



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP OF DUBUQUE

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Artist rendering of restoration, Heritage Works

Help us restore this place of  
welcome, revitalize our  
Jackson Park neighborhood,  
and preserve our city's history.

Let's make this hidden gem  
shine – and inspire others to  
keep improving with us!

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE  
**FRIENDS OF THE GEM**

LET'S MAKE THIS  
**Jackson Park Gem**  
SHINE!



January 2019

This Carpenter Gothic building  
has stood at the corner of  
17th & Iowa Streets for 135 years.

We are restoring it to its  
former beauty – an important  
step in revitalizing the  
neighborhood.



Archive photo from Herman J. Loemker  
Collection, Loras College



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## JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE GEM

A church in a neighborhood  
speaks of stability,  
community, and inspiration.



Dear Friends of Downtown Revitalization,

Our church in the Jackson Park neighborhood was built in the Carpenter Gothic style in 1885 by German immigrants.

This simple, modest, unadorned architectural style reflects the character of hardworking people hoping for better lives.

With your help, we can revive the life of this hidden "Gem" in the Jackson Park Historic District – and with it, the vitality of our neighborhood.

**CHALLENGE  
MATCH  
OFFER**

**We have generous donors who will match  
\$2 for every \$1 we raise and for every firm  
pledge we receive through December 31.  
This triples the impact of donations!**

Please join us now when the impact of your gift will be multiplied – as one of many Friends of the Gem.

Warm regards,

Board of Trustees  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque

Marian Maciej-Hiner  
Katie Heil  
Jerry Guenther

Nancy Turner  
Craig Reber  
Gail Guenther

## ... BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

"This structure is part of the rich historic context in the extraordinarily intact Jackson Park Historic District, and is highly unusual as a remaining Carpenter Gothic house of worship in our downtown. Taking on restoration and rebuilding is a bold move by this small and mighty congregation, demonstrating their dedication to the neighborhood that surrounds it."

– Chris Olson, City of Dubuque Planning Department

### SHARING OUR HOME

Opening our doors and reaching out to our Jackson Park neighbors is a bedrock of our mission, expressed in many ways:

- Preparing and serving meals at Hope House
- Handing out hundreds of face masks during the pandemic
- Making our parsonage available to state-contracted agencies for supervised visits to help reunify children and parents
- Participating in neighborhood clean-up
- Giving local musicians, poets and storytellers a platform for sharing their talents with an appreciative audience

We value our place in the Jackson Park Historic District, providing a stable downtown presence. Our buildings are contributing structures, included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our Leadership Team is committed to serving our neighborhood community.





... BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN  
**COMMUNITY**

### SHARING OUR JOURNEYS

We are a small, primarily lay-led congregation with a 35-year history of active community involvement, emphasizing deeds not creeds.

We welcome people from every spiritual background and invite presenters from nonprofits, businesses, organizations, and other religious traditions to be part of our services.

Speakers who have shared thoughtful reflections include: Liang Chee Wee, Megan Ruiz, Nancy Van Milligen, Alan Garfield, Rick Mihm, Jillayne Pinchuk, Mike Mbanza, Christine Conlon, Don Koppes, Leslie Shalabi, and Karen Zeckser.



Congregation members stand for justice in downtown Dubuque.

We proactively engage in racial, LGBTQ, environmental and other justice efforts:

- Community partner — Dubuque Chapter, NAACP
- Member — Dubuque Area Congregations United
- Advocate — #AllOfUs Dubuque pro-immigrant campaign

“The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a major voice of friendship and support to immigrant families and groups. Their message of acceptance and cross-cultural celebration helps make Dubuque a more welcoming, vibrant and thriving community.”

— Alex Baum, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque



Serving a meal at Catholic Worker House with Temple Beth El.

... BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN  
**PRESERVATION**

“This Carpenter Gothic church is distinctive, with its pointed arch windows, steep-pitched roof, and decorative wood millwork – familiar architectural features in Grant Wood’s ‘American Gothic’ painting. Restoring it preserves a unique part of our city’s history.”

— Duane Hagerty, Heritage Works



### PLANS

Our building caught the eye of a historic preservationist who offered to help pay for its restoration, including:

- **Belfry replication:** It was removed about 70 years ago.
- **Exterior restoration:** Reinforce foundation and basement walls; clean, repair and repoint masonry; restore entrance doors and transoms.
- **Interior renovation:** Remove drop ceiling to uncover vaulted ceiling, circular and pointed arch windows; install a lift to make both levels handicap accessible, doubling our usable space.

### HISTORY

The building has been home to four congregations since 1885:

- 1885 German Methodist Episcopal** When the church was built, services were held in German. The name was changed to Grace Methodist in the wake of anti-German sentiment in 1918. They joined St. Luke’s Methodist Church in 1965.
- 1966 Assembly of God**
- 1983 Grace Bible Baptist**
- 2004 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque** Established in 1985, we rented meeting space before settling into our true church home in downtown Dubuque.

# FRIENDS OF THE GEM CAMPAIGN

## PROJECT COST

The total estimated cost for the project is \$1.5 million:

- \$465,000 to replicate the belfry
- \$410,000 to restore the exterior
- \$625,000 to renovate the interior



## FUNDRAISING GOAL

We are working to raise **\$500,000** from pledges, donations, grants, and historic tax credits. With our benefactor's **2:1 Challenge Match**, we can cover the entire project cost.

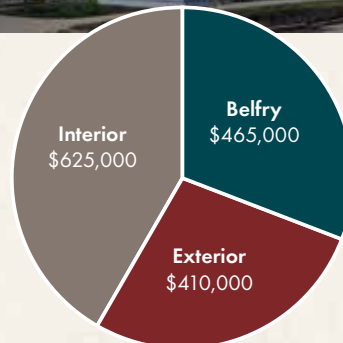
**We're on our way!** Our application for \$300,000 in historic tax credits is under review. With \$60,000 in pledges already in-hand – **we need to raise \$140,000.**

## PROJECT TEAM

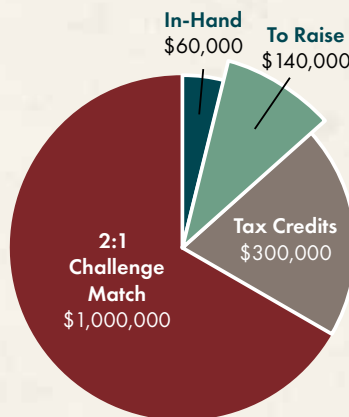
This project has been planned in conjunction with Heritage Works, Gronen Restoration and Jeffrey Morton Architects.

Heritage Works is a nonprofit organization working with historic preservation projects. Gronen Restoration has restored nearly a half million square feet of commercial and residential space in downtown Dubuque, including Steeple Square and Schmidt Innovation Center.

COST



FUNDING



## YOUR GIFT WILL BE TRIPLED!

**3x  
THE  
IMPACT!**

Generous friends have made an extraordinary **Challenge Match Offer**: For every \$1 we raise – they'll match it with \$2!

From now through December 31, your check donation or firm pledge commitment has 3 x the impact!

YOUR GIFT	CHALLENGE FUNDS	YOUR IMPACT
\$100	x 3	<b>\$300</b>
\$500	x 3	<b>\$1,500</b>
\$1,000	x 3	<b>\$3,000</b>
\$5,000	x 3	<b>\$15,000</b>

## HOW TO GIVE

**Giving your gift now – before December 31 – is a good way to be sure your impact will be multiplied by the Challenge Match Funds! Both donations and pledges of any amount are welcome!**

## PLEDGE AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

- **Checks and pledges:** Use the enclosed envelope. Checks can be made out to: **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque.**
- **Online:** Visit our website, [uudbq.org](http://uudbq.org) and click on **Donate.**
- **Tax advantages:** Check with your tax advisor to learn about the advantages of donating by the end of 2020 and sending donations directly from your IRA to the Friends of the Gem campaign.

*The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque is a non-profit religious organization. All gifts are tax deductible as provided by law.*

## QUESTIONS?

**Contact Marian Maciej-Hiner** 608.642.1717 | [maciejhiner@gmail.com](mailto:maciejhiner@gmail.com)  
or visit [uudbq.org](http://uudbq.org)