



# THE UUS NEWS

2022 | August

## From Your Minister Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

As we move into August, many of us are continuing and wrapping up summer adventures, whether far away or right here at home. And many of us are looking towards the coming of a new school year and congregational year. This year at UUS we'll be continuing to nurture our connections with ourselves, each other, and the wider community. You can read about many of the programs, relationships, and activities that staff and members are developing throughout this newsletter.

During August at UUS we'll be continuing to explore our summer theme of Compassion as we experience the end of the summer and the beginning of the regular congregational year. This year we've moved Ingathering to coincide with the beginning of the school year for children, youth, and the University of Iowa. This means that on August 21 we'll gather at UUS for our traditional water communion and backpack blessing. We're also planning to have an activity fair after the worship service on the 21st so that members and friends of all ages can learn about ways to get involved and re-engage at UUS through programs from religious education to social justice and service work to mind and spirit groups and more.

I'll be on study leave from July 25th through August 7th. Study leave is a very important part of my year. It's when I have the chance to do some of the reading and planning that I don't get to do during the regular course of ministry. It helps me plan our programming for the fall and early winter. When I'm on study leave, staff and the Pastoral Care Team are responding to most urgent needs. I'm reachable if there is an emergency.

As we move into the last part of summer, may you continue to create spaces to nurture your mind, heart, spirit, and body so that you may enter the new year rejuvenated.

Love and Blessings, Rev. Diana

## ***Connect Beyond Sunday*** **Opportunities Fair,** **August 21st**

Come join us after the service on Sunday, August 21st, for our *Connect Beyond Sunday* Opportunities Fair in the Fellowship Hall. *Connect Beyond Sunday* is a chance to learn about many of the teams, groups, and programs that UUS offers. Many of our group and team leaders will be hosting tables where you can ask questions and sign up to participate or volunteer, in a festive atmosphere.

There will be light refreshments provided by our Hospitality Team for the day, and scavenger hunt activities (with PRIZES) will be available for all ages!

Plan to come to UUS on August 21st to get a better view of what happens here that may be less visible, and find out how to get involved! If you are a group leader, or you have an idea for a group that you would like to initiate, sign up for a table here:

<https://bit.ly/ConnectBeyondSunday>

Or contact Peggy Garrigues at [dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org) with questions!

## Upcoming Services

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

### August 7th: “Nonviolent Communication as a Spiritual Practice”

When we can see our own actions and the actions of others as attempts to meet universal human needs, such as belonging and autonomy, we experience more connection and compassion. Val and John Bowman will talk about a way to get those needs met. Nonviolent Communication is about connecting with ourselves and others from the heart. It’s about seeing the humanity in all of us. It’s about recognizing our commonalities and differences in finding ways to make life wonderful for all of us.

### August 14th: “Practicing Compassion”

The objective for this Sunday service is to share ideas about compassion, what it is and how it can be practiced. UUS member and guest speaker David Jepsen proposes that Compassion can readily be recalled by the formula Sympathy + Identification + Action. Compassion is universally accepted among world religions as a guiding principle for good living. David concludes that no matter how often he attempts compassion, it still feels like practice, as if the struggle to perform compassion, like doing the laundry, is never really over. And that we, like a piano player or a free throw shooter, must continue to practice, practice, practice. Kara Beauchamp will serve as this Sunday’s Worship Associate.

*The service will be followed by a bring-your-own-picnic event outside (See right for details).*

### August 21st: “Ingathering”

Join us for our Ingathering service! We’ll celebrate our traditional Water Communion, so please bring a small container of water that is meaningful to you. We’ll also be blessing backpacks for those who are about to start the school year, so if that’s you please bring your backpack or a similar item.

*The service will be followed by the Connect Beyond Sunday Opportunities Fair. (See page 1 for details).*

### August 28th: “Creating Community”

Join us as Rev. Diana leads us in an interactive service where we reflect on and co-create community.

*Find more information on our Sunday Services [on our website](#).*

## August Offerings Benefit The Free Medical Clinic

The Free Medical Clinic (FMC) provides medical, specialty and basic dental care, and prescriptions to those without insurance. Close to 300 volunteers from various disciplines provide thousands of hours of services to the clinic each year, providing patients with quality and compassionate health care. Check out their website ([freemedicalclinic.org](http://freemedicalclinic.org)) if you are interested in volunteering or donating needed items such as vitamins, cold medications, toothbrushes and paste, etc.

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

## BYO Summer Picnic, August 14th

All are invited to join us after the service on Sunday, August 14th, for a summer bring-your-own picnic on our back patio and lawn! Each individual/family/household should bring their own food, dishes, silverware, and serving utensils. The Hospitality Team will provide beverages in compostable cups, paper napkins, containers for compost, recycling, and garbage, and warm soapy water for washing your own dishes by hand if you wish. There are several patio tables, or you may wish to bring a blanket or camp chairs.

We will not be moving indoors, so you can decide if the weather is pleasant enough to eat outdoors.

Our final monthly picnic is planned for September 4th (Labor Day weekend).

If you would like to volunteer to help make sure that our hospitality teams have enough volunteers for beverages and picnics, please contact Kim Palmer [kalpal2@brentopalmer.com](mailto:kalpal2@brentopalmer.com) or Peggy Garrigues [dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org).

## Past Sunday Attendance

### July 3rd: *The Power of And*

33 virtual participants, 61 in-person

### July 10th: *Compassion in Current Iowa Politics*

58 virtual participants, 75 in-person

### July 17th: *Creating Sanctuary*

17 virtual participants, 58 in-person

### July 24th: *Plant Another Row*

33 virtual participants, 60 in-person

# From Your Board President

## Rochelle Honey Arcement

At our July Board Meeting we welcomed three new board members; John Bowman, as your new Vice President; Christine Etler, as Secretary; and Jerry Wetlaufer, as Finance Trustee. We thank them for agreeing to serve our congregation in those roles on top of the other ways that they already serve the congregation. That also means that we said goodbye to three board members who completed their terms on the board and we want to thank them for their service. Joe Rasmussen, John Raley, and Paula Miller, we thank you for your service, your time and your energy.

As we embark on this new church year, we continue to focus on connection. We are living in a time of unprecedented divisiveness and conflict. Social isolation, extremism, polarization, othering, and blame are common themes when reading the news. Yet, we here, at the Unitarian Universalist Society, can be a sanctuary of connection, collaboration, and compassion. How can we connect with our inner selves, with one another, and with the wider community? The board is asking this question, and we ask each of you to contemplate it as well.

Great work is already taking place in those three realms and more opportunities are on the horizon. Rev. Diana's Lectio Devina, that she began offering this Summer, has been a wonderful opportunity to explore our inner experience. Leadership, including the board, Leadership Development, the RE Committee, and our new Radical Welcoming Team have had the opportunity to explore Trans Inclusion through a six session training that explores gender, gender identity, white supremacy, and components of a welcoming congregation. This has been an eye opening, soul searching, spiritually deepening experience for us, and we plan to open the experience up to the wider congregation in the coming months.

We also have our Social Justice Teams, Racial Justice Team, Land Ministry Teams and others who are doing phenomenal work in our wider community. At a time when it can seem like we have no voice or no power, the work that these teams are doing is vitally important. If you want to see how empowering it is to do this work, check out what these teams are doing and get involved. There are many different ways people can be involved, at varying degrees of time and energy commitment. Our voices do matter. We have the power to impact people's lives. As the year progresses we will have opportunities to engage in UU the Vote, with our refugee families, and on climate issues.

This year the board will also be focusing on the 8th Principle by examining our board practices with an anti-oppressive lens. We have started to explore how dominant culture, white supremacy culture, influences the ways that we interact with one another and the way that we govern. Additionally, we have enlisted the assistance of staff from the MidAmerica Region of the UUA to provide the board with a refresher course on Policy Based/Shared Governance. Now that our congregation has been engaged in this style of governance for a few years, it is recommended that we re-engage in the process, refresh our knowledge, ask questions, and evaluate how it is going. We want to know what your questions are about Policy Based/Shared Governance.

There is so much going on, so much energy, so many opportunities, and it is an honor to serve you at this time in the history of this congregation. I look forward to connecting with you all over the course of the year. Blessed be.

## Quick and Rewarding Ways to Volunteer at UUS

### Plant Assistant

Do you enjoy watching plants grow and helping them live their best lives indoors? The UUS indoor plant collection needs one or more people to help with weekly maintenance. It takes about a half hour once a week to water and inspect the plants in our building. To be a plant assistant, call Theresa Ullerich: 319-541-6555.

### Centerpiece Arranger

Members and friends of UUS are invited to contribute flowers or other arrangements to beautify the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall, or mark occasions, special events (such as birthdays, anniversaries), or to honor the memory of loved ones.

There will be a sign-up sheet, calendar, and guidelines for flower donations in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays during social hour, or you may contact Julia Audlehelm (319-530-4471 or [juliasdrawings11@gmail.com](mailto:juliasdrawings11@gmail.com)) or Theresa Ullerich (319-541-6555 or [tullerich@aol.com](mailto:tullerich@aol.com))

A sentence can be included in the Sunday order of service with your name and mention of the occasion or person your remembrance honors. Requested text should be submitted via email to the congregational administrator ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org)) no later than noon on Wednesday of the week the arrangement is to be displayed.

Arrangements can be delivered in person at least 30 minutes before Sunday services, or can be dropped off Friday or Saturday on the table inside the front vestibule. On Sunday morning the worship associate can assist with placing the arrangement.

### AV Volunteer

Join the active and exciting world of livestreaming! Volunteers run the cameras, microphones, and livestream software for our weekly Sunday services and occasional special events. It's not as daunting as it sounds- if you know how to use an iPad or the volume controls on a remote you're already halfway there! AV Team members only need to volunteer for one or two shifts a month- you can sign up as your schedule allows, and you'll spend your first few shifts shadowing and learning the ropes. If you're interested in checking AV out (with no commitment!) contact Michael Honey Arcement ([mike@gwn-ws.com](mailto:mike@gwn-ws.com)), Emma Barnum ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org)), or speak to an AV Vol on Sunday.

*Find more ways to get involved at UUS at the Connect Beyond Sunday Opportunities Fair after the service on August 21st!*

# From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Nic Kaplan

In August, we continue our summer theme of **Compassion** during services while exploring the Soul Matters *Magic Summer* series in RE. August 21st we will be celebrating in-gathering, the beginning of the school and church year, and more. The last Sunday in August will be our first Sunday of the new year and the RE team is working hard to make this year great.

## Magic Summer Series and Beyond...

Our summer curriculum comes to a close with our last two sessions focused on the three magic S's: silence and meditation; service to others; and sunshine and movement. It's been a great summer so far and I look forward to exploring more with our children and youth.

Beginning August 21st, the third Sunday of each month will be an all ages service. These all ages services will be slightly shorter and be followed by all ages activities. On August 21st we will have our backpack blessing and the service will be followed by an activities fair and scavenger hunt.

Our backpack blessing trinkets are being provided by a great artist this year. Check out their other work at [elcamilledesign.co](http://elcamilledesign.co).

Be sure to pick up your scavenger hunt after service on the 21st. Children and youth will all receive prizes for their completed scavenger hunts. Adults who turn in completed scavenger hunts will be entered into a drawing for one of three local gift cards.

## August RE Schedule

- August 7th—Stay Centered
- August 14th—Care Packages
- August 21st—All Ages Service with backpack blessing, followed by the Activities Fair
- August 28th—First curriculum Sunday of the 22-23 year

## Seeking Storytellers, Explorers, Artists, and More...

As we search for our new normal, I am also searching for people who have something to share.

Every area of RE from our nursery to adult growth opportunities will need support in the coming year as we learn and grow together. Even if you only want to volunteer one hour, one time, there are ways you can be involved.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to volunteer with the Religious Education program in any capacity, please email me, Nic Kaplan at [education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org) or call (319) 423-9924. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

# From Your Director of Congregational and Community Engagement

Peggy Garrigues



## Interested in Learning About UU Wellspring?

For the past four years, UUS has been offering the UU Wellspring program for spiritual deepening. We now have 26 people who have been through the first year program that is based on the 6 sources of our UU living tradition.

Participants in UU Wellspring find spiritual transformation as they explore the historical and theological roots of Unitarian Universalism, reflect on their own spiritual understandings, and engage in spiritual practice.

UU Wellspring is a unique 10-month small group program offered online or in person in Unitarian Universalist settings. The twice a month, 2-hour sessions offer participants an opportunity for spiritual deepening that can lead to more joyful living, increased congregational leadership, and faithful justice making in their lives and in their communities.

The program achieves this through 5 essential components:

- Small group connections at the twice monthly meeting
- Daily spiritual practices of each participant's choosing
- Spiritual direction
- Deeper knowledge of UU history and theology
- Putting UU faith into action

There is no fee to pay to UUS for this program, however there are books to read which you can either borrow from UUS or purchase your own copy, and each participant is asked to have a spiritual director or spiritual companion which usually involves a cost. If you would like to participate, but costs may be an issue, contact Peggy (see below). Or if you wish to participate in an online group with other UUs from around the country, there is a cost for the online program.

Please let us know of your interest in learning more about or participating in UU Wellspring for the 2022-23 programming year by filling out the form linked here. We will have information sessions about UU Wellspring that will be both in person at UUS and online after the service on Sunday, August 7th, and at 7 pm on Monday, August 8th. There you can talk to Peggy and a couple of previous UUS Wellspring participants. You can also contact Peggy with questions at [dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org).

# From Your Director of Congregational Music

Alex Heetland

## Thursday Singing Rehearsals Begin August 11th

Hi Friends! It's been a little while since I've seen many of you. As we begin the program year at the church, I'm excited to tell you that we are planning to have masked choir be part of normal Sunday services. Our first service singing will be the ingathering Sunday on August 21st.

We will gather for a preview of the season and begin weekly rehearsals on August 11th at 7 pm. If you are wondering whether joining in to sing is for you, come and see how you feel on August 11th. I am looking forward to making music with you!

# From Your Communications Coordinator

Barb Danielson

I am Barb Danielson, the new Communications Coordinator on staff. I'm going to be working on our social media and website in the coming months to get things updated and efficient. I invite all UUS members to please reach out to me if you have special events or group news to share.

I especially would love to be emailed photos you take of UUS events. I encourage you all to start documenting our wonderful congregation. I will put the photos to good use! Please email photos, comments, questions to me at [communications@uusic.org](mailto:communications@uusic.org).



## Join Us in Celebrating Our August Birthdays



Tim Adamson	Allison Bettine	Margaret	Julian Oliver-	Beah Rode	Ada Turner
Cricket	Peg Bouska	Kinsman	Shaw	Deb	Dana van der
Ballantyne	J Cheyney	Cari Malone	Sigmund	Schoelerman	Heide
Zaylex	Peggy Dietrich	Cameron Miller	Palasek	Charlie	Mira Wilmot-
Ballantyne	Meghann Foster	Tony Miller	Kim Palmer	Simmering	DiCarlo
Barbara	Al Hood	Mo Mosell	Abigail	Heidi	Star Wojciak
Beaumont	Susan	Jim Norris	Patterson	Sinderman	
	Kaliszewski		Ron Pile		

## UUS Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is a UUS Team that supports several immigrant families. Support includes interpreting at school conferences, doctor appointments, and navigating social services that are available to these families. Food insecurity is a reality for three of these families, especially now when children are home for the summer and are no longer eating breakfast or lunch in school. In July we provided each family with school children \$100 gift cards to Aldi for groceries. The cards were very timely and greatly appreciated!

In addition, two of the families are moving due to rent increases and they need to pay for security deposit as well as first month rent by August 1st. CommUnity has provided some financial support for the deposits, but the families are still short of funds for the August rent. Two of the children are going barefoot this summer because they do not have shoes. In addition, school will be starting in just over a month and school supplies, clothing, and shoes will be needed. We want to be able to support these families financially for school clothing and supplies as well as rent.

Financial donations can be made [through Realm](#), by writing a check to UUS with "Circle of Friends" in the memo line, or by dropping off school supplies in the box in the foyer. Questions? Contact Deb Schoelerman at [dschoelerman@gmail.com](mailto:dschoelerman@gmail.com) or Sally Hartman at [sallyhartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyhartman@hotmail.com). Thank you for your support!

## Free Lunch Team

On Friday, July 8th, UUS Free Lunch Volunteer Coordinator, Bob Littlehale, reported, "At one minute to 1 pm, we ran out of food. Perfect timing!"

For the second month, UUS volunteers continued a long established pre-COVID format. Our volunteers continued to mask up and serve from behind a Plexiglas pull-down shield, and guests were limited to three per table in the dining room at 1105 S. Gilbert Court. However, instead of purchasing the entire meal from Hy-Vee, some volunteers once again donated ingredients and others prepared fruit and green salads. These fresh salads accompanied the main dish of chicken strips generously purchased by Sue and Lee Eberly and Kurt Hamann and Barb Beaumont. Thanks also to the nine volunteers who donated ingredients for the fresh salads, and to the eight others who worked shifts setting up, preparing and serving the meal, washing dishes, and cleaning up. Fifty Free Lunch guests were served in the dining room and an additional 69 opted for "to go" meals.

Our next Free Lunch is Friday, August 12th. Our re-introduced pre-COVID format of preparing part of the meal on-site necessitates our call for additional volunteers, especially for the 10:30 to noon shift that includes set up and food preparation. If you are interested in volunteering on the 12th, please contact Vicki Siefers at [vicki.siefers@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.siefers@gmail.com). After August 12th, please contact Bob Littlehale at [rflsal@yahoo.com](mailto:rflsal@yahoo.com) or 419-297-7812

## Memorial Service for Joe Brisben, August 13th



We will be holding a memorial service for longtime member Joe Brisben, who died January 27th, 2020, on Saturday, August 13th at 1 pm at UUS. The service will be streamed live on UUS's YouTube channel.

Following the service there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall and on the back patio, hosted by Joe's family. There will be an open mic for people to share stories about Joe or play music. The reception will not be livestreamed.

## Secular Humanist Potluck, August 23rd

The UU Secular Humanists are planning a late summer potluck picnic to be held on August 23rd at the home of Caryl Lyons in North Liberty. This will be a social get-acquainted or re-acquainted sort of evening. We welcome anyone from the congregation or the community who is interested in finding out about secular humanism in an informal way or would just enjoy interacting with this group. Children are welcome.

Caryl has a large yard for distancing and a fire pit for a campfire, as well as a large wrap-around porch that will accommodate many in case of rain—and of course plenty of room inside the house if needed. There are many places to sit but a few additional lawn chairs might be useful.

Please bring a dish to share. We have some vegetarian and vegan members, so if you have a good vegetarian or vegan dish you could bring, it would be most welcome. And Mark Yuskis has agreed to provide his wonderful pulled pork. Buns will be provided, along with soft drinks and water. Paper plates and “real” utensils will be provided, but if you prefer, feel free to bring your own table service. And feel free to bring your own bottle if you prefer an alcoholic beverage.

You can find Caryl's address in Realm, or contact her at [clyons@southslope.net](mailto:clyons@southslope.net) with questions. More information will appear in Wednesday emails as the time approaches.



September 8, 2022 5:30-8PM

Our UU Society is a member of the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, a faith-based community organizing group with about 20 member institutions: Protestant, Jewish, Catholic, Islamic and secular. JCIC's vision is to build a multi-cultural faith-based community organization that advocates for social justice. Their mission is to organize for social equity, first and foremost for persons of color.

Rev. Diana serves as co-president on the JCIC board, and the Racial Justice Team in particular has had volunteers helping with some of their programs, including a voter education and engagement event that was held early in 2020.

We are pleased to announce that UUS will be hosting JCIC's Faith in Action Fund and Friend-raising event on September 8th (details on the right), with a number of UUS members volunteering with setup and cleanup. Please consider supporting by attending, donating, volunteering! To volunteer for the event, please contact Dave Martin ([dndmartin1@mchsi.com](mailto:dndmartin1@mchsi.com)), Diane Martin ([dianemartin@mchsi.com](mailto:dianemartin@mchsi.com)), or Peggy Garrigues ([dcce@uusoc.org](mailto:dcce@uusoc.org)).

### The Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) invites you to join us at UUS on September 8th, from 5:30 to 8 pm, for “Faith in Action”

The goals of Faith in Action are: 1) to raise money for a community organizer to develop grants, assist with community events and actions, and build the community by enlisting new member organizations, 2) to provide an opportunity for the community to share a meal and social opportunities, 3) to celebrate JCIC accomplishments and renew a common purpose, and 4) provide basic information about the current status of JCIC.

The event will include music, a catered meal featuring Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisine, and a silent auction. Attendees will have an opportunity to register their highest priority social justice concerns during “Issues on the Wall”.

Tickets are \$50 per adult and \$400 for a table of 8. Discounted tickets are available; we want everyone who is interested to attend. Register online at [www.eventbrite.com/e/372529715407](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/372529715407) by August 29th, 2022.

#### Sponsorships

Individual Sponsors are encouraged at 3 levels: 1) Supporter \$100 2) Change agent \$300 3) Transformational \$500.

Institutional and congregational sponsors: 1) Supporter \$300 2) Change agent \$500 3) Transformational \$1,000. Institutional sponsors will be acknowledged in the program and from the podium at the event.

#### Grant Fund

Full and partial grants will be offered to individuals who cannot afford the full price of an event ticket. Grants of 25%, 50% and 100% will be available. Congregations are encouraged to donate to the Faith In Action Grant Fund. Our registration goal is that 50% of the attendees will be low income.

# UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

July 20th, 2022 (virtual via Zoom)

*Find the full minutes on our website or inquire with the office.*

**Present:** Rochelle Honey-Arcement (President), Alan Swanson (past President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), John Bowman (Vice President), Christine Etler (Secretary), Diana Henry (Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee), Peggy Garrigues. **Absent:** Rev. Diana Smith, Jerry Wetlaufer (Financial Trustee).

President Honey-Arcement called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm, lit the chalice, and provided opening words.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board received the consent agenda which included the June 15th Board Minutes; June 4th UUS Board Retreat Minutes; July 13th Executive Committee Minutes; July 5th Governance Committee Minutes; May 23rd Endowment Committee Minutes; June 27th Mission and Vision Review Committee Minutes; Treasurer Pavelich's June report and financial summary; Congregational Administrator June financial report; Minister's report including highlights from DCCE Peggy Garrigues, CA Emma Barnum, DLRE Nic Kaplan, and DCM Alex Heetland; and BGI suggested to do list. *Pavelich moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Henry seconded, and the motion carried.*

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Governance:** Swanson will arrange a meeting to review the May election process and make recommendations for future elections. The Committee will review the Policy and Procedures Manual. A reminder was provided that any changes should come through Governance.

**Personnel:** Barb Danielson has been hired as the Communications Coordinator. She has already started. Some of her personal background was shared with the board. Garrigues will determine a Sunday service at which she can be introduced. Her working hours are generally 9-2 Mon & Wed. Bowman needs to be introduced to the Personnel Committee.

**Finance:** See reports.

**Right Relations:** The Board discussed the purpose of this committee: to navigate conflicts and possibly prevent them. Etler volunteered to take over as Board liaison beginning next spring, and will work with Audlehelm on the transition.

**Mission & Vision Review:** Will meet again in August to determine co-chairs and responsibilities moving forward. The Mission and Vision Year-end report for 2021-2022 was distributed prior to the board meeting. *Seaba motioned to approve the report, Pavelich seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the report.*

## PLANNING AND CONNECTING:

**Policy Based/Shared Governance Refresher:** Sharon Dittmar from the MidAmerica Region will provide the Board and leadership with a refresher on the governance structure, which was implemented before most current board members took office. The proposed date for the 6-hour in person meeting is Saturday, October 15th. Some prereading materials will be provided. Details on who should be involved and how the congregation can be educated are being looked into.

**The Eighth Principle:** Smith suggested ways to integrate the new 8th principle into our practices. She provided informational materials and examples from her previous congregation. The Board will review the materials and continue the discussion in August.

**Program Council:** Pavelich suggested we include a Program Council update as a regular agenda item (even if it is just to say, "no update"). He also discussed the BGI suggested to-do list, with the suggestion to make the current focus "work to encourage volunteering"

## BUSINESS IN PROGRESS:

**Memorial Garden:** The board discussed the differences between the Memorial Fund and the Memorial Garden Fund, and the benefits of combining them. Pavelich will tell Emma to combine the Funds. *Swanson moved that the suggested interment fee be raised from \$300 to \$500 with the stipulation that these funds can be used to subsidize those who cannot afford to be interred. Audlehelm seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Water Pump & Use of Maintenance Funds:** Pavelich reported on a maintenance bill to replace a faulty water pressure pump that will exceed budgeted funds. Around the start of the pandemic, a rule was put into place that any budget line item cannot be overspent without board approval. This was not the case prior to COVID. Pavelich and the Finance Committee suggest we return to the previous practice. *Pavelich motioned that over-line item expenditures can be approved by the Treasurer, Minister, and Finance Committee in consultation. Bowman seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

**Congregational Objection to CCS Pipeline:** Sally Hartman and Deb Schoelerman of the Green Sanctuary Team have asked that our congregation make a statement against the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Pipeline which impacts Iowa, including Johnson County. They provided information on potential negative impacts and suggested wording to be used to file an objection with the Iowa Utilities Board. Smith offered to make a separate statement as well. The Board discussed its ability to speak for the congregation and how public statements are collected for historical records. *Honey-Arcement motioned to make an official congregational objection to the Carbon Capture and Storage Pipeline. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 1 abstention. Barb Danielson will be consulted on how to publicize the objection and how to create a collection/archive of "public statements."*

## CLOSING:

There were no guest comments. Bowman provided process observer comments. Closing words by Swanson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm, August 17th, 2022.

—Minutes submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary

# UUS Endowment Committee Report

## 2022 2nd Quarter Holdings

As members of the Society are aware, the Endowment Committee has annually reported the status of the General Endowment Fund as well as other endowment funds. Beginning this year, the Endowment Committee will be reporting the accounts to the board and the congregation on a quarterly basis. This change is in response to the Board of Trustees' request to keep all of us updated on a more frequent basis. The accompanying table is meant to show much of what you may be interested in, and if it brings up more questions, please contact any member of the Endowment Committee.

	03/31/2022	06/30/2022
<b>General Endowment Total Value</b>	<b>\$1,236,525</b>	<b>\$1,087,248</b>
Corpus (Total Donations Invested) <sup>1</sup>	\$712,327	\$712,327
Donations this quarter <sup>1</sup>	\$15,218	\$1100
Earnings <sup>2</sup>	\$573,405	\$374,921
UUA Earnings	\$370	\$375
<b>Expenditures from General Endowment</b>	<b>\$27,621</b>	<b>\$27,621</b>
Annual Spending Allowance (ASA) <sup>4</sup>	\$16,371	\$16,371
Endowment-Approved Withdrawal <sup>5</sup>	\$11,250	\$11,250
<b>Other Endowment Funds Value <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$173,483</b>	<b>\$155,775</b>
<b>Other Endowment Funds Expenditures</b>		
Jean Reese Fund (Memorial Garden)	\$0	0
Music Fund (Equipment)	\$0	0
Detiger Fund (Speaker Fee)	\$0	0

<sup>1</sup> Can only be accessed under very special circumstances

<sup>2</sup> Can be accessed by vote of congregation

<sup>3</sup> Earmarked for specific purposes, e.g., music, outdoor projects, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Amount/quarter to Annual Budget

<sup>5</sup> Amount Approved by Congregation Above ASA

## UUS Solar LLC Members Donate Stock to UUS

The UUS Solar LLC is the group that raised over \$200,000 to build the solar array on the property in 2016. They then contracted with the Board to sell us their solar generation at market rates for electrical energy. We pay them quarterly for that energy, currently \$10,200 per year. The solar array provides about 2/3 of our electrical needs each year. This arrangement has allowed us to "Be Green" at market rates, for which we have been grateful.

This month seventeen members signed their stock in UUS Solar LLC over to the UUS. This amounts to about 80% of the whole. Thus each year, beginning in 2023, UUS will receive a check for 80% of the net profit of the energy deal, about \$7,400. We now will not only "Be Green," but will be saving \$7k a year from our operating budget. This is a tremendous second step in the generosity of these folks. We cannot thank them enough.

## June Financial Report Highlights

Our total bank balance at the end of May remained steady at the healthy level of \$348,200. Some large regular payments, including our UUA dues, were mailed late in the month and will be reflected in next month's bank total. We did get donations for the General Endowment Fund this month; these were transferred to that stock fund. Pledge payments were nearly back up to expectation this month. Notably, this month saw the donation of stock in the UU Solar LLC by many UUS members. This is a major giving which will have an effect on our budgets each year going forward. (See separate report).

### Operating Income Received last Month:

- o \$28,847.17 in pledge giving (an increase over previous months but still lower than budgeted)
- o \$169.17 in non-pledge giving
- o \$100 in rental income
- o A \$500 donation to cover tree care on our grounds

### Justice Income Received last Month:

- o \$171 additional for CommUnity (May Agency, \$1,066.74 raised total)
- o \$235 additional for Chico Mendes (May 5th Sunday, \$797 raised total)
- o \$877.34 for Table to Table (June Agency)

### Other Non-Operating Income

- o \$145 for the June 4th Iowa City Flute Concert performance organized by the Music Outreach Program (half of the proceeds went to the Flute Choir, the remainder to the MOC Fund)
- o \$2,100 to the Endowment Fund

We're starting to see some red creep into the monthly and YTD columns of the Budget vs. Actuals. However, so far overall budget areas are still mostly under-spent.

At the July Finance Committee meeting, the group discussed the concern that pledge giving may not meet its 2022 goal. Emma will be sending giving statements in July with a cover letter from Mike. Emma reported that the AV upgrade is proceeding within budget. We also approved overspending in the Facilities Maintenance budget line for a booster pressure pump and agreed that future overspending in that account will need authorization of Minister, Treasurer, and Finance Committee. The Stewardship Team liaisons reported that work is beginning on the focus, documentation, and incentives for the 2023 Pledge Campaign.

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

# 2023-2025 Social Justice Agency Nominations

In 2006, the UUS Board of Trustees voted to give 100% of the Sunday cash contributions and designated checks to agencies/organizations beyond our walls who do the work of social justice. The process is as follows:

*Every three years, members/friends of UUS can nominate a local, national, or international agency that works for social justice. The congregation will then vote to select twelve agencies to support over the next three-year period, and the UUS Social Justice Team (SJT) will assign each agency to a month of the year.*

*90% of the cash and designated checks collected during four Sundays of each month will be donated to the assigned agency. (On months with five Sundays, SJT selects a special pressing cause or agency for the congregation to support with their offerings.)*

*The remaining 10% will be used to support small requests and causes that come to the attention of the SJT, and to pay the UUS pledge (currently \$1,500) to the Common Fund administered by CommUnity (formerly the Crisis Center). The Common Fund is used primarily to help people in Johnson County who are having difficulty paying for utilities or rent.*

It's time for you to guide this practice by nominating agencies for the next three-year giving period! The current agencies will be automatically submitted for reconsideration (see a list on the next page). Please add your nomination to the form below (or fill it out online at <https://bit.ly/2023SJNominations>) with a \*brief\* paragraph description (info for this can often be obtained from the agency website). You may submit more than one nomination. Paper forms may be returned to the SJT mail drawer in the UUS Atrium (under the mailboxes by the offices) or mailed to the UUS office.

Here's the timeline for the nomination/voting process:

- August 15th: Nominations may be submitted by paper form or online (<https://bit.ly/2023SJNominations>).
- October 1st: Nominations are due. (Nominated agencies will be posted in the November newsletter)
- November 1st: Voting begins.\*
- December 1st: Voting concludes. New agencies will be announced on December 13th.
- January 1st: We begin supporting the newly selected agencies.

\*Ballots for voting on the nominated agencies will be available in early November. We'll need your name on these ballots so that we can conduct a fair selection and get back to you with questions if needed.

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## 2023-2025 Social Justice Agency Nomination Form

Please write in your nominated agency below, or online at <https://bit.ly/2023SJNominations>. Agencies from the past cycle are automatically re-nominated (see back for list). You may submit more than one nomination.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(In case we need clarification about your nomination)

Nominated Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description (50 words or less): \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return forms to the Social Justice Team drawer in the reception area on Sundays, or mail to the UUS office (UUS, c/o Social Justice Team, 2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville, IA 52241).

# *Previous Social Justice Agencies (2020-2022)*

Our Sunday offerings have benefited the agencies below for the past three years. They will all be automatically included in the vote for the next round of agencies and do not need to be renominated.

## **ABBE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH**

“Reaching out to improve lives in our communities through advocacy, support, and integration of mental health and wellness services.” The Center’s professional staff provides outpatient therapy and specialties such as home-based nursing.

## **CENTER FOR WORKER JUSTICE (CWJ)**

The Center for Worker Justice unites low-wage workers across race, ethnicity, immigration status to build power and addresses the root causes of poverty.

## **COMMUNITY (FORMERLY THE CRISIS CENTER)**

Emotional and material assistance are available 24/7 through a dedicated corps of volunteers. Programs include a 24-hour crisis hotline, food bank, emergency assistance, disaster recovery and relief, suicide prevention training, bus tickets and more.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (DVIP)**

Founded on the belief that “Everyone has the right to live free of fear and harm,” DVIP focuses on immediate and long-term safety, empowerment, dignity, and hope for women and children in Johnson and seven other SE Iowa counties.

## **EMMA GOLDMAN CLINIC (EMMA’S)**

Staff and volunteers provide respectful, client-centered and participatory health care to women, men and teens. They offer total support of pregnancy choices, and healthcare to individuals with diverse gender and sexuality expression.

## **FREE DENTAL CLINIC (FDC)**

Dentists, dental students, dental hygienists and dental hygiene students volunteer to provide exams, treatment plans, cleanings, fillings for cavities, and simple tooth extractions to adults and children. Limited dental hygiene appointments are available.

## **FREE LUNCH PROGRAM (FLP)**

Currently more than 900 volunteers from 36 community groups provide hospitality and serve healthy noon meals on six days each week to an average of 140 guests. UUS has provided the second Friday meal every month for 36 years.

## **FREE MEDICAL CLINIC (FMC)**

Committed to the widest primary care possible to those who do not have access to other healthcare providers, the clinic services include exams, medications, immunizations, labs, radiology procedures, case management, prenatal and postpartum care.

## **INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY (I/O)**

Based in Iowa City, I/O serves people returning to Johnson County and elsewhere after incarceration. Starting before release and continuing, there is help with re-entry plans, including work, a place to live, and connecting to community resources.

## **SHELTER HOUSE (SH)**

Providing transitional shelter to men, women and children, disabled and elderly persons, SH offers veterans services, in-house counseling, employment training and internships, skills workshops, and educational assistance to help improve lives.

## **TABLE TO TABLE (T2T)**

The mission of T2T is to keep wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting and distributing it to those in need through community agencies. A vast network of donors and volunteer drivers makes this possible.

## **UNITED ACTION FOR YOUTH (UAY)**

At UAY young people and adults work together to help create a safe and healthy community. Services range from a hangout space to counseling and programs for pregnant and teen parents. Recording and art studios are also available.

[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.](#)

**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.



### **2022-2023 Board of Trustees**

**President:** Rochelle Honey-Arcement  
([president@uusic.org](mailto:president@uusic.org))

**Vice President:** John Bowman

**Past President:** Alan Swanson

**Secretary:** Christine Etlar

**Treasurer:** Mike Pavelich  
([treasurer@uusic.org](mailto:treasurer@uusic.org))

**Finance Trustee:** Jerry Wetlaufer

**Trustee:** Julia Audlehelm

**Trustee:** Diana Henry

**Trustee:** Hazel Seaba

### **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))

**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:** Nic Kaplan ([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))

**Communications Coordinator:** Barb Danielson ([communications@uusic.org](mailto:communications@uusic.org))

**Staff Pianist & Music Outreach Coordinator:** Hsin-Hui Liu ([pianist@uusic.org](mailto:pianist@uusic.org))

**Facilities Coordinator:** Ruben Galvan (contact the office)

**Community Minister:** Rev. Lois Cole ([community.minister@uusic.org](mailto:community.minister@uusic.org))

#### **UU Eight 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.
8. 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.

#### **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.

**The Unitarian Universalist Society**

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Coralville, IA 52241

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



# THE UUS NEWS

2022 | August