UPCOMING SERVICES

June 2, 2019
FLOWER COMMUNION AND FAREWELLS
Rev. Don Rollins

Come join in the annual Flower Communion at UUCNH, a ceremony begun in Czechoslovakia in 1923, as a way to mark community, peace and spring. Each person will be invited to receive a flower, as did the members of the church where the Flower Communion originated. If possible, please bring a flower or two to be exchanged with others, and note the service will be multi-generation. (This will also be Don's last Sunday with us.)

June 9, 2019
NURTURING SELF DISCOVERY
Chris Bailey

How do you still the constant chatter in your brain to listen with your heart? How do you make space between those thoughts to nurture self-discovery? Chris Bailey walked across America to find that still, small voice. You don't need to go that far. Just take a step into our calm and sacred space to start your own journey.

June 16, 2019
A WHOLE NEW WORLD....RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE
Greta Porter

Retired Director of Lifespan Faith Development Greta Porter will share what she has seen, and learned, in her new work as a home visitor for a social service agency.

June 23, 2019
JUSTICE OR JUST US
Terrell Thomas

Terrell Thomas is the Pittsburgh-area organizer for the ACLU's Smart Justice Campaign. His talk will discuss how our prison system costs taxpayers $80 billion per year, and how this money would be better spent building up, not further harming communities. Investment, not incarceration, is how to best improve public safety.

June 30, 2019
DYING TO TALK: A CONVERSATION ON WHY WE SHOULD HAVE THE "TALK" WHILE WE ARE ALIVE AND KICKIN!
Elizabeth Erbrecht

We will be looking at dying and what you would like it to be. Can you create a Good Death? Yes, it is possible! One of my targets as an End of Life Doula is to help people recognize that death is not a bad thing, but is part of being on this planet. Come learn how a good death relates to our first principal.
Sunday, June 2\textsuperscript{nd} will be Rev. Don's last service at UUCNH! It is our annual Flower Communion, followed by a picnic. Please come and share in a meaningful tradition, picnic and farewell.

**PASTORAL FURNITURE LOANS**

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 donaldrollins@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 ONBOARD"

We have just finished our annual meeting and are at a point of new beginnings. Before I talk about the new, I would like to thank those who are leaving the Board after three years of service. A big thanks to Robyn Travers who came onto the Board in the leadership track expecting to work with Rev. Scott Rudolph doing great things at UUCNH. Instead, she found herself leading the search for an interim minister and beginning the process of moving the church forward to where we are today. She led us with skill, patience (most of the time) and always with humor. Thank you also to Ellen Saksen and Jan Hoeter. They were both involved in the push to have a Safety Committee, which has done tremendous work. Ellen also jumped in to revitalize the fundraising committee and has a schedule of events planned for the coming year. Although Susie Wood is not leaving the Board, I would like to thank her for her leadership this past year and am looking forward to her help and sound advice as I take on the role of President.

At the annual meeting, we passed a budget that will meet our needs in the coming year and, we hope, allow us a little extra to work on our dreams. This is so important as we start our new settled ministry with Rev. Jane Thickstun. I am truly excited about Rev. Jane's arrival and having the privilege of working closely with her to begin planning all of the things we hope to do in the coming year. With her help, we will continue working on implementation of Policy Governance, begin strategic planning and consider a capital campaign to maintain and improve our building. We have a bright future and the possibilities for what we can accomplish are great. I would ask everyone to keep the excitement, stay involved and volunteer.

It is an honor to lead UUCNH as its president because this church is and has been a very important part of my life. It is my loving religious community. For those who don't know me, I'll give you a brief history. Ed and I were married here in 1982 and I became a member in 1983. This is my third term on the Board. I joined the Board shortly after signing the book and served as president for two years. I have chaired the finance committee many times, was involved in both capital campaigns and have served on numerous committees. Over my many years here, I have watched this church grow and evolve into the wonderful, loving community it is today.

Thank you for your trust in me to lead UUCNH for the coming year. I would ask that you be patient and kind as the other Board members and I work together to do our best for UUCNH.

Mary Ellen Johnson
MEET THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE NORTH HILLS NEW MINISTER: THE REVEREND JANE THICKSTUN!

After receiving an overwhelming majority of the 122 votes cast at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills’ (“UUCNH”) Congregational Vote on May 5, 2019, our loving community is ecstatic to announce that we have called the Reverend Jane Thickstun to be our settled minister. We are even more overjoyed that she has accepted and will start with UUCNH on August 1, 2019, with her first Sunday Service set for September 8, 2019!

Rev. Jane was ordained in 2000 after receiving her Masters in Divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School earlier that year. She also has a Master of Arts Degree and Bachelor’s Degree from Georgetown University. Since her ordination, Rev. Jane has served as a settled Minister at the UU Fellowship of Midland, Michigan and the Keene, New Hampshire UU Church. She has also served as an Interim Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta and the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. In addition, she has served as a Chaplain at a nursing home in Westmoreland, New Hampshire and a Campus Minister and Adjunct Faculty Member at Keene (NH) State College. At present, she is finishing a very successful Interim Ministry at the UU Congregation of the Hudson Valley, located in Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

Throughout the search process, the Search Team only became more impressed with Rev. Jane and the initial impression that she seemed like a good fit was confirmed. On reviewing her Ministerial Record and some online sermons, it became clear that she possessed many talents both in the pulpit and out. Amongst these are a strong presence on Sunday mornings and a willingness to challenge conventional thinking in her free exercise of the pulpit. These sermons became all the more effective with her excellent planning and preparation skills, which produced services that seamlessly wove music, readings, prayer, time for all ages, and meditations towards a common theme and message in the sermon. In addition, Rev Jane’s passions outside of Sunday mornings, including the religious education and youth programs, green sanctuary, social justice surrounding marginalized communities, and – of course – music, seemed to make her the perfect fit for UUCNH. And she is funny; we will spend many hours laughing together!

On the “management” side, in addition to serving over 10 years as a settled Minister, Rev. Jane brings to UUCNH an astounding track record both on policy governance (and its implementation) and stewardship/fundraising. As an example of the latter, at her current congregation, she assisted with a successful capital campaign. We at UUCNH also got a brief look into the passion she brings to stewardship: on Sunday, May 5, 2019, before even being called, she asked the community to increase its pledge. This resulted in UUCNH going from under 90% of its 2019 stewardship goal to over 97% of that goal in a matter of days. Imagine what she can do in a year!

As we moved through the search process into neutral pulpits and Candidating Week, it became obvious: Rev. Jane was the right Minister for UUCNH. She was more excited about joining “us” - UUCNH (vs. a region or church size) than any of the ministers with whom we spoke. As we spent a weekend with her, we confirmed this. Also that week, we saw her creative mind and spirit in action. Whether it be her fantastic Time for All Ages (ask her about the Lion and the Tiger), her contra dancing with members of the team, or her collaborative spirit, she shone. During Candidating Week, we took note of her note-taking while simultaneously being impressed with her ability to remember names, faces, and committee involvement. It is clear that she holds true to the mission of a minister: to work with and serve the congregation to lift it up and bring it to its full potential, working with the congregation. It is also clear she wants to do it with us here at UUCNH.

Finally, the whole congregation had the opportunity to see what the Search Team saw during the earlier months of the process: Rev. Jane’s tremendous spirit and boundless energy. From her arrival in Pittsburgh for her neutral pulpit, where she got barely a minute to set her bags down before being whisked to dinner and then, at her own volition, a full night of contra dancing, to her sermon that Sunday, Rev. Jane was put on a grueling schedule and she jumped at every opportunity. All the more amazing was that same energy and spirit sustaining her through the marathon of a 9-day Candidating Week. It started out with a traffic-laden 9 hour drive (that should have been 6) to Pittsburgh. When most of the rest of us would have called it a night, she spent several hours with the Search Team at dinner and then, you guessed, went contra dancing! The remaining days of Candidating Week were chock full of meetings, open forums, questions, parties, brunches, lunches, and dinners. There was enough to exhaust any mortal soul by Wednesday. Rev. Jane, on the other hand, not only embraced each opportunity, she fully engaged each person she met. And on her down time? She went house hunting! At the end of
all this, she sang at Friday night’s extended Coffee House, spent a Saturday afternoon and evening with the Families Group and the Youth Group before delivering a fantastic service on Sunday. If you did not get a chance to meet her, please be assured of her energy and how much she hopes to utilize it to the betterment of a community here.

In her spare time, as mentioned, Rev. Jane has a passion for contra dancing and plans to enjoy time with other dancers in the Pittsburgh area. She is also an avid runner and loves the outdoors, specifically hiking and kayaking. An admitted “sun worshiper,” her ideal summer would be one spent outside. She is a wonderful singer (soprano, currently performing with the Croton Chorale). When she isn’t on the move, she spends time with her two cats, Felix and Oscar.

Did we call a Minister that “brings it” on Sunday morning, challenging us (Kierkegaard anyone?), inspiring us (a sermon about our mission statement), and expressing mutual love with our community? Did we call a Minister fully engaged in our community and our surrounding communities? Did we call a Minister with a passion for social justice? Did we call a Minister with the experience and willingness to tackle the fiscal and personnel realities of a church implementing policy governance? Did we call a Minister with empathy for volunteers and an understanding of how to best put our collective skills to use? Did we call a Minister that can laugh with us and make us laugh? Did we call a Minister to sing and dance with? Did we call a Minister to sit under the table and eat cookies with the kids? In short, YES!

Finally, did we call a Minister that will walk with us in the journey of transforming ourselves and our world. Again, YES! We are so happy to have Rev. Jane at UUCNH and cannot wait to start walking with her on our journey.

If you want more information about Rev. Jane, please contact a member of the Ministerial Search Team or visit Rev. Jane’s personal website at https://www.revjanethickstun.com/.

With love,

The Ministerial Search Team. Joyce Kepner, Chair; Hal Dixler, Cris Graham, Bernita Clover, Rebecca Hovermale, Joe Meier, Lorenzo Pane, and Alex Saksen
UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

UUCNH PUTS KINDNESS FIRST

“It’s chaos. Be kind.”

The late writer Michelle McNamara reminds us in four succinct words that kindness is always a choice we can make, even when things are challenging or uncertain.

UUCNH has had its share of challenging and uncertain times, particularly during a period of interim ministry. Change and getting used to “the new” can produce anxiety, fear, and distress. Responding with kindness despite having those emotions is often difficult. Even the most conscientious among us can fall short in those moments.

When the UUCNH Board of Trustees held its annual retreat in August 2018, they identified prioritizing and increasing kindness within the church as one of their goals for the year. They had three reasons for launching this effort:

- Welcoming a new settled minister in 2019,
- Strengthening and broadening our ability to be inclusive as we grow, and
- Preventing church leaders – both paid and volunteer - from becoming burned out by criticism and complaint.

To help develop and implement this effort, a task force formed in February. The group – made up of longtime members, new-to-the-church friends, youth, and staff - has begun brainstorming ideas about ways we can put “Kindness First.” (In fact, naming the effort “Kindness First” was one of the task force’s first accomplishments!) We plan to officially launch the “Kindness First” campaign in September 2019.

Our wonderful staff began introducing the effort this spring: Rev. Don offered many Time for All Ages messages centered on kindness, and he and task force member Connie Hester co-led a service on kindness in March. Director of Lifespan Faith Development Dana Poss and the Religious Education (RE) team continue to lead lessons about kindness and respect with the children. You may have seen some of these efforts blossoming this spring during the Book and Toy Swap put together by the 3rd and 4th grade class, and the delicious Coffee Hour hosted by the 1st and 2nd grade class.

We’re hoping you can help us integrate artwork into the campaign. All artists working in all mediums are invited to express what “Kindness First” means to you – let your creativity shine! You can submit your work to kindness@uucnh.org or put it in Kathi Finch’s mailbox in the church office. We’re accepting artwork through July 31st.

Plans are also underway to publicly recognize acts of kindness both large and small, and to facilitate a discussion group about the topic in the fall. Stay tuned for details as more parts of the “Kindness First” campaign take shape.

We’re excited to bring you these opportunities to live our faith and put “Kindness First.”

From Kathi Finch
RECYCLE NEWS

NEW! EQUAL EXCHANGE VEGAN, SOY- AND GLUTEN-FREE CHOCOLATE BARS!
We have a new Equal Exchange offering: Organic Chocolate with Coconut Milk (55% cacao) described as: A rich and creamy indulgence that is made with coconut sugar and coconut milk instead of dairy, this bar offers heavy notes of caramel and toasted coconut pieces, with just a little coconut tang. 80g (2.8oz) bars. Cost will be the usual $4 each or 3 for $10.

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, June 29th from 9 AM to 1 PM at Quaker Valley High School, Leetsdale. 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. The next event is at this locations Avonworth Park (June 1st). 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.

INTERCOM/WEBSITE SUBMISSIONS

Intercom and Website article submissions deadline for JULY Intercom will be due JUNE 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 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 PreparednessTeam

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, June 19, 2019

Happy Father's Day!