February 2018

Intercom

Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills
PASSIN’ THROUGH

Time flies during an interim ministry. All the getting-to-know-you, goal setting, trying on new ways - it’s a rich but often intense experience for both congregation and transitional minister, creating what’s called an interim “time bubble”.

In our case, we’re already six months into our shared journey. And thanks to Rev. Scott’s good work, paid staff, recent and present boards, and lay leaders, we’re making great progress in preparing UUCNH for its next settled minister.

But while good things are happening, it’s not always easy to keep up with the who, what and when of life in the interim bubble. So let me use this space to give you a quick update on some of the major projects, programs and ideas going on in the UUCNH meeting rooms:

- Appreciative Inquiry (AI): This is the process by which members and friends meet in small groups to discover the congregation’s strengths. Using positive stories, folks remember and dream. And almost as a side effect, capture information to be used in a new 3-year strategic plan. Facilitated by the Ministry Council, the AI process will be wrapping up the information stage early this month;

- Gardiner Model: Starting during Scott’s ministry, there has been growing interest in selecting a (renewable) annual social justice focus. The Systemic Change Team has been hard at work, taking the church’s collective pulse on where to put their resources for the rest of the 2017-2018 church year. Fair districting (anti-gerrymandering) was the runaway leader, and the team has just put the finishing touches on an initial plan of action to be approved at the February 18 congregational meeting;

- DLFD Search: With Jen Halperin’s great help, the search team has posted a revamped job description to the standard sites for open Director of Lifespan Faith Development openings. The team’s timeline is to make an offer to a final candidate in plenty of time for Jen to mentor the new DLFD;

- Leadership Development: The Leadership Development Team is developing a series of monthly, 2-hour sessions in which anyone interested in learning about leading in today’s UU congregations may pick up the needed skills. The first session was held last month, Stay tuned for more dates;

- Governance Task Force (GTF): In addition to the GTF’s ongoing role in UUCNH’s change in organization/governance, members will take the lead in finding models for a strategic plan, starting this month. (Note the actual content of the plan will not be decided during the interim period.)

There’s more going on, of course: monthly potluck and vespers; monthly coffeehouse; continuing and new adult education offerings; the return of Round Robin dinners and more; Parents Night Out; Memorial Garden upgrades; and per usual, quality programming for children and youth.

So, time is indeed fleeting around the church. I’m grateful for all you’re doing to make UUCNH an even more progressive, creative and fun loving place for your next settled ministry. And thanks for making my time with you such a great experience.

Blessings,

Don

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.
UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE?
Rev. Don Rollins

Don will take us through a (mostly) musical look at mature love, romantic and otherwise. (Note: this is a pre-Valentine’s, Valentine Day service.)

LONG DAY’S JOURNEY: COPING WITH A LOVED ONE’S ADDICTION
UUCNH Choir, Soloists, and Congregant Readers

Addiction touches the lives of many of us. When someone we love is caught in the web of drug or alcohol abuse, we can face a kaleidoscope of emotions. Join us as we explore - through music and readings from drama, poetry, and non-fiction - the many facets of coping with a loved one’s addiction.

UU VALUES APPLIED: FAIR DISTRICTING AND THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS
Rev. Don Rollins

Led by Don and UUCNH activist, Sue Broughton, let’s get concrete about how our main justice issue (fair districting) relates to the use of the democratic process.

AN EIGHTH PRINCIPLE?
Rev. David Herndon

Black Lives of UU has proposed adding an eighth principle to our Unitarian Universalist covenant: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." What is the background of this proposed principle? What do you think about it? For the complete story, follow this link: https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/.

Rev. Don Rollins and Rev. David Herndon, Sr. Minister at First UU Pittsburgh, will be exchanging pulpits today.
ROBYN’S RAMBLINGS

Every month, I struggle with what to write about in this column, so I tend to wait until the last minute. As I write this, this column is due today; it is Sunday morning in January. I wonder what you want to know from me. Do you want me to talk about what happens in the board room? That, to me, seems rather dry, and the minutes are available on the website. Do you want me to talk about how much I love the church? You are probably sick of that. So, as I sit here in Friendship Hall at 9:10 am on a Sunday morning, I thought it would be worthwhile to talk about how all of you seem to love this church.

As I pulled into the parking lot at 9:05, there were already eight cars in the lot. Church doesn’t start for another hour-and-a-half. I am here early so that my son can come and learn how to work the audio-visual aspect of a Sunday morning service. (The youth have been asked to offer a service to the church, so people in different teams are kindly showing the youth the ropes and allowing them to assist.) Since I am here with nothing to do, I figure I will give a play-by-play of what I am seeing this morning. I will attempt to be a fly on the wall. I say attempt because I have to say Hi to everyone – I love you all.

9:05: When we entered, Reverend Don was already up at the pulpit, resetting the chalice and practicing his guitar... The audio wrangler had already begun turning on all the equipment in preparation of the service. Our decorator was already making a vase of beautiful flowers to put on the pulpit. I can hear the brass band warming up in the upstairs silo room.

9:10: The first of our coffee hour hosts arrive, reading instructions and setting up food in the kitchen, donning UUCNH aprons (which I love that we have).

9:30: Things are starting to pick up. Choir members are arriving. Brass band practice is breaking up, as several of them are also choir members and have another practice they need to attend. A congregant who will be reading the story for Time for All Ages arrives and sits down with the reverend to go over the story she will be reading to the kids. The second set of coffee hour hosts arrive, and she puts her two youths to work with her.

9:45: Jen, our DLFD, arrives and starts setting up for the kids, preparing to greet the new and existing families. She sets up the Mystery Pals sign up table. Our greeters also arrive. Two puppy dogs arrive, training to be therapy dogs. (We have one dog on most Sundays, but the second one was an added bonus ??). A friendly congregant arrives and offers to assist the coffee hour hosts since she has experience in making coffee here.

9:55: Our youth greeter assistant joins the greeters and begins their training. I see a family signing up for coffee hour. Teachers start arriving. Long-time congregants begin to make their way in. A connection team member hangs signs inviting people to Round Robins. Our lay leader arrives, begins to prepare for today’s service, and meets their chalice lighter.

10:15: More teachers, lots of children arrive. More congregants arrive. Friendship Hall is jumping. I see people putting food in the food pantry. Many people greet each other with smiles and hugs. Talk of social justice work upcoming. Church meetings surround me.

10:25: The bell in Friendship Hall is rung. People reluctantly end their conversations—as much as they are interested in the service to come, it seems they are just as interested in each other. Still more parents and kids arrive. As a parent, I truly understand how hard it is to make it on time to anything with little ones (even teenagers).

This was a fun experience. I sat here all morning with a smile on my face, watching this church wake up on a Sunday morning. There was so much work and so much joy. I won’t be able to watch it, but I do know that during church, more work will be done. Teachers will be working with kids, ushers will take the offering and count it, coffee hour hosts will put on their final touches, preparations will be made for meetings after church. Even more will be done after the service.

Church has begun; got to go!

~ Robyn
The mid-year congregational meeting will be held on **February 18th** after the service in the West Room. Please join us while enact our congregational polity and do the good work of our church, Lunch and refreshments will be served.

**BOARD NEWS**

**MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA**

The mid-year congregational meeting will be held on Feb 18 after church. A light lunch will be provided. Proxy forms will be available on the website and in paper the weeks of Feb 4 and 11. Please see a board member for one.

The meeting agenda will consist of 3 topics. The board of trustees will ask for the congregation to vote on the installation of their 3 choices for the covenantal relations team.

- Kurt Kuntz
- Lynn Richards
- Mark Swihart

The Systemic Change team will propose to engage in the fight to reduce gerrymandering in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by engaging in the moral issue involved. The ultimate goal is an amendment to the state constitution. This all needs to happen soon since the districts will presumably be redrawn after the 2020 census. Remember things are happening in the courts, the legislature and the political arena as we speak so we'll have to pay attention and adjust accordingly.

- Form a coalition of religious leaders and congregants to address the redistricting process from a moral perspective.
- Educate our congregation, and clergy and congregants of other congregations about the effects of gerrymandering
- Address Rep. Metcalfe as a Christian about these effects and demand action on House Bill 722
- Convince municipalities to pass resolutions to support HB722 and SB22. (Ross recently became the first municipality to do so).

Tactics we plan to use are phone banking, post card drive incorporating door-to-door canvasing, public meetings and engaging clergy. We plan to call on our legislators. Members can be engaged in these activities directly or help with financial support, preparing materials, providing food and/or childcare.

- Expenses – Lunches - $200.00 Postcards $195.00 (500 cards including postage).
- Allies – Fair Districts PA, March on Harrisburg, Indivisible, PA 12 for Progress

The Board of Trustees and Governance Task Force will present the Ends Statements that were written to expand on the mission statement and help with further strategic planning. This will be information and not presented for a vote. You can read the End Statement in advance on our website here: [http://uucnh.org/mission-end-statements/](http://uucnh.org/mission-end-statements/)
DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT (DLFD) SEARCH UPDATE

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills is searching for new, settled religious education leadership for installation in the Fall of 2018. The Board completed their initial work last summer, forming a Search Committee. The Search Committee conducted a series of congregational conversations (Stories of Us) in October, 2017, the results of which were used to refine the job description.

We went live on Tuesday, January 16 with the DLFD Job Posting. For more information about the search process, and about lifespan faith development here at UUCNH, please see https://uucnh-releaders.weebly.com.

My role in the search process will be coming to an end as the publicity and postings are completed. Indeed, my role here as interim DLFD will be coming to an end this summer as I was “Pre-Fired” from the time I arrived in the summer of 2016. My job was to maintain and sustain the vibrant program here and also to move the lens to look back at its history. And then, imagine with leaders ways in which lifespan faith development could evolve. Finally, I will help prepare the way for a new, settled DLFD.

The Search Committee will keep you posted as time goes on...

With optimism and affection,
Jennifer Halperin

CALENDAR

- February 4 – Regular am classes
- February 11 – Regular am classes
- February 18 – Regular am classes - Congregational meeting after church
- February 25 – Regular am classes

OUR WHOLE LIVES

We are pleased to announce that OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) for children in 1st and 2nd grades is starting in February (Sunday mornings from 10:30 – 11:45am) for eight weeks at UUCNH.

OWL is a lifespan sexuality education program which begins in our congregation in the 1st and 2nd grades. This program supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families.

Pam Weaver and Kip Ruefle will be the class leaders. Both are trained and experienced OWL teachers.

Classes will be held on Sunday mornings, 10:30 to 11:45, from February 4 to March 25.
MYSTERY PALS BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY

If you notice the upstairs hallway is full of manila envelopes with interesting names on them, you are seeing the “mail room” of the Mystery Pals program that is running during the month of February. This is an intergenerational pen pal program that’s just for fun in which people who are interested in making a new friend exchange cards, letters, puzzles each Sunday as they try and guess who each other are! If you are interested in participating it may not be too late! Please contact Jennifer Halperin at uucnhdlfd@gmail.com for more information. Or Sign up Here: https://uucnh.breezechms.com/form/81fa2d81.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

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.
YOGA

Amy Wilks will be offering yoga classes twice a month at UUCNH. These will be gentle flow classes suitable for all ability levels. Please dress in comfortable clothing and bring water and a yoga mat. Contact Amy with any questions at akwilks@gmail.com.

- Tuesday, February 13, 12 – 1pm,
- Monday, February 26, 7 – 8pm
- Tuesday, March 13, 12 – 1pm,
- Monday, March 26, 7 – 8pm

Amy has been practicing yoga for almost ten years. In August of 2016, she received her certification to teach children’s yoga through Yoga in Schools, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides yoga programming and teacher training in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. For the past three years, she has been involved in a weekly work exchange program at Salt Power Yoga in Cranberry, and in August 2017 she began teaching yoga at the Baierl Family YMCA. Amy has all of her clearances including criminal check, child abuse check, and FBI fingerprinting. She is also up to date on her First Aid/CPR training. In order to deepen her own practice and to further develop her personal teaching style, Amy will begin her 200-hour yoga teacher training program in the spring of 2018.

UU PAMPHLET SERIES WITH THE MINISTER - BEGINS NEW IN MARCH, 2018

Mark your calendars for the 4th Sundays of the month, 9am – 10am. Rev. Don Rollins will convene a group for an informal review of one aspect of Unitarian Universalism as described in a pamphlet written by UU authors.

- March 25: UU Views of God
- April 22: TBD
- May 27: UU: A Spiritual Home for LGBTQ People
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: Bowling at Pines Plaza – February 10th @ 2 pm

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 10th at 2 pm. We can bowl and have fun together. Sound like fun? For more information, please contact Dawn Lindsay – northparkmom@gmail.com.

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE FAMILIES GROUP

- FEBRUARY – Bowling at Pines Plaza Bowling, 2/10 @ 2PM
- MARCH – Mystery Pals Reveal Party and Ice Cream Social at UUCNH, 3/3 @ 2PM
- APRIL – Earth Day Hike at North Park, 4/14
- MAY – Playground and Biking at North Park, 5/12
- JUNE – Carnival at UUCNH Picnic, SUNDAY 6/3
- JULY – OFF (Family Camping Trip @ Allegheny National Forest, July 18-22)
- AUGUST – Picnic at North Park, FRIDAY 8/24
- SEPTEMBER – TBD, 9/22
- OCTOBER – Halloween Party, 10/27
- NOVEMBER – TBD, 11/10
EXPLORING A PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

If you are considering membership at UUCNH, please join us for Exploring the Path to Membership on February 25th at noon. This four hour session is a time for participants to share their religious journey, share more about themselves with the group, and go deeper into the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism. You will learn more about this church and what membership means, with lots of time for questions! (We love questions.) Lunch will be provided and child care is available if requested. If you’re interested in attending, please contact Cris Graham at crmg1@zoominternet.net.

MEET THE CHURCH

New to UUCNH? Want to know more? Then join us for Meet the Church on Sunday, February 4th from 12:00 – 1:00. These informal sessions are held after church about once a month. After coffee hour, we gather to meet one another, watch a video, have an open ended question and answer time, and to share a little more about this church and Unitarian Universalism. Come and join us!

ROUND ROBIN fUUn ‘N FOOD

The Connections Team is pleased to announce the creation of a new program we’re calling Round Robin fUUn ‘n Food. It’s a new twist on the old Round Robin program that we had years ago here at UUCNH. The goal is for members/friends of UUCNH to get to know one another while participating in a fun event that typically includes food. The program will be a great way for long-time members/friends to catch up with one another while getting to know newer members/friends.

- What’s the same as the former program is that people will sign up to participate for four months. The first session in 2018 will be the months of March, April, May, and June. Participants will be randomly assigned into groups of 6 to 8 people with different people in each group each month. (Couples will stay together.) Every group will have a “host” for that month. But that’s the end of the similarity to our former program.

- What is new is that host(s) will decide what the group is going to do for its event. It could be anything that that a group of 6 to 8 adults might enjoy doing. Some examples include hosting a pot luck meal in your home, kayaking; attending a concert at Hartwood; and trying to get out of an Escape Room. A list of additional suggested events is available after the church service for the next four Sundays. You can sign up to be a “regular” participant. That means you will host/organize one event and participate in the remaining three events as a guest. Hosts decide on an event for their group and arrange a mutually agreeable date/time for the participants in their group.

- You can also sign up to be an “alternate” participant. That means you may be invited to an event when a host needs a replacement for someone who cannot attend.

- Round Robin fUUn ‘n Food events are for adults only unless prior arrangements are made with your host.

If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Hrach - Carolyn.hrach@gmail.com or 724-759-3053. You may sign up with a Round Robin Volunteer after the church services for the next few weeks; an electronic sign-up is being developed. The deadline for signing up for the current session is February 18, 2018.
FAITH AND FAIRNESS

Gerrymandering won the survey by a large margin. You will officially vote to approve this at the congregational meeting on Feb. 18. In the mean while Systemic Change Team is moving forward. Here's the beginnings of a plan. Remember things are happening in the courts, the legislature and the political arena as we speak so we'll have to pay attention and adjust accordingly.

- Form a coalition of religious leaders and congregants to address the redistricting process from a moral perspective.
- Educate our congregation, and clergy and congregants of other congregations about the effects of gerrymandering.
- Address Rep. Metcalfe as a Christian about these effects and demand action on House Bill 722.
- To convince municipalities to pass resolutions to support HB722 and SB22. (Ross recently became the first municipality to do so).

Sue Broughton will give a presentation following the service on Feb. 11 explaining the issue and what we plan to do. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

You can also learn more on the UUCNH website at http://uucnh.org/systemic-change/ Julie Kant created a great bulletin board in Friendship Hall. Take time to talk to Julie Kant, Diana Hull, Sue Broughton, Lynn Richards, Ginny Walzer or Barbara Brock who are already engaged in working on this issue.

Save Friday, March 9 to come hear March on Harrisburg and Adam Eichen speak at UUCNH!

EQUAL EXCHANGE GIFTS FOR VALENTINE’S DAY!

Give your Valentine some Fair Trade chocolate! Consider giving Organic Dark Chocolate bars-with Almonds, With Mint, with Caramel Crunch, and Very Dark (up to 80%)! plus Organic Milk Chocolate with a hint of hazelnut ($4 each, or 3 for $10).

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

UUCNH is helping support the mission of North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) by participating in their 2018 Citrus Sale. NHCO provides services to families in Northern Allegheny County who are experiencing crisis, hardship, or poverty. Help a neighbor in need and treat yourself by purchasing fresh, high quality citrus fruit fresh off the tree: Large and small boxes ($34 & $24) of Valencia Oranges or Indian River Pink Grapefruit; the Citrus Sampler ($34) contains navel oranges and Indian River grapefruit, while the Junior Fresh Trio ($24) contains 6 each Oranges, Grapefruit & Anjou pears.

Orders due by Sunday, February 4th, with delivery the weekend of March 3rd/4th, 2018. All orders COD, so there’s no reason NOT to order some! Order forms available from Chris Hill - 412.977.8118 or chill613@comcast.net, or place your order on the bulletin board at the far end of Friendship Hall.

**PAPER RETRIEVER BIN IS READY!**

They finally came and emptied the bin last week. So, if you have paper that you can’t recycle at home, you can bring it in. As before, no cardboard/boxboard/waxed paper/telephone books allowed-please keep the quality up, so the company can profitably sort and sell it.

And: we no longer get paid for this paper. So there’s no advantage to bringing your paper to church if your local recycler takes it. Save the energy and effort and recycle close to home!

Any questions, please contact Chris Hill.

**NHCO FOOD PANTRY DONATION CUPBOARD – MEALS IN A BOX**

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 – **Meals-in-a-Box** -- to be brought to church.

Also please 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.
WHAT IS A LEGACY?

HAMILTON:

I imagine death so much it feels more like a memory
Is this where it gets me, on my feet, se'vral feet ahead of me?
I see it coming, do I run or fire my gun or let it be?
There is no beat, no melody
Burr, my first friend, my enemy
Maybe the last face I ever see
If I throw away my shot, is this how you’ll remember me?
What if this bullet is my legacy?

Legacy. What is a legacy?
It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see
I wrote some notes at the beginning of a song someone will sing for me
America, you great unfinished symphony, you sent for me
You let me make a difference
A place where even orphan immigrants
Can leave their fingerprints and rise up
I’m running out of time. I’m running, and my time’s up
Wise up. Eyes up**

The musical "Hamilton" recreates Alexander Hamilton's life, and eventual death from dueling with Aaron Burr. The song "The World Was Wide Enough" recreates how Hamilton might have envisioned life and death, as death approached. Hamilton sees the bullet, which in the end he did throw away, by choosing not to shoot at Burr, as his legacy: "It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see”.

When we choose to provide our money to UUCNH in the form of our weekly, monthly and annual pledge, we are nurturing a garden that we see around us every day. Our legacy will spread each year in an ever growing circle: our paid staff need their monthly income and health insurance, this church and grounds need daily upkeep and care, and our community outreach must continue to grow, learn and educate our congregation and our community.

Hamilton considers his legacy at the very end, but we have a chance to consider our legacy now, hopefully long before the end. And while Hamilton threw away his shot, we have a chance now to not throw away our shot, by helping our Beloved Community to become a force to be reckoned with. As we begin our annual build toward Stewardship Sunday, think about how your shot can help our shared Unitarian Universalist legacy.

Alex Landefeld
Stewardship Team, Chair
stewardship@uucnh.org

** ["The World Was Wide Enough" is a song from the Broadway musical Hamilton performed by Leslie Odom Jr. (Burr), Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton).

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQ1ZwqaXJaQ]
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](http://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.

The Finance Committee

QUILT DISPLAY IN FEBRUARY

What better way to express love than wrap yourself in a handmade quilt!

The Quilting Group and church members are wrapping the congregation in quilts for the month of February. A variety of pieced and quilted projects will be on display including table linens, clothing, wall and bed quilts. Each one is unique in design and color. A few are for sale. **Please remember to use the gloves provided if you wish to touch a quilt.**

The Quilt Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Peggy Trevanion (412-366-4348, birdies4@comcast.net).
FOR THE HUNGER GARDEN

The Hunger Garden needs a carpenter! Over the seasons, some of the boards around the raised beds have begun to deteriorate, and it is getting time to reinforce or replace them before we start to leak soil into the walking area. Anyone with appropriate know-how and tools is welcome to visit the garden, scope out the situation, and make recommendations. Contact Dick Myers at dmyers.rlm@gmail.com or 724-759-1810 or catch me at church.

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 Coffeehouse is 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.

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: lynnbesar@gmail.com
724-776-4183 H
ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Dick Myers
Contact: dmyers.rlm@gmail.com
When: February 25, 2018 @ Noon– 1:15 pm
Where: East Room

What’s happened to “truth” and why should we care?

As Humanists, we usually profess a preference for rationality and fact-based considerations in our decisions and interactions with others. Most of us have no dictates from a supreme being to tell us what is “true”. In the current atmosphere of “alternative facts” and diminishing trust, labeling something as “true” has become more difficult. Do we care? Should we? How do we navigate in a fuzzier world?

On February 25, 12:00-1:15, in the East Room, the Humanist Discussion Group, facilitated by Connie Ritzert, will ponder these and related questions.

As always, if you are not on the email distribution list that gets additional information about upcoming meetings, please contact dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.
The circumstances of Jesus’ birth suggest many obstacles to his achieving mastery of a religious outlook to life. Chief among these were his parents, both of whom were, likely, severe tensions for him. Both fueled in him, though, an exuberant dictum of Forgiveness, one of his best teachings. We’ll discuss his family life next time and follow it with his incipient feminism...and an occasional mistake or two. See Tony Palermo for details tpalermo@consolidated.net.

MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

In February, weather and last minute crises permitting, we will meet on Tuesday the 13th and Tuesday the 27th. Our usual pattern is to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Meetings are from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary.

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. Generally, a third to a half of each meeting deals with a different aspect or form of meditation which varies meeting to meeting. Three examples from recent meetings are: guided meditation, readings or talks from wise teachers, and sound meditation with crystal bowls.

I send updates and a reminder of each meeting the day before 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 412-366-9553.
And so after realizing that the 10 Commandments, the Golden Rule, and Utilitarianism all have their limits, what’s left? Harvard Professor Steven Pinker has a Relational model he’s fond of. And Skeptic, Michael Shermer, suggests a variation based on Fuzzy Logic. We’ll discuss the details next time. See Tony Palermo for details tpalermo@consolidated.net.

SISTERS-IN-SPRIT

Facilitators: Rachael Smart
Michelle Broge-Connor
Contacts: thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
brogemm@gmail.com
When: February 14, 2018 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Where: East Room

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: February 11, 2018 @ 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!
"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

THE CRAFT GROUP

Facilitator: Irene Dinning
Contact: dining1@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: February 5, 19, 2018 @ 7:30 pm
Where: East Room

This month we are back to our normal schedule so we will 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.
Please Note – Attempts are being made to reschedule the canceled January discussion of *Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future* by Martin Ford. Please keep an eye on your email and OOS for more information.

**Review: The Orphan Master's Son**

*I like the book because it emphasized how controlled the North Korean people are under a fascistic regime in which everyone is subject to thought, or at least expressed opinion, control. The Orphan Master singles the protagonist out for severe punishment which he interprets as a reaction to preference due to a (projected) relationship. His is a saga of experiences with a variety of figures in the Korean hierarchy as contrasted with the United States. It has echoes of the cult of personality that occurred in Russia under Stalin. Shades of 1984 (Orwell), and the like.*

**FUTURE TITLES:**

- March 9, 2018: Meeting Cancelled
- April 13, 2018: *To The Lighthouse* – Author: Virginia Woolf
- May 11, 2018: *The Known World* – Author: Edward P. Jones

**BREAKFORTH ENSEMBLE**

Facilitator: David Miles  
Contact: miles@ohiou.edu  
When: February 10 & 17, 2018 @ 9:00 am  
Where: Worth & Dignity Room

We play music 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.
SENIORS NEED VOLUNTEER SNOW SHOVELERS

Seniors in all neighborhoods in northern Allegheny County need volunteers to keep their yards and sidewalks safe by shoveling snow. This is a great project for teens, youth groups and families. Please contact Cathy at North Hills Community Outreach at 412-307-0069 x 3313 or clpschirer@nhco.org to register to volunteer.

RUN FOR THE HILLS! NHCO SEEKS 5K RUNNERS, RELAY TEAMS AND MARATHONERS

North Hills Community Outreach invites runners of all abilities to run one of the races of the Dick’s Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon May 5 and 6, 2018. Registration is FREE when you run for NHCO and help local families in need. Runners can choose the 5K, form a relay team, or run the half or full marathon. Visit www.crowdrise.com/northhillscommunitypitt2018 or contact Harriet at hzklatte@nhco.org or 412-408-3830 x 3204.

NHCO SEEKS FUNDS FOR SHARING WINTER WARMTH

Funds are urgently needed for North Hills Community Outreach’s Sharing Winter Warmth program so that families in need can receive one $50 credit toward a heat or light bill. To donate, please make checks payable to NHCO, write Sharing Projects on the memo line, and mail or deliver to NHCO, 1975 Ferguson Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101. For more information, please call 412-487-6316 opt 1.

NHCO OFFERING MONEY IN YOUR POCKET FREE TAX PREPARATION

North Hills Community Outreach is once again offering FREE tax preparation for low-income individuals through the United Way Money In Your Pocket tax preparation program. Appointments are required and can be made by calling United Way’s helpline, 2-1-1.

Income eligibility requirements:
- For households with ONE PERSON, annual income must be $25,000 or less.
- For households with MORE THAN ONE PERSON, annual income must be $45,000 or less.
- NHCO’s Bellevue/North Boroughs site will be open for tax prep appointments Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 7:30pm, beginning January 22. NHCO’s Millvale site will be open for tax prep appointments Saturdays, 9:00am to noon, beginning January 20.

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

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.
INTERCOM SUBMISSIONS

FROM THE EDITOR:

The article submission Deadline for the March Intercom will be on February 21st.

Please get your articles into me by February 21st to be included in the February 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.

Articles sent in Arial Narrow text get tasty cookies and the Editor’s appreciation!

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

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:

- Treat the deadlines as firm: the Intercom is the 21st of each month, the E-NEWS and OOS Announcements are due Tuesdays by end of day.
- 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.
- 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 Groundhog Day