2019

INTERCOM NEWS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE NORTH HILLS
UPCOMING SERVICES

Worship

September 1, 2019
STORIES AND PICTURES FROM OUR PAST
Lowell and Rachael Swarts, Ed Rockman and Mary Ellen Johnson, and Sue Broughton

The story of UUCNH includes times of celebration, growth, and just a bit of rebellion. As we enter a new and exciting period in the church’s history, let’s take a brief look back at a few moments of its past.

September 8, 2019
INGATHERING
Rev. Jane Thickstun

This Sunday is the “Welcome Back” to the regular church year after a summer of sparser attendance. All ages will celebrate together with the Water Ceremony, so don’t forget to bring some water from your summertime activities!

September 15, 2019
ACTIVE HOPE
Rev. Jane Thickstun

Our times confront us with realities that are painful to face, difficult to take in, and confusing to live with. Active hope is about finding, and offering, our best response to the crises in our world, including climate change, which threatens our whole world. Let’s explore what we can do to respond with active hope to the troubles of our world.

September 22, 2019
THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON BUYING A HOUSE
Rev. Jane Thickstun

More and more, it seems the response I get to disappointing news is “it wasn’t meant to be”, or “it just means God has something better for you.” This is an aspect of the theological viewpoint that “Everything happens for a reason.” Let’s explore this popular theology from our UU perspective.

September 29, 2019
DISCOVERING CARE IN OUR LIVES: AN INTRODUCTION TO NAIKAN MEDITATION
Professor Clark Chilson

What we give attention to determines how we live and think. Naikan meditation methods foster our capacity to use our attention in nourishing ways. During this talk, you will learn how to do Naikan and be led through brief Naikan meditation exercises.
MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Column for the Sept 2019 Issue of the Intercom News
Submitted by Rev. Jane Thickstun

Greetings! I'm so glad to be here!

As I write, I'm still high from the experience of last night's ball game. Thanks to David Miles, I joined the group of UU's from the Pittsburgh area to cheer on the Pirates as they soared to an exciting win with their runs all coming in the bottom of the 8th inning. It was a delightful introduction to my new city, and it made a Pirates fan of me!

I'm slowly but surely getting settled in my new home. I'm finding my way around, and have made many trips to the local hardware store, as well as Lowes and Home Depot, and, of course, the internet. I've been cleaning and weeding, and cleaning and weeding. I've taken my kayak to North Park once, but mostly I've been working on getting settled, at home and at church.

I've been attending meetings all of August, gearing up for the church year to come. Besides getting to know many of the leaders of congregational life, I'm getting familiar with the culture, the history and the current practices, and the opportunities and needs. For instance, I understand you don't currently have a Covenant Group program in place, so I hope to start one soon. We also need to get back to work on the governance structure that I understand has been pretty much on hold in the interim period. But I also plan to do a lot of listening and learning, especially at first. I was impressed with you as a congregation from the start, but the more I learn about you, the more impressed I am. I'm looking forward to an exciting journey together!

I plan to be in the office on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday, usually in the afternoons. Best to call or email to be sure I'm there when you want to see me. I am taking my day off on Monday, and Friday will be my (at-home) writing day. When I am in the office, my door will be open unless I am in a meeting or on a phone call that requires privacy. Please stop by to say hi.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

“A VIEW FROM ONBOARD”

As summer is winding down, the new church year at UUCNH is just beginning. We have taken time off to vacation and relax now it’s time to get active again. Rev. Jane Thickstun, our new settled minister, has been with us since the beginning of August. She is getting settled into a new home and a new church. She has been attending meetings, seeing many new faces and learning about the church, which I am sure is pretty overwhelming. Please make an effort to introduce yourself, welcome her and get to know her.

September means teams and committees will begin meeting and planning for the New Year. New programs will be offered and religious education will be in full swing. Many of the teams, committees and fellowship groups are in need of new members and participants. Check the website for information on all of the groups at UUCNH and think about where you would like to volunteer or participate. If you have questions, talk to a board member or one of the group leaders. Remember, volunteering provides you with opportunities to connect with others, make new friends and learn. We have a wonderful paid staff but they need our help as volunteers to carry much of the load. Together, we can make a difference at UUCNH and in the wider community.

As we see increased activity at the church, I would like to remind everyone to follow normal precautions to keep our members and building safe. Be aware of who is in the building and always check to see who will be the one locking up. If you are the last one to leave, please be sure all of the doors are closed and locked. Groups using the second-floor rooms with air conditioners, be sure the doors to the rooms are closed and when you are leaving turn the temperature on the air conditioners to 80 degrees. The handicapped accessible doors in the front were a wonderful gift to the church and make the entrance accessible and welcoming to all. If you put the doors on hold or turn them off, please be sure they are put back to the ON position when you are done.

Finally on behalf of our entire community, I would like to extend hearty congratulations to our recent newlyweds: Susan Powers with Randy Minnich on August 3rd and Rena Feingold with Jim Noel on August 10th! These are joyous occasions for them and for our beloved religious community.

Welcome back from summer! I think we all look forward to this new and exciting time at UUCNH.

Mary Ellen
MEET THE CHURCH
If you're new and want to find out more about the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills and Unitarian Universalism, Meet the Church is for you! It's an hour-long program that takes place in the sanctuary. There you have a chance to learn, to meet the minister, and share with other newcomers. **Sunday, September 15th from noon till 1:00pm.**

UUCNH LIBRARY NEWS - CHECK IT OUT.....
We've been working steadily during the spring and summer to get our Adult library holdings in shape for YOU to use!

- Over 600 titles, some with multiple copies and, we hope, now easy to find.
- Located UPSTAIRS – (turn right at top of stairwell) – in the open area – instructions for checkout and return straight ahead.

Our highest priority is given to material on Unitarian Universalism – **history, theology, church administration and development, worship, and readings.** We also have materials on **ethical and social justice issues of particular concern to UUs,** as well as books on the **world's religions and spirituality in general.** We even have a special section for our **UUCNH authors.**

Major shelf division topics are listed on the wall by the sign out sheet and are in order on the wall outside the youth room as follows (GREEN Divider Headings): **Reference, World Religions, Unitarian Universalism, Biographies and Memoirs, Worship Resources, New to Unitarian Universalism, For Families.** The following topics are on shelves in the center of the room: **Conduct of Life, Environment/Ecology, Social Justice, Poetry** is in the special case in the far left corner. Also, in that corner is a donated collection of jigsaw puzzles which are free for the taking for any puzzle enthusiasts (350 to 1,000 pieces). Questions: ask **Midge Miles or Maggie Wilson.**

SYSTEMIC CHANGE - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE FESTIVAL
**When:** Sunday, September 15th, 2019 from 3:00 – 6:00pm **Where:** North Park – Point Grove, Lakeshore Drive

“**Global Peace Starts With Us**” – Come together with people of all ages to celebrate cultures, diversity, and community while we promote peace, safety, and respect for all. Come sample complimentary food from various cultures. Bring something to share! (finger food only). Have fun with henna painting and other activities. Hear local members of the community speak about their experiences with conflict and peace. Join the Procession of 195 UN Flags representing each country’s hope for peace. For more information, call 412-760-9390 or **CLICK HERE.**

FAIR DISTRICTS PA
**UUCNHers who live in Franklin Park, we need you!**
Fair Districts PA is making plans to have a resolution, supporting legislation to have fair districts presented to the Franklin Park Borough Council. If you are interested in this work please contact **Joan Foran.** You can also talk to Suzanne Broughton.
THE PENNSYLVANIA INTERFAITH IMPACT NETWORK (PIIN)

PIIN is proud to announce that we will be hosting a golf tournament on Saturday, October 19, 9:00 am, at the Westwood Golf Course, 825 Commonwealth Ave, West Mifflin, PA 15122 to benefit the PIIN Social Justice Internship Program.

The PIIN Social Justice Internship Program was established to provide students from the communities to learn firsthand about social justice advocacy, leadership development, and ways to build power. Far too often students from the distressed communities that we work in are not able to participate in internship programs that are social justice oriented due to their financial constraints. They are often required to work full and or part time jobs to help make ends meet. In response to this PIIN created a golf tournament as a fundraiser to help raise funds that will go towards offering students interested in Social Justice an opportunity to participate in a Paid Internship Program.

The PIIN Social Justice Internship Program will provide participants experience in the day-to-day struggles for social and economic justice at a fast pace. Participants will experience innovative ways that people of faith positively contribute to bringing about change in these struggles. They will work closely with our dynamic team to develop their professional skills and learn to solve problems with creativity and impact. Please CLICK THIS LINK to register, become a sponsor, purchase a dinner ticket, and for more information.

SPECIAL APPEAL FROM UUPLAN

OPPORTUNITY - Fund the position of UUPLAN Director of Legislative Affairs. The UUPLAN Board has decided to hire Rev. Joan Sabatino to be our lobbying presence in Harrisburg and meet with legislators, their staff, justice partners, and UUs there. She will begin this critical work on August 1, 2019.

INVESTMENT NEEDED- The UUPLAN Board is seeking to raise $25,000 by October 31, 2019 to fund this new, part-time, advocacy position that will make us more effective in this critical period in our history that demands an effective, organized approach to legislative justice efforts. We are fortunate to have a donor who will match any donation you make through Oct 31 bringing us a total of $50,000

WHY THE URGENCY - As UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray so eloquently says: "This is no time for a casual faith". UUPLAN is committed to working effectively to reclaim our democracy so justice can really flow like a river. Rev. Sabatino will support the full range of UUPLAN human and environmental justice initiatives and will develop training and other programs to bring UU's to Harrisburg to lobby legislators; attend hearings and other events; and advocate for the mission of UUPLAN.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE - Your contribution can be made at UUPLAN or by mailing your check made out to UUPLAN or UUPLAN Education Fund and mailed to UUPLAN c/o Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17113. Contributions made to the UUPLAN Education Fund are Tax Deductible. Do you have questions? Contact any of us: Carol Ballance; Steve Fuegi; or Liz Perkins. To see the poster, CLICK HERE.

INTERCOM/WEBSITE SUBMISSIONS

Intercom and Website article submissions deadline for October Intercom will be due September 21.

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.

2. When submitting an outside event/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.