



**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the North Hills**

INTERCOM

SEPTEMBER 2017

PASSIN' THROUGH

Like those of you who were part of UUCNH when the Rev. Martha Munson served as interim minister, I was deeply saddened to learn she died over the summer. Martha and I shared one of those friendships that, for the most part, turned on attending the same trainings and meetings. But we enjoyed one another's company every time our paths crossed, just talking, laughing and cussing a bit more than two ordained ministers ought.

Looking back, I suppose one of the things that enriched those conversations was a certain existential skepticism (not pessimism) about the state of many things – including our free church tradition. Given all that we'd seen in our considerable travels across UU congregations – the amazing and not-so- amazing sides of our UU tribe – we fretted over the ease with which we criticize other traditions, yet give our own a pass.

If you've been following the events surrounding white supremacy within our ranks, you know that some of that hubris was stripped away as we began a process of taking our own inventory with regard to race and ethnicity in denomination-level hiring practices. Likewise, there is growing awareness of the class biases woven into our thinking and practices. For those of us with roots in poverty and working class culture (myself included), we now can openly witness to our own sense of invisibility and marginalization. But there's work to be done there, too.

Our aggregate responses to this era of soul-searching vary greatly. As constituted, Unitarian Universalism is already hemorrhaging members and funding. Some ask do we really want to risk deep divisions in such critical times? I may be in the minority, but I say all this turbulence is an opportunity in disguise. An opportunity to find out stuff we don't know we don't know. An opportunity to up our game by reexamining our worship, programming and priorities to reflect what we're learning along the way. And an opportunity to show our kids and youth what it looks like to be spiritual grownups, up to the task of real change.

As some of you may have noticed, I vainly love quoting my own writing. (Not a characteristic to be emulated by the aforementioned young people.) In a column I wrote for **The Progressive Populist** last June, I described some of the growing pains UUism has encountered, as well as the need to manage our own anxiety:

"It's not clear what comes next for my spiritual tribe. Efforts are underway to create space in our heady, privileged culture for deep discussions that amount to more than the venting of white liberal shock and guilt; or worse yet, give rise to a premature call to "fix" things that will likely result in, at best, a missed opportunity for understanding and renewal.

If we get it right, the white folks who hold sway in our circles (like me) will yield the point to our people of color, transgender persons and other minorities. We'll take their lead, and partake in honest and intentional conversations designed and facilitated by those who have for too long been patronized if not marginalized: we'll resist the urge to rush the process rather than sit in the anxiety of an uncertain order in which the old rules no longer apply."

Sadly, Martha won't be with us in body as we sojourn into this time of deep reflection. But just in case she's watching from beyond, thanks, Martha, for your infectious satire, and your restlessness for a more whole Unitarian Universalism. We're already putting them to use.

Peace,
Rev. Don

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES



September 3, 2017

**A UU TAKES THE BODHISATTVA VOW:
WORKING TO WAKE THE WORLD (OR MAYBE JUST PITTSBURGH) UP**

Stephanie Maietta Romero

Stephanie Maietta Romero, long-time member of the UU Church of the South Hills, began exploring Buddhism and meditation in the church as part of her spiritual journey. Join us as she describes the changes this path has brought to her life, including taking vows to be a bodhisattva, or "one who is willing to walk the path of the awakened ones."

September 10, 2017

INGATHERING AND WATER COMMUNION AT UUCNH

(Followed immediately by the Ingathering Potluck Picnic)

Rev. Don Rollins

Join Don and Jen for this year's multi-generational service to kick off the 2017-2028 church year. We'll recognize the great volunteers and teachers who make Lifespan Faith Development happen, and do the traditional blessing of the backpacks. (See Jen's column for more details.) And all are invited to join in the Water Communion – a simple ritual based on bringing small samples of water from our summer travels or significant events. (Extra water will be available if you don't have actual samples with you.)

Come join your friends after the Ingathering Service for a potluck picnic outside on the church grounds! If it rains – inside! Bring your picnic tableware, your lawn chairs and a delicious potluck dish to share with your group plus eight more of your UUCNH friends! The grill will be hot and ready to go for whatever you bring to grill and there will be iced drinks provided for one and all. Helpers for set up and clean up gratefully welcomed and appreciated.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

September 17, 2017

LETTERS TO GRANDMOTHER

Rev. Don Rollins

Don will use a series of letters with his grandmother to encourage what the poet, Antoine de Saint-Exupery, called, building memories in our children lest they..."allow treasures to be lost because they have not been given the keys."

September 24, 2017

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES: REFLECTIONS ON THE NEW REALITY

Tony Norman

Join us as award-winning Pittsburgh *Post Gazette* journalist, Tony Norman, shares his reflections on our post-election world. Each week, Mr. Norman educates and delights the readers of his column with his perceptive analysis of cultural issues. He also serves on the Editorial Board at the PPG, teaches journalism at Chatham University, and is a frequent guest on local talk shows and television programs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: *Robyn's Ramblings*



So, it begins, the new church year is upon us.

Rev. Don has stepped into his role and is starting to get to know us. The board has met for our annual retreat to work on goals for the year. This year will bring a lot of transition. The new governance structure voted on at the annual meeting will begin to be implemented. The search committee for the new Director of Lifespan Faith Development will begin gathering insight from the congregation and working on the search for our new settled religious educator. The board will be reaching out for individuals to join newly created teams to assist us and Rev Don in different ways. Religious education classes for children are beginning. Teachers are gathering and reviewing curriculums. The youth group have welcomed a new group of 7th graders into their community. Committees that tend to take a break in the summer have started meeting again. Congregants have returned from their busy summers.

Are you ready? The board is. We have a lot to do together this year. We will be working through the changes together this year. But with all the work, don't forget the fun. I look forward to laughing, learning and singing together in services. I look forward to interesting conversations, jokes and yummy snacks at coffee hour. I look forward to potlucks and vespers. I look forward to spending the year with you. Yes, there is work to be done, but honestly, it's all worth it to spend time with all of you

~ Robyn

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Lay Pastoral Care Team members are available to provide support within an atmosphere of safety and compassion and are a visible reminder of UUCNH's care, concern and connections. You are encouraged to contact any Team member, at the addresses or numbers below, if they might be of help or comfort with your pastoral care needs or those of another in our UUCNH community:

- Kathy Cypher:** *alkate@consolidated.net*
724-625-7912 h;
724-316-4694 c
- Susan Powers:** *susan-a-powers@comcast.net*
412-427-7300
- Marsha Albright:** *mkalbright@gmail.com*
412-487-4565
- Mark Swihart:** *mswihart@spang.com*
412-369-9321
- Chris Hill:** *chill613@comcast.net*
412-366-9553
- Lynn Richards:** *brich@consolidated.net*
724-776-4183 H





IT'S A GREAT DAY TO SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTING!

Coffee Hour— a big part of the glue that holds the UUCNH together! But it doesn't just happen all on its own – if each of us who enjoys Coffee Hour would take a turn or two by signing up to host or co-host, we will continue to enjoy our Coffee Hour time together. What's involved? Bringing healthy snacks, setting up, making provided coffee, tea and apple juice, and cleaning up. Truly, it doesn't need to be expensive or complicated. What's the return? The undying thanks of your Loving Religious Community! Sign up today for the coming church year on the poster in Friendship Hall. Pick your favorite date(s) ASAP so we can continue enjoying our Coffee Hour. Questions? Contact Tassi Bisers tbisers@yahoo.com

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

A WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We're so glad you came! We hope that you were greeted warmly and felt at home. If you have any questions on your next visit, please feel free to stop and chat with any of our ushers or greeters. If they don't know the answer, they will gladly try to find someone who does! If you would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism in general or about our congregation in particular, we will have informational sessions every week, held after church in the sanctuary. These interactive sessions, called "*Getting to Know UU*," will last one hour and will cover a variety of topics on a rotating basis. Longtime members and first-time visitors alike are welcome, and for those contemplating membership, attendance is especially encouraged. Childcare is provided, and you will have time to grab a snack at coffee hour before each session begins. We hope to see you there!



GETTING TO KNOW UU! Weekly After-Church Sessions

September 3rd

Friendship, Caring, and Fun

Come join this week's Getting to Know UU session and explore what it means to be a part of a community that cares for each other, supports each other, and knows how to have a good time! Visitors and longtime members alike are welcome. Feel free to pick up some snacks at coffee hour and then head back into the sanctuary; this interactive session begins at noon and will last one hour. Child care available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

September 10th

No Session Today (Ingathering)

Come join your friends after the Ingathering Service for a potluck picnic outside on the church grounds! If it rains – inside! Bring your picnic tableware, your lawn chairs and a delicious potluck dish to share with your group plus eight more of your UUCNH friends! The grill will be hot and ready to go for whatever you bring to grill and there will be iced drinks provided for one and all. Helpers for set up and clean up gratefully welcomed and appreciated.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

September 17th

Membership 101

Come join this week's Getting to Know UU session as we talk about the experience of joining our community and what it means to “*sign the book*” of a Unitarian Universalist fellowship. Visitors and longtime members alike are welcome! Feel free to pick up some snacks at coffee hour and then head back into the sanctuary; this interactive session begins at noon and will last one hour. Child care available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

September 24th

Learning for a Lifetime

Come join this week's Getting to Know UU session as we explore how Unitarian Universalists approach religious education, both in childhood and every stage of life thereafter! Visitors and longtime members alike are welcome. Feel free to pick up some snacks at coffee hour and then head back into the sanctuary; this interactive session begins at noon and will last one hour. Child care available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

SAVE THE DATE

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY – November 5th

If you have attended **What is a Unitarian Universalist**, **Q&A With the Minister** and **Membership 101** and are interested in joining our church, please contact Cris Graham connections@uucnh.org so we can include you in this special celebration! (Deadline for joining this service is October 22nd)

THE HUNGER GARDEN

Another life lesson from gardening is to embrace the gifts and not bemoan the less-than-ideal. This has been an incredible season for peas, beans, chard, yellow squash, and greens, while the broccoli and eggplant scarcely justify the space used up. The same wet weather that made frequent watering unnecessary has us fighting blight on the hybrid tomatoes (though the harvest will still be good). The heirloom tomato plants donated by Peggy won't yield as many tomatoes, but those, once ripe, are especially tasty, and the plants are resisting blight better than the hybrids. I have planted late yellow and green bush beans that might still be yielding after the Farm Stand closes, and we have an excess of onions that I took home to hang and dry, and which will appear in the Farm Stand.



In October, the garden will need more earth from the nearby dirt pile, grass/leaf compost, and manure from a horse farm. Volunteer help will be appreciated. Dick Myers - dmyers.rlm@gmail.com

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Memorial plaques honoring Jim and Nancy Mooney, founders of UUCNH, were recently installed on the “**In Remembrance**” Board on the wall at the Memorial Garden by their sons Dillon and David Mooney. These engraved plaques read as follows:

JAMES R. MOONEY, JULY 31, 1924 – JUNE 23, 2009, Devoted Husband, Loving Father and Grandfather ... WWII Veteran, Great Cook and Photographer. Founding Member.

NANCY A. MOONEY, FEBRUARY 26, 1929 – November 20, 2012, Beloved Wife, Mother, and Grandmother ... Dedicated Craft Grouper, Knitter, Founding Member.

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 21, 2017

UUCNH WORK PARTY

STARTING AT 8:30AM AND GOING TO 3:00PM.



UU CLUSTER NEWS

Check out our local Cluster Website at www.uupittsburgh.org to see what is happening with other UU's in our area, and for UU events that are open to all.

UU THINGS TO DO

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE...



Sunday, October 15, 2017 @2:00 pm-3:30 pm

Celebrating Openness And welcome As Part Of October Gay History Month

“Welcoming, Affirming, Embracing... Together We Can!”

A public interfaith witness of welcome and inclusion for LGBTQIA persons, their families and allies by varied faith communities.

SEPTEMBER 2017 LFD NEWS

GREETING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF UUCNH!



I am Jennifer Halperin, your interim Director of Lifespan Faith Development (DLFD)! I am so excited to work with the dedicated volunteers whose vitality and excitement makes this multi-generational community a happening place!

We will take advantage of this interim period to talk and listen to one another! Please look at the information below about the Story of Us conversations in which we hope to involve everyone in a small group setting. We hope in these small groups to hear about the history of children, youth and adult programming in the congregation. We will also talk about where we are now, and what is most meaningful to us in today's time. Your input is welcome – whether you have been coming for as long as you can remember, or if you are brand new to the congregation, or if you are somewhere in-between.

Welcome to a new church year! May we strive toward Beloved Community together!

Jennifer Halperin - Interim Director of Lifespan Faith Development

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FAITH DEVELOPMENT

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN

The new church year begins September 10th and I look forward to meeting new and returning babies, kids, youth and adults! This will be an exciting month as we become acquainted with Rev. Don Rollins and classes and activities start up! Unitarian Universalists believe that learning is a life-long process and we seek to provide opportunities for learning and growth across the lifespan. There will be a Program Guide of offerings on Ingathering Sunday. We ask that you register your child(ren) each and every year, although you need not be a member to register. You can REGISTER HERE <https://uucnh.breezechms.com/form/36adc46046678721>.

Families begin in the service together each Sunday morning at 10:30am. Children are dismissed to their Faith Development classes after a Time for All Ages.



CLASS GROUPINGS AND CURRICULARS ARE:

Nursery

PreK/Kindergarten – Spirit Play: A UU Montessori Method of religious education. There will be a brief orientation for parents and children on September 10th. Class coordinator: Jen Suehr. With Katie Smith, Becca Shreckengast, Jackie Vasseur and Alexa Nelson.

First/Second Grade- Spirit Play: A UU Montessori Method of religious education. This year's classes will focus on the Sources of Unitarian Universalism. Class coordinator: Lara Patton. With Erin Terrizzi, Justin Weinbaum, Vanessa Picard, and Melissa Shackelford.

Third/Fourth Grade – Sing to the Power: A UU curriculum that affirms our UU heritage of confronting “powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” Using the metaphor of the four elements- earth, air, fire and water to investigate different forms of power we can each express, participants are given opportunities to experience and explore ways to use their own power as agents for positive change. Class coordinator: Rebecca Hovermale. With Bill McAdams, Jenny DeMann, John DeMann, and Erin Wick.

Fifth/Sixth Grade – Bibleodeon– This UU curriculum introduces biblical scriptures by presenting many of the best known Hebrew and Christian stories in a modern day context with fun and interactive games. Participants also act in playlets, illustrate a timeline, give awards to outstanding biblical women and more. They will explore connections between biblical events and UU principles, between biblical ideas and their own lives. Class coordinator: Tom Pichieri. With Allyson Zadnik, Andy Zadnik, Tony Palermo and Ed Patton.

Youth Group – Grade 7 and Above. Third Sunday of the month 6:15 – 7:30 pm and occasional special events. Learning, Fellowship, Leadership Development, Social Action, Worship, Congregational Involvement are the components of a healthy youth group...the group will generate ideas and together with their advisors they will make it happen! Advisors: Don Nelson, Rachael Smart, Robyn Travers, Chris Vaughn

We will also offer Our Whole Lives, a sexuality class with a strong values component, for Grades 1 & 2 beginning this winter on Sunday mornings. More information will be forthcoming.

It is looking to be a busy and fun year at UUCNH!

CALENDAR

- **Sept. 3** – Labor Day weekend. No classes
- **Sept. 9** – Teacher Orientation.
8:30am breakfast, 9:00 – 12:00 pm. Short worship with Rev. Don, Orientation and Scheduling Time.
- **Sept. 10** – Ingathering Sunday. Intergenerational service, Teacher Dedication.
PreK – 2nd grades will be sung out to classes, orientation for children and parents to Spirit Play. Potluck picnic to follow.
- **Sept. 17** – First Day of Classes.
- **Sept. 24** – Regular classes.
- **Sept. 29 – Oct. 1** – Senior High conference of UU youth from western PA, eastern OH, WV, northwestern NY. **We are hosting! And they will be hungry!**

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH?

Help Feed High School Youth and Sponsors at their Conference Sept. 29 – Oct. 1!

We will be hosting about 80 youth and adults from UU congregations in the Pittsburgh area and from eastern Ohio, in fact we expect folks to be coming from Toledo! And they will be hungry! Looking for volunteers to either coordinate food or to simply bring food that can be warmed up for Saturday, September 30th (breakfast, lunch or dinner). You will be reimbursed for all ingredients. Please contact Jennifer Halperin for more information or [SIGN UP HERE](#) to indicate willingness to help and we will contact you. THANKS!!

SUMMER CLASSES 2017

The Summer Session – Dr. Seuss’ Imaginarium and MakerSpace successfully and happily concluded because of the many people who volunteered to teach over the summer and to Melissa Nelson who created the MakerSpace classroom with a HUGE assortment of repurposed items!

Thanks to teachers (in order of appearance) Melissa Nelson, Barbara Pane, Melissa Shackelford, Cadie Shackelford, Dawn Lindsay, Chuck Berry, Joan Schenker, Justin Weinbaum, Carol Ballance, Michell Broge-Connor, Ethan Connor, Tassi Bisers, Sydney Pipeling, Katie Smith, Vanessa Picard, Lisa Pipeling, Ellen Saksen, Alex Saksen, Jenny DeMann, Clarissa Draa, Rebecca Hovermale and Ana Gongloff.



SYSTEMIC CHANGE TEAM - September

FIGHT FOR \$15!

What is the best way we can help poor and marginalized people? Raise the minimum wage!

Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) and Pittsburgh United will stage an action at 7:00 am. on Labor Day, in Oakland. We will then join up with the traditional Labor Day parade. You'll still have plenty of time for your picnic. We will carpool from UUCNH at 6:00 am. Contact Carol Ballance at cstbwexford@gmail.com if you plan to participate.

WELCOME – UUPLAN ANNUAL MEETING!

The Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) is coming to UUCNH. They are meeting **HERE** on October 6-7. *We will be wonderful hosts.*

- We need help with food, please contact Tassi Bisers for that tbisers@yahoo.com.
- We need folks who can provide “home stays”, which means having an out of town UU spend the night(s) at your home. Please contact Carol Ballance if you can host cstbwexford@gmail.com.
- We will need some general help with setting up, taking down and registration. Please contact Steve Fuegi if you can help with that sdfuegi@gmail.com.

AND please register to attend this wonderful event, you can do so at the UUPLAN website at www.uuplan.org.

TRY SOME FAIR TRADE ICED TEA!

UUCNH is offering Equal Exchange Fair Trade Tea in several varieties. Try some iced at your home or office—a box of 20 tea bags is only \$4 (3 for \$10). You'll be supporting UUCNH and giving small farmers a more livable, consistent wage.

The types (all Organic) we have right now are Chai, Rooibos (red tea from Africa), Chamomile and Darjeeling. There are many other varieties, so we'll try some others over time. If there's a specific tea you'd like, contact Chris Hill during Tea Time on Sunday!



UPCOMING RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES!

UPDATE ON PAPER RECYCLING – PLEASE READ

Yes, we know that our PaperRetriever collection bin in the parking lot has been full for several weeks. When I called the company, their voicemail was for a different company. So, I think when Abitibi went into bankruptcy, they were sold off. More details when we get them. I also heard that they had some truck problems, so that may be it, too.

Since we no longer get paid for our paper (the recycled market is way down), please feel free to use ANY PaperRetriever bin, or any other outlet. BTW – we CAN take shredded paper for recycling. However, please put it into plastic bags so it doesn't blow around and make a mess. Yes, this is counter-intuitive, but that's what they recommend.

And remember, **no telephone books** – they can go in the regular recycling in the kitchen.

FINAL HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL COLLECTIONS

The PA Resources Council (PRC) and other groups are sponsoring collection events in Washington and Allegheny Counties this summer. The final ones will be on September 16, at South Park Wave Pool parking lot and October 14th at Brady's Run Park Recycling Center. The events run from 9 AM to 1 PM. You can bring aerosol cans, batteries, most old liquids, like cleaning products, auto maintenance products, home environment and improvement supplies, hobby products, personal care & pharmaceuticals, and lawn & garden care products. The cost is \$3/gallon – CASH ONLY. See information on the Social Action bulletin board, check PRC's website, talk to Chris Hill at coffee hour, or email him at chill613@comcast.net.



NHCO FOOD PANTRY DONATION CUPBOARD

For September: Baking Mixes (cakes, muffins, etc)

Please don't forget to contribute to the Donation Cupboard for the North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) Food Pantry located in Friendship Hall. The NHCO request for this month – **Baking Mixes (cakes, muffins, etc.)** -- to be brought to church.

Also consider bringing laundry detergent, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, bar soaps or other toiletries as they are always needed. And thank you to all who have contributed recently!

Plastic bags are always needed by NHCO: If you bring your extras to the church, please drop them off at the NHCO Donation Station where they can be used to sort food at the food pantry.

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NHCO Celebrating 30 Years Of Service

North Hills Community Outreach invites supporters to its 30th anniversary dinner and awards presentation 5:15pm, Sunday, September 17 at The Chadwick in McCandless (Wexford). Rick Dayton of KDKA TV will emcee the event, which will honor volunteers in several categories and former NHCO executive director Fay Morgan with the Don Hook Leadership Award. Tickets are \$60 and proceeds support NHCO's many programs for local families in need. For more information, visit nhco.org. For tickets, please contact Cheryl English at 412-48-6316 option 1 extension 3111 or clenglish@nhco.org by September 7.

NHCO Winter Coat Drive Begins September 1

North Hills Community Outreach will collect new and gently used winter coats for local families in need September 1 through October 17. All sizes are appreciated; children's and adult XL - XXL are especially needed. Coats should be clean and have working fasteners. Hats, gloves and scarves are also welcome. Donations can be dropped off at NHCO Allison Park, 1975 Ferguson Road, Hampton, Monday – Friday, 9am-4pm, September 1 through October 17, or in the NHCO Allison Park food pantry during special donation hours, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Saturday, October 7. Due to space limitations, NHCO is unable to accept coats after October 17. For more information or alternate donation options, please contact Vicki at vdburst@nhco.org or 412-487-6316 opt 1.

Garden Produce Accepted At NHCO's Pantries

North Hills Community Outreach welcomes donations of fresh produce from home gardeners who wish to share their excess garden bounty with neighbors in need. Donations can be dropped off at any NHCO office, Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. Call NHCO at 412-487-6316 opt 1 for more information or alternate donation options, or visit Ampleharvest.org to locate NHCO's three pantries.

NHCO Needs Volunteers In The Upper Route 28 Corridor; Now Offers Online Registration For Volunteering To Help Seniors

North Hills Community Outreach has a particular need for volunteers interested in helping seniors in the route 28 corridor near Tarentum and Brackenridge. Specifically, volunteer drivers and dispatchers are needed for the Free Rides for Seniors shuttle, and individual volunteers are needed to help seniors get to appointments and shopping. NHCO now has an online registration process for those who wish to volunteer to help seniors through its In Service of Seniors: North Program. Visit <http://nhco.org/volunteer-opportunities/volunteer-help-seniors/> and follow the easy step-by-step registration process. Volunteers are needed to help seniors get to doctor appointments, take them grocery shopping, do light yard work, drive shuttles and more. For more information, call Cathy at 412-307-0069 x 3313.

NHCO General Volunteer Orientations

North Hills Community Outreach will host Volunteer Orientation sessions at 10am, Thursday, September 14 in NHCO Allison Park, 1975 Ferguson Road in Hampton, and at 10am, Thursday, October 12 in NHCO Millvale, 416 Lincoln Avenue, Millvale. Volunteers are needed for all sites. Needs include volunteers to harvest produce at our Bellevue garden, drivers for Free Rides for Seniors shuttles, bell ringers in November and December, drivers to transport seniors to appointments, volunteers to stock brochures in community locations and more. Please register with Harriet at hqgibbs@nhco.org or 412-408-3830 x 3204.

NHCO Speakers Available

North Hills Community Outreach's staff or volunteer speakers will speak to your congregation, business, civic group or school at no charge about NHCO's programs and services and volunteer opportunities. For more information or to schedule a speaker, please contact Jen at JKissel@nhco.org or 412-487-6316 opt 1 x 3112.

Employment Help is available at NHCO

North Hills Community Outreach offers multiple programs aimed at helping people attain self-sufficiency, including employment help. Those seeking help with career counseling, updating a resume, job search techniques and more can contact NHCO Resource Coordinator Jackie Boggs at jmboggs@nhco.org or 412-408-3830 x 3217.

Ask the Attorney sessions for low-income families

Free legal consultation for noncriminal matters such as divorce, bankruptcy, credit issues, family matters, rent disputes and more is available for families in need at North Hills Community Outreach locations on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm except December. The next ATA session is at NHCO Allison Park on September 20. Attendees MUST preregister for these sessions by contacting Jackie at jmboggs@nhco.org or call 412-408-3830 x 3217. ATA is underwritten by the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

Working Families Are Waiting: Donate Your Car To Community Auto

Your unwanted running vehicle can help a low-income, working individual. Vehicles donated to Community Auto are repaired and sold at below-market value to local, working families who need them to get to work. Cars not suitable for repair are sold at auction and the money is used for the program. Ask us about donating fleet cars! You could change a life and get the maximum tax deduction when your car goes to a working family in need. FREE pickup and notary. Please contact Community Auto, a program of North Hills Community Outreach, at 724-443-8300 or visit communityauto.org.

MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

There will be no formally scheduled meetings. However, we hope to meet occasionally, particularly to enjoy the opportunity for walking meditation on our beautiful grounds when the weather is favorable! We practice silent meditation, guided meditation, and either walking meditation or another form of movement meditation. Any meetings will be announced with at least a day's notice via the meditation email list. To add your name to the list, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com. Meetings will be from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary. Generally I will look for Tuesday or Wednesday nights as possibilities.



We welcome anyone interested in mindful meditation, whether you have little or no experience in meditation, or you have practiced for years. Questions or comments, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com or (412) 366-9553.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Covenant Circles – Small Group Ministry To Begin in October

In a unique format that emphasizes deep listening and deep sharing, participants gather in small groups of eight to ten people to explore spiritual themes from **Soul to Soul: Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing** by Rev. Christine Robinson (First Unitarian Church Albuquerque) Skinner House, 2012. Facilitators will be recruited and trained to both help create and maintain a meeting space that encourages respect and encouragement for participant's sharing. Groups will be formed by daytime, evening or weekend preference. For more information and with questions, contact Jennifer Halperin, Interim DLFD at uucnhldfd@gmail.com
Sign Up Here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScS3ISHPB84gjwz1ESF1Re8cqVWe6t1Q9q3xR72UX4tD738DA/viewform>

The Story of Us

Please save time in your October calendar to take advantage of the opportunity to meet in small groups and talk about what has been meaningful in your experience with children, youth and adults here at church.

What is this opportunity?

These are important conversations that will: 1) help shape our future Lifespan Faith Development programs and 2) guide our Director of Lifespan Faith Development Search Committee as we prepare to search for new, professional religious education leadership (fall 2018). When all of the conversations conclude and the results compiled, we will have a "product" to give to the Search Committee for their use. Let your voice be heard!

From October 18th – 24th, every day, we will offer a small group conversation in someone's home for two hours. You will be able to sign up at church or online to be part of one. We will try and have locations spread out geographically, plus there will be a couple of groups right after church on October 22nd.

Children and youth ages 8 and up are welcomed and included in this process. We will arrange childcare for children through age 7.

What Are We Going to Do?

Well, we're going to listen to one another while we...

- Discover and explore our changing Lifespan Faith Development landscape
- Dream and articulate a vision of the future that we want
- Design the principles and propositions our vision needs
- Imagine—what kind of professional religious educator will help make our vision become our destiny?

How Are We Going to Do This?

The gifts needed to accomplish this are in this congregation right now. Our purpose is to appreciate what is good and best about our program today, and building on this strength, imagine a future of joy, possibility, and hope. Listen to one another with appreciation. We are inviting you to participate by sharing your highest aspirations for UUCNH. What will you have us set our heart to in our RE programs?

Directions

- Break up into four-five equal groups (of 8 or); one group to a table
- We will have five "sessions" - the first four of 15 min duration each; and the last of 30 min
- During each 15 min session, converse about the questions; please include our children in these discussions!
- At the end of each session, agree on common themes, points of agreements, and write them down. We will post what you write, and review as a larger group at the end of each discovery session
- You may elect to move to a different table for each session (you get to meet more people that way)
- We will conclude with a short summation period

PSI [PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS]

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: On Hiatus until October

For September, PSI is still on hiatus and will return on the first Sunday in October after the service.



SISTERS-IN-SPIRIT

Facilitators: Rachael Smart
Michelle Broge-Connor
Contacts: thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
brogemm@gmail.com
When: September 13, 2017 @ 6:30pm
Where: East Room

Sisters in Spirit is an ongoing self-guided women's group (all women are welcome regardless of sex assigned at birth). We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month. The group is focused on spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth as well as creating ties with other women. Group members take turns leading the monthly sessions, resulting in a wide variety of topics and styles of presentation. The group welcomes new members twice a year, in January and July. To learn more about the group, contact either Rachael Smart at thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com or Michelle Broge-Connor at brogemm@gmail.com.

UU CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

Co-Facilitators: Joe Meier
Edie Swihart
Contact: meierke@msn.com
When: September 10, 2017 @ 9:15am
Where: Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room

Do you self-identify as Christian, but struggle with issues of doctrine? Or have you parted ways with the label, but still hold some aspects of the tradition dear? Come and share with us as we explore our feelings about the Christian faith and its role in shaping our spiritual lives. Longtime members and first-time UU visitors alike are welcome to drop in and join this ongoing, positive discussion!

JESUS DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: September 17, 2017
Where: Upstairs after the service

This year we'll be tackling the subject of how the religion of Jesus became the religion about Jesus, in other words, how Jesus became God. We'll start with what can be gleaned from the gospels concerning Jesus' own feelings on the matter before looking at clever pieces of New Testament scholarship which suggest what the earliest [less than 10 years after his death] Jesus people thought about him, the so-called pre-literary tradition.

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Dick Myers
Contact: dmyers.rlm@gmail.com
When: September 24, 2017 @ 12 – 2:00 pm
Where: East Room

In these troubled times, it seems counter-intuitive to think that humanity has, over the millennia, been on a trajectory of greatly reduced violence. In our September 24 meeting, Diane Sims will facilitate a discussion related to the book **"The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence has Declined"**, by Steven Pinker. Pinker presents extensive data to support this claim, and also discusses the social and cultural changes (the nation-state; commerce; feminization; cosmopolitanism; reason) that have enabled our "better angels" to gain the upper hand over our "inner demons". He admits that the process has been bumpy, and that there is no guarantee that the trend will continue.

While the HDG is not a book group, we will use Pinker's general conceptual framework to launch a discussion relevant to UU's Second and Sixth Principles: understanding what has worked to reduce violence so far might be useful for prioritizing our future efforts.

Members on the HDG's email list will receive, prior to the meeting, links to reviews and articles related to the (lengthy!) book. Persons who would like to receive the same information, and/or to be added to the email list, contact Dick Myers at dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.

Fall 2017 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



"I was bold in the pursuit of knowledge, never fearing to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led, and bearding every authority which stood in their way." ~ Thomas Jefferson

THE UKE GROUP

Facilitator: Sandy Faulkner
Contact: sfaulk50@aol.com or
412-366-5973
When: September 4 & 18, 2017 @ 7:30p.m.
Where: East Room

We meet the first and third Monday of the month. Beginners are very welcome. Come have fun. For more information, call Sandy Faulkner at 412-366-5973 or contact her by email: sfaulk50@aol.com.

THE CRAFT GROUP

Facilitator: Irene Dinning
Contact: 412-741-6463,
dinning1@comcast.net
When: Every Thursday, 10:00am
Where: East Room

We are a long-time UUCNH group that welcomes other crafters: those who want to learn needlework, perfect a craft, or just want to come and visit with interesting people. Come when you can or every week, but try us out!

UUCNH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Manuel Lombardero
Contact: manel_sl@yahoo.com
When: September 8, 2017
Where: UUCNH, East Room
Moderator: Marilyn Myers
Title: **Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity**
Author: *Katherine Boo*

Review:

Behind the Beautiful Forevers is a non-fiction book by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Katherine Boo, an American living in Mumbai with her Indian husband. It took me a while to find out, but the "Beautiful Forevers" of the title is the name of a floor tile which is advertised on a wall along the road to the Mumbai Airport. Ironically, this wall separates the clean modern airport on one side from the Anawadi slum on the other.. This particular slum has existed from 1991 and is mainly the home of desperately poor migrants from Pakistan and other parts of India. Since the slum exists on airport property, it's inhabitants are technically squatting there illegally, and their makeshift shacks, without running water or sanitary facilities, are always in danger of being bulldozed. The narrative follows the interconnected lives of the teenage garbage picker Abdul and his family and neighbors, who Katherine Boo got to know well during the three years she spent writing this account. She follows their lives closely and empathetically as they deal as best they can with extreme poverty, hunger, dirt, disease, violence and corruption. Just as in our own society, the slum inhabitants are not all good people. This non-fiction book is a great companion book to "A Delicate Balance" also set in India which the book group read earlier this year.

~Marilyn Myers

Future Titles:

October 13, 2017: **Signs Preceding the End of the World** by Yuri Herrera; Translator: Lisa Dillman; 2015
November 10, 2017: **Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis** by J. D. Vance; 2016

Other titles currently under consideration, yet to be scheduled:

Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future by Martin Ford; 2016
To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf; 1927
Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson; 2015
The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson; 2012
Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow; 2005

BREAK FORTH ENSEMBLE GROUP

Facilitator: David Miles
Contact: miles@ohiou.edu
When: September 10 & 17 @ 9:00 am
Where: Worth & Dignity Room

We play music various sources. The present group includes folks who have been playing a year to those who haven't played for 30 years. For more information, please see David Miles or send a note to miles@ohiou.edu.



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UUCNH uses the income from the sale of gift cards to help fund our budget.

We also sell gift cards for Kuhn's and Whole Foods. Look for us after the service each Sunday on the bench by the office window.

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Thank you.
The Gift Card Team



FROM THE EDITOR: *INTERCOM SUBMISSIONS in October*

The article submission **Deadline** for the **October Intercom** will be on **September 21**.

So please get your articles into me by **September 21** to be included in the **October Intercom** issue. If you need an extension on the deadline, please call or email me and we'll work something out. Otherwise, if your material isn't in by the deadline, it will NOT be included.

If you email your submissions (preferred), please do it **IN PLAIN TEXT ONLY**; please, **do not format** the article in any way. If you have a formatting request, please contact me or include it with your submission. Please send your Intercom submissions to Rowan@OctoberMorning.com.



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COLORS AND CHANGES.