

THE UUS NEWS

2022 | October



From Your Minister Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

Courage, our October theme, shows up in our lives in many ways. At some early point in my life, I thought that courage had to do with not having fear. That it was about doing something that seemed impossible all by yourself.

But the word “courage” actually comes from the word for “heart.” Courage means to do something with heart, with love, aware of how we’re connected with others. Often it means doing something together, in or rooted in community. And often it means being vulnerable, sharing what is on our heart, and being or acting with love.

Over time, through my own experiences, through learning from others, and by being in community I’ve learned that courage is so much more than I was taught by dominant culture as a child. I’ve been challenged again and again to learn more about what courage calls me to, whether it is to vulnerability, to taking a risky community action in defense of others, or to something else. And I’ve been compelled to learn, and unlearn, and relearn how a gut feeling of what courage is asking is tempered and balanced by humility, compassion, boundaries, community, and more.

As I reflect on our theme of courage, I’m about to go on medical leave to heal from long COVID. During medical leave, I will be resting, working to reduce my body’s inflammatory response to COVID, and learning to adapt to changes in my body. I’ll also be working with my support team on finding ways to stay physically active, remain connected to family and friends, and keep learning without overtaxing my body and mind.

As I sit here, I wonder what this part of life’s journey will teach me about courage and living in the midst of change. And I wonder what it will teach us at UUS about shared ministry and the many ways create a community of care. I sit here looking forward to when I can return to UUS and share what I have learned, as well as hear how you have supported each other during this time.

During October there will be many wonderful Sunday worship services where many of our members will share how love, courage, and community care have shown up in their lives. Our covenant groups will be reflecting on courage, and we’ll have many other fabulous opportunities like WonderfUUI Wednesdays, discussion groups, and more to learn and grow together. I’m excited for what you will share and how you will learn and grow together.

Love and Blessings,

Rev. Diana

Upcoming Services

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

October 2nd:

Giving, Receiving: UUS Member Stories

Join us as UUS members David Jepsen, Jodi Linley, and Hilary Strayer share stories of how love shows us how to give and receive, and so create our community.

October 9th:

Making Good Trouble

Join UUS members Jim Olson, Quanda Hood, and worship associate Val Bowman for this service on voting our values.

October 16th:

Celebration of Committment

Join us as we close our stewardship campaign, celebrate how we're connected to UUS, and reflect on how we're working to pave the way for the Unitarian Universalism we image.

Throughout the fall we'll be exploring Unitarian Universalism's purposes, our shared values, the meaning of covenant, 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).

October 23rd:

Courage

Join us as UUS members reflect on our October theme of Courage and how it has shown up in their lives.

October 30th: TBA

Join us for our Halloween/All Souls Day service. Look for more details on our website or in our weekly emails.

A lunch fundraiser for the UUS youth will follow the service, and all are invited for trunk-or-treating in the parking lot from 1 to 3 pm.

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

October Offerings Benefit the Emma Goldman Clinic

Emma Goldman provides non-judgmental, quality reproductive health care, including abortion services, gynecology services, safer sex promotion, and active education for women and men in all life stages, and strives to increase economic, geographic, structural, and language accessibility for the clients they serve.

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 "Emma Goldman" 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.

5th Sunday Offerings on October 30th Benefit the Common Fund

The Common Fund is a financial assistance program that was created by the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) a local network of faith communities (including UUS), social service agencies, advocacy groups, and others who believe in the dignity of all persons, and share a concern for the quality of life and well-being of individuals and families in Johnson County.

The Common Fund provides emergency assistance to those facing crisis situations. CommUnity (formerly the Crisis Center) administers the Common Fund through its Basic Needs Program that helps specifically with housing and utilities. Checks for the offering baskets should have "Common Fund" 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.

Past Sunday Attendance

August 28th: *Simplify!*

72 in-person, 57 YouTube views

September 4th: *For the Love of Labor*

69 in-person, 58 YouTube views

September 11th: *Lighting a Beacon of Hope*

91 in-person, 65 YouTube views

September 18th: *Banned Book Week*

65 in-person, 74 YouTube views

September 25th: *Come Back, Together!*

76 in-person, 58 YouTube views

From Your Board President Rochelle Honey Arcement

Courage is the UU theme for the month of October this year and it is serendipitous. Courage is one of the traits that will guide us all through the coming months while our beloved minister, Rev. Diana, focuses her energy on her healing from Long COVID. We must have courage to walk into the unknown, to step outside our comfort zones, and to lift each other up.

Rev. Diana is an integral part of our community and I know many of you are wondering how you can help in her healing journey. One way that she and I have discussed is by taking care of one another and our congregation. By stepping up to volunteer, by checking in with each other, and being the beloved community that we are, by caring for our community and keeping us strong you will be helping to preserve our congregation which she deeply loves. That is how you can help her to heal. You can also send cards to the office and they will be delivered to her. Online messages can be sent via her padlet at <https://padlet.com/dsmith1248/7zl4ziy1791w8iu>

Your board of trustees is developing a collaborative plan to move us through this liminal, uncertain time. Board members have stepped up to liaise with different teams within the congregation to ensure that we operate as smoothly as possible. We are following our policies and procedures regarding her medical leave. We will be holding a forum after the service on Sunday, October 2nd to address your questions and concerns. Sharon Dittmar, our UUA Congregational Life Representative will be attending the forum, virtually, to provide assistance and direction. The board has already met with her and I will continue to meet with her for support throughout this process.

Courage is already on display in our community in many ways. Our phenomenal staff and lay leaders have shown courage in developing new programming such as our new WonderfUUI Wednesday programming on the first and third Wednesdays where we can gather together for dinner and then attend programs to deepen our connections with ourselves, each other, and the wider community. More exciting, invigorating programming is under development as well, and community collaborations are being nurtured and developed.

So I ask each of you, how can you show courage in the next few months? What does courage mean in your life? How can you stretch yourself? How can you support someone else's courageous steps? How can we, as a congregation, courageously navigate the world we are living in? How do we support this healing, life saving community of which we are a part? Let us join together to make our community stronger. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me and I will gladly address them.

With gratitude,
Rochelle Honey-Arcement

Come Back, Together!

Reconnecting with one another and the wider community

Thank you to all who joined us on September 25th as we kicked off the 2023 Operating Budget Stewardship Pledge Campaign. The Campaign is pivotal as we come back, together. Coming back is a multi-year process and the UUS board has developed a strategic plan to:

- come back to higher member growth
- come back to higher non-pledge revenues
- come back to a balanced budget by 2024 (no more than 3 to 5% per year from General Endowment Fund)

During this multi-year process, the goal is to maintain the excellent staff and valuable programming at UUS. This includes reaching everyone through in-person and remote services, providing youth education, and growing our work in the community.

We are asking you to increase your pledge by 7% over last year's pledge levels to reach our 2023 Stewardship Campaign goal of \$440,000. We are happy to announce that generous donors in our congregation have pledged to match all pledge increases of 7% or more, up to \$14,000. Please consider your support seriously so we can secure these matches.

We request that you return your pledge card or [enter your pledge online](#) by October 16th, when we'll gather for our Celebration of Commitment Sunday service.

Find more information on the Pledge Campaign on our website: www.uusic.org/2023-stewardship-campaign/

Join Us in Celebrating Our October Birthdays



<i>Ian Ballantyne</i>	<i>Charlie</i>	<i>Sue Otto</i>
<i>Jeanette Corley</i>	<i>Ingersoll</i>	<i>Mark Penno</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>Grace Ingersoll</i>	<i>Bruce Randall</i>
<i>Cunningham</i>	<i>Henry Ingersoll</i>	<i>Joe Rasmussen</i>
<i>Sherry Dolash</i>	<i>Sasha Jakob</i>	<i>Chris Rode</i>
<i>Irvin Emig</i>	<i>Emily Johnson</i>	<i>Rhonda</i>
<i>Emi Estudillo</i>	<i>Riley Kaplan</i>	<i>Rowden</i>
<i>Michael</i>	<i>Bailey Kelley</i>	<i>Thea Sands</i>
<i>Honey-</i>	<i>Tom Larkin</i>	<i>Jeff Walberg</i>
<i>Arcement</i>	<i>Emmie Linley</i>	<i>Julia Wasson</i>
<i>Lois Hughes</i>	<i>Grey Linley</i>	<i>Mark Yuskis</i>

From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Nic Kaplan

I am happy to share with you all that for our first full month of age divided RE groups, our pre-k/kindergarten room saw 8 children participate during September, 7 children visited our 1st-6th grade space, and 7 youth participated in youth group gatherings. It was so wonderful creating a space of belonging together. Thank you!

In October, we move on to the theme of courage. Do you have the courage to come to the front of the sanctuary at the beginning of service to light our chalice? We're looking for children, youth, and families to help us with this ritual each week. You can sign up at <https://bit.ly/UUSChalice> and if you sign up by the Wednesday before the Sunday you'll light the chalice, your name(s) can be included in the Order of Service.

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: Preschool children and kindergarteners are invited to start the morning in the Juniper room or in service. If they begin in service with their families, they'll be invited to go to class after the Time for All Ages. These 3-6 year olds will be using the Soul Matters curriculum and have a variety of activities each week.

1st-3rd and 4th-6th grade: Currently these age groups are gathering together in either the Redbud or Maple rooms after the Time for All Ages.

- 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: The combined youth group has decided to take on the Haunted Trails as a special project. Make sure that your youth are registered so that you receive the most updated information for youth gatherings: <https://bit.ly/UUSre2022>

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 or call (319) 423-9924. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

WonderFUII Wednesdays

Join us at UUS on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Doors will open at 5:30 and we'll sit down for our potluck dinner about 6. Everyone is invited whether you can just attend dinner, just the activities, or you can stay the whole time. Activities will begin about 7 pm after we have all cleaned up from dinner.

For future WonderFUII Wednesdays to happen, we need volunteers to make a main dish, set up, and coordinate cleanup each time. You can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F4EA5A622A4F49-wonderfuul>.

This month's activities:

October 5th:

- *Makerspace with Nic.* 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
- *Video and Discussion about Indigenous Peoples' Day with Peggy*
- *Campfire, songs, and smores with Sally*

October 19th

- *Braiding Sweetgrass* discussion with Nic
- Makerspace
- Introduction to Tai Chi

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 or call (319) 423-9924. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

October RE Schedule

- **October 2nd:** RE classes during service; youth group from 11:30 am to 1 pm with lunch
- **October 5th:** WonderFUII Wednesday, 5:30 to 8 pm. Potluck dinner & all ages activities
- **October 9th:** RE classes during service; youth group from 11:30 am to 1 pm with lunch
- **October 16th:** All Ages Service followed by activities:
 - Youth group and OWL parent orientation from 12-3 with lunch
 - Forum at 9 am (Zoom and conference room)
- **October 19th:** WonderFUII Wednesday, 5:30 to 8 pm. Potluck dinner & all ages activities
- **October 21st:** Friday FUUn Night, 6 to 9 pm. Game Night!
- **October 30th:** All ages service and activities, lunch fundraiser, trunk-or-treating from 1 to 3 pm

Covenant Group Facilitators

In August, covenant groups did not hold formal meetings, although some may have gathered socially. We reconvened in September to renew our commitment to our groups and covenants, and in some cases to welcome new members.

September's discussion topic was "Belonging," surely something we all desire. No one likes to feel excluded from a group or community, certainly not their family. It can be hard and painful to be left out. So, if we know this, why do we so often exclude others, either willfully or without knowing we're doing it? Unitarian Universalism aspires to be a community of radical welcome, radical belonging. We profess to accept everyone, to exclude no one. This can be hard work. How do we accomplish it? What do we have to change in our congregations, our committees, our social groups, ourselves to make this happen? To welcome anybody and everybody, to practice genuine inclusion?

The covenant group program offers its members the opportunity to share their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while creating closer ties with other UUs. You can learn more about the program and how to join a group by contacting Jan Locher (354- 6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

Free Lunch Team

1105 Gilbert Court shared a beautiful sunny day with 114 guests. 75 were take out and 39 ate in. We were prepared with green garden salad and fruit salad along with an option for a veggie lasagna donated by Carol Lyons. Those gracious people who donated food were: Winnie Granshaw, Pete Brokaw, Bonnie Penno, Nancy Lynch, Gay Mikelson and Donna Simonton.

We also served chicken strips, potato salad, chocolate chip cookies and a variety of drinks. Those who helped with serving on site were: Bob Littlehale, Donna Simonton, Joe Rasmussen, Vicki Siefers, Barb Stannard, Joy Thompson, Sherry Dolash and Nancy Lynch. (Photos below by Donna Simonton.)

If you are interested in volunteering or learning about the many ways you can contribute to Free Lunch, please contact Bob Littlehale at rfsal@yahoo.com or 419-297-7812.



Leadership Development Committee

Building Our Leadership Muscles



Today's featured leadership practice: Enable Others to Act: Foster collaboration by promoting cooperative goals and building trust

Kim Palmer's devotion & leadership has made UUS more welcoming.

With his soft Georgia accent and warm, easy-going demeanor, Kim has been a welcoming presence at UUS since 2010. As Hospitality Coordinator for 10 years, he fostered collaboration by promoting cooperative goals. When asked why he choose to lead the Hospitality Teams, he responded with "Maybe I'd just gotten good at it!" Kim led Hospitality at a UU congregation in Kalamazoo, MI, for more than 10 years and then formed and led two groups here before becoming UUS's Hospitality Coordinator. He says one of the most rewarding things about this job was getting to know and work with the members (and non-members) who have been Hospitality Team Leaders.

For him, it's been a collaborative effort. People pitch in and help others when needed. Another reward has been getting to meet many first timers with whom Kim could practice his 'elevator speech—some UU information, like the principles or 'non-creedal' faith. When asked about funny things that have happened as a Hospitality leader, Kim recounted the time he had launched into his elevator speech before asking anything about the visitor. Turns out the visitor was a former UU minister! He now asks first if the person has ever been to a UU church or service before.

Kim also gives credit to his hospitality "partner and assistant"—his wife Lula—who has always been there to help and support him.

We appreciate you, Kim!

Kim recently stepped down as Hospitality Coordinator and Pat Pavelich has volunteered to succeed him. We are grateful for her leadership in taking on this important role.

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.

Highlighted Upcoming Events

Forum on Rev. Diana's Medical Leave, October 2nd

We will be holding a forum after the service on Sunday, October 2nd, to address your questions and concerns concerning Rev. Diana's leave to heal from Long COVID. Sharon Dittmar, our UUA Congregational Life Representative will be attending the forum, virtually, to provide assistance and direction.

The forum will be held in the UUS conference room and on Zoom ([link to join](#), Meeting ID: 814 1830 2299, Passcode: 351298).

CUUPs Lunations, October 8th

The UU Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) invites you to join us at the 1st Ave Java House (1575 S 1st Ave, Iowa City, IA 52240) at 10 am on Saturday, October 8th, to discuss activities, topics, and gathering formats for the upcoming year.

We'll talk about the types of gatherings we want to have and the topics we want to explore and start making plans. We've gathered some topics you've mentioned in our recent gatherings, including crystals, sigil work, divination practices, wildcrafting, household rituals, and crafts and social events.

Contact CUUPs leaders Marsha Cheyney and Dawn Marshall at cuups@uusic.org for the full list (feel free to bring more on the 8th!) or with any questions about CUUPs or Lunations.

UUS Bossa Nova Concert, October 8th

Join us on Saturday, October 8th, for a concert featuring many different genres of music such as swing, bossa nova, samba, and funk, in English and other languages as well.

Aviana Gedler is a vocalist, violist, pianist and songwriter from West Des Moines, Iowa. She earned her Associate's Degree from The School for Music Vocations in Creston, Iowa under the direction of Grammy-nominated Dr. Jeremy Fox and Tobi Crawford, where she won two Downbeat Magazine awards for the best jazz vocal soloist in 2021 and 2022. She has been a life-long performer and has an unwavering passion for making music with and for other people. She will be joined by Adolfo Mendonça on the piano and Gabriel Espinosa on electric bass.

The concert will be held in the UUS Sanctuary at 4 pm. This event is part of the UUS Music Outreach Program series, and is free and open to the public. [Freewill donations](#) are gratefully accepted to support the Music Outreach Program and UUS. Questions can be sent to Hsin-Hui Liu at music.outreach@uusic.org.

CPR/AED Training, October 9th

Please plan to join us after the service on Sunday, October 9th, for a CPR training provided by the Rotary-Kerber HeartSafe Community. The training will also include instruction on UUS's AED machine, which was subsidized by Heartsafe.

The training will be held at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, after a brief social hour. We will watch a short introductory video and then have hands-on training with Heartsafe volunteers. All are invited to participate, especially UUS members in worship, hospitality, or religious education volunteer roles who are not already certified. Jr. & Sr. High aged youth are welcome. Childcare will be available in the nursery during the training.

Registrations are appreciated but not required: <https://bit.ly/UUSCPR>. Questions can be sent to Congregational Administrator Emma Barnum: admin@uusic.org.

UU Veg Community Plantluck, October 9th

The Veg CommUUnity will enjoy a plantluck on Sunday, October 9, at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All UUS members and friends are invited to come. Please bring a plant-based* dish for approximately eight servings (with the recipe or list of ingredients), along with your table service. Please RSVP to Carol at carolthrockmorton108@msn.com or (319) 337-3030.

*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.

UUS Workday, October 15th

Join the UUS Land Ministry and Grounds Teams on Saturday, October 15th, from 9 am to noon for an outdoor workday. Together we'll clean up our trails and prep our grounds for the fall and winter. We will also be planting plugs of prairie dropseed on the west side of the building. Bring a trowel if you have one. Questions? Contact Deb Schoelerman dschoelerman@gmail.com or Tom McMurray tmcmurray@mchsi.com.

Highlighted Upcoming Events

JCIC Candidate Forum, October 15th

Vote Truth to Power

Join us on Saturday, October 15th, from 2 to 4 pm for a candidate forum at the Purpose Place (611 Southgate Ave., Iowa City), hosted by the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC). Meet national, state, and county candidates and talk with them one-on-one. You can also register to vote!

There will be free refreshments, drawings for door prizes, and child entertainment provided. Interpreters for Spanish, Arabic, and French will be available.

JCIC is 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. UUS is a member of JCIC and Rev. Diana serves as co-president on the JCIC board.

Pop-Up Choir, October 16th

Join us for POP-UP CHOIR on Sunday, October 16th! We will meet at 9 am to learn a song, then "pop up" to the front and sing that song for the service. The song is a secret. You will definitely be able to learn everything you need to know that morning.

Absolutely everybody is welcome to sing from children and youth through adults. Questions? Contact Director of Congregational Music Alex Heetland at music@uusic.org.

UU Mystics, October 16th

UUS Mystic Group is a small group for anyone who has an interest in or personal experience with what is commonly referred to as "mystical experiences." We will explore the impact, meaning, and implications that these experiences may have in our lives. This is not a book study group, and we are not setting a goal of manufacturing mystical experiences together (though we won't rule that out).

We have set our initial gathering date for Sunday, October 16th, at 11:30 am in the conference room at UUS. You can also join via Zoom ([Link to join](#), Meeting ID: 826 8770 0792, passcode: 218927). We will repeat this same meeting again on Sunday, November 13th, at 11:30am for those who cannot attend or just want to come to both.

The initial gatherings will offer an opportunity to get to know one another and share something about what brings us to the Mystics group. That could range anywhere from "curiosity" to "I've had some mystical experiences and want to be part of a community where I can bring my whole self." As with most groups who enjoy personal sharing, we will practice confidentiality and respect with sharing of time.

This is to be a self-generating and self-organizing group. The intention is that we will discuss and decide together how we wish our journey together to proceed. Please contact Miriam Kashia (miriam.kashia@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

UU Secular Humanists, October 18th

The Secular Humanist's October meeting is entitled *A Biography of Satan*. The character of Satan has been a powerful figure in Western religion and culture for thousands of years. UUS Secular Humanists member Peter Nothnagle will follow the fascinating evolution of depictions of Satan, starting with his origin as God's loyal and trusted servant in the Old Testament, his changing fortunes through the centuries, and down to the present day where he is invoked by opposite sides of a 21st-century cultural divide.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 18th at 7 pm, both in-person and online. The in-person meeting will be in Room D of the Iowa City Public Library. The online link will be provided closer to the occasion.

It was good to see all who came to the in-person picnic in August as well as those who participated in the virtual meeting on September 20th!

For questions, contact group leader Daniel Valentin at secularhumanists@uusic.org.

UUS Haunted Trails, October 29th

Come out for our Haunted Trails event on Saturday, October 29th, from 5:30 to 7 pm. The trails will be haunted by scarers and may not be suitable for children. This event is hosted by the UUS Jr. & Sr, youth. (Look for more details on the website and in our weekly emails).

Trunk-or-Treat, October 30th

All are welcome to join us for trunk-or-treating in the UUS parking lot on Sunday, October 30th, from 1 to 3 pm. A fundraiser lunch will precede the trunk-or-treat and will benefit the UUS youth. More information coming soon. Email education@uusic.org if you would like to help.

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Auction, December 3rd

Put Saturday evening, December 3rd, on your calendar! We are planning an in-person auction event with dinner and entertainment, along with online bidding for everyone (via your phone or one of our laptops if you are in person at the event—details will follow in November). Live auction items will be in person, those not present can choose a friend to bid for them.

Start contacting Judy Tokuhisa now with your items and events to donate to the auction! judy.tokuhisa@gmail.com or 319-331-3351.

UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

September 21st, 2022 (virtual via Zoom)

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

Present: Rochelle Honey-Arcement (President), John Bowman (Vice President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Christine Etlar (Secretary), Alan Swanson (past President), Jerry Wetlaufer (Financial Trustee), Diana Henry (Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio). **Guests:** Rev. Sharon Dittmar.

President Honey-Arcement called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Etlar provided opening words.

Consent Agenda: The Board received the consent agenda which included the August 17th Board Meeting Minutes; September 14th Executive Committee Minutes; Treasurer's Report; Congregational Administrator's August Financials and Narrative Summary; Finance, Governance, and Mission & Vision Review Committees August Minutes; and September Minister's Report. *Pavelich moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Bowman seconded, motion carried.*

BUSINESS:

Plans for UUS between Christmas and New Years: Staff will be provided time-off between Christmas through New Years. Staff will work Christmas eve. Worship associates will be responsible for services during this time: a small, in-person service on Christmas day and a virtual service on New Year's day.

Motion: Provide paid time-off to staff from 12/25 to 1/2/23. Time off includes 2 holidays (Christmas and New Year's Day), 1 floating holiday, and 3 additional days. (For part-time staff, the paid time off will be prorated according to the percentage of their full-time effort.) Moved by Etlar; Audlehelm seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Set 2023 Budget Cap Vote: Pavelich suggests an initial cap of not more than \$600,000 to start planning the budget. Emma and the staff will create a preliminary budget with this figure.

Motion to approve \$600,000 as starting figure for budget planning made by Pavelich; Wetlaufer seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer Duty Update: Congregational Representative for Solar Panels Vote: UUS now holds an 80% interest in the Solar consortium. This means we will get an 80% dividend.

Wetlaufer attended the annual meeting and reports that the last shares will likely be donated to us in the coming year. The LLC will then be dissolved once all shares are donated to the society. Regarding an expression of thanks, Seaba suggests waiting until all shares are donated.

Motion: The executive committee will assign the treasurer as the congregational representative to the solar consortium (UUS solar LLC). And in the case of their absence, the finance trustee will step in. Moved by Etlar; Henry seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Set Congregational Meetings: Upcoming congregational meetings will be scheduled for 12/18/22 and 5/21/23.

Motion to approve these dates made by Bowman; Swanson seconded; motion approved unanimously.

BGI Update: Wetlaufer reported that members of the BGI committee are confused on whether their work is done and/or whether there has been progress on the BGI objectives.

Pavelich's Treasurer's Report noted that BGI was disbanded at the 2022 Board retreat in favor of a Program Council, which is still in the process of being created. The report also touched on several progress benchmarks, including meeting our rental income goal for 2022, the success of the 2021 Listener's campaign, and an increased focus on volunteer opportunities and community outreach. Objectives identified as in-progress or yet-to-be explored include streamlining our justice work, testing out program-based budgeting, and looking into a capital campaign to retire the mortgage.

Wetlaufer suggested a formal recognition of thanks to the original BGI members, perhaps at an upcoming service.

CLOSING:

There were no guest comments. Pavelich provided process observer comments. Closing words by Swanson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm, October 19th, 2022.

—Minutes submitted by Christine Etlar, Board Secretary

August Financial Report Highlights

Our total bank balance at the end of August continue at a healthy level of \$334,770. Do recall that we are supplementing the bank account with an extra \$45,000 (\$3,750) per month from the General Endowment earnings. Pledge giving was strong this month. To date we have received 74% of our \$420,000 expectation while only 68% into the year.

We continue to be, overall, well within budget. We thank staff and team leaders for remaining fiscally conservative and encourage them to continue that approach.

Operating Income Received last Month:

- o \$39,900.25 in operating budget pledge giving
- o \$859.17 in non-pledge giving
- o \$2,735 in rental income
- o \$169.70 in consignment income (from items unsold at the Garage Sale)

Justice Income Received last Month (Highlights):

- o \$120 additional raised for Inside Out (July agency, \$957.25 raised total)
- o \$320 total raised for the League of Women Voters (July 5th Sunday agency)
- o \$1,014.34 raised for Free Medical Clinic (August agency)
- o \$1,300 additional raised for supporting our Circle of Friends families with school supplies

The Finance Committee noted at their September meeting that Stewardship, Endowment and insurance work are well in hand.

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

[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)

Vice President: John Bowman

Past President: Alan Swanson

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(treasurer@uusic.org)

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UUS Staff

Minister: Rev. Diana Smith (minister@uusic.org)

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

Director of Congregational and Community Engagement:
Peggy Garrigues (dcce@uusic.org)

Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Nic Kaplan (education@uusic.org)

Director of Congregational Music: Alex Heetland (music@uusic.org)

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

Communications Coordinator: Barb Danielson (communications@uusic.org)

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

Facilities Coordinator: Ruben Galvan (contact the office)

Community Minister: Rev. Lois Cole (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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The cover image is a photograph of an outdoor area. In the foreground, there is a circular labyrinth made of light-colored concrete paths on a dark mulch surface, with a large, flat rock in the center. To the left, there is a large array of solar panels. In the background, there is a modern building with a dark roof and light-colored walls, surrounded by green trees and a clear blue sky with some clouds. The text 'THE UUS NEWS' is overlaid in large, dark, serif font in the upper right quadrant of the image.

THE UUS NEWS

2022 | October