October 6, 2019
ROOM AT THE TABLE
Rev. Jane Thickstun

We Unitarian Universalists pride ourselves on our diversity, extending our welcome to people of diverse races, sexual orientations, gender expressions, ages, genders and theological perspectives. And that's just a partial list. Yet how welcoming are we, really? Does everyone feel there is room at the table for them? How can we make sure everyone feels welcome?

October 13, 2019
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
Rev. Jane Thickstun

There is a movement to rename the holiday we know as Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. In this spirit, let's look at the issues Native Americans face and how we can help to heal all the harm our European invasion has done.

October 20, 2019
NEW ACTS OF COURAGE
Rev. Jane Thickstun

In the face of change, we are called to adapt. As our world seems to change at an ever-increasing pace, what new relationships of understanding and good-will are we able to create; what new acts of courage are we able to realize?

October 27, 2019
A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Midge Miles and Michelle Brogue-Connor

Many cultures and traditions have chosen autumn as the time to commemorate death. Our service will explore several traditions and provide time to reflect as well as an altar for those you may wish to honor, where pictures, flowers or small objects may be shared. Come celebrate with us.
MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Column for the Oct. 2019 issue of the Intercom
Submitted by Rev. Jane Thickstun

One of the things that excited me about this congregation when I was in search was your commitment to transitioning to a policy-based style of governance. I’ve been getting a better understanding of where you are with it at this time, and the Board and I are gearing up to finish implementing it this year. Of course, it will never really be finished; it will always be a work in progress, but we will have the major policy structure developed, roles and responsibilities defined, and the basic structure in place to begin really living in it.

We are calling it Partnership Governance, which is a more accurate name for the model we are adopting. We are using as our guide the work of Unitarian Universalist minister, Dan Hotchkiss, who has taken the policy-based model and developed it for congregations. The basic gist of Partnership Governance is the separation of governance and ministry. I like to think of it as the legislative and executive functions, like in our government. The Board sets policy, and has the ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the congregation’s assets, but doesn’t need to be involved in the day-to-day functioning of congregational life. That’s management, and it’s what the staff are for—both paid staff and volunteers who serve on teams.

You’ll be hearing a lot more about this as the year progresses, from me and from your Board. Meanwhile, if you are curious, I’m happy to talk about it anytime. I have a lot of experience with Partnership Governance, and look forward to doing this work with you. I also am excited to look beyond, when it’s in place and working well enough, and we can start doing some long-range planning about who we want to be and what we want to do—and how we hope to get there.

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As I get into the routines of the program year, I find that it makes more sense to take Thursday as my day off. Friday will still be my (at-home) writing day. I would love to have some office hours at a local coffee shop, so folks could just drop in, but the area served by our church is so large, it’s hard to figure out where I might do that. If you have any ideas, I’d love to hear them.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

“A VIEW FROM ONBOARD”

We are seeing signs of fall all around us. The colors are changing, the days are getting shorter, the nights cooler and football has started. I like this time of year and the changes it brings. The lazy days of summer and early fall are over and it is time to get back to an active and busy schedule.

The committees and teams at UUCNH are starting their new year and meeting with Rev. Jane. They are planning activities, programs, services, and all the things that make UUCNH the community it is. These groups will need new staff (volunteers) to help them function and do all that needs to be done. Please find a place to volunteer. You will be surprised, but that first volunteer position could get you hooked on wanting to volunteer for other jobs. It gives you an opportunity to strengthen bonds with new and old friends and a sense of doing something important. Check the Program Guide on the website to see where you think your skills could be used.

The Board is also making plans for the upcoming church year. We had a retreat at the end of August facilitated by Rev. Sunshine Wolfe. During our day together, we shared ideas, laughed, had fun activities and did some serious work of planning and goal setting. We also shared good food, which is an essential part of UUCNH life. Our major goal this year is to move forward with policy-based governance or partnership governance, as it is now being referred to. We are reading (or, for some of us, rereading) Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership by Dan Hotchkiss, a Unitarian Universalist minister who consults with congregations on board governance and strategic planning. This is the book we have used as a guide for our governance changes to date. There is a copy of the book in the church library if you would like to do some reading. Make sure it is the second edition.

The Governance Task Force is being revitalized and will be working with the board. We will be looking at our existing policies, the bylaws and writing a policy manual. There will be opportunities for the congregation to participate in sessions as a refresher for some and a new learning experience for others. We will keep you informed of our progress and what to expect.

Welcome to a new and busy church year.

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 West Room (where the service is held). There you have a chance to learn, ask and share with other newcomers. The next Meet the Church will be Sunday in October at noon (date to be announced at a later time).

EXPLORING PATH TO MEMBERSHIP
Another step toward joining our loving religious community is Exploring Path to Membership: it's a longer workshop (with lunch!). Watch for signs for an upcoming Exploring Path to Membership to be held in October or November. Any questions, please contact Tassi Bisers at tbi-sers@yahoo.com.

UUCNH LIBRARY NEWS - CHECK IT OUT…..From Midge Miles and Maggie Wilson

37 ITEMS LOST OR MISSING! - New titles are still being added, but after completing our shelf inventory we've discovered THIRTY - SEVEN books not on our shelves! ...And not listed as being checked out.

We have a pretty casual check-out and return policy because we want our library to be use, but, PLEASE — check YOUR inventory of books and find that basket on the floor to the right of the sign-out notebook and place your return items there.

We ask that you NOT return them to the shelves directly so we might have some idea of how many and which books are being used. DO cross out your name and items borrowed from the borrowers notebook.

We're curious to see if folks read this news. Mention these paragraphs to either Midge or Maggie for a small reward -for the first 10 folks- for reading and commenting. Thanks.

On the left side of our library space we have puzzles for the taking (please pass on) and older duplicate copies of the UUWorld magazine. These are 'help yourself' items. No need to return.

Watch upcoming E-News for brief reviews of suggested reading from our shelves.

UUCNH BOOK SALE

Sunday October 20 is the next UUCNH book sale! -

From Moby Dick to 50 Shades of Gray and everything in between - the UUCNH Fundraising Team will take all the books gathering dust at your home and find new homes for them among our UUCNH family. Bring any books you no longer wish to keep to the East Room beginning Sunday, October 13 and we'll set them out for our book sale the following Sunday after the service. We also encourage kids to bring us books they've outgrown! Then be sure to come shopping on 10/20 for some new books - all proceeds benefit UUCNH. Cash, check and cards accepted. Don't miss your chance to unload some books for a good cause.

UUPLAN

UUPLAN (UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network) Advocacy Day 2019

Saturday, October. 12, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: "Reading the PA Political Tea Leaves" from Common Cause, March on Harrisburg, Poor Peoples Campaign, and Fair Districts PA. Learn about opportunities for UU political work in Harrisburg led by our own UU lobbyist Rev. Joan Sabatino. Learn more and register at www.uuplan.org.
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](http://example.com) to register, become a sponsor, purchase a dinner ticket, and for more information.

**FRIENDSHIP DINNER**

We are better together...

**Friendship Dinner**

Join us for TABLE DISCUSSION about our mutual hopes, fears, and social justice concerns, and hear “elevator speeches” from our partnering organizations (who they are, what they are doing, and how you may choose to be involved). This is an INTERFAITH gathering open to all. Registration APPRECIATED--online (link below).

**Thursday, October 17, 2019**

6:00-8:00 pm

**Sponsored by N.O.R.T.H.**

Neighboring Organizations Responding Together for Hope

North Hills-McKnight AAUW; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; North Hills Ebony Women, Inc.; Muslim Association of Greater Pittsburgh; North Hills Anti-Racism Coalition; Pittsburgh North People for Peace; Sisters of Divine Providence; St. Brendan’s Episcopal; St. Paul’s United Methodist; Salem United Methodist; Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills

Please RSVP by October 15


Salad bar, rice pilaf, halal chicken, gluten free options;

If you are available to help, please contact Carla Porterfield [cporterfield@stpaulsumc.com](mailto:cporterfield@stpaulsumc.com)

**St. Paul’s Fellowship Hall**

1965 Ferguson Road

Allison Park, PA 15101

For anyone 12 years or older who is interested in joining the conversations!
INTERCOM/WEBSITE SUBMISSIONS

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

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.