



**CEDAR VALLEY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

3912 CEDAR HEIGHTS DR. CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

319-266-5640

WWW.CEDARVALLEYUU.ORG



***** 2022 *****

NOVEMBER 6 10:00 A.M. THE SCARCITY MINDSET – Pastor Emma, Mandy Boody *
11:30 A.M. Adult Forum

NOVEMBER 13 10:00 A.M. WHO ARE YOU? THE REFLECTIONS YOU PRESENT – Ken Taylor, Karen Impola *
11:15 A.M. / 11:30 A.M. I Want to be a Member / Adult Forum

NOVEMBER 20 10:00 A.M. TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESILIENCE
– Pastor Emma, Dick Warhol *
11:30 A.M. SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 27 10:00 A.M. EMBRACING ABUNDANCE – Pastor Emma, Karen Impola *
Due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, there is *no Forum* today.
Editor's Note: There will be RE for the children this Sunday.

* ~ denotes *Worship Associate*



For complete CVUU COVID-19 information, go to Guidelines on the website at <<http://cedarvalleyuu.org/covid-19>>.

The *mission* of this organization is to be an accepting and supportive community that nurtures spiritual, emotional, and intellectual explorations, articulates ethical values, and encourages actions based on personal beliefs. This community is a voice for religious diversity, human tolerance, improvement of the human condition, and preservation of our environment.

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Happy November! November is one of my favorite months, in part because it is home to one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving! I love Thanksgiving because it's focused on community and my favorite thing of all, food! This year, I am thrilled to announce the CVUU will be able to host our Thanksgiving Potluck Meal for the first time since 2019! I can't wait for fellowship and feasting, and I hope I see you there!

This month, I'll be offering a brief sermon "series" (only two messages, book-ending the first and last Sunday of the month) on the dual conditions of Scarcity and Abundance. Scarcity (the fear that I don't have "enough" of whatever it is—money, friends, time—and that I'll never have "enough") has plagued me for a lot of my life. I'm learning how not to live in that place of fear and uncertainty. Many folks think that leaning into Abundance (the idea that you do have enough—especially if you're rooted in community, and that the Universe ultimately provides) is the way to fight the Scarcity Mindset. I'm looking forward to delivering these messages, and I hope you'll join us.

How are you fighting scarcity—in your own life, in your community, and in our congregation? Where are you finding abundance? I'd love to hear your perspectives on these two ideas. You know where to find me. If you want to discuss these topics, or anything else, reach out to me and I'll put a visit on my calendar. I hope you're finding joy and warmth as we head into the colder months, and I hope a lot of it is coming from the CVUU!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Emma

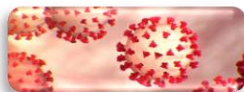


Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 6th !!

COVID-19 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

If we learn that there has been a possible COVID exposure at a CVUU event, we will send out an all-church email. To ensure that you receive these emails, verify that you are signed up on our newsletter and Weekly Update email lists.

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 in the days after attending an event at the CVUU should contact the CVUU office at <office@cedarvalleyuu.org>; the Vice President, Karen Impola at <vp@cedarvalleyuu.org>; and Pastor Emma Peterson at <pastor@cedarvalleyuu.org>.



UU-related historical facts in our newsletters are contributed by Mica Lorenz and taken from *This Day in Unitarian Universalist History* by Frank Schulman – Skinner House Books.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Beloved Community. The start of the fall season has been exciting so far. The CVUU Board approved a motion to call a special congregational meeting to vote on the adoption of the 8th Principle. For more information see the newsletter articles discussing the Special Congregational Meeting. The Board also approved a key-issuance policy, and approved putting in a new water heater. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on these issues.

The *Treats & Talents Auction*, which is our biggest fundraiser for the CVUU, is on the evening of Saturday, November 19th. The theme this year is *Some Enchanted Evening*. See the related article in this newsletter for more information. Contact Mike Knapp if you have items to donate for the auction.

It takes a village to plan and execute all the fun things the CVUU does throughout the year. Please consider volunteering to help make the CVUU run smoothly. We need helpers for the Children's RE during the service; hospitality hosting after the Sunday service; help with social action events for the Walking Our Talk competition; as well as volunteering on committees and councils. These are really fun ways to serve and get to know others in the congregation. Please contact a board member if you are interested in volunteering for a committee or council. Our website is <cedarvalleyuu.org>. Below is a list of the 2022-23 board members. To get contact information, reach out to the office administrator at <office@cedarvalleyuu.org>.

Board President: Sheri Huber-Otting
Board Vice-President: Karen Impola
Board Secretary: Rob Boody
Finance Representative: Mary Kay Madsen
Trustee (Building/Grounds): Dennis Harbaugh
Trustee (Congregational Life): Stacey Bartz
Trustee (Religious Education): Desiree Cunningham
Trustee (Religious Services): Ken Taylor
Trustee (Shared Ministry): Floralyn Groff
Trustee (Social Action): Lizzy O'Loughlin

Sheri Huber-Otting
CVUU Board President



The Unitarian Julia Ward Howe wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" on November 18, 1861 at the specific request of President Abraham Lincoln. Many of the Union forces adopted it as a marching song in the Civil War but it soon gained nationwide popularity. American troops sang it in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II.



PAGEANT TIME!

On December 18th the CVUU will be having a very special pageant! All ages are welcome to participate—no previous experience needed!

Practices will be at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates: Mondays, November 14th, 21st, 28th, December 5th and 12th. If you would like to be involved, please let Jess know by emailing <musicdirector@cedarvalleyuu.org>!

Frances Dana Barker Gage, a Universalist feminist and social reformer died at age seventy-six on November 10, 1884.



NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. online and in person unless stated otherwise.

November 6th

The Scarcity Mindset: What It Is and How It Harms Ourselves, Our Communities, and Our Congregation

~~ Pastor Emma, Mandy Boody (WA)

November 13th

Who ARE You? The Reflections You Present

~~ Ken Taylor, Karen Impola (WA)

The person you think of as “yourself” exists only for you, and even you don’t really know who that is. Every person you meet creates a different version of “you” in their heads. So, who ARE you?

November 20th

Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience: Honoring Those We’ve Lost, and Celebrating Those Who Persist

~~ Pastor Emma, Dick Warhol (WA)

November 27th

Embracing Abundance: How We Know We Have Enough

~~ Pastor Emma, Karen Impola (WA)

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Forums take place following the Sunday services although they will now begin at 11:30 a.m. unless publicized otherwise.

November 6th

What to Know in an Active Shooter Situation

This is something we hope will never happen to us, but sadly, it has happened in other places. The consensus about the best ways to react has changed over the decades, and Lieutenant Dennis O’Neill of the Cedar Falls Police Department will present the current best practices. Please note, this session is not a time to discuss or debate gun laws.

November 13th

Farms Can Help with Climate Change!

Iowa is a leader in climate action through renewable energy, and some of our farmers are leading the way in best practices that capture carbon and reduce emissions on their farms. Elston Tortuga, Program Manager of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light’s Faith, Farm, & Climate program, will update us on this important environmental action.

November 20th

Special Congregational Meeting on Adopting the 8th Principle

For information, see the two related articles in this issue.

November 27th

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, there will be no Forum this day. Enjoy socializing in the Fellowship Hall/on Zoom with other CVUUsers and guests.

Al Hays for Adult RE



At the time of this writing, fall has been good to us so far—and the joy continues as we watch the trees do their magic creating gorgeous colors!

Congratulations to member *Cindy Bancroft* and family, as it was announced mid-October in the *Courier* that son *Jordan* has been hired as the Executive Director of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony. They are looking forward to this next chapter in their lives. Welcome home, Jordan!

To those in our congregation who are facing health issues or recovering from illness or surgery, we wish you a very speedy recovery; to those who have experienced the loss of a relative or dear friend, we send our deepest sympathy.

Contact the *Caring Committee* with pastoral concerns, or if you are in need of assistance.



The Unitarian abolitionist *Samuel May* died on November 23, 1899 in Leicester, Massachusetts, at age eighty-nine.



Soul Matters for November—Change

As the leaves change color in autumn, as the branches stand bare in winter, as the new buds appear in spring, as the full leaves rustle in summer—through all these changes, the tree is still a tree. This month, we invite you to consider the changes that happen around us and within us.



KNOTS OF LOVE

The *Knots of Love* group will meet on Sunday, November 20th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join this group, but have not previously attended, please contact *Moria Brown* for more information.



CHILDREN'S RE!!

Hello! We had a wonderful RE teacher training on October 16th! We're feeling good about teaching Soul Matters to our kids and youth going into the new year.

There will be RE on Sunday, November 27th (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) so looking forward to seeing you then.

There will be a pageant on Sunday, December 18th! Anyone interested in helping in any way (acting, costume- and/or prop-making, snack-providing) should reach out to me at <ccre@cedarvalleyuu.org>! Stay tuned for more information on this in the very near future.

CCRE-ly yours,
Kate



COMMUNITY MEALS

Tuesday, November 29th will be another fifth Tuesday of the month, so (along with several other small religious organizations) we will help serve a free community meal at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls.

Thanks to all who have helped in the past, especially for setting up tables and chairs, as that task is solely a CVUU responsibility. Volunteers will be needed to set up tables and chairs that morning, donate cupcakes, help prepare food at 1:00 p.m., serve from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and clean up from 5:45 p.m. until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact *Ruth Walker* if you are willing and able to help.



WELL-PLANNED DYING SMALL GROUP

This fall a Small Group was started that meets at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the CVUU. It is open to all members of any age or gender.

We have played around with titles for this group, including "The Grateful Dead," and "Dead Right," but more descriptive might actually be, "Last Gifts".



The aim of the group is to do everything we can to leave this planet in a way that is meaningful to us and as painless and easy as possible for those loved ones we leave behind. So, it is really about giving by learning, planning, organizing, and communicating what can be a difficult topic.

This is a do-it-yourself research and discussion group, with each member taking some responsibility for a topic that interests them. So far, we have had a session on talking with loved ones about our wishes and values concerning death and dying as well as a fascinating one on many kinds of green—and not so green—ways to "dispose" of our body when we no longer have need for it. We have also talked about all kinds of memorial events that are possible, not just traditional funerals, and the roles that the events play in the lives of loved ones and other people who have known us.

We welcome anyone's attendance.

Henry Solly was born in London on November 13, 1813. Reared Unitarian, he was a member of the first class at University College in London that would receive Unitarians (1829-1832). Like many English Unitarians of his time, Solly was socially radical but conventional in his theology. Henry Solly died on February 27, 1903.



SHARED MINISTRY

Helping out, getting involved, and finding your place at the CVUU

As we resume activities in our building this fall, it is quickly becoming clear that we need lots of help to get things fully running again in person at the CVUU, especially while continuing to offer online and hybrid options for those who need or prefer them. We have many ways to help and get involved! Opportunities include helping with hospitality, greeting, building and grounds, religious education for the kids, Sunday service tech team and worship associates, singing in the choir, etc. For more information about what help is needed and how to sign up, please see the Weekly Update! Starting in November, we hope to have a new central page everyone can access each week to make it easy to figure out what help is needed, when, what each job involves, and how to sign up. Whether you are new to the CVUU or have been around for a while, we encourage each of you to think about how you might help keep the CVUU running, especially on Sunday mornings. It really does take a village to get the work done, and many hands make light work.

For many years, the day-to-day operations of the CVUU have relied on a concept known as "shared ministry." Shared ministry is the mutual responsibility that the congregation, the minister, and the professional staff share, committing them to work together to support and promote the growth and well-being of the CVUU congregation in all aspects of its community life. Shared ministry means that we each play our part to help keep the CVUU running by putting our own skills, experience, energy, and passion into playing the role that is best suited for each of us.

If you'd like some help discovering your personal ministry at the CVUU, the Shared Ministry Council is here to help. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the Shared Ministry Council for help finding your place at the CVUU: *Heather Flory* (chair), *Floralyn Groff* (Board liaison), *Judy Harrington*, *Pam Hays*, *Del Carpenter*, and *Pastor Emma Peterson*.

Heather Flory,
on behalf of the Shared Ministry Council



ATTENTION MUSICIANS!

Are you musically inclined? We are looking for soloists and small groups who are interested in playing for Sunday services throughout the year, but especially in December! Please reach out to *Jess* at <musicdirector@cedarvalleyuu.org> if you would like to share your talents during one of our services!

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Collection in September was for the *Iowa Abortion Access Fund*, and it's a pleasure to report that \$580 was collected for this worthwhile cause. The charity for October was the *CVUU Little Food Pantry* so we'll have that total next time. November's charity is for *House of Hope*—we know you'll be generous.



Reminder: you don't have to wait until Social Action Collection Sunday to donate to the 2022-23 causes, but however you choose to donate (online or a check sent to the church), be sure to note which Social Action charity so it's clear for our Collector.

Thank you to all who participate in this meaningful activity on behalf of Social Action in the name of CVUU.

The Social Action Committee



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Life is Good these days at the CVUU! We are coming back to life in-person. Children and their families are coming back, and new people keep checking us out (and coming back!). It's an encouraging time for our Beloved Community.

We held our first in-person 'New to CVUU' session since 'the before times' on October 9th and had six new people attend! And six 'seasoned' members came and shared what they're passionate about at the CVUU. There was really good energy and we all enjoyed getting to know each other better. Newer attendees often say they feel we're a really friendly, welcoming group. Yay!!

There is also increased interest in membership and it seems we're living out our theme for this year: *New Growth from Deep Roots*. We will give any interested attendees a chance to join the CVUU when we hold our next in-person '*I Want to Be a Member*' session on Sunday, November 13th at 11:15 a.m. Watch for news about new members in the near future and help welcome them to the fold.

We're rebuilding our Hospitality time so that we can enjoy socializing over coffee and a snack on Sundays. Thanks to *Linda* for her leadership on this and to all who are chipping in with coffee-making, bringing snacks, and cleaning up. We are grateful for all of you! Please consider being a part of this important activity and contact *Linda* directly or go to the sign-up link in the Weekly Update email to see how you can help. We need you!

The T-shirt design effort is wrapping up. We'll zero in on the design soon so that when spring comes, we can sport our CVUU brand at events in the community and raise awareness about where we're from and what we stand for.

One last thing to think about: your CVUU Elevator Speech. It might not be too late if you haven't submitted yours yet. Submissions can be sent to *Al Hays*. An elevator speech is a short (60 seconds or less) ditty that puts in a nutshell what you believe and value about the CVUU. *Al* hopes to record and post some of these on our website, and we hope you'll be a part of helping let people know who and what makes the CVUU so special!

Juanita Williams
for the Congregational Life Team

I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual.

~~Henry David Thoreau



Joseph Tuckerman began his work with the poor of Boston under the sponsorship of the Association of Religious Improvement on November 15, 1826. He worked particularly with children, seeing that they went to school and had shoes and clothes. He helped to establish Sunday schools for poor children and was a leader in the Sunday School Society (Unitarian) until he died.



POLLINATOR GARDEN NEWS

On the sunny morning of Saturday, October 22nd several folks met for a fall pollinator garden wrap-up. Their plans included recapping this year's accomplishments, identifying needs, and forming plans for next year.

They discussed aggressive plants and made plans to curb their impact, as well as how to support and re-establish New England Asters and Meadow Blazingstars which have suffered from the aggressive plants.

Elaine brought photos and showed how various pollinator plants were faring in her beautifully landscaped yard. She offered seeds harvested there.

There was also discussion of encroaching drought and how to adapt, including a decision to acquire a lighter weight but sturdy hose. The small area on the west side of the building where we've attempted to support wildflowers needs sturdier plantings—shrubs that serve pollinators—and choosing those is in process.



Pictured from left: *Dawn Ask Martin, Sally Browne, Betsy Brant, Elaine Hughes, Donna Davis*. Volunteers not pictured: *Cathy Ryan, Jamie Wilson, Mica Lorenz, Mandy Boody, Albert Browne*.



"Without the actions of pollinators: agricultural economies, our food supply, and surrounding landscapes would collapse."

~~Pollinator Partnership

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING VOTE ON THE PROPOSED 8TH PRINCIPLE

Last spring, the CVUU Board approved the creation of a task force to discuss the possibility of adding an 8th Principle to the existing seven UU Principles. The 8th Principle is something for which people of color in the UUA have been advocating for a number of years.



After meeting over a span of months and helping plan services to educate the congregation about the background of this issue, the 8th Principle Task Force has requested, and the Board has approved, a special congregational meeting on Sunday, November 20th at 11:30 a.m., to discuss and vote on the adoption of the proposed 8th Principle.

The Task Force believes that adopting this principle will help our congregation better engage in addressing the multiple oppressions that afflict our society. Our current seven principles offer a solid base to move forward, but this principle provides an explicit and challenging call to address racism, sexism, homophobia, and other oppressions.

The exact wording of the 8th Principle is still likely to change as it goes through discussion at the national level and at the General Assembly next June. At the present time, though, the Task Force feels that we as a congregation should not tinker with the wording, but rather, adopt it as it is currently written.

The meeting on November 20th will be hybrid. You can attend either in person, or via Zoom at the regular service link. Anyone who is currently a member of the CVUU is eligible to vote.

Here is the proposal that will be voted on at the special meeting, after a period of discussion:

"We, the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists, as a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: 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, and we recommend that the UUA as a whole do the same."

If you have questions or want to discuss this further, please contact *Al Hays*.

Sheri Huber-Otting, President
Karen Impola, Vice President

Editor's Note: Be sure to read the related article at the end of this newsletter from *Al Hays*, 8th Principle Task Force Chair, for more understanding of this issue and answers to often-asked questions.



SOME OBSERVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

National **Pomegranate** month

National **Model Railroad** month

National **Sleep Comfort** month

National **Native American Heritage** month

National **Veterans and Military Families** month

National **Candle** month National **Family Literacy** month



TREATS & TALENTS AUCTION RETURNS

Saturday, November 19th

"Some Enchanted Evening!"

Mark your calendars for the return of the *CVUU Treats & Talents Auction* on Saturday evening, November 19th in the Fellowship Hall. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and the Auction will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Treats & Talents Auction is our annual fundraising event that was on hiatus during the pandemic.

Not familiar with this event? Each fall, members, friends and other sources donate items for sale at the evening's auction. Items can be donated goods or coupons, handmade artwork or crafts, meals, desserts, personal services, excursions—just about everything from gourmet cooking to babysitting and then some.



This year's theme is *"Some Enchanted Evening!"* so dust off those fairy wings, get out your favorite fairy tale character's costume, Ren wear, or Wizard wands! You are only limited by your imagination, so help make this night a magical one for everyone.

Refreshments and libations will be provided along with musical entertainment and humorous repartee by our auctioneer and auction assistants. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Child care can be made available if needed.

Now is the time to submit to *Mike Knapp* your items to be offered at this year's auction.



NOVEMBER DEADLINE FOR THE CALENDAR AND NUUSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the December issue (how did 2022 disappear so quickly?). The calendar deadline for this issue will be **Wednesday, November 16th** (send info to the office), and the newsletter deadline will be **Friday, November 18th** (send articles to me). This information can also be found in bold type on the calendar page of this newsletter.

Mark your calendars now for **November 16th** and **18th**—the calendar and newsletter deadlines for the *December* issue. There are paper copies left at the church each month—some in the acrylic wall holder in the front entry and some at the foot of the stairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Just a reminder, it is not the responsibility of your editor to write articles, but to see that pertinent information is included and accurate in each issue. So many of our contributors are conscientious of the monthly deadlines, for which I am eternally grateful to each of you!

Gerry Chamberlin, Editor
newsletter@cedarvalleyuu.org



THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Plans are in the works for a *Thanksgiving Potluck* this year—the last one was in 2019! More details should be forthcoming along with a sign-up sheet.



CVUU READER'S GROUP

The Reader's Group will meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15th. This is not a book club with an assigned book, it is a relaxed discussion where we share what books we each happen to be reading or thinking about recently.

Contact *Mandy Boody* if you would like to be added to the email group for the notes and reminders.



CARING CONNECTIONS

The members of our Caring Connections Committee are devoted to serving this congregation month after month, as the needs arise. They deserve a big thank you from each of us! The contact person for October is *Jan Anderson*.



MOVIE DISCUSSION SMALL GROUP

The Movie Discussion Small Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom on Monday, November 14th. The movie being discussed is *The Tender Bar* which is only available on Prime.

A reminder will be sent out the week prior and include the Zoom link. For questions or if you don't have Prime Video, contact *Nancie Groszkruger*.



Are you beginning to think about holiday shopping? If so, there are numerous items from which to choose at the UU Book and Gift Shop called *inSpirit*. If books are on your list for family, friends (or maybe even a gift for yourself), check out this shop! Leisurely browse for clothing, jewelry, cards, many books—and much more, at: <https://www.uuabookstore.org/>.



GREEN LIVING CORNER

New Habitat for Monarchs—and Other Pollinators—in Iowa

More than 430,000 acres of new monarch butterfly habitat was created in Iowa between 2014 and 2020 as a result of work by the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium.



The acres are part of a national effort to make spaces for monarchs to rest and feed as they migrate from Canada to Mexico in the fall.

Private landowners and farmers, conservation organizations, state and local governments—all can take part.

Here in Black Hawk County, a Pollinator Zone program encourages landowners to convert land not in use into pollinator-friendly habitat. There is information at this link on where to locate the Cedar Valley Pollinator Zones: <https://cedarvalleymonarchzones.org/pollinator-zones/>.

Coppicing Oak Trees

Entomologist and ecologist Douglas Tallamy spoke in Cedar Rapids on October 8th and CVUUs *Donna Davis*, *Elaine Hughes*, *Albert Browne* and myself were delighted to be in the audience. Dr. Tallamy's talk was based on material in his most recent book, *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*. Considering the great ecological benefits of oaks, we should all be planting oaks wherever we can, but many homeowners have lots too small for a full-sized oak.

In this case, Dr. Tallamy recommends coppicing. When you cut oaks off near the base, new smaller shoots grow up quickly around the stump. This traditional woodland management practice is called coppicing and has been used for centuries to create a sustainable supply of firewood. In small yards, a coppiced oak tree, cut back at appropriate intervals, is an attractive bush and provides many of the benefits of oaks as host plants. They'll also still capture carbon and grow deep roots to manage the watershed.

MacArthur Award to Robin Wall Kimmerer

Good news for fans of the unlikely bestseller, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. Author Robin Wall Kimmerer was named a MacArthur fellow last week. In February 2020, more than six years after publication, her book reached the New York Times bestseller list where it's remained for 130 weeks.

Kimmerer asks readers to honor the glory of the Earth and restore rather than take—"In return for these spectacular gifts of the Earth, say to yourself: 'What am I going to do about that? What is my accountability in return for everything I've been given?'"

~~ Sally Browne



Coppiced oak—four years' growth

ADOPTION OF THE 8TH PRINCIPLE

On Sunday, November 20, 2022, at a specially-called congregational meeting, the CVUU will be asked to formally adopt the 8th Principle which has been proposed for ratification by the UUA as a denomination. Adoption by our congregation will accomplish several goals:

1. It will support a national movement to make our denomination more welcoming to diverse populations and make our denomination more capable of establishing and sustaining positive relationships with diverse groups.
2. It will make the commitment to racial justice and justice for other oppressed groups a more central part of our identity as a congregation.
3. It will challenge us as individuals and as a congregation to seek out opportunities to work effectively on these issues, in partnership with oppressed communities.
4. It will challenge us to continue our ongoing efforts to educate our members, and the community, on issues related to justice for oppressed groups.



The CVUU 8th Principle Task Force has been meeting since early summer to move this process forward. *Pastor Emma* has preached several sermons on the issue; an opportunity for discussion was offered at our August 14th service; and at our September 25th service we heard from UUs of color about the importance of the 8th Principle to them.

I now want to address some of the questions or concerns that have been raised during this discussion.

1. Why do we need an 8th Principle when several of our existing 7 Principles seem to cover it pretty well?

It is certainly true that serious adherence to our seven principles would involve a commitment to addressing racial injustice and other oppressions. However, the history of our denomination shows that these general principles have not been sufficient to counter some of our cultural and institutional biases which hold us back from full inclusion and recognition of people of color.

The 8th Principle provides an explicit and challenging call to address these oppressions and serves as a basis to hold us accountable when we do not.

2. Doesn't this principle appear to provide a privileged place for racial oppression, as opposed to other forms such as sexism and homophobia?

Working against oppression is not a zero-sum game in which calling out one form of oppression prevents us from working on others. The concept of "intersectionality" suggests that all forms of oppression are interconnected. For example, anti-abortion legislation oppresses all women but it falls with particular intensity on women of color because racial inequality reduces the resources available to many of them. Even though racism is one of the most intractable of all oppressions and thus deserves special emphasis, working on it advances the cause of anti-oppression in general. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

3. Isn't the current wording of the 8th Principle kind of lengthy and verbose and not in keeping with the brevity and succinctness of our current seven?

The proposed wording was arrived at through lengthy discussions and deliberations in which people of color were strongly represented and often took leadership. They believe that this is the best way to express their concerns and aspirations for our denomination. If the wording is to be revised, it needs to be done in dialog and consultation with those who created it, not unilaterally by an all-white congregation such as ourselves.

By adopting it, we are supporting the overall transformative process which it represents. It is in the process of being reviewed thoroughly by the Article II Study Commission and other UUA bodies. No doubt the final version, if adopted, will not be worded in exactly the same way. We need to move forward with the faith that whatever version emerges will be in the best interests of all of us as UUs.

Al Hays, Chair
8th Principle Task Force

PETER MAYER CONCERT

As many of you know, *Peter Mayer* is a Unitarian Universalist singer and songwriter whose music is loved by UUs across the land, including here at the CVUU. He has played in our building several times, most recently just before the pandemic. He has also played in online concerts throughout the pandemic and is now resuming in-person concerts.



Peter is scheduled to play in person at the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines on Saturday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m. I am planning on going! If you would like to go, or if you already have plans to go, please let me know so we can coordinate travel and/or meet up in Des Moines for dinner before the show. For more information about Peter Mayer and his concert schedule, visit his website: <www.petermayer.net>.

Heather Flory

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION ON HIATUS

There will not be Sunday morning meditation until further notice. If you are not already on the Buddhist Path Facebook group, you can join there to see updates.



SOCIAL ACTION

MITTEN, SCARF, SOCK AND HAT TREE

Happy November! It's time to start collecting mittens, gloves, hats, and socks for the annual CVUU mitten tree. The tree will go up after Thanksgiving, and will be ready for your contributions at that time. The beneficiaries of these goods will be decided sometime in December, with at least one school in Waterloo and one school in Cedar Falls being chosen.



Over the years literally thousands of socks, mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats have been distributed in the Cedar Valley, thanks to your generosity! Let's keep the momentum going and make this a banner year! If you have questions, please contact *Moria Brown*.

