

## Get to Know Board Member Amy Weber

February, 2025



Ah, February. I love February. It's the month of violets, amethysts, Valentines, my birthday, my husband Randy's birthday, and my first baby's birthday (who was born on her daddy's birthday). And while it's still a winter month, the air starts to feel and smell like spring, and daffodils usually make an appearance. Not so much in Chicago, where I grew up, but here in Southern Illinois, where I've lived since 1989.

From that year, when we arrived in Carbondale with 6-month-old Emily, until our youngest, Esther, graduated from college in 2022, we have been fully engaged in parenting. Around the time I was pregnant with our second daughter, Eleanor, I joined the Fellowship. This community has been a constant for me, a great village to help raise my girls, and a source of spiritual strength and deep friendships.

I had a great childhood, with loving, artistic parents, two wonderful sisters, a vibrant neighborhood full of kids, lots of learning opportunities in the city, and of course the music of the sixties and seventies that provided a soundtrack for those years and still resonates with me today.

Joni Mitchell wrote, "Well, something's lost, but something's gained  
In living every day." This means more and more to me as time goes on, as I lose people I love, including elders of CUF, and as I see the arc of the moral universe seeming to take a sharp turn away from justice. I look for what is gained. I see the young families in CUF, raising their children in both old and new ways, and I feel hope. I feel hope when I see CUF and the larger community come together to defend human rights and to celebrate and protect the planet, the arts, and all things good.

As for me, I would love to tell you all about the activism of my youth and young adulthood, but I don't want to sound like it's all behind me. It's definitely taken different forms now. I often feel that my best contributions to the future, other than my three amazing adult daughters, are the things I can do to make CUF a vibrant and growing community that can continue to work for a better world.

Meanwhile, I'm enjoying retirement. I try to keep my brain healthy by learning new things, like AV hosting and website editing, and with crossword puzzles, language learning (French and German), and travel. I'm chairing the Sunday Services Team, which has been a great outlet for creativity – please join us! I'm in my sixth, and last, year as a Board of Trustees member. It's a great group of people to work with, and it's nice to see how the vegan sausage is made, so to speak. If you are asked to serve on the Board, please consider it!

I hope you know me a little better now. Ask me about my life, and I will ask about yours. I'm glad we're in this together.