

President's Report  
Ron Malzer  
August 2019

As I write this on July 21, much of the country has been through a bout of extreme weather. In recent days La Crosse has experienced a heat index as high as 116°, rains heavy enough to again close major sections of the Myrick-Hixon trails, and cause power outages, among other challenges.

Our UU values call on us to pay attention to the interdependent web of all existence (the UUA Seventh Principle). Starting this summer, our Fellowship has a social justice team renamed to emphasize this part of our beliefs: We now have the "Social and Environmental Justice Team". David Boen chairs this team, and will be communicating with the Fellowship about the ways we can put our beliefs into practice.

August is the month that our Fellowship kicks back into high gear. We've used June and July to put on intriguing services and service projects, somewhat different from the ones we do between August and May.

In August, we have three UU minister-led services! Rev. Taves will return to us, serving as our half-time consulting minister, and will again be physically present and able to meet with us in person over an eight-day period. We certainly are eager to hear her first sermon of the Fellowship Year on August 18! And on both August 4 and August 11, the service will be led by The Rev. Ann Tyndall, who, prior to coming to La Crosse, was parish minister at the large UU congregation in Evanston, Illinois. Her in-depth exposure to Buddhist as well as UU traditions will enrich us all.

In August we will also have a service that is a Fellowship tradition: a dedicated performance on Sunday August 25 at 9 AM at the Great River Folk Festival, in Riverside Park. The guest performer this year will be the Coulee Region's own Johnsmith, bringing his exquisite songwriting talents and spiritual presence to us. For the first time in the 15-year or so history, of this service, the event will be an advertised part of the Festival and open to all interested.

The August/September time is one in which we should expect new faces and new energy. People who have relocated from other communities have already contacted our Connections Coordinator Jen Miller to get information about our Fellowship. Let's all have our eyes open for unfamiliar faces and make sure that we send a message that we truly are welcome to all. We need to do extra work examining on our own attitudes and actions to make sure we are connecting affirmatively when those of minority identities check us out.

I will be away from Fellowship the first two weeks of August, a period in which our son will be getting married. The Fellowship is in good hands while I'm gone. Let August be a time when growth in every sense of the word can take place for us as individuals and our Fellowship.