

**Pastor's Report - Spring 2025**  
**Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm**

**Staff Updates**

For the past few months we have been working on getting things in place for Lindsey's maternity leave this summer including working on grant proposals and the grant pipeline for second and third quarter; program planning for the 25-26 program year, celebrations for the 25th anniversary of Grinnell UCC being an Open and Affirming congregation, and finishing up the last sessions of the DOE Task Force (our final meeting will be May 4th). We will have an update for the Gov Board's meeting in May.

Elizabeth is taking some time off in May. I took some time off in March and will be away in April for my graduation from Chicago Theological Seminary.

**Pastoral Care**

We have had quite an intense pastoral care caseload this spring with the passing of several church members and folks acquainted with our church. We will have at least two funerals in May and another at the end of the summer. The Care Connections team and prayer team continues to stay on top of pastoral care routine needs and emergencies.

**Worship/Ministry Programming Updates**

On February 9th, friends and members of Grinnell UCC worked together with folks from the Presbyterian church to prepare Church World Service (CWS) Menstrual Hygiene Kits. Our goal, like last year, was to assemble at least 50 kits. Sunday School will wrap up on May 11th with an appreciation service happening during worship that day to thank everyone who has worked or volunteered with all of our education and outreach programs throughout the past year.

**Continuing Education Updates/Wider Denominational Meetings**

I spent the month of February working on my DMin thesis rewrites, I defended my thesis via zoom on March 19th and passed, and as noted before graduation is April 25th. I am incredibly grateful for the support of the Governing Board, the church members who served as part of my Parish Project Group, and all of the church members who participated in surveys and gave encouragement along the way.

Gratefully, Pastor Jessica