2019

INTERCOM NEWS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE NORTH HILLS
Let's explore what congregational life could be like if we were to recognize that we're all superheroes. What we learn here, what we practice here, becomes a blessing we can take into the world around us.

A biographical look at a remarkable and today little-known figure in the history of our faith tradition: a Unitarian minister who was by turns a transcendentalist, radical abolitionist, revolutionary, soldier, author, and public intellectual.

The free church is defined not by its belief, but by the covenant of its members to walk together in a spirit of love. The concept of covenant is fundamental to our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is key to understanding where we come from and who we are. We'll look at our congregational covenant, and the other covenants we make with each other.

This Sunday, we will reflect on cultivating an attitude of gratitude as we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday later this week. This is an opportunity for our whole community—all ages—to be together for the whole service. We'll talk about having a Guest at Your Table.
MINISTER’S MESSAGE

I’m excited to be serving in an area with multiple Unitarian Universalist congregations! In Pittsburgh, we’re not alone to hold up the beacon of liberal faith. This provides opportunities to bring in programming that we couldn’t do on our own, join together to pursue justice in the area, and enjoy fellowship with others who share our faith.

A great opportunity to get together with these other local Unitarian Universalists is coming up in mid-November. The 2019 UU Pittsburgh Assembly is Saturday, November 16th at the UU Church of the South Hills, from 9 AM - 3 PM. The theme this year is The Intersection of Climate Change with Racial and Social-Economic Justice. Rev. Renee Ruchotzke is our keynote speaker, and we will have a moderated panel of local climate activists in the afternoon. I know Rev. Ruchotzke, and am excited to hear what she has to say on this topic.

Each congregation is entitled to send delegates to the assembly. These delegates will elect 3 board members, approve important by-laws changes and approve the Cluster budget for 2019-2020. Our congregation is entitled to four delegates. If you’re interested in being a delegate, please see me or our president, Mary Ellen Johnson.

We need someone to bring our church banner! There will be a banner parade just like we do at the UUA's annual General Assembly.

You can register at: uupittsburgh.org/assembly. I hope to see a lot of you there!

In fellowship,
Rev. Jane

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

“A VIEW FROM ONBOARD”

The new church year is off to a great start. There are lots of committee and team meetings as well as a variety of fellowship groups. Our new minister, Rev Jane, is settling in and we are getting to know each other better. We will be having our Start Up Weekend on November 2 and I hope you will participate. This is our wonderful church community, both emotionally and physically.

On a down note, there have been several instances recently where the first person entering the building in the morning has found the front doors unlocked, lights on (including the West room and upstairs), the doors into the hallways propped open and the windows on the second floor wide open. This is a safety concern, a financial concern and a concern for energy conservation. An unlocked building in a secluded area is a draw for people looking for a place to party, drink or do drugs. We do not want to be that party spot.

This great place belongs to all of us and we all need to be responsible for taking care of it. Please use common sense and do your part! If an event is over and you are leaving the West room or upstairs, turn off the lights. Make sure the West room doors and doors into and out of Friendship Hall are closed. This is important both for utilities and for fire. The ushers should be checking this when they are done on Sunday mornings.

If your team or committee is meeting be aware of others in the building and coordinate to determine who will lock up and secure the building. If you are not sure if others are in the building, check by doing a walk-through. If you do not find anyone, or are not sure who is responsible, turn out the lights and lock the doors when you leave. People can always get out.

If you unlock or lock the front doors be sure you do both sides. If not, one of the doors may start opening and closing on its own. Also, if you use a key to unlock the front door, pull the door open then reach out and relock the door before you remove your key. (Door is now locked from the outside). If you want the door(s) to remain unlocked, you have to do so from the inside of the door.

We don't want to limit access to the building and we don't want a lot of forms to fill out when we schedule something. I think the answer is to stop and think every time you leave the building. Ask yourself, should I lock the doors, should I walk through and turn out the lights, should I let someone else know I am leaving? If there is any question in your mind, err on the side of safety.

Thank you all for doing your part to keep our wonderful home safe and beautiful.

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, November 17th from 12:00 – 1:00 pm.

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. Any questions, please contact Bernita Clover.

CRAFT GROUP HOLIDAY SALE
Mark your calendar for the first of two Sundays for the annual Craft Group Holiday Sale. November 24th we’ll be open for business in the East Room and spilling into Friendship Hall a wee bit as we’ve grown, adding a vendor or more from within our congregation. Can’t make that date? Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 8th which will be our second Craft Group Holiday Sale date.

We hope you’ll be thinking stocking stuffers, neighbor and hostess gifts as well as other holiday gifts—perhaps something for yourself. Along with our numerous staples that we normally offer will be holiday baked goods for gifts, entertaining, or something to munch on as you drive home from church. Also, special thanks to the Ritzerts, we’ll be offering a vintage rocker that oozes both charm and function. The rocker is a mahogany rocker ca. 1920s, with the original caned back and a newly upholstered seat.

So come check us out between 9:30am - 12:30pm for catnip bags, cards, jewelry and knitted items as well as an ABC quilt, also a wall hanging. Oh, the list goes on so just join us to peruse and hopefully find gifts to purchase.

NHCO CITRUS SALE UPDATE
We received the following communication from North Hills Community Outreach: I have some unfortunate news that North Hills Community Outreach does not plan to continue with the Citrus Sale in 2020. The last few years, we’ve struggled with consistency and trust in our fruit suppliers. They’ve had issues with wildfires, hurricanes and disease on their end and we’ve also had constant increases in the cost of the fruit resulting in this fundraiser to not be quite as profitable as it has been in prior years. I appreciate all of the work you and all the people at UUCNH have contributed to this wonderful sale in the 30+ years it has been around. It has truly been a wonderful run.

FINAL INTERCOM
The weekly E-News serves as a more up-to-date and dynamic way to communicate the news of our church so the November Intercom will be the last. Printed copies of the E-News will be available on Sunday mornings for visitors to read and can always be found on the website at uucnh.org/News. In addition, the weekly announcements page in the Order of Service will continue to be printed. Rev. Jane provides a weekly column in the E-News and the Board President will contribute an E-News column once a month so we will still be hearing from our minister and our leadership.

WEBSITE SUBMISSIONS
Website submissions will continue to be due monthly. A reminder notice will be placed in the E-News and Announcements a week prior to Website submissions deadline.

1. All submissions, i.e., all service titles and blurbs, each month’s scheduled date, a blurb change, a monthly topic change, contact info change or even chair/co-chair name change for the Website should to be sent to OFFICE.
6th ANNUAL CLUSTER ASSEMBLY

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS of GREATER PITTSBURGH
6th ANNUAL CLUSTER ASSEMBLY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church
of the South Hills
1240 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Rev. Renee Ruchotzke
CER Congregational Life Staff

For the Beauty of the Earth: The Intersection of Climate Change with Racial & Social-Economic Justice

“Underneath the surface of the world that many of us grew up in is another world, a world of interconnection, of beauty, and of resilience that we yearn for. How might Unitarian Universalists be partners with indigenous and other marginalized communities in a way of living that invites all of humanity to participate?”

8:30 AM – Registration opens + continental breakfast
9:15 AM – Opening worship and banner parade
10:00 AM – Keynote address
11:00 AM – Business Meeting
Noon – Lunch
1:00 PM – Panel of local activists addressing environmental issues in our community
2:30 PM - Closing words and music

To Register: uupittsburgh.org/assembly
Cost: Sliding Scale $5-$45 (see registration form for details)
Early Bird Registration by October 10

COME JOIN THE DISCUSSION! Meet UU’s from other congregations.
Build Community.

Photo by Drew Beamer