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyhartman@hotmail.com)).

Look on the Earth Month page of this newsletter for two upcoming IUUWAN-sponsored events: a five-week Drawdown: Drawdown: Get into Action Workshop beginning April 13th and a virtual presentation by Dr. Chris Jones entitled "The Condition of Cornbelt Streams and A New Path Forward," on April 28th.

# UUS Board of Trustees

## Regular Meeting Minutes

March 16th, 2022 (virtual via Zoom)

**Present:** Alan Swanson (President), Joe Rasmussen (Past-President), Rochelle Honey-Arcement (Vice-President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Diana Henry (Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Minister, Ex Officio), Paula Miller (Secretary), John Raley (Financial Trustee), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee)

President Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and lit the chalice. Raley provided opening words.

**Board Read:** Members discussed chapters 2 and 3 of the new Board read *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season* by Susan Beaumont.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board received the consent agenda which included the February 16th Board meeting minutes, March 9th Executive Committee minutes, Treasurer/Finance reports, and Minister/staff reports including highlights from Peggy Garrigues, Emma Barnum, Anna Rode, and Alex Heetland. *Rasmussen moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Audlehelm. The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.*

**Three Open Questions:** The Board worked on choosing the next Three Open Questions, meant to help guide the vision of ministry in the new church year, which starts July 1st. The three drafts created for final consideration (from seven submissions) are:

1. *What messages and actions can members take to help UUS introduce ourselves and engage the surrounding communities?*
2. *What can the UUS do to increase participation in UUS's and surrounding communities' racial and social justice programs?*
3. *How do we continue to grow our connections now that we remain multiplatform?*

Board members also suggested a 4th question for ourselves: *How can the congregation help you grow?*

### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Governance:** Rasmussen summarized how congregational meeting protocol might change to accommodate multiplatform and in-person meetings. He reported that multiplatform meetings present challenges for amending motions, establishing a quorum, and asking questions from the floor, and he requested input from the board about creating new meeting procedures. The Board discussed options and ideas.

Raley recommended that each meeting should be recorded so that people who couldn't attend can watch it later. Rasmussen confirmed that changing meeting protocol doesn't require a bylaw change, but we do need to make sure that the process is clear ahead of time. We will likely continue to use the Election Buddy program for online voting.

**Personnel:** The DLRE Search Team has completed Zoom interviews for the new DLRE candidates, and have scheduled four in-person interviews. Rev Diana added that there will be an ad hoc Board meeting at the end of April to introduce the new candidate.

Rev. Diana and the staff are also restructuring the part-time staff positions and have written new job descriptions. There should not need to be any budget changes.

**Finance:** Raley and Pavelich recommended that a bequest from Ruth Muir be directed to the general endowment corpus, per policy, as there were no special instructions attached to the gift. *Raley moved to add it to the general endowment, seconded by Henry. The motion passed unanimously.*

Raley added that Finance Committee received a fundraising request for a UUS Garage Sale at the end of April to benefit the operating budget. Rev. Diana advised this would coincide with the Coralville city-wide garage sale on April 30th. *Raley moved to approve this fundraising event, seconded by Audlehelm. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Right Relations:** Swanson advised that we do want to re-energize this committee and that most churches have one in place in case of internal conflicts. Rev. Diana advised that a Right Relations committee can work in different ways: it can be a standing team that responds to specific situations, they can provide guidance at events or congregational meetings, and they could lead communication training. She advised that the next step will be to meet with the people who originally agreed to be on that committee. Audlehelm agreed to act as a temporary liaison until June, and she requested that Swanson outline some of the issues which are being brought up by other churches in his weekly Midwest Region UUA meetings.

**Mission & Vision Review:** Seaba reported that they will meet again on March 21st and credited Kelly O'Berry with getting two sets of minutes prepared. They hope to have a finished assessment by the June meeting which the Board can approve. They are currently writing up five consensus plans which also recommend what type of data can be collected and how they can reasonably work with BGI metrics.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

**COVID and UUS Reopening Progress:** Rev. Diana is working on a Safe Gathering plan which she will run by the COVID Safe Gathering task force prior to the April Board meeting.

**Proposal to adopt the Eighth Principle:** Rev. Diana reported that there will be a forum on March 20th, and that Peggy Garrigues is working with Covenant Group resources to have this topic discussed at April meetings. Rev. Diana is waiting on a response to her invitation to have a guest speaker present at the April 10th Sunday service.

*(Minutes continue on next page)*

**BGI Discussion:** At their last meeting they discussed with Peggy what she needs to facilitate her work expanding rentals and our social media. Peggy participated in some continuing education with a social justice focus. There will also need to be a group formed to discuss plans for a new Capital Campaign to pay off the mortgage. They also discussed collaboration with the Mission & Vision Committee and how the BGI dashboard will work. Rasmussen agreed to be on the ad hoc rental group with Gary Lawrenson. Raley expressed appreciation that the Finance Committee was brought in to enhance and supplement the work of BGI and the Mission & Vision Committee.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**May Congregational Meeting:** Swanson asked if we should have a report from BGI in addition to the discussion on the 8th Principle? Honey-Arcement and Pavelich advised that we should probably wait before presenting a full report, but we could address the collaboration currently taking place and could address a few things BGI is developing measurement for to present to the congregation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Team for Shared Ministry:** Rev. Diana would like to have a designated team to provide ministerial advisement to help her stay connected with different parts of the congregation. It would also help to provide perspectives with what is happening in the congregation and what developmental needs should be addressed. It would not be a Board committee, but she does want to discuss with the Board who should be on it and what type of relationship it would have with the Board. It would require about 3-5 people, and it would be less formal than the outgoing Ministerial Transition Team and not as structured as the former CCLAM committee which had members elected by the congregation. Swanson requested that she write a short paragraph outlining her needs which we can discuss at the April Board meeting.

**UUA General Assembly:** The Board will need to approve six delegates each for both GA and the MidAmerican Regional Assembly. GA will be both online and in-person in Portland Oregon from Wednesday, June 22nd through Sunday, June 26th, while the MidAmerican meeting will be on April 30th and will be fully virtual. We will need to approve the six delegates for the UUA Regional assembly by April 29th. Rev. Diana advised that we can vote on the delegates at the April Board meeting.

#### **CLOSING:**

There were no guest comments. Process observer comments were provided by Audlehelm, closing words by Honey-Arcement. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm, April 20th, 2022, via Zoom.

—Paula Miller, Board Secretary

## Financial Report Highlights

As of the end of February, our bank balance remains unchanged from the end of January. Given that the deficit spending plan for 2022 would have the balance decreasing by \$5,000 per month, this is encouraging. A financially uneventful month is welcome.

- Operating Income Received in February:
  - o \$35,366.24 in pledge giving (~\$1,000 over budget)
  - o \$209.17 in non-pledge giving
  - o \$3,143 in additional auction payments
  - o \$100 in rental income
  - o \$433 in freewill donations from the February 26th Asian Composer Concert. Per the Music Outreach Program guidelines, the total will be split 40/60 between the operating budget and the Music Outreach fund. According to the sign-in sheet, about 50 people attended the concert.
- Justice Income Received in February:
  - o \$355 additional for the Abbe Center (Jan. agency)
  - o \$25 additional for the Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund (Jan. 5th Sunday)
  - o \$593.44 for UAY (Feb. Agency)
  - o \$3,200 for the creation of an Afghan Asylum Sponsorship Fund
  - o \$1,510.70 was sent to us by a UUSC grant to reimburse KoKo Lwin for healthcare costs

This month, our spending is below budget expectations while our monthly pledge giving is at expectation. The lower spending is found in the staff salary/benefits areas, since we currently have some unfilled staff positions. Rev. Diana and the staff are working to redefine these empty staff positions and will soon be advertising for candidates.

At the Finance Committee's March 7th meeting, each subcommittee gave a status report; all is well. An ad hoc subcommittee is exploring property insurance options as our current contract ends this May.

—Mike Pavelich, Board Treasurer, and  
Emma Barnum, Congregational Administrator

### UU 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.

### UU Six Sources

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

**Our Mission:** We are a welcoming, spiritually diverse home. We act on our values: Honor the Earth; Advocate for racial and social justice; Nurture 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.

*[Visit our website for more information about UUS: www.uusic.org.](http://www.uusic.org)*

*[Subscribe to our email list](#) for weekly updates and important announcements.*

*Find a full list of upcoming events and group meetings [on our online calendar](#).*



### UUS Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Diana Smith ([minister@uusic.org](mailto:minister@uusic.org))  
**Congregational Administrator:** Emma Barnum ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org))  
**Director of Congregational and Community Engagement:**  
Peggy Garrigues ([dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org))  
**Religious Education Coordinator:** Anna Rode ([education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org))  
**Director of Congregational Music:** Alex Heetland ([music@uusic.org](mailto:music@uusic.org))  
**Administrative Assistant:** Nik Jakob ([admin.assistant@uusic.org](mailto:admin.assistant@uusic.org))  
**Staff Pianist & Music Outreach Coordinator:** Hsin-Hui Liu  
([pianist@uusic.org](mailto:pianist@uusic.org))  
**Community Minister:** Rev. Lois Cole ([community.minister@uusic.org](mailto:community.minister@uusic.org))

### UUS Board of Trustees, 2021-2022

**President:** Alan Swanson ([president@uusic.org](mailto:president@uusic.org))  
**Vice President:** Rochelle Honey-Arcement  
**Past President:** Joe Rasmussen  
**Secretary:** Paula Miller  
**Treasurer:** Mike Pavelich ([treasurer@uusic.org](mailto:treasurer@uusic.org))  
**Finance Trustee:** John Raley  
**Trustee:** Julia Audlehelm  
**Trustee:** Diana Henry  
**Trustee:** Hazel Seaba

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# THE UUS NEWS

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