

April 2024 Minister's Report

Greetings Board,

Thanks for your work over the last several months. It is much appreciated.

I am feeling hopeful as we move into our stewardship drive; the pledge materials are being posted on our website as I type this. This month, we have the opportunity to collectively harness a lot of energy from the congregation—and instill appreciation for what UUCF offers at the moment. We might even rouse some excitement for what will come in UUCF's future.

Our new Caring Committee will have finished their training the Sunday before this Board meeting. Their active presence in our congregation is vital to our efforts for both sustaining our current congregation and welcoming in new members. Their duties will include personal outreach, follow-up after Joys and Sorrows, home visits, cards, and more.

The Family Ministry staff team and minister are also meeting soon (tentatively April 14) to create a proposal to share with other committees for collective outreach efforts to bring in more families. My hope is that at the very least, the Engagement Committee, Family Ministry staff and committee, and Social Media Committee can come together to begin coordinating a plan for outreach and welcome to families.

I think UUCF should be proud of its efforts as a “teaching congregation” this year. Sam Hunt has no doubt enriched our congregation with his efforts and presence. For many years, UUCF was not qualified to be a teaching congregation, but we are now—and, in an area with few options for seminarians, it's important we continue to value how we can serve UUism on a larger scale in this way.

Social Action and the UUCF Players were highly successful in their “Cabaret for Reproductive Justice,” which even garnered us some publicity, which helps further the cause even beyond the money that was raised. I am grateful for the efforts of those who were involved.

All in all, I think there are a lot of positive things happening in the congregation. As we know, the focus—especially this year—is on a successful pledge drive and budget proposal. I know there is much gratitude all around for those working on these areas.

In great appreciation,

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook