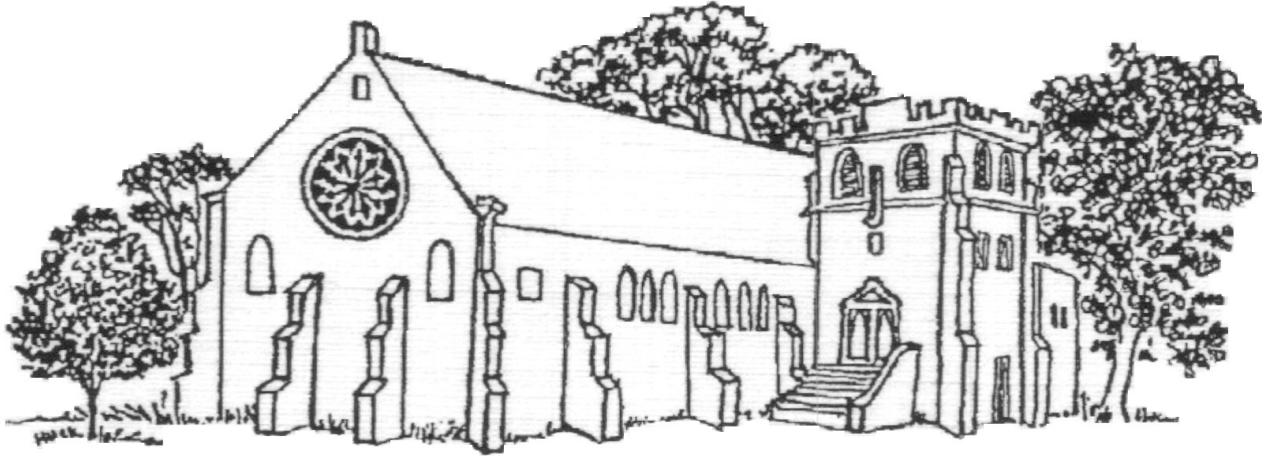


UNITER

Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign's Monthly Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

by Rev. Florence Caplow

June....the humidity is rising, the tomatoes are ripening, and the June bugs are hurling themselves against the windows for reasons known only to June bugs. Here at UUCUC, age-defined RE classes are over the year, and after June 3rd we are moving out of the un-air-conditioned Sanctuary into the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall just in the nick of time, before someone faints on a Sunday morning from the heat.

In the past, many UU churches around the country just closed up in the summer, since so many members were teachers with the summers off (or professionals with summer houses on lakes!). These days we recognize that needs for community and inspiration and justice do not end in June; they are year-round. So church continues, albeit more informally and more creatively, and RE continues, though in "one room schoolhouse" mode. This year will be the first that the Worship Committee organizes summer services, and I know you will experience some outstanding services. If you normally take the summer off from church, you might check out a service this summer.

More than twenty of us will spend much of the week of June 18th in Kansas City for the annual UUA General Assembly, with a few thousand other UUs from around the country. On Sunday, July 8th, you will hear stories from some who attended. Meanwhile, I will leave the area on June 28th for the Pacific Northwest, where I have a small retreat cabin on the coast. I will be there for six weeks, resting, spending time on retreat, visiting friends and family, being the featured presenter at the week-long Eliot Institute (<https://www.eliotinstitute.org/>) on Buddhist Practices for Resilience and Renewal, and helping my mother celebrate her 90th birthday there in late July. Michele Grove, our new Interim DRE, will begin August 1, and I will return on August 9.

When I look back on this first year with you, I am struck by the pace of growth and energy here. You are now well over 300 members, with a mission-based budget that is truly inspiring in its commitments to social justice, fair compensation of staff, and religious education. You have a Black Lives Matter banner on the building and an

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MINISTER CONTINUED

affirmation from the whole congregation to continue the Racial Justice work that has begun over the last two years, moving into genuine partnerships and action in the community and within the church. The Sanctuary is overflowing most Sundays, and visitors talk about the kindness and openness they experience here.

When I look forward to the next year, we have one of the most experienced UU Interim Religious Educators in the country coming to be with us for the next two years to lead a revisioning process that is not just about Sunday School, but the whole multi-generational life of the congregation. Sherry Bohlen (your Membership Coordinator) and I are planning to start multiple covenant groups - small groups - in the fall that will be open to all in the congregation wishing to deepen relationships with one another and with this faith, as well as other adult learning and support opportunities. Our musicians and the worship committee, already doing amazing things as we work together on worship planning, will have even more time and resources to take collaborative Sunday service planning to a new level.

Whew! If you feel a little dizzy with all this good stuff happening, know that you are not alone - I feel it too. I want to honor that each of us has a certain tolerance for change, and it can be hard to live through change in your congregation, even positive change, especially if it is rapid. The Board, other leaders, your membership coordinator and I are all very aware of this, and we are committed to responding and being supportive. One Board member called the many overlapping challenges we face, many of them growth related, as "Grand Challenges." I like that, since it honors that it IS challenging, while also honoring that something quite grand is happening here as well.

One of my major goals for this next year is to stay grounded in the basics of ministry - being present for those facing life challenges, creating authentic opportunities for deepening and learning on Sunday mornings, supporting our spectacular staff, and continuing to make connections with the interfaith and social justice communities in the area. I also think it is essential that I continue my own spiritual practices and manage my time so that I can bring calm and good cheer, as best I can, in the rolling waves of congregational life. These goals must not be just mine - in a shared ministry model, and in a church of this size, it will take all of us doing this, for each other, for us to move forward with grace.

Mark your calendars for November 10th, when we have a UU Installation Service, a ceremony that formally recognizes that a UU church and ordained minister have entered into a covenant with one another (it is not unusual for an Installation to happen 12-18 months after a church calls a new settled minister). If you would like to be part of the planning for this event, please let me know.

It has been an honor to serve you this year, and to witness your flowering. I hope I will return in August from the misty lands of the Pacific Northwest rested and renewed, and ready to learn from you, minister with you, worship with you, and change with you. Meanwhile, have a blessed and renewing summer.



UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship Services will be in Fellowship Hall starting on Sunday, June 17th and will continue until September 2nd. We will return to the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 9th.

Sunday, June 3, 2018

"Flower Celebration: Sharing Our Gifts"

Rev. Florence Caplow

Each year UU churches around the world celebrate "Flower Communion" or the "Flower Celebration" originally developed in the early 20th century by Rev. Norbert Čapek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He wanted to unite the diverse religious traditions of his congregation by celebrating the beauty of nature. In this last service in the sanctuary before the summer begins, we will also honor all who give their time and energy to this congregation. Please bring long-stemmed flowers to share with others in this favorite multi-generational service. Childcare is provided for the youngest children, but all ages are welcome in the service.

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Worship and Picnic in the Park

Rev. Florence Caplow

Join us for our annual Worship Service and Potluck at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana. The service will begin at 10:15 with the potluck to follow. The Large Pavilion is rented for the event, so the service and potluck will be held rain or shine. Bring your own lawn chair for the service. Also, bring your favorite picnic food to share – along with beverages, plates, napkins, cups and utensils for your crew. Crystal

Lake Park is located north of West Park Street, west of North Broadway Avenue. We will meet at the Large Pavilion, which is located near the parking lot off of North Central Avenue. There is a volleyball net and children's playground nearby. The choir will be singing.

Sunday, June 17, 2018

"Reflections on Ending This Chapter"

Beth Cobb, Assistant for Services

Beth Cobb has been the Assistant for Services at UUCUC for nearly 20 years, through five ministers and two sabbaticals and she will be retiring at the end of June (though not leaving the congregation). In this service, she will share some insights into what she has learned about being part of a team creating meaningful worship services. Beth will also share what it has meant to be part of so many weddings and memorial services for friends and strangers. We will be honoring her service and contributions to our Sunday experience in this special service. Please remember we will have service in Fellowship Hall starting on this Sunday.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Note from the Board of Trustees

By Jenny Hunt, Chair

Here we are at the end of church year 2017-2018 and gearing up for the 2018-2019 adventure. WOW! What a fabulous year we have had - far too many exciting things to go into them all, so apologies to anyone who feels left out. First and foremost, we welcomed Rev. Florence Caplow as our settled minister and took off from there.

We have thanked the music committee for our wonderful addition of the Steinway baby grand piano and are looking forward to many more wonderful musical performances. Very soon (after our last service in the sanctuary before summer) we will see one big fruit of the labors of our accessibility task force, in the new ramp entrance to the sanctuary. Accessibility has moved from being a short-term task force to an on-going sub-group of property.

In February we said goodbye to Cindy Wakeland, our Director of Religious Education. We continue to wish her well as she follows her next path. Our religious education advisory group got busy with a nation-wide search for a two-year interim DRE. We could not have asked for a better result of that search. In August we will welcome Michele Townsend Grove and her family. She has a lot of enthusiasm in helping us envision where our RE program goes from here.

We have supported twelve not-for-profit causes this year through our shared offerings each month, including almost doubling our goal of \$2,900.00 for Black Lives of UU as part of a denominational challenge. I continue to be awed and so grateful for the generosity of this congregation. You are all awesome. Thank you.

As you all know, at the annual meeting we voted to put our principles into action in two very specific ways: shifting our Trust Fund focus to guidelines of socially responsible investing and responding to the Racial Justice Initiative request to hang a Black Lives Matter banner on the north side of the church. Many of you participated in the unveiling. The congregation also endorsed the continuation of the Racial Justice Initiative as an ongoing church group to now be known as the Racial Justice Project.

We have increased our membership significantly, as can be felt in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. It is wonderful to see the diversity of our new members. Please check out the New Members bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We also had an amazing stewardship drive this year. Thank you all so very much for your generosity. This has allowed us to have a budget for 2018-2019 unlike any we have had before, allowing us to further fund our principles in the programs we have and offer more progressive salaries to our fantastic staff. Many kudos to our fabulous staff who often go unnoticed, for the wonderful work they do for the betterment of our beloved community.

Many, many thanks to everyone who has contributed, in whatever ways, to making UUCUC one of the more vibrant churches of our size. This is your church and without you - your gifts, your energies, and your talents, none of this would be possible. So again, THANK YOU!

Now onward to the adventures of this coming year with commitment and excitement.

Reflection from Out-Going Board Member

By Marcy Joncich

Three years ago I was one of three fledgling board members, confident UUCUC was running smoothly with no real issues in near future. We met with the continuing board for a festive evening where we learned our long time minister was leaving shortly to serve another church. We were instantly tasked with hiring two interim ministers before hiring our settled minister. New territory for that board, certainly for three new members!

Minister or not, church life goes on! While we might have postponed many projects until Rev. Florence arrived we soldiered on, putting our church in a better place, preparing for her arrival. As I reminisce, I am especially proud of being a part of these accomplishments.

Besides our ministers, we oversaw hiring two Office Administrators, Bookkeeper, Custodian, Sunday Sextons, Child Care Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, RE Director (and interim RE Director). All this was done with our approval of a fair compensation policy and revised staff job descriptions.

We made major improvements to our property with a new roof and solar panels. We have exciting plans for more accessibility. We now have a real vision for the future of High Street House.

Meanwhile attendance continues to increase and our stewardship campaigns are each year more successful than the last. We bought a piano, instituted Socially Responsible Investing, renewed our commitment to be a Welcoming Congregation, and approved the installation of our Black Lives Matter banner.

Be assured your board cares deeply about UUCUC. Let them know you appreciate their commitment!



UUCUC
SHARED OFFERING

Each month a selected organization is chosen to receive half of our weekly Sunday plate collections, designated checks written to UUCUC with organization's name written in the memo line and [on-line donations](#) through our online donation service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office administrator. Thank you in advance for your support.

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is a private, nonprofit international association, created in December 1971 on the belief that all people have the right to medical care regardless of gender, race, religion, creed, or political affiliation, and that the needs of these people outweigh respect for national boundaries. MSF often works in crisis contexts, including crises caused by natural disasters, health emergencies, and armed conflict and war.

MSF observes neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance, and claims full and unhindered freedom in the exercise of its functions. Yet, the principles of impartiality and neutrality are not synonymous with silence. When MSF witnesses extreme acts of violence against individuals or groups, the organization may speak out publicly – to bring attention to extreme need and unacceptable suffering when access to lifesaving medical care is hindered, when medical facilities come under threat, when crises are neglected, or when the provision of aid is inadequate or abused.

Since its founding, MSF has treated over a hundred million patients—with 8.25 million outpatient consultations being carried out in 2014 alone. MSF has also maintained its institutional and financial independence, and the organization has continued to be critical of both itself and the broader aid system when appropriate, all in the name of trying to help direct more effective and timely aid to those who need it most.

Doctors Without Borders/MSF won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

PEGGY PATTEN, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

BE THE FACE OF SUNDAY MORNING: JOIN A HOSPITALITY TEAM

Hospitality Teams are in charge of Sunday morning hospitality (e.g. bell ringing, welcoming, ushering, providing decorations and refreshments) for two months during the year. Hospitality Teams are a great way to meet people and serve our congregation in a fun and important way. All members and friends are encouraged to join a Hospitality Team. Each Team has 30-35 members so you do not need to help on every Sunday assigned to your Team. Stop by the Hub table on Sunday mornings to sign up for a Hospitality Team (or to find out if you are already assigned to a Team.)

Questions? Contact Peggy Patten of the Membership Committee.

New Membership Committee Leadership Team

Congratulations and thanks to Tamara Ducey and Anne Newman who will become co-chairs of the Membership Committee beginning July. Peggy Patten will step down from the Membership Committee at the end of June.

Worship Service and Potluck in the Park: June 10

Join us for our annual Worship Service and Potluck at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana on Sunday June 10. The service will begin at 10:15 with the potluck to follow. The Large Pavilion is rented for the event so the service and potluck will be held rain or shine. Bring your own lawn chair for the service. Also, bring your favorite picnic food to share – along with beverages, plates, napkins, cups and utensils for your crew. Crystal Lake Park is located north of West Park Street, west of North Broadway Avenue. We will meet at the Large Pavilion, which is located near the parking lot off of North Central Avenue. There is a volleyball net and children's playground nearby.

Book and Magazine Exchange Takes a Break

The Book and Magazine Exchanges take a break over the summer months of June, July and August when worship services move to Fellowship Hall. Save those magazines and books. Our exchanges will be back again in September.

Library Space during Hospitality Hour

The Library off of Fellowship Hall is available for use during our hospitality time after services on Sunday. It offers a quieter option for conversation.

Thanks Hospitality Team A

Thanks to Jennifer Greene and Jenna Zeidler, Hospitality Team Leaders for the month of May. Thanks to all the Hospitality Team A volunteers who assisted Jennifer and Jenna each Sunday during the month.

Peggy Patten, Membership Committee Chair
mpeggypatten@gmail.com

Sherry Bohlen, Membership Coordinator
membershipcoordinator@uucuc.org

RE-TELLING OUR STORY

By Sherry Bohlen, Membership Coordinator

As we end and celebrate one church year and look ahead in eager anticipation to the next, we stand at a crossroads of once again re-telling the story of who we are as a congregation and a community.

We get to choose our story. So, let's do it openly and authentically. Let's ask ourselves...

Will we be a community excited from the challenges of continued growth – exhilarated when we see new faces in the sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall on Sunday Morning? Or will we be a community at odds about how to accommodate and get to know all the new-comers joining our swelling ranks?

Will we be a community that welcomes new cultures and ways-of-being into our pews and onto our chancel? Will we be ready to stand, clap our hands and sway to the music of exciting new sounds coming from our Sunday morning music leaders? Or will we be content to sit quietly in the comfort of our cultural homogeneity?

Will we be a community that welcomes children and young people into our Sunday morning services – happy to create space for them to grow into full participants and members of our church life? Or will we be content to accommodate them for a few minutes and then send them off downstairs while we do the important work of Sunday services?

How will our story unfurl for the 2018-2019 church year? It's up to us to decide. A new church year offers the opportunity for UUCUC to choose our story.

My hope is that we intentionally and proactively work to embrace a story that tells the best of who we are. Are you ready for the challenge? What strengths and gifts can you offer our community as we craft the retelling of our better selves?

CARE CORE COMMITTEE

Our Caring Congregation

Do you or someone you know have Pastoral Care needs? Help is just a phone call or email away! Our Caring Congregation is a network of caring volunteers among our church family who are ready to assist you. Our Caring Congregation is the vehicle by which we share our concerns as well as invite you to deepen your connection to our church family through reaching out, pitching in and stepping up to be there for each other.

Care Core is the coordinating committee which meets monthly to consider pastoral care needs, share concerns, and develop ways for our volunteer network to help our church community. Our volunteers have made meals, provided rides, company, child care, and moving muscle among other services. We have sent cards, made home visits, and hosted memorial services. If there is some way we can assist you please email: carecore@uucuc.org, or call the church office (217) 384-8862 or you can call any member of our steering committee (see the church directory). If you would like to join our network of Caring Congregation volunteers, please also email: carecore@uucuc.org.

Care Core Steering Committee: Phil Abruzzi, Sally Babbitt, Chuck Cooper, Maryly Crutcher, Jennifer Greene, Sandy Hannum, Deedy Marble, Marilyn Ryan, Florence Caplow and Cindy Loui (chair)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

Happy birthday wishes to those
who celebrate this month.

A [list](#) of our Members & Friends
birthdays can be found on our
website.

(Look for Birthdays under Members &
Friends)

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Summer Happenings

By Rosalyn Maziarka, Office Administrator

As the church year ends and summer is heating up, the church office is still going strong, with some limitations. For the summer, we will have shorter office hours, stay tuned for details. The weekly publications, the Order of Service and eNews will still be compiled and distributed weekly. Content is due no later than noon on Wednesdays (eNews will be sent weekly to your inbox on Thursdays). The Uniter will go on a hiatus until the fall, and will have a revamp to its purpose. Rev. Florence and I (with much feedback from you), want to refocus the purpose of the Uniter. We hope to have the Uniter be a collection of articles, stories, photos, and “getting to know us as a congregation” written by multiple authors. Our audience focus is written to inform visitors, potential members and of course, our current members and friends. Distribution will be quarterly (see schedule below) and will be emailed as a PDF, with the opportunity to print and mail to our home-bound congregants, as well as having copies available for newcomers at the Welcome Table and Connections Hub Table. Another goal of ours is to make our website more user-friendly and a source for you to gain information about the happenings around UUCUC, church processes, church governance and much, much more. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements of changes.

We have also hired a new Events Coordinator, Dean Carr. Beth Cobb is retiring, and her "Assistant for Services" position has been revisioned. The Sunday morning tasks she took care of will be done by Worship Associates, and our new Events Coordinator will support our weddings, memorials, and rentals. As with all our staff, he will be on a 90-day probation, and during that time he will be training with Beth, Florence and myself, and gearing up for a busy fall. If you see him around, introduce yourself and welcome him to our UUCUC community.

Lastly, after a much hectic church year, I am going to appreciate the rumor I heard when I first started 18 months ago, “the summer is much easier and not as crazy” and continue to work on making the office run more efficiently, filing, organizing, Operations Manual, website...oh my, I better get back to it!

Uniter 2018-2019 Schedule

(Mark your calendars - Reminders will also be sent out when appropriate)

	Content Due	Available for Distribution	Months Covered
Fall 2018	August 22, 2018	September 5, 2018	September / October / November
Winter 2018/2019	November 21, 2018	December 5, 2018	December / January / February
Spring 2019	February 20, 2019	March 6, 2019	March / April / May
Summer 2019	May 22, 2019	June 5, 2019	June / July / August

New Staff!

Emily McKown is our new Summer RE Teacher. Emily is a life long UU who grew up in a UU congregation in Burnsville, Minnesota and spent her summers at Camp Unistar. Emily loves working with kids as much as she loves music; she is a singer/songwriter who plays accordion and guitar, and recently moved to Urbana from Olympia, Washington. She also works at the Cunningham Township, down the street, building a community garden. She is excited to be a part of such a thriving and socially engaged congregation. If you would to volunteer to teach with her on one Sunday during the summer, please email Jody at re-director@uucuc.org.

Summer RE

Summer religious education classes for K-5 will begin in earnest on June 17! The nursery will be available for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.



Emily is already jumping into her new roll. She will primarily use the Miracles curriculum from the UUA Tapestry of Faith collection this summer. If you are interested in looking at it, here is the [link](#). The UUA writes in part, “Participants explore different kinds of miracles, from the awesome, ordered beauty of Earth and all life on it, to their own capacity to transform themselves and others to bring forth love and justice.”

Teaching opportunities for fall RE are still available – we had three brand-new teachers sign up just last Sunday!

PreK – Chalice Children: 2 openings

2nd/3rd – Faithful Journeys: 2 openings

4th/5th – Love Connects Us: 1 opening

6th – Riddle and Mystery: 3 openings

YRUU – 3 openings

Email: Jody Hanger at re-director@uucuc.org for questions and to be apart of our RE teacher team!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE 2018

Dates to note on your calendar!

June 16, 2 pm Writing Workshop “The Story That Changed My Life”

June 17, 11:45 am Hospitality Team C Potluck

Please note: Regular weekly/bi-monthly/monthly meetings are not noted on this calendar. Please visit our [calendar page](#) on our website. You can also check out our [events page](#), for upcoming events.

Special Note: Construction of New Ramp into the Sanctuary

With Property Committee and Accessibility Task Force, we are proud to announce a new accessible entry to the Sanctuary. Construction will begin on Monday, June 4th and hopes to be completed on Friday, June 9th. Our selected contractor, Tim Gibbs, will be removing the old ramp and replacing with a sloping entryway into the Sanctuary. We are excited about this step forward in accessibility and safety. For those who will be coming to church during the week, the Sanctuary will not be accessible through the lobby. Also, foot traffic will be rerouted on Thursday 6/7 and Friday 6/8, as the lobby will be closed.

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