



## From Your Minister

Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

What has delighted you recently?

As my mind strayed over this question, I remembered my friend's videos of the kitten her family recently adopted. The puppy my sister's family recently brought home, with her giant paws, eyes that beckon, and sweet sleepiness. The irises outside my windows. Our recent bridging and school transitions ceremony at UUS.

And I noticed something: So many of the moments of delight that spring to my mind and heart are about new or ephemeral things.

There is a piece of this that is inevitable—delight is something we experience in a moment and our minds like novelty. And yet, what is it about the constants of life that make it harder for us to sink into delighting in them? What is it about how our brains and bodies have evolved, and how our minds have been trained, that coaxes us into not noticing the magic, the mystery, the joy, the delight of what we experience every day? That makes it so that we need to make an effort—even an effort as subtle as settling into a spiritual practice or as gentle yet complex as realigning our minds—to notice the everyday wonder that is all around us?

Even as I write this, noticing how cognitive and evolutionary psychology and neuroscience play into this phenomenon, I also notice the wonder of this. That while yes, we can't

spend our entire lives in delight (it wouldn't be wise to foreclose the whole range of human emotion) and there are good reasons that we adjust to our environments so that we're not always washed away in a swirl of amazement, we still have the capacity to readjust and tune in.

In this time when we're coming back together again in old and new ways, when we're noticing that our skills for caring for each other, expressing gratitude, engaging with conflict, and meeting new people are a bit rusty, we can reattune our minds and spirits to the delight of learning and practicing ways of being together. And, while not using delight and wonder to escape the hard stuff, we can help ourselves and each other drop back into noticing the wonder of the old and the new. (My dog is trying to help me by showing what a great belly he has and how delightful it is when I scratch it, especially while he is rolling in fresh grass.)

As the calendar turns to June and our theme turns to Delight, may each of us embrace this opportunity to explore how delight moves in and shapes our lives.

Love and Blessings,  
Rev. Diana

P.S.: I will be away at Ministry Days and General Assembly June 19th to 25th, and then on vacation June 26th to July 6th. I will be away on study leave July 25th to August 7th.

## Upcoming Services

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

### June 4th: *Our Expanded Community*

Join us as we celebrate our interdependence with our blessing of the animals! Favorite stuffies, small animals in cages/containers, as well as service animals, are invited into the sanctuary for the service. We will also be honoring our animal companions who have died, so please bring a picture. Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

After a short service, Rev. Diana Smith will head outside to bless animal companions of all kinds - particularly larger hairy or hooved ones who couldn't come inside. For those who would like to stay with their animal companions throughout the worship service, we will have seating and a monitor for watching the worship service on the patio.

### June 11th: *PRIDE!*

Join us for our annual LGBTQIA+ Pride worship service! We'll hear from members and friends of many ages, and Rev. Diana Smith and others will offer a glitter blessing to all who would like to receive one. After the worship service, we'll say goodbye to our Director of Congregational and Community Engagement, Peggy Garrigues, and have materials and space for making signs and things for the Iowa City Pride parade on Saturday, June 17th.

### June 18th: *Summer of the Arts*

Join us for a special service celebrating the Summer of the Arts! We'll hear about the importance of the arts in our lives and make art together. Led by Worship Associate Quanda Hood.

### June 25th: *General Assembly*

Join us for a General Assembly worship service from GA in Pittsburgh. Stay tuned for time and other details. After the service some of UUS's delegates will discuss their experiences of GA, especially the Article II amendment discussions.

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

## Past Sunday Attendance

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

100 in-person, 91 YouTube views

**May 7th: *Music Sunday:***

***The Sacred Art of Gathering***

114 in-person, 103 YouTube views

**May 14th: *Growing Our Garden***

79 in-person, 84 YouTube views

**May 21st: *The Creativity of Change***

107 in-person, 100 YouTube views

## Be Part of LGBTQ+ Pride with UUS!

- **Help staff our UUS booth at North Liberty Pride on June 3rd, 11 am to 3 pm!** Contact Anne Schons at [aeschons@gmail.com](mailto:aeschons@gmail.com) to sign up. Rev. Diana is also helping organize an interfaith blessing booth. [Sign up to help with that here.](#)
- **Attend our UUS Pride worship service on June 11th at 10 am!** Afterwards we'll be making signs and items to hand out during the Pride parade on June 17th.
- **March with us in the Iowa City Pride parade on June 17th!** We will begin gathering on the western side of College Green Park at 11 am. The parade begins at noon.
- **Help staff our UUS booth or Iowa City Pride on June 17th, 11 am to 6 pm!** Contact Anne Schons at [aeschons@gmail.com](mailto:aeschons@gmail.com) to sign up. Rev. Diana is also helping organize an interfaith blessing booth. [Sign up to help with that here.](#)

## Goodbye Celebration for Peggy Garrigues, June 11th

We will be having a goodbye celebration for Peggy Garrigues, our Director of Congregational and Community Engagement, after the worship service on Sunday, June 11th. That will be her last day at UUS. Please plan to join us!

Peggy will be beginning as Solon United Methodist Church's new minister in July. Peggy's wife, Sarah Ross, plans to remain an active member of UUS.

## June 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. Find more information at [www.emmagoldman.com](http://www.emmagoldman.com).

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 "Emma Goldman" 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.



# From Your Board President

Rochelle Honey-Arcement

June, the beginning of Summer, more hours of sunlight, hotter temperatures. For many, the ending of school years, vacations, time spent with family and in nature. It also represents the ending of our church calendar and regular services. Soon, we will be moving into lay led services exploring the word Delight! What an exciting word to explore for the Summer. I hope you join us for as many of those Sundays as you are able, to see what members of our community think of and create from the word Delight.

Last month, we held our Congregational Meeting, and I want to thank all those who helped to make that happen. We would not have been able to hold the meeting without the help of the AV Team, the Leadership Development Team, the Hospitality Team, the Staff and the Board Members, as well as all of the members of the congregation who attended in-person and on-line, and who voted.

Thank you to all of the elected leaders who are finishing their terms of leadership. Alan Swanson and Julia Audlehelm from the Board of Trustees, Susan Salterberg and Sue Otto from Leadership Development, and Jamie Sharp from Endowment. Your time and dedication are appreciated and we hope you can now find time for more leisurely ways to engage with our congregation.

Being in elected leadership at UUS is a powerful way to become more acquainted with how our community operates and to serve the community of which we are a part. It also takes a lot of time and energy to be in those elected positions. In our changing world, those commitments can be hard to make and we don't want to burn out the leaders of our community, so the Board, along with Leadership Development, looked at ways that we could make being a member of the board less daunting of a commitment. We also want being on the Board to be a rewarding experience and through research and consultation with consultants, we decided on the bylaw changes that were voted on at the Congregation Meeting. Thank you to those who attended our educational sessions regarding those bylaw changes and those who provided feedback and asked questions about those changes.

The changes that were made to the bylaws are part of the continual process of assessment and evaluation of what is working and what needs to be adjusted as part of our Policy Based/Shared Governance undertaken a few years ago. We hope to find what works best for our congregation. These changes are not written in stone, and we should continue to evaluate whether they are working for us, as we evaluate all of our policies and bylaws. The work of creating bylaws and policies is never done, especially in our current world that changes and shifts ever more rapidly. The Board, along with the Minister, the Governance Committee, and the Mission and Vision Review Committee will continue to assess what policies and bylaws are working for us and what needs to be reviewed.

As I reflect back on this year as your President, I think about when I started coming to this congregation, back in High School. My life was pretty tumultuous at that time. Some of you may remember me from back then. My life was not what it

is now, yet there are members of this congregation who stood by me and believed in me. Things were not always smooth, or without pain, and I have left this community and returned to it. Being a part of a community comes with its challenges. Hurts happen, but interestingly, sometimes in the repairs we find a deeper connection with one another. This community is not immune to those hurts, those missteps, but this community is important, and doing the work of repair is worth it.

As your President, I have attempted to help us remain strong and thriving into the future. As all human beings, I am not perfect, and I have fallen short at times. Know that I tried my hardest to do the best that I could when trying to represent such a varied and multifaceted community that we are. For those whom I have let down, please reach out to me, so we can try to repair any hurts that may have arisen. Each of you is a valued member or friend of this congregation and I value your feedback, and connecting with you is important. It has been an honor to be your President and a delight to serve you. Now I look forward to having more time to connect with folks at a deeper level as my time and commitments as President concludes. Peace be with you.

In beloved community,  
Rochelle Honey-Arcement

## Spring 2023 Election Vote Results

The results are in from the election that followed our Congregational Meeting on May 21st, 2023. Voting took place on ElectionBuddy and closed on May 26th, 2023, at 5 pm.

Results: Of 293 ballots, 144 people voted either through Election Buddy or absentee. All ballot items and candidates were approved with between 95% and 100% of the vote:

- December 18th, 2022, Congregational Meeting minutes
- Proposed Amendments to the UUS Bylaws
- Amendment to the Balanced Budget Mandate
- Jeff Walberg, Board President (2-year replacement term)
- Monique DiCarlo, Board Trustee-at-Large (2-year term)
- Mike Pavelich, Board Treasurer (1-yr term extension)
- Peg Bouska, Leadership Development Committee (3-year term)
- Jodi Linley, Leadership Development Committee (3-year term)
- Dave Martin, Endowment Committee (5-year term)
- Dan Cummins, Endowment Committee (1-year replacement term).

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the voting process and for your commitment to UUS.

# From Your Director of Congregational and Community Engagement, Peggy Garrigues

## With Gratitude and a Fond Farewell!

My position here at the UU Society began in September of 2016, so I will have been on staff here for almost 7 years when I leave on June 11. I was drawn to apply to be the Director of Congregational Life here in Iowa when I lived in Michigan in part because of the similarities I saw with the First UU Congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where I had been Acting Assistant Minister for three years: both congregations are in a major university town, with significant land around the building, with a vibrant congregation, and with a strong environmental and social justice identity. I was especially drawn to the audacity of the goal of UUS to become “the greenest church in Iowa.”

I was also being nudged to leave United Methodist ministry, because after I came to a late in life realization of being lesbian, I could not fully be myself as a United Methodist minister without risking my livelihood. So I trusted in and am deeply grateful for the welcome that all of you have offered to me to use my ministry skills and experience here at UUS, and as a lesbian woman, looking to develop my relationship with Sarah without having to risk my job or to hide in the closet.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at UUS and getting to know and collaborating with all of you in so many ways! There are so many committed, caring, and passionate people here at UUS, wanting to live lives with deep meaning, and making a difference in the community and the world!

There have been many transitions we have been through together—I began while the new building was being built, and when we had Sunday services at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Sanctuary Church, then for a little while at the Kirkwood Regional Center, then through the large open house and getting used to the new building once it was finished. I remember all the planning for how to use the land here at UUS once we moved into the new building, the creative work of publicity staff and team members as UUS planned new programs, and the several months of attempts to come up with a new name for the congregation as we moved to Coralville—which ended up just being to unofficially drop the “of Iowa City.” I have had three great ministers to work under—Rev. Steven Protzman, Interim Minister Rev. Diane Dowgiert, and now I am honored to have worked for almost three years under Rev. Diana Smith, your only minister hired after a candidating week on Zoom!

Transitioning into the COVID pandemic required learning many new tech skills for all of us, and re-evaluating what we could offer fully online, how to still gather in some form on Sundays, and how to connect with members and friends. Transitioning out of the COVID pandemic, I offered to take on the coordination of building rentals, since it would have been a challenge to hire a new staff person at that time. Emma will now return to overseeing the rental area, with the amazing volunteer help of Sue Kann. Rev. Diana continues to offer wise leadership to guide you in new directions, along with the current wonderful, committed, and creative program and administrative staff: Emma, Nic, Alex, Hsin-Hui, Nik Jakob (who is also leaving his staff role), and others who will be hired soon. And along with staff, every Board team has had major work to do to guide UUS through those transitions, and every group has had to adapt its work and ways of gathering.

Since September 2016, after being welcomed by Hospitality Teams, and with the help of committed Membership Associates to guide them through new member classes, and the support of many congregational and group leaders (and even during COVID!), 122 people have become members of UUS. They each have brought new gifts, ideas, and energy to UUS.

So many congregation wide programs have happened over my time here guided by various staff and volunteers: visiting and learning about congregations and traditions of other faiths, COVID Care Calling, you had all just started using the Realm database as I arrived, Anti-Racism Study Groups, wrapping up the Capital Campaign, rentals of our new building, a new picture directory, the Open House and Dedication of our new building, 5 years of Wellspring groups, our 175th Anniversary, Listening Teams, Community Meals and several variations of Wednesday evening programming, Dinners for Eight, new vision and mission statement development, music concerts, Family Fun Nights, Engaging Our Theological Diversity, virtual social hours, Treats and Talents Auctions, Covenant Groups, White Supremacy workshops, our first Earth Festival, drive-through events, Pride Parades, delivering program packets during COVID, and summer camps will begin the day after I leave.

I am deeply grateful for the many wonderful experiences of witnessing “aha!” moments from people in new member classes, in Wellspring groups, in other classes I taught, at Sunday services, with the new covenant group I helped get off the ground, and with visitors to their first Sunday service here. I have been inspired in my collaborations with so many wonderful volunteers and group leaders that offer places to find a home in this community while nurturing the journey of mind and spirit, bringing people into deeper relationship, and making a difference.

But I have also missed being in the role of minister—preaching, planning worship, doing pastoral care, offering more expansive interpretations of long held traditions, using both new and familiar texts, and being more in the lead to guide a congregation in a new direction. I was not clear whether I would ever go back into United Methodist ministry. The official rules still do not allow “practicing” gay and lesbian ministers to serve churches. But Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai and other conference leadership in the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church are willing to go beyond the current rules, to allow me to help break ground as one of a very small number of openly gay United Methodist ministers in Iowa. So I am off on a new adventure to be the minister of Solon United Methodist Church.

I am grateful that I am not moving anywhere and can still be nurtured by the friendships I have developed here at UUS—although my involvement at UUS will be limited for a while, as is typical when a full-time staff person moves on, so that their successors can get a good start. I am sure that my wife, Sarah Ross, and my mother-in-law, Gail Ross, will visit Solon UMC from time to time, but they will continue their involvement here at UUS as members and part of this community.

I wish you all the best as I say farewell. You have an inspirational minister, great staff and volunteer leadership in place, diverse and committed members and friends, many enriching community partnerships, engaging challenges to face together, and wonderful opportunities to make a difference in the future!



## From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Nic Kaplan

In June, we move on to the theme of delight. RE classes will be “one room schoolhouse” style for ages 3 and up, but our classroom will be outside as much as possible. Join us ready to explore and delight in both the outdoors and our shared mission and values.

Because we'll primarily be outside, play clothes and shoes are strongly recommended.

### Interested in helping guide Religious Education at UUS?

This past year, the members of the RE Team have been instrumental in making sure that I have felt welcomed and have been supported. They've met about once a month on Zoom to discuss our mission, values, and how those are playing out in our spaces. They gathered together to make the beautiful chalices for our Bridgers and teachers. They have helped connect me with the congregation. And so much more.

If you would be interested in joining the RE Team this coming year, please fill out this form. Whether you're interested in guiding programming for 3, 13, or 30+ year olds, there's something for everyone and you don't have to be a practiced teacher to be right for the job.

### Youth Group

Youth Group will gather June 4th and 11th and then we will be taking a break from our regular Sunday meetings for the remainder of June and July. Youth and their families should keep an eye out for messages about a couple of pop up events over the summer. We'll resume our regular meetings in mid-August.

### Volunteer with Religious Education

If you love to be outside and learning about life through the eyes of children, I have several opportunities for you on Sundays this summer.

If you'd like to volunteer with the Religious Education program in any capacity, please [fill out this form](#) or 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!



### Earth Festival a Success!

On May 6th, 2023, UUS hosted our first annual Earth Festival. The festival included workshops, speakers, food, a basket raffle with over 15 themed baskets, 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. We also had a sensory room and a room with earth-related movies playing for anyone needing a quiet break from the crowds.

An estimated 200 people attended the Earth Festival. We received over \$500 in donations at the door and another \$500+ for the raffle baskets. The Youth Group earned over \$400 from their face-painting booth, and UUS received around \$350 in vendor fees. Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, or attended!



## Safe Learning Space for Trans Kids in Iowa Crowdfunding Campaign Update

We are so pleased to announce that our Faithify crowdfunding campaign to fund our Learning Space this fall was a success! The campaign ran from April 15th to May 16th with a goal of \$15,000. We ended up raising over \$17,000 with nearly 100 backers from UUS, the local community, and from supportive UU congregations and friends from around the nation. Here are a few of the comments shared from donors to the campaign:

- *Sending so much love to y'all! From a neighbor in IL.*
- *Thank you for offering your building to the youth!*
- *Heartened by this effort in the center of our beleaguered nation.*
- *We donate in honor of our trans nephew and any marginalized person who needs a safe place.*
- *I hope the Learning Space helps families find a place of peace, safety, connection, and affirmation that they are loved and valued*
- *Thank you for this life changing idea!*
- *I'm so moved by your life-saving vision!*
- *In honor of family members who are suffering in Des Moines.*

Funding from the campaign will pay for:

- Training for supervising adult volunteers in mental health, safety, and the unique needs of trans, queer, and other marginalized youth.
- Basic operations including increased facilities maintenance and janitorial expenses, as well as educational and related materials and supplies.
- Expanding Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality education programming for Learning Space participants in grades 4-6 and 7-9.
- Add-on programming options for Learning Space attendees and other trans children and youth in our community that include music, movement, art, therapeutic outdoor sessions, and more!

Although we were successful in raising the funds needed to get the Learning Space going, additional donations are always welcome and will allow us to offer more support and programming for Learning Space participants. Donations can be [made online](#) or by sending a check made out to UUS with "Learning Space" on the memo line to our office (2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville, IA).

## Highlighted Upcoming Events

### Mens' Sunday Social, June 4th

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

### UU Mystics, June 4th & 18th

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).

### Prison Ministry Team, June 6th

The UUS Prison Ministry Team invites you to our second, monthly meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 6th, in the UUS Conference Room. The Prison Ministry Team endeavors to become informed advocates for justice and build relationships to decrease isolation of those confined in the Iowa justice system. This will be a Hybrid Meeting, both in-person and by Zoom ([Link to join](#), Meeting ID: 848 0842 4430, Passcode: 193553).

### Veg CommUUnity Plantluck, June 10th

The Veg CommUUnity will enjoy a plantluck on Saturday, June 10 at 6 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.

### Men's Sharing Circle, June 18th

All adult UUS members and friends who identify as male are invited to join us to our monthly sharing circle. You are invited to share your joys and sorrows, practice deep listening, and offer support when asked for, all in a confidential environment. We will meet in the Hickory & Oak Rooms at UUS on the third Sunday of each month from 6-8 pm. For questions, contact Ron Pile at [ronbeeguy@hotmail.com](mailto:ronbeeguy@hotmail.com) or Niklaus Jakob at [uusic.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:uusic.assistant@gmail.com).

## Join Us in Celebrating Our June Birthdays

Stevie Aguirre-Connelly	David Curry	Peggy Houston	Tom McMurray	Ari Schmitz	Jim Trepka
Dayna Ballantyne	Rob Dietrich	Joe Kaplan	Virginia Melroy	Hazel Schons	Kaye Winder
John Bowman	Jim Ephgrave	Marta Little	Carol Nordquist	Vicki Siefers	Mabel Wittenkeller
James Carrel	Dan Gall	Nancy Lynch	Georgiane Perret	Lydia Smith	Lenda Zelinskas
Jim Cubit	Peggy Garrigues	Caryl Lyons	Joan Raley	Cindy Spading	
	Peggy Grimmer	Ian Martin	Shona Roeder	Sharon Thomas	



# Leadership Development Committee

## *Building Our Leadership Muscles*

**Featured leadership practice:**  
*Modeling the Way*



**Tom and Mary McMurray** are longtime UUS members (pillars) who raised two children in our society. Their background includes hospital HR work and legal work. At UUS they see things that need doing and then do them, whether it is picking up trash, pulling weeds, protecting our new trees from the deer, helping with Sunday School, pastoral care, or hospitality work. Two of their current passions are helping an Afghan refugee family and working on our land ministry.

Our new UUS property has a garlic mustard problem. We also have a fantastic display of spring wildflowers. As part of our UUS value of “Honoring the Earth,” and their land ministry commitment, Tom and Mary have taken the lead in combatting this invasive species to keep it from crowding out our native species. In this task, they model the way—spending hours each Spring pulling garlic mustard on their own or setting up pulling times so others can be involved.

The McMurrays select several Saturdays each Spring when they ask for volunteers to help. Typically, anywhere from five to fifteen people gather to receive a brief training and then get to work pulling garlic mustard. Tom typically loads the back of his Subaru with a dozen bags of the pulled weeds. These he transports to the Coralville garlic mustard collection point for proper disposal.

Without this annual battle, garlic mustard would crowd out the beautiful wildflowers that show up each Spring on our UUS acreage.

Will the McMurrays’ “modeling the way” leadership style enable our Spring wildflowers to flourish?

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

# UUS Team and Committee Reports

## Covenant Groups

In our May covenant groups, members compared their notions of “creativity.” Creativity is one of those ideas that seems at once both easy and hard to explain. One could simply define it as making new things, putting something into the world that didn’t exist before. But that’s a bit materialistic. Creativity isn’t just about things, it’s about attitude, about the creator’s approach to whatever it is they’re doing. If it’s you, are you merely following the routine, tried-and-true patterns, or are you putting something uniquely yours into it, changing the act into a form of “self-expression”?

There’s a social dimension to it, too. No creative person creates in isolation but within a community, absorbing and reacting to the ideas they’re surrounded by, the creativity of others. As the Soul Matters introduction puts it, “the...idea that artists, innovators and originals are isolate, independent geniuses” is a myth. Closer to the truth is that “the secret to creative self-expression is staying connected to each other.” Does that thought make sense to you, or do you have other ideas about the nature of creativity? Whatever the answer, it’s obvious that you have to get pretty creative to talk about it!

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

The Iowa City Free Lunch Program no longer provides clamshell containers for take out. Instead, we have reverted (finally) to all dining in. However, UUS Free Lunch Team members have been up-cycling containers from our homes so that toward the end of our sessions, guests can take out meals to go. This saves money and eases functionality.

While the day of our last Friday shift began as threatening, it opened up to a sunny day. The guests seemed diminished in number at first though the guest count was 100. The main course was chicken divan provided by the generosity of Bonnie Penno. The usual green and fruit salads as well as deserts and drinks were available. Providers of foods were: Russ Lenth, Pete Brokaw, Winnie Ganshaw, Nancy Lynch, Star Wojciak, Judy Quinn, Ron Crawford, Sally Hartman, Gay Mikelson, Terri O’Berry, and Janet McKee. The support “staff” besides those already mentioned were: Bob Littlehale, Frank Wildensee, Donna Simonton, Joe Rasmussen, Joy Thompson, Carolyn Johnson, Vicki Siefers, Theresa Ullerich and Barb Stannard. We thank the UUS members for their support.

## Green Sanctuary Team

Johnson Clean Energy District (JCED) is a new citizen initiative to expand the clean energy economy in Johnson County. It is part of a movement in Iowa to establish locally led community boards to increase clean energy practices by homeowners, businesses, service providers, and others in rural and urban areas of Johnson County. UUS has partnered with JCED on several initiatives. We envision “Clean Energy Communities,” powered by efficient, renewable energy that reinvests energy dollars into local economies to increase the resilience and cost-effectiveness of the built environment for generations to come. JCED works to implement efficient, affordable, and clean energy in Johnson County while increasing environmental benefits, community access, business opportunities, and consumer demand for clean energy. For more information, go to [johnsoncleanenergydistrict.org](http://johnsoncleanenergydistrict.org). [Click here for the spring newsletter](#).

# UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

7 PM on May 17th, 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), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Alan Swanson (past President), Jerry Wetlaufer (Financial Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee), Diana Henry (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio).

**Absent:** none. **Guests:** Julica Hermann de la Fuente.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Walberg lit the chalice and provided opening words.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board received the consent agenda. *The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of the April Meeting Minutes (March minutes were included in the packet instead of the April minutes).*

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Endowment Event:** Endowment is planning an event that has not occurred since prior to Covid (Educational Event). Originally planned for Summer but will be pushed to Fall.

**Stewardship Committee Plans:** The Stewardship committee would like to create a “match pool”. Individuals could put any amount of donation into the pool. The pool will be used to match annual pledges. The goal is to collect 10k. Those who typically pledge over median will be solicited to donate to the fund. The funds will be used to match increased pledges from those donating below the median. Julia commented that it is important that upcoming events don’t overlap (for instance, the auction planned for 9/16.) These plans will be presented to the Finance committee.

*Motion: Pavelich moved to endorse this plan with review by the Finance committee; Walberg seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

## PLANNING AND CONNECTING

**Educational Session:** Board Governance presentation by guest Julica Hermann de la Fuente

## CONTINUING BUSINESS:

**May Congregational Meeting Planning:** We discussed the staff, Board members and volunteers who will be present at the meeting and what our roles will be. We also discussed coordinating our slides.

**General Assembly and Regional Delegates:** The proposed delegates to General Assembly were reviewed and approved unanimously by the Board:

Dave Martin, attending online

- Colleen Higgins, attending online
- Michael Honey-Arcement, attending online
- Kirk Witzberger, attending online (may change to in-person)
- Jerry Wetlaufer, possibly attending online.
- Ernie Cox, attending online June 21-23
- As the alternate, Donna Simonton, attending online

**Policy Discussion:** We have a recent history of not correctly following policies and procedures – we need to dedicate ourselves, moving forward, to improving our understanding of and compliance to these. We should consult with the Governance committee as needed. A couple of Trustees discussed finding themselves in confusion over some of these matters. A preliminary discussion took place on the helpfulness of a potential decision-making tool or chart that would be designed to facilitate adherence to policies and procedures.

## CLOSING:

There were no guest comments. Swanson provided process observer comments. Closing words by Pavelich. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm, June 21st, 2023.

—Minutes submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary

## April Financial Report Highlights

Our total bank accounts balance was steady over these four months with strong pledge giving and mostly normal monthly expenses. Our bank accounts’ sum being essentially constant month-to-month shows the value of having the extra \$4,000 per month from General Endowment funds. That means that the \$65,000 in extra bank funds we have committed to covering the 2023 deficit remains unused so far. Big bills are coming that will require these funds, but having all \$65,000 still in reserve means that our financial plan is working well.

Operating Income Received in April:

- o \$41,133.39 in operating budget pledge giving
- o \$104.17 in non-pledge giving
- o \$1,565 in rental income

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

- o \$1,717.04 raised for Table to Table (April Agency)
- o \$25 additional raised for Free Medical Clinic (March agency, \$1,695.51 raised total)

Other Income Received:

- o \$870 in summer camp deposits and fees (\$4,050 raised total so far)
- o \$367.87 in UUA/UUCEF distribution

—Submitted by Mike Pavelich, Board Treasurer, and Emma Barnum, Congregational Administrator ahead of the May Board Meeting



[Visit our website for more information about UUS: www.uusic.org.](http://www.uusic.org)

[Subscribe to our email list](#) for weekly updates and important announcements.

[Find a full list of upcoming events and group meetings on our online calendar.](#)

**Our Mission:** We are a welcoming, spiritually diverse home. We act on our values: Honor the Earth; Advocate for racial and social justice; Nurture deep connections; Embrace the ongoing quest for meaning.

**Our Vision:** We aspire to be a more inclusive, loving, diverse congregation that welcomes all people. We will defend and celebrate the Earth, confront racial and social injustice, and nurture deep connections.



## 2022-2023 Board of Trustees

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

**Vice President:** Jeff Walberg

**Past President:** Alan Swanson

**Secretary:** Christine Etler

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

**Finance Trustee:** Jerry Wetlaufer

**Trustee:** Julia Audlehelm

**Trustee:** Diana Henry

**Trustee:** Hazel Seaba

## UUS Staff

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

**Congregational Administrator:** Emma Barnum ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org))

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

**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:** Nic Kaplan ([education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org))

**Director of Congregational Music:** Alex Heetland ([music@uusic.org](mailto:music@uusic.org))

**Administrative Assistant:** Nik Jakob ([admin.assistant@uusic.org](mailto:admin.assistant@uusic.org))

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

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

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

### UU Eight Principles

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
8. Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

### UU Six Sources

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



**The Unitarian Universalist Society**

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# THE UUS NEWS

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