



**CEDAR VALLEY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

3912 CEDAR HEIGHTS DR. CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

319-266-5640

www.cedarvalleyuu.org



***** 2026 *****

- JUNE 7 10:00 A.M. BRIDGING SUNDAY – Pastor Emma Peterson, TBD *
- JUNE 14 10:00 A.M. OUR JOURNEY HERE: A PANEL OF NEW CVUU MEMBERS
– Various New Members, Al Hays *
- JUNE 21 10:00 A.M. ALBAN HEFIN (SUMMER SOLSTICE) AND THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION
– Rev. Samuel Felderman, TBD *
- JUNE 28 10:00 A.M. SUMMER READING SERIES – Pastor Emma Peterson, Callie Amiday *
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- JULY 5 10:00 A.M. HOPES FOR THE NATION: WHAT DOES THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE MEAN TO YOU?
– Various members (including you?), Karen Impola *
- JULY 12 10:00 A.M. BEST SUMMER EVER: A MESSAGE ABOUT THE JOYS OF SUMMER VACATION,
REST, AND PLAY – Pastor Emma Peterson, Kathi Bower *
- JULY 19 10:00 A.M. SUMMER BREAK (outdoor gathering, no service or Zoom) – Jill Miller, host
- JULY 26 10:00 A.M. SUMMER BREAK (outdoor gathering, no service or Zoom) – Karen Impola, host

* ~ 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

Recently, the UUA announced that the newest Ministerial Contract they offer to congregations as a template included a change from previous years. Now, the UUA recommends ministers work only five days a week. As you're all aware, most UU ministers work a six-day week. We select one day of the week as our "Sabbath". Within the work week, one day is reserved for writing and study. The UUA did not offer how ministers might make this change in their schedule, stating simply that they could. At present, I can't conceive of how I could transition to a five-day week nor am I convinced that I could. With this in mind, and with awareness of my now eight-year tenure as your Minister, the Shared Ministry Council endeavored to find a compromise.

Last month, the Board approved two additional weeks of vacation included in this year's addendum to my Ministerial Contract. If you do the math, the CVUU still comes out far ahead in terms of days worked when comparing the additional vacation time to a five-day work week. Up until this point, the CVUU has not increased my vacation time. It is the recommendation of the UUA that ministers' benefits improve as their tenure increases. This additional time off responds to both UUA recommendations while also making space for the Leadership of the CVUU to determine what works best within our Congregation.

It is my hope that this additional time off will allow me to sustain my longevity as your Minister. This is a strange and wondrous calling, indeed. It is also sometimes difficult and sometimes exhausting. (It is much more often joyful, life-giving, and fun!) I appreciate this demonstration of care from the CVUU. We will reassess next year if this change is working for everyone and proceed from there.

Pastor Emma

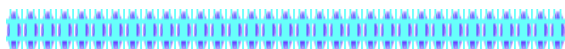
[Editor's Note: *Pastor Emma* will be attending General Assembly and UUMA Ministry Days from June 14th through June 21st.]



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, *Al Hays* at <vp@cedarvalleyuu.org>; and *Pastor Emma Peterson* at <pastor@cedarvalleyuu.org>.



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

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Oh, how I love spring! The birds are chirping and the flowers are in bloom. Walkers, runners, hikers, bikers, kayakers and canoers are enjoying the beautiful weather. The CVUU is nesting! Thanks to *Al Hays* and the Steering Committee for planning the move to our new home in Cedar Falls. Getting the new church ready and moving in will be a big job, so please do whatever you can to help!

I can't think about the move to our new home without mentioning *Steve* and *Gerry Chamberlin*, this year's recipients of the Unsung UU Award. We appreciate everything they have done to keep us going for so many years! Please join me in thanking them for all of their hard work and inspiration!

Have you ever been to a UU Summer camp? I'm going to the Midwestern Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) again, July 5-11th. Because we have been priced out of our former home at the YMCA of the Ozarks, we are moving to a college campus in Ripon, Wisconsin.

MUUSA is an intergenerational camp that draws UUs from throughout the U.S., but mainly from the Midwest. This year it will be a closer drive from Cedar Falls-Waterloo, and the prices will be more affordable. Families and individuals in need of scholarships can apply. New this year: A Circus Camp for school-aged kids! Here's the website: <<https://www.muusa.org/>>. If you have any questions, please let me know. Maybe we could carpool together!

If you are planning to travel anywhere in the U.S., please consider visiting another UU church. I know there are churches to visit in England, too. I'll be in Italy for the last three weeks in June. Unfortunately, the small UU congregation in Rome is no longer active, but it's worth spreading the word in this predominately Catholic country. Everyone I have talked to has been very interested in how UUs can get along with each other even though we may not share the same religious beliefs. My answer is always, "We do not need to think alike to love alike."

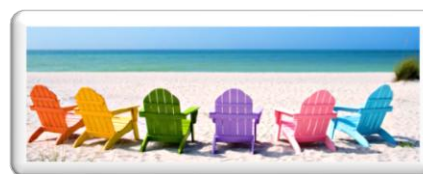
Carolyn Hildebrandt
CVUU President



JUNE AND JULY FIRST FRIDAY NEWS— PIZZA AND FUN!

Join us on Friday, June 5th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for First Friday! There will be plenty of pizza and breadsticks. If you would like to bring something to add to the pizza buffet, please do. Feel free to bring a game and a friend!

Important Note! There will be no First Friday on July 3rd due to the holiday weekend. First Fridays *will resume* on Friday, August 7th.



The *Scottish Act* against blasphemy and heresy was enacted by the Scottish Parliament on June 28, 1695. Thus Unitarianism was outlawed in Scotland as it had been in England.



JUNE~JULY SERVICES

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

June 7th

Bridging Sunday ~ ~ Pastor Emma Peterson, TBD (WA)

Join us as we celebrate *William Taylor's* transition from YoUUth to adulthood in our Bridging Ritual.

June 14th

Our Journey Here: A Panel of New CVUU Members

~ ~ Various New Members, Al Hays (WA)

Al Hays will lead a discussion among some new UU members about what brought them to our congregation.

June 21st

Alban Hefin (Summer Solstice) and the Power of Transformation ~ ~ Rev. Samuel Felderman, TBD (WA)

Alban Hefin is a Welsh name for the summer solstice. Join us this Sunday as guest minister Rev. Samuel Felderman of the UU Fellowship of Dubuque, leads us in reflecting on our UU value of transformation as we celebrate the longest day of the year.

June 28th

Summer Reading Series

~ ~ Pastor Emma Peterson, Callie Amiday (WA)

Pastor Emma will share what she's been reading this summer. You are invited to bring along a book recommendation for this participatory service.



July 5th

Hopes for the Nation: What Does the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Mean to You?

~ ~ Various members (including you?), Karen Impola (WA)

A participatory service, in which we share our thoughts about our country and its history.

July 12th

Best Summer Ever: A Message About the Joys of Summer Vacation, Rest, and Play

~ ~ Pastor Emma Peterson, Kathi Bower (WA)

July 19th

Summer Break (outdoor gathering, no service or Zoom)

~ ~ Jill Miller, host

July 26th

Summer Break (outdoor gathering, no service or Zoom)

~ ~ Karen Impola, host

For the two Sundays of our **Summer Break**, anyone who wishes may gather for fellowship at 10:00 a.m. (no Zoom). We will be outside unless it is raining. The building will be open for bathroom access. Please *bring your own coffee or other refreshments* (there will be no 'usual' hospitality), and a lawn chair if possible.

summer

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUMMER FORUMS

Following tradition, there will be no forums during June – August other than **June 14th**, when *Kat Beane Hanson* will lead a **Soul Matters** discussion on “*Flourishing Together*”—a particularly apt topic for this summer!

Since the “Forum” time will be vacant, others may want to plan events or meetings during that time, so watch for announcements.

The Forum is the only regularly scheduled Adult Education that CVUU currently offers, although we have numerous and varied Small Groups—from movies, to crafting, to nature walks, etc.; not to mention the Buddhists!

Please let us know if you have suggestions for any additional Adult Education opportunities. In the past we have used some UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) curricula for different study groups, and we had a Philosophers Group at one time. Two different types of book clubs have been successful for a time period.

We also would love to have an official Adult Education Committee. Some wonderful ideas were developed (many years ago) by a now defunct committee, and we think with all our new members, and especially younger members, the time is right to generate some compelling new ways to learn together.

Al and Pam Hays
Forum Organizers



JUNE SMALL GROUPS

We are offering a handful of Small Groups in June! These are in addition to the Movie Discussion and Nature Lovers Small Groups.

Crafternoon Small Group

Sunday, June 14th at 1:00 p.m.

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***Silent Book Club Small Group***

Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

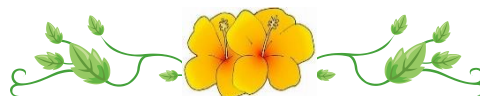
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Coffee Hour Small Group

Saturday, June 20th at 10:00 a.m.

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Any possible Small Groups for July will be announced in the Weekly Update! Due to travel, I'm likely to take a break in July but will offer one or two if I can.

*Kat Beane Hanson*  
Small Group Coordinator

Editor's Note: the Movie Discussion Small Group is meeting in June and July; due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, the Nature Lovers Small Group will only meet in June.



## CHILDREN'S RE!!

Welcome, all, to Summer! Bright sunshine, lush growth, and hot days greet us as we enter into a new season. This can be a particularly chaotic time of year for us Unitarian Universalists, so remember to take a break when you can and relax while the weather is wonderful.

We had a fantastic time at our rescheduled Dungeons & Dragons lock-in! With eleven children and four adults, there was an amazing crowd who were all so enthusiastic to learn and play D&D. Thank you to *Curt Toppin* for co-running the event, and for being an awesome Dungeon Master who made sure that everyone had fun. Thank you as well to *Dennis Harbaugh* for leading an RE class in May on 'building a bridge to a more exciting world'. Every amazing volunteer has a hand in helping the program thrive, and without them there would be no RE!

The Soul Matters theme for June is *Flourishing Together*, which we will use to guide us on how we can flourish in the presence of community while we engage in collaboration and forge stronger connections. We will take the time to consider all of the ways we form and find kinship, inspired by the strengths of communities around us. Soul Matters curriculum will be taking a brief pause in July (and August), and will resume in September.

Our RE classroom and Nursery will still be open throughout the summer, offering fun activities both indoors and outdoors! We'll be taking it somewhat easy this year as we begin to prepare for our move to the new CVUU building, but that doesn't mean we can't have a great time! All throughout June and the first two Sundays in July, families can look forward to Sunday morning activities such as outdoor bubble play, recyclables crafting, and classroom clean-up day.

RE and Nursery will be unavailable on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> as children will be staying in the service for Bridging Sunday. Please join us while we celebrate the bridging of our graduating senior from child to adulthood. There will also be no RE or Nursery on Sundays, July 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> as we are taking two weeks to collectively rest as a congregation. Children's activities will be offered during *First Friday on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>* at 5:30 p.m.

While this entire year has felt particularly hectic for a myriad of reasons, I have a sneaking suspicion that summer may have the potential to be the most overwhelming for us as a congregation. Let us remember that we've reached the end of one church year, and come July we'll be at the start of our next! Each ending we've achieved is another story we get to begin, and with so much ahead of us, there is potential to be found in the chaos—potential for community, and the joy and support to be found within it. Our strength lies not only in ourselves, but in each other. Be kind to one another, find support when you cannot lift yourself up, and lend a helping hand knowing that even an extra set can lighten the load.

*Ronan Parker*  
Coordinator of Children's Religious Education



*Augusta Jane Chapin*, the second woman to be ordained a Universalist minister, died at age sixty-eight on June 30, 1905.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

*CVUU Continues to Grow*

On April 12<sup>th</sup> *Frankee Willis* and *Eric Morse* were two of the five new members who joined the CVUU. This month we are sharing Frankee's bio. Remember to seek out our new members, friends, and visitors, and introduce yourself. Reach out to and invite someone to join you at a CVUU Small Group or event, call a member you haven't connected with or seen lately, send a card 'just because'. It takes the entire congregation to interact with one another and to make each and every one of us feel valued and seen for our unique inherent dignity and worth.



### *New Member Spotlight ~~ Frankee Willis*

Frankee (they/them) has spent the last fifteen years at Martin Realtors in Waterloo as the office manager and accountant for the property management team, recently adding a real estate salesperson license to the mix. Outside of work, Frankee is happiest when doing something with their hands, like art projects, puzzles, taking things apart just to see if they can put them back together. They are an avid reader, board game and video game enthusiast, traveler, and dog parent. Frankee leans heavily sarcastic, loves a good joke, and tries not to take themselves too seriously.



Frankee came out as non-binary about four years ago after discovering as an adult that there was actually a word for how they'd always felt. It's been a journey, and like a lot of people, Frankee carries some complicated history with organized religion from childhood. Through it all, they've held onto a core conviction: to do more than just exist and to actually make a difference.

Frankee didn't know the UUs existed until attending ICE training, and finding a room full of people who felt the same way was something they weren't expecting. Frankee's fiancé, *Eric*, has also joined the church. They're glad to have found this community.

*Jill Miller*  
on behalf of the Congregational Life Council



## CEDAR FALLS WEEKLY COMMUNITY MEAL

Every Tuesday night at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. a free meal is served to anyone who shows up. CVUU is part of a team of churches serving on the fifth Tuesday (along with Community of Christ, Cedar Falls United Church of Christ, St. Lukes Episcopal, and First Christian Church).

Our next time to participate is Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. To help on site or provide dessert, sign up in the Fellowship Hall or reach out to *Shirley Whiteside*.



## 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.

March's charity was for the *Iowa Abortion Access Fund* which has been among our annual charities for a number of years. The amount collected for this worthy cause was \$350.10.

April's charity was for the *Northeast Iowa Food Bank*. The CVUU volunteers there for two hours one Saturday a month doing various jobs. It must be considered time well spent as many of those folks return again and again, but the Food Bank can also use dollars to buy necessary items they don't get donated. Every bit helps this local organization and \$255 was the total donated.

May's charity was for the *1619 Freedom School* which is right here in Waterloo. It was founded by *Nikole Hannah-Jones*, an author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who is 'one of our own' from Waterloo. This five-days-a-week, after-school program is dedicated to delivering intensive literacy instruction and a culturally responsive curriculum to bridge the academic opportunity gap among low-income public school students. We'll have that total for you in the next issue.

The June charity is for the *Cedar Valley Victim Resource Coalition* and the collection will be on Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup>; the July charity is for the *House of Hope*. Note that this collection will be moved to Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> due to the Summer Break the last two weeks in July.

Although the Social Action Collections are taken on the last Sunday of the month, you may donate early to them if you wish, just be sure to note the *specific charity* for our Collector. Thank you to all who participate in supporting these worthwhile organizations each month in the name of the CVUU.

*The Social Action Committee*



## JULY DEADLINE FOR THE CALENDAR AND NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the August issue! The calendar AND newsletter deadlines for this issue will be **Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Summer Break the last two weeks of July!** This date can also be found in bold type on the calendar page of this newsletter.

There are always 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.

Mark your calendars now for **Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**—the calendar and newsletter deadlines for the *August 2026 issue*. It is extremely important that this deadline be recognized, so in committee meetings, etc. please plan accordingly!

*Gerry Chamberlin*, Editor  
newsletter@cedarvalleyuu.org



## GREEN LIVING CORNER

### COMPOSTING 101, Part 1

Are you one of those people who have put off composting in your back yard because you think you have to follow PRECISE directions in order for it to work? *HOGWASH*. Nature is an automatic composter/recycler. Full stop.

The easiest way to start composting is to "*JUST DO IT*" (to steal from a popular ad). There are many commercially available compost containers to choose from, complete with lids to keep critters out. Although I do know composters (people) who leave theirs open for birds, etc.

If you are handy and have some extra chicken wire and four stakes at your home, you can make your own. The closer the compost container is to your kitchen, the more apt you are to use (feed) it.

1. Pick a handy spot.
2. Buy or construct a container.
3. Start adding food scraps, toilet rolls, flour/sugar containers, match sticks (wink, wink 😊), tea bags, coffee grounds, pet fur; and any household "waste" that came from the earth.
4. Have a pitch fork propped next to it to stir when/if needed.



Some basic thoughts:

- ~the worms will find and enjoy your compost contents, no matter the wet/dry ratio.
- ~through the year you can decide when/if to add a rake-full of leaves if the contents seem too wet. I add shredded paper (no shiny stuff).
- ~the wisdom will come to you, believe it.

I maintain two compost piles.



- ~one in a covered container for food scraps, house stuff mainly.
- ~one open for more "woody" materials that take longer to decompose (sticks, leaves, cardboard). I let the rain determine the water/wet ratio of this open pile.

Finished Product:

\**Covered Composters* have sliding doors on the bottom that can be opened up to retrieve finished compost.

\*In the *Homemade Chicken Wire* type, the finished compost sifts/settles out the bottom perimeter wire, for easy collecting with a shovel.

*JUST DO IT!* More in the next newsletter. ~Debbie Kyler

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*Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney* was born on June 27, 1824 in Boston. She was a women's rights activist, abolitionist, educator of freed slaves, Transcendentalist, and widow of the famous portrait artist Seth Wells Cheney. She was also a friend of Harriet Tubman who furthered her interest in educating former slaves. During the Civil War, Cheney raised funds to teach African-American soldiers, using the New Testament as her text. After the war she made several teaching trips to the South. She advocated immediate women's suffrage and secured women the right to vote in school elections in 1879. Cheney became interested in medical education for women and was instrumental in founding the New England Hospital for Women and Children, serving on its board until 1887 before becoming its president. Cheney's religion was greatly influenced by the Transcendentalist and author of "The Transient and Permanent in Christianity", Theodore Parker. She died on November 19, 1904.

**John Marshall**, first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and a Unitarian, died at age seventy-nine on July 6, 1835.



## MOVIE DISCUSSION SMALL GROUP

The Movie Discussion Small Group will be meeting in the sanctuary on Mondays, June 8<sup>th</sup> and July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

The **June** movie being discussed is *Eleanor the Great*. It can be found at the Cedar Falls Public Library and on Netflix. It's also available for rent for \$5.99 on Amazon, YouTube, AppleTV, Fandango, and Google Play.

The **July** movie being discussed is *Widow Clicquot*. It can be found on Netflix or rent/buy it on Prime Video, Apple TV, and Google Play.

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*. Come and enjoy the discussion together!



## IT'S TOUCHING . . . ART YOU CAN FEEL AT THE HEARST CENTER

*A Low Sight Experience for All* will be on display from Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>–Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> with an artist's reception on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

*Floralyn Groff* created a piece of art, "Crystal Blue" which will be on display as part of an exhibit organized by another CVUU member, *Kelsi Hansen*, Rehabilitation Teacher for the Iowa Department of the Blind.

The juried exhibit "explores how texture, form, and material shape the way audiences experience art, with an emphasis on work designed to be safely and intentionally touched."



The exhibit features creations which are designed for the enjoyment for all, but especially for low sight individuals who cannot fully enjoy art that we usually are not allowed to touch.

Floralyn's piece is one of twelve selected from many submissions. Gallery attendees will be invited to vote for their favorite piece, and CVUU members will enjoy supporting Floralyn and Kelsi by attending the reception on June 11<sup>th</sup>.



Hearst Center for the Arts

"If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him."  
~~John F. Kennedy

## GRASS IS GROWING & WILL NEED MOWING!!

The CVUU uses volunteers to mow our grounds which require mowing once per week with regular rain during the season. *Openings are still available for the coming summer!* The season generally runs from the middle of April through the end of October. Some edging and trim work may also be needed.



We will provide training on our equipment if you have not operated it previously. Contact *Bill Brown* or *Roger Hahn* if you are willing to help. Note that this is for our grounds on Cedar Heights Drive.



## SOME OBSERVANCES FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY INCLUDE:

### June

National **Safety** month  
National **Iced Tea** month  
National **Fruit and Veggies** month  
National **Soul Food** month National **Zoo and Aquarium** month

### July

National **Deli Salad** month  
National **Horseradish** month  
National **Blood Type Awareness** month  
National **Wheelchair Beautification** month



The April hailstorm that caused damage to the roof at our 3912 home was repaired and *Roger* continues to check to be sure all is well with it. Thanks Roger for your diligence!  
*The Church Mouse*



## CARING CONNECTIONS TEAM

The Caring Connections Team is made up of nine individuals dedicated to assisting members of the CVUU in need of help or a little cheering up. If you find yourself in need, reach out to the contact person of the month (name found in the newsletters and Weekly Updates) and they will see what we can do to assist you.

The contact person for June and July is **Linda Lechty**.



"Never dull your shine for somebody else."

~~Tyra Banks

“People stopped me on the street and said,  
‘I can’t live up to you.’ Of course,  
they were referring to June Cleaver.”

~Barbara Billingsley



This year the spring and summer will be busier than normal as we transition from one church year to the next. Please read the articles that committees and individuals have taken time to write so that you are ‘in the loop’ of what’s going on. See you at church or another event!

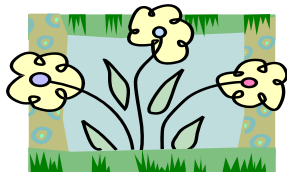
Many thanks to our Building & Grounds members—Jared, Roger, and Bill—and to Finance Director, Steve for making calls and appointments with various contractors securing comparable bids so we will be able to move forward with renovations. They have put in hours and hours of time with phone calls, meetings, and discussing bid comparisons—thanks so much!!

Several members attended the visitation and funeral service on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> for Larry Kieffer, husband of longtime CVUU member, Esther Kieffer, who died Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. We send our deepest condolences to the family. Additionally, Esther will be moving to Coralville on June 9<sup>th</sup> which means she’ll be closer to three of her children. She’ll still be able to join us on Zoom on Sundays which is a ‘joy’. For her new address in the meantime, check with the office, the board in the Fellowship Hall, Moria, Gerry, or the Caring Committee.

Mega-congratulations are due to Judy Harrington on her being nominated and awarded this spring for her devotion to UNI. During her tenure in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, she not only left a lasting impact on students but also served as chair of the faculty, reshaping faculty governance and advancing equity for women. As part of UNI’s celebration of its 150<sup>th</sup> year, a committee was formed to identify “150 People You Should Know” and in April she learned she was selected as a recipient. Also in April, and in honor of the UNI Campanile’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, UNI President Nook presented her with ‘bell number fifteen’ of fifty-six bells made—the wooden handles and bases having been crafted from campus ash trees that had to be removed because of the ash borer. The UNI Foundation distributes them to those believed to be worthy. In addition, she was notified that for her contribution to refurbish and restore the Campanile, a bench in the new Campanile plaza has a plaque with her name on it. We are truly in awe of the admiration, regard, and deep respect for her years at UNI!

Currently we 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.



## CVUU CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PART 3

The last couple of months, I wrote about how we can all work together at the CVUU to prevent and resolve conflict. As described in the first two articles in this series (in April and May), several policies at the CVUU are intended to set the stage for getting along with each other, even when we don’t always agree: our covenant of right relations, code of conduct, and conflict resolution policy. This article provides procedural information about the role of the Shared Ministry Council in conflict resolution at the CVUU. The information below is excerpted from the CVUU Congregational Handbook. We hope that you’ll become familiar with these policies and procedures and reference them as needed.

### **Shared Ministry Role in Conflict Resolution**

*In keeping with the Code of Conduct, Conflict Resolution Policy, and Covenant of Right Relations, the first step in any potential conflict is to encourage anyone who has a complaint to talk directly to the person with whom they have a concern. If the individuals involved cannot resolve the concern themselves, they may contact the minister and/or the Shared Ministry Council to begin a process of facilitated open dialogue between the two parties. The minister takes the lead on resolving conflicts that may arise among church staff or any member of the Congregation. The Shared Ministry Council provides support for the minister as needed and takes the lead on resolving any conflicts involving the minister.*

*For any complaints involving the church staff or any member of the Congregation:*

- 1. The minister listens to the complainant to determine whether the member has directly approached the church staff or other member of the Congregation to discuss the concern. If not, the minister encourages them to do so.*
- 2. If the issue is not resolved by direct conversation, the minister offers to act as moderator in assisting the member in meeting with the church staff or member of the Congregation to discuss the concern.*
- 3. The minister asks the Shared Ministry Council for support in this process as needed.*

*For any complaints involving the minister:*

- 1. The council chair or other designated member of the council listens to the complainant to determine whether the member has directly approached the minister to discuss the concern. If not, the council member encourages them to do so.*
  - a. Note: The Shared Ministry Council will not respond to anonymous complaints.*
- 2. If the issue is not resolved by direct conversation, the council member offers to act as moderator in assisting the member in meeting with the minister to discuss the concern.*

CVUU policies and procedures are provided in the *CVUU Congregational Handbook* that is on the CVUU website: [www.cedarvalleyuu.org](http://www.cedarvalleyuu.org) > About > About Us > Leadership and Operations.

*This article is brought to you by the Shared Ministry Council, whose role at the CVUU includes resolving conflicts for members who cannot do so on their own, facilitating opportunities for members to develop the necessary skills to participate in shared leadership, and more. The Shared Ministry Council consists of Heather Flory (co-chair), Michaela Rich (co-chair), Nancie Groskruger, (Board liaison), Floralyn Groff, and Pastor Emma Peterson.*



“If the olive trees knew the hands that planted them, their oil would become tears.” ~Mahmoud Darwish  
Palestinian National Poet

[This quote speaks to the deep, enduring connection between the land, the caretakers, and the trauma of displacement.]



*Le Christopher's* meal in Waterloo at the Jubilee United Methodist Church is served on the second Sunday of most months. Those Jubilee members who cook and serve the meal are always so welcoming and friendly.

Several UUs enjoy attending these special meals that boast hospitality, friendship, and delicious southern food—a sort of gift from the Jubilee members to the Cedar Valley community. Carpooling could be an option; think about it!

If you enjoy good food and plenty of conversation, mark your calendar for **Sundays, June 14<sup>th</sup>** and **July 12<sup>th</sup>** when *Le Christopher's Southern Cuisine* will again start serving at noon at their church! The tables are set attractively and the meal is all-inclusive – entrée, sides, salad, dessert, beverage – for \$20 cash. To top it off, Rev. Funchess greets everyone at the door with his warm and engaging smile!



The best way to capture this month's Soul Matters theme, as I understand it, is through the poem “Belonging” by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. The full poem is available to read here: <https://www.afirstsip.com/2023/06/belonging.html?m=1>.

What would it mean, for us to flourish together? As a congregation? As the Cedar Valley community? As Americans? As humanity? Join us in June to consider this.

*Kat Beane Hanson*  
Small Group Coordinator

Editor's Note: *Soul Matters* takes a break in July and August so check back in this spot to see what September brings!



*John Adams*, ninety, and *Thomas Jefferson*, eighty-three, the second and third U.S. Presidents, both died on July 4, 1826 within hours of each other. Exactly fifty years earlier, the thirteen colonies heard the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, of which Jefferson was the author and Adams a primary editor. Despite intense disagreement during their careers in political office, in later life they reconciled and conducted a famous correspondence, which included discussions of their differing views of Unitarianism.

## IUUWAN IS IN THE NEWS!

### Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness Advocacy Network

In June IUUWAN is again co-sponsoring the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Iowa Trans Lives Festival in Des Moines from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. In 2025 this popular event was attended by over 1,500 people! Check out the website: <https://www.ucdsm.org/trans-lives-festival/>. If you have questions, email: [translivesfestival@ucdsm.org](mailto:translivesfestival@ucdsm.org).

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Central Iowa<br/>Trans Lives Festival</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>CALL FOR PARTICIPANT SUBMISSIONS</b>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>When<br/>and<br/>Where?</b>               | <b>Saturday, June 6, 2026, 10am - 5pm</b><br><small>(set up 8am-10am)</small><br><b>First Unitarian Church, 1800 Bell Avenue, Des Moines, IA</b><br><small>ADA Accessible<br/>Security provided so everyone can enjoy a safe &amp; fun event</small> |

### More IUUWAN News:

The *Unitarian Universalist Solidarity Initiative* notified us that on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Trump administration announced a new proposed rule that would radically undermine the ability of future asylum-seekers to receive work permits in the United States.



Under federal law, people who establish fear of persecution in their home countries are eligible for asylum. But it can take months or years for these legal proceedings to be resolved. In the meantime, federal law provides that people applying for asylum can receive permission to work and support themselves. The new proposal makes people wait longer for the opportunity to work.

IUUWAN invited people through their Facebook page to Submit Comments Opposing the Proposed Employment Authorization Reform for Asylum Applicants in a rare opportunity to enter comments into the public record on the Federal Register. Even if the change goes through, the comments can be used in appealing the cruelty of these changes. (Unfortunately the deadline to submit these was April 24<sup>th</sup>.)

The following is the comment submitted by IUUWAN as an organization: “Ours is an organization representing Unitarian Universalist churches located in Iowa. In our communities we rely heavily on the strengths and diversity of immigrants from other nations. These people have come here seeking safety for their families. Among us we have known people escaping hunger, war, and torture in Bosnia, the Marshall Islands, Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela, Colombia, Haiti, and others. The process of becoming a citizen is long, expensive, and arduous and relies heavily on community support. Our neighbors have been accepted here not only because their labor is appreciated in Iowa, but also because of the cultural and spiritual gifts they bring to our communities.

Our core values as Unitarian Universalists honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it. We believe we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive. We adapt to the changing world. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

This proposed rule change denies vulnerable people the dignity and ability to legally support themselves. It defies any resemblance to a hospitable community, and does not advance the right to flourish.”



**Rodman (Rod) Edward Serling** died on June 28, 1975 at the age of fifty. He was a Unitarian and prolific writer for television, known primarily for his work on “The Twilight Zone”.



## NORTHEAST IOWA FOOD BANK

We will be volunteering again this summer in June at the Food Bank as long as there are enough volunteers who sign up. We like to have 8 to 15 people if possible—all ages. Our usual schedule is from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. on the fourth Saturday which will be June 27<sup>th</sup>. Since the congregation will be on a two-week Summer Break during the last Saturday in July (the 25<sup>th</sup>), we won't be volunteering in July. See you in August!!

Working together in community service and having *much* fun and socializing at the same time is uplifting. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, contact me (phone, text, email, or CVUU FB page).

Margie Miller



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

We believe that it is a moral failure to shovel \$71 billion *more* dollars to expand ICE raids, build more detention centers, and separate families.

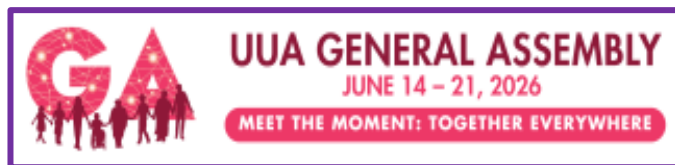
We have a few suggestions—\$70 billion dollars could:  
\$ - Provide SNAP benefits for a year for 30 *million* people, or  
\$ - Pay 744,400 elementary school teachers' salaries for *one year*, or  
\$ - Provide Medicaid benefits for 8.17 *million* people, or  
\$ - Provide Medicaid benefits to 20 *million kids* for *one year*.



On July 4, 1845 the Transcendentalist **Henry David Thoreau** commenced fifteen months of residence at the shore of Walden Pond, on land belonging to Ralph Waldo Emerson outside Concord, Massachusetts. He did not break his social ties but continued visiting his family and receiving callers. He supported himself primarily on what he grew or caught, and he slept in a small cabin he built for himself. Walden Pond is today preserved as a recreation area, with a replica of Thoreau's cabin on display. Thoreau's resulting publication, *Walden* (1854), and his ideas about the spiritual relevance of nature continue to be a major impact on Unitarian Universalism to this day.



Online shopping is easy at the UU Book and Gift Shop called *inSpirit*. Browse for items such as adult and children's books, ball caps, sweatshirts, mugs, decals, totes, rally signs, bumper stickers, jewelry, and so much more at: <<https://www.uuabookstore.org/>>.



GA is HERE! General Assembly 2026, *Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere*, will unfold in two parts with a midweek pause. From Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> delegates will engage in fully virtual General Sessions focused on the business of the Association. Programming resumes Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> with worship, featured speakers, and *Meet the Moment* themed programs that can be experienced online, at the studio site in Louisville, or in participating local congregations. This flexible model makes GA more accessible, sustainable, and connected for UUs everywhere.



## BUILDING TOGETHER:

### A NEW CHAPTER FOR CVUU

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1:00\* - 3:30P.M.  
9204 UNIVERSITY AVE., CEDAR FALLS

What an exciting time for CVUU as we contemplate making a new home for our beloved community in a much larger and more accessible building! Join us on June 20<sup>th</sup> to take the first important steps toward shaping our future together. Your ideas and energy will help write the next chapter of our beloved community.

What will the new building look like inside? What repairs or changes will be needed? How will the new rooms be used? How can we use and enjoy the large green spaces in practical, environmentally friendly ways? What new ways might we develop to work, play, think, talk, and worship together? What can we do right away, and what dreams can we create for the future? Who will get the renovating and moving tasks done? How can all of us have input? Who will make the decisions?

Most importantly, what role are you willing to play this summer and in the future? Our new chapter needs the energy and time that all of us can lovingly give. Please complete the form at the following link to let us know where you may be interested in helping: <https://forms.gle/VpWTYxMdx7C4oCNs6>.

We hope that all 140 of our members can attend this historic event! If you know that you can or cannot be there, please let the CVUU office <[office@cedarvalleyuu.org](mailto:office@cedarvalleyuu.org)> know so that we can plan the right amount of delectable refreshments. . .or sign up on one of the clip boards at the building. . .or let a Steering Committee member know (*Al Hays, Maegan Blaylock, Frankee Willis, Steve Chamberlin, Ken Taylor, Jill Miller, or Pam Hays*).

[\*12:30 – come early for a self-guided tour of the building or for socializing.]



On June 29, 1813 the **Trinity Bill** was introduced in the English Parliament, abolishing legal penalties for denying belief in the Trinity. The effort was defeated but it was resubmitted and passed on July 14, 1813.

# Voting for the Social Action Collection

Voting for charities to receive a donation in the coming fiscal year will take place only during the month of June, with voting ending July 1<sup>st</sup>. Watch for a link to the online ballot to be released on or about June 1<sup>st</sup>. A notice in the prior Weekly Update will be a reminder. Paper copies will also be available, with a drop box on the Social Action Table in the Fellowship Hall.

The sample ballot is below. Please vote for 9 organizations.

## Social Action Collection Ballot 2026-2027—Vote for 9 Voting begins June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Amani.** This agency serves Black and Brown sexual assault and domestic abuse survivors with cultural sensitivity. <<https://www.amani-cs.org>>

**Americans for Independent Living.** Helping veterans transition from homelessness, they provide temporary shelter and essential supplies, transform empty houses into homes for veterans, and teach skills for independent living. <<https://www.afil.org>>

**The Birthwork Foundation.** They connect expectant parents to a collective of doulas who share similar identities, providing essential birthing services and support to underserved communities of Iowa and Eastern Illinois. <<https://www.thebirthworkfoundation.com>>

**Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health Center—UnityPoint Health.** Services touch 72,000 individuals/families locally, including the low-income and underserved. Cash donations fund essential basic support in the way of clothing, bus fare to therapy, food, and housing. <[www.unitypoint.org/waterloo/black-hawk-grundy-mental-health-center.aspx](http://www.unitypoint.org/waterloo/black-hawk-grundy-mental-health-center.aspx)>

**Cedar Valley Global Pathways.** A new non-profit helping eligible immigrants understand the legal system toward citizenship and providing assistance with citizenship application. <[rajane@cvpathways.org](mailto:rajane@cvpathways.org)>

**Cedar Valley Victim Resource Coalition.** Various agencies—e.g. Dept of Corrections, CF Police, Riverview, House of Hope—collaborate to find resources for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault when there is a gap in services and no single agency can fill the need. <<https://www.facebook.com/vrccedarvalley/>>

**House of Hope.** Individualized support, including trauma-informed care, and transitional housing for single-mother families and women who age out of foster care. <<https://houseofhopecc.org>>

**Iowa Abortion Access Fund.** Discreet and private financial assistance, in the form of interest-free loans, to Iowa residents needing abortions but unable to pay. <[www.iaafund.org](http://www.iaafund.org)>

**Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity.** They strengthen communities by partnering with low to moderate income families and individuals to purchase decent, affordable homes and provide leadership for neighborhood revitalization in a four-county area. Over 6,000 volunteers in 2025. <<https://www.webuildhabitat.org>>

**Iowa Safe Schools.** The largest group supporting LGBTQ and Allied youth in the Midwest. One program, the Iowa GSA Network, assists student-run clubs in schools to support victims of harassment, build safe spaces, and create positive change. <[www.iowasafeschools.org](http://www.iowasafeschools.org)>

**Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB).** NIEFB provides nutritious food and grocery products to 127 nonprofit organizations, both urban and rural. Last year they distributed 8.64 million meals within a 16-county service area. <[www.neifb.org](http://www.neifb.org)>

**Planned Parenthood of the North Central States.** Providing sexual and reproductive health care in our state; a visible advocate for policies that promote women's health and access to affordable contraception. <[www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-north-central-states](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-north-central-states)>

**1619 Freedom School.** A five-days-a-week, after-school program dedicated to delivering intensive literacy instruction and a culturally responsive curriculum to bridge the academic opportunity gap among low-income public school students in Waterloo. <<https://www.1619freedomsschool.org>>



## **CEDAR VALLEY PRIDEFEST 2026**

**Save the Dates: August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

Save the Dates! Cedar Valley Pridefest will take place Friday and Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in downtown Waterloo. CVUU is excited to once again host a booth on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:00 p.m.!

We are looking for volunteers to staff the booth for a few hours at a time (paint rainbows on people, talk to people about how great the CVUU is, etc.). We are also looking for volunteers to provide baked goods/cookies, including some gluten free cookie options.



Here is the sign-up sheet to help at the booth or to provide baked goods to be served: [2026 Cedar Valley PrideFest Sign Up - Google Docs](#). Here is the link to the Cedar Valley Pridefest webpage: [CEDAR VALLEY PRIDE - Cedar Valley Pride](#).

Please contact *Austin Evens* or *Lizzy O'Loughlin* with questions.

## THE CVUU IS ON SUMMER BREAK FROM JULY 18 – 31, 2026!

In keeping with the UU shared values of love and generosity, and in acknowledgement of the hard work done throughout the year by our Minister, staff, and church volunteers, **the CVUU is on summer break from July 18 through 31, 2026.**

### During this time...

- We're giving our minister, staff, and most of our hardworking volunteers a break from church work for two weeks to reset from a busy year at the CVUU.
- The CVUU office will be closed, and our minister and staff will receive two weeks of paid time off.
- We will have no council or committee meetings or other official CVUU activities.
  - **Note:** The building will be open on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, during the usual service time, but no services will be held.
- We'll be on break together!

### Why is this two-week break necessary and important?

- 1) We are a beloved community who cares for our minister, staff, and each other. This means we want to acknowledge that generosity toward our minister, paid staff, and all members goes a long way in increasing feelings of well-being and loyalty.
- 2) We want to support our minister, staff, and all those members who have devoted so much energy to provide services for the congregation in an ever-changing environment by protecting and nurturing their mental health and resilience.
- 3) It takes a lot of work to keep the CVUU running, and we think everyone deserves to take a break!
- 4) For many years, our congregation used to take a break for most of the summer. Taking even two weeks off gives us an opportunity to remember and reflect on our history and heritage.
- 5) We encourage everyone to use this two-week break as a time to skip church, skip church work, and perhaps get together to play, or even go on RAGBRAI, instead.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### FAQ #1: What about tasks that MUST be done, no matter what?

Unfortunately, because of the broad nature of all of the work that must be done to keep the CVUU running, we know that not everyone will be able to take a full two-week break during this time. For example, the bills still need to get paid, the building and grounds still need to be monitored and maintained, and the newsletter still needs to be prepared and sent out. We encourage anyone serving in one of these critical roles to take extra time off as they are able, and to ask for help so that they can take a much-deserved break, too!

Our hope is that our minister, staff, and as many volunteers as possible will be able to take a full two-week break from church work.

We also encourage other folks to step up and try something new that might be fun and interesting to get out of your usual routine. For example, if you normally complete tasks at a desk or in meetings, you might want to try helping mow the lawn or caring for our garden as a relaxing way to take time off from your usual church work! If you'd be willing to help with the CVUU Building & Grounds, please contact *Jared Blaylock*.

### FAQ #2: Will we have a different newsletter deadline?

Yes! To honor both our office administrator and newsletter editor with some much-deserved time off, the July newsletter deadline (for the August issue) will be moved up to the same day as the calendar deadline: **Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**. We considered moving the deadline up to July 10<sup>th</sup> but decided on July 15<sup>th</sup> as a compromise. If possible, please submit your newsletter article(s) early, so that *Gerry* has time to review them and ask questions before the CVUU goes on break!

### FAQ #3: What happens if an emergency requires the CVUU to return from break?

If our minister or staff are called back for an emergency during the CVUU's two-week break, we will ask them to take off makeup time as needed by the end of August.

### FAQ #4: Are the minister and paid staff all taking the same time off?

Yes! The church is closed from July 18<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> (except on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, when the doors will be open during our usual service time, but no services will be held), and we are taking a break! The minister and staff will each be paid during this time as if they are working a regular work week. They will not need to use any vacation time, and the CVUU will not need to pay anything extra to give them all some much-deserved bonus time off.

### FAQ #5: How can I connect with other CVUUs during our two-week break?

The [CVUU Facebook Discussion Group](#) is always available for sharing and conversation. You can also see the [online CVUU directory](#) to get in touch with others at the CVUU and make some fun plans together.

