HAPPY HOLIDAYS

INTERCOM
December, 2017

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF THE NORTH HILLS
I can’t prove it, but I think folks tend toward one of two approaches to the winter holidays: the petal-to-the-metal crowd, and the can’t-wait-til-this-thing’s-over club.

If you’re of the pedal-metal extraction, you live in the harried, holiday fast lane – too distracted to take in the December stars or count your blessings. You give a passing nod to those ridiculous reminders to slow down, simplify and savor…then you promptly go nuts, just like last year, and the year before. Whether it’s Hanukah, Solstice, Christmas, Kwanza or none of the above, all the holiday hoopla just overwhelms you. What could be a joyous time ends up being a marathon.

On the other hand, maybe you just constitutionally hate this time of year. Always have. It’s a fabricated, materialistic time of year – worlds away from real peace and goodwill. What’s the point? Or maybe your job is gone. Maybe the money’s gone. Maybe somebody you love is gone. Worse yet, maybe the joy is gone.

Be you a peddler or a pouter, let me offer a little seasonal tough love:

Holiday fast-laners, what if you stopped that crazy-busy pace once and for all? Just decided that this is the year to slow down? Buy less, notice more. Eat less, smile more. Expect less, celebrate more. Just to see what happens.

And this year, what if you who just “suffer though” tried something else? Just made the irrational decision to find something or someone worth celebrating? Tried a community dinner or a holiday play or stuffed groceries at the food pantry? Just to see what happens.

Look, there’s no “right” approach to the holidays; for the most part, we’ll make of this thing what we will. But a little slowing down or speeding up could make a difference this year. Give it a try. See what happens.

Blessings,
Don

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**PASTORAL SCHEDULE**

Rev. Don Rollins’ Schedule - Office hours are 9 am - 1 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and by appointment. Please call 740-988-7834, text or email (minister@uucnh.org) before coming in – sometimes he has off-campus meetings. Mondays are his "weekend" and Fridays are reserved for writing.

Don’s Holiday Schedule – Don will be on vacation with family from Christmas Day until January 2. He’ll be checking emails and texts now and then. In the event of an emergency, call his cell: 740-988-7834.
December 3, 2017
“FOR WHAT WILL YOU BE KNOWN?”
Rev. Don Rollins

With support from the UUCNH board, and Don, our Systemic Change Team is implementing a congregation-wide plan to help focus our justice work on a particular issue, one year at a time. This service will be our introduction, but first comes some questions: Who’s our neighbor? To whom/what are we accountable? For what will we be known?

December 10, 2017
“THE CHRISTMAS MENORAHs – HOW A TOWN FOUGHT HATE”
UUCNH Children and Youth Holiday Program

This year’s Children and Youth holiday service focuses on the true story of events that happened in Billings, Montana in 1993 when a town that came together in response to an act of hate when a rock came through a Jewish families window that displayed a menorah. Our children will be helping Carol Ballance lead the signs for “Give Light”, the signature song of the morning.

December 17, 2017
“CHECKING IN: PART ONE”
Rev. Don Rollins

Our interim work is intense stuff, aimed to make UUCNH an even stronger congregation. Don will lead us in an uplifting update of our shared ministry.

December 24, 2017 – 10:30 AM
“THE MORNING BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT UUCNH”
Rev. Don Rollins

As we make ready for Christmas Day, the UUCNH choir and Don have some music, readings and stories in store.
December 24, 2017
5:30 PM – Annual UUCNH Christmas Eve Potluck Dinner --- 7:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service

“The Night Before Christmas at UUCNH”
Rev. Don Rollins

Bring the family for a partly different, partly traditional Christmas Eve service for all ages.

**Has Your Family Welcomed a New Child This Year?**
This Christmas Eve, we would like to honor all the babies born during the past year in our evening service. If your family had a new baby or newly adopted child in 2017, please send her/his name, birth dates, and parents’ names to Jennifer Halperin at dlfjdh@uucnh.org. We will light a candle for each child during our Christmas Eve evening service.

UUCNH Christmas Eve Potluck Sign-Up
All Are Welcome!

On December 24th, UUCNH will hold its annual UUCNH Christmas Eve potluck dinner. Everyone planning to come for the potluck can sign up in Friendship Hall through December 23rd, or by emailing or calling the contact number below. Please plan on the dinner starting around 5:30pm and the Christmas Eve service starting at 7:30pm. You do not have to be a member to come! And last minute attendees are encouraged!

Please bring your feastware (that’s plates & silverware) for you and your party to use at dinner and a tasty potluck dish to share that will serve all of the people in your group Plus eight more people. Please sign up to bring a salad, a main dish, a side dish or a dessert. Warm mulled apple cider, a child-friendly, citrus fruit holiday punch, water for tea, and both decaf and regular coffee will be provided.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help, either for setting up for the dinner at 4:30pm or to clean up after the service, may do so by signing up, calling or emailing.

For more information, or if you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please call Dawn FitzGerald-Swidal at 412-366-2472 or contact her by email at rowan@octobermorning.com.

December 31, 2017
“Motivation”
Alex Landefeld

Humans derive their motivations from their deepest emotions: love, fear, hunger, envy, anger, joy, and hope. New Years Eve gives us a chance to remember our motivations of yesterday and tomorrow, a re-imagining of our future with our collective experiences. Come worship in a feast of music, readings and reflections on this eve of 2018.
I LOVE the holiday season…. Turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pie…. mmmm…. pie…. I also love the lights, the glittering of snow, evergreen trees decked with ornaments, people singing together. Many candles are lit for many different reasons in many different faiths. You know all the things that all the holiday carols are sung about.

But the materialistic part of me really REALLY loves the gifts. If you know me, you know I just love presents. I love all presents - the simple little things to the big ones. I love giving presents too; I just don’t seem to get my act together enough to give to everyone I want. But gifts are probably my favorite part of this season.

However, gifts are more than material items. A good hug is a gift. A kind word is a gift. A new idea is a gift. A smile is a gift. Knowledge is a gift. Laughter is a gift. Working together to make the load lighter for everyone is a gift.

Psst… I am going to let everyone in on a little secret: this congregation is the best gift givers I know. I have so often walked into church and been offered a gift. Every Sunday, I get at least one hug. Every meeting, there is one new idea. Every event, there is laughter. Every person offers kindness. This congregation’s amazing skill at giving has taught me so much in my seven-and-a-half years here. I carry the gifts you give me into every part of my life. I know what it feels like to receive a warm smile of hello, how it just makes the day better. So I smile and say hello at the security guards in my office building every day. I know that a new idea is a gift, so I don’t hold back in work meetings. At lunch or out with friends, I share something new or interesting I learned because knowledge is a gift. I hug my kid, I hug my pets, I hug my husband, I hug my friends, I love to hug! I am a different person than I was seven years ago because of the gifts of this congregation. You are all a gift, and I am so blessed to have you all in my life. Thank you making me a better person through your gifts.

~ Robyn

FROM THE CONNECTIONS TEAM

The weekly Getting to Know UU sessions came to an end in November. Beginning on December 3rd, a knowledgeable individual will be available at a clearly marked kiosk after the church service to answer any questions new or returning visitors may have about Unitarian Universalism in general and UUCNH in particular. For those who are ultimately interested in membership, Exploring a Path to Membership sessions will be scheduled several times a year.
SAVE THE DATE FOR FUN!
Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018 6:30 - 8:30

DEEPENING OUR CONNECTIONS
A light-hearted evening brought to you by the Connections Team. Dessert, arts and crafts, dessert, games, dessert, one-to-one conversations. Did we say dessert? For folks new to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills as well those who have been here a while. A fun way to get to know others better and explore ways to more deeply engage in our loving religious community. Child care available on request. Questions? Tassi Bisers at tbisers@yahoo.com.

UUCNHF STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

THANKFUL FOR EACH OTHER'S GENEROSITY - The Thirty Days of Gratitude is a popular meme filtering through social media this month, on which you write out a thought about the daily idea. For example: Day 1 – What smell are you grateful for? Day 15 – What season are you grateful for? Day 30 – What talent or skill do you have that you are grateful for?

Day 23 as it turns out hit on Thanksgiving Day, with the question "What tradition are you grateful for?" Obviously, the tradition of giving thanks, right? We give thanks for being placed on Earth, for having loving parents, siblings, children, and community, for having access to food, shelter over our heads, and the technology to keep us warm, keep our teeth healthy and our hearts ticking. We give thanks for turkeys, cranberries, tofu, beans, squash, pumpkins, grains, corn, milk – cow, soy, or almond.

We give thanks every week for such a beautiful church community and building that we call home – everyone gives a sigh of relief upon entering, realizing we come home as we enter, to a home full of love and life. This community is built on the love, life, generosity and vision of countless fellow worshipers – you are a part of this.

At the karate school where I teach during the week we are discussing this month with the advanced leadership students the various facets of generosity: that we can give time and money, that we can donate our skills and treasures, and that those of us who are generous in any way show leadership to others, leadership by example of giving. One student said he reads stories to his younger siblings, another said she visits elderly relatives in need of a talk, and another said that she takes the toys she treasures and donates them to others so that they may also treasure them. These students are leaders to us all.

Going back to Day 23, the tradition I would say I'm most grateful for is the tradition my parents instilled in me of giving of my energy, time and money to people, organizations and communities. We are all friends with others, and part of many organizations and communities: give. Just give. And be thankful for each other's ability to give.

Respectfully yours,

Alex Landefeld
Chair, Stewardship Team
FINANCE COMMITTEE

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

UUCNH is announcing that you can now manage your giving online! It’s easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the internet. To get started visit our website (www.UUCNH.org) and click on the Giving tab. This will take you to a secure page to make your contributions with instructions on how to get started. You can make one-time gifts or you can create a profile to make recurring contributions. It allows for the following payments: pledge, share the plate, general fund, Memorial garden, memorials and Children’s Memorial fund. There is also an option to increase your contribution by 3% to help offset the online transaction costs to the church.

Another way to access our donation page is to download the GivePlus app. Once downloaded on your phone you can search for our church and make a donation through the app similar to our website. Remember you can also make one time and recurring contributions by using online banking. All banks allow you to set up online banking for your checking account. The advantage to this method is it is FREE for you and the church.

Text giving is also available for making contributions to the general fund. Text your contribution amount to 412-218-3380. You will need to register your personal information on your first text but once you are set up, it’s an easy and quick method for donations.

We will schedule sessions after church so people can ask questions and get additional information. Contact Tom Yeh (the most knowledge choice), Lindsay Scott or Mary Ellen Johnson with any questions.

A I IS COMING! A I IS COMING!

No, not Artificial Intelligence, but Real Intelligence and Information given by YOU – our members and friends – through a process called APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY.

During the first few weeks of January, starting the 8th and continuing through the 18th, there will be meetings in homes and at church to go through a process in which you will give input to lift up our past successes to help determine what might be our best future.

This is part of the interim work that our interim minister, Rev. Don, is helping us to focus on to move to our next successful steps as a thriving congregation!

More specific info will follow as we come to the New Year. Watch for it: A I!
LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Lay Pastoral Care Team members are available to provide support within an atmosphere of safety and compassion and are a visible reminder of UUCNH’s care, concern and connections. You are encouraged to contact any Team member, at the addresses or numbers below, if they might be of help or comfort with your pastoral care needs or those of another in our UUCNH community:

Kathy Cypher: alkate@consolidated.net
               724-625-7912 H
               724-316-4694 C
Susan Powers:  susan-a-powers@comcast.net
               412-427-7300
Marsha Albright: mkalbright@gmail.com
                 412-487-4565
Mark Swihart: mswihart@spang.com
              412-369-9321
Chris Hill:     chill613@comcast.net
               412-366-9553
Lynn Richards:  brich@consolidated.net
                724-776-4183 H

UPDATE ON OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden was created to honor UUCNH members and their families, to provide a place for their ashes to be scattered or buried, and to offer a quiet place for meditation and reflection. The grounds are also used for walking meditation, weddings, concerts, picnics, and religious education classes. The MG Committee is in the process of interviewing several landscape architecture firms in order to develop a comprehensive plan for our beautiful outdoor spaces.

Working with folks from Buildings and Grounds, the Green Team, and Tree hUUgers, the plan will emphasize sustainability, native flora, and easy maintenance (in keeping with our Green Sanctuary initiative. http://uucnh.org/green-sanctuary/). Please see one of our members if you would like more information or have suggestions. Thank you, Irene Dinning (chair), Ivan Baumwell, Chuck Berry, Julie Kant (point person), Joyce Kepner, Ginny Love, Peggy Trevanio.
CRAFT GROUP HOLIDAY SALE

DECEMBER 3RD IS THE LAST DAY

Come visit the Craft Group Holiday sale on December 3rd in the East Room from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. We will have new items and still have some of our treasured items available. New this week find hand-etched glassware with either the twin silos of UUCNH or a chalice, and tie-dyed shirts saying “It’s a UU Thing”. Look for lots of scarves, hats, and wrist warmers for yourself or for winter gifts or for donating to UUCNH’s Giving Tree.

Come see our Upcycled Treasures table for many fun items such as totes made out of old jeans and our Christmas table with lovely items including Christmas Santas from the collection of the late Marilyn Altman which were donated by her daughter, Lynn Richards.

New this year are earrings in lovely colored stones. Look for doggie scarves and also many gift and houseware item. (Don’t forget your scrubbies.) Look for Dale’s table with greeting cards. Dave will be there with his hand-made wooden pens. Also visit our baked goods table which always has yummy treats for you to take home (or eat there).

This year we will have a holiday gift bag set with bag, tissue, and gift tag for $1 so that you can take your gift with you ready to give. Remember that many of our items are one-of-a-kind. So shop early. You don’t want to be disappointed. All proceeds are used to fund “unbudgeted” church projects.

THE RAFFLE WINNER FOR THE QUILT WILL BE DRAWN ON DECEMBER 3rd AT 12:30 PM

You can still buy raffle tickets on December 3rd. The Craft Group is offering a quilt made and donated by Rachel Swarts. It is pieced in shades of burgundy, cream, and navy, machine quilted, and measures 82½ by 89 inches which is considered queen-size. Raffle tickets have been sold each Sunday after church since November 5. One ticket is $2 and three can be purchased for $5. Be there for the excitement of the drawing for the winner of the quilt. That’s at 12:30 pm in the East Room at the close of the second day of the Holiday Craft Sale. Don Rollins will draw the winning ticket.
UUCNH STARTS A COFFEEHOUSE!

Are you or someone you know an amateur poet, musician, storyteller or visual artist? Or just up for some good entertainment? Then join interim minister Don Rollins, as he hosts a monthly coffeehouse at UUCNH. The first installment was on November 3rd and will continue on the first Friday of each month (except for May), from 7:30 to 9:00ish pm. The format is open-mic and will be held in the West Room (sanctuary). A $2 donation is requested to offset the costs of refreshments, but not required. Non-perishable food items will be collected for North Hills Community Outreach. Note: The coffeehouse is a substance-free environment.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY IS BACK!!

The first Wednesday of each month through June 2018, you're invited to join us for a potluck supper and some quiet time. The potluck starts at 6:00 pm, with the vespers led by Don at 6:45 pm. Help with the potluck setup/cleanup will be appreciated.

UU CLUSTER NEWS

Check out our local Cluster Website at www.uupittsburgh.org to see what is happening with other UU's in our area, and for UU events that are open to all.
The winter holiday season at its best has favorite traditions, time spent with loved ones, great music and storytelling, delicious food and drinks. And in the Real World, these are things we aspire to but never entirely get. We are set up for disappointment when things never work out exactly the way we hope.

Yet the funny thing is, and I don’t quite understand it, that over the years I’ve experienced many a “Christmas miracle” at church. Like the December morning that I was going to deliver the children’s gifts from the congregation to the recipients of the health care center serving low income families with which we were working when I got a call from a Toys for Tots drop-off center saying their delivery person did not show up and did I know of families who could use these gifts? Up until that year, our church was the only organization that provided gifts to these families. After I contacted the health care center and they happily agreed, the Toys for Tots representative met me there, dropped off his toys when I dropped off mine, and signed the health center on for participation in the program the following year.

And then there was the time during the dress rehearsal for the annual Christmas Eve early service pageant where I had every part filled except for a camel to accompany the kings. We were just about to begin rehearsal when a mom and her son walked into the sanctuary and asked me is it too late for him to be part of the pageant and ... could he be a camel?!

This year at UUCNH’s Christmas Eve service, we will be celebrating the most precious miracle of life – the new babies that have been born or adopted into our families this year. This is a Christmas Eve tradition from my previous church that I am delighted to share. Please contact me with the baby’s name, birthdate, parent’s name(s) and their relation to you. They will be printed in the Order of Service and we will light a candle for each one. Contact me here: dlfdjh@uucnh.org.

For Christmas (and Hanukkah) miracles, big and small ... may we see the extraordinary in the ordinary this holiday season.

In peace,
Jennifer Halperin
Interim Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Please join us for our Children and Youth service on Dec. 10th. It will focus on the real story of Billings, Montana – a town that came together in response to an act of hate when a rock came through a Jewish family’s window that was displaying a menorah. The children will be helping to lead the signs for “Give Light”, the signature song of the morning.

CALENDAR

- Dec. 2: 3 pm – 6 pm Holiday and tree trimming party
- Dec. 3: Regular classes. Rehearsal for Dec. 10th, speaking parts only at 11:45am.
- Dec. 10: No classes, Children and Youth service. *Children, please meet in the Sanctuary at 10:15 am*
- Dec. 17: Regular classes
- Dec. 24: No classes in the morning, Nursery care provided. Multigenerational potluck and service in the evening
- Dec. 31: Winter break. No classes, Nursery care provided. Multi-age activities.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITY – GIFTS FOR CHILDREN - North Hill Community Outreach is sponsoring a toy drive for families in need throughout northern Allegheny County. Our church has committed to providing 50 gifts to children of different ages. If you are willing and able to help, there will be gifts tags on a tree in the West Room. Please take a tag from the age group for which you are interested in purchasing a gift and return it and the unwrapped gift by December 10. You can put the gifts under the tree in the West Room.

Giving suggestions include:
- Board Games
- Puzzles
- Books and/or movies
- Stuffed animals
- Bath/body items
- Craft kits and Art Supplies
- Sports equipment
- Hooded sweatshirts
- Gift cards for iTunes, clothing stores, etc.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE - Guest at Your Table (GaYT) is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s (UUSC) annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness of their work to advance human rights. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. GaYT is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the “guests” in Guest at Your Table. We will be launching this project on December 10. The idea is to take a box home with you and put it near your kitchen table. “Invite” a guest to your table by puttin coins in it for a month or so and then bring it back to church or donate it to the UUSC yourself. This is an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. If you’d like more information about its history and great work, please go to uusc.org.
**FAMILIES GROUP**

UUCNH families are warmly invited to come to our monthly gatherings! We try to keep costs low, have fun and get to know one another, and include a service element. Please contact Families Group coordinator, Dawn Lindsay, for more information. Email her at northparkmom@gmail.com.

**UPCOMING EVENT: WINTER HOLIDAY AND TREE TRIMMING PARTY** - On Saturday, December 2nd from 3 – 6 pm, the Families Group will be hosting a tree trimming and winter holiday party. Activities will include trimming the tree, board games, and a cookie exchange (if you would like to participate, please bring three dozen cookies.) Please bring an appetizer to share, if you would like. For more information, contact Dawn Lindsay at northparkmom@gmail.com.

**PARENT’S NIGHT OUT** – This is a cooperative babysitting program where parents sign up to watch their children and other children at the church while parents have a few hours out. Then on another evening, the other parents reciprocate. If you are interested in learning more about it for next time (spring), please contact Abby Vaughn at akuntz@andrew.cmu.edu.

**YOUTH GROUP**

**FLEECE BLANKET MAKING** - December 2nd @ 3:00 – 6:00 pm. Join us for a fleece blanket making Service Project at UUCNH. Cookies and hot cocoa will be provided.

**YOUNG ADULTS**

**ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS! COME TO BRUNCH ON DECEMBER 17!** Whether you are new to UUCNH, returning home for the holidays or living here in Pittsburgh, you are warmly invited to brunch on December 17 from noon to 1:30pm upstairs at the church after Sunday service. Come get acquainted or reacquainted and have some holiday cheer! We would love to see you! Please RSVP to Sarah Campbell at sarah.campbell715@gmail.com or Jennifer Halperin at dlfdjh@uucnh.org and let us know if you can come!
The Adult Faith Development (AFD) team coordinates all adult Faith Development courses and discussion groups. Whether you are a newcomer or a long-time member, our goal is to meet the needs of UUCNH adults who wish to enrich their spiritual lives.

**THIS YEAR AFD OFFERINGS**

- **Affinity Groups:** Christian Perspectives, Humanist Discussion Group and Sisters in Spirit.

- **Classes and Events:** Jesus Discussion Group, PSI (Philosophical and Spiritual Insights) Group, Faith and Justice Wednesday’s Death Café Pittsburgh, Docent led visit to Carnegie Museum’s “20/20” art show, Articulating your UU Faith, UU Pamphlet series, Facilitator Training.

- **Spiritual Practice groups:** Dance Jam, Meditation Group, Covenant Circles. Please check the printed Program Guide (at the Welcome table) for dates and times!

Please check the printed Program Guide (at the Welcome table) for dates and times! And we always encourage members and friends who are interested in sharing a spiritual practice or interest with others to fill out a proposal for a group/class or activity. For more information please contact Stephen Fuegi, Chair, at sdfuegi@gmail.com or Jennifer Halperin at dlfdjh@uucnh.org.

**SYSTEMIC CHANGE TEAM – FOR DECEMBER**

**SYSTEMIC CHANGE SURVEY** - Grab your pencil! Systemic Change Team will be rolling out a survey to help us pick a project for the congregation to focus on for the next year and a half. Don’t worry – we will not get rid of Green Sanctuary! This will be another BIG project that will run parallel to Green Sanctuary. (The survey does not include climate change/environmental issues.) Rev. Don Rollins will explain this in the service on Dec. 3. Pencil and paper versions of the survey will be available at church from Dec. 3-17. It will also be available online. Members of Systemic Change Team will be available in the West Room following the services on Dec. 3, 10 and 17. They will also be available at the Potluck on Dec. 6 and following the service that evening. Ask questions, comment, fill out your survey!
THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT - Kearns Spirituality Center, Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m. - Come and explore the three basic questions of Climate Reality - Must we change? Can we change? and Will we change? Kathie Westman and Dara Sterling completed the Climate Reality Project Training held in Pittsburgh in October. This presentation and the following discussion will provide information about some of the current science of the local, national, and worldwide changes and the many opportunities that are rapidly being developed to enable us, the nation, and the global community to work together to bring about the positive steps needed.

WOMEN’S HEALTH AGENDA IN PA! - The Women's Health Caucus of the PA General Assembly will hold a press conference at the capitol, Tues. Dec. 12, 2017 at 10 a.m. to introduce the PA Agenda for Women’s Health. This package of bills will feature equal pay for equal work, paid family leave, rising maternal mortality in PA, shortening lifespan expectations for PA's rural women, and many other important issues. Join us in distributing reports of Community Conversations, lobbying your legislators, and networking. For carpooling, more info and details: liz.f.perkins@gmail.com (UUPLAN Reproductive Justice Team co-chair and UUPLAN Board Member).

COMING IN THE NEW YEAR!!

JUBILEE WORKSHOP WASHINGTON, DC – Friday, January 12, 2018 at 6:00 pm to Sunday, January 14, 2018 – 5:00 pm. Do you wish to nurture your congregation’s multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? Jubilee Anti-Racism Training helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. The workshop requires a weekend commitment; and it is worth every minute of that commitment. Contributions in support of this work are welcome. Enrollment is limited to 40 participants.

WHEN: Friday, January 12th, 6:00pm to 10:00pm; Saturday, January 13th, 9:00am to 9:00pm; Sunday, January 14th, 8:30am to 5:00pm
WHERE: All Souls Church Unitarian, 1500 Harvard St NW, Washington, DC 20009
FEE: $160 per participant (includes cost for trainers, meals and materials).

SAVE THE DATE! - January 17, 2018. PIIN (PA Interfaith Impact Network) action seeking restoration of rights. We will ask our political leaders to show their support for ending the school to prison pipeline and to begin the process of ending mass incarceration. Details to follow.
EQUAL EXCHANGE GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY!

To give a fair trade item for the holidays is way better than to receive! Consider giving some:

- **Organic Coffee** – French Roast, Breakfast Blend, Mind, Body & Soul, or Decaf, available in whole bean or drip grind ($9/bag)
- **Organic Dark Chocolate bars** – with Almonds, With Mint, and With Very Dark Chocolate (up to 80%)!
- plus **Organic Milk Chocolate** - with a hint of hazelnut ($4 each, or 3 for $10)
- And we have a **Chamomile, Rooibos and Chai Teas** ($4 each) to warm you up!

*Take care of all your gift giving right here at UUCNH!*

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

**Facilitator:** Dick Myers  
**Contact:** dmyers.rlm@gmail.com  
**When:** January 28, 2017 @ 12 – 2:00 pm  
**Where:** East Room

The Humanist Discussion Group will take a holiday break -- there will be no meeting on December 24. Best wishes to all, and watch this space in the Intercom for an announcement for January 28. As always, to have your name added – or removed – from the email distribution list wherein we provide additional information about discussion topics, contact dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.
JESUS DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: January 21, 2018 @ 12:00 – 1:15 pm
Where: Upstairs after the service

On Hiatus for the holidays!

MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

In December, we will meet on Tuesday, December 12. Meetings are from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary. Our usual pattern is to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. However, since the 4th Tuesday of December is the 26th, and my own holiday plans may involve out-of-town travel, I am not sure at the time of Intercom publishing whether meditation will meet on the 4th Tuesday. Please check e-news or the church calendar, or email me, for definite information closer to December 26th.

We welcome anyone interested in mindful meditation, whether you have little or no experience in meditation, or you have practiced for years. At each meeting we practice silent meditation, and walking or another form of movement meditation. In addition, a third to a half of each meeting deals with different aspects and forms of meditation - recent meetings have included guided meditation, readings and other inspiration from wise teachers, and sound meditation.

I send updates and a reminder of each meeting to anyone on the meditation email list. To add your name to the list or if you have any questions please contact Sue Luebert, at luebert.unicorn@gmail.com, or call (412) 366-9553.
From more traditional frameworks for morality, such as the Golden Rule, the Ten Commandments and Utilitarianism, we will shift to a more down to Earth variety, the Relational Approach, espoused by Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker. Bring your opinions. See Tony Palermo for details, tpalermo@consolidated.net.

Sisters in Spirit is an ongoing self-guided women's group (all women are welcome regardless of sex assigned at birth). We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month. The group is focused on spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth as well as creating ties with other women. Group members take turns leading the monthly sessions, resulting in a wide variety of topics and styles of presentation. The group welcomes new members twice a year, in January and July. To learn more about the group, contact either Rachael Smart at thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com or Michelle Broge-Connor at brogemm@gmail.com.
UU CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

Co-Facilitators: Joe Meier
               Edie Swihart

Contact: meierke@msn.com

When: December 10, 2017 @ 9:15 – 10:30 am

Where: Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room

Do you self-identify as Christian, but struggle with issues of doctrine? Or have you parted ways with the label, but still hold some aspects of the tradition dear? Come and share with us as we explore our feelings about the Christian faith and its role in shaping our spiritual lives. Longtime members and first-time UU visitors alike are welcome to drop in and join this ongoing, positive discussion!

Held the second Sunday of each month at 9:15 am, in the Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room. Co-Led by Joe Meier and Edie Swihart.

WINTER 2017/2018 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

"I was bold in the pursuit of knowledge, never fearing to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led, and bearding every authority which stood in their way." ~ Thomas Jefferson

BREAK FORTH ENSEMBLE

Facilitator: David Miles
Contact: miles@ohiou.edu
When: December 10 & 17, 2017 @ 9:00 am
Where: Worth & Dignity Room

We play music of various sources. The present group includes folks who have been playing a year to those who haven't played for 30 years. For more information, please see David Miles or send a note to miles@ohiou.edu.
THE CRAFT GROUP

Facilitator: Irene Dinning
Contact: dinning1@comcast.net or call 412-741-6463
When: Every Thursday, 10:00 am
Where: East Room

We are a long-time UUCNH group that welcomes other crafters: those who want to learn needlework, perfect a craft, or just want to come and visit with interesting people. Come when you can or every week, but try us out!

THE UKE GROUP

Facilitator: Sandy Faulkner
Contact: sfaulk50@aol.com or 412-366-5973
When: December 4 & 18, 2017 @ 7:00 pm
Where: East Room

We meet the first and third Monday of the month. Beginners are very welcome. Come have fun. For more information, call Sandy Faulkner at 412-366-5973 or contact her by email: sfaulk50@aol.com.
The Book Discussion Group is taking the holidays off, but we’ll be back in January with more books!

FUTURE TITLES:

February 9, 2018
The Orphan Master’s Son
Author: Adam Johnson; 2012
Carnegie Library has 35 copies
Book Moderator: Jane Purifoy

March 9, 2018
To The Lighthouse
Author: Virginia Woolf; 1927
Carnegie Library has 23 copies
Book Moderator: Gene Watson

April 13, 2018
The Known World
Author: Edward P. Jones
Carnegie Library has 22 copies
Book Moderator: Jane Dirks

DAISIES

Daisies to the hardworking crew who helped remodel and set up the minister's study! Led by Diana Hull and Susie Wood, helpers included Pete Lundquist, John Ritzert, Julie Kant, Ivan Baumwell, Jeremy Baumwell, Barb Draa, Kurt Kuntz, Robyn Travers, Bruce Travers, Don Nelson, Dave Madjaric, and Lindsay Scott. Daisies to Ron Smart for serving as Buildings and Grounds chair these past two years! And daisies to the rest of the unsung folks who have contributed their elbow grease and green thumbs this year to the upkeep and beautification of our building and grounds! Much appreciated!
NHCO FOOD PANTRY DONATION CUPBOARD

FOR DECEMBER: Rice, Pasta Packages

Please don't forget to contribute to the Donation Cupboard for the North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) Food Pantry located in Friendship Hall. The NHCO request for this month – Rice, Pasta Packages -- to be brought to church.

Also consider bringing laundry detergent, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, bar soaps or other toiletries as they are always needed. And thank you to all who have contributed recently!

Plastic bags are always needed by NHCO: If you bring your extras to the church, please drop them off at the NHCO Donation Station where they can be used to sort food at the food pantry.

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Dec. 2017

NHCO’S ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT COLLECTION CONTINUES THROUGH DECEMBER 13

North Hills Community Outreach is accepting new toys, games, sporting equipment, apparel and gift cards for children ages birth through 18, earlier donations are encouraged! NHCO offices, including the main office at 1975 Ferguson Road, Hampton, are open weekdays, 9am-4pm. The pantry behind the main building in Hampton will be open for donations 9am-noon, Saturday, December 2, or alternate plans can be made by calling 412-487-6316 opt 1. For more information, visit nhco.org.

NHCO NOW OFFERS ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP SENIORS

North Hills Community Outreach now has an online registration process for those who wish to volunteer to help seniors through its In Service of Seniors: North Program. Visit http://nhco.org/volunteer-opportunities/volunteer-help-seniors/ and follow the easy step-by-step registration process. Volunteers are needed to help seniors get to doctor appointments, take them grocery shopping, do light yard work, drive shuttles and more. For more information, call Cathy at 412-307-0069 x 3313.

EMPLOYMENT HELP IS AVAILABLE AT NHCO

North Hills Community Outreach offers multiple programs aimed at helping people attain self-sufficiency, including employment help. Those seeking help with career counseling, updating a resume, job search techniques and more can contact NHCO Resource Coordinator Jackie Boggs at jmboggs@nhco.org or 412-408-3830 x 3217.
A GIANT EAGLE GIFT CARD

YOUR PORTAL TO SHOPPING AT MANY PLACES

- Did you know that Giant Eagle gift cards can be used to buy gas at GetGo stations or to purchase gift cards to a wide variety of stores and restaurants? But, more importantly, did you know that buying gift cards at UUCNH benefits our church AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU? In other words, you pay $25 and you get a $25 gift card and UUCNH gets 5%!
- A Giant Eagle gift card can be used at the grocery store to buy a gift card for Kohl’s, Home Depot, Advance Auto Parts, Applebee’s restaurants and many other businesses.
- If, for example, you’re remodeling a room and you need to spend $1,000 at Home Depot, you can do that by buying $1,000 in Giant Eagle gift cards at UUCNH and then using the gift cards at Giant Eagle to buy $1,000 in Home Depot gift cards. You just raised $50 for UUCNH at no extra cost to you! Giant Eagle pays the $50.
- When you use a gift card to buy gas at GetGo, you still will receive any discount on the posted price of the gas that is due you.
- UUCNH uses the income from the sale of gift cards to help fund our budget.
- We also sell gift cards for Kuhn’s and Whole Foods. Look for us after the service each Sunday on the bench by the office window.

Gift cards: They’re not just for groceries anymore!

Thank you from The Gift Card Team

NOW YOU CAN SUPPORT UUCNH THROUGH AmazonSmile

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES. UUCNH BENEFITS.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support UUCNH every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as on Amazon.com. UUCNH has partnered with Bellwood Preschool to join AmazonSmile. The church and school will split the donations from AmazonSmile, which is 0.5% of all purchases made by everyone who has selected “Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills” as their designated charity.

Get started with these easy steps:
- Use AND BOOKMARK the UUCNH Link to AmazonSmile: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7429191
- Sign in. Simply use your existing Amazon credentials, and then start shopping. It’s that easy!
- Please remember to shop our smile.amazon.com link every time. Purchases on the main Amazon.com site do not support UUCNH. To help remember, BOOKMARK OUR LINK.

Spread the word! Once you’ve checked out, Amazon makes it easy to spread the news with your friends and family by giving you an option to share on Facebook and Twitter. Please be sure to let everyone know you’ve supported UUCNH. Questions? Contact the AmazonSmile Administrator at uucnhoffice@uucnh.org.
FROM THE EDITOR:

The article submission Deadline for the January Intercom will be on December 21. Please get your articles into me by December 21 to be included in the January Intercom issue. If you need an extension on the deadline, please call or email me and we’ll work something out. Otherwise, if your material isn’t in by the deadline, it will NOT be included.

If you email your submissions (preferred), please do it IN PLAIN TEXT ONLY; please do not format the article in any way. If you have a formatting request, please contact me or include it with your submission. Please send your Intercom submissions to Rowan@OctoberMorning.com.

PUBLICATIONS DEADLINE REMINDERS FROM REV. DON ROLLINS

The good folks who manage UUCNH’s Intercom, E-NEWS and Order of Service Announcements are often swamped by last-minute requests. Here’s some ways to help lighten their various loads:

1. Treat the deadlines as firm: the Intercom is the 21st of each month, the E-NEWS and OOS Announcements will be due by end of day the Tuesday prior.
2. Both Dawn (Volunteer) and Sona (Office Manager) are good at what they do, but late submissions mean more work. Also, please submit a “lean” copy.
3. Space in the OOS Announcements is limited, so please be patient if your event doesn’t always get listed.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to our publications details!
Happy Holidays!
Happy New Year!