



# THE UUS NEWS

2023 | April

## From Your Minister

Rev. Diana Smith

Our monthly theme for April is Resistance. This seems quite appropriate for a month that includes Passover, Easter, much of Ramadan, and Earth Day, as well as time when we're witnessing and responding to legislation that targets trans youth and diversity, equity, and inclusion work. It's also an interesting theme for a month when our weather swings wildly back and forth, with spring beginning to appear while winter isn't yet giving up, straining the reserves of many species – not just humans. Resistance takes many forms this month, stretching from the work for liberation to our feelings to the struggle to survive.

Our resistance to forces of oppression, as well as our growing awareness that the way we've done things in the past isn't working as well in the world that's emerging, can lead us to choose change. Yet change is also risky. And it brings up many feelings. Sometimes we worry that too many changes at once can push us beyond our abilities to adapt or our reserves, as we sometimes witness happening in the natural world in response to the wild changes of early spring.

And yet, when we attend to how we develop our communities of care and resilience, we can enhance our

ability to adapt to change. We can even enhance our ability to choose the changes that lead us into a more liberatory future that's longing to emerge. Some of the tools we can use to do this are things like developing our empathy, listening to each other deeply as we share our own perspectives with vulnerability, joining our tough minds and our tender hearts, practicing an ethic of risk, broadening our understanding of who we're connected to and how we're connected, learning to rest, and centering love as a practice.

As you may have read in recent weekly emails or in other parts of this newsletter, a number of changes are developing at UUS. One of these is working on opening our building as a learning space for trans, queer, and other marginalized children and youth who are enrolled in online school during the 2023-24 school year (see <https://bit.ly/PlusSpace> for more information). The Board of Trustees is continuing their exploration of proposing some changes to our governance structure at the May congregational meeting (see the President's column). And we're continuing to learn about who our congregation is and what its needs are as we emerge from the pandemic.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Upcoming Services

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

### **April 2nd:** ***Seeking Liberation***

We are journeying together, seeking liberation. Join us as we mark Pesach (Passover) and learn from liberation theology. Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

### **April 9th:** ***Telling Stories, Finding Joy***

Join us for our all ages Easter celebration. Rev. Diana Smith preaching. After the service, we will have an egg hunt. Please bring an item for our diaper drive or Lucas Elementary food drive.

### **April 16th:** ***Growing Hope for Our Future***

In this youth-led service, we will cultivate building resilience against climate change and how to resist despair. We will grow hope for our future as a congregation and as a planet.

### **April 23rd:** ***We Are Better Together***

This Earth Day we'll celebrate how we learn from each other and grow our movement. Jessica Wiskus, Green Sanctuary members, and Rev. Diana will share our stories and learnings.

### **April 30th:** ***Building on Our Principles***

The proposed revisions to the Principles and Purposes section focus on our shared values and then use these values as the ground for aspirational statements of action. Building on the Principles we've been using, they say more clearly what we will do based on our values. They also focus more on what our sources of inspiration do for us and how we should approach sources of inspiration.

*The offering this 5th Sunday will benefit the Black Women's Maternal Health Collective.*

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

## April Offerings Benefit Table to Table

Table to Table keeps wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting it from donors and distributing to those in need through agencies that serve the hungry, homeless and at-risk populations. Learn more at [table2table.org](http://table2table.org).

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 be made out to UUS and have "T2T" or 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.

### **The 5th Sunday Offering in April Will Benefit The Black Women's Maternal Health Collective**

On months with five Sundays, the offerings for the extra week are collected to benefit a special agency or cause. On April 30th, the offering will go to the Black Women's Maternal Health Collective, which provides support to Black women in the environment of major health concerns. The Collective functions under the umbrella of the [Sankofa Outreach Connection](#), which works to 1) increase the overall wellness of women of color in our community; 2) to decrease social isolation of women of color; and connect women of color to existing spaces; and 3) to centralize resources for women of color.

Checks for the offering baskets should be made out to UUS and have "BWMH" 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.

## Masking at UUS

On April 9th we will move to masks being strongly recommended rather than required on Sunday mornings. Masks will still be required Sunday, April 2nd.

As we make this change, we are mindful of the many different needs present in our congregation. We will continue to have a red section of seating on the right side of the sanctuary, which will be open to anyone who is more comfortable sitting in this area. In the red section, masks will be required and there will be space for physical distancing. People who wear face masks can also sit anywhere else in the sanctuary, of course, but in the red section they will be required.

In our effort to maintain a community of care that is responsive to the many health needs of our congregation, please:

Continue to stay home and watch our services online if you are having symptoms of covid or have tested positive for covid. If you've had an exposure to covid in the past week but have not yet tested positive for covid, please wear a mask or watch services from home.

When you're at UUS, please follow good hand hygiene practices.

When you meet with small groups, please continue to follow inclusion, covenant, consent, and care principles to make sure that all members of groups are able to be part of activities.

We know that this change will be met with many different feelings. Please continue to listen to each other and hold space for each other's needs, as you have throughout the pandemic so that we can continue to strengthen UUS as a community of care. If risk levels become high we may return to masks being mandatory.



# From Your Minister

*(continued from page 1)*

As we engage with change, I want to share with you a model of change I talked about in my unused reflection for the March 19 "The Vulnerability of Change" worship service. [You can watch my reflection here.](#)

In Martha Beck's model of change, we begin experiencing endings and new beginnings because of a change. At first, we make small moves as we try to understand what happened and what it means. The mantra for this stage is "I don't know what's going on, and that's okay."

When we move into the stage of dreaming, scheming, and planning, we can start taking some bigger moves. These help us understand what this change could mean, some ways we can make things better or create something new. The mantra for this stage is "There are no rules, and that's okay."

Then, we start to move into the stage where we're acting on our dreams in the real world. Where we're trying things out. Sometimes that works out well and sometimes it doesn't, so often we have to regroup on the way. You might think of this as the stage where Frodo and the Company of the

Ring are journeying to Mount Doom. Or, if we think a little smaller, the stage where we're trekking through the woods to try to find a nice campsite. The mantra for this stage is "This is much worse than I expected, and that's okay." (Yes, you can laugh. I know this is how trying change often feels.)

And then, after we've been on the journey for a while, we start to reach "The Promised Land." We're adjusting to the change and starting to make smaller moves or adjustments as we figure out what's working. We're in a new place. The mantra for this stage is "Everything is changing, and that's okay."

As we journey through changes, both at UUS and in the wider world, I hope this model and these mantras are helpful for you. If you have other models of changes that have helped you, please share them!

May we keep developing our communities of care and resilience, enhancing our ability to adapt to change, and working together for a world of more love and liberation!

Love and Blessings,  
Rev. Diana

# From Your Board President

Rochelle Honey-Arcement

Last month's theme for worship was Vulnerability and April's theme is Resistance. Vulnerability was, unfortunately, timely for events that took place in the state of Iowa, and around the country, as legislatures enacted devastating legislation targeting some of our most marginalized and vulnerable citizens. The anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation that has permeated our society recently, as well as the legislation dismantling our public education system, has traumatized many of us. It is also a call to action, a call to Resistance. What can each and every one of us do to help those most impacted by this legislation? What can we, as a congregation of love, do to lift up those being held down. How can we be part of their liberation, rather than their oppression? How can we resist the oppression being introduced and reinforced in the state of Iowa?

I, myself, have cried and I have raged over these actions being taken. I realize that the rage that I feel comes from the fear that I have for our community and what is going to happen to our loved ones, to ourselves. Anger and rage can help fuel actions, protest and resistance. That is important. Fear and sadness are important too. They remind us of our humanity, that connecting with others and protecting each other is an important love action to take. We fear loss, loss of life, of freedom, of connections and safety. We are sad to see these hurts happening. Getting in touch with those vulnerable feelings helps us to remember that we must continue to work, to fight, to strive for a better world, where each of us can be proud of who we are and not feel the need to hide who we are, just to keep surviving. Our acts of vulnerability open space for our acts of resistance.

Your Board of Trustees, along with the phenomenal staff at UUS are committed to the long haul. We will keep working to make this a better world and to make our congregation one where people are safe and loved. Your Board and staff are working to see what we can do as a congregation to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ youth, children, and adults, especially Trans and Nonbinary folx, in our community. We will be exploring opportunities for us to live into our values.

We are looking into ideas such as expanding our capacity to teach Our Whole Lives (OWL), providing a safe learning space for students who are learning online rather than go to public school, and helping families access healthcare outside of the state, and we are exploring other options as well. As our ideas solidify over the coming weeks, we will be communicating those ideas with the congregation.

In addition to that work, your Board has continued to explore how we best govern our congregation. We are exploring Board Structure, Committee Structure, and other aspects of Shared Ministry. We have had heart felt conversations, conversations with vulnerability, with discernment. Conversations where we have not all agreed, but it has not been conflictual. This Board has been a pleasure to work with.

Good things are happening in our congregation and we believe that we are finding solutions to our budget concerns. Services have been energizing and it's such a pleasure to welcome back folks who have not been to services in awhile and new faces to our building. Being part of this community brings me hope.

# From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Nic Kaplan

## Summer Camps

Families- there's still time! [Register for camp on Realm today!](#)

Also, Camp Counselor positions are now open! Job descriptions for head counselors (12th grade or adult), counselors (10th-11th grade), and counselors-in-training (9th grade) are linked in [the application form](#).

## Easter Egg Hunt, April 9th

We will have an egg hunt April 9th, after the service. Everyone is asked to bring an item for the CommUnity diaper drive or the Lucas Elementary food drive, but I will have extras if you forget. Everyone will be encouraged to find up to eight empty, plastic eggs, representing our eight principles. The empty eggs can then be turned in for prizes of the participants choosing. Prizes range from mini stuffed animals and playdough to allergen-friendly suckers and fruit snacks to polished stones and our most popular fidgets. Weather-permitting, our egg hunt will be outside. Our younger participants should have an adult with them.

## Youth Service, April 16th

The Youth Group is working on finishing touches for their Youth Sunday Service on April 16th; titled "Growing Hope for Our Future." Please plan to attend the service and support our youth!

## Youth CON, April 21st-23rd

Registration is open for the unCONventional Youth CON that we are hosting here April 21st through 23rd. UU Jr. and Sr. High youth will be coming from all over the state and our region to create community and a space to grow. Youth need to register asap: <https://bit.ly/CON2023>. If anyone is interested in supporting the youth by being a part of meal planning and preparation or signing up to be a "Night OWL," please contact me for more information and to volunteer.

## Past Sunday Attendance

**February 26th: Crafting a Community of and for All Ages**

57 in-person, 113 YouTube views

**March 5th: Holy Everything**

83 in-person, 115 YouTube views

**March 12th: The Practice and the Process**

72 in-person, 160 YouTube views

**March 19th: The Vulnerability of Change**

83 in-person, 114 YouTube views

**March 26th: Listening to Incarcerated Voices**

102 in-person, 112 YouTube views

## Save the Date!

### UUS Will Host Its First Earth Festival, on Saturday, May 6th!

On Saturday, May 6th, from 10 am to 3 pm, UUS will be hosting an Earth Festival in our building and on our grounds. We will have workshops, speakers, food, and an area for local non-profits or businesses to have a table with information related to learning about nature, the earth, climate change, and also the diversity of human life on earth and in the Iowa City area.

This will be a family friendly event, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Plan to attend! Let your neighbors know! Watch for volunteering opportunities!

### Earth Festival Raffle Basket Opportunity

Would you as an individual, or a group you are part of be willing to donate items and a basket to put them in as part of our raffle? Maybe a world travel basket, or a seasonal themed basket, or a gardening basket, or a night sky basket, or an Africa basket!

Take a look at [the list of possible baskets](#) that Nic came up with, and consider creating or having your group create one of these baskets! The items listed are only a starting point of ideas and suggestions. You would decide on the actual items, how many items, and what kind of basket or container you will put them all in!

[Sign up here](#), by adding your name or your group's name and contact info to the spreadsheet! We would want to have all the baskets here at UUS a few days ahead of time.

Questions? Contact our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Nic Kaplan at [education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org) or by phone, 319-337-3443.

## Join Us in Celebrating Our April Birthdays



Joe Barrash

John Elson

Linda Fisher

Nathan Gall

Liam Gupta

Linda Hartford

Adam Ingersoll

Jan Jacobson

Nic Kaplan

Sandy Keller

David Kramer

Russ Lenth

Macy Linley

Dawn Marshall

Mary McCann

Craig Mosher

Jerry Nordquist

Peter Palmer

John Raley

Tabitha

Rasmussen

Anna Rode

Sarah Ross

David Supp-

Montgomerie

Theresa Ullerich

Macy Van

Abbema

# Join Us for WonderfUUL Wednesdays!

Join us the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month for a Community Meal at 6 pm followed by Programming at 7 pm. You are welcome to come for the meal, or the programming, or both! All ages are welcome!

## April 5th

**6 pm Community Meal:** Vegan and gluten-free entree (TBA), along with mini vegetarian spinach pies, salad, and whatever potluck side dishes or desserts are brought by those attending.

**7 pm Programming—Choose between:**

- **Crafting Your Own Spiritual Practice:** This program is a 4-week series that will be led by Dawn Marshall, one of the leaders of our Covenant of UU Pagans group. But the class can work for anyone, you don't have to consider yourself a pagan to appreciate it. We will explore why we practice, types, rhythms, and resistance to practice and ways to use that as information when designing a practice. You will gain the most from this if you attend all four sessions, but if you cannot attend all four, you are welcome to attend one or more sessions.

- Session One: Introduction and Why Practice
- Session Two: Making the Mundane Magical
- Session Three: Setting the Wheels in Motion
- Session Four: Resistance and other Information

Sign up for the four sessions here: <https://forms.gle/8fycfAGaSHS4hc3n7>

- **Learning to Knit/Enjoying Knitting:** Stevie Van Housen and Winnie Ganshaw will lead a Knitting Session, with instruction for beginners, and conversation and support on projects for any who already have a project going or experience with knitting. Knitting needles and a number of yarns will be available.
- **Decreasing Plastic Use:** Leadership from 100 Grannies will offer guidance and conversation on how to reduce our plastic use in our daily lives and in our community.
- **Open Maker Space** for any and all ages

## April 19th

**6 pm Community Meal:** A vegan friendly/gluten-free entree (TBA) with a delicious green salad, and whatever potluck side dishes or desserts are brought by those attending.

**7 pm Programming—Choose between:**

- **Crafting Your Own Spiritual Practice, Session 2:** Making the Mundane Magical (See description for April 5th).
- **Regeneration Book Discussion:** "Regeneration offers a visionary new approach to climate change, one that weaves justice, climate, biodiversity, equity, and human dignity into a seamless tapestry of action, policy, and transformation that can end the climate crisis in one generation." Nic Kaplan will lead this discussion in the Hickory and Oak Rooms, or on Zoom. Contact Nic if you don't have a copy of the book yet.
- **Aquifer Education with Hands-on Making of an Aquifer:** Have fun with water in this activity for children, youth, or adults!
- **Open Maker Space** for any and all ages

### FOR THE MEALS:

If you are able to bring a dish to share there is always room at the table for more food! It does not have to be fancy or homemade. This DOES NOT need to be a shared dish. (Yes, you can just bring your own dinner and come eat with others!) There will be an optional free will offering, if you want to contribute towards the cost of the provided food.

As usual, assistance tidying up after the meal is needed and greatly appreciated!

We are also looking for volunteers to help prepare the food that is provided and/or tidy up afterwards for future weeks. Sign up here to volunteer for April or May meals! Contact Sarah Ross with any questions about the meals: [swalshross@gmail.com](mailto:swalshross@gmail.com).

## Learning Space for LGBTQ+ Youth

As part of our response to the anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-diversity legislation that is being passed in Iowa, UUS is planning on opening our building as a learning space for trans, queer, and other marginalized children and youth who are enrolled in online school for the 2023-24 school year. Online students in 1st through 12th grade who are trans, hold marginalized identities, and/or who are active allies and accomplices will be welcome in a safe, supervised environment to complete their classes and socialize with others. This will be open to anyone in our community.

We are working on options for UUS to be able to provide additional support for the learning space with training for adult supervisors in youth mental health first aid and classes on Trans Inclusion and Facilitation for Liberation (interrupting microaggressions), as well as optional add-on programming for students including Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education, music, arts, and more!

Details are still being finalized, but if you are interested in having your child attend online school in a safe learning space at UUS (or an adult interested in volunteering), please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/PlusSpace>. This is not a contract or commitment, but a way of collecting information about the need for this type of space and the support available.

Families of children and youth who attend will be asked to provide assistance with supervision and with program costs as they are able. We're working on applying for funding through Faithify (Unitarian Universalist crowdfunding) to reduce or eliminate costs for families.

For questions, please contact our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Nic Kaplan at [education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org) or by phone, 319-337-3443.



## Leadership Development Committee

### *Building Our Leadership Muscles*

#### **Featured leadership practice:**

*Enable others to act*



**Marsha Cheyney** loves creating things. She likes arts and crafts, gardening, and making gifts. “If you want it, and it’s not there, you have to create it,” she says. When it comes to UUS work, Marsha gets a lot of satisfaction from creating and sustaining programs that she feels are needed. When a leadership void happened at the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS), Marsha wanted it to continue so she stepped up to become a leader and encouraged others to share the leadership and functioning of the group. One of her favorite quotes is from Laurie Buchanan, who says, “Whatever you are not changing, you are choosing.” She finds resonance in the Octavia Butler Earthseed books where “god is change.”

But in her many roles at UUS, including CUUPS and the Leadership Development Committee (LDC), she prefers making change behind the scenes rather than being in the limelight. She thinks of herself as a support person and feels most satisfied when she’s collaborating and making connections. She says, “I like to connect those who need with those who have what is needed.” She frequently attends retreats and events where she gains new ideas and insights. She enjoys bringing home what she learns and sharing that knowledge with others in whatever form works for them.

Thank you, Marsha, for the encouragement you give to all of us!

*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

### **UU Mystics, April 2nd & 16th**

Join the UU Mystics on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month in the Conference Room after services (11:30 am to 1 pm). The UUS Mystics is a group for anyone who has an interest or personal experience with what is commonly referred to as “mystical experiences.” We will share our stories, and explore the impact, meaning, and implications that these experiences may have in our lives and beyond. As with most groups who enjoy personal sharing, we will practice confidentiality and respect with sharing of time.

If you wish to participate and cannot be present, please use join us over Zoom ([Link to Join](#), Meeting ID: 826 8770 0792, Passcode: 218927).

### **All German Lieder Concert, April 8th**

Join us on Saturday, April 8th, at 2 pm for an “All-German Lieder” concert featuring Christian Frankl, bass baritone, and Hsin-Hui Liu, piano. The program includes lieder selections by composers Franz Schubert, Ludwig v. Beethoven, Richard Strauss, and more. Christian Frankl is an Iowa Political Science, Ethics, and Public Policy major and Hawkeye Marching Band drum major. Hsin-Hui Liu is UUS’s Staff Pianist and Music Outreach Coordinator, as well as a Grinnell College Piano Instructor and Ulowa Collaborative Pianist.

The concert will be held in the UUS Sanctuary at 2 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](mailto:music.outreach@uusic.org).

### **UU Yarn Crafters, April 29th**

The UU Yarn Crafters is a social group where UU members and friends get together to knit, crochet, laugh, and learn with each other. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 29th, from 10:30 am to 12 pm in the Oak Room at UUS. All are welcome, all ages and skill levels.

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

### **Spring Cleanup Day, April 29th**

Please join us to help with several spring time tasks on the UUS grounds on Saturday, April 29th, from 9 am to 12 pm. Tasks include removing the deer protection from around the trees, trimming the native grasses, raking leaves, shoveling compost into the garden beds, installing the fence around the wildflower garden, and perhaps pulling garlic mustard.

Wear gardening gloves and appropriate garden clothes. Families are welcome. As usual, donuts, coffee, and other beverages will be provided. For questions please email Deb Schoelerman at [dschoelerman@gmail.com](mailto:dschoelerman@gmail.com) or Tom McMurray.

# UUS Team and Committee Reports

## Covenant Groups

In our covenant groups in March, members explored what it means to be on the “Path of Vulnerability.” Feeling vulnerable is uncomfortable, or so we’ve been taught. Part of our cultural mythology is that individuals should be strong, brave, and self-reliant. Openly acknowledging that we’re afraid or in pain is too often looked down upon as weakness, even lack of “character.” But why is it so wrong to express those feelings? We all have them; why shouldn’t we own up to them? Acknowledging the times when we’re feeling tired, lonely, filled with doubt about our ability to go on is a powerful way to deal with our troubles. We need to be honest with ourselves in order to cope, and to heal. Admitting vulnerable feelings to others is the way to be honest with them also. Opening ourselves to others creates a path for them to open themselves to us. One might say it’s a point where empathy begins. Elizabeth Gilbert has written, “I have more compassion than if I had never been wounded or if I had never been betrayed or I had never been harmed... those disappointments have made me gentler with other people and their disappointments, the stuff that they have to carry around and endure.”

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

## Free Lunch Program Team

Russ Lenth brought us some interesting stats as he announced that the March UUS Free Lunch shift was the 440th time the UUs have been present to offer “A full plate with no questions asked.” We volunteers salute and admire all UUS volunteers—past and present—for having served approximately 44,000 meals since August of 1986!! Gay Mikelson has been so much the center of that history. She shared herself with everyone, as did Bonnie Penno who graciously popped in for the gig.

Frank Wildensee and the chef crew stirred up a macaroni dish and a black bean and rice for a vegan option. We continue to serve garden and fruit salads prepared on the 1105 premises. Desserts and beverages topped off the main courses. Friday the 10th allowed us to serve a total of 135 very satisfied guests.

Among other volunteers for this day were: Bob Littlehale, Barb Stannard, Sally Hartman, Carolyn Johnson, Theresa Ullerich, Gary Lawrensen, Donna Simonton, Carol Throckmorton, and Caryl Lyons. Thank you to those who donated salad ingredients, desserts, juice, and snacks: Nancy Lynch, Pete Brokaw, Sharon Booker, Nancy Thomas, Janet McKee and Terri O’Berry. And thanks to Donna Simonton for her work helping to coordinate the volunteers!

Anyone interested in volunteering and contributing to our Free Lunch shifts can contact Bob Littlehale at 419 297-7812 or [rflsal@yahoo.com](mailto:rflsal@yahoo.com).

## From Your Leadership Development Committee

### 2023 General Assembly: “Faithfully Becoming”

The Leadership Development Committee invites you to consider attending the [2023 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly](#) this summer, June 21st-25th, online or in-person, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Participants at General Assembly (GA) will worship, witness, learn and connect. The six selected from our congregation to be delegates will also make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year, GA will be offered both online and in person. [Information about UUA’s General Assembly may be found here](#); note, for in-person attendance, organizers will require proof of vaccination and masks. There will be options for physically distanced seating. The [program schedule is here](#), and [here is the registration link](#). You’ll also find links for housing options.

If you are interested in attending GA—either as a delegate or simply as a participant—UUS’s Leadership Development Committee (LDC) members would like to know. A limited amount of scholarship money is available to help pay all or some of a few participants’ fees. Whether you want to apply for funds or not, if you plan to attend GA, do let us know, and let us know if you would like to be a delegate. [Here is the link to a form you may complete to let us know if you want to attend, and if you are interested in scholarship funds](#). (Note: This is not the GA registration form—it is for UUS purposes only.)

[You can read more information here about the responsibilities of being a GA delegate](#).

### 2023 MidAmerica Regional Business Meeting

This year our MidAmerica Region will not have an in-person assembly event. The annual Business Meeting will take place online only, June 8th, from 7 to 8:30 pm.

If you are interested in attending the virtual MidAmerica Regional Business Meeting, [there is an opportunity to indicate that on the LDC form as well](#). (Note: This is not the official registration form—it is for UUS purposes only.) Instructions on how to attend the Business Meeting will be shared later.

If you have questions about GA, MidAmerica, or the LDC, contact Susan Salterberg at [susansalterberg@gmail.com](mailto:susansalterberg@gmail.com). Thanks for your consideration!

# UUS Team and Committee Reports

## Social Justice Team

The Social Justice Team (SJT), which meets on the second Tuesday of the month via zoom, invites you to join like-minded people to join the work for peace and justice. An example of this work is a project to address food insecurity of elementary age children. Diana Henry proposed this project to the SJT, which has been endorsed by the UUS Board. The project is a food drive to supply items that children could use to make their own breakfast and lunch on weekends. Further information about which items to donate will be available in the Wednesday UUS Updates.

### Day of Service

The Social Justice Team is planning a Day of Service this summer. In years past, UUS members would fan out into the community to work with a variety of non-profits, who greatly appreciated the help. This year, one of the recipients on the Day of Service will be the UUS grounds! Other possible sites include ReStore, CommUnity, and the Center for Worker Justice.

### CommUnity Baby Shower Diaper Drive

Help our CommUnity! April showers bring May flowers, and this April we're supporting CommUnity Crisis Center and Food Bank with their annual Baby Shower Drive. Buy diapers, wipes, formula, and baby food for our month-long CommUnity Baby Shower!

For low income folks, diapers and wipes are an expense that don't fit easily into a limited budget. CommUnity receives requests for diapers from 200 families each week! Please bring some diapers and wipes to UUS during the month. There will be a bin in the foyer.

Contact Sally Hartman ([sallyahartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyahartman@hotmail.com)) for additional information about the Social Justice Team and how to get involved in the work our Principles, mission, and vision ask of us. There is no social justice fairy.

## IUUWAN

The UU Society is connected to a state-wide network of UU congregations collaborating on social justice issues. IUUWAN, the Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network, confronts racism, climate change, and LBGTQ+ issues by linking like-minded people from Iowa UU congregations. For example, the Environmental Justice Team disseminated postcards so that many UUs across the state could write to the Iowa Utilities Board to increase scrutiny of three proposed CO2 pipelines. Jane Shuttleworth will be presenting on evaluating water quality at our next meeting on April 23rd. For additional information about IUUWAN, or to receive the link to the Environmental Justice team meeting, contact Sally ([sallyahartman@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyahartman@hotmail.com)). Find out how other Iowa UUs work for change!

## Land Ministry Team

### UUS Community Gardens Available

Individuals, groups, friends are invited to claim one of the raised bed gardens on the north side of UUS for the 2023 growing season. The beds will be refreshed with compost soon and are good for growing flowers, vegetables, or herbs. You can choose how to use your garden bounty, for home meals, bouquets at home or to give away. Last year's successes included annual flowers for cutting, basil, cherry tomatoes, and squash. Low maintenance vegetables could include kale, beets, or potatoes.

These community gardens are great for attracting pollinators and should be chemical-free. Water is available close by. Last year we started a group watering schedule. Contact Theresa Ullerich for more information or to request a bed: 319-541-6555 or [tullerich@aol.com](mailto:tullerich@aol.com).

## Green Sanctuary Team

### UUS Activists on the March for Climate Justice

For some members of UUS, activism is a four letter word. The word is love, as in kindness and compassion. How are UUS climate justice activists showing that love? They are working to bring about change through education, partnerships, and protests.

UUS climate activists promote education by leading Sunday Services, showing films, urging UUS members to take actions, and writing in the Updates and Newsletters. In the community, UUS activists set up educational booths, give programs, supply books for the schools, and lead campaigns, such as "No Mow May", to protect pollinators.

Partnerships bring energy and possibility in working toward climate justice, just ask anyone who is a member of 100Grannies for a Livable Future! This partnership with UUS Green Sanctuary resulted in strong education programs, Capitol protests, and advocacy. Another UUS partner is Johnson Clean Energy, which brought us low-flow shower heads and LED lights. We have a partnership with Sierra Club, which involves three of our members writing informational letters to landowners who live with the threat of a toxic CO2 pipeline on their land. Finally, our partnership with IUUWAN has resulted in a state-wide network of UUs focusing on what we can do as a denomination to work for climate justice.

Protests can take the form of sending postcards to the Iowa Utilities Board, showing up at the Capitol to protest CAFOs and Pipelines, talking to legislators about strategies for passing environmental bills, and writing letters to newspapers.

Can we assume that more UUS members want to be activists but aren't sure how? One way is to join the Green Sanctuary Team, which meets on the second Thursday of the month at 11 am. One could join a local environmental group such as Sierra Club or the 100Grannies. Really the best way to become an activist is to hang out with other activists and embrace that four letter word mentioned earlier. It feels good to be an activist.



# UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

7 PM on March 15th, 2023

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

**Present:** Rochelle Honey-Arcement (President), Jeff Walberg (Vice President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Christine Etler (Secretary) Jerry Wetlaufer (Financial Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee), Diana Henry (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio) **Absent:** Alan Swanson (past President) **Guest:** Deb Schoelerman

**Consent Agenda:** The Board received the consent agenda. Pavelich moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Henry seconded, motion carried.

## PLANNING AND CONNECTING

**Board Structure:** Potential changes to our board structure were discussed. If we want to propose changes, we will need to have bylaw amendments ready to present to the congregation at the elections meeting in May. We did not come to any conclusions this evening. Etler and Rochelle will meet to discuss the creation of specific bylaw amendment language to be ready prior to the April board meeting.

## CONTINUING BUSINESS:

**Bio Cell Repair** (Guest: Deb Schoelerman): The latest estimate for work on maintaining the Biocell is \$5315. The board suggests that the land ministry bring their proposal to the Endowment committee to request Reese funds. The Endowment committee meets in late April. The board will plan to do an email vote after the Endowment committee makes their recommendation.

**Bristol Fund:** The Board unanimously approved the motion: Accept the proposal from the Endowment committee to adjust the corpus of the Bristol Fund \$3147.00.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Event Form Approval for Food Drive Collaborative Effort:** The Board unanimously approved the motion: *Accept a UUS event application for a food drive for Lucas Elementary students, to be held on Sundays in April.*

**Endowment Committee Candidate to Complete Carmen Grigg's Term (Dan Cummins):** The Board unanimously approved the motion: *Approve Dan Cummins as a candidate for the Endowment committee.*

**Corporate Change of Agent & "UUS" Name:** The Board unanimously approved the motion: *Approve the change from the UUS' current registered agent Thomas H McMurray to the new registered agent Emma Barnum as Congregational Administrator.*

The Board unanimously approved the motion: *Adopt the name: "Unitarian Universalist Society" as an alias under which Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City, Iowa will operate, and document this resolution by filing it with the State.*

**Masks:** Rev. Diana reviewed the masking survey results. UUS will move toward changing our masking guidelines. Masks during service will be strongly recommended but optional. The staff will proceed in developing messaging, signage, details, and date for implementation.

**Preschool Update/New Initiative:** Staff are considering postponing the formation of the preschool.

Due to the current hostile legislative environment in Iowa for LGBTQ youth, we are exploring the idea of providing support to families with children who do not feel safe in schools and are choosing to enroll in public online education. We are considering providing facilities, space and adult supervision for children during the school day.

There has not been extensive consideration of this concept as staff just started brainstorming today. Additional ideas are to provide OWL programming outside public school time (during breaks or after school), obtaining funding to support facilities use through a "Faithify campaign", etc.

Board unanimously approved the motion: *The board supports Rev Diana and her staff doing further planning on this concept.*

## CLOSING:

Honey-Arcement provided process observer comments. Closing words by Walberg. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm. The next board meeting will be at 6:30 pm, April 19th, 2023.

—Minutes submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary

## February Financial Report Highlights

February was a quiet month financially. Our account balance was steady with solid pledge giving and no extraordinary expenses. We remain on track to cover our budgeted expenses and the possible \$100,000 deficit filling they may require. The coming months will see several activities that expand our community, and may raise some funds. Please think of participating. And bring a friend or neighbor? Let us all stay involved.

Emma had to deal with a glitch in the funds transfer system to UU Solar LLC. These problems were resolved and we should get, in early March, our first payment back from UU Solar LLC as we now hold 80% of its ownership.

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

### Operating Income Received last Month:

- o \$41,149.64 in operating budget pledge giving
- o \$209.17 in non-pledge giving
- o \$405 in additional 2022 auction income (\$14,271 total received)

### Justice Income Received (Highlights, see Budget vs. Actuals for full list):

- o \$1,295.02 raised for UAY (Feb. agency)
- o \$25 additional raised for South District Neighborhood Association (Jan. Agency, total 1724.01)
- o \$365 additional raised for Health Kids Clinics (January 5th Sunday agency, total \$1074.40)

### Other Income Received:

- o \$890 in summer camp deposits and fees
- o \$2,600 in fees for OWL Facilitator training

# Welcome Our New UUS Members

Who Joined Us On Sunday, March 12th, 2023



## **Jim Carrel (he/him) and Jan Weaver (she/her)**

Jim grew up in small towns in the Genesee River Valley in upstate New York. He worked for many years as a professor of biology at the University of Missouri. He's an expert on spiders. Jim and Jan were members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, MO. Jim appreciates that UUs value both individuality and community, and that we have a gentle persistence in addressing environmental and social justice issues.

Jan grew up in St. Louis. She has a research background in dinosaurs and arthropods (insects and their relatives) and was on the biology faculty at the University of Missouri. She taught general science and environmental studies there for about 25 years and then went on to lead the Missouri Environmental Education Association and start the Missouri Green Schools initiative. She and Jim moved to Iowa City to be near their daughter and her family.

Jan appreciates the UU openness to questions, acceptance of difference, and commitment to making a good difference in the world. She loves systems thinking and is good at helping organizations get started or think about where they want to go. She volunteers at Grant Wood Elementary School, is a coach for Girls on the Run, and wants to help young children connect science with learning to read. She plans to volunteer with the RE program here at UUS. In her free time, she enjoys reading mysteries, science fiction, and a variety of non-fiction.

## **Leanne Hemingway-Siebels (she/her)**

Leanne grew up on a family farm near Morse, Iowa, northeast of Iowa City. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Florida. She now lives in Iowa City with her husband, Bryan Siebels, and their two daughters, Satoshi and Avery. Leanne began attending UUS with her girls in June of last year.



## **Luke Leonard (he/him)**

Luke and his wife, Sarah, were married in 2007 at the old UUS building at 10 S. Gilbert St. They now have an 8-year-old son, Alexander. Luke was previously active in the White Bear UU Church in Mahtomedi, MN. He was motivated to come to UUS because of our religious education program. He likes that UUS is an inclusive congregation supporting the pursuit of truth and meaning. Luke is hoping to find community connections here and is interested in volunteering with the Land Ministry Team.



**Jennifer Noyce (she/her)**

Jennifer is a Wisconsin native who landed in Iowa by way of California. She works at the University of Iowa undergraduate career center. She lives with her spouse, Wes Beary, and their daughter Zoë Beary. Jennifer grew up Catholic, but came to UUS to find a spiritual home that more aligned with her values. She appreciates the openness, lack of dogma, and minimal hierarchy of Unitarian Universalism. She hopes to find opportunities to reflect on values and make meaning of life's stages and journeys. Jennifer had been part of the UUS Buddhist Sangha for a number of years and is currently in the Wellspring group. She looks forward to further exploration at UUS through music, a covenant group, and living out green values. (Not pictured.)

**Amanda Owings (she/her)**

Amanda Owings is excited to be back in the congregation where she grew up, and where she worked as an RE nursery school teacher for 12 years. She left Iowa to pursue her career as a scientist. In her time away she's been active in three other UU congregations—in Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Urbana, IL. Now she is back in Iowa City, teaching on the biology faculty at the University of Iowa. And she's finally becoming a member of this congregation! (She thinks former minister Rev. Nancy Haley would be very happy she finally joined.) Amanda is looking forward to being a part of this community of like-minded people again, learning, and contributing in any way she can. Amanda loves animals and movies. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to music, scrapbooking, and cross stitching.

**David Quegg (he/him)**

David grew up in Hardin County, Iowa, and came to Iowa City for university studies in 1972. He worked as an overseas educator for 15 years in Samoa and India, and taught at Coralville Central Elementary School between the overseas postings. He is currently studying Spanish and is a member of local chapter #161 of Veterans for Peace. David was active with the UUs in Cedar Falls during the anti-war movement in 1968-1970. He began attending here when another UU invited him. David appreciates the diversity of Unitarian Universalism, our inclusion of Buddhism, and our social activism. He has been involved with the Free Lunch program and is one of the leaders of the UUS Buddhist Sangha. David lives in Iowa City with his wife Buffy.

**Sabri Sky (she or they or zhe)**

Sabri grew up in Iowa City and returned after going to theater school in NYC, witnessing the Towers fall, and living in New Mexico for ten years. She (or zhe) lived with (now deceased) UUS member Joe Brisben doing work-trade for over five years. Encouraged by Joe to participate at UUS, especially with the Social Justice Team, Sabri is honored that Joe called her a spiritual daughter. She is excited to be joining UUS now to make her connection more official and is glad to be part of the Wellspring group this year. Sabri especially resonates with how Unitarian Universalism draws on world philosophies, its humanist and transcendentalist history, and how it accepts any welcoming spirituality. She works in nonprofits and community improvement when possible, including the Center for Worker Justice, and the County Transit Grant team, and she volunteers on the board of Corridor

Community Action Network. Sabri loves languages, thanks to her family, and communicating with people from many places. She appreciates nature and gardening, has worked at the Salvage Barn, and enjoys restoring old houses.

*Interested in becoming more engaged at UUS, or joining officially as a member?*

*Want to learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism in general? Contact Peggy Garrigues, Director of Congregational and Community Engagement, for more information: [dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org).*



**The Unitarian Universalist Society**

2355 Oakdale Road

Coralville, IA 52241

319-337-3443

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



# THE UUS NEWS

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