May 5, 2019
TRANSFORMING OURSELVES AND OUR WORLD
Rev. Jane Thickstun

Let's look at the congregation's mission statement, and imagine the ministry we might do together.

May 12, 2019
OUR MUSIC
Mary Doubleday

All religions include music in their services, but ideas about what is appropriate church music vary and change. Our history can be seen in the Hymns and protest songs written by Unitarians and Universalists. Mary Doubleday will talk on this history, and the choir will lead us in classics such as “Song for Equal Suffrage” and “Touch Not the Cup”.

May 19, 2019
RITES OF PASSAGE AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
Rev. Don Rollins and Dana Poss

Join us as we celebrate the transitions of our young people and recognize the dedicated volunteers who work with them.

May 26, 2019
WE ARE OUR STORIES
Rev. Don Rollins

Longtime UUCNH member, Pete Lundquist, will join Don in this service about life as the sum total of one’s personal stories. Pete will also be showing us how to use photos as a way of talking about our journeys.
I'm always trying to come up with simple meditations and mantras - thoughts and words to help me with the falling down self I am. My latest exercise goes like this: What feels heavy in my life right now? And what feels light?

The idea is name my burdens, and count my blessings. Some days the burdens are personal (say, the deaths of family) but more often I'm burdened with the state of the country and the world. Then comes the question of lightness, which almost always has something to do with giving and receiving love, however imperfectly. Love for the budding spring. Love for the precious people in my life. Love for people like you - compatriot UUs who allow me to walk with them through the in-between time called interim ministry.

Given the life of an interim minister, nearly all of us save up vacation time so we can catch a breath between moves. In my case, my last service at UUCNH will be on June 2nd, Flower Communion Sunday. (Note that I'll still be on the clock through July 31st, which means I'm available by email, and phone. And per interim ministry norms, I will return in the event of an emergency (pastoral) situation.)

Since I won't have the opportunity to thank and say goodbye to everyone, I'd like to use this last column to do that. (For the "concrete" stuff, consult my entry in the 2019 Annual Meeting packet coming your way soon.)

Thanks to the:
- search team/board that brought me to UUCNH
- two strong boards and presidents with whom I've served
- gifted, committed staff who've enriched my work and spirit
- many lay leaders who do the actual carrying out of your mission
- many folks who extended me kindness and grace, even when they disagreed with a decision I made
- good folks who offered comfort following two deaths in my family
- institutionalists, who lead from commitment to a strong church
- children and youth, who keep us adults honest about what's important
- all the adults who gave themselves to the care of those children and youth
- good folks who could and did increase their pledges
- pastoral caregivers who've been there when needed
- visionaries, who've hung in despite the inevitable turbulence of change
- burdened among you, who've allowed me to walk with you through hard times
- Sunday service attenders, who've endured my off-days, flat notes, odd references, missed cues and yes, computing “challenges”
- funny and sceptical souls, who know church takes itself way, way too seriously

This is but a short list of the people who've written their names on my heart. Know that you've been my teachers, even if we haven't seen eye-to-eye.

Lastly, ready your minds and hearts for the transition that lies ahead, namely, the return to "settled ministry" time. Be patient with self and others. Take the long view. Think systemically. Assume good intentions. Speak to, not about. Get past the "I" to the "we". Consider the children. Sing loudly. Laugh freely. Love wastefully. (Okay, that last one's not original. Comes from John Shelby Spong...)

So, if I don't have the opportunity to wish you well in person, let this be my thanks and blessings on the journey. I look forward to hearing many good things about your congregation and it's ministry to the world.

Take care,
Don
PASTORAL SCHEDULE AND FURNITURE LOANS

Don's Schedule during Candidating Week - It's the practice for interim ministers to refrain from most ministerial activities during a colleague's candidating week. Don will still be responding to emails and texts, but not attending meetings or keeping office hours. He can still be reached in the event of an emergency by calling his cell: 740-988-7834.

Returning Don's Furniture Loans - One of the ways Don and Mary help congregations save money is by moving less furniture. Many UUCNH folks gave Don the loan of some pieces, and he wants to make sure they're returned, donated or are fair game for the next move. If you're one of those folks, please contact him by email at donaldrolins@gmail.com, and be sure to put the lower case "L" between his first and last names. Many thanks for the use of those items!

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

“A VIEW FROM MY CUSHION”

I will happily admit that I love spring. Yes, I love the hillside of daffodils that I see as I drive down my street. I love these days where I get to breathe in the crisp morning air and then need to take off my sweater when the sun starts to heat up the afternoon. This year the spring brings another new beginning – our opportunity to meet and get to know our ministerial candidate Rev. Jane Thickstun.

I have chuckled and laughed as people from our ministerial search team told stories about their interactions with Rev. Thickstun during the candidating process. The various stories I have heard added to my anticipation and enthusiasm regarding our candidate. I know our Search team has worked tirelessly on our behalf to create a search packet that paints a positive and realistic view of our wonderful church. I can only imagine the time, effort and soul-searching our Search team has devoted to finding our congregation the “best” ministerial candidate. I thank the Search team for doing the “heavy lifting” for our congregation – I stand honored to have the Search team working on our behalf.

I encourage each of you to make time during candidating week April 29th to May 5th to attend one of the many gatherings where you can get to know Rev. Thickstun. Also come to church on Sunday April 29th and May 5th to hear Rev. Jane’s messages and see her in action at UUCNH’s pulpit.

After you see, hear and get to meet our candidate, do not forget to come to the all-important meeting following the May 5th Sunday service. Our bylaws require a 20% membership quorum to call a settled minister (most other church business can be voted on with a quorum of 10% per our bylaws).

We need to have 80 members in the May 5th meeting to hold the vote to call our new minister. Proxies can count toward the overall vote count BUT do not count toward the quorum. Our bylaws also require a “super majority” of 80% to call a settled minister. I have been told that most UU ministers currently ask for 95% + vote to be called. The vote on May 5th is the all-important culmination of our long search – please be a part of this exciting time where UUCNH votes for our future.

New beginnings are everywhere and UUCNH is on the cusp of a HUGE new chapter. Come help write the book of UUNCH's future.

Susie
Faith and Fairness Campaign. Governor Wolf has formed a Redistricting Reform Commission. You can attend and/or testify on **Thursday, May 2 from 4:00 to 7:00pm**. Carnegie Mellon University’s Simmons Auditorium, 5000 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. **RSVP** to speak. Carpool from UUCNH will meet at 2:30pm. **Contact Tassi Bisers**, if you want to ride or drive.

PIIN (PA Interfaith Impact Network). It is time for the annual banquet! May 19, 5:00 p.m. at the Westin. The speaker is Diane Nash who is an acclaimed civil rights leader - and she did it as a college student and then as a young mother, check it out [HERE](#). Tickets are $75, you can order them [HERE](#) or call 412-621-9230. If you cannot attend please consider sponsoring a young person or becoming a patron.

UUCNH Social Justice Issue for 2019-20! The survey had three major issues as top priorities. In no particular order they are, Gun Control, White Supremacy and Gerrymandering. Talk to Carol Ballance, Dawn Lindsay, Steve Fuegi, Liz Perkins, Suzanne Broughton or Diana Hull. We’ll soon have a blog up with more information. Be ready to vote at the annual meeting!
IT'S A GREAT DAY TO SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR!

A NEW Coffee Hour YEAR is upon us! June 2019 - May 2020. Sign up! We're changing the cycle to start with Summer first.

After each Sunday Service, beverages and snacks are part of the glue that holds our loving religious community together. Do these refreshments (and the good feelings they fuel) magically appear? No - it indeed takes a village. Sign up for your annual turn to co-host. Together with another household, make provided coffee, bring snacks, clean up. Once a year.

We've gone back to the GOOD OLD DAYS - with a twist. Members can sign up OR receive a no-questions-asked one-year DEFERRAL (by e-mailing tbisers@yahoo.com). Open dates have been filled from the membership rolls. This is working! (Remember - you can receive that deferral! Just by asking!)

But please, consider before thinking you need a deferral because of cost.

1.) You have a co-host. This is not just on your shoulders.
2.) Popcorn! ($2) Or saltines, baby carrots and hummus! ($5) Willing to spend a little more? Cheese, seasonal fruit and baked goods are much appreciated. More important than costly food is just plain food. And someone to help make the provided coffee and to clean up. Once a year. Instructions provided.

HERE'S THE DEADLINE: May 21, 2019 - Sign up HERE or request a no-question-asked one-year deferral by e-mailing tbisers@yahoo.com. On May 22, 2019 remaining MEMBERS will be assigned to open dates, or to an alternates list.

NOTE: SIGN-UPS ARE ON-LINE ONLY! Because ... 21st Century and illegibility. Use this link (Bookmark it for later reference!) Click on the "Sign Up" tab along the bottom, if necessary. If you have difficulty with the Google Doc, try using Chrome for your browser. Some people report being able to see the document, but being unable to successfully enter their name and contact information. Questions? Ask Tassi Bisers tbisers@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

FAMILIES GROUP – STAR WARS PARTY

Join us on Saturday, May 4th from 2:00 – 4:00pm in Friendship Hall for a Families Group Star Wars party! We will have some games to play, snacks and watch LEGO Star Wars. As this event is during candidate week, it would be a great opportunity to meet Reverend Jane Thickstun, our ministerial candidate, as well. Costumes are of course encouraged, but not required. Please bring a snack or game to share if you are able; bonus points if they are Star Wars themed.
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

It’s Spring... Time for a … “A UUCNH Work Party”!

Saturday, June 1st from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm - To all those people who utilize this wonderful space, the Building and Grounds committee needs your help to keep this remarkable place as beautiful and functional as possible. So...two days a year...one in the spring and one in the fall, we ask you the congregation to help with tasks of cleaning, minor repairs, and window washing, just to mention a few of the ongoing tasks that are necessary to keep UUCNH in functioning order. So set aside, Saturday, June 1st. We need your help to make UUCNH Shine! Bring your energy, elbow grease, buckets, vacuums, gloves, rakes and shovels. You can come for the day or a just few hours we welcome your fellowship and assistance to help us with the work. Lunch will be provided. Thank you from the Building and Grounds Committee.

RECYCLING COLLECTION NEWS

Pharmaceutical Collection
Americans can empty their medicine cabinets, bedside tables, and kitchen drawers of unwanted, unused, and/or expired prescription drugs for free. Bring them to collection sites located throughout the United States as part of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) National Drug Take-Back Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 27th (10 am till 2 pm). It will provide a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications. Convenient drop-off locations at Ross Township, Bellevue, Shaler, and Northern Regional Police departments, Passavant Hospital, The Mall in Robinson, and MANY other locations. Check the Pennsylvania Resources Council's Pharmaceuticals page after April 1, or visit www.dea.gov for other Take Back Day locations and details.

Household Chemical Collection
The PA Resources Council (PRC) and other groups are sponsoring three collection events in Allegheny County this summer. The first one will be at North Park swimming pool parking lot on Saturday, May 4th, 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 the information on the Social Action bulletin board, PRC’s website, or talk to Chris Hill at coffee hour.

Hard to Recycle Collections
The PA Resources Council (PRC) is also sponsoring collection events this year for tires, electronic waste (computers, TVs, etc.), cell phones, batteries, etc. They will take Fluorescent Tubes-a hard to safely get rid of item! There are fees for this collection, although most electronics are free. See the sheet on the social action bulletin board or go to PRC's Hard to Recycle page for a listing. The first collection will be on Saturday, May 11th from 9 am to 1 pm at Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills. If you have any questions, contact Chris Hill at 412.366.9553 or chill613@comcast.net.

Glass Recycling "UPDATED"
In response to the sudden removal of glass from many residential recycling programs in the Pittsburgh area, PRC will launch a network of pop-up glass recycling events. The pop-up sites will be sponsored by local governments committed to recycling and who recognize that glass remains a recyclable material with vibrant demand in the regional and national recycled materials marketplace. They will accept all colors of glass bottles and jars. (No windows, drinking glasses, stemware or ceramics). For full details, visit PRC's glass recycling webpage. Events will be on Saturdays, from 9 am to 2 pm at these locations: Edgeworth Elementary School (March 30th) and Avalon Borough Park (April 27th). Additional dates and location will be added soon, so check the website. If you have any questions, contact Chris Hill at 412.366.9553 or chill613@comcast.net.
We have a Ministerial Candidate, the Reverend Jane Thickstun! Please see the announcement by [CLICKING HERE](#). While you are on the internet, please check out Reverend Jane's website by [CLICKING HERE](#). We are overjoyed to have Rev. Jane as a candidate, and cannot wait for the rest of you to meet her.

Speaking of, mark your calendars: **Candidating Week starts April 28, 2019!!** The schedule for that week is now on the [Church's website](#), under the Ministerial Search Tab. There are a ton of opportunities to meet our candidate in a variety of situations, from focused meetings with committee groups to pot luck brunches and dinners. We hope to see everyone at multiple open events throughout the week.

Amongst those, the Craft Group is hosting an open forum brunch to welcome Reverend Jane on May 2, 2019. As with many of the events that week, all are welcome. Please RSVP to [Rebecca Hovermale](mailto:RebeccaHovermale@gmail.com) by [April 24th, 2019](#) if you plan to attend. Reverend Jane will also join us for our monthly Coffee House on May 3, which should prove an exciting event.

**The final vote to call Reverend Jane is on May 5**, so please mark your calendars and join us for a celebration of calling our new Minister. Information on voting procedures, including proxies, will be provided in the coming weeks.

Finally, as a friendly reminder in this digital age, Rev. Jane is currently serving her congregation in New York and will continue to do so until August. Thus, the Ministerial Search Team would ask that our loving community not contact her directly until that time. Any questions for her should be directed to the Ministerial Search Team.

Again, we look forward to seeing everyone during the **April 28-May 5 Candidating Week** and having you all get to know our candidate. It should be an exciting week!
Open Congregational Events

You are invited to meet our candidate, Rev Jane Thickstun, at the following open congregational events

**Sunday, April 28 - Candidate Introduction**
- 10:30 AM service, Rev Jane Thickstun conducting
- 12:00 Noon – Welcoming Coffee Hour
- 5:00 PM Fellowship Hall – Full Congregation Potluck
- 6:00 PM West Room – Open Forum

**Monday, April 29 – Focus: Finance Focus – includes Finance, Stewardship and Fundraising Committees**
- 7:00 – 8:30 East Room – Finance Ministry Forum with Rev. Jane

**Tuesday, April 30 - Focus: Social Justice and Outreach – Compassionate Service, Systemic Change, Green Sanctuary, UU Plan, Children's Memorial Fund**
- 6 – 8 East Room – Social Justice Ministry Reception & Meeting with Rev. Jane

**Wednesday, May 1 - Focus: Child, Youth & Adult Faith Development**
- 5:30 – 6:30 PM All Ages Faith Development Open Forum
- 6:30 – 7:30 PM Open Potluck
- 7:30 PM West Room – Vesper’s with Rev Jane Thickstun conducting

**Thursday, May 2 -**
- 10:00 – Noon – Open Brunch hosted by Craft Group – RSVP to beccahovermale@gmail.com by April 24th

Focus: Sunday Services
- 6:00 – 7:00 Fellowship Hall – Soup and Salad
- 7:00 – 8:30 – Sunday Services Ministry (Choir, Sunday Services, Lay Leaders, Greeters, Ushers, Audio Wranglers)

**Friday, May 3**
- 7:30 – West Room – Coffee House

**Saturday, May 4**
- 2 – 4 PM Fellowship Hall & West Room – Families Group – Star Wars Party
- 2 – 6 PM Painting the Youth Group Room

**Sunday, May 5**
- 10:30 AM service, Rev Jane Thickstun conducting.
- **11:30 (immediately after service) – Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of voting to call Rev. Jane Thickstun**

12:30 PM Celebratory Coffee Hour
INTERCOM/WEBSITE SUBMISSIONS

Intercom and Website article submissions deadline for JUNE Intercom will be due MAY 21st, please don’t be late.

INTERCOM/WEBSITE REMINDERS

1. All submissions (i.e., each month’s scheduled date, a blurb change, a monthly topic change, contact info change or even chair/co-chair name change and if adding an event or upcoming UUCNH sale) for either the Intercom or the Website are to be sent to office@uucnh.org.
2. When submitting an outside event or meeting, please send a short one or two paragraph blurb and include the link that can direct folks to where they can see the full online flyer, registration, or website. Can include one picture or logo for your submission.
3. Review your submissions before sending, confirm the dates you list or send, and if your submission has an acronym in it be sure it’s clearly defined. Submissions go to print as received.

WEEKLY E-NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS REMINDERS

1. Have a blurb that you want placed in the E-News or Announcements? Send it to office@uucnh.org by Tuesday 10:00 am the week or so prior to when you want it listed.
2. Keep in mind, blurbs for the Announcements should be in a single paragraph, short version format.
3. Be sure your dates and room locations are listed correctly.

UUCNH WEBSITE GROUPS/COMMITTEES LOCATIONS

The following list of groups/committees are located on the UUCNH Website where indicated. Please keep in mind that there is the possibility that changes can be made to this list periodically as we go thru this work in progress. Please be patient with us and as always, if you have any questions, send an email to office@uucnh.org.

AMAZON SMILE
- GET INVOLVED to Fundraising

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE TEAM – Go to SOCIAL JUSTICE to COMPASSIONATE SERVICE TEAM PAGE (All of the following groups are found here).
- Hunger Garden & Farm Stand
- Dinners at Pleasant Valley Men’s Shelter
- Bellwood Harvest
- Adopt-a-Highway
- Involving Our RE classes
- Food Pantry
- Share the Plate
- No One Should Be Hungry…..

CONNECTIONS TEAM
- Meet the Church – GET INVOLVED to Path to Membership (Date will change as received)
- Exploring Path to Membership – GET INVOLVED to Path to Membership
EQUAL EXCHANGE GIFTS
- GET INVOLVED to Fundraising (Holiday gift time it will be added to the Intercom)

EVENT CHILDCARE FORM
Go to HOME PAGE (footer) to FORMS to Event Childcare

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH + Children & Youth Calendar)
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH to Faith Development For Children & Youth

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR FAMILIES + Calendar
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH to Faith Development For Families

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ADULTS GROUPS
All of the following groups can be found by going to SPIRITUAL GROWTH to FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ADULTS
- Covenant Circles
- Ecstatic Dance
- Humanist Discussion Group (Topic will change monthly as received)
- Jesus Discussion Group (Topic will change monthly as received)
- Library
- Meditation with Friends
- PSI (Philosophical, Spiritual Insights) (Topic will change monthly as received)
- Sisters in Spirit
- UU Christian Perspectives
- Wonderful Wednesday

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS
All of the following groups can be found by going to GET INVOLVED to Fellowship Groups
- Bocce (Summer start – when dates are supplied they will be added to website)
- Book Discussion Group (Topic will change monthly as received)
- Break Forth Ensemble
- Camping Trip (Summer – when date is supplied it will be added to website)
- Chair Yoga
- Choir
- Craft Group (Craft sales dates will be listed on website when received and sale fliers will be added to Intercom)
- Coffeehouse (Monthly dates will be updated to website)
- Fundraising Group
- Jam Session
- Quilting Group
- Recovery Support Group
- Spiritual Awareness Circle
- Uke Group
- Yoga with Amy

FINANCE COMMITTEE
- GET INVOLVED to MINISTRIES to Finance Committee

GREEN SANCTUARY
- SOCIAL JUSTICE to Green Sanctuary (news or events will go in the Intercom)

GROCERY GIFT CARDS
- GET INVOLVED to Fundraising

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY
- OUR GOVERNANCE to Policy Documents to Inclement Weather Policy

JOYS AND SORROWS
- HOME PAGE (Footer) to FORMS to Joys and Sorrows Submission
LAY PASTORAL CARE (LPC)
- GET INVOLVED to MINISTRIES to Lay Pastoral Care

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH (NHCO)
- NEWS to LINKS to North Hills Community Outreach

OUR FACILITY AND RENTAL (Can watch UUCNH video here)
- ABOUT to Our Facility and Rental or go to
- HOME PAGE (footer) to FORMS to Facility Rental (to fill-out the Rental Form)

SAFETY PREPAREDNESS TEAM
- GET INVOLVED to MINISTRIES to BUILDINGS & GROUNDS to Safety Preparedness Team

SUNDAY SERVICES TEAM
- GET INVOLVED to Sunday Services Ministry

SYSTEMIC CHANGE TEAM
- SOCIAL JUSTICE to Systemic Change Team (basic blurb on website – news or events will go in the Intercom)

UUCNH RECYCLING
- SOCIAL JUSTICE to UUCNH Recycling

UUPLAN
- SOCIAL JUSTICE to UUPLAN
Sunday, May 12, 2019

happy mother’s day