

Rev. VanderWeele is on a much needed and well deserved mini-sabbatical from January 15 through April 15. During that time the CCUU pulpit will be filled by guest speakers drawn from other UU congregations, our own congregations, and the local community.

On January 18 and 25, our CCUU pulpit will be blessed with the presence of the Reverend Charles B. (Charlie) Ortman. His topics are

Jan. 18th) "Martin, Barack, and Us: Yes, We Can!" Jan. 25th) "I've Seen My Light Come Shining"

Rev. Ortman has been a singer/songwriter, entrepreneur and social worker who turned to ministry a bit later in life. He has been the minister of our Partner Congregation in Montclair, NJ since 1995. He graduated from Meadville Lombard Seminary at the University of Chicago in 1992, as ordained by the congregation in Burlington, IA, where he had served for three years as their Student Minister, and served in Fitchburg, MA from 1992 to 1995.

Rev. Ortman attended the Unitarian Church in Davenport, IA just before Rev. VanderWeele arrived at that location. During Rev. VanderWeele's preparation for seminary, Charlie helped with words of caution and advice. He once again stepped forward with a specific interest in the health of our congregation after the devastation from Katrina. Our partner church relationship was established soon after, and members of his congregation have traveled to New Orleans to assist with our rebuilding and have made generous financial contributions to our recovery. We look forward to welcoming Rev. Ortman to our pulpit.