

# THE UUS NEWS

2022 | September



## From Your Minister Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

The beginning of a new congregational year is an exciting time, especially when we're finding new ways of coming back together. As we celebrate our Soul Matters theme of *Belonging* this month, we'll be sharing ourselves, building community, and developing our culture of radical welcome in many ways.

One of these is through our new WONDERFUUL WEDNESDAYS! On the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning September 7th, from 6 to 8 pm, we'll be gathering for meals and activities. I'm particularly excited about making art with folks in the maker space on the first Wednesday of the month, as well as about the many activities other folks are offering. See page 4 and upcoming weekly emails for more information.

Another way we're coming together is through our stewardship campaign, which will launch at the end of September. Creating an ever-evolving and deepening community based in Love requires each of us sharing our skills, passions, and resources to strengthen this congregation. Our stewardship campaign is an opportunity to explore the many ways we do this.

This year our worship services will continue to be online and in person at UUS. We're committed to continue offering multiplatform opportunities to engage on Sundays and throughout the week to increase accessibility and respond to the many needs present in our community.

You can read about many fun and fulfilling groups, teams, and classes throughout this newsletter and in our new [Connect Beyond Sundays](#) program guide posted on our website.

Personally, I'm excited to continue to make meaning and explore poetry with folks during Lectio Divina With Poetry on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 12 to 12:30 pm. We meet on Zoom and in UUS's conference room. And I'm continuing to hold community office hours on second and fourth Tuesdays from 10:30 am to noon at the Bread Garden patio in Iowa City. I'm looking to add a location in Coralville or North Liberty so look for that in a weekly email.

Finally, this fall I'm hoping you'll engage with the Board of Trustees and me as we discuss what Unitarian Universalism means in our lives and in the world. These discussions of Unitarian Universalism's purposes, shared values, covenant, and sources of inspiration are part of a review that happens throughout the country every 15 years. Our first monthly discussion at UUS will happen on September 11th. You can read more about this process on page 3 of this newsletter or by visiting [www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission](http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission).

This exciting and inspiring work requires all of us, together. I look forward to engaging in it with you this fall.

Blessed be,  
Rev. Diana

## Upcoming Services

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

### September 4th: *Labor Day*

Join Worship Associate Jim Laughlin for this Labor Day Sunday service. More details to come.

*The service will be followed by a bring-your-own-picnic (See page 6 for details).*

### September 11th: *Lighting a Beacon of Love*

What does Unitarian Universalism mean in our lives and in the world? Join Rev. Diana Smith and Worship Associate Marsha Cheyney in this interactive service as we welcome new members and celebrate how we co-create community and extend sanctuary.

Throughout the fall we'll be exploring Unitarian Universalism's purposes, our shared values and the meaning of covenant, and statements of inclusion and our sources of inspiration. This is part of our discussion of revisions to Article II of the UUA's bylaws (Purposes, Principles, and Sources).

### September 18th: *Banned Book Week*

Join us for an all-ages service led by Rev. Diana Smith and Worship Associate Emily Johnson. More details to come!

### September 25th: *Come Back, Together!*

Creating an ever-evolving and deepening community based in Love requires each of us sharing our skills, passions, and resources to strengthen this community. Join Rev. Diana Smith and Worship Associate Brenda Linley for this Sunday service as together we kick off the Stewardship Pledge Campaign for the 2023 operating budget and commission our Pastoral Care Team.

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

## September Offerings Benefit Shelter House

*More than a roof or a bed.* Since 1983, Shelter House ([shelterhouseiowa.org](http://shelterhouseiowa.org)) has provided safe shelter and helped people improve the quality of their lives as they move beyond homelessness. Shelter House operates a 70-bed emergency shelter in addition to four homes and an apartment building through which they provide over 60 permanent supportive housing units. Shelter House focuses on programs and support services including housing, employment, and mental health recovery that help hundreds of adults, children, and families each year to get back on their feet. They aim to be a voice for systemic community change through excellence in service, financial stewardship, and the development of strong community partnerships.

All cash donations collected during or for the Sunday Services offerings benefit our monthly community partner, unless otherwise earmarked on a donation envelope. Checks for the offering baskets should have "SH" on the memo line. You can also donate online at <http://bit.ly/UUSPartner>, text "GivetoUUSIC Partner" to 73256, or mail a check to the UUS office.

### From Your Stewardship Team

**SAVE THE DATE**

**September 25th, 2022**

**Kickoff Sunday for the 2023 Stewardship  
Campaign:**

***Come Back, Together: Reconnecting with one  
another and the wider community***

Our annual pledge campaign to support the operating budget for the upcoming year begins in September!

Our pledge goal this year is \$440,000, which will ensure that we have the financial resources needed to support our staff and programs as we come back, together. Our pledges make up 70% of our annual operating budget and your generosity will help us achieve a balanced budget.

Three anonymous donors have stepped forward to match pledge increases of 7% or more, up to \$11,000.

Watch your mail for the Stewardship Campaign materials and make your pledge through Realm or return the enclosed pledge card, by October 16th.

Together, we will renew our connections and continue our work in the larger community.

# From Your Board President

## Rochelle Honey Arcement

The end of Summer is upon us as we embark on the Autumn traditions of heading back to school and the Annual Ingathering Service. Whether school is still part of your life or not, back to school time is a reminder that we must all keep learning and growing, regardless of our age. It is also a time to remember the joys of reconnecting with friends we may not have seen for some time. Let's join together this Autumn in an effort to reconnect, learn, and grow.

One way that your Board of Trustees has endeavored to connect, learn, and grow, as well as embrace the foundations of the 8th Principle, has been by examining how white supremacist cultural practices have impacted our lives and our congregation. This month we each contemplated which practices we struggle with the most ourselves and which we see as impediments to our mission and vision as a congregation. We have chosen to adjust how we observe the processes of the board to include observations of some of these practices.

This last month, and in the coming months, new opportunities for connecting with each other have arisen and are being developed. The beautiful and heart touching memorial service for Joe Brisben brought congregants and community members back to our building who had not been back in over two years, allowing us the opportunity to celebrate and grieve together, the loss of a generous and kind human being.

The Ingathering Service and the Connect Beyond Sundays Opportunities Fair brought us back together, not only after Summer vacations, but also after over two years of pandemic stress. While the risks are still real, we are blessed to have scientists and doctors who have worked on ways to decrease and prevent the health risks of COVID and make it safer for us to gather.

Our staff have developed new ways for us to connect with each other. Some of those include the return of programming on Wednesdays, a new Radical Welcoming Team, Service Activities, and more. I look forward to connecting with many of you during these new opportunities.

UUS has long been a force for good in our community and the wider world. One recent way we are connecting with the wider community is through deepening our connection with Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC). Our very own Rev. Diana is now the co-chair of JCIC and we have many members who are active in its work. One event we are currently working on with JCIC is the JCIC Faith in Action fundraiser, which will be held in our beautiful building on September 8th. This event furthers our social justice collaborations and raises money for grants and community events.

One such event is the JCIC Candidates Forum, on which numerous members have been collaborating. That event will be taking place in Iowa City's South District on October 15th. Jim Olsen applied for and we were granted funds from the UUA to support this event. This event is part of the work of members for our congregation to become a "Good Trouble Congregation" as part of UU the Vote, an initiative we embarked upon before the last election.

Come connect with us this Autumn as we connect with ourselves, each other, and the wider community. Our interdependent web of existence is stronger with each of you in it.

## Unitarian Universalist Association News

### Review and Revising Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes

Every 15 years Unitarian Universalists review and, if needed, update our Principles and Purposes. This happens when we review Article II of the UUA Bylaws. This is foundational work for all Unitarian Universalists and our congregations. It asks us to reflect on what Unitarian Universalism means in the world today and what we are called to do.

For the past couple of years the UUA Article II Study Commission has been gathering feedback through a process that was changed and delayed by the pandemic. In January 2023, the Commission will be delivering proposed new language for our Principles, Sources, and Purposes to the UUA Board of Trustees. Unitarian Universalists will be voting on the proposed changes at general assemblies in June 2023 and 2024.

Through our endorsement of the 8th Principle last May we gave some important input to this process. Now, this fall at UUS we'll be engaging with some of the Commission's questions about Unitarian Universalism during and after our worship services on September 11th and October 16th. We may also have some workshops about draft language, which we'll announce through weekly emails.

You can read more about this process here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>



***The congregation commissioned the UUS Board of Trustees during the service on Sunday, August 21st.***

# From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Nic Kaplan

In September, we begin our church year with the theme of belonging. Religious Education classes have officially begun and our all ages activities are in full swing.

## RE Classes

**Nursery:** Our nursery is open from 9:30 until 11:30 most Sundays. The nursery is intended for infants and toddlers through age three except on 3rd Sundays when preschoolers are also invited to the nursery if they wish. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, the nursery stays open until noon to allow parents and caregivers time to engage with our all ages activities on their own and then with their tiny tots.

**Pre-k and Kindergarten:** Our Juniper room has been refreshed and is ready for our preschool and kindergartners to begin exploring and playing through our monthly themes. These 3-6 year olds will be using the Soul Matters curriculum and can come to their classroom before service begins or they can begin service with their families in the sanctuary and sing their way to class after the Time for All Ages.

**1st-3rd and 4th-6th grade:** Some Sundays, 1st-3rd graders and 4th-6th graders will be together and some weeks they'll be separate. They will most frequently be using the Redbud and Maple rooms.

- 1st Sunday—Making Music
- 2nd Sunday—Soul Matters
- 3rd Sunday—No class during service; all ages activities afterwards
- 4th Sunday—Superhero Sunday (real lessons to be learned from superheroes about anti-oppression, personal responsibility, and love.)

**Jr and Sr High:** This month our youth group will be focused on building community and sharing our desires for the year. For September, the youth group will meet from 2 to 3:30 pm on Sunday afternoons at UUS. We will have open dialogue about whether this time works or if we would like to meet another time. In coming months, there will be a curriculum day incorporated into youth group each month. The curriculum will be chosen based on interests shared by youth during our September activities.

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!



*Students of all ages participated in our Backpack Blessing and received custom chalice backpack tags on Sunday, August 21st.*



## WonderUUI Wednesdays

Join us at UUS on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month for a potluck dinner and an assortment of all ages activities! Doors will open at 5:30 pm and we'll sit down for our potluck dinner around 6. At 6:30 the nursery will open for children who aren't interested in the activities, which will begin around 7 pm after we have all cleaned up from dinner.

This month's activities:

### September 7th:

- *Makerspace with Rev. Diana.* There will be a guided activity, but this is also a great space to explore a variety of art materials or to bring portable projects from home to work on and share with others
- *Ted Talk and discussion.* This Wednesday's topic will be "Climate Optimism"
- *Outdoor activity.* Details TBD.

### September 21st:

- *Makerspace with Nic.*
- *Introduction to Divination.* Led by the UUS Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs)
- *Nature's Healing Connections with Peggy.* An outdoor opportunity to reconnect with the natural world.

## September RE Schedule

- **September 4th:** RE classes during service; youth group from 2 to 3:30 pm.
- **September 7th:** WonderUUI Wednesday, 5:30 to 8 pm. Potluck dinner & all ages activities (childcare in nursery from 6:30 to 8:30).
- **September 11th:** RE classes during service; youth group from 2 to 3:30 pm.
- **September 16th:** Friday FUUn Night, 6 to 9 pm. Youth v. Gov showing and climate change activities.
- **September 18th:** All Ages Service followed by activities; adult discussion group at 9 am (Zoom and in the UUS conference room).
- **September 21st:** WonderUUI Wednesday, 5:30 to 8 pm. Potluck dinner & all ages activities (childcare in nursery from 6:30 to 8:30).
- **September 25th:** RE classes during service; youth group from 2 to 3:30 pm.

## Green Sanctuary Team

Are you interested in reading more about the environment but aren't sure where to start? Our newly organized UU Library, located in the Atrium, includes a shelf of Green Sanctuary recommendations. The Green Sanctuary Team will be responsible for adding to the materials and will keep them up-to-date. Look for the shelf with the Green Sanctuary label.

Other teams will also be adding materials to their own shelf in the future (more on this in future newsletters). If you wish to borrow a book, the check-out sheet is located on the clipboard on the table next to the library shelves.

Happy reading!

## Free Lunch Team

Friday, August 12th, was a busy day for our 11 UUS Free Lunch volunteers who served a total of 123 meals to Free Lunch guests. 37 Free Lunch diners chose to eat in the dining room observing COVID protocols, and an additional 86 opted for carry-out meals. Due to COVID, all meals are still served by our volunteers from behind a plexiglass-shielded serving counter. Many thanks to Vicki Siefers who ably subbed for Volunteer Coordinator, Bob Littlehale, while he was enjoying a well-deserved vacation.

For the second month, UUS members and friends donated all the fixings for fresh green and fruit salads. These fresh salads accompanied the main dish of chicken strips generously purchased by Barb Haring, in memory of her husband, Stan. This month we also welcomed the return of a Free Lunch favorite, vegetarian lasagna, made by Caryl Lyons! Thank you, Caryl! Sides included potato salad and cookies, thanks to donations from many Free Lunch volunteers and other UUS members and friends.

For 2022, main dishes have been donated for every month except October. For October, we are looking for a UUS member, friend, or Covenant Group to donate \$300 to cover the cost of the main dish which we purchase from Hy-Vee. Sometimes members/friends join together to donate. If you are interested in making this donation, please email Diana Miller at [dkmilleriowa@gmail.com](mailto:dkmilleriowa@gmail.com).

August marked Sue Eberly's last month as our UUS Email Planning Coordinator. In this role, she has kept our UUS Free Lunch volunteer list up-to-date and has been responsible for all email communications with volunteers. Sue first volunteered for Free Lunch in 2005 and has served as Email Planning Coordinator since 2009. Thank you, Sue, for your many years of outstanding service to Free Lunch! Donna Simonton has graciously volunteered to take on this role beginning in September.

Our re-introduced pre-COVID format of making fresh salads on-site necessitates the need for additional volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or learning about the many ways you can contribute to Free Lunch, please contact Bob Littlehale at [rflsal@yahoo.com](mailto:rflsal@yahoo.com) or 419-297-7812.

## Leadership Development Committee

### *Building Our Leadership Muscles*



#### *Today's featured leadership practice: Inspire a Shared Vision by Appealing to Shared Aspirations*

Cheers to Brenda Linley for contributing her time and talents in many ways, but especially for her work as an OWL facilitator and a worship associate. Why does she do it? "I really enjoy the way it engages you with services, and it is a lot of fun." She also enjoys sharing resources that speak to her with the UUS community.

She continues, "I am a people person, so connecting with people, especially youth, over something they are passionate about is important to me." These connections have helped her engage our youth in services like the Trans Day of Remembrance and the Pride Service.

Brenda embraces radical optimism as a philosophy in life, and we are so glad she shares it with us! Her service this summer about embracing hope through "The Power of And" shows us that there is a lot of joy in our world, and that we can be sad or angry AND still be inspired to hold each other up. LDC says: Lead the way, Brenda!

*The Leadership Development Committee initiated this column to highlight leadership practices. We also want to connect and re-connect you to some of UUS's leaders.*

## UUS Little Free Pantry

Thank you to everyone who has donated food to our Little Food Pantry on the UUS grounds! We are pleased that members of the community have been obtaining food from the pantry this summer. That is good news. However, our food supplies are now low and need replenishing. This will be an ongoing project of UUS to help with food insecurity in our community.

If you are able, please bring donations of food for our pantry. Food needs to be nonperishable. Suggestions include, but are not limited to canned meats, canned fruits, pasta, rice, cereal, nut butters, protein bars, trail mix, etc. Food can be placed directly into the pantry by the labyrinth or brought into the foyer and placed in the plastic tubs under the table.

Thank you for your generosity!

# Highlighted Upcoming Events

## BYO Summer Picnic, September 4th

All are invited to join us after the service on Sunday, September 4th, for the last 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.

If you would like to volunteer to help make sure that our hospitality teams have enough volunteers for beverages and picnics, please contact Pat Pavelich ([patpave@me.com](mailto:patpave@me.com)) or Peggy Garrigues ([dcce@uusoc.org](mailto:dcce@uusoc.org)).

## UU Men's Sunday Social, September 4th

UUS adult men are invited to gather together on the first Sunday of most months from 6 to 8 pm to socialize in a casual setting. We will be meeting at 2dogs Pub in Iowa City (1705 S 1st Ave). Send questions to Nik Jakob at [menssundaysocial@uusoc.org](mailto:menssundaysocial@uusoc.org) or 319-631-8126.

## UUS Labor Day Potluck, September 5th

The UU Veg CommUnity is hosting a Labor Day Picnic on Monday, September 5th, at noon on the UUS patio. All UUS members and friends are invited to attend.

Please bring a plant-based\* dish for approximately eight servings, along with the recipe or list of ingredients. Electrical outlets will be available, if needed. Also, please bring a beverage of choice along with your table service (plate, glass, cutlery, etc.) Plan to practice social distancing for the picnic and wear a mask when inside the UUS building.

\*Plant-based" means vegetables, fruits, legumes, grains, and nuts/seeds, plant milks and other non-dairy products, plant oils and butters, and plant-based sweeteners. Excluded are all animal products, including meat/poultry/fish, dairy and eggs, as well as honey. Questions can be sent to Carol Throckmorton at [carolthrockmorton108@msn.com](mailto:carolthrockmorton108@msn.com).

## Virtual Kiirtan, September 5th

A virtual Kiirtan will be held via Zoom on Monday, September 5th, from 6 to 7 pm. [Join Zoom Meeting](#) (Meeting ID: 8697 988 9676) Kiirtan is a combination of music and spiritual practice—it is the chanting or singing of a certain phrase that is charged with meaning. Kiirtan uplifts the spirit, calms the mind, and opens the heart. It is a wonderful prelude for meditation and good practice in its own right. It can be combined with a variety of instruments (we'll start out with guitar) and also with dance. Done within a group of people, powerful healing energy is generated. For more information, contact Andy Douglas at [kiirtan@uusoc.org](mailto:kiirtan@uusoc.org).

## JCIC Faith in Action Friend and Fundraiser, September 8th

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.

## UU Needlework Team, September 10th

The UU Needlework Team is a social group where UU members and friends get together to knit, crochet, laugh, and learn with each other. We are excited to reunite on Saturday, September 10th, from 10 am to 12:30 pm in the Hickory & Oak Rooms at UUS for the first time since the pandemic hit. All are welcome, all ages and skill levels. Masks are required.

In the past we have worked on charitable projects: hats for preemies, school kids, migrant camps, and cancer patients; and prayer shawls or lap blankets for those in hospice. We'll be looking for other projects, as well as sharing yarn and other project ideas.

Bring yarn and needles to use and share, and snacks are welcome. Or just bring yourself, you'll be welcome. Questions about the UU Needlework Team can be sent to Colleen Higgins ([colleeniris9@gmail.com](mailto:colleeniris9@gmail.com)).

## UU Secular Humanists, September 20th

The Secular Humanist group will resume our usual monthly meetings in the fall, the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. We are working on ways to hold hybrid meetings for both in-person and virtual participation, however, our first meeting, on September 20th, will be exclusively on Zoom and will feature Kirk Witzberger reporting on the national committee that is working on revamping Article II of the UU Constitution enumerating our principles and purposes (see more on page 3). Following Kirk's remarks, we can discuss how secular humanism fits in with Article II and note any things that we think need to be revised or to definitely be kept as they are.

All are welcome at our meetings. ([Join Zoom Meeting](#), Meeting ID: 872 4240 8646, Passcode: 725581). For questions, contact group leader Daniel Valentin at [secularhumanists@uusoc.org](mailto:secularhumanists@uusoc.org).

# UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

August 17th, 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), Jerry Wetlaufer (Financial Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio). **Absent:** Julia Audlehelm (Trustee).

President Honey-Arcement called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Bowman provided opening words.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board received the consent agenda which included the July 20th Board Meeting Minutes; August 10th Executive Committee Minutes; June Treasurer's Report; Congregational Administrator's July 2022 Financials and Narrative Summary; Finance Committee August Minutes; August Minister's Report; and a White Supremacy Culture Document. *Henry moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Swanson seconded, motion carried.*

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Governance:** No meeting in August, will meet in September.

**Personnel:** Bowman will meet with Rev. Diana individually before scheduling a committee meeting.

**Finance:** Wetlaufer reported that the Stewardship Team is working on their campaign. Insurance coverage will continue through John Raley/American Family for the rest of the year, with further review before next June. The Endowment Committee is working toward expanding the visibility of the Chalice Society. Policy questions have come up on gift policies that need to be addressed by either the Finance or Governance Committee.

**Right Relations:** Audlehelm and Etler will meet with Rev. Diana individually before scheduling a committee meeting.

**Mission & Vision Review:** Henry and Seaba reported that a meeting is planned for late August.

## PLANNING AND CONNECTING:

**Policy Based/Shared Governance Refresher:** Honey-Arcement asked to move the October 15th meeting up half an hour, to 8 am to 2 pm to accommodate congregational and community conflicts. The Board will meet with Sharon Dittmar on August 23rd to discuss the question "How do we engage with the congregation prior to the October meeting?"

**The Eighth Principle:** The Board discussed the White Supremacy Culture document, and identified elements for the Board and congregation to focus on going forward: Perfectionism, Sense of Urgency, Defensiveness, Fear of Open Conflict (to be combined with Right to Comfort). Henry asked if we should do a similar exercise with congregation as a whole.

Previously, Rev. Diana shared an example process observer rubric from another congregation. At next meeting, we will discuss how we want to update/customize a rubric for ourselves while being mindful of the priorities we decided upon during this discussion.

**Program Council:** Rev. Diana and Bowman to set up and recruit.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Article II Conversations:** The UAA Article II Study Commission is in the middle of a 15-year review of the UUA bylaws (principals and purposes, sources), which were last overhauled was in the 80s. The Commission has "early draft" language for a proposed

overhaul and has distributed questions to help members contribute ideas and feedback. The Commission will present the proposal and accept feedback in January 2023, followed by two votes in June 2023 and 2024.

UUS will hold multiplatform conversations on the Article II process after three Sunday services this fall. Board members will help facilitate and will submit ideas from participants to the Commission. Conversation dates and topics:

**September 11th:** What is essential to you about being a Unitarian Universalist? What helps you describe the heart of Unitarian Universalism to other people? What is missing from our current covenants or faith language?

**October 16th:** What must we do now to pave the way for the future Unitarian Universalism we imagine? What do we need to help us act on our deep commitment to anti-oppression and anti-racism?

**November 13th:** What specific ways are we asked to transform lives, communities, and the world in these times? How does our shared life in this congregation prepare us for transformation?

Swanson suggested distributing questions in the monthly newsletters prior to each conversation. Etler will create a sign-up for board members and distribute.

**New Section of Worship Services:** The Board discussed a new element that will be added to the Sunday services "The Voice of Community." This is just one of a slew of initiatives meant to encourage engagement. There will be a rotating format to the new service section:

1. An individual member will speak on how UUS enriched their life.
2. A representative from a community partner will speak on how their organization's work relates to our mission.
3. A representative from a UUS committee/team will speak on who they are and how members can participate.
4. A leader in the congregation will speak on their experience in the UUS community.

**Plans for UUS between Christmas and New Years:** The Board had a preliminary discussion on the plans for UUS at the end of December. There will be an in-person Christmas Eve service and a virtual New Year's service. What will we do for Christmas day? The board will likely defer to the worship associates for this decision.

**WonderfUUI Wednesdays:** A new initiative to be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. A potluck will be at 6 pm with programming to follow at 7. On the 3rd Wednesday board members can go to dinner and then have a hybrid meeting at 7 pm.

**JCIC Faith in Action:** UUS is hosting this event on September 8th. Tickets are \$50. There will be middle eastern food, music and poetry, and a silent auction. The Board encourages all to attend.

## CLOSING:

There were no guest comments. Swanson provided process observer comments. Closing words by Pavelich. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm, September 21st, 2022.

—Minutes submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary

*Rev. Diana Smith introduces the Water Communion ritual during our ingathering service on Sunday, August 21st.*



## Past Sunday Attendance

### July 31st: *Compassion in Action*

39 virtual participants, 58 in-person

### August 7th: *Nonviolent Communication as a Spiritual Practice*

46 virtual participants, 65 in-person

### August 14th: *Practicing Compassion*

39 virtual participants, 41 in-person

### August 21st: *Ingathering*

26 virtual participants, 103 in-person

## Join Us in Celebrating Our September Birthdays



Carol Adamson  
Kris Barrash  
Maxine Carlson  
Aster Cox  
Sofia Cox  
Andy Douglas  
Lori Enloe  
Zoey Fett  
Prahlad Gupta  
Barbara Haring  
Ethan Headings  
Diana Henry  
Nicholas Johnson  
Haley Kamps  
Riley Kaplan

Stephen Locher  
Mary Losch  
Kristin Lucas  
Gail McLure  
Otis Miller  
Paula Miller  
Lula Palmer  
Emily Peck  
Erica Reschly  
Lucy Rey  
Virginia Stamler  
Judy Tokuhisa  
Dana Van Abbema  
Edward Wolfe  
Susan Kasal Young

## July Financial Report Highlights

Our total bank balance at the end of July remained steady at the healthy level of \$326,100. We continue to be, overall, well within budget, with many line items underspending to this point. We thank staff and team leaders for remaining fiscally conservative and encourage them to continue that approach. Our facilities being closed for almost two years has caused problems and building expenses are overshooting their budgets, but the Board has approved doing repairs as they show up. If we include 2022 pledge giving deposited in 2021, our pledge giving is slightly ahead of the calendar. To date we have received 63% of our \$420,000 expectation with only 58% of the year having gone by.

Operating Income Received last Month:

- o \$48,428.67 in pledge giving (includes \$11,000 pledge match)
- o \$210.17 in non-pledge giving
- o \$3,459.20 in rental income

Justice Income Received last Month (Highlights):

- o \$25 additional raised for Table to Table (June Agency, \$902.34 total)
- o \$837.75 raised for Inside Out (July agency)
- o \$600 raised for supporting our Circle of Friends families

Other Non-Operating Income

- o \$454.19 in UUA/UUCEF endowment distributions

Pledge giving for the month was up substantially, possibly in response to letters sent out to pledge units who may have had errors in their automatic giving. Letters to all Members and Friends have also gone out detailing their giving to date. The Memorial Garden Restricted Fund has been merged with the general Memorial Fund.

The Finance Committee discussed and approved a proposal to stay with American Family through our anniversary date in May 2023. That gives us a trusted, in-town agent within the budget set for our insurance/workman's comp. The group working with vendors will revive the involved task of getting comparable competing bids in spring of 2023.

The Stewardship Team is moving ahead with plans for the 2023 Pledge Drive. The formal kick-off will be Sunday, September 26th, and October 16th will be the Celebration Sunday, with the two intervening Sundays used for testimonials and Challenge announcements.

—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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The cover image is a photograph of an outdoor labyrinth. The labyrinth is a circular path made of light-colored concrete or stone, set on a dark mulch surface. In the center of the labyrinth is a large, light-colored rock. The labyrinth is surrounded by green grass and trees. In the background, there is a building with a dark roof and white walls, and a large array of solar panels on a grassy area. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text "THE UUS NEWS" is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font. Below it, the text "2022 | September" is overlaid in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

# THE UUS NEWS

2022 | September