



Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of  
Central Michigan

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*Open Arms • Open Minds • Open Hearts*

## **2018 Annual Meeting**

**A Summary of Accomplishments  
for the period of July 1, 2017  
through the present**

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## UUFCM Board of Trustees

President: Norma Bailey

President Elect: Mary Alsager

Past-President: Laura McBride

Treasurer: Chris Bailey/Ricky Courlander

Secretary: Brigitte Bechtold

Trustees: Janis Shinn, Joyce Henricks, Ethan Kolek

## Candidates for the UUFCM Board of Trustees for 2018-2019:

President Elect: Carol Rard

Treasurer: Terrie Robbie & Jen Prout

Trustee (2 year): Janis Shinn

Trustee (1 year): Aaron Jones

Trustee: Carolyn Hancock (2<sup>nd</sup> year of Joyce Henrick's 2 year term)

## UUFCM Staff

Minister: Dawn Daniels

Director of Religious Education: Anna VanArsdaleHoot

Administrative Assistant: Kirsten Keeton

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan Annual Meeting Agenda – May 13, 2018, immediately following the service

1. Motion from the Board to accept this slate of nominees to fill the positions open for terms beginning July 1, 2018:

President elect: Carol Rard (3 year: leads to president and past president)

Treasurer: Terrie Robbie (primary)

& Jen Prout (Sunday offerings & pledging) (2 year term)

Trustee: Janis Shinn (2 year term)

Trustee: Aaron Jones (1 year term)

Trustee: Carolyn Hancock (2<sup>nd</sup> year of Joyce Henrick's 2 year term)

2. Motion from the Board to accept the budget as presented.
3. Annual report
5. Volunteer recognition for 2017-2018
6. Delegates for GA

## 2018-2019 Proposed UUFCM Budget

Expense Category	2017-2018	2018-2019
Accounting & Bank Fees	\$200	\$200
Building Costs	\$13,500	\$14,500
Child Care	\$1,500	\$1,700
Copies & Postage	\$1,200	\$1,500
Fair Share Payments	\$4,700	\$4,700
Insurance	\$3,000	\$3,000
Minister	\$56,700	\$58,300
Music	\$1,000	\$1,000
Religious Education Expenses	\$900	\$900
Religious Education Director	\$7,500	\$6,000
Secretarial	\$5,100	\$5,100
Supplies & Miscellaneous	\$3,400	\$3,800
Leadership Development*	\$800	\$800
Minister's Discretionary Expense	\$500	\$500
Endowment Contributuion	\$1000	\$1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101,000</b>	<b>\$103,000</b>

\*Called Conferences and Travel for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

## Key

- **Accounting & Bank Fees** pays for checks, fees, and accountant services.
- **Building Costs** covers utilities, repairs, maintenance, improvements, cleaning, snow removal, lawn mowing, etc.
- **Child Care** is for weekly services and special events.
- **Copies & Postage** covers stamp purchasing, post office box rental, and copying of orders of service, directories, annual reports, music, and other documents.
- **Fair Share Payments** are payments to the UUA and Mid-America Region.
- **Insurance** covers building, liability, and worker's compensation.
- **Minister** pays her salary, benefits, and ministerial expenses.
- **Music** pays for substitute pianists, hymnals, music purchases, and piano tuning.
- **Religious Education Expenses** covers fees and expenses for OWL training education materials, snacks for special occasions, decorations, and craft items.
- **Religious Education Director** pays our 1/4 time RE Director.
- **Secretarial** pays our contracted administrative assistant.
- **Supplies & Miscellaneous** includes food and drink items; kitchen, building, and bathroom supplies; worship supplies; office supplies, and so forth.
- **Leadership Development** is for attendance fees at UUA and Mid-America Region assemblies.
- **Minister's Discretionary Expenses** provides seed money for the minister to provide monetary aid for those who ask the church for help.

## UUFCM Board President's Report

I am so pleased to have been able to serve you in my third term as president. It has been a busy and wonderful year of challenges, growth and shared community.

Your UU Board started this year by engaging in an all-day visioning workshop led by Barbara Weber, a consultant from the MidAmerica Region's consultant program. As a result of the workshop, we developed a vision to guide us over the next five years – a strong adult RE, an effective youth RE, inspirational services, deep involvement of more people, and serving as a strong force in our community. We established immediate, short-term, and long-term goals which have guided our decision-making over the year.

Stealing from the theme of our stewardship drive this year (thanks, Laura!), this past year, as a congregation we have engaged fully in taking care of each other, taking care of our church and taking care of the world.

As in any typical year, we had weddings, birthdays, funerals, graduations, divorces, moves, retirements, surgeries, illnesses, new jobs, and many other events that created opportunities for us to connect, comfort, grieve, love, celebrate, and honor one another. So many of our members and friends comment about how important this community's support is in their lives. As well, we had a wonderful all-congregation retreat in January planned and led by our minister Dawn. Centered on the question "Is UUFCM Your Basecamp?" the retreat gave us the opportunity to get to know one another better and to dive more deeply into what church means to each of us as individuals and as citizens of the world in this time and place.

As a church, we finalized joining the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund by implementing the proposed bylaws and building a yearly line item of investment into our budget which will provide for the future of our fellowship. We have significantly updated our technology capacity this year with the talent, knowledge and help of Aaron Jones, improving the quality and adding visually to our worship services. As well, we moved our eNews to a different platform which has improved the quality and consistency of our outreach to members and friends. Currently, we are in the process of developing policies and procedures to keep us safe in our building in case of tornado, fire or outside assailants.

We continued to learn and grow as we reached out to make the world a better place. We had a very successful Community Justice Party in October, sharing our various talents as we addressed social justice issues of all kinds – race, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities – through music, poetry and a game of "Guess the Person." Although we did not house the intake for the Isabella County rotating homeless shelter this year, we continued our support of those efforts by providing meals and

volunteers. As an adult RE program, we provided a four-part workshop series on Challenging Racism so that we could better understand white privilege and systemic racism. And we very generously donated to monthly special plate collections to support the work of various agencies in our community.

We truly have a special community in UUFCM and, as in any community, there are many teams and tasks that need attention and care. Please volunteer your time and talent to these works. Look at the Who's Who in the UU? Wall of Fame in the Social Hall to see whom you may talk to about your interests; as well, read the eNews weekly and the order of service insert for ideas in ways to become more involved. The board of trustees and our ministry teams are enlivened by the addition of new people joining us to help take care of each other, take care of our church, and take care of our world!

~ Norma Bailey

## Treasurer's Report

### *Current Budget Status*

The budget status for the UUFCM as of March 20, 2018 is given in the table below.

### **Budget Status after 72% of the July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 Budget Year**

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>As % of 2017-2018 Budget</b>
Budget Year Spending	\$68,100	67%
Budget Year Income	\$81,050	80%

### *Status of Financial Accounts*

- Our most recent Mercantile Bank account statement (Feb. 28) balance: \$42,950.
- Our most recent Edward Jones account statement (Dec. 31) balance: \$35,350.
- Our UU Common Endowment Fund account (Mar. 15) balance: \$11,450.

### *Income Sources*

As of March 20, the following income information holds.

- Income from offerings is \$75,710.
- Income for Leadership Training is \$490.
- Income from rentals is \$810.
- Income from Jean Daab Memorial donations is \$1,185.
- Income from garage sale is \$2,110.
- Income from unspent Minister's Discretionary Fund collections is \$475.
- Income from other sources is \$270.

### *Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Duties*

The Treasurer,

- pays the bills of the UUFCM,
- prepares a quarterly report of income and spending for the UUFCM board,
- together with the board and Treasurer's Committee, prepares a draft budget,
- oversees the UUFCM financial accounts,
- ensures 1099 and W-2 statements are sent to employee and contract workers,
- and performs other duties as directed by the board.

The Assistant Treasurer,

- records and deposits donation and other income collected from worship services,
- provides periodic donation reports to members,
- and serves in place of the Treasurer as needed.

~ Chris Bailey

### **Minister's Report**

*"May we be the church of come as you are but not stay as you have been."*

~ Dr. Takiyah Amin

Each year my approach to the annual report writing process involves both the review of all the submitted UUFCM ministry team reports for this year (so I don't duplicate effort) as well as a look back to what I wrote in my own missive last year (so I don't repeat myself. . . too much). With this being my ninth annual report for this fellowship – five as Worship Director and four as Minister – the avoidance of replication presents more of a challenge. It's a process that reflects the paradox inherent in the evolution of change and transformation – so much has changed and yet there is a constancy. . . a core. . . that persists. I am also aware of my particular (some might say peculiar) role as minister to hold both an intimate as well as "big-picture" view of who we are and where we are in our process as a community of faith – and all the while I strive to be cognizant of the impact and/or interplay my own personal growth and development may be having on all of this shared endeavor. Nutshell synopsis: composing the annual minister's report is an effort full of some complex reflecting for me this year.

I encourage you to take the time to read all of the reports collected here – it is wonderful opportunity to see the breadth and depth of the work - the community building, supporting, nurturing – that comprises who we are as a progressive religious community. It is good to take stock periodically of all that we do together.

Highlights for me this past year include the August 2017 Board Retreat which was designed as a visioning retreat for the purpose of laying the groundwork for a five-year plan for our fellowship. Our leadership contracted the services of a UUA Mid-America Region trainer, Barbara Weber, to facilitate the process of this one-day planning event. It was a gratifying day full of deep reflection, discussion, and planning for our collective future.

Another high point was the opportunity to plan and facilitate our annual congregational retreat in January. We were blessed to have forty-two members and friends join us for the day to explore deeply the question "Is UUFCM Your Basecamp?" Unlike retreats held over the past several years that each had a specific social justice focus, this one was an opportunity (in part inspired by the Board visioning work) to do some deep diving into what it means to be in religious community together. Feedback received from participants was very positive and gratifying. Both the planning process and the facilitation of this retreat was challenging and invigorating.

*"Art and spirituality are so intertwined that they cannot be separated."*

~ Richard Davis

One of the most rewarding challenges I faced this year was the opportunity to direct the new adapted version of the play *The Diary of Anne Frank* for the Gratiot County Players. It has been a long time since I have directed and even longer since I have taken on so much responsibility outside of my work for the church. But I felt called to re-tell this story at this particular moment in time – a time in our cultural life where there is so much danger of a collective forgetting of the horrors of the past. I am grateful for all the support I received from so many of you during this creative process and to all of you who were able to attend one of the performances.

*"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. . . live the questions now."* ~ Rainer Maria Rilke

There is one central carry-over from last year's report that requires some follow-up now – it concerns my personal questions and discernment regarding the completion of seminary. For those of you who may need some background - I first entered seminary at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, IN as an Access (external degree program) student in August 2011 (during my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as UUFCM Worship Director) and spent a year in residence there from August 2013 – May 2014. As many of you are aware, I have attempted to continue my seminary studies upon my return to Michigan (during the summer of 2014) and acceptance of the position

here as contractual minister, but it has been an effort fraught with difficulty. The blend of graduate study with near full-time ministerial work has proved an unwelcome mix for my well-being. I took official leave from seminary last year to be more fully present for my youngest son's last year at home before heading off to college. And while study and ongoing learning continue as a natural process for me in this work, my progress towards official certification and completion of a Masters of Divinity degree remains in pause mode. There are questions that remain unsolved for me and I cannot at this point in time offer any assurances as to a definitive plan for completion.

Please know that I am well aware that this pause in my formal education process may become an issue of concern when my contract as your minister is up for renewal next year. At the end of my current contract in June 2019 I will have served this congregation for ten years – five as Worship Director and five as your “freelance” Minister. Ten years is a long time for a relationship of this type. I want you to know that I plan to be in discernment throughout the upcoming months regarding my own way forward in this work - I owe it to myself and to this congregation to do that careful consideration. And it is my responsibility as your minister to encourage the leadership and members of this fellowship to include in the coming year a process of intentional discernment of your future needs for ministerial leadership – a deliberate consideration that allows you to challenge your zones of comfort. We owe this beloved enterprise no less.

I continue to be blessed by and deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and grow with you all.

~ Dawn Daniels, UUFCM Minister

### **Director of Religious Education (DRE)**

This is my last Annual Religious Education Report. At the end of summer I will be stepping down as Director of Religious Education. Being the DRE has been an incredible experience that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Watching the children grow as individuals and explore their spiritual growth in Sunday School has brought me much joy, laughter, and hope for the future.

General RE attendance has been down over the past year in all age ranges. However, we have had a core group of children attend almost every Sunday. As of this time we have childcare in the nursery and an age inclusive class following Soul Matters curriculum. We are not offering a high school aged youth program at this time.

We have been following the Soul Matters curriculum for our main Religious Education class this year. Soul Matters is a program our congregation is using as a resource for our worship services, so we are also following the same monthly themes/questions and doing activities related to the theme. 2017-2018 themes include Courage, Intention, Abundance, Hope, and more. A Sunday morning generally includes: A reflection, a story, mindfulness, a craft/activity, and discussion about the lesson.

We are grateful to Mary Alsager and Norma Bailey for teaching the Our Whole Lives curriculum to five girls in the 4th-6th grade range. Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive sexuality class that covers a variety of age appropriate topics that are relevant to today's society. This class was taught on Sunday evenings outside of regular RE.

The number of outside-church events has greatly increased and are popular with our children. These have included a Stone Soup sleepover, caroling at an assisted living home, a sleepover where children made cinnamon rolls, a St. Patrick's Day Slime-a-Palooza, and an Easter Egg Hunt. There are multiple other events scheduled for the remainder of the school year, including Earth Day Festivities and a Mother's Day Brunch.

Besides the DRE we have two additional staff - Kendra Peffers, who assists me in teaching the main RE class, and Amelia Lytle, who is on hand in case child care in the nursery is required. Both are wonderful young adults who are kind, compassionate, and patient with our children of all ages.

They are dependable and flexible, always willing to help out as needed with a great attitude. If additional adult support is required there are a number of congregants who have helped volunteer with the children, and we are grateful to them.

I want to thank the congregation for this incredible opportunity to be the Director of Religious Education. This is been a growing experience that has helped shape who I am as a person. I will be forever grateful to have served for the past two years in such a wonderful community.

~ Anna VanArsdaleHoot

## **Administrative Assistant's Report**

As administrative assistant, I assist the Board of Trustees, Minister, Worship Team and committee members in carrying out administrative duties for the Fellowship.

An average of 20 hours each month is spent performing the following duties:

- Communicate regularly with Board President, Minister, and Team members
- Prepare and oversee weekly printing of Sunday bulletin and announcements
- Prepare and send out weekly e-newsletter
- Maintain and update website
- Maintain online church calendars
- Maintain directory of members and friends, available online and printed annually
- Maintain various email address lists (e.g., eNews, MUUSJN, Members, Visitors)
- Send out emails as requested and approved by President, Minister, or designee
- Design and produce brochures, flyers, annual reports, handbooks, mailing labels and other documents
- Maintain digital back-up system regularly
- Other duties as appropriate and requested

Beginning in February, the switch from Gmail to MailChimp was made for delivering the eNews and other emails to members and friends. This provides the ability to track email receipt and response data, helping us to better direct our communications efforts. In addition, our emails are guarded from being interpreted as spam, due to the opt-in method of gaining subscribers, and the ability of subscribers to opt-out at any time.

~ Kirsten Keeton

## **Social Justice Coordinating Team**

The UUFCM has been involved in a variety of community service and social justice activities over the course of the 2017-2018 church year as noted below.

*Our congregation served others in the greater community through:*

- Two volunteers from our fellowship provided Meals on Wheels through the Isabella County Commission on Aging.
- Isabella County Restoration House – 23 members and friends volunteered in various ways – preparing and serving meals and serving as overnight hosts at the St. John's Episcopal Church for our three weeks' contribution. Two members served as intake supervisors every afternoon of the six months (one per afternoon).

*UUFCM educated and served ourselves and the greater community through:*

- The Social Justice Coordinating Committee kept our social action bulletin board updated so that congregants can see what others are doing and what opportunities exist.
- We made sure that the various diversity events on CMU's campus (ex., Black History Month, Women's History Month, etc.) were posted both in the e-News each week as well as posted on the social action bulletin board.
- One individual served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) and passed action alerts on to the MUUSJN e-mail message list.
- Throughout the year, people were contacted with action alerts according to their interests in social justice issues.
- Five UUFCM members attended a MUUSJN-sponsored interfaith workshop on how to use the MUUSJN-created Interfaith Toolkit on Challenging Racism in Lansing on June 11.
- Two Social Justice Coordinating Committee members served on the coordinating committee of the Community Action Dialogue on Black Lives Matter which provided meetings of two action groups (K-12 Mobilization and Police Oversight).
- Social Justice Coordinating Team planned and implemented a Community Justice Party on October 21.
- The Social Justice Coordinating Team coordinated the UUSC Guest at Your Table program during the worship service and the annual Harvest Feast on November 20.
- We reviewed and disseminated a handout titled "To Whom Should We Give Our End-of-Year Donations?"
- The Social Justice Coordinating Team planned and implemented a four-part workshop series on Challenging Racism, utilizing the Interfaith Toolkit on Challenging Racism developed by MUUSJN on February 4 and 18 and March 4 and 18 with an average of 12 participants.
- Three UUFCM members attended a MUUSJN co-sponsored Conscience and Religious Freedom: A New Threat to Women's Health and LGBTQ Rights workshop in Southfield on March 15.

*UUFCM has donated to help others through:*

- Fair Share Contributions to UUA and Mid-America Region - \$4,335
- Donation of used clothing and other items to the Isabella Child Development Center Thrift Shop

- Guest at Your Table program for the UUSC (UU Service Committee) - \$905
  - Justice Party and plate collection for MUUSJN - \$510
  - Participation in local CROP Walk - \$436
  - Collecting items on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month to donate to the local infant pantry
  - Social Justice Coordinating Team coordination of monthly special plate collections to donate to support the work of various agencies (through March):
    - Minister's Discretionary Fund (for local requests) - \$475
    - Goodrow Fund - \$146
    - ICRH - \$416
    - Women's Aid - \$328
    - THAW - \$174
- ~ Norma Bailey

## **Congregational Life Ministry Team Report**

Several important committees have been combined under the heading of "Congregational Life Ministry" as a means to better support the functions of these related areas as well as provide more opportunity for collaborative effort. This team currently is comprised of membership, the Arms Around program (formerly the caring team), stewardship/fundraising, communications, building/grounds, hospitality, and social fun. At this time, not all aspects are operational, so only areas that have been active this year will have reports.

This new multi-faceted administrative design continues as a work in process as we discern our way forward. Leadership and membership on this team is not a closed system – newcomers interested in serving on this multifaceted ministry team are most welcome! Contact Gisela Moffit or Laura McBride if you have questions or are interested in getting involved.

## **Membership Report**

Our membership report this year reflects the continued melding of our hospitality ministry with membership services. Viewed as a continuum from initial welcome to engaged membership, it is fairly obvious how these fit together. Radical hospitality is an essential ministry of our fellowship and its practice is integral to our growth together in community. A special thank you to Gisela Moffit for her continued brilliant service in the continually evolving role of Hospitality & Welcome team leader.

## *Membership Goals That Support Board Goals:*

- To create a ministry of hospitality that is radically generous in the scope of its welcome to all who cross our threshold.
- To provide statistical data on visitor participation to the Board.
- To provide information and support to help interested people discern if our church community meets their personal spiritual needs.
- To offer Welcome to UU orientation classes and Path to Membership workshops for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of Unitarian Universalism and/or pursuing membership in our fellowship.
- To clearly outline the meaning and responsibilities of membership in the UUFCM.
- To help all members find their personal ministry through conversations, engagement in church activities, surveys and trainings.
- To update the membership list with the UUA regularly and supply data by February 1 each year to renew our certification.

## *Accomplishments That Support Stated Goals:*

- Every Sunday, visitors were welcomed warmly by trained greeters, encouraged to sign the visitor's log, and shown/offered informational pamphlets. Visitors with children were directed to either the RE Director or designee for the morning.
- A new brochure about our own fellowship was developed to acquaint our first-time visitors with our offerings.
- Visitors were encouraged during the opening of worship to join the coffee hour fellowship time following worship.
- To facilitate communication and recognition of fellow congregants, color photos with captions of leaders of the congregation and their areas of responsibility were posted on the east wall of the fellowship hall in an effort to give credit and to encourage newcomers to get involved as well.
- In order to facilitate relationships to people outside of Sunday worship, a handout with all the social and small interest groups was developed and available to anybody who is interested in deepening their commitment to UUFCM.
- A welcome letter was sent to all visitors who had signed in within a few days following their visit and name tags were made if requested.
- Visitors' email addresses were added to the eNews mailing list and other information entered into the fellowship's data base.

- A follow-up process was implemented whereby someone makes contact with folks who have been absent from worship or fellowship activities for a time.
- We are in the process of improving communication by adding photos to the Directory. This will enable everybody to connect more easily with one another.
- This was year #3 of our new *Pathway to Membership* process. It is comprised of three steps: Welcome to UU Orientation class, Path to Membership workshop, and the *New Member Ingathering* ceremony. Thus far this year we have held:
  - *Welcome to UU* classes on the 4th Sundays of the month following worship.
  - Three *Pathway to Membership* workshops.
  - Two *New Member Ingatherings* held on 11/5/17 and 2/25/18, for a total of four new members joining the UUFCM.
 ~ Laura McBride and Gisela Moffit

### **Arms Around Report**

The Arms Around program is our congregational ministry of care. This is care provided in addition to (or sometimes instead of) the pastoral care provided by our minister. The members of the Arms Around team provided basic support in an effort to lessen the pain and stress on an individual or family going through a difficult time. This year they prepared and delivered meals, provided transportation for doctor appointments, made visits in hospitals, assisted living facilities, and at home. They also sent cards, made phone calls, and made themselves available during the time of healing.

This year also marked our fourth year of participation in the Isabella County Restoration House project. Partnered with the Episcopal Church, volunteers provided meals for the guests and spent time during the day at the new day center. We thank the coordinators, Norma Bailey and Joyce Henricks, and the many volunteers for sharing their time, energy, and compassion with people in need.

~ Gisela Moffit

### **Building and Grounds Report**

#### *Inspections*

- State inspector inspected physical lift/elevator
- AED unit

#### *Scheduled Tasks*

- Air Conditioner inspections last spring
- Furnace inspections last fall
- Sprinkler System winterized and adjusted timer
- Changed/maintained timer on security light on Wisconsin Street entrance
- Clear debris from roof section with rubber membrane and accompanying gutters

#### *Ongoing Tasks*

- Changed door code, water plants, check grounds, check thermostats, windows, doors, lights, Wisconsin St. entrance security light working, shed secured, outdoor hoses turned off, parking and sidewalk snow cleared, ample snow melt (salt) on hand, check and replace lights in building, chandelier, and wall sconces.

#### *Building Tasks*

- James cleaned gutters with Norma in the fall.
- Estimate was given to replace the front porch, but was decided that we will paint and maintain as needed.
- Black Lives Banner was fixed for wind damage and scallops put it to allow wind to flow through the banner. Banner was taken down and put back up for various ceremonies throughout the year.
- Placed weather stripping on threshold on door of University Street Entrance.
- Gisela purchased LED lights to replace all chandelier bulbs and Marc will replace sockets some time in July. At that point each chandelier globe will be cleaned and all bulbs will be replaced.
- Replaced Smoke Detectors in RE area upstairs and downstairs.
- Repaired and secured rain spout on east side of church.
- Secured wire mesh for the gutters on the East side of the building.
- New faucets were put in each of the bathrooms.
- Fixed broken chair for infant room.

#### *Insects/Ants*

- Replaced ant traps around the building for prevention

### *Plumbing*

- Managed toilet and sink blockages

### *Planned Tasks/Repairs*

- Marc replaced the fencing and fixed the storage unit
- Develop sprinkler zone map and utility lines map
- Detail procedure for sprinkler system (turning it on)

~ Terri Robbie & James Hatcher

## **Stewardship Report**

As we at UUFCM are apt to do periodically, this stewardship season came with changes! We held a one-day Stewardship Sunday-Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 22, 2018. The theme was Stewardship: taking care of each other, taking care of our church, taking care of our world. Members provided moving testimonials over several Sundays in February, March, and April. Many heartfelt thanks to Aaron Jones, Norma Bailey, Susan Paton, Brigitte Bechtold, Carla Jensen, and Kevin Daum.

The stewardship drive culminated with a special sermon delivered by Jennifer Teed from MUUSJN, a community lunch, afternoon events, and a closing group activity. It was a beautiful day to pledge and celebrate! At the time this report was sent in, the result of the pledge drive to support of staff and buildings/grounds is not known.

What is known is that this drive occurred with the loving acts of kindness and assistance by Dawn Daniels, Victoria Sladek, Kris Los, Liz Dealing, Brigitte Bechtold, Carol Rard, Anna Vanarsdale-Hoot, Chris Bailey, Janis Shinn, Ethan Kolek, Joyce Henricks, Norma Bailey, Terrie Robbie, Jim Dealing, Mary Alsager, Gisela & Tom Moffit, Sara Prussing, Kirsten Keeton and the many spontaneous helpers at the community lunch and following the afternoon activities. My heart is full with gratitude to you all!

~ Laura McBride

## **Fundraising Report**

The fundraising branch of the Congregational Life Ministry Team has been officially launched this year! There have been a series of small events/fundraisers that are intended for leadership development/training of members.

*For this fiscal year, we received:*

Leadership Training (scrap metal drive)	\$490.00
Garage Sale	\$2,110.00
Other sources	\$270.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,870.00</b>

~ Laura McBride

## **Social Fun Report**

We provided a number of social events throughout the year to bring our members and friends together to enjoy each other's company.

- First Friday Potlucks: the first Friday of every month gathering for shared food, shared conversation, and games. This year we have had a core group along with many newcomers giving us all the chance to become better acquainted. This year, hosts have selected a theme for the potluck and participants have been receptive. We continue to celebrate birthdays with treats, singing, and birthday celebrants going through the meal line first! Jen Prout and George Lentz served as our Potluck planners. All are welcome, all have fun!
- Harvest Feast: November 19— many people contributed food and feasted, with plenty of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and other goodies at the Annex of the public library! Every year new ideas are implemented that make the meal event more efficient. Brigitte Bechtold, Kris Los, and Jen Prout served as the planning team.
- Holiday Tea: December 10 – lots of sweets with coffee, cider and tea and good conversation at tables adorned with nutcrackers.
- A community meal in the UU Social Hall followed Jennifer Teed's sermon to celebrate our fellowship and kickoff our Stewardship Sunday-Earth Day festivities.

~ Laura McBride

**The UUFCM Mission:**

*To be a religious community guided by love,  
transforming our lives and our world.*