



**CEDAR VALLEY  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

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\*\*\*\*\* 2023 \*\*\*\*\*

- SEPTEMBER 3 10:00 A.M. LABOR DAY – Speakers TBA, Karen Impola \*
- SEPTEMBER 10 10:00 A.M. KICKOFF SUNDAY: *GROWING IN PURPOSE, ROOTED IN VALUES*  
 11:15 A.M. Kickoff Sunday Potluck (see details inside) – Pastor Emma Peterson, Kathi Bower \*
- SEPTEMBER 17 10:00 A.M. WATER COMMUNION – Pastor Emma Peterson, Mandy Boody \*  
 11:30 A.M. Adult Forum / I Want to be a Member Session
- SEPTEMBER 24 10:00 A.M. YOM KIPPUR: A SERVICE OF FORGIVENESS – Pastor Emma Peterson, Karen Impola \*  
 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

As we gathered for our August board meeting, Board President *Dennis Harbaugh* asked if anyone remembered last year's theme. Practically in unison, we all enthusiastically replied, "New Growth from Deep Roots!" Last year's theme resonated deeply with many of us, inspired a historic Stewardship Campaign, and rekindled a congregational affinity for tree imagery. We wanted to extend the energy from last year's theme, with renewed vigor and utility.

In a conversation with me this spring, Dennis reflected that growth is great, but growing with a purpose is even better! This idea, combined with the proposed changes to Article II, inspired this year's theme. Without further ado, introducing "**Growing in Purpose, Rooted in Values!**" This year, we're focusing on our purpose—our life's purpose, our community purpose, and the purpose of Unitarian Universalism as a movement in our modern era. Values help ground our sense of purpose. What do you value most? What values have directed your life? What does the CVUU value most, and are we living it out day to day? These are just some of the questions we're asking this year.

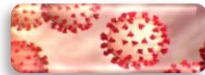
I invite you to spend some time considering the questions above, and to come up with a few of your own around the ideas of Purpose and Values. Do the Values proposed by the Article II Study Commission resonate with you? (Love; Justice; Plurality; Interdependence; Generosity; Equity; and Transformation.) I'll offer a sermon series on these values in the fall, and I'll draw each value to our year theme. I welcome your feedback and thoughts, as always! As we move forward into the church year, I encourage you to meditate on the ideas of Purpose and Values. Let's tune in to how these ideas could strengthen our sense of self, our relationships to one another, and the CVUU. Onward!

*Pastor Emma*



## 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.



## MEMO FROM THE PREZ

Lately I've been thinking about our congregation's purpose, both individually and collectively.

Personal growth—whether intellectual, spiritual, or some other type—is important to most of us at the CVUU. That's why we offer opportunities for personal exploration, whether through stimulating sermons, Second Hour learning opportunities, or small group interactions. I think we do a decent job of offering various options for folks with different personalities—different strokes for different folks, as they say. But if you're not feeling stimulated, or challenged, or receiving what you need to grow personally, let those of us in leadership know. If you're feeling stagnant and are not personally growing while a member of the CVUU, it means we're falling short and may need to change things up.

When it comes to the collective, there *is* value in just 'being community'. We humans are social animals, and coming together each week and *belonging* meets a deep primal need. But there's also something powerful about *working* in service together as a group, beyond our church walls, to make something better than it was before.

If you're out and about in Cedar Falls or Waterloo, you know how involved CVUU individuals are in our local communities. Last year's excellent Social Action Council project featuring 'Team Good Trouble' and 'Team Social Justice Warriors' documented what we've known for years: we're volunteers and activists at heart!

What I hope we can do more of in the coming months is work together in our communities as a CVUU group. The CVUU booth at PrideFest is a great example of that, but there's no need to stop there. In the coming months we can do more collectively, and I hope we will.

Personal growth and collective action. A pretty good combination, don't you think? Let's make it so.

Until next month...

*Dennis Harbaugh*



Late June saw the debut of the UUA's new program, *The Mosaic: Fostering Belonging and Liberation in UU Congregations and Communities*.

The Mosaic is designed to be an "online hub of connection, resources, and support" for UUs who are working to dismantle racism and oppression. Mosaic includes an Anti-Racism Resource Library, Learning and Practice Communities, and a newsletter, as well as providing connections for BIPOC individuals. *The Mosaic* can be found on The Mosaic page of the UUA website.

As seen in the *MidAmerica Region UUA online newsletter*



Happy Grandparents Day!  
Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

*John Biddle*, known as the “father of English Unitarianism”, died at age forty-seven on September 22, 1662.



## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

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

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Labor Day Service** ~~ Speakers TBA, Karen Impola (WA)

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Kickoff Sunday: *Growing in Purpose, Rooted in Values***

~~ Pastor Emma, Kathi Bower (WA)

Following this service at 11:15 a.m., there will be a potluck celebrating Kickoff Sunday. See details in the article below.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Water Communion** ~~ Pastor Emma, Mandy Boody (WA)

Everyone is invited to bring a dram of water from a place that is sacred to them. The water source can be real or imagined!



**September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Yom Kippur: A Service of Forgiveness**

~~ Pastor Emma, Karen Impola (WA)



## CVUU KICKOFF SUNDAY

The official start of the new CVUU church year is Kickoff Sunday on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope you'll all save the date and join us at the CVUU! On Kickoff Sunday, we'll welcome everyone back to the CVUU to celebrate and explore our new theme for the coming year: *Growing in Purpose, Rooted in Values*. We'll also reconnect over a meal and share stories with each other about how we spent our summers and how we each plan to grow in purpose, rooted in values individually and as a beloved community this year.

**Kickoff Sunday Schedule**

**10:00 a.m. Sunday Service**

***Growing in Purpose, Rooted in Values***

Hear from several members about how their involvement at the CVUU has led to personal growth or purpose in their life.

**11:15 a.m. Potluck Lunch**

A **potluck lunch** is being organized by the CVUU Board. Contact *Karen Impola*, Board Vice President, for more information and/or to offer to help with setup or cleanup.

Please stay tuned to the Weekly Updates for additional information.



## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The regular church year begins on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and on September 17<sup>th</sup> we will again offer forums 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.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Reflections on the Poet Rumi**

For this forum, *Rob Boody* will lead a celebration of and a reflection on Rumi's work. A popular and meaningful poet for many UUs, here is what Rob has to say: “If you like poetry, if you are interested in a spirituality that runs to mysticism but couched in worldly and material referents, then you'll love Rumi. Writing in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, he is widely considered the greatest writer ever in the Persian language. In this second hour session we will both read and discuss his poetry as well as share how it connects with our lives today. If you already know Rumi, please bring one of your favorite pieces to share. If you are not yet familiar, be prepared to find a new voice of wisdom for your life.”

**September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**The Movement Toward Justice**

Recent years have seen the development of new approaches to addressing offenses by young people, approaches that de-emphasize unnecessary incarceration and emphasize the restoration of offenders as youth with potential who can become productive members of society. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the CVUU will host a conference on Youth Justice sponsored by the Iowa Justice Action Network. In this forum, *Al Hays* will preview some of the issues to be addressed at that conference.

*Al and Pam Hays* for Adult RE



## CHILDREN'S RE!!

We have been enjoying calm, child-directed play for the summer, all the while enjoying one another's company.

RE will begin *after Labor Day on Kickoff Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>*! So, mark your calendars and come for fun, festivities, and a hearty welcome back. Registration forms can be found online or fill out a physical copy at church. Find the online forms at: <https://cedarvalleyuu.org/children-and-youth/childrens-re/>, which can be filled out and emailed to me at: [dcre@cedarvalleyuu.org](mailto:dcre@cedarvalleyuu.org). There is no cost to register children for RE, but we do appreciate having forms filled out and turned in. Early registration is encouraged!

The beginning of RE means we'll be looking forward to starting up the Soul Matters curriculum. Looking even further ahead, we will be doing a Haunted House on October 29<sup>th</sup> with the expert help of *Jeff Chapin*.

DCRE-ly yours,  
*Kate*



## MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

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



## BOARD BRIEFS

While some Councils took a well-deserved and much needed break the past couple of months, your CVUU Board has been busy! We had 100% attendance and took the following actions at our August 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting:

- ❖ Allocated budget surplus money from the fiscal year which ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. (See the related article elsewhere in this newsletter for details.)
- ❖ Discussed and decided on the CVUU theme for the coming year: “*Growing in Purpose, Rooted in Values*”.
- ❖ Accepted bids to:
  - replace the thirty-seven-year-old furnace/AC which serves the Religious Education wing,
  - repair the east sanctuary door to the outside,
  - add an air conditioning unit which will cool the Administrator’s office, the balcony/loft, the entryway, and the entryway bathroom.
- ❖ Nailed down details on how to begin background checks for Nursery and R.E. volunteers.
- ❖ Reviewed planning for the September 10<sup>th</sup> Kickoff and agreed to organize a potluck lunch after the Sunday service.
- ❖ Learned of future efforts involving building/staff security and updating of the Congregational Handbook.

The next Board meeting will be September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. All members are welcome to attend!

*Dennis Harbaugh*



## CARING CONNECTIONS

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



## LABYRINTH NEWS

Did you know that the **International Day of World Peace** was started by the United Nations on September 21, 1982, and is observed annually around the world on that date? Be part of a PeaceWave by taking a moment of silence at noon as others do the same in all time zones around the world. You could do this by taking a moment in nature or seeking a labyrinth to walk on your own or with others.

If you are interested in knowing more about labyrinths or being involved in walking a labyrinth, contact me. You are always welcome to come and walk the labyrinth in my backyard.



Namaste,  
*Floralyn Groff*

**Ezra Ripley** died in Concord, Massachusetts on September 20, 1841 where he had served as a Unitarian minister for sixty-three years. He was ninety years old at the time.

## SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTIONS

The Social Action Collections are an important activity for us and we have continued to do well in supporting worthy charities.

The July Social Action Collection charity was for *Cedar Valley Angels* and \$240 was collected. The August charity was for *Cedar Falls Community Meals*; we’ll have that total next month. The collection this month is for our own *CVUU Little Food Pantry*. Thank you to all who participate in this meaningful and worthwhile activity on behalf of Social Action in the name of the CVUU.



*The Social Action Committee*



## SEPTEMBER DEADLINES FOR THE CALENDAR AND NUUSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the **October** issue. The calendar deadline for this issue will be **Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** (send info to the office); the newsletter deadline will be **Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** (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 **September 13<sup>th</sup>** and **15<sup>th</sup>**—the calendar and newsletter deadlines *for the October 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.

Speaking of the paper copies that are left at church—as I type this, there is one August newsletter left in the acrylic holder in the entry. This September issue will be out in less than a week (in paper and online), so I will not reprint copies of the August newsletter. When I place each month’s printing order (and while keeping the CVUU budget in mind), I try to anticipate how many we’ll need in relation to that month’s church activities. Some months there are several left over when the new issue comes out; other months it’s a different story. I do monitor this weekly and try to predict, but if you’ve ever worked in retail, you know figuring the public’s needs can be tricky. (If the copies of the current issue have been depleted, please do not discard the older copies behind them.) Thank you.

*Gerry Chamberlin*, Editor  
newsletter@cedarvalleyuu.org



The social activist and novelist **Mary Gaskell** was born in Knutsford, England on September 29, 1810. Her novel *Mary Barton* (1848) told of the hard life of factory workers and made her famous. Gaskell, who is always referred to as Mrs. Gaskell in England, also wrote books of social criticism, covering topics like illicit love and illegitimacy, as in her novel *Ruth* (1853). Her husband, William Gaskell, was a prominent Unitarian minister in England. Mary Gaskell died on November 12, 1865.



## FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

### FY22-23 Year End

We will end the fiscal year with a surplus of approximately \$21,000 once the few remaining adjustments have been made, and outstanding checks have cleared. Our operating pledge line was missed by 3.13% or \$5,329, but other income lines helped us to exceed our goal. This marks the last major surplus we are likely to experience now that church operations and programming are returning to pre-pandemic levels. This surplus was created by:

- Increased revenues from the Treats & Talents auction,
- Interest gained from our assets, including a money market account and assorted CDs,
- Elimination of \$5,500 in budgeted childcare funds,
- Carryover revenue from the past two pandemic years.

### Allocation of June 30, 2023 Year-End Surplus Funds

The following motion by the Finance Council for the allocation of the \$21,000 year-end surplus funds was approved by the Board at its August 10, 2023 meeting:

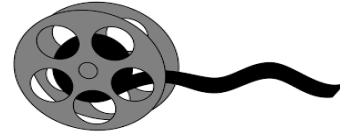
- **Stewardship Campaign Set-Aside Fund: \$6,000**  
This fund will be established to provide funding to future Stewardship Campaigns going forward to use in lowering the impact or percentage of increased giving being asked of CVUU pledge campaigns.
- **Emergency Reserve Fund: \$5,000**  
This fund will be established for the Board's use in addressing significant unforeseen increases in the operating budget in future years.
- **CVUU Sabbatical/Search Committee Fund: \$5,000**  
This fund will be used to offset church costs associated with minister sabbatical leaves and/or future initial search committee costs.
- **Building Maintenance Reserve Fund: \$5,000**  
The BMR has not been fully funded for replacement of costs incurred for our building and equipment since *Rod Debs* served as our minister. The current BMR balance is \$44,000. While we are scheduled to add \$7,253 to the BMR in this fiscal year, projected expenditures within the first quarter of this year totaling approximately \$10,000 to \$11,000 are expected for furnace replacement and repair of the Sanctuary east door, negating any significant impact of the scheduled budget payment into the BMR. Given the deteriorating condition of the church parking lot along its northern end, additional funding for the BMR fund is needed to ensure adequate funds are available for both parking lot repair and other building related costs during the coming years.

### FY24-25 Stewardship Campaign

This year's Stewardship Campaign co-chairs are *Mandy Boody* and *Karen Impola*. Finance will be meeting with the committee in October to kick off planning and timeline development. We are looking for additional individuals to serve on the campaign committee with Mandy and Karen.



*Paul Howard Douglas* died on September 24, 1976 at the age of eighty-four. A Unitarian, Douglas was an economics professor, author, U.S. Senator, and civil rights activist.



## MOVIE DISCUSSION SMALL GROUP

The Movie Discussion Small Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The movie being discussed is *Race* (2016) which is available on Netflix, at the Cedar Falls Public Library, or for rent on Amazon for \$3.79.

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



Wherever the summer has taken you—for weeks at a time or short-term—we are looking forward to seeing many members and friends this month as the new church year begins! With the continued commitment of holding services in person and on Zoom, you should be able to connect with us on Sunday mornings.

To those in our congregation who have been dealing with health issues or are 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 influential Universalist *Clinton Lee Scott* was born in Newport, Vermont on September 28, 1887. He studied at Goddard Seminary, Tufts University, and Crane Theological School of St. Lawrence University, with further graduate study at Harvard Divinity School, the University of Chicago, and the University of Southern California. St. Lawrence University awarded him a D.D. degree in 1930. Scott served Universalist churches in Vermont, New York, California, Georgia, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Florida. From 1946 to 1957, he served as superintendent of churches for the Massachusetts and later Connecticut Universalist Conventions. Scott founded the Charles Street Meeting House in Boston in 1949 and was one of the architects of the consolidation between Universalists and Unitarians. His ministry was involved in several controversies, including his opposition to U.S. participation in WWI. Scott was the only Universalist minister to sign the Humanist Manifesto. He wrote *The Universalist Church of America: A Short History* (1957), *These Live Tomorrow: Twenty Unitarian Universalist Biographies* (1964), and *Parish Parables* (1946). In 1977 at the General Assembly in Ithaca, NY, the Unitarian Universalist Association presented him with the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Liberal Religion. Clinton Lee Scott died on September 28, 1985, his ninety-eighth birthday.

“I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as a cause for withdrawing from a friend.” ~~Thomas Jefferson

On September 3, 1962, the celebrated American poet and Unitarian, *Edward Estlin (e.e.) Cummings*, died at age sixty-seven.



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Ah-h-h. . .September, the month of Returning: to school, to work (for teachers), to routine, even to church, maybe. Hopefully, *that* returning brings some pleasurable thoughts to your mind, even as we savor the memories from many fun-filled summer days.

One such pleasurable event to look forward to is our **Kickoff Sunday on September 10<sup>th</sup>**. (See the related article elsewhere in this newsletter for details.) I think it will be great to see everybody come back together and share stories of their summer adventures!

Also on *September 10<sup>th</sup>*, we'll finish up CVUU T-shirt order requests and the collection of money to pay for them. (This process is a little different from the first round of ordering.) So, if you missed out on the first order and you want to be able to sport a blue CVUU T-shirt at community events, let *Dan Bower* or me know (if you haven't already). We will need your preferred size and \$15 up-front this time. As a reminder, if you can't afford to buy one and would like one, let *Pastor Emma* know. We will get one for you!

One last thing to think about as we return to church this fall is Membership. If you haven't joined the CVUU yet and would like to become a member, the next opportunity to do this will be at the ***I Want to be a Member*** session on *Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>* at 11:30 a.m. This is a chance to learn the opportunities and benefits of membership and to deepen your commitment and involvement with your Beloved Community. If you would like to attend this session, make sure you let *Pastor Emma* or me know so we are sure to have enough packets and materials.

Hopefully, 'returning' to the CVUU this fall has a positive association for you and you're looking forward to reconnecting with your church friends. We look forward to reconnecting with **YOU!**

*Juanita Williams*  
for the Congregational Life Team

See ***Meet Our New Members*** – next column →



## Meet Our New Members~ *Steve Thom and Bonnie Kuegeleis*

*Bonnie* grew up on a farm in southern Illinois and put herself through college by raising pure-bred Berkshire hogs. *Steve* grew up in Boise, skiing, playing golf, and hunting pheasants. *Bonnie* graduated from Illinois State University, *Steve* from the University of Oregon. *Steve* fought forest fires in the summers during college. They met at Spokane Legal Services Center, where they were VISTAs. They were married on Winter Solstice in 1980 at *Bonnie's* home church, St. John UCC in Maeystown, Illinois. They fell in love with the Eagle Cap Wilderness and spent as much time there as they could backpacking.

*Bonnie* got her MS in Speech Therapy from UO in 1982 so they are both "Ducks"! They moved to Enterprise, Oregon in 1985 where their son, *Caleb Thom*, was born in February 1986. Things went sideways for them later in 1986 when *Bonnie* was diagnosed with a non-malignant brain tumor—from which she recovered after two craniotomies—and *Steve* was let go from the law firm where he was working. Fortunately, their church in Enterprise hired *Steve* as their interim minister and schlepped them into the (tiny) parsonage. *Bonnie* was able to continue working as the only Speech Therapist in Wallowa County.



In 1987 they bailed out to the Midwest and *Steve* graduated from Eden Seminary in 1990; *Bonnie* worked in Webster Groves, MO for Missouri Parents as First Teachers. They moved to Cedar Falls in June 1990 where *Steve* served as Pastor of the United Church of Christ, and *Bonnie* as Supervisor of the UNI Speech and Hearing Clinic. Then they moved to Hopkins, Minnesota in January 1997. There, *Bonnie* worked as a Speech Therapist with the Minneapolis Public Schools; *Steve* as Pastor of Mizpah UCC. Those were their halcyon days! They retired in 2013 and moved to Waterloo, Illinois to help care for *Bonnie's* aging mother. When she died, they put in their names at the Windcrest Villas and moved back to Cedar Falls in February of this year.

Over the years they've traveled a bit, mostly to their beloved Pacific Northwest and to the North Shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota. Additionally, *Bonnie* has traveled to Southeast Asia twice, *Steve* twice to Israel. Together they traveled to Denmark (with *Caleb*) and Israel (with Jewish friends).

Over the years they have relished live jazz, attending around two hundred shows and have heard many of the greats, including Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis, and Wayne Shorter. *Bonnie* enjoys quilting, rug hooking, and her favorite author is Barbara Pym while *Steve's* favorite is Mick Herron. They are big fans of women's college basketball and English Premier League football. In their dotage they spend time watching TV (Acorn, Britbox, PBS), drinking wine, and arguing with their little dog, *Benny*. They like the CVUU because it is a family of friends and it provides sanctuary for sex and gender minorities. Oh, and they both like pickled herring!



## This Year's Treats & Talents Auction

Strap on those sandals. Dig out your peace beads. Plan to join us for this November's **Annual Treats & Talents Auction** where we'll be going retro, back to the 60s!



Start thinking about what treats or talents you can put on the auction block for this annual fundraiser. Watch for the date! Until then, "Peace Everybody!"



## GREEN LIVING CORNER

### *Are Rusty-Patched Bumblebees in the CVUU Pollinator Garden?*

Have you been watching the crowd of bumblebees on our hyssop and monarda blooms this July and August? The CVUU garden is full of their favorite native flowering plants, and this month, they'll be foraging on Goldenrod. Colonies in Iowa are active through October, so we still have time to enjoy these beautiful insects.

Iowa is home to at least fifteen different bumblebee species. How many species and which ones do we have in the CVUU garden? If your curiosity prompts you to get up close and personal to find out, take comfort in knowing that bumblebees are mostly docile. On the flowers, they aren't very likely to sting, although they might if you disturbed their nest.

The Rusty-Patched Bumblebee (*B. affinis*), now listed as an endangered species in the U.S., is native to thirteen counties in northeastern Iowa. RPBB colonies consist of a queen, female workers, and males, and can vary in size from 50 to around 1,000 bees. Only queens overwinter, which means that every spring, a single queen is responsible for starting a new colony by herself.



The key to identifying a worker of this species is to look for a rusty-colored patch sandwiched between two bands of yellow on the second abdominal segment. Additionally, workers and males will have a T-shaped area of black hairs on the thorax that looks roughly like a thumb tack.

If you are out in our garden, use your phone to snap photos of the bumblebees you see and compare them to the guide produced by the Xerces Society which is available at: <https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/18-028.pdf>. The guide will contain clear drawings like those below to help you distinguish all Iowa species. Any photos you suspect are of RPBBs can be emailed to Stephanie Shepherd at the Iowa DNR [stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov) for verification and for including in the DNR survey of this endangered species.

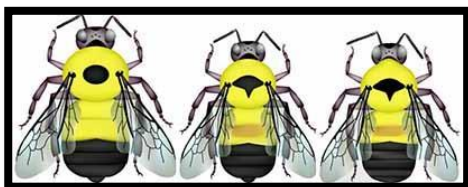
#### *Thank You for Guest Posts!*

This spring and summer we were honored to have guest posts by four friends of the Green Living Corner:

- *Deb Kyler* started off in February with "Less Is More," her personal manifesto on reducing her carbon footprint.
- In May, *Jan Anderson* wrote on "How to Start Bird Watching," with her own photos of birds from George Wyth Park.
- In June-July, *Betsy Brant* wrote "A Green Sanctuary?" about our congregation's work toward this special accreditation from the UUA.
- In August, *Elaine Hughes* described her home native plant project in "Saving the Birds, Bees, and Butterflies."

We hope you enjoyed reading these inspiring essays.

*Sally Browne* for Green Living



## **NEW SOUL MATTERS SMALL GROUPS FORMING THIS FALL**

For the last two years, CVUU Soul Matters Small Groups [www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com](http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com) have been led by *Pastor Emma Peterson* and *Kat Beane Hanson*. Now that Pastor Emma and Kat have helped us get the ball rolling on these small groups, it's time for these groups to be led by members of the congregation, as is done with all our other small groups. A huge thank you to Pastor Emma and Kat for getting these groups started and showing us how it's done!

**If you are interested in helping lead or co-lead a Soul Matters Small Group this year** (September/October 2023 through June 2024), please contact *Heather Flory*, Shared Ministry Council chair. If you'd like to *participate* in a Soul Matters Small Group, please check the Weekly Updates in September—we hope to have new groups available soon, once new group leaders are found.

#### **What are Soul Matters Small Groups?**

Soul Matters offers a distinctive small group curriculum. Like other small group programs, its central goal is to foster circles of trust and deep listening. However, Soul Matters adds several unique components:

1. A Journey that the Whole Church Takes Together
2. Experience the Theme, Don't Just Analyze It.
3. Questions to Walk with, not Talk Through.
4. Soul Matters Adapts to You.

This year's overarching frame is *The Gifts of Our Faith*. The focus will be on ten beloved UU values and exploring their potential to shape us and in turn shape the world. Each month, the group(s) will discuss questions like these: *How do these values offer us both challenge and comfort? What might it mean to place them at the center of our living and loving? What promise do they hold for us individually as well as collectively?*

#### **2023 – 2024 Soul Matters themes:**

September: <i>Welcome</i>	February: <i>Justice and Equity</i>
October: <i>Heritage</i>	March: <i>Transformation</i>
November: <i>Generosity</i>	April: <i>Interdependence</i>
December: <i>Mystery</i>	May: <i>Pluralism</i>
January: <i>Liberating Love</i>	June: <i>Renewal</i>

For more information about Soul Matters Small Groups, visit [www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com](http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com) or continue to read the CVUU Weekly Updates each week!



#### **SOME OBSERVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER INCLUDE:**

- National **Pet Memorial** month
- National **Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness** month
- National **Cheese** month National **Chicken** month
- National **Wilderness** month National **Service Dog** month
- National **Coupon** month National **Organic Harvest** month