



## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

By now, you're probably aware that I'll begin a three-month sabbatical on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I became the CVUU's minister in 2018. (The story isn't quite that simple, but that's for another day!) That means this fall begins my seventh year of service to this congregation. That fact astonishes me, because these last six years have gone by in a blink. By seven years, the UUA strongly recommends ministers take a sabbatical to refresh, recharge, and reinvigorate their ministry. That means it's time for me to do just that!

During this time, I'm planning several cross-country trips, each in a different direction. I'll spend time in the Great Smoky Mountains, driving through the West to visit a dear friend in Washington state (with many stops along the way!), and of course, I'll be on the East Coast for at least a few weeks. I've been squirreling away a stack of "to-be-read" books and am already developing mindfulness practices to ground myself deeply during this time. I am so, so looking forward to an intentional break.

One of the most wonderful things about a Shared Ministry is the fact that we're all responsible for the health and functioning of our Beloved Community. This means I can confidently step away for a few months without worrying about the day-to-day functioning of the CVUU. We've taken steps to improve our systemic communication this year (tremendous thanks to outgoing President *Dennis Harbaugh* for his leadership and wisdom as we took on this goal). In a recent meeting, Dennis referred to this pastor sabbatical as the "grand finale, final test" of the work we've done around communication during the year. I'm confident things will go very well!

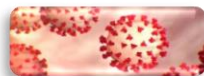
You'll notice this column is empty for three Newsletter issues. Please know I'm thinking of each of you, even if you haven't heard from me for a while. It is very important that I disengage as fully as possible from the goings on of the congregation during this time. This will be a challenge for me! So much of my life revolves around my vocation, so I'm looking forward to getting back in touch with "Emma" when "Pastor" isn't at the forefront of my identity. I'll miss you! I'm already looking forward to our happy reunion on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please keep me in your thoughts and send me your good vibes during this time! See you in a blink.

*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](mailto:office@cedarvalleyuu.org)>; the Vice President, *Karen Impola* at <[vp@cedarvalleyuu.org](mailto:vp@cedarvalleyuu.org)>; and *Pastor Emma Peterson* at <[pastor@cedarvalleyuu.org](mailto: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

Greetings to all!

Our March 10<sup>th</sup>, Second Hour Adult Forum addressing the question "What is the CVUU's Purpose?" did not disappoint. Forty persons attended in-person and on Zoom, and at least seventeen members shared their impression of what our congregation's purpose has been, from the 1960s through today. We're so fortunate to have long-time members who can provide direct experience from decades ago, which provides perspective and reminds us of our original 'purpose' even as we look to the future! You can check out the recording of this Second Hour Forum at <<https://youtu.be/kGeF5OrYYZ0>>. Following the Forum several folks emailed me some additional thoughts, parts of which I may share in future 'Memos'. The March 10<sup>th</sup> Forum felt like a beginning and left many of us hungry for further exploration of this topic.

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Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see fruit from the Sabbatical Team's labor. We're beginning to identify how we'll cover ministerial services during *Pastor Emma's* upcoming sabbatical, and some of that info is included in this April newsletter. The Team's work is ongoing, and we'll provide a comprehensive list of contact persons and plans in the May newsletter. *Pastor Emma's* sabbatical begins May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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One great joy over the past twelve months has been seeing CVUU members actively working out in our community *together*. Over the decades our members have been involved in individual efforts of volunteerism and social justice work at a proportional level equal to or greater than any other congregation in the Cedar Valley. We've always cared deeply about making our community a better and more welcoming place for all. . .but usually that work has been done on our own, as individuals.

Efforts have been made over the years to organize more CVUU group volunteer events. We've assisted with community meals for many years. Marches and rallies have been well-publicized—but our congregation's collective response to those initiatives has been minimal.

It felt like we began to 'turn the corner' last spring, as members showed up in droves to a Cedar Falls City Council meeting when the mayor was on the verge of rejecting June as Pride Month. Then early in 2024, over two dozen members contacted Iowa legislators simultaneously and helped deep-six legislation which would have stripped away LGBTQ+ civil rights. Then twice during the past two months over a dozen CVUU members showed up as a group to work at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

We've always made a difference as individuals; now we're making an even greater impact as a group!

It's hard to know what helped us finally 'get over the hump'. Maybe it's all of us having bright blue T-shirts to wear—after all, feeling part of a tribe is a powerful pull. Maybe we feel the weight of these dangerous times and feel an enhanced urgency to act. Maybe we just needed the right person to step up at the right time to organize the right event. Heck, maybe we just enjoy being around each other more!

Whatever the reason, it's a good thing, and if you haven't yet joined your CVUU friends at a march, rally, at a community meal, the Food Bank, or whatever work project may be on the horizon, give it a try. You won't be disappointed.

Until next month. . .

*Dennis Harbaugh*  
CVUU Board President

*Elbridge Gerry Brooks* died at the age of sixty-one on April 8, 1878. He was a theologian of Christian Universalism who was active in organizing the Universalist denomination.



## APRIL SERVICES

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

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Poetry Sunday** ~~ Karen Impola facilitating and as WA.

It's a CVUU poetry jam! Bring an original poem to share that you, or someone you know, wrote (so we avoid copyright issues). Short excerpts of your own prose are also welcome.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Interdependence: We Need One Another**

~~ Pastor Emma Peterson, Dick Warhol (WA)

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Matters of Moral Ambiguity**

~~ Lynn Brant, Kathi Bower (WA)

**April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Love: Unitarian Universalism's All-Encompassing Value**

~~ Pastor Emma Peterson, Callie Amiday (WA)



## CHILDREN'S RE!!

At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to Easter and the Annual Egg Hunt after RE classes on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, so watch this space in the next newsletter for a report on that event.

There will be four Sundays of RE classes in April! We have been enjoying your children as we learn and focus on building relationships among us. The *Soul Matters* theme for April is *Interdependence*. Having perused the curriculum, I am particularly excited for the Balloon Bop game, so come check us out!

Children's religious education keeps flowing like water. Our agenda can vary from week to week as we monitor the needs of our young participants with our main focus on creating joy and a safe, welcoming place for them. As long as everyone leaves the building with at the very least a small slice of joy, then my volunteers and I feel our work has been worthwhile.

As always, we want RE at the CVUU to be a warm, friendly place for your children.

DCRE-ly yours, *Kate*



## 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.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**A Continuation of Poetry Sunday**

In lieu of a Forum today, there will be more poetry, more prose! We'll continue with what there wasn't time for during the service.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**The CVUU's Burning Heretics**

Please stick around after the service! In place of a forum today, CVUU's own fabulous Burning Heretics band will be performing a set of music that's sure to make your heart sing.

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Getting to Know Threehouse**

We will hear from the collaborative campus ministry in Cedar Falls known as Threehouse—about their activities supporting students.

**April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Soup and Salad Cook-off! Immediately following the service.**

This event is in place of a forum today and is sponsored by the Nature Lovers Small Group. See separate article for details.

*Al and Pam Hays* for Adult RE



## MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

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



## WHAT'S IT LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN RE?



Have you thought about signing up to volunteer but were unsure of the expectations? Being a nursery or RE volunteer is fun, and it adds to the ability for young families to participate in our community. On Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> *Shirley Whiteside* was a RE classroom volunteer. She is pictured reading to (from left to right) *Ellie* and *Lena*. *Joey* was also there that day and is in the photo on the right. *Shirley's* own words, reflecting on her experience were, "those kids are just so darn cute!"





## BOARD BRIEFS

On March 14<sup>th</sup> your CVUU Board held its regular monthly meeting. We had a full agenda and a couple future Board members showed up just to observe, which was appreciated. A few highlights:

- Reviewed progress of the Sabbatical Planning Team, which is helping the CVUU prepare for *Pastor Emma's* temporary absence.
- Heard an update from the Stewardship Committee, and agreed to help conduct follow-up phone calls to members whose stewardship pledge has not yet been received.
- Received and reviewed the slate of Officer, Board, and Nominating Committee candidates for the 2024-25 fiscal year, who will be voted on by the congregation at the May 19<sup>th</sup> CVUU Annual Meeting.
- Discussed and decided who would receive this year's CVUU Unsung Hero award, to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- Reviewed and approved an updated CVUU Endowment Fund Policy.
- Decided how to publicize the upcoming MidAmerica Region gathering and identify CVUU delegates for the national UU General Assembly.

*Dennis Harbaugh*



In April we can celebrate April Fool's Day, Administrative Professional's Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, and it's also Keep America Beautiful month. Along with the thought of beauty, Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> is *National Gardening Day* for all our CVUU gardeners just itching to roll up their sleeves, gather their tools and seeds, and get their hands in the soil!

We have a few members looking at surgery and others recovering from surgery/dealing with health issues. Good vibes and our best wishes to each of them. 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.



### *Soul Matters for April—Interdependence*

To quote an Irish proverb, "It is in the shelter of each other that people live." This month, the Soul Matters curriculum invites us to explore the interdependent web of all existence—from the human communities we create to our inextricable links with the planet and the universe. Join us to dig deeper into these points of connection and to consider how we might reach across these connections to work for good.

Adapted from the Soul Matters curriculum.



## SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTIONS

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

February's charity was for us, the CVUU! Every year we take a month to support the work of this congregation through our Stewardship Campaign which, at the time of this writing, is wrapping up so we hope you've turned in your pledge for FY25 to feel a part of it all!



In March our Social Action charity (on Easter Sunday) was for the *1619 Freedom School* here in Waterloo. A truly worthwhile cause, we'll have that total to share with you next month.

Our April charity is *Planned Parenthood of the North Central States*. Among other services, each year they provide health education to more than 55,000 people in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota.

Thank you to all who participate in supporting the charities each month in the name of the CVUU.

*The Social Action Committee*

## Newsletter

### APRIL DEADLINES

#### FOR THE CALENDAR AND NUUSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the May issue. The calendar deadline for this issue will be **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** (send info to the office); the newsletter deadline will be **Friday, April 19<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 **April 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**—the calendar and newsletter deadlines *for the May 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



### 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 **April** is *Jan Anderson* (please use her cell phone number as listed in the directory).

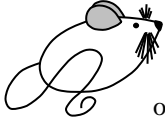


The Irish Unitarian philosopher and writer *Frances Power Cobbe* died at age eighty-two on April 5, 1904.

The showman *Phineas Taylor Barnum*, a devoted Universalist, died at age eighty in Philadelphia on April 7, 1891.



Have you heard that we have a new stove? The old one served the church well until the oven became less than dependable. Prior to delivery in March, *Mary Kay, Roger, Cindy, Steve, and Gerry* arrived early that morning to pull out the old stove and clean the floor under/wall behind. They also pulled out the cupboard in that corner so now shelves, floor, and walls are clean there too. Cindy rearranged items on and in the cupboard. As long as they were cleaning anyway, Steve and Roger decided to take a look at the refrigerator coils to see if they needed cleaning. As you might expect, I am often at that floor level so *I could have told them the need was great!* The refrigerator was pulled out too, and now after a lot of crawling on the floor on their part, the coils are clean (floor and walls are too)! What a team this group was, and from the laughing and joking, it was obvious it was more fun than work for that crew.



*The Church Mouse*



**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists is scheduled for Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. A regular Sunday service will precede this meeting. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.



**CEDAR FALLS WEEKLY COMMUNITY MEAL**

April has a fifth Tuesday, so on April 30<sup>th</sup> the CVUU 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 (*Moria* always does two dozen and it would be *outstanding* if someone else would volunteer to make another two dozen), 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 *Shirley Whiteside* if you are willing and able to help.



**SOME OBSERVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL INCLUDE:**

- National Youth Sports Safety month
- National Pickleball month National Pecan month
- National Humor month National Knuckles Down month
- National Frog month National Social Security month
- National Licorice month
- National African American Women's Fitness month

**NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY**

During April the Social Action Committee invites you to recommend worthy organizations to receive one of our monthly special collections. We rely on your input for a varied and relevant slate of charities as we assemble a ballot to submit to the congregation. In May and June, CVUU members will vote on eight to receive a donation during the 2024-25 year.

If you would like to recommend a charity not already receiving a donation from the CVUU, contact *Sally Browne* before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Alternatively put your recommendation on paper in the handy clearly labeled box in the Fellowship Hall. Tell us what organization you'd like to place on the ballot and why you think it merits a donation. Also, please include a mailing address, so we know where to send a check if they are selected. All nominated organizations will be included on the ballot, as well as any that received donations in the past year.



Congregation members can start voting online the week of May 19<sup>th</sup>. Voting will take place via a Survey Monkey form prepared by *Kat*, accessed via a link in the Weekly Update. Paper ballots will be provided upon request.

*Sally Browne and Carolyn Hartsfield*  
for the Social Action Committee



**PRESENTING BEN COOK-FELTZ!**

*Ben Cook-Feltz* is looking forward to bringing an evening of fun to the CVUU, on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This celebratory and resonant concert will be full of songs that are "equal parts melancholy and whimsical", says Ben, who grew up in our church. Iowa Public Radio once described his music as, "Paul Simon singing songs about broken hearts and pants". Please check out his website: <<https://bencookfeltz.com/>>.



This concert is a *Treats & Talents* item, brought to you by *Moria* and *Bill Brown*. All proceeds will go to the CVUU. Admission is \$15, with checks or cash being accepted or, if you have the tithe.ly app you may use that. There is a list of all who bought this item the night of the auction, but all others are welcome, with payment at the door.

Both the concert and reception will be handicapped accessible.



**SUCCESSFUL CVUU 2023 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN GETS NOTICED BY NATIONAL UUS**

An article highlighting our successful 2023-24 Stewardship Campaign was recently published by the national UU LeaderLab office as part of their Congregational Interconnections Series, which is designed to share "best practices" among UU congregations. Check out the link where you can read the article and see the lovely photo of "88 Notes" that we enjoy every Sunday on the front wall of the sanctuary! <[www.uua.org/leaderlab/staff-equity](http://www.uua.org/leaderlab/staff-equity)>.

[Editor's Note: at the culmination of last year's stewardship campaign, when pledges were in and we met the staff equity goal, it certainly was an exciting achievement! Your CVUU leadership put time and energy into writing about our positive experience and has shared it, with hopes that other UU congregations feel empowered to do the same.]



## MIDAMERICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Madison, WI ~ April 19-20<sup>th</sup>

The CVUU is part of the MidAmerica Region of the UUA. This year's Annual Regional Conference will be held both online and in person at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

This year's theme is *Threads That Connect: Stories That Inspire*. The Keynote address will be given by the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, and the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

There will be workshops, the Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region, and opportunities to meet many UU leaders from across our faith tradition. Online programming and keynote speakers will be shared with the Pacific Western Region, and in-person workshops and programming will be hosted by the First Unitarian Society of Madison.

For those who are in-person, there will even be opportunities to tour this historic UU church designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Most importantly, it is a time to come together as Unitarian Universalists from across the MidAmerica Region. Please join us online or in-person for our first-ever multi-platform MidAmerica Regional Assembly!

Registration for in-person attendance closes on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Check out the website for more information at: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/events/threads-connect-stories-inspire>.



*Thomas Jefferson* was born on April 13, 1743 in Shadwell, Virginia. He served in the Virginia House of Burgesses, where he established a reputation as a patriot. As delegate to the Continental Congress (1775-76), he drafted the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson also wrote the Statute for Religious Freedom of Virginia, served as governor of Virginia, and published his "Notes on State of Virginia" (1784). In 1785 he became the U.S. Minister to France. Upon his return to the United States in 1789, he was appointed Secretary of State under George Washington, became Vice President under John Adams, and served two terms as President of the United States. In retirement he founded the University of Virginia. Jefferson was a convinced Unitarian and wrote extensively in Unitarianism's defense. He also prepared a Socinian edition of the Bible, known as the Jefferson Bible, which is still in use.



### 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, the camp will take place from Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. This special week includes adult workshops, activities for children, free time for family fun and relaxation, and intergenerational activities.

Their website at <https://baysideuu.wixsite.com/baysideuu> covers much information, and answers to potential questions, but if you need to contact us, the email is [baysideuu@gmail.com](mailto:baysideuu@gmail.com).



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024 LOVE UNITES, STORIES IGNITE

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where attendees conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. The 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly will take place *virtually* Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This will be an especially significant GA because a final vote on Article II changes—which embrace and outline a series of 'values' to guide UUs into the future—will be taken. (Note that this GA will be online only, with no in-person attendance.)



For more information, visit the UUA's General Assembly webpage where you can also find *registration* details which are available now: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>. The *CVUU is allotted three delegates* who will be eligible to vote at the national GA. General registration is open to everyone, of course, but if you'd like to be an official CVUU delegate at this summer's General Assembly, please contact *Dennis Harbaugh*.



*Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought  
and the thought has found words.*

~~Robert Frost

## The CVUU Nature Group presents a "SOUP AND SALAD COOK-OFF" FUNDRAISER

Help us raise money and have fun! Even if you don't enter, you can eat and vote! To enter, please sign up in person in the Fellowship Hall by contacting *Sheri Huber-Otting, Betsy Brant, Carolyn Hildebrandt, Christine Carpenter,* or another Nature Group member, or you can sign up by emailing Sheri no later than April 14<sup>th</sup>.



Food for the cook-off must be made by the entrant and can be any kind of soup or salad. Your food entry must be placed in the Fellowship Hall by 11:00 a.m. on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Note that there is no hospitality that day; we'll begin immediately following the service.



You are responsible for taking your dish home after the event. After the service, the congregation will eat and vote on the best entry by purchasing \$1 tickets. The tickets can be used to vote for the best entry. The voting will be done "blind"—no names will be with the entries. Multiple tickets can be used for voting, so vote early and often!

The winner will be announced at 12:30 p.m. The first-place winner will get to keep our huge and outlandish trophy in their own home for a year. (Winners have been known to not want to take it home, but that's up to you!) Entering the competition is free and entrants can also purchase tickets to vote. (People have been known to vote for their own.) All of the money raised from ticket sales will be donated to the CVUU General Fund. Don't want to vote? Come anyway, the meal is free to all!



**Viola Fauver Gregg Liuzzo** was born in California, Pennsylvania on April 11, 1925. She was a Unitarian committed to education and economic justice. Active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Liuzzo was arrested twice for civil rights activities and pleaded guilty both times. She went to Selma, Alabama, to join the march to Montgomery in support of voting rights for African Americans after the murder of James Reeb, a Unitarian minister. On March 25, 1965, the day that the marchers arrived in Montgomery, four men forced her car off the road and shot her. She died instantly. President Johnson and Martin Luther King, Jr. praised her martyrdom. A plaque in her memory hangs at the Unitarian Universalist headquarters in Boston. Viola Liuzzo attended the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit.



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Spring is truly upon us and the new energy is all around in the singing birds, blossoming flowers, and budding trees. We *made it* through winter (unnervingly mild as it was!). We are ready to embrace the joy and fresh air of spring. Ahh...



It's interesting to remember that many years ago the CVUU wound down in spring and took a reprieve in the summer. Not so any longer—we recognize the need for our Beloved Community to be available for us all year long, including summer! So, look forward to a few extra offerings of social opportunities to continue your connection to your CVUU friends.

Speaking of CVUU friends, if you've been attending the CVUU for a while and want to deepen your connection, you will have a chance to do that in April. There will be an informational session for those wanting to learn more about the UU and share what they are looking for in a spiritual home or church. This session called *New to CVUU* will take place on **Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** Additionally, for those wanting to become a CVUU member, there will be a session called *I Want to Be a Member* on **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.** Let *Pastor Emma* or me know if you are interested in these sessions or need more information.

Meanwhile, the new Engagement Committee will continue offering monthly 'First Friday Family Fun' events (except in July!). These events will sometimes include a potluck and games, but some months will have a little seasonal twist. Watch for more information and plan to attend. In April, we will repeat the successful and fun 'First Friday Family Fun' potluck-game event on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Like always, we could use some extra hands to make the work light. Think about when your schedule will allow you to help out, whether it's clean-up at the First Friday events, helping with Hospitality or Greeting, or some other need at the church. I guarantee you have skills that will be helpful! And you'll enjoy getting to know some other CVUUers in the process. You might even have fun with it!

It takes a village to keep a thriving church community going and we all have more fun when more people chip in. So, let *Heather Flory, Kathi Bower, Kate Flynn,* or me know if there's some place you would like to lend a hand.

Thanks to everyone who helps make our CVUU such a nurturing place to us all!

Happy Spring, everyone!

*Juanita Williams*  
for the Congregational Life Crew



## LABYRINTH NEWS SAVE THE DATE

World Labyrinth Day ~ May 4, 2024

On the first Saturday of May people from all around the globe will be walking for World Peace. This event began in 2009 and is sponsored by The Labyrinth Society and Veriditas. It has evolved into a day that is intended to create a global wave of Peace passing from one time zone to the next all around the world.

Walking the Labyrinth is an opportunity to experience mindful meditation by walking a single circuitous path to the center and then back out again.

This year we have our own canvas labyrinth that will be set up in the sanctuary at the CVUU for anyone to come and walk from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. There will also be opportunities to create your own labyrinth from various art materials. Adults and children are all welcome.

If you are interested in helping with the set up and putting the sanctuary back in order, please contact me.

If you would like to learn more about labyrinths, check out The Labyrinth Society website. If you would like to know more about labyrinths in the Cedar Valley, contact me.

Each year The Labyrinth Society has an annual gathering. This year it will be held near Yosemite Park from October 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. The theme is *Awe and Inspiration*. You can find more information about this event on the Labyrinth website.

Namaste,  
*Floralyn Groff*



## Meet Our New Member~

*Michael Jamosky*

A Madison, WI native, *Michael* is not a stranger to the CVUU as his parents, *Ed* and *Alice Jamosky*, were attendees here for years. His parents met in Madison. His father was brought up Catholic but was introduced to Unitarianism through friends. His mother was brought up Lutheran but fell away from that religion due to a grumpy relative pushing her in that direction. At a young age *Michael* remembers the Unitarian Church in Milwaukee. The family also attended Unitarian churches in South Bend, Indiana and Ann Arbor, Michigan before moving to Cedar Falls in 1965 when the meetings were in the cafeteria of the Malcolm Price Laboratory School. Since then, he has attended the UU churches in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids prior to moving back to Cedar Falls four months ago. He says, "there has never been a shortage of very interesting, compassionate people at all the locations."



He's a lover of bicycle rides, dog walks, and live theater. *Michael's* passion for outdoor activities, appreciation for the arts, and commitment to a diverse and inclusive community make him a vibrant addition to his new surroundings.

[Editor's Note: His dad died in 2015 and it's been especially nice to see his mother at church again, as he has brought her a few times since his return. Welcome home, *Michael!*]

## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY" STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

CVUU folks know how to build community! The final total for the Fiscal Year 2025 Stewardship Campaign is \$202,661 which is just a few hundred dollars short of the record amount we raised last year. We came within 3% of meeting our goal, which means we'll be able to continue to pay our staff equitably and fund almost all of what we had budgeted for July 2024 - June 2025.

We had a good time along the way. It was great to have a chance to talk to fellow UUs in small groups during our stewardship socials in late January/early February, and it was especially encouraging to have a lot of new members in attendance. The luncheon and show-and-tell session on Stewardship Sunday were a lot of fun too.



Many thanks to the 77 households who made pledges of support and to all those who assisted with the campaign in any way. Thanks to *Heather Flory* for passing along detailed notes from last year's campaign which guided us on our way. Thanks to the Finance Council for spending many hours crunching and rearranging numbers to figure out how much we will need to spend in the coming year. Special shout-outs to *Moria Brown* for her artwork, to *Bill Brown* for keeping up with the pledge tallies, and to *Steve* and *Gerry Chamberlin* for asking excellent questions and doing many things behind the scenes to keep us on track.

Lastly, we recognize that money is not the only way of giving to CVUU. Our community functions because many of us donate time, talents, ideas, and appreciation. So even if you've never written a check, filled out a pledge form, or put money in the collection box, you are part of the community. Whether you baked a pie, washed some dishes, sang a song, offered a ride, smiled at someone, shared your story with them, or simply sat listening and nodding along during a Sunday service, we thank you.

Yours in community,  
*Karen Impola, Mandy Boody and Michaela Rich*  
Stewardship Team



### THE CVUU'S COVENANT

We gather together in the spirit of love.

We seek to grow in wisdom, promote peace,  
and strive for social justice.

We dedicate ourselves to kindness, understanding,  
and responsible actions,

So that we may grow in harmony with nature  
and the divine.

[Editor's Note: Every Sunday as part of the service, we say this Covenant in unison. As another Stewardship Campaign comes to a close, let us remember the promises we make to each other on a weekly basis and continue with *Building Our Community*.]



Support for the CVUU's *Little Food Pantry* and *Little Lending Library* is ongoing throughout the year. Our neighbors, and the children getting off the bus coming home from school, can use nourishment for minds and bodies no matter if the weather is chilly, rainy, or sunny! The CVUU LFP is one of the Social Action charities we support once a year, and it was the designated monthly charity in September 2023 (for the 2023-24 year).

While the Social Action Collection of the congregation's monetary support happens once a year for each charity, there are several CVUU members who make regular food donations to our LFP; others do it occasionally. There are also those who remain anonymous and put items in the pantry without any acknowledgment. All of these donations warm my heart.



There is yet another source of giving to our LFP—of which you may be unaware—and that's the gentleGym (or gG as they are known). They have a holiday giving initiative with members, staff, and patients contributing during the month of December. We have received foods, personal care products, and gift cards. When there is no sales slip included, I guesstimate the contributions. Two years ago it was \$900, last year it was \$1,300, and this year an amazing \$1,500! The giving has touched my heart.



Carrie, the lead administrative assistant at gG, grew up near our church so she actually started all this, as I'd certainly be reluctant to ask them to do it (our Pantry is on our property after all). I couldn't be as generous with filling it without their contributions. They tell me they do it because of me, which blows my mind, but they are good, kind folks as you can tell.

I think during the shutdown and aftermath we were all spurred on to reflect on our places in the community. I decided to keep the Pantry operational during the shutdown. I've learned much about pantry management during these times. I've also questioned myself a lot as I work with the children who come and use it. Of course, the big question for me is, am I aligned with my values and UU values? That's unfolding and ever changing.

The gG might choose a different giving initiative at any point in time, so now is when we must mark this little part of our history. As I previously stated, I could not fill the pantry as often without their generosity, but it takes all of us to make this a success. My own belief surrounding church life centers around, what are we doing for our neighbors, our community?

This is a perfect opportunity to acknowledge several people who have helped out with the Pantry since I've been going to Cedar Rapids for treatments. *Betsy Brant* was the first to volunteer followed by *Michael Jamosky*, then *Sally* and *Albert Browne*. Anonymous people have carried boxes to the basement and/or straightened up the pantry storage cabinet. I was met with a surprise recently when I found the shelves storing the books for our Little Lending Library all "red up"! (That's a WV phrase for "straightened up".)

Thanks for helping us to help others. *Priscilla Nieman*  
for the CVUU's LFP and LLL





# GREEN LIVING CORNER

## *Solar Decision*

I'm a mechanical engineer by trade and have always been interested in renewable energy. As I have become an adult, working in the combustion industry as an engine engineer for John Deere, I have learned more about the dangers to our environment from burning fossil fuels. This was the biggest motivation to invest in solar. It is a small way for me to reduce my carbon footprint.

Solar systems are expensive, so the federal tax rebate was a huge help. When we decided to have a solar system installed, the federal tax rebate was ~26%, I believe. This brought the price into a range that was reasonable for us.

Our system was installed at the end of 2021 and officially came online around April of 2022. We have a 7.1 kW solar system, which completely supplies our house with electricity.

As the accompanying images of the house show, panels are installed on two sides of the roof. The optimal direction/location for the panels was determined by a computer program that simulated the position of the sun. They could put the address into the program, and it used satellite images of the house to determine the best position of the panels. The panels on our house face the east and south. I believe this position is common in the Midwest, so you capture the intense morning sunlight on the east. The south panels are positioned to be able to capture sunlight later into the day.

We take advantage of net metering through MidAmerican Energy which allows us to overproduce in the summer months and save up credit that is used in the winter months. The average over the twelve-month period from April to April will produce between 7,000-8,000 kWh, depending on the weather patterns of the year.

Based on current electricity rates and, assuming a couple percent increase in cost each year, our return on investment is looking like it will be around 15 years. This doesn't factor in any property value increase to our home and assumes energy costs won't significantly increase. Our system is under warranty for twenty years and has a projected life of thirty-plus years.

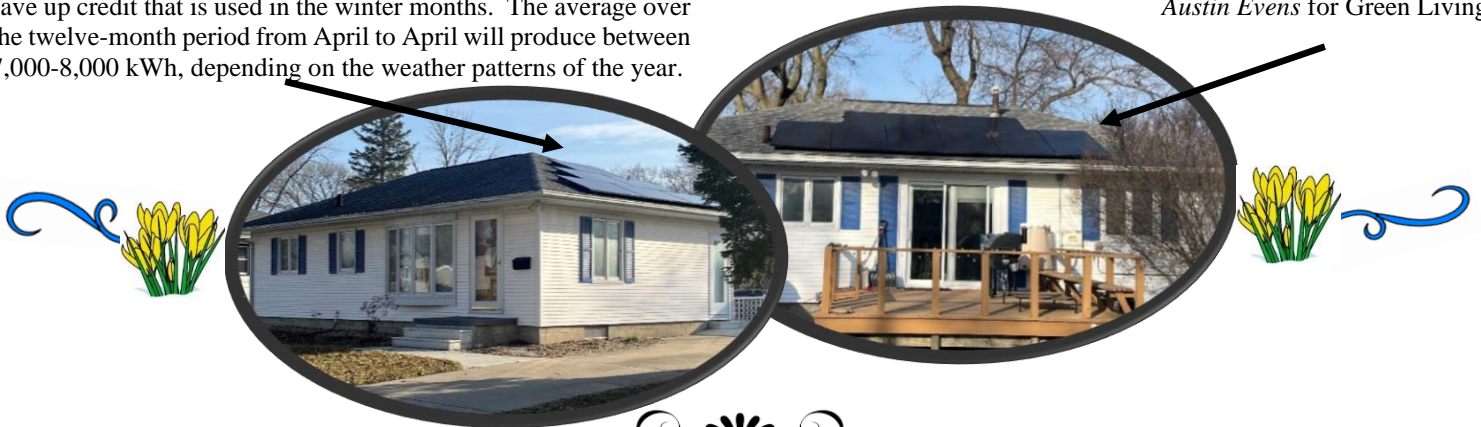
I suspect the cost is becoming more reasonable for new customers as more Iowans invest in this technology. So, the ROI for systems may be a bit shorter now than when I made the decision.

I had a mostly positive experience with the transition to solar energy. The company we purchased our panels from helped us through the process and filled out all the paperwork needed for installation, integration with the grid, and the certification needed for tax rebates.

We did have a few frustrations; most of these were with the interactions with the city of Waterloo and MidAmerican. Our installation took longer than predicted because we had to wait a long time to get a trench inspected in our back yard. The other frustration was with the amount of time it took MidAmerican to come and install the inflow/outflow meter on our house so that the solar company could turn the system on.

Since the system has been installed, we have been very happy. It has performed as expected and we are able to use clean energy almost year round.

*Austin Evens for Green Living*



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### ***Peter Mayer in Concert at the CVUU***

Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Singer-songwriter and UU member *Peter Mayer* will be in concert right here at the CVUU on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 in advance for a reserved seat, or by freewill donation at the door for an unreserved seat (suggested donation \$15-25, but no one will be turned away). Proceeds will go to the Accessibility fund, aimed at making our building more accessible to the disabled.

You can reserve a seat in all the ways you usually donate to CVUU: use the Tithe.ly app and select the "Peter Mayer" option; write a check with "Peter Mayer" in the memo line and mail it or drop it in the collection box; or even put cash in the collection box provided that it's in an envelope with your name and a note saying it's for the Peter Mayer concert. Look to the May newsletter and later Weekly Updates for more information or contact *Karen Impola*.

### ***"THANK KAT" DAY: APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>***

This year, Administrative Professionals' Day takes place on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. As many of you know, *Kat Beane Hanson*, the CVUU's Office Administrator, works hard all year for the CVUU, and our beloved community wouldn't be the same without her. If you would like to show your appreciation for the great work Kat does, we want to make sure you know how. Any cards or gifts for Kat can be left in her mail "pocket" on her office door (which is the office upstairs above the foyer), or mailed to her at the church. If you're thinking about giving a gift card to any of our staff, consider options that would help with gas, groceries, or other expenses.



We have heard that some of Kat's personal favorites are Door Dash, Starbuck's, and Sarah's Espresso Cafe.

*This article was written by Heather Flory on behalf of the Shared Ministry Council: Heather Flory (chair), Floralyn Groff (Board liaison), Debra Kyler, Nancie Groszkruger, and Pastor Emma Peterson.*

## TIME AT THE CVUU AND AWAY: PART OF THE UU MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT

It's common knowledge that ministers don't work a 9-to-5 job, but did you know that UU ministers typically work a 6-day work week and are responsible for monitoring their time to ensure an appropriate balance of work and time off? Ministry is understood as a calling, and the work of ministry is time-intensive and subject to unforeseen events. Sufficient down-time is essential to maintaining personal health and professional sustainability, and our CVUU ministerial agreement is designed to help our minister find that balance. This article provides a few highlights from *Pastor Emma's* ministerial agreement related to her time at the CVUU and away from us, as recommended by the national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA): <<https://www.uua.org/>>.

Ministers are most known for the work they do on Sunday mornings. However, in addition to Sunday services, Pastor Emma provides many other types of ministry to the CVUU, including participation in almost all council, committee, and Board meetings; serving as the head of staff for our three paid staff; providing pastoral care for congregants as needed; helping re-develop our religious education program; and more. In these multi-faceted roles, priorities are constantly shifting. Pastor Emma often works evenings and spends time in ways less tangible such as addressing congregational problems. Pastoral and congregational crises can occur at any time including days off.

It is expected that UU ministers will have, at a minimum, one day per week free of all Congregational responsibilities and one additional day devoted to study and writing wherein they will be available only for emergencies. Therefore, Pastor Emma works a 6-day work week. Her day off is Monday; her study and writing day is typically Saturday.

To offset this full work schedule each CVUU fiscal year, in keeping with UUA recommendations, Pastor Emma receives four weeks of vacation (24 days), four weeks of study leave (24 days), ten days of sick leave, paid holidays, and one month of accrued sabbatical leave. In addition to vacation and study leave, attendance at national UUA General Assembly, regional UUA gatherings, UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association) Chapter Meetings, and Ministry Days are considered associational responsibilities for which our minister may be away from the CVUU. Because of these various reasons to be away from the congregation, UU ministers typically lead or co-lead worship services between 30 and 35 Sundays each year.

**For those who like accounting and transparency, here are the numbers for this fiscal year** (which began July 1, 2023). Pastor Emma has taken 21 vacation days (6 days in July, 6 days in January, and 9 days in March) and 17 days of study leave (in September and October). This means that she has 3 vacation days and 7 study leave days left to use this year. So, Pastor Emma will take 7 study leave days from April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, returning to CVUU working on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and she'll take two vacation days from April 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, right before she attends Unitarian Universalist MidAmerica Regional Assembly April 18 – 20<sup>th</sup>. This means that Pastor Emma will have one vacation day left that she won't be able to use, since her sabbatical leave starts on May 1<sup>st</sup> and there's too much going on in April to squeeze in another day away!

Pastor Emma determines the schedule of her time away from the CVUU in consultation with the Religious Services Council, the Shared Ministry Council, and the Board President. If you have questions about Pastor Emma's time at or away from the CVUU, or other aspects of the ministerial agreement, please feel free to contact *Heather Flory*, Shared Ministry Council chair.

*This article was written by Heather Flory on behalf of the Shared Ministry Council: Heather Flory (chair), Floralyn Groff (Board liaison), Debra Kyler, Nancie Groszkruger, and Pastor Emma Peterson.*



*Le Christopher's* Southern Cuisine will be offered every second Sunday of the month at 12:00 p.m. at the Jubilee United Methodist Church, 1621 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Waterloo. This means the April meal will be on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Abraham Funchess has graciously and personally welcomed us to join them.

Adult plates are \$20 cash donation (\$15 cash donation for children twelve and under). Check out the church website at: <<http://jubileeumc.com/>>.



On April 15, 1840 Unitarian minister **Frederick Gary** was chosen agent (later called secretary) of the (Unitarian) Sunday School Society, the first of a long series of paid religious educators in the top leadership position of the Society.



**Arbor Day 2024 is Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Nebraska newspaper editor, and resident of Nebraska City, NE, J. Sterling Morton, had an enthusiasm for trees and advocated strongly for individuals and civic groups to plant them. Once he became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, he further spread his message of the value of trees, and on January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture.

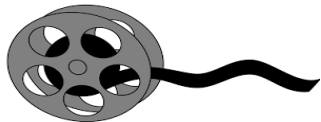
The celebration date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for the largest number of properly planted trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Today it is celebrated in all fifty states with the last Friday in April the most common date for the observance.

[Editor's Note: the eldest of his four sons, Joy, was the founder of Morton Salt in 1885.]



The *Canton Theological School* in Canton, New York opened on April 15, 1858. Universalists founded the school as part of St. Lawrence University. In its first year, Canton enrolled a total of four students.



## MOVIE DISCUSSION SMALL GROUP

The Movie Discussion Small Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. This month's movie is *The Hill*, a 2023 movie to be found on Netflix, at the Cedar Falls Public Library, or for rent on Amazon Prime for \$5.99.

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



## APRIL PAGAN CALENDAR

### Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup>

**Fool's Day** – celebrating the God of Chaos Energy. UUs specialize in tolerating and sometimes creating benevolent chaos.

### Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup>

**Celtic month of the willow** begins. Willows are known for their longevity. Also, new willow trees can easily be rooted from cuttings. The willow stands for the capability to withstand hardship, loss, and difficult emotions. It is a symbol of surviving and rebirth.

### Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Gaia Day** – Greek goddess; name also means Mother Nature, Earth Mother, and Mother Titan. Gaia is said to be one of the first beings thought to exist, right from the beginning of time itself. She earthed mountains and planets. In modern times Gaia Day is celebrated as Earth Day. Gaia is often represented as the globe or a woman sheltering the globe.

### Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Full Pink Moon** – (the moon is not literally pink, just full). The name comes from the *Phlox subculata*, or “herb pink moss”, which has pink petals at this time of year. (In Iowa we call it ground phlox.) Pink symbolizes love, compassion and emotional healing, and represents a time to focus on cultivating positive energy in your life and intimate relations.

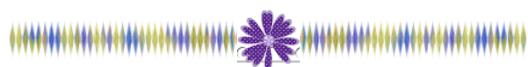
### Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup>

**Walpurgisnacht** – the night of witches. Northern Europe and Scandinavian origin; witches dance and pray to expedite the coming of spring and ensure fertility. (Google Walpurgisnacht to see witches dances in other countries. Last year the Cedar Valley Arboretum also sponsored a dance.)

The next CUUPS ritual will be a celebration of Beltane on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the CVUU.

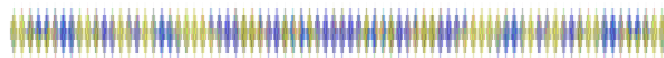
*Pam Hays*

(a proud crone and working on becoming a sage as well)



Another year's Stewardship Campaign has ended, and you folks sure have a lot of energy. *Moria's* east wall art creation was an undertaking that we and the little mice truly enjoyed. (We mice come in similar colors too, you know.) Each week we were filled with anticipation to see how high the flames would go, and you didn't disappoint! A few weeks into the campaign, adding *Virginia's* artwork of the life-like fire extinguisher to the wall, was a fun visual; how clever of you!

*The Church Mouse*



## IMPORTANT CARING COMMITTEE NEWS

This is an *All Call for Occasional Tasks to Help the Caring Committee Care for You, Our Congregation!* The Caring Connections Committee (or Caring Committee as they are often called) consists of about nine or ten volunteer congregants who meet each month and have one contact person take the lead for every month to help congregants in need.

The help of the whole congregation is what will make this work well—many hands make light work, as the saying goes.

What we would like is for you, our congregants, to fill out a form (either on paper, or online via a link in the Weekly Update), that indicates things you are occasionally willing to do for your fellow UUs who need a helping hand. *In need* might include times when members are facing such things as: illness, mental health situations, family burdens, surgery, and so on.

Prior to Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, this “all call” will be in the Weekly Update, along with a link. On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the Caring Committee will have an announcement made that morning and facilitate paper/hard copies of the form that can be filled out to indicate how you may be of help.

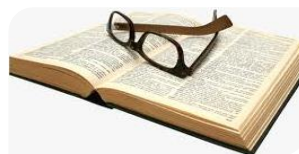
If you should choose to be a ‘go to’ person for a single congregant in need, contact the Caring Committee and we can facilitate that for you if the need arises.

You, yourself, may need this kind of help at some point and you will not regret having previously given a hand when it is your turn, right?

No one *has* to fill out a form; no one *has* to volunteer in this capacity. We know people have limitations on their time and capabilities. *You* will be cared for whether you can help or not.

Thank you for your attention and kind consideration!

*Nancie Groszkruger* and the  
CVUU Caring Connections Committee



## CVUU READER'S SMALL GROUP

The next meeting of the Reader's Small Group will be on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, so mark your calendar. They meet in the CVUU balcony *every fourth Tuesday* at 6:30 p.m.

As in the past, there won't be an assigned book; instead, attendees will share with each other what they've been reading.

If you'd like to be on the email list for the Reader's Small Group notifications, contact *Mandy Boody*.





## FIRST FRIDAY DINNER: APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>

Since our first “First Friday” Dinner in March was a success (with at least 45 people in attendance), we are going to continue these dinners as long as we can find help with setup and cleanup. Our next First Friday dinner is scheduled for Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will again be a family-friendly beloved community potluck dinner, with one small change from March (described below in the “clean up” bullet). We hope everyone will join us and bring their family and friends. Everyone is welcome!

**What is “First Friday”?** Here’s how this will work in April.

- **The meal:** Since this is a potluck dinner, we ask everyone to bring some food to share if you can, even if it’s just a loaf of bread, a bag of chips, or something else that’s quick and easy. Since this is a **beloved community** dinner, we hope you’ll come even if you can’t bring anything to share.
- **The drink:** Water is available, or feel free to bring your own preferred beverage.
- **The fun & games:** After eating, people are invited to play games or socialize, hopefully with someone you haven’t had a chance to connect with yet. If you want to play games, please bring your favorite game (for children and/or adults).
- **The cleanup:** Due to the excellent attendance in March, we had many more dirty dishes than we could fit in the dishwasher, which led to a not-very-fun time for people who had volunteered to help clean up. To make cleanup easier going forward, we would like to ask people to bring their own dishes if possible (and take them home to clean up there). For those who don’t bring their own dishes, paper plates will be provided. We will still need help with cleanup, but we hope it will be minimal work—handwashing serving spoons, wiping off tables, putting tables and chairs back in place for Sunday, and vacuuming.
- **The schedule:** We hope to continue first Fridays in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. as long as we find help each time. Here’s the tentative schedule for the next few months:
  - Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>—Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by games and conversation.
  - Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>—Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Drum Circle at 6:30 p.m. (or games).
  - Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>—Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a labyrinth walk on your own (indoor) and/or games (indoor/outdoor).
  - Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>—No First Friday Dinner this month (we suspect many people will be traveling).
  - Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>—Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Drum Circle at 6:30 p.m. (or indoor/outdoor games).

These dinners will continue as long as people are willing to help, so if you would like to help set up or clean up, please contact *Heather Flory*. We look forward to seeing everyone at the CVUU for these fun-filled social opportunities!

*This article was written by Heather Flory on behalf of the Engagement Committee: Heather Flory and Juanita Williams (co-chairs), Rita Waggoner, Mollie Wallsteadt, Rosa Torres.*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the March meeting, the 2023-2024 CVUU Nominating Committee presented the following list of candidates to the CVUU Board for fiscal year 2025.

The following Board positions are up for election for the 2024-2025 year. Each individual is eligible and willing to serve.

### Officers – one-year terms (3 terms maximum)

- President – Carolyn Hildebrandt (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Vice President – Karen Impola (3<sup>rd</sup> term)
- Finance – Mike Knapp (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Secretary – Rob Boody (3<sup>rd</sup> term)



The following Board positions are up for election for the 2024-2025 year. Each individual is eligible and willing to serve.

### Trustees – two-year terms (2 terms maximum)

- Building & Grounds – Steve Chamberlin (1<sup>st</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Social Action – Lizzie O’Loughlin (2<sup>nd</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Religious Education and Programs – Seth Chadwick (1<sup>st</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)

The following Board positions are not up for election for the 2024-2025 year. However, each individual is completing a term begun by another person, so needs to be approved by the Board. Each individual is eligible and willing to serve.

### Trustees – two-year terms (2 terms maximum)

- Congregational Life – Jill Miller (Completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Stacey Bartz’s term)
- Religious Services – Lynn Brant (Completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Dick Warhol’s term)
- Shared Ministry – Nancie Groszkruger (Completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Floralyn Groff’s term)

The following Nominating Committee position is up for election this year.

### Advisory: Nominating Committee – three-year terms (2 terms max)

- Al Hays (1<sup>st</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year)

The following Nominating Committee positions are not on the election cycle for the 2024-2025 year.

### Advisory: Nominating Committee – three-year terms (2 terms max)

- Margie Miller (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- Michaela Rich (2<sup>nd</sup> term, 3<sup>rd</sup> year)

Thank you to all who serve as CVUU Board Members and Officers.

The CVUU Nominating Committee  
*Heather Flory, Margie Miller, and Michaela Rich*



How do pirates celebrate April Fool’s Day?  
They walk the prank.



On April 18, 1827 the *Boston Sunday School Society* was organized in the Berry Street vestry of the Federal Street Church in Boston (now the Arlington Street Church). In 1868 the name was changed to the Unitarian Sunday School Society.

## Important Information About *Pastor Emma's* Sabbatical

The CVUU Sabbatical Planning Team has been working to make sure *Pastor Emma's* upcoming sabbatical time is as smooth and productive as possible—for both her and the congregation. As a reminder, she will be absent for three months, from May 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>.

It's helpful to think about the sabbatical time, which is quickly approaching, in three phases:

- 1) Phase 1 – **The Planning Phase.** This involves planning for Pastor Emma's absence, identifying needs, assigning responsibilities, and sharing relevant info with the congregation.
- 2) Phase 2 – **The Execution Phase.** Plans will be put into motion, and the Sabbatical Team will continue to meet to respond to any needs, check-in with staff, and be in 'react & respond' mode if necessary.
- 3) Phase 3 – **The Reentry Phase.** Benefits from any sabbatical can be quickly undone if the reentry process is discouraging. We want the CVUU to be in good shape when Pastor Emma returns, and we want to facilitate a smooth transition back to her ministry among us.

The Sabbatical Team has been focusing on Phase 1 work, identifying ministerial needs which need to be covered during Pastor Emma's absence. Some of these involve 'internal' processes which need to be set up; others involve 'external' information which needs to be conveyed to the congregation.

**Below are some initial 'rules of the road' we'll all need to follow beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>,** along with some contact information to refer to during the sabbatical. The list below is not yet complete, but a comprehensive list of contacts will be published in the May newsletter and in other locations prior to the sabbatical.

- Congregation members are not to contact Pastor Emma directly during the sabbatical.
- If you or a CVUU member needs pastoral care or a visitation, contact the primary Caring Committee contact person, which rotates each month and is widely publicized.
- In case of a personal conflict or the need for conflict resolution within the CVUU, contact *Heather Flory* (Chairperson of the Shared Ministry Council - SMC).
- Inquiries about funerals or weddings should be directed to either *Heather Flory* (SMC) or President *Dennis Harbaugh* (May-June) or President *Carolyn Hildebrandt* (nominated - July).
- If a pressing need arises which doesn't fall into the one of the categories above, or in case of emergency (member death, fire, etc.), contact President Dennis Harbaugh (May-June) or President Carolyn Hildebrandt (nominated – July). If the president is not available, contact Vice-President *Karen Impola*.

There are many additional internal protocols being established, involving personnel, our three staff persons, handling of various scenarios, communication, etc. There's no need for most of these measures to be widely publicized, but rest assured they will be in place by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming sabbatical, don't hesitate to contact one of your Sabbatical Team members. We're on track to have an excellent sabbatical experience...let's make the most of it!

Your Sabbatical Team,  
*Dennis Harbaugh, Heather Flory* (Shared Ministry), *Carolyn Hildebrandt,*  
*Karen Impola* (Religious Services), *Mike Knapp* (Personnel), *Betsy Brant* (Caring Committee)



**Mary White Ovington** was born on April 11, 1865 in Brooklyn, New York. She descended from New York Unitarian abolitionists and spent her life fighting for social justice. She was inspired by Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois. A founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Ovington worked tirelessly for the organization for decades. She lived in the Tuskegee Apartments in Manhattan, where she was the only white resident, and sponsored racially mixed dinners in an era when that was dangerous. Ovington worked to bring black women into positions of authority in the NAACP and wrote a history of that movement, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down* (1947). Her ashes are interred at Community Church (Unitarian) in New York where she was a member. Mary White Ovington died on July 15, 1951.



Online shopping is easy at the UU Book and Gift Shop called **inSpirit**. Browse for items such as adult and children's books for your spring reading, clothing including *Side with Love* T-shirts, ball caps, and sweatshirts (also mugs, decals, totes, rally signs and bumper stickers with that logo), jewelry, and so much more at: <https://www.uubookstore.org/>.

If you've read this far, you are aware of *many* activities happening in the building this month! It seems to get busier and busier all the time; a far cry from a couple of years ago when often days would go by, and no one would stop in. We hope you'll find lots of things of interest in this issue and take part in many of them with other members. We mice like it when the building gets lots of use!



**The Church Mouse**



### **NEW HORIZONS BAND SPRING CONCERT**

The New Horizons Band spring concert will be Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on the UNI campus.

Under the direction of longtime Director, Diana Blake, the New Horizons Band features musicians fifty-five and older who travel from all over Iowa.

Admission is free and a reception will follow the concert.

