October 2019 Executive Report  
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Lifespan Learning
- Children and adult programming has been ongoing. The immigration book study concluded and there were two Movie nights in October that delved into the immigration topics.

- Beggar’s Night fell on a Wednesday this year which lead to a week off for most of the classes. 5-6 OWL will have to make up a week so that it can still end before Winter Break.

- There has been a concerted effort to involve parents and other congregational members in faith formation. Signups were created, and most shifts until Winter Break have been filled.

- There was a Halloween party on Saturday, October 27, and YRUU put together a haunted house. YRUU is also planning their CON, which will take place on December 6-8. Youth from congregations in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana have been invited to attend.

- The Faith Formation Ministry Team will be reaching out to parents to get youth participation in a traditional nativity pageant.

Stewardship
- Members of the Stewardship Team held their first Health of the Congregation meeting in October. It was well attended, and stewardship was able to answer questions about finances and the health of the church, as well as to receive more questions which they promised to find answers for within a month. The next scheduled meeting is 11/14

Pastoral Care
- Members of the Pastoral Care team launched a formal grief group, to be created and led by Debra Rodgers for 8 weeks, and an informal grief circle group to be led by Sally Boeckholt.

Membership and Community
- 17 Visitors who have made the decision to make First Unitarian their spiritual home and those who are interested in membership have attended the new "UU and You" class on October 27th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm in Channing Hall. This concentrated class created in September by Rev. Shaw and Lyra Halsten provided them with the history of our UU religion and UCDSM. They heard from representatives of committees and ministries while enjoying a light lunch. Membership could be formalized during this
class. The class was a strong success with 11 of the 17 choosing to join the church prior to the Nov. 2 new member welcome in the Sunday service.

Facility/Grounds

- The Grounds Council Work Day was held October 19.

Social Justice/Outreach

- The immigration support groups in the church (Immigration Justice and Sanctuary and the Asylum Seekers Support Group) have combined and are now one large group - the Immigration Justice Group. The former Immigration Justice and Sanctuary group will now be a subgroup under the Immigration Justice Group. The name of this subgroup will be Outreach and they will continue the work they have done in the past.

- Bruce and Barb Martin are working with Victor Tonelli on a potential rental property. There is also a lead on another property. Once housing is secured, they can move forward with their application.

- A forum, A Well-Founded Fear: Asylum in The Trump Era, was held in Channing Hall on October 27. Suzie Pritchett, professor at Drake Law School, gave a presentation about changes in the Trump era that have made the immigration and asylum seeking process much more challenging. The group decided any funds remaining in the “shower fund” after plumbing and electrical work are finished for the washer and dryer will be donated to the Drake Law Asylum Clinic Suzie is starting.

- (Katie Allen) FiA started its new partnership with Lutheran Service of Iowa. There will be three volunteer opportunities in December.

- Anti-racism Collaborative (ARC): Nothing for October but our monthly meeting where we are exploring “Me & White Supremacy” as a group.

- On November 1st, Hosted CORE, (a Des Moines and West Des Moines Public Schools High school group that aims to eliminate racism) at the church for an overnight work retreat for 12 students and two Teacher sponsors. Students created a session for the Des Moines Civil Rights Symposium for next year.