March 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)
- Half way through the month the Coronavirus pandemic hit forcing the church to close the doors. Faith Formation was schedule to be on a two-week break for the rest of March and during that time I developed what programing would look like for online classes. (SG)
- 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. (SG)
- Wednesday night programming is on Zoom with break out rooms for each of the groups: (SG)
- UU Kids is a Spirit Play on YouTube that parents are able to do with their youth on their own time. (SG)
- COA is meeting online with mentors checking in with their youth by phone. (SG)
- 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 will be done online.
- Children’s Choir is meeting on Zoom. (SG)
- Circle Group for Kids has plans to be just a check in with games for the youth. (SG)
- YRUU did their youth-led Service on March 8th. It was the last service to be held in the building and went really well. YRUU will be held online in the evening now. (SG)
- There is an Adult OWL facilitator training being offered in Cedar Rapids in the Summer and promotion of that was included in the intercom. Pagan and Liturgy Ritual class was started but it will not continue again until the fall.
- RE Council meet again to talk about ways to keep the youth and parents engaged during this time. Sending out a postcard with the information of online programming and a
coloring page was discussed. Also, a weekly story by Rev. Amy to the kids that is funny and uplifting. (SLG)

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)
- One member left the congregation; followed up with them (S)
- Gained 3 new members (S)
- Divided up membership and began recruiting people to make phone calls to stay in touch with membership (S)
- 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 switched to Zoom meetings this month. (G)
- Have volunteered to assist with the phone trees by making routine calls to the people they are supporting (SL)
- Planning begun but put on hold for Memorial service for Koko Kawaguchi (SLG)
- Members of the Pastoral Care team continued to hold sessions of the informal grief circle group led by Sally Boeckholt by Zoom. (GLS)
- 24 contacts by group members, 13 contacts by Rev. Amy

Caring Committee
- Worked with Membership Coordinator to prepare for needs which arise from phone tree calls (SL)
- 1 card sent out in March (SL)
- A quilt was made for Christine and Leah Hall to celebrate the adoption on their 9-year old son Thadius (SL)

Facility/Grounds
- Met with multiple possible vendors and selected Capital Landscaping to provide our needed grounds services. Spring clean-up of grounds by vendor scheduled for April (S)

Social Justice/Outreach
(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)
- The immigration justice group is still active. (Our congregationally supported asylum seeker is here!) So much of the focus at the end of March has been on fundraising and getting our planned asylum seeker set up with clothes, doctor appointments and the Drake law clinic. The group is using Slack and Zoom to communicate needs and discuss fundraising. (SL)
(Sally Boeckholt- AMOS)

- On March 11, the AMOS Children's MH Team spent a "day on the Hill" with the Iowa Legislature, advocated for sustainable, sufficient and predictable funding for children's mental health services. We had a number of UUs in attendance, with leadership provided by Linda Krypel.

- With the COVID-19 outbreak, we have moved to using Zoom to communicate, and have held weekly meetings for all interested leaders in the 4 AMOS communities (DSM, Ames, Ankeny and Norwalk). In addition, we have launched a new research team to look at the federal stimulus dollars and how those are going to flow into our communities. Cheryl Long, Jack Hatch and Sally Boeckholt are engaging with this team.

- As part of that work, we posted a survey on-line and heard from about a dozen of our members about how the outbreak has affect them and will be doing follow up with those members.

(Katie Allen- Faith in Action and other)

- 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)

- Volunteer opportunities with partner JFON on hold due to virus

(Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now)

- During February and early March our congregation wrote 26 letters to our US Senators as part of our monthly "Write Here, Write Now" campaign. Members of the UUSJ Advocacy Team hand-delivered the letters to the offices of the Senators on March 10. The topic of the letters was protecting those in the US who are part of the TPS (Temporary Protected Status) program. (SL)

- In April, and continuing monthly until further notice, WHWN will continue with our members writing at home and sending their letters directly to the Advocacy Team at the UUSJ. We will be promoting it on the church Facebook page and through our email list of members who signed up to receive the monthly WHWN notices in advance. (SL)

(Harvey Harrison- Ban Racial Profiling in Iowa)

- In the past 60 days, there has been progress in the City of Des Moines. A loose Alliance, including UCDSM, The ACLU of Iowa, The NAACP, AMOS, CCI, The Methodist Conference, Plymouth Congregational Church, Iowa Latinos, and the Des Moines Human Rights Commission has worked for years to get an ordinance passed to ban racial
profiling, and are on the verge of obtaining such an ordinance covering all Des Moines employees, including the police. (SL)

- On March 9th, the Des Moines City Council took an initial step toward this goal with a unanimous vote to pass a first reading of such an ordinance. Two more votes by the Council are needed for final passage. (SL)

- The draft ordinance submitted that was submitted by the City Manager needs work. We are attempting to get changes made, but the outcome of the effort is very much in the air. (SL)

- In addition to the ordinance, the Council has directed the City Manager to issue a Request For Proposals and hire an expert to review the current state of data collection by the city. The purpose being to determine what is necessary for the city to acquire sufficient information to make better policy decisions on the issues surrounding racial justice. (SL)

- The Council also adopted a Resolution mandating the establishment of a committee to regularly review policies and procedures on racial justice issues and to make recommendations about them. (SL)

- The Alliance will continue to push until we actually get a good ordinance in place and a realistic study on data collection by the police department. (SL)

(Bruce Martin- FEDS)
- FEDS served March 16th at the homeless shelter. (SL)

(Ron Heideman- We Are Church Confessing and Pachamama Alliance)
- The February 2nd WACC event was cancelled due to weather.
- Linda Lemons and Ron Heideman are working on blending Drawdown (https://www.pachamama.org/engage/drawdown) and Pachamama Alliance (https://www.pachamama.org/). They are working with the UU group from Iowa City that presented a workshop at First Unitarian on January 4. They hope to have a plan within a month or two. (GLS)

(Aidan Zingler, Doug Aupperle- Transgender Action Group)
- Trans Lives Festival on Saturday, March 28 on hold due to virus (L)
- TAG will be reading at the Des Moines Library on Saturday, June 13, 2020 if lockdown is over

(Elaine Imlau- Family Promise)
- The first week of March was our 14th week of hosting families in our 4th year of being involved in the Family Promise program. 42 volunteers signed up and covered 295 hours
of volunteer time to feed and entertain 2 families for the week. Our driver volunteers got the week off since both families had their own transportation. We spent $144.73 out of the Family Promise budget to cover breakfasts, lunches and diapers. (SL)

- This time we set up a day earlier so that Sunday morning church attendees could visit the spaces we setup for the families as well as our new shower/laundry setup. This was only attended by 12 people. In the future we will set up after Sunday services. (SLG)

- We were lucky to have hosted just shortly before the lockdown due to the virus. Families are currently housed only at Westminster Presbyterian where the main office is located and host churches drop off meals and provide volunteers to stay overnight at the church. (SL)

- Our next hosting week is May 24-31. Hopefully by that time we will be able to host families at our own church once again, but chances are we may be hosting at Westminster. (SLG)

Updates

Membership Numbers Summary:

- Number of new members in March - 3
- Deceased -
- Moved –
- Withdrew membership - 1

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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Moved</th>
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Operations

- The other circulating pump has been replaced. While there is no way to confirm, Al Powers and DFA Charles Lewis agree that this is almost certainly due to the loss of fluid that occurred this past fall. However, on the recommendation of Golden Rule, we had had the previous pump rebuilt by a local company so this replacement cost half the previous, and should bring to a close the ongoing repairs to the geothermal system.

- With the building closed, we have maintained the services of our custodial contractor who is making sure that handles and surfaces are being cleaned and is doing additional deep cleaning that is otherwise hard to get done with the pressure of keeping up with all of our activities.