

# THE UUS NEWS

2023 | March



## From Your Minister

Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

Recently, I got a new tattoo. As I was working with the tattoo artist to get the size and placement just right, I started to think that I was being a bit high maintenance. Really, though, under my judgement of myself I was feeling vulnerable.

Making a choice to get a tattoo can do that. You know you're going to be sitting in a chair for a couple hours, undergoing pain, and that you'll end up with something that will be part of you forever. That will age with you in unknown ways. That will change with you.

It was only in the last few years that I finally had the courage, including the willingness to venture into this space of vulnerability, to start getting the tattoos I'd wanted for a couple decades. My new tattoo is of the universe. It includes images from the [James Webb telescope](#).

My spiritual director asked me what having the universe on my arm means to me. For me, it's a reminder of the mystery and wonder and joy that is all around us and within us at every moment. It's a reminder of the constant presence of change, and the way that vulnerability, courage, and strength are intricately interrelated as part of change, wonder, mystery, and joy.

As we explore the theme of vulnerability together this month, there are many moments that come to me—even

from just the past few months. Realizing I would need to go on medical leave due to my long COVID. Talking with UUS's Board of Trustees, who were immediately supportive. The long healing process and the spiritual journey it took me on. Moving back into active ministry and sharing my journey with you. So many, many conversations. The beauty and depth of so many of you sharing the losses, the scary points, and the blessings of your lives with me. And, of course, getting a tattoo of the universe on my arm.

And as I think about these, I also notice that different types of relationships, environments, and practices help us experience the gifts of these moments. Vulnerability can transform us when it is held in a container of love and care.

As we explore vulnerability this month, what are the moments that come to your mind and heart? Where has experiencing vulnerability and being able to move into it and with it carried you? What other things are necessary to help you experience the gifts of vulnerability?

As we learn and share in the coming weeks, may we create loving spaces to hold our own and each other's vulnerability. As we do so, may we find new pathways on our individual and collective spiritual journeys.

Love and Blessings, Rev. Diana

## Upcoming Services

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

**March 5th:**

### ***Holy Everything***

What would it mean to call this cracked and fragile world divine? And not to be stingy about it; I mean really call all of it divine? This air, this rock, this worm, this teacup, this road, this virus, you. What would it mean for our feeble place among the holy everything? And what would it call us to do?

**March 12th:**

### ***What We Do and What We Believe***

This Sunday, as we welcome new members, we'll explore how what we're doing expresses our values, principles, and beliefs as individuals and as a congregation. And we'll be continuing to explore the proposed new UU Purposes, Values and Covenant, Inspirations, Inclusion, and Freedom of Belief statements. (P.S.: Don't forget to change your clocks!)

**March 19th:**

### ***The Vulnerability of Change***

Change can be hard, but what happens when we lean into trying something new? Join us for this fun-filled and inspirational all ages service where things will happen in a different order and we'll experience our new sanctuary set-up. Together we'll notice the fun parts and the hard parts of this as we practice holding space for our own and each others feelings.

**March 26th:**

### ***Dismantling Carceral Logics***

One in every ten black men in their 30s are in jail or prison on any given day in the United States. UUS members Phil Beck and Ron Pile will discuss plans for a revitalized prison ministry. They will also talk about compassionate-based activism.

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

## Past Sunday Attendance

**January 29th: *Being Enough***

64 in-person, 114 YouTube views

**February 5th: *Justice and Fairness***

93 in-person, 74 YouTube views

**February 12th: *Practicing Love***

80 in-person, 147 YouTube views

**February 19th: *Creating a Living Tradition***

80 in-person, 79 YouTube views

## Sunday Offerings in March Benefit the Free Medical Clinic

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

All cash donations collected 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 "FMC" 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.

## Donating a Centerpiece for Sunday Services

Members and friends of UUS are invited to contribute flowers or other arrangements to beautify the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Donated arrangements can mark special occasions, special events (such as birthdays, anniversaries), or honor the memory of loved ones. Flowers and materials can be from your garden, foraged or purchased. You are welcome to contact us with your ideas.

There will be a sign-up calendar and guidelines for flower donations in the Fellowship Hall Sundays during social hour or you may contact Julia Audlehelm or Theresa Ullerich:

- Julia: 319-530-4471 or [juliasdrawings11@gmail.com](mailto:juliasdrawings11@gmail.com)
- Theresa: 319-541-6555 or [tullerich@aol.com](mailto:tullerich@aol.com)

We encourage you to submit a sentence or two for the Sunday order of service with your name and mention of the occasion or person your remembrance honors.

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

## From Your Music Director Alex Heetland

### UUS Singers Rehearse on Sundays in March

After our little experiment rehearsing on Sundays in February, the UUS Singers have decided to continue rehearsing on Sundays after the service from 11:30 to 12:30 in March. Join us to sing some exciting tunes such as a "Jazz Cantate" and an original song with guests from the Oakdale Prison Choir! If you are thinking whether joining in to sing is for you, come and see how you like it! Email me at [music@uusic.org](mailto:music@uusic.org) if you have any questions.



# From Your Board President

Rochelle Honey-Arcement

Welcome to March! This is, for many people, a difficult time of year. Having worked in the mental health crisis workforce, this was the time of year that we knew started off our busy season. For many, Spring is a time to rejoice, a time of rebirth, growth, renewal. It is a time when the world around us begins to come alive. We start to see the Spring Daffodils and Crocuses. Buds appear on the trees. The temperatures become more comfortable and we start to shed our layers.

Most of us feel more energized and happy to see the sun for more hours of the day. Yet, many people suffer. Many people do not experience the joys that we expect to feel in Spring. This can lead to hopelessness and depression. The accumulated lack of sunlight from Winter has a dampening effect for many people that continues into early Spring.

Many people believe that the worst time of year is around the holidays, but, in reality, Spring can be a devastating time for more than you would think. People who suffer at this time of year tend to think, "I should be feeling happier, but I'm not. What is wrong with me? Will I ever feel happy again?" So the feelings of depression are compounded with shame about feeling that way. If you are feeling this way, you are not alone. It is more common than you would think.

Why am I writing about this here in the newsletter? What does this have to do with congregational business? First, the theme of March is Vulnerability, so talking about mental illness seems to be a good topic when focusing on vulnerability. Secondly, to me, mental illness has everything to do with congregational business. We are a community of people, here to support one another. We are here to welcome all to our community. Not just those who are joyful and energized, but those who are suffering as well. Check on your friends and your loved ones. Are they experiencing the renewal of Spring or are they experiencing depression? Let people know that there are resources in our community to help those who are suffering. Let them know that they are inherently worthy, not because of what they do or what they bring to our community, but because of who they are, no strings attached.

This is part of living into our values. Living our principles. As we say, "Love is our Doctrine, Service is our Prayer". How we show that love, how we serve our community matters. Talking about mental illness matters. Accepting those with mental illness matters. This congregation, as with society in general, has been evolving positively in its acceptance and treatment of those with mental illness. I gently remind each of us to continue to do the work of self evaluation in how we treat ourselves and each other. How do we talk about mental illness in ourselves or in others and how do we feel towards those who struggle? Do we shy away from the intensity, or do we lean into the struggle and become a stronger community?

Being part of a community that has a "Living Tradition" means that we are continually evaluating who we are, what we believe, and how we want to be in the world. Your Board and the Leadership Development Committee,

along with Rev. Diana and Sharon Dittmar with the UUA, have been looking at how we govern ourselves, how we structure ourselves, and how we operate. We want to see what is working and where we need to make alterations that will let us better function and better live into our values.

We plan to have our Board Retreat soon where we will be looking at our Shared Ministry Structure and Operations to assess how we are doing. We stand on the shoulders of giants who came before us. Those in leadership before who put in hours and hours of work to help us put Shared Ministry in place. We are grateful for all of their work, energy and dedication. We have now had a few years using this model of governance and it is the perfect time to determine what adjustments will help the system work even better moving forward.

The plan is to have Sharon Dittmar join the board to help us assess where we are and what we need. Sharon will also hold a virtual meeting, open to the congregation for members to comment and ask questions regarding shared ministry. Members of the Board will attend that meeting as well and we will take that information into our Board Retreat the next day to help inform our conversation. If, when the date is set, you are not able to attend that meeting, and have comments you would like the Board to include in our discussion and evaluation, please send those comments to me at [president@uusoc.org](mailto:president@uusoc.org) and I will make sure the Board gets those comments. We hope to have plenty of people willing to comment and let us know what they see is working and what kinds of changes they feel would be helpful for the health and wellbeing of our community.

Some additional things your Board is working on at this time are reading the UUA Common Read, "Mistakes and Miracles" by Karin Lin and Nancy Palmer Jones, a book outlining how six UU congregations worked to become more multicultural, their mistakes and learnings from that process, and ideas on how to lean in and live into our value of being anti racist, anti marginalization. Members of the Board are already starting to work on next year's budget in order to address the shortfall that we predict we will have and how we will make adjustments to deal with that. Our new Vice President, Jeff Walberg is spearheading that work.

We also have people and groups working on policies and procedures for our new Summer Camps and Nature Preschool that we are planning to start. There are so many exciting things happening and ways that people are working to better our community and our world. I thank each and every one of you for all the work you do to make our world a better place to live.

Please know that your voice is important, that we want to hear from you. You matter, your opinions matter. Our community is stronger when all voices are heard and when we support one another through rough times and smooth. Thank you, for the privilege of being part of this beloved community.

With gratitude, Rochelle Honey-Arcement

# From Your Director of Congregational and Community Engagement

Peggy Garrigues

## WonderfUUL Wednesdays in March

Join us on 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!

### March 1st

**Dinner entrée:** Vegan and gluten free black bean and sweet potato stew, made by Sally Hartman, along with a salad, and whatever potluck side dishes or desserts are brought by participants.

**Program**—Choose between:

- **Maternal Health for Black Women:** LaTasha DeLoach is a longtime activist and president of the board for Sankofa Outreach Connection, an organization to support and connect women of color. She is a co-founder of the Black Women's Maternal Health Collective and will present on the health disparities impacting Black women, especially pronounced in Iowa.
- **Let's explore poetry!** With Winnie Ganshaw: What is your favorite poem? Poetry has the power to capture and communicate a message like no other form of art. Let's get together to share why we love certain poems. This is not a teaching workshop, rather an opportunity to explore how a powerful combination of words can help us better express ourselves and make sense of the world. Bring a favorite poem to read!
- **Open Maker Space** for any and all ages

### March 15th

**Dinner entrée:** Vegan and gluten free Mexican lasagna prepared by Pete Brokaw, and also leftover vegan and gluten free chili (with optional dairy cheese topping), along with whatever potluck side dishes or desserts are brought by participants.

**Program**—Choose between:

- **Changes in Education and Current Events:** This panel discussion (panel in process of being arranged) will talk about recent legislative changes in Iowa related to education, that have an impact on social justice, racial justice, and access to information issues.
- **Growing Tomatoes in a Changing Climate:** The normal growth of ordinary tomatoes can be modified to accommodate longer periods of dryness and longer away vacations. Dave Tokuhisa will present his adaptations of tomato gardening and you can use them this spring.
- **Open Maker Space** for any and all ages

## WonderfUUL Wednesday Community Meal Details

In the spirit of radical hospitality you may:

- Enjoy a provided vegan friendly / gluten free entree with a delicious green salad.
- 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. Chips or carrot sticks or fruit are fine!
- Bring and enjoy the food that works best for you. 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!](#) Contact Sarah Ross with any questions about the meals: [swalshross@gmail.com](mailto:swalshross@gmail.com).

## From Your Music Outreach Coordinator & Staff Pianist

Hsin-Hui Liu

### Upcoming Concerts in March

#### March 4th: "Global Harmonies: A Journey through Classical and Cultural Melodies"

Join us on Saturday, March 4th, at 2 pm for a concert featuring our very own Staff Pianist Hsin-Hui Liu, on piano with guest trombonist Zongxi Li. Experience a musical journey around the world with our eclectic concert program featuring classical masterpieces and enchanting melodies from Japan and Sweden. Outside of her role at UUS, Hsin-Hui is a Grinnell College Piano Instructor and Ulowa Collaborative Pianist. Zongxi Li is second trombone for the Ann Arbor Symphony and Flint Symphony.

#### March 18th: "Musical Fusion: Broadway, Pop, and Jazz"

Join us on Saturday, March 18th, at 2 pm for a concert program that blends the songs of musicals, pop tunes, and the smooth sounds of jazz. Majesty Constable, mezzo soprano and Ulowa Music Education and Vocal Performance major/Dance Marathon Director will perform alongside our own Staff Pianist Hsin-Hui Liu.

These concerts are part of the UUS Music Outreach Program series, and are 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@uus.org](mailto:music.outreach@uus.org).

# From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education

## Nic Kaplan

In March, we move on to the theme of **Vulnerability**. RE classes and gatherings will focus on this theme through crafts, books, and discussions.

### Help with Sunday Service Chalice Lighting

We're continuing to look for individuals and families who can help us with the ritual of lighting our chalice during service each week. You can [sign up here](#). 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. Who will practice **vulnerability** and come forward this month to light the chalice?

### Calling All Artists!

I am looking for artists to design "badges" for our UUS Nature Camps. I am looking for a separate design for each week of nature camp that will be turned into stickers and given to campers for each week of camp they complete. Design winners will receive a \$10 IC Downtown District gift card for each winning design.

Artists can choose to submit one design for one week of camp or may submit multiple designs for each week.

Design guidelines:

- Designs must be able to be resized to fit a 3 inch circle
- Must contain the words "UUS Nature Camp"
- Can be created digitally or on paper, but submissions must be the finished product
- Should be themed based on the topic of camp that week
- Should be [uploaded to this form](#) in the largest, most complete file size possible
- Must be submitted by March 28th

Information about camp that you may find helpful in creating your design:

**Plants week** will include learning about native species, planting trees and shrubs, understanding urban heat island effect and canopy infill, and even identifying types of plants. We will also spend some time learning about fungi.

**Animals week** will include visits from ISU insect zoo, Raptology, and reptiles from Johnson County conservation. We will again focus on native inhabitants and finding signs of them on our property.

**Elements week** we will explore fire, water, wind, and earth. We'll learn about groundwater and how soil is made, fire safety and the ancient art of fire, wind energy and wind as a pollinator, and we'll have a visitor come to share some creatures who are close to the earth. Another visitor will help us explore the elements through movement.

[Designs must be submitted by March 28th](#). The RE Team and youth group will judge the submissions and pick the winning designs. Winners will be announced April 2nd.

## Exciting Opportunities Coming Soon!

### Our Whole Lives Facilitator Training

On March 24th through the 26th, UUS is hosting both elementary and adult levels of OWL facilitator training. [More information about registration can be found here](#). A limited number of spots remain.

### Summer Camps

UUS is excited to offer FOUR summer camps in 2023 for children entering Kindergarten through 8th grade and K-12th:

- June 12th-16th Nature Camp (Plants)
- June 19th-23rd Nature Camp (Animals)
- June 26th-30th Nature Camp (Elements)
- July 10th-22nd Musical Theatre Camp

[Details and registration information for all of our camps can be found here](#). We already have 25 children signed up. Our musical theater camp is for grades K-12 and nature camp is for K-8. High school youth can apply for a limited number of paid and volunteer positions for our nature camps. [Applications and job descriptions for high school camp counselors and a couple of adult positions can be found here](#).

### Earth Festival

Our first annual Earth Festival will be May 6th from 10 am to 3 pm and we hope you will join us. To help cover the costs of educators, activities, and crafts, we will be raffling off Earth-themed baskets to the attendees. Please consider working together with a team, committee, small group, or family to put together a basket. [Basket suggestions and sign ups can be found here](#).

## Religious Education March Calendar

- **March 5th:** RE classes during service; youth group from 11:30-1 with lunch
- **March 12th:** RE classes during service; no youth group due to spring break.
- **March 19th:** All Ages Service followed by all ages activities
- **March 26th:** RE classes during service; youth group from 11:30-1 with lunch

### Volunteer with RE

We have lots of exciting events planned for 2023: from an Earth Festival to summer camps to all ages faith development and more.

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!



## Leadership Development Committee

### *Building Our Leadership Muscles*

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

*Enable others to act*



**Virginia Melroy** calls herself a “reluctant leader” but has nonetheless taken on many leading roles at UUS since joining in 1990. She’s a longtime member of the choir, served on the Board and a ministerial search committee, and is part of Land Ministry, to name just a few. What she values most is belonging to a community, being an integral part of what’s happening at UUS and—by helping advance its mission—making a contribution to the welfare of the Society. She calls the interaction within a group “a magical process”—through it “things unfold.” Accordingly, she considers her chief leadership qualities to be aiding and inspiring others within a dynamic group setting, “enabling them to act.”

Her current project, spearheading the creation of a new UUS library, is proving to be most rewarding. Not surprising, since Virginia spent her career as a UI law librarian! An avid gardener, she is also extremely fulfilled by her work on Land Ministry, which oversees the grounds. She helped plan such installations as the Labyrinth, the designated CUUPS area, and the Memorial Garden. And many years ago, Virginia and former member Karen McClelland initiated the process that led to the creation of UUS’s Leadership Development Committee.

Virginia exemplifies leading through her inspiring example and many collaborative efforts.

*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

### **Maternal Health For Black Women Presentation, March 1st**

Join us on Wednesday, March 1st, at 7 pm in the UUS conference room for a special presentation led by LaTasha DeLoach. LaTasha is a longtime activist and president of the board for Sankofa Outreach Connection, an organization to support and connect women of color. She is a co-founder of the Black Women’s Maternal Health Collective and will present on the health disparities impacting Black women, especially pronounced in Iowa.

This program will follow the WonderfUUL Wednesday dinner at 6 pm, so you are welcome to come for dinner ahead of time. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, or your own dinner, or make a donation to offset the cost of the entree, or just come and eat! This presentation is sponsored by the Racial Justice Team.

### **The Shared Pulpit Class, Starts March 16th**

Hearing Sunday reflections from many different voices and perspectives is an important part of how we support our collective search for truth and meaning and develop our congregational life. If you’ve wondered about sharing your reflections and how to craft them into a meaningful message or sermon, this class, led by Rev. Diana Smith, is for you! It’s also a great opportunity to learn more about writing as a spiritual practice.

To register, sign up at <https://bit.ly/2023SharedPulpit> or email [minister@uusic.org](mailto:minister@uusic.org) by the end of the day March 12th. All sessions except the last one will be held via Zoom. Participants should be able to commit to attending all or almost all sessions. Our schedule will be: Thursdays, March 16th and 30th and April 6th and 20th from 6:30 to 9 pm on Zoom and Thursday, May 4th, from 6:30 to 9 at UUS.

### **Veg CommUUnity Plantluck, March 18th**

The Veg CommUUnity will celebrate the St. Patrick’s holiday with a Plantluck on Saturday, March 18th, at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a favorite plant-based\* dish to share that serves approximately 8 people, along with the recipe or list of ingredients and your own table service. All UUS members and friends are welcome to join in for fellowship, fun, and delicious food. Please RSVP to Carol if you plan to attend: [carolthrockmorton108@msn.com](mailto:carolthrockmorton108@msn.com) or (319) 337-3030.

\*Plant-based” means vegetables, fruits, legumes, grains, nuts and 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.

### **Secular Humanists, March 21st**

The UU Secular Humanists will have their regular 3rd Tuesday meeting at 7 pm on March 21st, in Room D of the Iowa City Public Library and also online ([Join Zoom Meeting](#), Meeting ID: 872 4240 8646, Passcode: 725581). The program is still under construction, so please watch the Wednesday emails for further information. All are welcome at our meetings.

# UUS Team and Committee Reports

## Covenant Groups

In February, the month of Valentine's Day, we celebrated love in some of its simplest, sweetest forms—cards, candy, corny songs. It's commercialized, yes, but for all that it's never far from the truth—love, actually, is the foundation of our existence. You will find it everywhere you look, even where you think it's not. It's part of every relationship you have, even those in which it seems never to have existed, or exists no longer. Smile at a stranger, exchange a polite word or a laugh on the street, and you've committed an act of love. Every principle that connects you to others, that makes communities form and adhere, that binds parts into a whole, is the action of love. Love doesn't just make the world go round, it's the force that created it and holds it together. Even in the midst of cruelty and hate, love is present, the essence of pain, courage, resilience, and the continuation of life. February's discussion topic says "Welcome to the Path of Love." But haven't you always been on it? Think of how many forms it's taken in your life, how often you've received it, how many ways you've expressed it and shared it with others.

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

On the day after the magnificent snowfall and with cleared roads, the FLP bunch punched the hunger of 86 guests who welcomed the made-fresh fruit and vegetable salads, a black-bean-and-rice-casserole as the main dish and more than enough desserts. Of course, there was music from Donna Simonton and levity shared by all our guests and volunteers. There were leftovers of the main course which will be frozen and used again. We met Ron Wright who brought lettuce and stayed to help till the end. Others brought in food supplies and were: Ron, Pete Brokaw, Carolyn Johnson, Russ Lenth, Nancy Lynch, Mary Dix, and Gay Mikelson. The desserts were plentiful thanks to Sharon Booker, Gay Mikelson, Carol Throckmorton, Sherry Dolash, and Barb Haring. Janet McKee and Terri O'Berry provided fruit juices. Other volunteers were: Bob Littlehale and Frank Wildensee (whose recipe our chefs used!), Gary Lawrensen, Barb Stannard, Theresa Ullrich, and Carol Lyons.

Our next gig is on March 10th. Please help by volunteering with donations of food, a buck or two, and time. We thank you all for your support!

## Green Sanctuary Team

Iowa City ranks as one of the 95 cities worldwide with an A rating for climate action. Meet some of the leaders who helped us achieve the only city in Iowa which is a leader in environmental action and transparency. What priorities do you care about and what can you do to support these efforts? The Green Sanctuary Team encourages UUs to attend the Barbara Schlachter Memorial Lecture Series on Mondays in March. This series is a partnership between 100 Grannies for a Livable Future and the Senior Center. The lectures will be held over Zoom from 2-3:30 pm. [Register online](#) or go to [the Senior Center](#) in person to register (This series is free and open to the public).

- **March 6th:** Jerald Schnoor is a Professor in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Jerry will be discussing the provisions available in the Inflation Reduction Act 2022 as well as Climate Resilience where we are going, what we should expect, and what we can do about it.
- **March 13th:** Jane Wilch, the City of Iowa City's Recycling Coordinator, will provide a recycling and composting update, common contamination issues (wishful recycling) and programming to come.
- **March 20th** Sarah Gardner, Climate Action Engagement Specialist, will speak the new guidance for local rebates and how to prioritize what to do now vs. later to improve energy efficiency in your home based on what's coming with IRA incentives such as insulation now, buying a heat pump when your AC goes out.
- **March 27th:** Stratis Giannakouros and his team the UofI Office of Sustainability and the Environment are partners with faculty, students, and staff through many disciplines throughout the college and across campus. He will share their mission to educate, challenge, and inspire the greater U of I community to realize solutions exist to end climate change by what can be done on a local level. **(2-2:50 pm)**

Jessica Wiskus lives in rural Lisbon, where she's worked with her neighbors to oppose the CO2 pipeline since it was proposed in the fall of 2021. In the struggle to stand firm and strong, neighbors against the proposed CO2 pipelines have been reaching across the state in a demonstration of extraordinary trust and support. But after over a year-and-a-half of working together, where do things stand now? What do the landowners say that they need right now and what can we do to be most effective in our efforts? **(3-3:30 pm)**

## Night of 1000 Dinners, March 8th

UUS is one of two dozen community groups sponsoring a community celebration of International Women's Day with the "Night of 1000 Dinners," Wednesday, March 8th, at 6 pm at the Mercer Park Aquatic Center and Gynasium, 2701 Bradord Drive, Iowa City. The event will feature an international buffet followed by recognition of three groups working locally to advance UN Sustainable Development Goal #15, Life on Land: Grow Johnson County, Field to Farm, and the Great Plains Action Society. Dinner at 6 with the program both in person and live-streamed starting at 7. Tickets are \$25 (\$10 for students and those on limited income) and may be purchased online at <https://N1KD23.eventbrite.com>. Proceeds will benefit the honored groups plus the UN World Food Program. Organized by the Johnson County chapter of the United Nations Association. Questions? Contact Jim Olson at [jimolson921@gmail.com](mailto:jimolson921@gmail.com).

# UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

February 15th, 2023

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

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

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

**Consent Agenda:** The Board received the consent agenda which included the January Executive Committee Minutes; Treasurer's Report; Congregational Administrator's Financials and Narrative Summary; Finance, Governance, and Personnel Committee Reports; and the Minister's Report. The January Board Meeting Minutes were delivered late. *Swanson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Audlehelm seconded, motion carried.*

## BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

**Governance:** Swanson reported that the committee has welcomed Jeff Walberg. The committee discussed creation of policy for the preschool. They are also working on policies and procedures for the Memorial Garden. Following Alan's update, some discussion on the details of policies related to the preschool were discussed among board members.

**Personnel:** Walberg reported that the committee is working on policies related to staff professional development, vacation for part-time staff, & policies for preschool staff. Changes in committee membership were discussed. Defining the scope of the roles of the co-chairs will be a primary goal in upcoming meetings.

*Motion: Walberg moved to appoint Sharon Booker as a member of the committee. Henry seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

**Finance:** Wetlaufer noted that current 2023 pledges total \$401,000 from 184 pledges (pledge units have typically been around 200 in recent years). That total also includes the \$14,000 in matching donations. The Endowment Committee will be considering increasing socially responsible investments from 88% to 100%.

**Right Relations:** Audlehelm & Etler reported that the committee discussed advertising the committee to members as a resource, training committee members, and recruitment of new committee members. Three members are planning to attend a synchronous, online UUA course on the work of right relations teams. *Etler requested that we move the start of the March board meeting to 6:30 pm to accomodate the course. Members agreed.*

**Mission & Vision Review:** Henry & Seaba noted that Ernie Cox and John Raley have been recruited to join the committee. *Motion: Seaba moved to appoint Cox and Raley to the committee; Walberg seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment.*

The committee is looking at metrics for assessing senior member involvement, youth RE, shared ministry. Nic will attend the next Oaknoll UUS meeting.

Regarding the annual UUA certification documents and using them as a resource for the committee's work: since we do not have copies, Hazel has requested we get copies from the UUA of the last 5 years' submission.

## BOARD READ:

**Mistakes and Miracles:** The board discussed the preface and Chapter 1.

## PLANNING AND CONNECTING

**Medical Leave Debrief:** The board had a discussion reflecting on our experience during Rev. Diana's medical leave.

## CONTINUING BUSINESS:

**Board Retreat :** Sharon Dittmar is not able to travel due to an unexpected injury. And she will not be attending our retreat (3/10 and 3/11). We hope that she can join us online for our shared governance refresher.

We are hoping to discuss board structure at the retreat. The leadership development committee is enthusiastic about us addressing possible changes.

**Budget Process:** We will plan to start the 2024 budget planning process earlier in the calendar year. Additionally, the board may consider making adjustments to the current year's budget in the coming months. We will plan additionally discussion in March.

**Bristol Fund agenda item:** deferred to future meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Bio Cell Repair:** There is a request for funds for repair of one of the bio-cells. It will need to be routed to the Finance Committee.

**R-1 Visa agenda item:** moved to Closed Executive Session

## CLOSING:

There were no guest comments. A closed Executive Session was held. Audlehelm provided process observer comments. Closing words by Honey-Arcement. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm. The next board meeting will be at 6:30 pm, March 15th, 2023.

—Minutes submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary



## January Financial Report Highlights

As usual, January was a good month financially. Our bank accounts are solidly above our \$200,000 Emergency Floor (as of January 31st the total balance sits at \$343,620), our total Endowment stocks ticked up in value and more folks have pledged their support for 2023. Our total pledge amounts are now just shy of the \$410,000 we budgeted for the year. We urge those who have yet to make their 2023 Pledge to do so soon. Even if your pledge must be much lower than previously, do make a pledge. Stay a part of the UUS support team.

Recall that our 2023 Budget does project a deficit of up to \$100,000. As discussed in our Congregational Meeting, we have coverage for this in the extra funds in the bank and an extra draw from General Endowment earnings. However, next year, 2024, we are committed to a non-deficit, balanced Operating Budget. Teams and staff will be working hard this year on activities that build up our income as they also address our ministerial goals. Let us all be a part of this push. Let us stay involved; volunteering, attending events, lending our ideas and energy to the community.

### Operating Income Received last Month:

- o \$45,112.79 in operating budget pledge giving
- o \$314.17 in non-pledge giving
- o \$985 in rental income
- o \$3,610 in additional auction income (\$13,866 total received, around \$19,000 expected)

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

- o \$30 additional raised for Free Dental Clinic (2022 Dec. Agency)
- o \$1,699.01 raised for South District Neighborhood Association (Jan. Agency)
- o \$709.40 raised for Health Kids Clinics (January 5th Sunday agency)

### Other Income Received:

- o \$960 in summer camp deposits and fees
- o \$1,200 in fees for OWL Facilitator training

Pledge income for the month exceeded budgeted expectations by nearly \$11,000- mostly due to 2022 catch up payments and prepaying 2023 annual pledges. Money is starting to come in for the summer camp program.

There are no unexpected or alarming expenses this month. Several budget lines, including office software, utilities, and facilities maintenance and repair, are overbudget for the month due to annual payments being made up front.

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

## Save the Date: MidAmerica Region Annual Business Meeting, June 8th

Because of staffing changes this year, the MidAmerica Region will not be holding Regional Assembly, but will still be holding the Annual Business Meeting online. The virtual meeting will be on Thursday, June 8th, 2023, at 6:30 pm CT and should last about 90 minutes. Look for more information on how to join later this year. (Planning has also begun on Regional Assembly in 2024, alongside all the other Regions in the UUA. Stay tuned for more information on that!)

## Join Us in Celebrating Our March Birthdays



Dick Anderson	Spencer Johnson	Jenny Reynolds
Philip Beck	Kathleen Kingman	Linda Rice
Wendy Brown	Jodi Linley	Susan Salterberg
Reed Cheyney	Jan Locher	Etta Schons
Lois Cole	Katharine Marshall	Jane Slaymaker
Laurie Cummins	Rory Marshall	Barbara Staib
Kay Eginton	Diane Martin	Sullivan Turner
Geri Ferch-Gharib	Kathy McDonald	Mary Vasey
Betsy Fischer	Shelby Myers	Nickolas
Rochelle Honey-Arcement	Alison Oliver	Westergaard
Caleb Hoth	Katherine Otto	Jerry Wetlaufer
	Simmering	

## UUS Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Diana Smith ([minister@uusic.org](mailto:minister@uusic.org))

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**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:**

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**Director of Congregational Music:**

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**Staff Pianist & Music Outreach Coordinator:**

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**Facilities Coordinator:** Jeremy Garvin (contact the office)

**Community Minister:**

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

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