



**CEDAR VALLEY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

3912 CEDAR HEIGHTS DR. CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

319-266-5640

WWW.CEDARVALLEYUU.ORG



***** 2023 *****

- MAY 7 10:00 A.M. RE SUNDAY AND NEW MEMBER WELCOME**
– CCRE Kate Flynn and the children; Pastor Emma *
- 11:30 A.M. Adult Forum / New to CVUU
- MAY 14 10:00 A.M. DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?** – Lynn Brant and Jess Lieb
- 11:30 A.M. Adult Forum
- MAY 21 10:00 A.M. FLOWER COMMUNION** – Pastor Emma Peterson, Mandy Boody *
- 11:15 A.M. ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
- MAY 28 10:00 A.M. ANYTHING GOES** – Pastor Emma Peterson, Mandy Boody *
- 11:30 A.M. Adult Forum

* ~ 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.

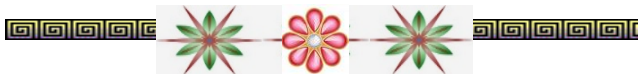
NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

The Soul Matters theme for May is “Creativity”! Springtime is the perfect time for leaning into the process of creating (be it art, poetry, or movement). But truth be told, I struggle with creativity. My inner critic has a loud voice! The creative process requires us to silence our internal naysayer and try new and different things. I remind myself frequently about the letter author Kurt Vonnegut wrote to a classroom of middle school students. His advice was this, “Practice any art, music, singing, dancing, acting, drawing, painting, sculpting, poetry, fiction, essays, reportage, no matter how well or badly, not to get money and fame, but to experience becoming, to find out what’s inside you, to make your soul grow.” Forget perfection, and simply begin! This month, I’m starting small by journaling. I loved journaling as a teenager, and I think the practice might help get my creativity muscles back in shape.

In the Soul Matters curriculum, our friends at the UUA insist that creativity is an endeavor best undertaken in companionship. The small group introduction reads, “The secret to creative self-expression is staying connected to each other. Those sacred sources of inspiration inside us—our imagination, unique voice and inner muses—are like wild animals; they are hungry to run free but are also shy and easily scared away. They want to come out and play, but will only do so when coaxed and cared for by the inspiration and support of others. So, in the end, maybe the most important question this month is not just “What do you want or need to create?” but also “Who are your partners?” I love this! Maybe all you need to get your creativity out of hibernation is a few encouraging friends. How are you being creative this month? What’s speaking to you, waking up your soul, and who are your partners? If you’ve recently tried a new creative pursuit, I’d love to hear about it! Better yet, I’d love to get creative alongside you! Let’s care for, inspire, and support each other, this month, and always.

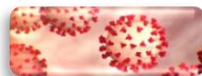
Pastor Emma

[Editor’s Note: This month, *Pastor Emma* will be on Study Leave from May 11th–15th.]



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 to the Beloved Community. May is here, and so is the new growth from the deep roots in our bit of the world. This month on May 21st at 11:15 a.m. we will hold our CVUU Annual Meeting. You can attend in person or via Zoom. Participants on Zoom will be able to vote on action items too! We will vote in new members to the board, vote on new bylaws changes, budget approval, and there will be a vote on which Social Action charities we will be supporting in the next fiscal year. This year, with the Article II changes that the UUA is considering, we will have a straw poll so that the congregation can weigh in. More details are coming about the annual meeting. Be sure to keep up with the emails from CVUU concerning the annual meeting and Article II information.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who was involved in Pastor Emma’s Ordination—from the planners, to the day-of volunteers, to the attendees. You all made it the wonderful event that it was. I would also like to thank the Finance Committee and Stewardship Campaign volunteers who worked on funding and planning the budget for the next fiscal year. It is hard work but so vital to the congregation. I am also very appreciative to everyone who pledged to the CVUU this year, thank you.

As always, I am so grateful to our staff and volunteers who make the CVUU such a wonderful, welcoming place for all.

Much love,

Sheri Huber-Otting
CVUU Board President



POLLINATOR GARDEN PLANTING DAY SEASON 2023 KICKOFF – SATURDAY, MAY 20th

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall for orientation, then
CVUU’s Pollinator Garden and other various areas.
Enjoy good company and snacks!

BRING your 2023 calendar, garden gloves, trowel or digging tool (labeled w/name), kneeling pad, sunscreen, hat, water bottle, long-sleeved overshirt, and socks (to tuck pants into).



REGISTRATION FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 IS OPEN!

Registration is open for the *UUA General Assembly 2023*, to be held this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from June 21–25. The event will be held in person and online.

For more information on the types of registration, check out the main GA webpage: <<https://www.uua.org/ga>>.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists will be held on Sunday, May 21st at 11:15 a.m. A regular Sunday service will precede this meeting. Watch for more information prior to the meeting.



Theodore Chickering Williams, a Unitarian minister and author of numerous hymns, died at age fifty-nine on May 6, 1915.



MAY SERVICES

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

May 7th

RE Sunday and New Member Welcome

~~ CCRE, Kate Flynn and the children, Pastor Emma (WA)

May 14th

Do You Believe in God? ~~ Lynn Brant and Jess Lieb

The question is more complex than it looks—or the answer is, at least.

May 21st

Flower Communion ~~ Pastor Emma, Mandy Boody (WA)

Please bring a flower to share for this UU springtime ritual.

May 28th

Anything Goes ~~ Pastor Emma, Mandy Boody (WA)

A creative service filled with unexpected elements, surprises, and companionable fun!



MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

Sunday morning meditation will continue at 9:00 a.m. Use this link to join us: meet.google.com/edc-tsvx-fbj. Look for group posts and updates on the Buddhist Path Facebook page.



Soul Matters for May—Creativity

When you first think of the word creativity, what comes to mind? For many, the word conjures images of a canvas covered in brightly colored paints or a novelist bent over a typewriter. But there are so many more ways to be creative! Soul Matters provides us with this quotation from Peggy Taylor: “creativity is our ability to dream things up and make them happen.” If that’s true, then all advancements of science, research, and technology are born of creativity! Join us this month in exploring where you might find creativity in your own life, and what gifts it might bring you.

Adapted from the *Soul Matters Curriculum*



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Forums take place following the Sunday services at 11:30 a.m. unless publicized otherwise. Most, if not all, are available on Zoom and in person at the church.

May 7th

Where does our money go?

Mike Knapp and *Mary Kay Madsen* will provide a careful review of the proposed 2023-2024 CVUU budget that will be submitted to the congregation for approval at the May 21st Annual Meeting. In light of our congregation’s amazingly successful effort to increase our financial support, it is important for members to understand how these resources will be utilized.

May 14th

Where are all the bodies buried?

In recent years there has been increasing interest in green burial, which is a process of disposing of one’s earthly remains in a more environmentally friendly manner than those which have previously been used. This presentation will gently explore natural burial disposition options, conservation burial grounds, and the impact that our final acts can have on the world. Visually visit Casper Creek Natural Cemetery, the only certified conservation cemetery in Illinois, and join in the discussion of empowered end-of-life planning. The guest presenter will be Andra Olney-Larson, Operations and Sales Manager for Casper Creek Natural Cemetery.

May 21st ~ 11:15 a.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The meeting will take the place of an Adult Forum this day.

May 28th

What is Life Without Parole and how did we get here?

The sentence of Life Without Parole is usually imposed for murder, or for involvement in a murder. It means that the person will die in prison, unless a rare commutation is received. However, the sentence has not always meant this, and it has grown in severity and frequency, during the general growth of mass incarceration, without much attention or scrutiny. *Al Hays* will discuss a recent book on the subject, *Death by Prison: The Emergence of Life Without Parole and Perpetual Confinement*, by criminologist Christopher Seeds, in which the history and impact of this sentence are explored. This session will be co-sponsored by the Iowa Justice Action Network.

[**Note:** The May 28th Forum will be *the last of this church year*. There may occasionally be a Forum scheduled during the summer, but it will be on a TBA basis. Thanks to everyone who supports the Forums with their presence!]

Al and Pam Hays for Adult RE



CARING CONNECTIONS

The members of our Caring Connections Committee are devoted to serving this congregation month after month, as the needs arise and in various ways. Many thanks to each of them! The contact person for May is **Linda Lechty**.



CHILDREN'S RE!!

The Easter Egg Hunt went off without a hitch—totally beautifully—thanks to our wonderful volunteers and ample donations of candy! The weather cooperated and everyone, but especially the kids, had a lovely time.



RE classes are happening every Sunday in May and the Soul Matters theme this month is *Creativity*.

RE Sunday is May 7th! We will be facilitating an RE lesson for and with the congregation on that day.

The final date for regular RE will be the last Sunday in June; we will provide supervised free play and nursery care over the summer. With this in mind, we would love to have volunteers on-deck for the summer; if you're interested in being on the list, please reach out to me and I will get you on the schedule!

Thank you to the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who make RE at the CVUU possible—I appreciate you.

CCRE-ly yours,
Kate



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

New Growth at the CVUU is as apparent as the budding trees and blossoming bulbs outside our windows this month! At our recent *I Want to Be a Member* session, we welcomed *ten* new members (*fourteen*, if you count the kiddos!); From the beginning of 2022 until now we have added *eighteen* adult members. We are growing and thriving as a Beloved Community and we are excited about each and every one of these special people who will enrich us with their deeper involvement. Watch for brief bios and pictures of these folks in our Weekly Updates via email, and monthly Newsletters, so you can get to know them.

Additionally, at the Sunday service on **May 7th**, we will introduce all new members who have joined us since the beginning of the pandemic. (Some of you will remember this regular practice of introducing new members prior to our three-year hiatus.) This is more evidence of some 'normalcy' returning to our church life!

May 7th will also be the next opportunity for newcomers to attend a *New to CVUU* session where they can learn a little more about us and also share what brought them to the CVUU and what they're looking for in a church home. Invitations will be sent to recent visitors to personally encourage them to attend this informal get-to-know-you session.

The Membership and Marketing Committee and the Shared Ministry Council are planning events that will give us opportunities to get to know our new members better. In the meantime, look for new faces when you're at church and introduce yourself. Or invite one of our new members to join you in some activity: think small group, hospitality team, a bike ride, walk in the woods, or outdoor summer concert. The possibilities are endless in the Cedar Valley!

Happy May...the precursor to summer!! (Get out and tiptoe through the bluebells this month! 😊)

-- Juanita Williams
for the Congregational Life Team

See *Meet Our New Members* – next column ➡

NEW HORIZONS BAND SPRING CONCERT

The New Horizons Band spring concert will be Monday, May 1st at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on the UNI campus.

Diana Blake is the longtime Director, and this concert will feature the New Horizons Saxophone Ensemble, the University of Northern Iowa Flute Choir, and Heather Hamilton, clarinet soloist.



Admission is free and a reception will follow the concert.



COMMUNITY MEALS

May has a fifth Tuesday, so on the 30th we will help serve a free community meal at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls (along with several other local small religious organizations).

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 are needed to set up tables and chairs that morning (usually starting about 8:30 a.m.), donate cupcakes, help prepare food from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., serve from 4:30 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.



Meet Our New Members~ Shirley Whiteside and Byron Plumley

Shirley Whiteside and I moved to Cedar Falls after nearly fifty years in Denver, CO. For forty-two years I was an educator in high school, Catholic religious education, and college. I was also involved with justice and peace work—Catholic Worker soup kitchen, prison programs, anti-war, and disarmament. While teaching at Regis University I created a Peace and Justice Studies major. Shirley and I had a very large vegetable garden—sharing with friends, canning, freezing, and taking to food banks. See Shirley's bio about our family. I enjoy watercolor painting, pottery, walking and biking. I like journal writing, meditation, and reflection, especially in nature.



Byron Plumley and I have been married for thirty-five years; we first met resisting a nuclear weapons factory in Denver, and got to know each other better when we started painting houses together. We have two daughters from Byron's first marriage, who live with their husbands in Naples, Florida and Aurora, Colorado, and three young-adult grandkids. I had employment in what I wryly refer to as the "homeless industrial complex" in Denver for many years, and was honored for volunteer work with homeless people in Denver. I am a big fan of reduce-reuse-recycle, started a compost pile in about 1990 after hearing Thich Nhat Hahn remind us that "the garbage is the flower". Now I am taking guitar lessons and learning to maintain a bike at the Cedar Valley Bicycle Collective. I like to listen to a number of podcasts while walking Rizo, my codependent lab mix.

CVUU BOARD NOMINEES FOR FY24

The Nominating Committee is excited to announce our CVUU Board Nominees for FY24, listed below. Please join us at the CVUU Annual Meeting on May 21st at 11:15 a.m. to vote to approve our FY24 Board!

*Sincerely,
Heather Flory, Michaela Rich, and Floralyn Groff*

Name	Role	Title
Dennis Harbaugh	Board Officer	President
Karen Impola	Board Officer	Vice President
Rob Boody	Board Officer	Secretary
Mike Knapp	Board Officer	Finance
Desiree Cunningham	Board Liaison	REAP
Richard Henry	Board Liaison	Building and Grounds
Lizzy O'Loughlin	Board Liaison	Social Action
Stacey Bartz	Board Liaison	Congregational Life
Dick Warhol	Board Liaison	Religious Services
Floralyn Groff	Board Liaison	Shared Ministry
Michaela Rich	Nominating Committee	
Margie Miller	Nominating Committee	
Heather Flory	Nominating Committee	



CEDAR VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS HOLD ORDINATION CEREMONY

Thanks to *Dennis Harbaugh*, the following article about *Pastor Emma's* ordination was posted on the Waterloo-Cedar Falls *Courier* website <<https://wfcourier.com>> on April 5, 2023 and ran in the Metro Briefs section, page A4 on Thursday, April 6th. If you have a paper copy of the *Courier* article and are willing to give it to Pastor Emma, please do!



CEDAR FALLS – On Sunday, April 2, the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists were honored to ordain Emma L. Peterson.

The Ordination ceremony was attended by congregation members and friends, Pastor Emma's family, and numerous other local pastors and UU ministers from across the Midwest and U.S.



Pastor Emma Peterson has been the minister at the CVUU since August 2018 and became the full-time, settled minister the summer of 2020.

For several years, Pastor Emma has been working to complete the Unitarian Universalist fellowship process so she could become a fully ordained UU minister.

Last fall, Pastor Emma completed her requirements for the fellowshiping process, and she has been granted Preliminary Fellowship status by the Unitarian Universalist Association. On Sunday, Emma L. Peterson was ordained as Reverend Peterson.

Pastor Emma received her Master of Divinity degree from Yale, and arrived at her ministry at the CVUU through a non-traditional path, having completed training and work as a hospital chaplain.



SOCIAL ACTION PENNY POLL

The Votes for the Penny Poll after church on April 16th are in. Twenty-five people allocated the resources for their unified CVUU imaginary budget in the following ways.

Health: 75; Climate/Environment: 72;
Housing/Community: 65; Education: 64;
Food/Agriculture: 41; Veteran's Benefits: 28;
Transportation: 27; Unemployment/Labor: 24;
Military: 17; International Affairs: 15;
Interest on the debt: 14; Government: 8.

For more information on how the federal budget is calculated, see <<https://www.nationalpriorities.org/>>.



SOME OBSERVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

National **Recommitment** month
National **Photograph** month
National **Blood Pressure** month
National **Barbecue** month National **Bike** month
National **Hamburger** month National **Salad** month



May is the time for graduations and weddings. Congratulations to any members and friends who have these wonderful milestones to celebrate with loved ones.

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.



REGISTRATION FOR MIDAMERICA ANNUAL MEETING IS OPEN!

The MidAmerica Region is inviting all members and friends of our congregations to register and attend the virtual Annual Business Meeting for the Region on Thursday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m. CDT. During this time, there will be reports from leaders, and credentialed delegates will be voting on several matters, including those nominated for elected offices. There is no cost for attending the meeting, but registration will be required so that we will know to admit you to the Zoom meeting—this is part of our safety protocol.

Go to our Annual Business Meeting Registration page to register for the meeting. Registration closes on Tuesday, June 6th at 5:00 p.m. CDT. Documents for the meeting can be found on our MidAmerica website.

If you are hoping to be a delegate from your congregation, please contact your leadership about how to be credentialed.

ADMIN UPDATE

Happy spring, CVUU friends! My semester at Wartburg has officially wound down, and I am singing a happy tune. Like I did last year, I will take another long vacation to see my brother and his kids in Washington state from May 19th to 29th. As a result, the CVUU office will be closed May 24th and 25th. I will return to work my normal hours on May 31st. In the next couple of months, I hope we can all find ways to take a break and get a little rest and relaxation.

Kat Beane Hanson,
Office Administrator



CVUU READER'S GROUP

The Reader's Small Group will be on hiatus until fall, possibly returning with an in-person version. Contact *Mandy Boody* if you'd like to be notified when it resumes.



WORLD LABYRINTH DAY Saturday, May 6th – 1:00 p.m.

World Labyrinth Day started in 2009 as a collaboration of The Labyrinth Society and Veriditas. It has evolved into a day to create a wave of peace, passing from one time zone to the next all around the world. Walking a labyrinth is a way to follow a single circuitous path from an entrance to the center and back out again while meditating or reflecting on an intention, a question, or a problem.

The intention for World Labyrinth Day is to create and send energy around the globe for Peace and Harmony. The Labyrinth Small Group invites anyone interested in walking a labyrinth on World Labyrinth Day to join the group at Prairiewoods in Hiawatha near Cedar Rapids. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. to walk at 1:00 p.m. and be part of a wave of energy to promote world peace all around the globe.

Some of us will be going early to get lunch and walk another labyrinth near the NewBo City Market in Cedar Rapids. Contact *Floralyn Groff* if you are interested in carpooling to this earlier event. Otherwise, feel free to make your own arrangements to get to Prairiewoods, 120 East Boyson Road, Hiawatha.

If you are unable to make this out-of-town experience, you may want to walk a local labyrinth on your own. You may walk at whatever time of day works for you. Be a part of the wave for world peace.

For more information about World Labyrinth Day, go to The Labyrinth Society website and/or ask *Floralyn* if you are interested in knowing more about this event or local labyrinths.



The *American Unitarian Association* and the *Universalist Church of America* consolidated to form the Unitarian Universalist Association on May 15, 1961. The two denominations had worked jointly on the publication of curricula for their religious education programs since the 1920s.

On May 11, 1792 *Charles James Fox*, a Whig member of Parliament, moved to repeal all laws relating to heresy in England. The attempt failed but his efforts produced a momentum that succeeded in stages through 1844, when Unitarians finally received legal recognition.



MAY DEADLINES FOR THE CALENDAR AND NUUSLETTER

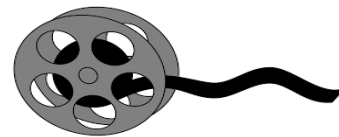
The next newsletter will be the *June-July* issue. Yes, this one covers two summer months, so please have your items ready accordingly! The calendar deadline for this issue will be **Wednesday, May 17th** (send info to the office); the newsletter deadline will be **Friday, May 19th** (send articles to me). This information can also be found in **bold type on the calendar page of this newsletter.**

Mark your calendars now for **May 17th** and **19th**—the calendar and newsletter deadlines for the *June-July* 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.

Gerry Chamberlin, Editor
newsletter@cedarvalleyuu.org



There is a new window in the Fellowship Hall thanks to *Roger Hahn* and his handiwork! It's in the door to *Pastor Emma's* office, and although we mice are guessing it will be useful to you folks, it's entirely too high for us to be practical. That doesn't matter—what does matter is that Roger got the job done and it looks very nice. Thanks, Roger for taking such good care of our church home! *The Church Mouse*



MOVIE DISCUSSION SMALL GROUP

The Movie Discussion Small Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom on Monday, May 8th. The movie being discussed is *Birdcage* which is available at the Cedar Falls Public Library or on Amazon Prime as a rental for \$3.99.

A reminder will be sent out the week prior and include the Zoom link. For questions, contact *Nancie Groszkruger*.



PASTOR EMMA'S ORDINATION AND CVUU-GIFTED STOLES

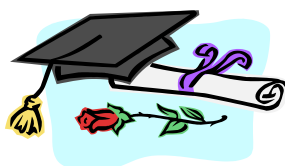
As many of you know, on Pastor Emma's ordination day, the CVUU gave her two stoles: a tree stole (symbolizing new growth from deep roots) during the ceremony, and a rainbow/stained-glass art stole during the party.

Some of you may also remember that the CVUU gave Pastor Emma a rainbow-tie-die stole several years ago, when she became our settled minister (July 1, 2020). All three stoles are shown below.

In case you're wondering why Pastor Emma hasn't been wearing the stole we gave her earlier, it's because she wasn't ordained yet! So, now, Pastor Emma will have three stoles from her beloved CVUU community to wear for different occasions.



Samuel Chandler died on May 8, 1766 at age seventy-three. He was an Arian scholar who served for forty years as minister at Old Jewry Chapel in London. He was also a noted lecturer and published works defending Christianity against the deists. He advocated rationalism as part of religion and received honorary degrees from Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities.



FY24 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FINAL RESULTS: A WIN FOR THE CVUU AND EQUITABLE PAY

The CVUU FY24 pledge campaign wrapped up in early April with a grand total of \$202,934 in pledges. Although this number is \$3,616 short of our goal of \$206,550, what we have accomplished together this year is monumental! Before this year, the most the CVUU had ever raised during a pledge campaign was \$170,170. So, we raised almost \$33,000 more in pledges than ever before. Most importantly, we anticipate having enough money in FY24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) to cover our operating costs AND give our minister and staff equitable raises! Thank you again to everyone who contributed to this year's Stewardship campaign and thank you to the Finance Council for creating an equitable FY24 budget based on the pledges received.

We hope all CVUU members will come to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 21st at 11:15 a.m. to vote to approve the FY24 budget, which will allow us to pay our minister and staff equitably and continue our new growth from deep roots at the CVUU.

In deep gratitude,
The Stewardship Team
Heather Flory, Mandy Boody,
Michaela Rich, and Karen Impola



BAYSIDE UU FAMILY CAMP

Looking for a great summer experience? Join us at Bayside UU Family Camp held at Lutherdale Camp on the shores of Lauderdale Lakes in Elkhorn, WI. This year, camp will take place July 2nd to 8th. This special week includes adult workshops, activities for children, free time for family fun and relaxation, and intergenerational activities. For more information visit our website at <baysideuu.org> or contact <baysideuu@gmail.com>.



William Dean Howells, a Unitarian and longtime editor of The Atlantic Monthly, died at age eighty-three on May 12, 1920.

SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTIONS

The Social Action Collections are an important activity for us. Although we reserve February for the CVUU as it's the beginning of our annual Stewardship Campaign, the other months are filled with worthy charities.

The Social Action Collection charity for March was *Iowa Safe Schools* and \$508.82 was collected. The April charity was for *Planned Parenthood of the North Central States*; we'll report on that next time. This month's collection is for the *Northeast Iowa Food Bank*.



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

&&& & &&&

While this was not part of our monthly Social Action collections, at *Pastor Emma's* Ordination and at her request, donations were collected for *One Iowa* in the amount of \$230.

The Social Action Committee



LOW MOW MAY

Last year the city of Cedar Falls experimented with a 'No Mow May' policy and encouraged residents and businesses to support pollinators by not mowing during the month of May. The CVUU joined that effort for much of last May, with mixed results. The positive impact included more bees and pollinators around our grounds. The



downside was that one of our elderly members fell due to the long grass, and some areas of super-tall grass made it difficult to mow and required extensive hours of volunteer labor to handle the clippings once the lawn was eventually mowed.

This year Cedar Falls is encouraging a 'Low Mow May' policy, and we plan to try our own version of that at the CVUU. We'll mow less than usual and will try to identify some areas where we can let the grass grow longer. We may mow some areas one day and other areas a bit later. We want to keep everyone informed of our plans in case you notice the grass is a little longer than usual in the coming weeks.

If you're interested in helping mow this spring/summer/fall season, we can always use more volunteers! Contact *Roger Hahn* if you're able to help.

Dennis Harbaugh
for the Building & Grounds Council



UU POTLUCK PICNIC

When: Sunday, July 2nd

What/Where: Annual George Wyth Potluck Picnic
Hosted by *Bill and Moria Brown*
More details are coming!!

GREEN LIVING CORNER

How to start bird watching

Spring is an exciting time for bird watching with many birds migrating to and through the area. If you are thinking about taking up a new hobby, bird watching could be your answer. It has become a popular activity. It can be done in your own backyard or scouting out new places. For instance, there is a viewing area with feeders at the far end of George Wyth State Park near the shelter.



Saw-whet Owl
at George Wyth

You will need a pair of binoculars. It is recommended that you purchase the best ones you can afford as they will have brighter, more colorful, and sharper images. A 7 or 8 power is usually recommended. It is helpful to practice with them by lifting them to your eyes and focusing on an object. There are many good field guides available; check your local bookstore. It could be beneficial to spend some time with the bird guide to familiarize yourself with the local birds before going out. Flashcards can sometimes be found to aid learning.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
on the ground in Ames

Bird watching is more than matching pictures and birds. It is important to observe details—especially focusing on the bill and face. For example, what is the shape of the bill? Does the bird have an eye ring or other markings? Look for patterns. Watch how a bird moves around and how it flies. Does it bob its head or flick its tail?

It helps if you move quietly and slowly as birds are wary. Abrupt movements will scare birds off. Stop in one spot and watch for movement, looking at a wide field of view. Listening for bird sounds can lead you to where the birds are. Birds are attracted to water, so look for them along streams or around lakes and ponds. The easiest place to see them, of course, is at a bird feeder in your back yard.

The local Prairie Rapids Audubon Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at the First Presbyterian Church, 902 Main Street, Cedar Falls at 7:00 p.m. They have very interesting programs. They lead bird hikes each Wednesday morning from spring through fall. Information on those can be found at <<https://www.gopras.org>>. Their Facebook page and web site are worth checking out.

Happy Birding!

Jan Anderson for Green Living

[Editor's Note: The photos of the Saw-whet Owl and the Pileated Woodpecker were taken by CVUU member *Jan Anderson*; the Ruby-crowned Kinglet was taken by her daughter, *Karen Welk*.]



Pileated Woodpecker at George Wyth

PASTOR EMMA'S ORDINATION: MANY THANKS!

The CVUU held a very meaningful and fun ordination ceremony and party on Sunday, April 2nd, ordaining Pastor Emma Peterson as *Reverend Emma Peterson*! *Note: Although she is now officially a Reverend, she would prefer to have her beloved CVUU community continue to call her "Pastor Emma".*



A total of 136 people participated in this memorable ceremony, including 110 in the CVUU building and 26 on Zoom, with many of the in-person participants also attending the celebration that followed. It took the help of many people in our CVUU community to make this event a success. Thank you to everyone listed below—and anyone who helped that we neglected to include here—for truly making this a very successful ordination!

Ordination service~

(Visiting ministers)

- Rev. Victoria Safford
- Rev. Laurel Gray
- Rev. Johnny Janssen
- Rev. Micah M
- Rev. Elizabeth Mount
- Rev. Diana Smith

Ordination service~

(CVUU participants)

- Pastor Emma Peterson
- Mandy Boody
- Del Carpenter
- Kate Flynn
- Karen Impola
- Deblyn Russell
- Dick Warhol
- Sheri Huber-Otting
- Heather Flory
- Ken Taylor
- Steve Chamberlin
- Moria Brown

Musicians

- Jessica Lieb
- Kat Beane Hanson
- Bill Brown
- Del Carpenter
- Trish Cook
- Austin Evens
- Kelly Fischer
- Kelsi Hansen
- Karen Impola
- Norm Kitchen
- Rick Liguz
- Dave Nation
- Deblyn Russell
- Nate Smith
- Walker Taylor

Ushers

- Jill Miller
- Nate Smith
- Shirley Whiteside
- Byron Plumley
- Stacey Bartz
- Juanita Williams

Alternative activities for kids

- Virginia Boody
- Rob Boody

Party planning, setup, cleanup

- Heather Flory
- Gerry Chamberlin
- Mike Knapp
- Sheri Huber-Otting
- Juanita Williams
- Pam Hays
- Del Carpenter
- Floralyn Groff
- Linda Lechty
- Nancie Groszkruger
- Margie Miller

Food preparation

- Gerry Chamberlin
- Dan Bower

Kitchen crew

- Gerry Chamberlin
- Margie Miller
- Sheri Huber-Otting
- Nancie Groszkruger
- Del Carpenter
- Deb Kyler
- Linda Lechty
- Sally Browne
- Betsy Brant
- Steve Chamberlin

Communications

- Kat Beane Hanson
- Dennis Harbaugh
- Heather Flory

Parking attendants

- Rob Boody
- Roger Hahn

Photography

- Michaela Rich
- Jamie Wilson
- Leigh Zeitz
- And many others!

In-kind donations

- Gerry and Steve Chamberlin
- Mike Knapp and Mica Lorenz
- Dan and Kathi Bower
- Sheri Huber-Otting
- Mary Kay Madsen
- Moria and Bill Brown

Other miscellaneous help

- Kate Mc Elligatt
- Moria Brown
- Kate Flynn
- Virginia Boody
- Michaela Rich
- Sally Browne

Cake

- Purchased at Bambinos (a local business that gifts a portion of its proceeds to the Beyond Pink Team)

