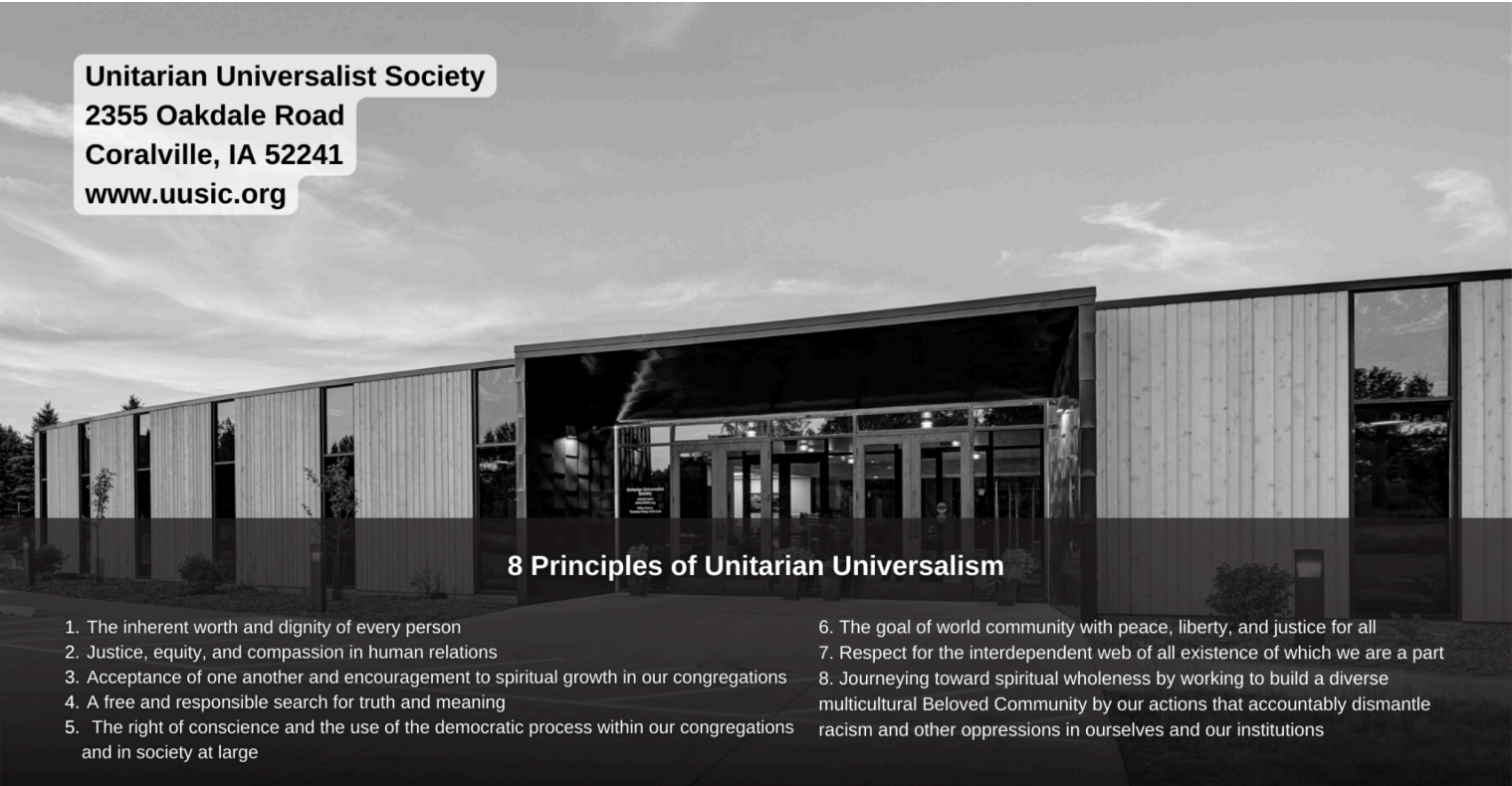


Unitarian Universalist Society
2355 Oakdale Road
Coralville, IA 52241
www.uusic.org



8 Principles of Unitarian Universalism

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

The UUS News

September 2024 Newsletter

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From Your Minister

Rev. Diana

Dear Ones,

The new congregational year has begun, and with it we're beginning to explore our Soul Matters theme of Invitation.

We'll begin the month by exploring our vision of shared ministry and how we're living into it through the work of our many teams, committees, and staff. At our annual Opportunities Fair after the worship service on September 8 you'll be able to find out more about the many ways you can be involved.

Then, on September 15 after the worship service I'll be leading a workshop on Articulating (Y)Our UU Faith. This is a mini version of a multi-week class taught in many congregations that invites us to find ways to talk about Unitarian Universalism and our relationship to it. This will be the kickoff for our monthly Lunch then Learn workshops, which will usually be on the first Sunday of the month.

On September 22, our new ministerial intern, Bridget Laflin, will be preaching here for the first time. Bridget will be with us through late May 2025 completing this important part of her training to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. Bridget received her Master of Divinity from Seattle University, and her B.A. from the University of Minnesota. She is currently the Director of Lifespan Religious Education for First Unitarian Universalist Church in San Antonio, TX and previously served as the Director of Religious Education at Woodinville UU Church in Woodinville, WA.

On September 28, we'll be beginning this year's music outreach program with a concert from UU musician Peter Mayer, who wrote our beloved song "Blue Boat Home." Peter will also be joining us for our Sunday service on September 29 when we launch our annual stewardship campaign, "Committed to Caring." Our stewardship campaign invites us all to reflect on how we support this congregation and co-create it.

At the end of the month I'll be preparing for a new round of teaching the Shared Pulpit sermon writing class. I'm leading this again as part of inviting members to preach some services when I'm on sabbatical from February through April 2025. The class will be October 14 and 28, November 4 and 25, and December 9 from 6:30 - 9 pm. If you're interested, please contact me. I'll be posting more information later in September.

I'm also delighted that this year we're inviting members, friends, and the wider community to begin a new year of covenant groups, mind and spirit exploration, Our Whole Lives, children and youth religious education, justice work, and much more. I'm also pleased that we're inviting the wider community into UUS programming and by providing space for many community organizations to host meetings and fundraisers. I hope that if you're not already, you'll be part of this as a participant and by helping make programming happen. Please find out more about how to get engaged in the rest of this newsletter and by reading weekly emails. For together, we are making this congregation a beloved community.

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Diana

Upcoming Services

September 2024 Sunday Services

September 1st: Love at the Center

Join us as we learn about how UU theologian James Luther helped us develop the idea of a free church and how we carry that forth today by putting love at the center. Worship associates Marsha Cheyney and Andrew Levitt will share a sermon by Rev. Dana Worsnop.

September 8th: Creating a Shared Ministry

How do we create this congregation, this ministry we're engaged in together? We'll celebrate and explore how we are all part of our 2024-25 vision of shared ministry and commission our religious education teachers and pastoral care associates. After the worship service, we'll have our annual Opportunities Fair, where you can explore ways to engage at UUS. Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

September 15th: Articulating (Y)Our Faith

What is Unitarian Universalism? How do we talk about it with others and extend invitations to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Join us to explore these questions. After the worship service we'll be kicking off our monthly Lunch then Learn series (usually the first Sunday) with an experiential workshop where you can learn more about and practice articulating (y)our faith. Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

September 22nd: To Be Announced

Join us for ministerial intern Bridget Laflin's first sermon at UUS!

September 29th: Committed to Caring

Join us for the kickoff of our annual stewardship campaign. Rev. Diana Smith preaching and special music from UU musician Peter Mayer.

Find more information on our Sunday Services on our website: www.uusic.org/services

Join us on YouTube Livestream: www.youtube.com/@UUS_IC

September Offerings

Shelter House

September Sunday Offerings benefit Shelter House, a nonprofit organization that provides safe shelter and helps people improve the quality of their lives as they move beyond homelessness. As stated on the Shelter House website, Shelter House "...operates a 70-bed emergency shelter in addition to four homes and an apartment building through which we provide over 60 permanent supportive housing units. We focus on programs and support services including housing, employment, and mental health recovery in the community."

Cash and check donations are collected during the Sunday service offering. Checks should be made out to UUS and have "Shelter House" on the memo line. You can also donate online at bit.ly/UUSPartner, text "GivetoUUSIC Partner" to 73256, or mail a check to the UUS office.

(September Offerings continued on page 4)

(September Offerings continued on from page 3)

5th Sunday Special Offering: Our UU Society partnered with the UU Service Committee's CAPAS program to sponsor a Cuban couple. We were matched with Yoel and Carmen, who arrived here at the end of April. Previously they stayed in a shelter in Texas temporarily after an arduous trip to the border. Seeking a path to citizenship, both are on track to apply for their Green Cards in January. Yoel is currently employed as a cook at Oaknoll. However, they are completely starting over and will soon be living in their own apartment. In time, they may need a car, and other expenses are anticipated.

Cash and check donations are collected during the Sunday service offering. You may donate with a check, putting "Sponsorship" in the memo line, or donate through Realm by scrolling to the Fifth Sunday donation line. Donate online at <https://bit.ly/UUSPartner>, text "GivetoUUSIC Partner" to 73256, or mail a check to the UUS office. Thank you for contributing to a cause that is close to many UUS hearts!

From Your Congregational Administrator

Maya Kehr Yoder

The office has been a bustling place this summer as we prepare for the start of a new congregational year. As we welcome some JCIC staff and Ministerial Intern Bridget Laflin to the UUS Office Space, volunteers have helped to make the office space welcoming and organized. We are grateful for their recent start of the RE Wing reorganization. We also love the new purple shelves the Aesthetics Team put together for our office space. Volunteers also regularly help prepare the monthly newsletter and mailings.

Want to volunteer? Let me know by sending an email to admin@uusic.org.

From Your Membership Coordinator

Victoria Huitt

Opportunities Fair Sunday, September 8th

September is right around the corner, and it has been customary for us to have an "Opportunities Fair" as the new liturgical year begins. It is scheduled for Sunday, September 8th following the worship service, and it will be held in the Fellowship hall.

The purpose of the fair is to inform/remind UUS members and friends of our many opportunities here in our congregation for rewarding and fulfilling involvement. This is a great time to 'pitch' your group and to add members!

If you would like your interest group or committee to participate, please request a table from Maya Yoder at admin@uusic.org by Wednesday, September 4th at noon.

And please plan to attend and learn about many of the great things happening as we start the new church year.

Get involved, learn, have fun, volunteer, meet regularly with a small group or all of the above!

Upcoming Events

Men's Sunday Social, September 1st

UUS adult men are invited to gather together the first Sunday of most months from 6 to 8 pm to socialize in a casual setting. Members and Friends are welcome. We define "man" as any adult who identifies as a man. Currently, our monthly gatherings take place at 2Dogs Pub (1705 First Avenue, Iowa City). Send questions to Russ Lenth and Phil Beck at menssundaysocial@uusic.org.

Opportunities Fair, September 8th

Join us after the Sunday service to learn about/refresh your memory of many of the wonderful opportunities at UUS. Details about signing up for a table are available in the "From Our Membership Coordinator" article.

Rev. Diana Community Office Hours, September 11th

Rev. Diana will be at Sidekick Coffee and Books from 1:30 PM until 2:30 PM for members and friends to stop by and chat about whatever's on your heart or mind. You don't need to have an appointment. She hopes you'll stop by to say "Hi!"

Free Lunch Program, September 13th

The cornerstone of the Free Lunch Program is "an open door, a full plate and no questions asked." Since 1986 UUS has been providing the meal at 1105 Gilbert Court on the second Friday of every month. A Sign-Up Genius email is sent to the volunteer list for signups to help prepare the main dish and for volunteers to bring items for our green salad, fruit salad and desserts which are served along with the main dish. Volunteers come in to work 1-2 hour shifts preparing food, chopping fruit and veggies, serving the meal and cleaning up.

Everyone has a good time working together to put the meal on. You can also donate funds to cover the cost of the main dish.

Email freelunch@uusic.org to learn more and get involved!

Cuban Dinner and Salsa Night at UUS, September 13th

Join us on Friday, September 13th for amazing Cuban food and salsa dancing to support the Cuban couple UUS is sponsoring! All donations are free-will.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM and dancing will begin at 7:00 PM, ending at 8:30 PM.

Lunch then Learn, September 15th

Join Rev. Diana for Articulating (Y)Our UU Faith after Sunday service. More details to follow.

UUS Men's Sharing Circle, September 15th

All adult UUS members and friends who identify as male are invited to join us at 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 and Niklaus Jakob at menssharingcircle@uusic.org.

(Upcoming Events continued on page 6)

(Upcoming Events continued on from page 5)

UUS Board Meeting, September 18th

The UUS Board of Trustees holds a meeting, open to all members, each month at 7 pm on the third Wednesday. Look for an agenda in the weekly email or on the website before the meeting. (Link to Join, Meeting ID 891 3256 0297, password 228948, or join by phone).

Land Ministry Work Day, September 21st

Land Ministry planned work day. More details to follow.

Immigrant Welcome Network Gala, September 21st

More details to follow.

Pathways to Membership Orientation, September 22nd

Interested in becoming a member of UUS? Join us for Pathways to Membership! We will introduce you to the process and help you get started with the steps to become a member.

We have a variety of options for activities to participate in that introduce you to the congregation, UU principles and history, and to get involved in the community. You choose which you do and do it at your own pace and join at the next available New Member Ceremony.

If this month does not work for you, watch for future monthly orientation meetings so you can get started as it works in your schedule. Email Victoria Huitt, Membership Coordinator, at welcome@uusic.org to RSVP.

Rev. Diana Community Office Hours, September 25th

Rev. Diana will be at lower City Park in Iowa City from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM for members and friends to stop by and chat about whatever's on your heart or mind. You don't need to have an appointment. She hopes you'll stop by to say "Hi!"

Sound Bath Meditation, September 25th

Join Tina McCoy in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM for a mini-retreat from the distractions and busy-ness of life in an immersive sound meditative bath. The unique sound experience offers a peaceful respite to enjoy feelings of relaxation and serenity. This is your time to reconnect with heart and spirit, all supported by soothing vibrations and sounds from singing bowls, gongs, chimes, and other instruments.

We will begin promptly at 6:30. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to create your comfort space for the session. Bring props (e.g., yoga mat, blanket, etc.) to support and deepen your comfort. Chairs are available for those who prefer to be seated. This is a free-will offering event.

Peter Mayer Concert, September 28th

Kick off the new congregational year's Music Outreach program with a concert from UU musician Peter Mayer, who wrote our beloved song "Blue Boat Home." More details to follow.

Find our full list of September Events at www.uusic.org/upcoming-events.

UUS Committee and Team Reports

GREEN SANCTUARY

UUA Climate Revival Event! Save the Date - November 16 and 17 (Saturday and Sunday)

On Saturday we plan to have 5 interconnected activities to move from an extractive age to an era of climate justice and collective liberation. We will be:

1. Drawing a RICH PICTURE of community thriving
2. Building a SYSTEMS MAP that takes our challenging realities into account
3. BUILDING CAPACITY for community care
4. Using SACRED CIRCLES to chart a course for transformative action
5. Forming INTERDEPENDENT COMMITMENTS to change. On Sunday we will gather to celebrate our hard and hopeful work.

September Better Together - Reduce Your Energy Use

Each month of Better Together we have actions that members of the congregation can take to address climate Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience, and Justice. Our focus for the fall is Mitigation to Reduce Carbon Emissions, the primary cause of climate change.

1. Audit your home energy use. The ways for individuals to reduce their home energy use are too many and too dependent on personal circumstances to just list tips. However, whether you are a renter or owner, you can learn something new about your home energy use with a DIY home energy audit.

DIY audit - <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-home-energy-assessments>

Johnson County Free Home Energy Audit - <https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/news/planning-development-and-sustainability/energy-efficiency/2024-01-18/johnson-county-residents>

2. Take a bus ride. Even if you have an EV, or use a bike, or walk most places, make a plan to take the bus. Besides reducing your CO2 emissions, taking the bus gives you a chance to see how buses fit into a city's transportation system and to support public transit initiatives in your community. Iowa City and the UI CAMBUS are free. Coralville's bus system is free for kids under 5, seniors, and those with disabilities.

Iowa City - <https://www.icgov.org/government/departments-and-divisions/transportation/transit>

UI CAMBUS - <https://transportation.uiowa.edu/cambus/routes>

Coralville and North Liberty - <https://www.coralville.org/166/Bus-Schedules-Route-Maps>

3. Change public policy. Keep in mind that free energy audits and public transit are the result of the personal efforts of other interested citizens to change policy. So you need to add changing public policy to your personal efforts to reduce energy use. Find out what your city, county, state, and national governments are already doing to address climate change and then find groups working to push them towards more change.

Iowa City - <https://www.icgov.org/government/departments-and-divisions/climate-action-outreach>

Coralville and North Liberty do not have focused initiatives

(UUS Committee and Team Reports continued on page 8)

(UUS Committee and Team Reports continued from page 7)

Johnson County -

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/department-of-sustainability>

Iowa - Iowa's most recent initiative ended in 2011, but you can check out the Iowa Environmental Council 2024 legislative priorities at <https://www.iaenvironment.org/get-involved/legislative-landing>

USA-

<https://voteclimatepac.org/117th-congress-climate-scorecard/>

Our September Meeting Will be Hybrid!

Green Sanctuary is planning an in-person meeting at church **Wednesday September 11, 7 pm** but we also have a Zoom option at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88132264216> for folks who prefer it. Contact Jan Weaver - jan.weaver57@gmail.com for more information or to get on our email list.

Upcoming Related Events

Iowa City Climate Fest (September 23-28):

- Rain, Hail, Snow Monitoring Network,
- Transit Trivia at Big Grove, Community Sing and the Movie "Scale of Hope" at the Chauncey + voter registration,
- Create a Personal Electrification Plant at the Library,
- Non-Profit Nerd Out at the Senior Center,
- EVs at the Market.

<https://www.icgov.org/government/departments-and-divisions/climate-action-outreach/climate-fest>

IMMIGRATION ACTION TEAM

Who knew that Yoel, the Cuban immigrant that UU Society is sponsoring, is a chef? He once made a dish for the President of Argentina, who really loved it! Now you have a chance to experience Yoel's chef skills and Carmen's dessert baking on Friday, September 13. Come at 6 pm for the dinner and stay for the Salsa dancing at 7 pm. The dinner includes a vegetarian dish. This is a fundraiser for Carmen and Yoel! Everyone is invited! A free will donation is requested for the dinner and dance. See you there! Download the flyer for this event [here](#).

UU Society Immigrant Action Team, at the Mayor's request, recently supported an immigrant family whose home had flooded. With contributions from the Team as well as a UUS member, we were able to assist with the needed repairs and cleanup so this family with young children was closer to moving back in their house. Our congregation is well-known in the community for compassion and generosity. The Immigrant Action Fund could use some contributions to help buy children's school shoes and supplies, and helping with emergencies.

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Second Sundays are becoming **Social and Environmental Justice Sundays!** On SEJ (pronounced "sedge") Sundays, the Social Justice Teams and Green Sanctuary Teams are providing opportunities for UUs to act on their values by writing letters and cards and signing petitions after the service.

As UUs, we covenant to act on our values (JETPIG). When we do, we believe we make the world a more just place for humans and for other species. On SEJ Sundays, we will have everything you need to participate in writing a letter or postcard, or signing a petition.

(UUS Committee and Team Reports continued on page 8)

(UUS Committee and Team Reports continued from page 7)

For **September 8** and **October 13**, we are holding a "**Voters Don't Let Voters Skip Voting**" campaign. We'll be asking you to write a few words in a letter or postcard to a registered voter, a voter who research shows will be *more* likely to vote if they receive encouragement - even from a complete stranger! We will have pre-printed letters or cards, plus envelopes, addresses, stamps, and pens. Oh, and we will be able to use some help decorating the envelopes with stickers and drawings, so our younger members can help as well!

Make a plan now to join us on SEJ Sundays!
Look for us after the Service in the Fellowship Hall.

UUS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 p.m. July 17, 2024

Present: Jeff Walberg (President), Sarah Ross (Vice-President), Christine Etler (Secretary), Michael Honey-Arcement (Treasurer), Ian Cawley (Trustee), Ernie Cox (Trustee), Monique DiCarlo (Trustee), Lucy Gamon (Assistant Secretary)

Meeting opened at 6:35 p.m. with check-in. Chalice and Opening Words by Etler.

Consent Agenda

Reports

Minister's Report – June

Treasurer's Report – June

Governance Committee Minutes - July 2

Endowment Report - Q2

Decisions

Board Meeting Minutes June 19 (not available—to be approved next month)

Appoint Lucy as Ass't Secretary

Policy update: 1.4-5

Policy update: 1.4-8

Vision of Ministry

The chair reviewed the rest of the consent agenda items, and hearing no objections, announced that the consent agenda has been adopted.

Board Committees Planning – The Board fleshed out structures for standing and ad hoc committees and roles that each Board member will play on these, particularly in fall 2024. Walberg created a document to track these assignments, which was updated during the meeting. Of note, the Board informally agreed to form a new Sabbatical Committee to prepare for Rev. Diana's sabbatical leave in spring 2025. Ross will work with Rev. Diana to form the committee and develop a charge for later Board approval. Also, DiCarlo and Cox agreed to be on a Ministerial Agreement Task Force.

Motion—Honey-Arcement moved to remove the Right Relations Committee as a Board committee, and to assign the current members to a Right Relations Ministry Team; seconded by DiCarlo. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Ministry Teams Planning – The Board discussed potential next steps with ministry teams, including the relationships between teams and church staff. The Board collaborated on completing a ministry teams worksheet. The Board discussed the “soft” intentions for teams with a bottom-up lens to help frame the “hard” guidelines and expectations for teams.

Congregational Engagement Planning—The Board discussed recurring patterns of mistrust and destructive conflicts within our society. With the view of moving forward, the Board discussed using

consultants to help address these patterns of conflict and develop more resilience as a congregation. We have utilized a consultant (Rev. Sam Wilson) this year and it has proved valuable and inexpensive.

Motion – Etlar moved that we request Sharon Ditmer (our UUA regional representative) to apply for the “HOPE for Us” consulting program; Honey-Arcement seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion. The application is only a first step and does not commit the Board to engage in such consulting.

Compensation Recommendations – DiCarlo provided an informal oral report from the Compensation Recommendations Committee. The Board discussed proposed changes to vacation policies and health insurance policies for paid staff members. The Board is generally in favor of increased vacation and better health insurance policy options for staff. The Board will await Finance Committee and staff input before making any final decisions.

Closing

Process observer comments by Cawley. Closing words provided by Etlar. With the agenda completed and no new business from the floor, the chair adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Lucy Gamon, Assistant Board Secretary

Email the Secretary at secretary@uusic.org with requests for documents reviewed at the meeting.

Addendum to Minutes– The Board held a special meeting by Zoom on August 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. All board members attended, with the exceptions of Christine Etlar and Ernie Cox. Diana Henry (2023-2024 board trustee) and Rev. Diana also attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the mutual Board/Minister evaluation that the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees completed in June with Rev. Diana. Henry prepared the written evaluation and led the discussion. The Board appreciates Henry’s efforts in completing this written evaluation. The Board took no further action.

Board approved on 8-21-2024