



**CEDAR VALLEY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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***** 2025 *****

- APRIL 6 10:00 A.M. REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES**
– Reproductive Justice Small Group and Friends, Kathi Bower *
- 11:30 A.M. Reproductive Justice Forum / Noon lunch followed by Storytelling event** (details inside)
- APRIL 13 10:00 A.M. ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS: THE BOOK OF ESTHER, A STORY OF COURAGE AND COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY**
- 11:30 A.M. Adult Forum** – Pastor Emma Peterson, Karen Impola *
- APRIL 18 5:30 P.M. GOOD FRIDAY VESPERS** – Pastor Emma Peterson, Karen Impola *
- APRIL 20 10:00 A.M. THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY AND THE TOMB IS EMPTY: EXAMINING THE RESURRECTION AS A TRIUMPH OVER EMPIRE**
***EASTER BRUNCH following the service** – Pastor Emma Peterson, Mandy Boody *
- APRIL 27 10:00 A.M. HOW WE GOT HERE, PART 2** – A CVUU Panel, Karen Impola *
- 11:30 A.M. Adult Forum**

* ~ denotes *Worship Associate*



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

Despite the protest of thousands of Iowans, the Iowa legislature passed a law removing Transgender people from the state's civil rights code on February 28th, 2025. They are the first legislature in the nation to do so, but we can expect they won't be the last. That same day, I began a practice I'm calling "a Zelensky". Until this war is over, until all people are guaranteed their rights, I'm in uniform. I am wearing my clergy collar when I am "out and about" in the world, especially when I'm "on duty". I am wearing my collar along with a smattering of pins and accessories that signal my support for the Transgender community and other marginalized peoples currently being targeted by the Administrations at the Federal and State level.

I am wearing my collar in Witness to the atrocities committed by human beings unto other human beings in the name of G-d. I am wearing my clergy collar in Solidarity with all Transgender Iowans, and all Transgender Americans who are under threat. In Solidarity with all those who are in danger under fascism. (We are all in danger under fascism.) Until the day Justice flows like water, and Peace like an ever-flowing stream—I'm in uniform.

As you know, this practice comes at a time of my family's personal displacement. As we seek a safer home in the Cedar Valley, as we experience transition and uncertainty, a uniform reminds me of my purpose in this fight. *Skylar* calls my collar "a symbol of my station in society". I call it "my courage". When I wear my collar, I feel strong and brave. I feel firm in my convictions regarding the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and accountable to my Faith and my sense of Call. I feel powerful enough to fight back against oppression.

I encounter people every day who are in this fight, too. There will always be more of Us than there are of Them. All Together Now is the only way forward. I believe all people are God's Beloved Children. This includes Transgender people, and Immigrants, and the Poor, and the Disabled, and on and on and on. This belief matters to me now more than it ever has. Wearing my collar reminds me of my responsibility to do everything I can to protect God's Beloved Creation. So, expect your minister to look like the coolest priest you've ever seen for the foreseeable future. If you happen to catch me out and about not in uniform, please assume it's intentional. Sometimes I'm coming back from a yoga class, or an event where a collar might not be appropriate (a recent visit to Chuck E Cheese was one place where I thought it might be off-putting to others, for example). And if you've developed a practice to bolster your courage and keep you focused during these times, I'd love to hear about it. Now let's get back to Making Good Trouble.

Pastor Emma



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.



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I'm writing this article in Istanbul, having just celebrated Nowruz (Persian New Year) with a group of international friends. I love the idea of celebrating the New Year on the Vernal Equinox, when the hours of light and darkness are equal, and the light is poised to overtake the darkness hour by hour, and day by day.

Our group consists of seven friends of different ages, genders, ethnicities, and sexual orientations, all united in our love of the Italian language. Our Italian teacher is from Rome, but the rest of us are from Iran, Panama, the U.K., and the U.S.A. The main purpose of our trip is to give our fellow student, twenty-nine-year-old Mina from Iran, an exciting new experience. This journey marks many firsts for her: riding in an Uber; flying in an airplane; traveling outside of Iran; visiting a Christian church; visiting a Mosque with Christian imagery (Ayasofya); attending a modern dance concert where the outlines of the women's bodies could be seen by all and where the male dancers could actually touch the female dancers on stage; going to a bar; drinking a cocktail; using a single-stall, unisex restroom in a bar; and wearing shorts and sleeveless tops in public. All during Ramadan!

It's noon now, and I can hear the call to prayer from the center of the old town where we have rented a house for a week. We are awaiting the arrival of an Italian friend who is in the Turkish dance troupe that we saw last night. We will be serving a Turkish-style breakfast with eggs, roasted potatoes, bread, cheese, olives, and a salad of tomatoes, cucumber, sweet red peppers and dill. We will finish with coffee, tea, and a plate of Turkish sweets.

Three days ago, the mayor of Istanbul was arrested. He is a popular opposition leader who was slated to run against Erdogan in the next presidential election. Many lines of communication have been shut down, public performances have been cancelled, roads have been blocked, and there is a greater police presence in the city. All of this is in an attempt to stem the inevitable protests, which have now been declared illegal.

As Turkey slides further into autocratic rule, we need to remember how quickly any democracy can change into a dictatorship. Our country is in great danger right now. What can we do about it? RESIST. We cannot stand by and watch as our government is dismantled by a group of billionaires who say one thing and do another. We need to resist now, before it is too late.

Carolyn Hildebrandt
CVUU President



A table set for Persian New Year

"I would like you to show me if you can, where the line can be drawn between an organism and its environment. The environment is in you. It's passing through you. You're breathing it in and out. You and every other creature."
~~Wendell Berry

Nathaniel Stacy, known as the “father of Universalism” in New York state, died at the age of ninety on April 7, 1868.



APRIL SERVICES

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

April 6th

Reproductive Justice: The Struggle Continues

~~ Reproductive Justice Small Group and Friends,
Kathi Bower (WA)

Reproductive rights and rights related to bodily autonomy are issues that have existed for centuries. Steps towards reproductive freedom were made as time went on but our current political environment is pushing us *backwards*. Join us as we delve into the issues surrounding reproductive rights and their impact on our world, our state, and our individual lives.

April 13th

Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things: The Book of Esther, a Story of Courage and Community Solidarity

~~ Pastor Emma Peterson, Karen Impola (WA)

April 18th – 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday Vespers

~~ Pastor Emma Peterson; Karen Impola (WA)

April 20th

The Stone is Rolled Away and the Tomb is Empty: Examining the Resurrection as a Triumph Over Empire

~~ Pastor Emma Peterson, Mandy Boody (WA)

April 27th

How We Got Here, Part 2

~~ A CVUU Panel, Karen Impola (WA)



MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

Sunday morning meditation will continue at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Find the link in the Weekly Update to join in with this group on Sunday mornings and look for group posts and updates on the Buddhist Path Facebook page.

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>.

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 6th

This Forum continues with today’s Reproductive Justice service topic. “Stories of the struggle for Reproductive Freedom: A storytelling event.”

Join our guest speaker, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Iowa representative Gabriela Fuentes. She will be speaking about Planned Parenthood, the why behind the work they are doing, and will be giving us legislative updates on the federal and state levels.

(There’s more! You are invited to join us for a “third” hour—following a brief and complimentary lunch—where Gabriela will guide us through the important process of telling our own story around reproduction. We will hear from an experienced storyteller from our area, will develop and write our own stories, and share those stories with each other, if people are willing. To learn more about this third hour opportunity and to register for the lunch, please see the Reproductive Justice Small Group article in this newsletter and in the Weekly Update.)

April 13th

The Iowa Environment: Art and Politics

Margaret Whiting, Secretary of the Cedar Prairie District of the Iowa Sierra Club and noted Waterloo artist, will share her concerns about local environmental problems, especially Iowa’s water quality and the increasing cases of cancer. She will also show us some of her wonderful environmental art, which has been featured around the U.S.

April 20th

Easter Brunch

Immediately following the service and taking the place of our ‘usual’ hospitality and a forum, join us for an *Easter Brunch* and much socializing!

April 27th

Free Speech in the Trump Era: What Does it Mean?

Al Hays will lead a discussion of the broader issues of free speech, including problems presented by the Trump administration, as well as free speech issues that occur among progressives.

Al and Pam Hays for Adult RE



EASTER BRUNCH

Immediately following the April 20th service we will enjoy an Easter Brunch! It will be potluck-style so think about bringing bread, cut-up-fruit, an egg casserole, or something of your choosing. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Please join us for this fun social occasion. If you have questions, direct them to *Carolyn Hildebrandt*. (Easter bonnets are welcome, but not required.)



CHILDREN'S RE!!

With March mostly behind us (at the time of this writing), we've finally entered spring. The world around us comes to life. Hibernating creatures stir, the birds return from their time down south, flowers and greenery begin once more to grow. April brings with it warmth, and the comfort of knowing that winter is over.

The Soul Matters theme for April is *Joy*—where joy can be found within ourselves and in the world around us. There are so many fun activities throughout the curriculum to learn how joy can be used as both a comfort and tool, utilizing music and nature to show the joy that can be found. Hopefully the weather will stay nice enough that we can go outside!

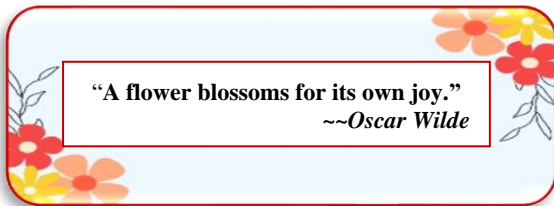
Children's RE will occur weekly throughout the month of April, with Nursery Care offered to anyone who might need it.

There will be an *Egg Hunt* for the children at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 20th. Please bring a basket! Additionally, if anyone is willing to donate items to be used for the Egg Hunt (ex: candy, small toys, etc.), please let me know.



In times that seem so dark, it is so important to hold onto the joy that we can find within ourselves and our community. To uplift one another and remind ourselves that things are going to be okay. Sometimes it's difficult to feel that joy, too, and that is perfectly alright as well. We do what we can, and support each other how we're able.

Ronan Parker
Coordinator of Children's Religious Education



*You deserve to be loved the right way,
and for all the right reasons.*



CEDAR FALLS WEEKLY COMMUNITY MEAL

April has a fifth Tuesday, so on April 29th 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, 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 until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Consider signing up if you've never participated in this community service. Depending on the weather we could be serving up to 180 persons a meal. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact *Shirley Whiteside* if you are willing and able to help.

LIVING OUR



UU VALUES

FY26 ALL-MEMBER PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Dear UU Friends,

Thank you from the Pledge Team and me for your financial contribution for the coming year. As I write this, we are currently short of our pledge goal. Our official pledge campaign has ended, however, if you haven't pledged and you would like to, you can do so at any time.

If our fundraising falls short, we can be proud of supporting our minister and staff at an equitable level, but we will have some tough decisions to make. Our UU Finance Committee will recommend cuts to the proposed budget and present them to the UU board at the next meeting. Upon review, the board will finalize the budget and present it to the congregation at the annual meeting.

In these uncertain times, it is important that we have each other to lean on. I look around and see the many ways you all have contributed to our community; financially and through your acts of kindness and service. This May will mark my family's twentieth anniversary as members of the CVUU. In these twenty years, I have felt supported by you in times when I've needed it most. You have welcomed us into your lives and allowed us to share in your joys and sorrows. I have received gifts beyond what I would have imagined when I first walked through the doors.

With deepest gratitude,

Michaela Rich
Pledge Team Chairperson



The Pledge Team would like to extend a special thank you to *Mollie Wallsteadt* and *Rosa Torres* for the beautiful cookie display and delicious cookies for our Stewardship Sunday.

Thanks also to *Heather Flory* (and the UUA and Copyworks) for the banner of the *UU Values with Love at the Center* that now hangs on the east wall in the Sanctuary. (See the photo above in this article's title line.)



CARING CONNECTIONS TEAM

The members of our Caring Connections Team 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 assistance in *April* is *Carolyn Hartsfield*.

“Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer.”
~~Geoffrey B. Charlesworth



With longer days, April promises a sense of renewal and hope as nature comes back to life with flowers blooming and trees budding.

Our sympathy to member *Dave Nation* and family on the February 22nd death of his wife, *Becky*. Services were held at the CVUU on March 1st at 11:00 a.m., and at WHC at 2:00 p.m. Several of us enjoyed *Becky*'s company working alongside her in the Fellowship Hall at the January 1st *Tied Together* event making fleece/tied blankets.

Sympathy to the family of *Janice Crowe* who died February 28th. She was the daughter of longtime CVUU members from years ago, *Elsie* and *Joe Stedry*, and the sister of *Gwen Bailey*. *Elsie* was a dear, kind soul, and so devoted to providing coffee after the service each Sunday. This was when coffee was served on a table under the balcony and the “kitchen” was behind the folding doors on that south wall. If you were around during those years, you’ll recall *Elsie* being as quiet as a mouse during the services getting treats/coffee ready for socializing.

To read more, the full obituaries for *Becky* and *Janice* are posted on the south wall in the Fellowship Hall.

We currently have members who are dealing with health issues including surgery; some are in various stages of the healing process. We wish each of them a speedy recovery to good health. To those who have experienced the loss of a relative or dear friend, we send our sympathy.

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



The Soul Matters theme for April this year is *Joy*. Our children will also be using this theme in the RE classes. What does this theme mean to you in your daily life and in the lives of those around you? What life experiences concerning *joy* come to mind?



The pioneering Unitarian religious educator *Sophia Lyon Fahs*, who was ordained a minister when she was eighty-two, died at age one hundred-one in Hamilton, Ohio on April 17, 1978.



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE SERVICE AND MORE. . .SUNDAY, APRIL 6th

Join us for a Storytelling Event following the Second Hour on Sunday, April 6th in the Fellowship Hall. Gabriela Fuentes from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Iowa will be joining us to teach about the importance of each of our stories of reproduction and will be guiding us through the process of writing those stories for our own well-being or to share with others.

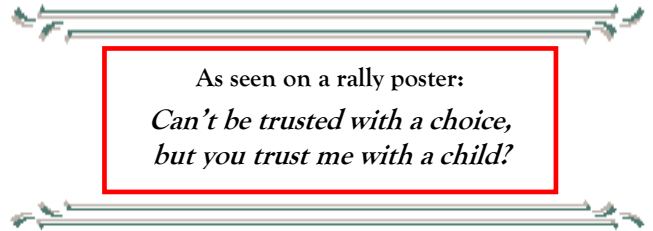
Here is the proposed agenda for this event following Second Hour:

- 12:10-12:30 p.m. – Lunch for participants only
- 12:30-12:45 p.m. – Storytelling: What, Why, How?
- 12:45-12:55 p.m. – Planned Parenthood Storyteller presentation
- 12:55-1:05 p.m. – How to write your story
- 1:05-1:20 p.m. – Writing time
- 1:20-1:45 p.m. – Share your story/Debrief

If you would like to join us, please contact *Mary Kay Madsen* by Friday, April 4th to reserve your spot.

We hope you will choose to be a part of this special event and we look forward to writing our stories alongside you.

The Reproductive Justice Small Group



CHANGING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY ?

Have you had to change your email address in the on-line “Instant Church Directory”? After doing that, have you had a problem logging back in using your new email address? We’ve discovered a quirk in this program. The first time after changing your email, you must create a new login to connect to your existing information.

To do this from the web, on the Instant Church Directory Sign In page, click on the button at the bottom titled “First time signing in? Create Login”. Then fill in the information requested. You will have to respond to an email to confirm the new address. In the password field, you can use the password you had before or create a new one. When you get in, you’ll be connected to your existing entry, nothing will be lost or have to be re-entered. There is help available also at the following link: [Logging into the App - Instant Church Directory](#) . If you need help, feel free to contact me or *Leann*.

Steve Chamberlin

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

We are seeing lots of faces, both new and familiar, at CVUU events and Sunday services. Share a warm CVUU welcome by introducing yourself and taking time to speak with someone you don't know!

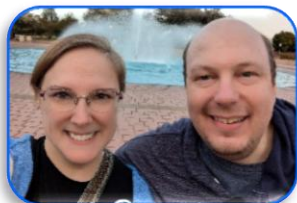


We have New Members to report but they're not unfamiliar faces; here's a little bit about *Ryan* and *Kat Beane Hanson*.

Ryan and Kat are an Internet dating success story. They met on OkCupid between Thanksgiving and Christmas of 2013, then got married in real life in July of 2016.

Ryan is a software engineer from Hudson, Wisconsin, and he enjoys playing video games and is a hobbyist game developer. Kat is originally from Waverly, and she currently works in the funding department at Talk To Me Technologies. She is an avid crafter, reader of books, and musical/theatrical performer.

Kat found the CVUU after previously attending First Unitarian in Des Moines. She happened to visit the same week we began looking for a new office administrator, and she was hired!



Kat recently decided to move on to another position, and is now able to join the congregation! Over the years, the congregation has become like an extended family. Ryan and Kat are glad to finally be "official" members, after

several years as friends of the congregation. They are also adults who love watching animated kids' movies.

If you have any questions about getting more involved, contact *Jill Miller*, *Juanita Williams*, or *Pastor Emma*.



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 16th** (send info to the office); the newsletter deadline will be **Friday, April 18th** (send articles to me). This information can also be found in **bold type on the calendar page of this newsletter**.

Mark your calendars now for **April 16th and 18th**—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 on the north wall in the front entry, and some at the foot of the stairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Gerry Chamberlin, Editor
newsletter@cedarvalleyuu.org



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 that are chosen annually by this congregation.

Annually in February, we keep our focus of support on the CVUU with our *Pledge Campaign*. At the time of this newsletter deadline, the campaign had already wrapped up. However, if you are reading this later in March and happened to miss pledge campaign information—on how you can support the work of this organization—it's not too late to pledge! Join us in this effort of keeping the CVUU's doors open and the many facets of our UU community running smoothly by pledging! Pledge forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall or you can email *Bill Brown* with your pledge information.



March's charity was for the *House of Hope* in Waterloo. We'll have that total for you in the next newsletter.

This month our charity is for *Planned Parenthood of the North Central States*. (Coincidentally, the service on Sunday, April 6th is devoted to Reproductive Justice; during the Second Hour we'll hear from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Iowa representative, Gabriela Fuentes. Join us in support of Planned Parenthood as our April charity, and we hope to see you at the April 6th service.)

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

The Social Action Committee



MOVIE DISCUSSION SMALL GROUP

The Movie Discussion Small Group will be meeting this month in the sanctuary on Monday, April 14th at 1:00 p.m.

The movie being discussed will be *The Train* (1964) with Burt Lancaster. It can be seen on You Tube for free with ads, or for rent on Amazon Prime for \$2.99.

This is an open group and all are welcome, so if this Small Group sounds interesting to you and you'd like to be added to the email list, or you have questions, contact *Nancie Groszkruger*.



If you are one who likes good food, mark your calendars for Sunday, April 13th when the Jubilee United Methodist Church in Waterloo will again serve the delicious *Le Christopher's Southern Cuisine* meal at noon at their church. Think about gathering some friends and carpooling.



HAPPY HANG OUT

We all may need a bit of fun to look forward to each week, in addition to our Sunday service. Plans are for the building to be open on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. for a *Happy Hang*. Dates for this month are Fridays, April 11th and 25th.

It's a time when anyone can drop in with their favorite crocheting or craft project, read their new book, share a game or puzzle, swap houseplants, sing songs of social justice, talk or be silent. A time when folks do not need to commit to attending, but know the doors are open and they can drop in as they desire and are able. This is a pack-in, pack-out event, meaning if you bring food or drink with you, you are responsible to clean up after yourself. Feel free to organize a game or activity for the night. For more details contact *Jill Miller*.



WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience

Don't procrastinate! At the time of this writing, spots still remain for these two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by four Alaska UU congregations that are being offered again this summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. The dates are June 14th - 24th and July 18th - 30th; details regarding the specifics about each one are on the website. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For thirty-one years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the *BEST* way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience! If this sounds intriguing but you are unsure, on the website there is a section titled "*Is a WhaleCoast Tour Right For Me?*" so check it out.



Details at <www.WhaleCoastAK.org>. For questions their email is <info@whalecoastak.org>.



The Building & Grounds folks are some of the ones we see the most during the week. They keep your building working in tip-top shape in so many ways. Recently *Bill Brown* did some raking of the dirt outside the Fellowship Hall where the ground was torn up when the new wall and sidewalk were put in. He also sprinkled the area with grass seed so it would get a head start once the weather cooperated. *Roger Hahn* was seen with tools in his hands in preparation for repairing the toilet in the Nursery area. I hear *Bill* had also put out mouse traps and I'm guessing it wasn't so he could give us a warm hello 'up close and personal'! You have dedicated volunteers!

The Church Mouse



The Unitarian inventor and industrialist *Peter Cooper* died at age ninety-two on April 4, 1883. His ironworks in Baltimore, Maryland produced Tom Thumb, the first steam locomotive built in the United States. He was the first in America to use the Bessemer process to refine iron from ore. Cooper was also the president of two telegraph companies that together connected communication across the Atlantic Ocean and North America. Cooper was a leading member of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City.



FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCKS

Our First Friday Potluck this month is Friday, April 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and bring a friend for good food and conversation.



Please bring something to share for the potluck if you can. There will be plenty of food, so no pressure! The paper plates will be out, but if you prefer your "regular" plates and silverware, bring them along. The hot water will be on for tea or bring your own beverage. Everyone is welcome!

Thank you to everyone who attended in February! If you have questions about First Fridays, have a suggestion for a fun game or activity, or would like to help out, please contact me. Our next First Friday is May 2nd.

Michaela Rich



GREEN LIVING CORNER

Pollinator Garden Spring Planning

On Saturday, March 8th, pollinator garden volunteers met to set priorities for Spring and Summer 2025 work. Present were *Donna Davis, Betsy Brant, Jill Miller, Cathy Ryan, Rebecca Quentin, Rosa Torres, Mollie Wallsteadt, and Sally Browne*.

Accessibility emerged as a top priority. Getting into the garden more easily is essential whether the garden stays where it is or is moved elsewhere, according to future congregational needs. The plan for this season is to clear and level the main path through the garden and put down a layer of new mulch.

Another priority is labeling plants with more visible and durable signage. Discussion is ongoing about best materials for the purpose and how much information to include.

Other season priorities include completely removing the rose bush and moving the bike rack to a more suitable location.

Pollinator Garden Fun Days have been scheduled for April. Come join us to make the garden more pleasing to pollinators and people!

- Saturday, April 12th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 26th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Check the Weekly Update emails for information about projects ongoing through the spring and summer.

Many thanks to all the garden volunteers who joined us for planning sessions last fall and this spring!

“April brings the primrose sweet,
scatters daisies at our feet.” ~Sara Coleridge



NORTHEAST IOWA FOOD BANK

We are planning to volunteer again this month at the Food Bank—on Saturday, April 26th from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

In March the CVUU volunteers totaled sixteen and were able to bag hundreds of pounds of oats in less than the two hours! Working together in community service and having much fun and socializing at the same time is uplifting. Check out the photo below.

Please sign up by contacting me (phone, text, email, or CVUU FB page). This has been a fun event for us in the past and we hope to keep it going. We’d like to have 8 to 15 people if possible, all ages, and there are some tasks that can be done sitting down.

Margie Miller



IUUWAN NEWS

IUUWAN (Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness Advocacy Network) is an organization that connects Iowa Unitarian Universalists to action on issues that concern the state.

For more information about IUUWAN, check out their website at <iuuwan.com> or their Facebook page where you can find much enlightening discussion on topics of concern. Go to <<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561649006548>>.



Have you ever wondered how the décor on the front ledge in the Sanctuary gets changed? We love to watch this magic happen that *Kate McElligatt* performs a few times a year! She has a treasure trove of bins and items from which to choose and methodically packs up the previous decorations and carefully chooses new ones. Many thanks to Kate for taking on this task and providing everyone with a fresh, new look as the seasons change.

The Church Mouse

IOWA CANTERBURY FORUM

The next Canterbury Forum topic will be *Clergy Panel on Religious Challenges and Opportunities under Trump 2.0*.

Elizabeth Poppewell (St Luke’s), Dave Glenn-Burns (Three-House Campus Ministry), and Johnny Janssen (Cedar Heights Presbyterian) will be discussing the challenges that mainline faith traditions and their communities face going forward under Trump 2.0, but also the opportunities that the results of Trump 2.0 policies and actions offer for mainline and progressive communities to serve those who Trump 2.0 is victimizing, and reclaim what is good and constructive about religious service and witness.

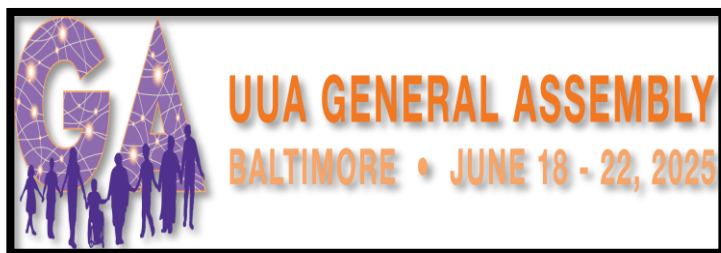
Canterbury Forums are held on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.; this month’s date will be either Sunday, April 27th or May 4th (the date had not been decided as of deadline time).

If you would like to be added to the list for these free programs that are open to the public, contact the Forum Coordinators at: <canterburyforum@gmail.com>. Login information for the Forum’s Zoom programs will be sent out via email during the week immediately preceding each program.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists will be held on Sunday, May 18th at 11:15 a.m. A regular Sunday service will precede this meeting.



John Lothrop Motley was born on April 15, 1814 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. A member of distinguished families on both sides, he socialized with the top literary figures of his day. He was an historian and novelist and wrote numerous articles for the North American Review. His books include two histories of the Netherlands, *The Rise of the Dutch Republic* (1856) and *History of the United Netherlands* (1860-1867). He also wrote *The Life and Death of John of Barneveld* (1874). Throughout his life, he traveled extensively in Europe. President Ulysses Grant appointed him minister to Great Britain in 1869, but he was forced to resign over disagreement with Grant’s policies. Motley was an active Unitarian Layman.



“Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human.”

~James Luther Adams



On April 19, 1949 *Beacon Press*, at that time the publishing arm of the American Unitarian Association, published “American Freedom and Catholic Power”. This bold critique of the Roman Catholic Church, by Paul Blanshard, expanded Beacon’s audience far beyond its academic and denominational following. Beacon was entering a new era in its history as it sought to publish intelligent answers to the pressing questions of the day. The result of this new vision was a significant increase in the number of books published, heightened visibility, and increasing respect for the Unitarian publishing venture.



LABYRINTH NEWS
SAVE THE DATE

World Labyrinth Day ~ May 3, 2025

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.

I am encouraging those of you who are interested in walking a labyrinth on that day, to seek out one available in the Cedar Valley.

- ❖ Nazareth Lutheran Church, north side of east parking lot.
- ❖ St. Luke’s Episcopal on Melrose, just off Waterloo Rd., on the back side of the church.
- ❖ Cedar Valley Arboretum, west of parking lot outside of Arboretum.

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.

Namaste,
Floralyn Groff



SOME OBSERVANCES FOR
THE MONTH OF APRIL INCLUDE:

- National **Social Security** month
- National **Arab-American Heritage** month
- National **Humor** month National **Pickleball** month
- National **Toddler Immunization** month
- National **Child Abuse Prevention** month



APRIL 25, 2025

“There is only one happiness in this life,
to love and be loved.” ~George Sand



WOMEN OF FAITH OF THE CEDAR VALLEY

*Nurturing Armenian Spirituality and Culture
Through Medical Mission Work*

Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Cedar Falls United Church of Christ

You are invited to learn about a medical mission where it is a priority to affirm and heal the physical and behavioral needs of the people in order to make space for spiritual growth. As a public health practitioner and descendant of Armenian genocide survivors, *Eileen Daley* completed her work through the lens of population health and trauma informed care, where healthy people are the building blocks of healthy communities of faith, housing, education, and work. Eileen says, “It is a story worth telling. Every day I was witness to remarkable resilience, beauty and gratitude by a population silently mourning generational loss.”

This will be an in-person meeting. Feel free to bring a goodie to share and a friend to introduce them to Women of Faith.



Support for the CVUU’s *Little Food Pantry* and *Little Lending Library* is ongoing throughout the year. Our neighbors, and the children who are coming home from school, can use nourishment for minds and bodies. The CVUU LFP is one of the Social Action charities we support once a year, but it’s always the season for sharing.



On April 11, 1865 *Mary White Ovington* was born 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. Dubois. 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 Come 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.

