



THE UUS NEWS

A DIVERSE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY THAT TOUCHES HEARTS, CHANGES LIVES, AND TRANSFORMS THE WORLD.

June
2018

June Sunday Services

Services begin at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary, followed by a social hour in the Fellowship Hall

Summer Service Theme: *The Quest for Truth*

June 3rd: "The Quest for Truth," Jeffery L. Ford

Our summer services will be focused on The Quest for Truth. To engage in this quest is tricky business. We know that our "rational minds" do not always change when confronted with new information. How do we avoid simply admiring our personal quest in front of the proverbial mirror? How do we find the plumb line while being open to new experiences and perspectives?

June 10th: "An ye harm none,"

Laura Westfall-Christophel

Many UUs honor the simple ethics of the Wiccan rede: "An ye harm none do what ye wilt," which implores some critical questions. How does our level of freedom affect others, and what amount of responsibility do we bear in the world? As our political climate becomes more complicated, we will be examining the question of personal responsibility through the Wiccan rede and how it interacts with our 4th Principle of "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

June 17th: "The Story of a Refugee Grateful for a Second Chance," Jean Paul Mugemuzi and Jim Olson

Jean Paul Mugemuzi, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and UUS member Jim Olson will explore Jean Paul's journey from his home village to Iowa and relate this journey—and their friendship—to our summer theme "The Quest for Truth." This service, coinciding with World Refugee Day (June 20), will include music performed by members of the Congolese community in Johnson County.

June 24th: "The Real Gay Agenda," Rev. Steven Protzman

Is there such a thing as the gay agenda? Do GLBTQ people want "special rights?" As our quest for truth continues and we celebrate Pride Sunday, the real gay agenda will be revealed and with it, Unitarian Universalism's agenda: to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and continue our work to create a world free from bigotry and hatred.

June Social Justice Offerings Benefit the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County

Family-centered and community-based, the Centers offer long-term commitment to families in the neighborhoods they serve. With a consistent and stable presence, they provide a balance of programs (e.g., preschool, after-school, summer camps) and activities that build community and teach new skills (e.g., parenting classes).

Cash or checks to UUS (*JC Neighborhood Centers* on the memo line) can be given on Sundays, online through Realm, or mailed to the office. You can also text "GivetoUUSIC Offering \$--" to 73256.

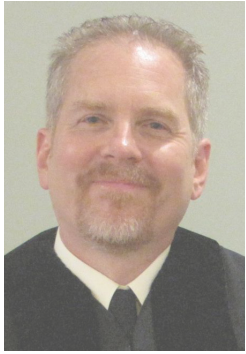
Sunday Attendance for April 29th through May 20th

April 29th:	178 total: 133 Service, 45 RE
May 6th:	186 total: 140 Service, 46 RE
May 12th:	150 total (Rev. Lois Cole's Ordination Service)
May 13th:	178 total (Intergenerational)
May 20th:	190 total: 146 Service, 44 RE
May 20th:	140 total: (Congregational Meeting)

UUS Members & Friends with June Birthdays

Dayna Ballantyne	Caryl Lyons
Rob Dietrich	Tom McMurray
Jim Ephgrave	Virginia Melroy
Dan Gall	Emma Myers-Verhage
Peggy Garrigues	Carol Nordquist
Peggy Houston	Shona Roeder
Isaac Ingersoll	Vicki Siefers
Anna Kann	Renee Speth
Pat Larson	Jim Trepka
Marta Little	Mabel Wittenkeller
Nancy Lynch	Lenda Zelinskas

From Your Minister



Say not: “I have found the truth,”
but rather “I have found a truth.”

—From *Divinity* by Dorothy
Borouh

As Unitarian Universalists, our fourth principle affirms our lifetime’s spiritual work to engage in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Free because unlike many religious traditions, our faith is not limited to a single

source of wisdom, creed, dogma, belief system, sacred text or philosophy that we look to for answers. We cherish an individual’s right to discover their own truth and we reject the idea that an authority, institution, or government has the right to tell us what we must believe or to demand that we conform to a way of religious thinking. Responsible because we take the search for truth seriously, using not just emotion, but also reason, knowledge, and science; all tools we have been given to help us understand what it means to be human. We must be able to respond because the discovery of truth is meaningless if it doesn’t shape and transform our lives in some way.

A free and responsible for truth and meaning is such a fundamental part of being UU because truth gives us self knowledge and a deeper understanding of the world, an understanding that allows us to be more fully ourselves. In the gospel of John, Jesus says: “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” Truth allows us to sort out the things that truly matter from those that don’t. Our true self, our spiritual self, is not concerned with external values, what the world tells us we should be or do or have, but instead seeks out what truly matters—integrity, compassion, joy, generosity, creativity, all qualities of true human freedom. My colleague Josh Pawelek says that: “We seek truth so that we may know how best to live. It seems to me that to live in this world we must at some point anchor ourselves somewhere. We must at some point know who we are, where we stand and where our loyalties lie. We must at some point be able to say the words, ‘this I believe.’ We must at some point make difficult decisions. And therefore we must be able to express what we think and feel is true.”

The Worship Associates, who plan and lead summer services, have chosen the theme “The Quest for Truth” for our summer Sundays this year. Our speakers, members and friends of UUS and people from the greater Iowa City and Coralville community, will explore Unitarian Universalism’s fourth principle, the “free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” The Worship Associates have offered these questions to help shape the services: How do you know truth? Where do you find it? What is a free and responsible search? What impedes the quest for truth? How have your “truths” evolved? How has truth affected you? Please join us each week for what promises to be rich, deep, and diverse explorations of truth from a variety of voices and perspectives.

Grateful to be here with you as we seek to be a people on the quest for truth,

Rev. Steven Protzman



From Your Community Minister

It is the weekend after my ordination and I am on-call. This means I carry several pagers and answer routine and emergent requests for all non-Catholic patients at the University of Iowa hospitals. The Catholic chaplain is the other chaplain here on the weekend, and today he asked me if I feel differently now that I’m ordained. I have to admit the glow of the service is wearing off, an event I am oddly comparing to the Royal

Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, as I catch glimpses of it on TVs in the hospital. True, my ordination was beautiful, ceremonious and personal. No horse-drawn carriages, but there was bubble-blowing fanfare and an attendance of well-dressed travelers from near and far—UUS folks, friends, family, colleagues—who affirmed me in my pledge. And how can I forget the cloud of witnesses, each person joined with others in a web of hands touching shoulders, to bless me? Still, do I feel differently? And how does being the Rev. Lois Cole impact my work in the hospital?

As a chaplain, I’m trained to provide a “ministry of presence.” This means I take things slow. I walk, not run with the alerted medical staff when responding to a Code Blue. When I arrive at a patient’s bedside, my job is to go against the flow—to not administer, relieve or fix, to not “do” much really, other than be present to the patient and family in whatever they are experiencing, whatever feelings, needs, insights, or moments of grace may arise for them. Today, I had some challenging calls—a 13-year-old who tried to take her own life, a life-term inmate who is also here because of a suicide attempt, a distraught family of a gunshot victim—and in each situation I tried to come empty-handed, and to be compassionately present without judgment and distraction, a companion to what was unfolding. It wasn’t easy. I thought of the charge Rev. Steven gave me at the close of my ordination ceremony (pictured above), how he said that being in ministry is the only calling in which what you have to give is yourself. “You will struggle with the truth that you cannot fix or save the world; you cannot fix or save another person. All you can do is to bear witness to pain and despair and offer compassion, which is where the healing begins.”

Today, I was also reminded that my presence often means something more than just me. To a patient, to family, I represent a spiritual leader, a connection to a higher power, for good or ill, depending on their life and religious/spiritual experiences. It occurred to me that in being ordained, I understand this as a sacred responsibility. If I am going to represent “the face of God,” as one of my seminary teachers used to say, then I choose to represent a fully attentive, caring, and respectful face of God. Rev. Steven said in his charge said that I am a public witness of Unitarian Universalism: “How you live your life, along with your ministry of presence and care, will make the ministry, our liberal faith, and that which you hold most dear visible to the world at all times.” So the fanfare of the ordination is over, and in answer to my friend’s question, I don’t know that I *feel* differently, but I am beginning to see differently. May it continue to be so!

Rev. Lois Cole

Congregational News and Events

Inquirer Sessions in June

Anyone who wants to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, and our programs is welcome to attend an Inquirer Session. Inquirer Sessions take place after each Sunday service, at around 10:40 am in the Conference Room. Feel free to grab some refreshments first and bring them with you. The Inquirer series includes sessions on eight topics. Here is the June schedule:

- **June 3rd:** Intro to Realm online member portal
- **June 10th:** Unitarian Universalism 101
- **June 17th:** Intro to Religious Education for Children, Youth, and Adults
- **June 24:** Intro to Interest & Activity Groups

UUS Work Day, June 9th

On Saturday, June 9th, UUS will come together for a Work Day on a variety of projects with a focus on cleaning and organizing our building and grounds. Projects include:

- **Organize Storage Room A (off the Fellowship Hall):** This will involve moving everything out, re-purposing or selling the large carpet, cleaning chairs as needed, replacing missing chair leg caps, and putting things back in a more functional arrangement.
- **Landscaping Projects:** Pulling grass, spreading mulch, and other tasks to help beautify our grounds.
- **Manual Organization:** Volunteers will help with scanning and printing pages from the various paper and electronic manuals we have on our equipment and mechanical systems, in order to assemble a binder for easy reference.

Look for more information on these and possibly other projects, as well as sign-up sheets in the weekly emails and on Sundays. Contact Peg Voelker (peg.voelker@gmail.com) with any questions.

UUS Board of Trustees Meeting, June 10th

The UUS Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting, open to all members, at 6:30 pm on Thursday, June 10th, in the Conference Room. Look for an agenda in the weekly email or on the website before the meeting.

UUS Attends General Assembly, June 20th-24th

This year we will have six voting delegates attending the UU General Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri, June 20th through 24th. They will be voting to fill vacancies for UUA Moderator, Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee, voting on amendments to the Bylaws of the UUA, and voting on Congregational Study/Action Issues. Our voting delegates are: Jane DeWitt, Sally Hartman, Colleen Higgins, Jim Laughlin, Mary Losch, and Dave Martin.

In addition, several others are attending GA, but not as voting delegates: Bruce Alexander, Peggy Garrigues, Susan Krohmer, Russ Lenth, Diane Martin, and John and Valerie Bowman. All attending will experience worship and make connections with UUs from around the world, attend a wide range of workshops, hear a Ware Lecture by national social justice leader Brittany Packnett, take part in public witness events related to racism, and more.

Peggy, Jessica, and Emma will also be attending professional training for staff before GA begins.

UUS Summer Parade Season! June 16th & July 4th

UUS has a tradition of marching in the annual Iowa City Pride Parade the third weekend in June. We have also marched the last couple of years in the Coralville 4thFest Parade on July 4th.

Set aside June 16th and July 4th this year, and join us in proudly representing UUS to the larger community!

The Pride Parade will begin at noon at College Green Park (bordered by College, Dodge, Johnson, and Washington Streets in Iowa City). Plan to be there by 11:30 if you want to march.

We already have some UUS and rainbow banners, and last year Peggy also drove her little yellow car that matches the color of the t-shirts.

The 4thFest Parade begins at 10 am, and we will gather in the parking lots of GEICO/McGregor's/LIFEChurch off of 22nd Ave. and 2nd St. in Coralville. Plan to be there by 9:30 to march, but more details will come in Wednesday emails closer to the date. The theme for the 4thFest Parade is celebrating Coralville as a "Hub of Hospitality."

Many folks wear their yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts in both parades. If you do not have one yet and would like one, contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org). We have some t-shirts available and can order more of either "Standing on the Side of Love" (\$15 each) or the newer slogan, on same yellow shirts, with same logo but that say "Side with Love" (\$25 each).

If anyone has some ideas and wants to help plan anything besides basic banners and t-shirts for the parades, contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org).

UUS Grass and Solar Update

The weather finally cooperated! In late May, workers from Forever Green Landscape prepared the areas in the front of the building, behind the sanctuary, on both sides of the front sidewalk, under the solar panels, and the median between the parking lot have been seeded with two short prairie grasses, *blue grama* and *buffalograss*. The germination time is slow—about 6 weeks—so a faster-germinating annual rye grass will be mixed with the native grasses. The berm area next to the street will be seeded with a grass called "sudas," which is resistant to chemicals that might be used on city streets in the wintertime.

This grass combination was chosen because it is low maintenance and drought-resistant. These grasses will eventually have roots that grow 6 to 7 feet deep! It is slow-growing and will likely take at least a year or two to get this grass well established, but in the long run, it will be worth it. Thanks for your patience.

The solar array is up and running! The system went online on May 2nd. We are excited that one more "settling in" item is now completed. Our goal is to obtain Net Zero Energy Building Certification offered through the Living Building Challenge; i.e. all of our energy will be produced on site. Our many energy-saving strategies include passive solar in large spaces, high performance glass and framing systems, increased insulation, a geothermal ground-source heat pump system, the use of radiant heating in the floor slab, energy recovery units for ventilation system and LED lighting throughout the building. We are proud to be have built a facility that uses as little energy as possible. Questions? Contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com.

Historical Records: Did You Know?

Ministry, Ordination, and Our Unitarian Universalist Society

Last month this congregation once again played its historic role as it ordained Lois Cole into the Unitarian Universalist ministry. (In our denomination it is congregations that ordain.) Lois was our Director of Lifespan Religious Education at UUS for many years. During that time she attended the UU seminary, Meadville Lombard Theological School, in Chicago. Then she interned in Florida before entering community ministry as a chaplain in the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital, here in Iowa City.

And so the Iowa City UU congregation has again helped someone who was inspired to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. While most UU ministers are parish ministers who preach in and care for our congregations, others are UU Religious Education Ministers, and some, like Lois, are UU Community Ministers.

Back in the 1970s, some in our congregation became intrigued with, and were invited to become, UU ministers. This was partly due to the influence of the Rev. Thomas Mikelson, who was called to be the minister at UUSIC in 1971.

Tom was not a UU minister when he became our part-time minister. We ordained him in part to provide financial support for his pursuit of his doctorate in theology. Tom first had to appear before the UUA credentialing committee: the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. He was approved, and several years later, was invited to become a member of that committee. He used his knowledge and experience to help three of us—Amarette Callaway, Michael Hennon, and myself—to become ministers.

Amarette went east to Andover Newton in the Boston area for her seminary education. After a time as a UU minister, she married a Congregationalist minister, converted to his faith, and joined him in a shared ministry. She has stayed in touch with Gay Mikelson.

Michael Hennon went to Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. After serving in parish ministry, Michael found hospice chaplaincy a better ministry for himself.

Tom Mikelson helped me learn in a new "independent program" that was being developed to enable religious educators to become Ministers of Religious Education. The UUA General Assembly, our annual denominational business meeting, had voted the new Ministry of Religious Education into being as an official ministry in 1980.

That same year, I left UUS and went to the Boston area, where I was approved by the UUA Fellowship Committee and then ordained into the Ministry of Religious Education by First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Arlington, Massachusetts.

Our Iowa City congregation also provided support and encouragement to two more aspiring ministers, Carolyn Owen-Towle and Don Fielding, through internships (field education) as part of their preparation to become parish ministers. Carolyn was a participant in a new independent education program, and interned with Tom Mikelson. Don did his internship here with the Rev. Fritz Hudson in the late 1980s. Our congregation ordained Don before he left UUS for Texas to serve a congregation there.

With the ordination of Lois Cole last month, our congregation once again showed its ongoing commitment to helping, educating, and inspiring persons in the UU ministry.

—Submitted by Charity Rowley on behalf of the Historical Records Committee

Working Toward a Freethinker Friendly Congregation Designation

Any of you who have read the 2017/2018 UUS Annual Report may already know that the UUS Secular Humanists received unanimous support from the Board to work toward UUS getting the UU Humanist Association's designation of Freethinker Friendly Congregation.

"Freethinkers" can be defined as being agnostics, atheists, secular humanists, and a variety of other non-theists. The UUS Secular Humanist group has existed in this congregation for over fourteen years. Quite a few of us have belonged to that group since its inception, and as happy members of UUS, we believe that UUS is already friendly to freethinkers such as us.

However, the designation by the UU Humanist Association (UUHA) asks us to complete a process over the course of the next year that will allow us to advertise, both locally and through the UUA, that we explicitly welcome non-theists. Often non-theists find themselves without access to a community of like-minded people and missing out on being part of the "beloved community" of which Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke. We especially hope to provide this access to the variety of people who may be "nones," the growing group of people who do not affiliate with any religious community.

When we became a Welcoming Congregation, we had already welcomed many LGBTQ+ people, but as a Welcoming Congregation, we do so more explicitly. Similarly, the Freethinker Friendly designation doesn't mean that we have not previously welcomed freethinkers but rather that we now do so explicitly. Also, this designation doesn't mean that anyone who doesn't identify as a freethinker needs to start doing so—any more than welcoming LGBTQ+ persons means that we need to identify as LGBTQ+—only that we are now very explicitly and openly welcoming this diversity.

Over the next year, the UUS Secular Humanists will lead occasional forums and/or services to acquaint people with the benefits of and criteria for the Freethinker Friendly designation and to discuss ways in which we can become even more welcoming. Our goal is to hold a congregational vote in May 2019 after maximal congregational participation.

Watch upcoming newsletters and weekly emails for announcements of forums and discussion groups on how we can best become a Freethinker Friendly Congregation. Questions? Contact any committee member.

—From the Freethinker Friendly Congregation Committee of the UUS Secular Humanists: Jeanette Carter, Caryl Lyons, Linda Rohret, Hilary Strayer, and Mark Yuskis

(Pictured right) Mark Yuskis and Joe Brisben hold the UUS membership book for Iowa Medical Correction Center (IMCC) inmate Simon Tunstall to sign. Tunstall has been interested and remotely active in UUS activities for over a year and has met the qualifications for membership. He started a chapter of Toastmasters International in the IMCC and has counseled a number of his fellow inmates on how to improve themselves for the probation and parole process. Tunstall is the first inmate to become a member of UUS, and he hopes to have his sentence commuted to time served.

Religious Education & Spirituality

Memorial Services in June

With sadness we would like to share the memorial service plans for two long-time members of UUS who passed in May.

Mary Jepsen, Service June 1st

Mary died unexpectedly at the age of 75 on May 15th. We hold her husband David Jepsen and their family in our hearts and thoughts. A visitation with the family will take place on Thursday evening, May 31st, from 7 to 9 pm in the UUS Sanctuary. A memorial service to celebrate Mary's life will be held at 1 pm on Friday, June 1st, in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Doris Levsen, Service June 12th

Doris died peacefully on May 8th, at the age of 95. We send our sympathy and care to her niece Jo Cunningham and to Doris's extended family. A memorial service will be held at UUS on Tuesday, June 12th, at 11 am in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Summer RE Programming

Thank you to all religious education (RE) volunteers and families who helped make our 2017-18 RE classes so wonderful!

Starting Sunday, June 3rd, the children's RE program will be traveling the world without ever leaving UUS! We'll be exploring different cultures and faith traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Earth-Centered, and Hinduism, through play, cooking, art, and hands-on activities.

This class is geared for children in K-3rd grade, but older children are always welcome. Just like Sundays during the academic year, children will start with their families in the Sanctuary and will be dismissed to their class after the all-ages portion. The class will end at the same time as service (10:30 am). We also have childcare available for infants-preschool starting at 9:20 am.

Our full slate of RE classes will return in September. Keep an eye out for announcements about the exciting changes coming to the RE program in the August newsletter and weekly emails!

Jessica Zimmer

Arc Summer Camp Rental at UUS

We are very excited to announce that UUS will be hosting Arc of Southeast Iowa's Half Day Youth Summer Camps. They will be using the Hickory and Oak rooms (Jr/Sr High) from 12 to 5 pm Monday through Friday from June 4th through 29th and July 9th through August 3rd. During the rental times, all other spaces (Conference Room, RE classrooms, the Fellowship Hall, etc.) will still be available for UUS groups and committee use.

Covenant Groups

This month we're sharing ideas on what it means to be a people of "Creativity." Ideas about creativity are plentiful. There are many ways to describe what it is and how it works. One is that it's the imagination producing ideas and images that have not previously existed. We naturally associate such activity with the work of artists. But what about others? Does creativity have anything to do with daily living? In our groups, we will try to make connections between the abstract notion of creativity and action in the world. In what ways are we creative both in our individual lives and as members of a community committed to spiritual investigation and social progress?

If subjects like this intrigue you, you might be ready to join one of our covenant groups. Covenant groups are small groups of 8 to 12 people who meet monthly for discussions aimed at fostering emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth. As a "community within a community," covenant groups give members a special way of belonging to UUS. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Jan Locher (354-6260 or covgroups@uusic.org).

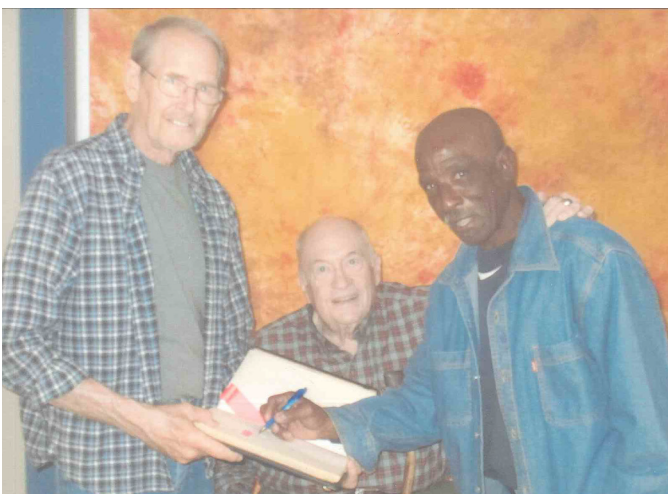
UU Wellspring Info Session, June 24th

We are planning to offer a new program called UU Wellspring for those who want to go deeper in their spiritual life, develop a supportive community in a small group, and grow deeper in their understanding of UU values. UU Wellspring incorporates five elements designed to balance a knowledge of UU history/theology with personal spiritual practice and engagement with the world:

- A commitment to daily spiritual practice
- Participation in a small-group community
- Individual work with a spiritual director
- Readings and resources for knowledge and reflection
- Reflection and commitment to live out our values in the world

The program will begin with a Saturday retreat in September, then meet for two hours every two weeks, on a weeknight yet to be determined, from September through June. There will be articles to read and/or video clips to watch before each session.

Put Sunday, June 24th, at 11 am in the Sanctuary on your calendar for an opportunity to learn about this new program. Contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org) with questions.



Interest & Activity Groups

Buddhist Sangha, Mondays in June

The Sangha gathers every Monday evening at 7 pm at Oaknoll for silent meditation and discussion of contemporary Buddhist teachings. We are currently discussing the book *Seeking the Heart of Wisdom: The Path of Insight Meditation*, by Goldstein and Kornfield. To find out more, contact Cindy Spading (buddhistsangha@uusic.org).

Friends of Friends, June 3rd

Friends of Friends is a support group where people with a disability and their friends and caregivers can swap stories and share coping skills. We meet on the first Sunday of the month at 11 am in the Hickory Room. To learn more, contact Michael or Rochelle Honey-Arcement at accessibility@uusic.org.

UUS Racial Justice Circle, June 3rd and 17th

The Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle (RJC) meets on the first Sunday of the summer months, from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the Oak Room of UUS. RJC is UUS's next step to visibly and responsibly answer the call from communities of color to stand and act in solidarity for racial justice. The group's work includes critical reflection and discussion in conjunction with the development, implementation, and evaluation of actions that emerge out of our discussions. Please join us as we collaboratively build our vision to effectively engage in racial justice efforts in our community. Contact Dave Martin and Peg Bouska at racialjusticechair@uusic.org with questions.

Inspirational Movie about Bayard Rustin: Organizer of 1963 March on Washington, June 6th

Bayard Rustin was a disciple of Gandhi, a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., and the architect of the 1963 March on Washington. Rustin dared to live as an openly gay man during the fiercely homophobic 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Iowa City's LGBT Quire has collaborated with several other LGBT choirs and commissioned a piece of music based on the life of Bayard Rustin. The Quire will perform "Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream" on Saturday evening, June 9th, at 7:30 pm at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts.

To align with this performance, UUS will host a showing of a recent documentary about the life of Bayard Rustin. Join Peggy Garrigues, who sings with the Quire, for a showing of this documentary about a very inspiring but little-known African American gay man, Wednesday, June 6th, from 7 to 9 pm in the Hickory & Oak Rooms. Popcorn, light snacks, and drinks will be provided.

UUS Board Gaming Club, June 12th

Join us for an evening of gaming on Tuesday, June 12th, from 6 to 9 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is a chance for Administrator Emma Barnum to show off her collection of modern board games (Anomia, Broom Service, Betrayal on the House on the Hill, and many more). Don't worry if you've never heard of any of those—she has a wide variety of games with different learning curves and accessibility levels, and we can find something we'll all enjoy. A few classics will also be available, but if there's something specific you'd like to play, by all means bring it! There will be no childcare for this event, but older children are welcome to join. Bring a snack or nonalcoholic drink to share if you'd like—we'll buy a Costco pizza to share! Contact Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org) with questions.

CUUPs Divination Class, June 13th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for a new moon exploration of the art of divination. We'll begin with a short introduction to divination and channeling, then we'll spend the rest of the evening with hands-on practice of four basic divination skills: scrying, tarot, pendulum, and runes. We will have stations set up with the necessary tools to practice each skill, but please feel free to bring your own divination tools to practice with if you have them. Gathering for this event begins at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and the class will start promptly at 7. This class is most appropriate for adults and mature youth. If you have questions, please contact Marsha (marshacheyney@gmail.com or 321-2307).

CUUPs Litha/Midsummer Ritual, June 16th

As the longest day approaches, the night still has wisdom to offer. Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) under the new moon as we walk an ancient path, lit by hundreds of candles. Let the flames of the candle-lined path guide you on a personal journey of transformation and reflection. Spiraling in and out, circling round, 'til you reach the Center - hear the still quiet voice of the night whisper in your ears. Then retrace your steps, integrating, as you rejoin the outside world.

This is an individual ritual; come any time between 9 and 11 pm to take your journey. Members of the CUUPs group will hold the space as you walk. If you have any questions, or are interested in experiencing the art of building a candlelight labyrinth, please contact Marsha (marshacheyney@gmail.com or 321-2307).

UU Grief Group, June 20th

The UU Grief Group (UUGG) meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. In June we will meet in the Conference Room at UUS. The group is open to those mourning the loss of a family member or friend. We provide a safe and supportive environment where you can talk about your loss confidentially to other UUs who have also experienced loss. You may come away from the group feeling more reconciled about your loss or with helpful ideas about how others are handling their grief. The group is led by Gail Garwood. While you do not need to pre-register, it is always nice to hear from you if you think that you may want to join us. Gail can be reached at griefgroup@uusic.org.

UU Scrabble Group, June 21st

The UU Scrabble Group will meet Thursday, June 21st, at 1:30 pm in the Walnut Room. Everyone is welcome to join in regardless of skill level! Beginners are welcome! Contact Gary Lawrenson (936-1291, scrabble@uusic.org) for more information.

Dances of Universal Peace, June 24th

Participants will gather in the RE Commons at 3 pm on Sunday, June 24th, for chanting and simple folk-dance movements honoring various religious traditions. These prayerful, heart-opening dances create a sense of inner peace and foster connections between people. No experience is needed. All are welcome to attend. Contact Virginia Melroy (338-1778 or dancesofpeace@uusic.org) if you have questions.

Girls' Night Out! June 28th

All UUS women are invited for conversation, lots of laughs, and refreshments at 5:30 pm for Girls' Night Out on Thursday, June 28th, at Red Vespa in Solon (208 E Main Street). Contact Jamie Sharp (girlsnightout@uusic.org or 400-2551) if you plan to attend.

Vegetarian Community "Plantluck," June 30th

The Vegetarian Community will share a 'plantluck' picnic on Saturday, June 30th, from 5 to 8 pm on the UUS patio. Participants will enjoy leisurely activities on the UUS grounds, including a walk through the woods, if desired. Please bring a favorite exclusively plant-based dish for 8-10 servings and your own reusable/recyclable table service and beverage. Everyone is welcome. Contact Carol Throckmorton (337-3030, carolthrockmorton108@msn.com) with questions.

UU Book Discussion Group on Summer Break

The UU Book Discussion group is on break for the summer and will start up again in September. At our May meeting we picked two books to start the next year. Our book for September 2018 is *Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer* by Barbara Ehrenreich. Our book for October 2018 is *Reading with Patrick: A Teacher, a Student, and a Life-Changing Friendship* by Michelle Kuo. We will choose the books for the rest of the year at our September meeting. To add a title to the list of options, or for more information, contact Mary Lou Welter at 354-1231 or bookgroup@uusic.org.

(Pictured right) We had about 15 UUS volunteers working on an Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity house on Saturday, May 19th! Contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org) if you would like to be a Habitat volunteer on our next work day, June 9th.

Social Justice News and Events

Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC), June 5th

SJCC coordinates our congregation's community service and social action activities in Iowa City and beyond. Our meetings are informal and fun, and we welcome new faces and ideas. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 5th, at 7 pm in the Conference Room. Contact socialjustice@uusic.org to get more information about the committee.

UU Free Lunch Program, June 8th

The objective and mission for the Greater Iowa City Free Lunch Program (located at 1105 Gilbert Court, IC) is to provide free hot meals six days a week for the needy in our community. UUS supports the Free Lunch Program by sending a group of volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean up after a lunch on the second Friday of each month.

On May 11, 30 members of the UUS Free Lunch Team served 140 meals to a grateful crowd. Lunch was John's Fried Chicken (donated by Bonnie Penno in honor of Mother's Day), mixed vegetables, green salad, fruit salad, mixed desserts, and ice cream. Our next Free Lunch date is June 8.

The UUS Free Lunch team recently made a donation to the Iowa Women's Foundation in honor of Mary Palmberg, the first director of our Free Lunch team, who will be recognized in the Foundation's Ovation book.

UUS has a great Free Lunch team. If you want to join the team as a cook, a server, a grocery-buyer, or a dish-washer, email Diana Miller at dkmilleriowa@gmail.com. Our next service day is Friday, June 8th.



The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
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If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please check here and return.

UUS Board of Trustees, 2017-2018

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Mission: *We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.*

Vision: *Our vision is to be a loving, inclusive, and growing spiritual community. We celebrate life and a liberal tradition that leads social justice work, heals the earth, and nurtures the lifelong journey of mind and spirit.*

UUS Calendar for June 2018

A- Atrium
C- Conference Room
CW- Church-Wide

FH- Fellowship Hall
H- Hickory Room (Sr. High)
J- Juniper Room (Pre-K)

K- Kitchen
M- Maple Room (3-4)
N- Nursery

O- Oak Room (Jr. High)
OW- Office Workroom
R- Redbud Room (1-2)

REC- RE Commons
S- Sanctuary
W- Walnut Room (5-6)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:30 AM UUS Memorial Day Potluck Brunch (UUS Grounds)	28 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	29 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary (C) 6:30 PM CUUPs Full Moon Ritual (UUS Grounds or C)	30	31 7 PM Mary Jepsen Visitation (S)	1 1 PM Mary Jepsen Memorial Service (S)	2
3 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Racial Justice Circle (O) 11 AM Friends of Friends (H)	4 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	5 7 PM Social Justice Coordinating Committee (C)	6 7 PM Bayard Rustin Movie Screening (H&O)	7	8 11 AM Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct., IC)	9 UUS Work Day (CW)
10 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)	11 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	12 11 AM Doris Levsen Memorial Service (S) 6 PM UUS Board Gaming Club (FH)	13 6:30 PM CUUPs Divination Class (FH)	14 6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting (C)	15 9 PM CUUPs Litha/Midsummer Ritual (Happy Hollow Park)	16 11:30 AM Iowa City Pride Parade (gather at College Green Park for Parade at noon)
17 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)	18 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	19	20 12 PM July Newsletter Submission Deadline 12:30 PM UU Grief Group (O)	21 1:30 PM UU Scrabble Group (W)	22	23
24 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM UU Wellspring Info Session (S) 3 PM Dances of Universal Peace (REC)	25 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	26	27	28 5:30 PM Girls' Night Out! (Red Vespa, Solon)	29	30 5 PM Vegetarian Community "Plantluck" (FH)

Find more events by visiting our website calendar (www.uusic.org/upcoming-events) or by signing up for our weekly emails (www.uusic.org/news/weekly-email).



Introducing Our Interim Minister, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

The UUS Board of Trustees is delighted to announce that Rev. Diane Dowgiert will be the UUS Interim Minister beginning August 1, 2018. Diane is a seasoned religious professional with more than 17 years of experience in a variety of UU congregational settings. She will be coming to us after a two-year interim ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro, North Carolina. Before that, she was a settled minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, Arizona for 10 years. She invites UUS members to learn more about her by visiting her website at www.uuministry.com/revdianedowgiert - the entry password is *revdiane2018*.

Rev. Dowgiert has been married for 43 years to A.J. Dowgiert, who is now semi-retired following two different careers. They have two adult sons. When not working, Rev. Dowgiert enjoys spending time outdoors, walking and hiking nature trails. She is a quilter and lover of art in all its forms. She and A.J. like to travel together, exploring new places. They also love attending local, live musical and theater performances. Some of the things that drew the search committee to Diane were evident in her response to our opening interview question. We asked what attracted her to our ministerial application, and she mentioned our long history as a congregation, including the Iowa Sisterhood of ministers from back in the early 1900's. She shared that she has discovered a particular affinity for the work of serving a congregation during transitional times.



The interim minister search process is overseen by the UUA Transitions Office. There is a lot of information available on their UUA website (www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions). As a reminder, UUS bylaws state that the Board of Trustees hires an interim minister, but the whole congregation votes to call a settled minister. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved bringing Rev. Diane to UUS, and a one-year contract with an option to renew for a second year was signed on May 18, 2018. In Unitarian Universalism, an interim minister serves a congregation for up to two years to guide them through some very specific steps in the process leading up to the congregation being able to call a new settled minister. The five developmental tasks of the interim minister are to:

- Help us claim and honor the past and work through our feelings about this ministerial transition
- Work with us to focus on our unique identity as a congregation: our strengths, our needs, and our challenges
- Review and assess multiple dimensions of leadership, by both ordained and lay leaders
- Renew our connections to resources within and beyond the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
- And most importantly, we will work to renew our vision of UUS, conduct a ministerial search, and prepare for new professional leadership.

We are excited for Rev. Diane to join us in August, and we hope you will all help welcome her with open arms and hearts. She has the skills, strengths, and desire to walk with us through the next couple of years of transition before we call our next settled minister.

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – May 10, 2018

Board meeting minutes are made available on the website or can be requested from the UUS administrator.

Present: Jim Laughlin (President), Kelly O’Berry (Past-President), Jane DeWitt (Vice-President), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Steve Locher (Trustee), Kris Barrash (Trustee), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio), Peggy Garrigues (DCL), and Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE).
Absent/Guests: None.

President Laughlin called the Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Rev. Steven provided opening words.

Consent Agenda: Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for review by the Board prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda items: Board Agenda; Treasurer’s Report & Financial Statements; Monthly Staff Reports (DLRE, DCL, Administrator, and Minister); Staff Relations Committee Report (Mary McMurray). *Other items included:* Staff Relations Committee Policy Revision (Mary McMurray); Land Ministry Policy (Mary McMurray); Bereavement Leave Policy, revised 04222018 (Mary McMurray); Revised Safe Congregations New Member Insert (Garrigues); Agenda for May Congregational Meeting & Proposed Bylaw Change (Voelker).

Second Reading of Policies:

Staff Relations Committee Policy Revision: Policy approved by the Board.

Land Ministry Policy: Policy approved by the Board. Several sections of this policy are not yet developed. Following discussion, it was agreed that no fires are allowed on UUS property until the safety rules and fire safety training mentioned in this policy are established.

Bereavement Leave Policy: Policy approved by the Board. This policy provides benefit eligible employees three days of paid leave for the death of a family member.

Safe Congregation New Member Insert: Garrigues provided a summary of the revisions made to this document. It will receive a “second read” at the June Board meeting.

Other: The ceremony to award Lifetime Membership status to two members is being planned and will take place within the next two months. Planning is also underway for a celebration of Rev. Steven’s ministry. The event will follow the Sunday service on July 1st. Liz Swanson will coordinate the reception and Winnie Ganshaw will develop the program.

Of note, in closed session the Executive Committee recommended, and the Board unanimously approved an increase from 10 to 15 hours per week for the Music Director (Gloria Corbin).

Feldman reported as process observer. Locher provided closing words. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. to Closed Session. The next Board meeting is Thursday, June 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room. A potluck will precede the meeting to welcome new Board members and to thank those whose terms are ending.

Congregational Meeting, May 20, 2018 - Highlights

Jim Laughlin, Board President, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was established with more than 90 of the 295 voting members in attendance. Jane DeWitt, Board Vice-President, provided opening words. Laughlin recognized and thanked the Outgoing Elected Board & Committee Members (Kelly O’Berry, Steve Locher, Kris Barrash, Winnie Ganshaw, Terri O’Berry, Sherry Dolash, Linda Rice, and Barb Haring). Kirk Witzberger, Leadership Development Committee, presented the Slate of Nominees with gratitude for their willingness to serve and contribute their gifts and noble character to our community. Nominees for the Board: Amy Fretz (Vice President), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), and Paul Pomrehn (Trustee); Committee on Congregational Life and Ministries: Susan Krohmer and Dave Tokuhisa; Leadership Development Committee: Cindy Spading and Jean Hood; and Endowment Committee: Al Thomas. No nominations came from the floor, so voting took place with the election of the entire slate. Next a motion passed unanimously to change the Bylaws by removing from the Vice-President’s duties the planning and coordination of an annual meeting of UUS committees.

Winnie Ganshaw, Committee on Congregational Life and Ministries (CCLAM), gave an overview of CCLAM and discussed the health of our shared ministries, which includes 62 UUS committees and activity/affinity groups. Laughlin recognized the six members (Jane DeWitt, Sally Hartman, Colleen Higgins, Jim Laughlin, Mary Losch, and Dave Martin) who will serve as UUS delegates at the UUA General Assembly this June in Kansas City. Kelly O’Berry, Board Past-President, updated the congregation on the ministerial transition. She announced that Rev. Diane Dowgiert will begin August 1st as our Interim Minister (see newsletter article). Dan Gall provided Closing Words and extinguished the Chalice. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. Following the meeting, the Board Officers (who served as the Interim Search Committee) held a Listening Session about the ministerial transition.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary