April 2020 Executive Report
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Our mission at UCDSM is to:
Grow ethically and spiritually (G)
Serve justly (S)
Love radically (L)

Lifespan Learning (Devon McClurken)
- Sundays there is 1 UU Faith Formation class on Zoom at 9:30 am before the service. Parents able to log in with the youth to do lesson with the DFF around the month’s theme. We have had an average of 2-3 families log in. (G, S)
- Wednesday night programming is on Zoom with break out rooms for each of the groups (G,S)
- UU Kids is a Spirit Play on YouTube that parents are able to do with their youth on their own time. (G,S)
- COA is meeting online with mentors checking in with their youth by phone and planning their COA service which will happen in May. (G,S)
- 7th Grade OWL is not able to continue lessons online for various reasons safety of the participants being the most important one but check-ins with the facilitators is what has happened. There is a webinar in May for facilitators about restarting the Owl Program. 3 of the 4 facilitators are able to join. (G,S)
- Children’s Choir is meeting on Zoom and getting an average of 2-3 families attending. (G,S)
- Circle Group for Kids has discontinued for the year.
- YRUU will be held online in the evening now and about every other week as most youth seem zoomed out. Midwest Leadership School which was to be held in Illinois this year has been canceled. (G,S)
- A UU RE Facebook group in is in the planning stages of a UU Summer Camp online and Devon will be attending a zoom meeting regarding that. (G,S)
- There is an Adult OWL facilitator training that was planned is still on. (G,S)
- CUUPS is holding a weekly chat on Monday nights (G,S)
- Rev. Amy started a Bible Study group on Friday nights which has had 13 to 16 people attending each week. (G,S)
- Humanism and Sage have been meeting online in addition to all but 1 Circle Group. (G,S)
- There was a survey sent out to get input on the best way to engage people and responses were few but there are a few ideas that Devon will be exploring. (G,S)
Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)

- Gained 4 new members (S)
- Calling Group members have been organized and are routinely making phone calls to stay in touch with membership (S)
- Collecting the names of the individuals who haven’t responded to calls and will follow up with that information once all of the callers have reported back (S)
- Monitoring people who are needing help with accessing Zoom. Have asked the Calling Group to try to find out if others need assistance when they make their calls
- Served as coordination touch point for Caring Committee and Pastoral Ministry (SL)

Childcare (Julie Morocho)

- On hiatus due to Corona virus

(Barb Glass- Pastoral Care)

- Pastoral Care continued with Zoom meetings this month. (G)
- Continue to assist with the phone trees by making routine calls to the people they are supporting (SL)
- Members of the Pastoral Care team continued to hold sessions of the informal grief circle group led by Sally Boeckholt by Zoom. (GLS)
- 17 contacts by group members, 6 phone contacts by Rev. Amy (G,S,L)

Caring Committee

- No requests in April

Facility/Grounds

- Spring clean-up of grounds by vendor done in April (S)

Social Justice/Outreach

(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)

- The immigration justice group is still active. (S)
- The immigration justice team has been fundraising to support Briana, our newest asylum seeker who arrived in March. (S,L)
- The group is using Slack and Zoom to communicate needs and discuss fundraising. (S,L)

(Katie Allen- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT))

- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT) met by Zoom- “Walking the Way of Sorrows” will be cancelled for this year due to virus. Will meet in April to explore what we can do through digital means to come together to stand and fight against brutal immigration policies. (GLS)
**Judy Haver- Faith in Action**

- FIA continues to meet weekly on Mondays via zoom to move forward with plans for the new community partnerships for the upcoming church year. This entailed updates to the UU website, Intercom communications, editing the documents for partner applications to reflect the current needs, reaching out to nonprofits, review of incoming community partner applications & preparation for voting selection of “partners” at the annual meeting. (G,S,L)

- The FIA team has decided will work with 2 nonprofit organizations to partner with continuously from Sept 2020 through Aug 2021. The new community partners will split the monthly 50% of the Sunday “basket” for the 12 months. The congregation will select the 2 nonprofit organizations by electronic vote at the annual meeting. Our goal is to deepen our relationship with the 2 nonprofits and improve congregational engagement with them over the year. We will honor the outgoing FIA committee members at the annual meeting (G,S,L)

**Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now**

- In April, letter writing for Write Here!, Write Now! took place at home. A total of 3 church members wrote letters to Representative Cindy Axne on a bill to address the climate crisis by reducing harmful greenhouse gases -- hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) -- by 85% over 15 years. (S)

- April was the first month for “at-home” letter writing due to the coronavirus. Church members were notified via Facebook, the Intercom and our 100+ list of members who chose to join the email list. "At-home" letter writing until further notice. (S)

**Bruce Martin- FEDS**

- As in March, on April 6 FEDS provided (i.e., prepared, purchased & delivered) but did not serve food for about 200 persons at the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter. When one of the persons who had volunteered to cook pork reported being unexpectedly unable to return from DC, Bruce easily recruited one of our group to take her place--characteristic of the dedication and loyalty of FEDS volunteers. (SL)

**Ron Heideman- We Are Church Confessing and Pachamama Alliance**

- On hold due to Coronavirus

**Gianfranco Berardi, Doug Aupperle- Transgender Action Group**

- TAG did not meet in April

**Elaine Imlau- Family Promise and FFFF 2020**

- Family Promise had a quiet month in between hosting weeks. Shared a request for donations from Family Promise of Greater Des Moines to help with pandemic response. (S)
• Food Fair Fundraiser volunteers held numerous phone calls, emails and Zooms to finalize FFFF 2020. Announcements with details for Event and ticket purchases are out on Facebook and the website. All church email and supporting announcements to come. (S)

(Barb Royal, Deidra Fudge, Liz Bredesen- Communication Group)
• A new communication group has been formed and begun meeting (S)
• They are shaping our communication and social media strategy during the pandemic (S)
• They are meeting weekly with Rev. Amy and monthly with Kerrie Lee (S)
• They are looking at changes needed to make the website and Facebook more useful/responsive, including possible new website (S,G)
• They are examining the need for other social media presence (Instagram, Twitter etc.) (S,G)
• They are beginning to shape a UCDSM brand identity and set of brand identity standards or guidelines for our digital presence (S,G)

Updates
Membership Numbers Summary:
• Number of new members in April- 4
• Deceased -
• Moved –
• Withdrew membership -
• Number of registered adult visitors –

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th># of New Members</th>
<th>Deceased</th>
<th>Moved</th>
<th>Withdrew Membership</th>
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Operations.
• Electronic Sound Company, the company that will be doing the a/v upgrades in the auditorium, is currently waiting on equipment. Many of their sources are currently shut down due to the pandemic.
• The WiFi extenders in the basement went on the fritz late last February/early March. Victor Tonelli was able to replace them in April.
• The tools to manage content for our custom app from PushPay are in Kerrie Lee’s hands and she’s working on establishing our base content. We anticipate rolling out the app to the congregation before the Annual Meeting.