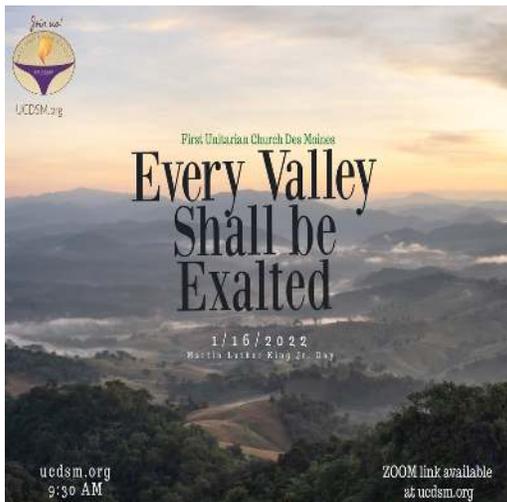


This Sunday, January 16, 2022

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted

with Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

9:30 am [Online Only](#)



Come and share a hopeful exploration of Martin Luther King Day. The dream is alive, and we can bring it closer to completion.



[Click to view past sermons on our YouTube channel!](#)



[Subscribe to our Podcast!](#)

Forum

No Forum this week

The ongoing issues with Covid and the Omicron variant have been causing scheduling problems with our forum speakers. Because of this, we will be suspending forums for the next few weeks. We apologize for this disruption in programming and ask for your patience in this while we regroup.

Joys & Concerns

[Submit a Joy or Concern](#)

[View Recent Joys &](#)

Joys & Concerns for Sunday should be submitted by noon on Friday.

Click on the [Caring Community webpage](#) for the following options:

- Caring Ministry – for temporary assistance, such as meals or rides, or to volunteer
- Pastoral Care – for support through a difficult time
- Senior Minister – for an acute need (515-244-8603, ext. 102)

Did you know: In addition to submitting a [Joy and Concern form](#), you can email or call a Joy or Concern into the following contact information:

Phone: 515-421-8424

Email: caring@ucdsm.org

Using these contact methods helps ensure that your Joy and/or Concern gets to the Caring Ministry and Staff immediately so we can act on the information as soon as possible.

Here's to a new year with lots of blessings and support to share!

Pastoral Care: Jan. 16 – Jan. 22

Ellen Taylor is the Pastoral Care Associate available for the week beginning at 10:30 am this Sunday. Email pastoralcareteam@ucdsm.org for assistance or call the Associate's telephone number in the church directory.

NEW THIS WEEK

Special Congregational Meeting

from The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has set a special congregational meeting for **11:30 AM on Sunday January 30, 2022**. Due to current levels of COVID transmissions and related health and safety concerns, this meeting will be **conducted remotely via Zoom**.

The agenda for the meeting is limited to the subject of the proposed kitchen upgrade project, and votes on two motions related to that project. The two motions are:

- A motion to proceed with "kitchen improvement option D, subject to such revisions as may be necessary if costs exceed available designated resources"
- A motion to approve the transfer of up to an additional \$90,000, if needed, from the endowment fund to the restricted operating fund for the kitchen project.

Detailed information on the proposed kitchen project which is the subject of consideration at the meeting is available [here](#).

[Join us on Zoom!](#)

-Greg Nichols, Board of Trustees President

Wanted: Quiet & Loving Home For Bitsy

from Linda Mitchell Keairns & Caring
Ministry



"We are looking for a quiet home with **no other cats or dogs** for my mom's cat, Bitsy, to live. We would love to keep her, but have a 2 year-old male cat, and Bitsy is very unhappy here. She is **12 years-old, spayed, front-declawed**, but not currently up-to-date on her shots. **We are willing to help with the shots if needed.** She is a bit timid with strangers, but absolutely the sweetest girl. If you know of anyone who might be a good fit, please contact me through caring@ucdsm.org."

Evelyn Glazebrook Memorial Book

from Caring Ministry

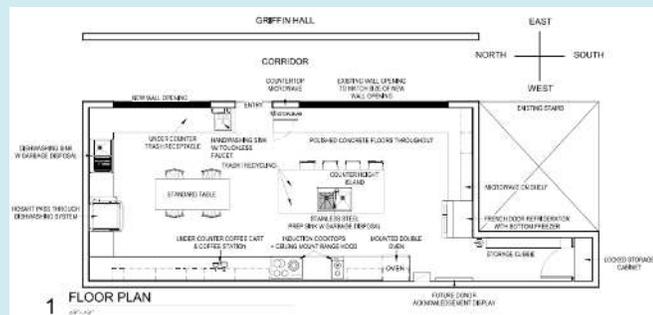
Evelyn's daughters, Julie and Linda, are planning a memorial service for their mother, date TBD. Julie is also going to write a book in honor of Evelyn, and is requesting **photos and stories** involving Evelyn for this purpose. Please contact Pastoral Care to send Julie your memories with Evelyn.

Extra!! Extra!! Match Donation Announced for January!

from The Kitchen Project Committee



A generous member of First Unitarian has offered a **\$40,000 match** for all kitchen project donations made in January. That means **your contribution will be doubled when you give now.** Our target is to add 129 donors to our fundraising effort to reach our total project goal of \$400,000. We don't want to leave



any unmatched dollars on the table! All levels of giving are welcome, including from youth! Plus, **all donors will be recognized**, regardless of the amount.

You can contribute in one of several ways:

- Use [PushPay](#) from our website (click on the Giving Opportunities button near the bottom of the homepage and select Kitchen Project to have your donation count toward the match)
- Write a one-time check
- Donate stock or other investment funds, or
- Set up a short-term pledge

We're flexible, so you can choose what works for you.

The church website homepage has a banner at the top that links to our [Kitchen Project page](#). Watch for weekly updates on our match progress. You can also view the final design drawings and make your contribution via [Push Pay](#).

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting on the Kitchen Project **via Zoom** on **Sunday, January 30 at 11:30 a.m.** You will be asked to vote on moving ahead with the construction portion of our kitchen remodeling project and to allow additional funding from our Endowment Fund, if needed.

If you have questions about the Kitchen Project or how to become a financial supporter, please contact a member of our Fundraising Committee: Linda Appelgate, Karen Herwig, Steve Herwig, Marilyn Lantz, Cheryl Long, Mary Ellen Miller, or Ann Mowery.

Widening the Circle Study Guide Class and Widening the Circle Praxis class are making a change!

from Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

As we have been moving through the WTC study guide and praxis classes, we have realized that the two classes have almost entirely the same people. In order to keep interest going for the remainder of the class, we are **combining the two into one class effective immediately**, and will be meeting on **Tuesday nights from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** to discuss both theory and praxis. Next **Tuesday, January 18**, we will be covering Session 7 of the WTC study guide and praxis. [Come and join us!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Submissions to the Intercom Weekly are due on **Wednesday at 12 noon**. Submissions after the deadline cannot be guaranteed a spot in that week's newsletter.*

For a full list of upcoming meetings and events, please visit our church calendar.

Google
Calendar

Sharing, Community, Action Gathering *from Pachamama Alliance — Iowa*

Pachamama Alliance — Iowa has given considerable thought to our next *Share, Community, Action* Gathering. We've changed

it to **Thursday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.** to accommodate working folks. Register in advance for this meeting [here](#).



The article we'll discuss is [Climate Change in Iowa](#). Although it was written about ten years ago, we determined the science to be accurate, there are no more recent articles, and environmental conditions have worsened. Among the climate changes Iowa is already experiencing are: increased precipitation, higher temperatures, agricultural challenges, habitat changes, and public health effects. We hope you will join us to discuss these factors and possible solutions.

"You must take action. You must do the impossible. Because giving up is never an option."
— Greta Thunberg

FUMAF 2022 Wants You!

from The Stewardship Committee

FUMAF (First Unitarian Music & Arts Festival) 2022 is fast-approaching! **February 26, 2022**, First Unitarian Church of Des Moines (1stUCDSM) will host a showcase of members' and friends' musician performances and artist works.

We need volunteers for this and future FUMAF events! The goal is to create a **team of FUMAF co-leaders** who can work with 1stUCDSM Staff to help produce the program. **No one person will be entirely responsible for the event**— we want to build a team to guide and collaborate on FUMAF this year and into the future.

Additionally, if you know a local artist or musician who would like to know more about the event, please refer them to the [Art at First Unitarian](#) page of the church website.

Contact communications@ucdsm.org for more details!

If you wish to add your meeting or event to our calendar, please contact: calendar@ucdsm.org

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pandemic Update

from The Board President and Vice President

As the pandemic— and particularly the rapidly spreading omicron variant— remains a disruptor in our lives, we are continuing to monitor the safety of our congregational community. We are watching both public health data and guidelines as well as recommendations and action by the UUA for how we gather safely. It is concerning to hear in recent days of many other UU churches choosing to go back to exclusively online programming.

Our objective is to do everything we can to avoid transmission **without shutting down any of our programs and services**. To do so in light of the ease of transmission of the recent viral variant, may require additional **temporary** mitigation measures for in-person gatherings. The board will continue to discuss this issue and may be considering this subject further at our next board meeting on January 6.

In the meantime, we continue to ask everyone who enters our church to be **masked and vaccinated**. But as we continue through this time of high levels of viral transmission, we also want to stress the importance of taking appropriate measures including wearing your mask whenever you leave your home, in respect for the interdependent web of which we are all a part.

-Greg Nichols & Reba Eagles

IUUWAN Focuses on Building Partnerships

from IUUWAN & Iowa Justice Action Network (IJAN)

The Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) is pleased to announce that we have become a member organization of the Iowa Environmental Council. The Iowa Environmental Council is hosting a **45 minute webinar** on **Wednesday, January 5, from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.** entitled *2022 Legislative Preview*. To learn more and to register for the webinar, please [visit the website](#).



Iowa Justice Action Network (IJAN) will be advocating for **criminal justice reform** this legislative session. During the month of January, IJAN will be hosting *Tuesdays with IJAN*. Our **first Zoom session** will be on **Tuesday, January 11, at 6:30 PM**, and the topic will be probation reform. It will be led by Devin Mehaffey, who has been working on this issue with the Reform Alliance. They have a **specific bill** they are pushing, **HF678**, which will make important changes in Iowa's probation system to make it operate more fairly.

[Join the Jan. 11 Zoom meeting!](#)

On **Tuesday, January 18**, IJAN will be discussing several proposals to reform the sentence of "life without parole" which we believe has been administered too harshly and unfairly in many cases.

[Join the Jan. 18 Zoom meeting!](#)

Spring 2022 OWL Class Enrollment Open!

Grade K-1

6:00 - 7:30 pm April 3rd - May 25

- **Mandatory Parent Meeting:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 4PM
- **Parent/Child Orientation Program:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022
- Facilitators: Anne Stamper, Ken McCann
- This 8-session program supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families, and promotes dialog between parents and children.



Grade 5-6

6:00-7:30pm Jan 2 - March 30

- **Mandatory Parent Meeting:** Sunday, January 2, 2022 4PM
- **Parent/Child Orientation Program:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022
- Facilitators: Anne Stamper, Meg Notch

- This is an 10-session program for learning about and discussing the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Participants will read *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie H. Harris, and examine topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision-making. Each session includes a HomeLink – a homework activity for parents and children to complete together.

[Click here to sign up!](#)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

If you'd like to set up a regular (weekly or monthly) contribution to our social justice activities, [click here](#) and enter the dollar amount for "Donation."

1619 Project Revisited

From: Harvey Harrison

1619 Project Revisited will take place **January 24-March 7** (no meeting February 14) from **6:30-8:15 PM on Mondays**. All sessions will be live online experiences via Zoom and will be recorded for asynchronous viewing. This program is Open to ALL and will be meaningful to anyone who participated in 2020 as well as new participants.

Because registration for Plymouth's 1619 Project Revisited is **limited due to ZOOM capacity, early registration is strongly recommended**. Registration will close on January 10 (or sooner if registration is filled).

[Register here!](#)

[Click here for more information!](#)

Just Voices Community Project: "People's History"

From: Just Voices Iowa

Just Voices, an Iowa nonprofit organization whose mission includes ending racially biased policing in Des Moines, has initiated a project to prepare a "People's History" of the 2020 racial justice protests in Des Moines that followed the murder of George Floyd on May 27.

We want this to be a community project, to raise up the voices of those who were a part of this transformative time. To do this, we need your help. We want to hear your story; we want to know what impact this has had on you; we want you to participate in the ongoing effort to effect the changes in how we address public safety in the 21st Century.

Read the full article [here!](#)

For more information, email info@justvoicesiowa.org.

Faith in Action Partners

Knock and Drop | Just Voices

Our current partnerships run from September 2021 through August 2022. They were

selected by our members at our June 2021 annual meeting. The organizations are:



Knock and Drop

Our Champion is Gene McCracken



SPEAKING TRUTH. SEEKING JUSTICE.

Just Voices

Our Champion is Harvey Harrison

CONNECT WITH US

Staff Office Hours & Contact Info

Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw, Senior Minister

revamy@ucdsm.org

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Scheduled appointments only)

Saturday: By appointment only

<https://calendly.com/revamypshaw> - Please use to schedule appts

Charles Lewis, Director of Finance and Administration

director@ucdsm.org

Monday - Friday: 11:00 am - 7:00 pm CT (available by phone or email)

Zoom meetings available on request

Devon McClurken, Director of Faith Formation

dff@ucdsm.org

Tuesday: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 11:00 am - 5:30 pm

Thursday: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Emily Petty, Communications Coordinator

epetty@ucdsm.org

Tuesdays: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Fridays: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Other times by appt.

To submit an item for the Intercom, email communications@ucdsm.org

Hannah Notch, Social Media and Executive Support Specialist

hnotch@ucdsm.org

Tuesday - Friday: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

To have an event or meeting added to the church calendar, email Hannah at

calendar@ucdsm.org

Intercom Weekly Submissions

Deadline: Wednesday @ 12 noon

- **In the body of an email**, please include a title, relevant dates and times, contact information, and a *brief* description of your event or announcement.
- Please **proofread your article** before submitting (or ask a trusted friend to proofread if you need help!) We try to check every article, but we still miss things.

- An image can help make your article stand out! Please feel free to **attach an image** to your email. (JPG or PNG files are preferred.) *Note: images that violate copyright laws will be rejected.*
- The *Intercom Weekly* is sent out to our mailing list on **Friday at 7:00 am.**
- We run announcements for no more than **three consecutive weeks**, so please plan accordingly.
- Per church policy, **we do not share private email addresses** or phone numbers in our communications. We will set up an @ucdsm.org email address for you as the contact person for your group which will automatically forward to your private email, so you won't have to do anything special to view it. (Please allow a few extra days for us to set up the email when you submit your announcement.)

Please email communications@ucdsm.org to submit your information.

MORE LINKS

WWW.UCDSTM.ORG | [Board of Trustees Business](#)
[Caring Ministry](#) | [Staff Contact Information](#)



Text "UCDSM APP" to 77977 or toll free (833) 816-9022
to download our app

