Hello May

2018

Intercom

Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills
A former parishioner steeped in the dry wit of the Minnesota prairie once quipped, “Time flies like an eagle...and fruit flies like a banana.” I know, It’s awful. You had to be there.

Wacky jokes aside, our first year as interim partners has indeed gone quickly. Committee meeting by committee meeting, Sunday by Sunday, we’ve been about the gritty work of transition into a new and sometimes uncertain future.

From my end, I appreciate the overall trust and support you’ve extended to me. It’s impossible to get 100% buy-in to congregational best practices, but on the whole you’ve heard me out.....which is all an interim minister can ask.

As I reflect on the 2017-18 church year, here are a few highlights:

- The completion of the Appreciative Inquiry program, which brought folks together to talk about UUCNH’s many strengths, and how they will help inform the strategic planning process that will follow the interim period.
- The installation of a new social justice model, allowing the congregation to yearly choose and act on a primary issue, starting with fair districting in Pennsylvania.
- The hiring of a new, gifted and experienced Director of Lifespan Faith Development (DLFD), Dana Poss.
- The near-target stewardship campaign, which will help lay the financial foundation crucial to attracting and welcoming a new settled minister.
- The advancements toward a projection system for the West Room, enhancing experiences from Sunday services to outside rentals.
- The strides forward by UUCNH staff, especially church administrator, Sona (as in sauna) Kennedy.
- The leadership of a committed and creative board, led by president, Robyn Travers.
- The opportunity to be an active part of NORTH, the interfaith/multi-agency coalition Rev. Scott Rudolph helped assemble.
- The good ministry and presence of outgoing interim DLFD, Jen Halperin - a fine religious educator and colleague.

I am, of course, omitting many other initiatives and members/friends. And how does one quantify patience, forgiveness, wisdom, flexibility and good humor? It’s not that things are always smooth around the church, or everybody is onboard with the practices I’ve recommended or introduced. It’s that most folks, most of the time, take the high road, the road of kindness.

So, deep thanks for welcoming me into your church. I’ll be taking most of June and part of July to be with family, cycle familiar roads, and catch my breath. August will be here before we know it. ‘Cause you know, time really does fly like an eagle.

See you soon,
Don

PASTORAL SCHEDULE

DON’S SUMMER SCHEDULE

He will be away from the area from June 3 through mid-July, returning to lead two services. In case of an urgent issue, he can be reached on his cell: 740-988-7834.

Rev. Don Rollins’ Regular 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.
May 6, 2018
THE MAKING OF MINISTERS: TWO PATHS
Rev. Don Rollins

As the search for UUCNH’s next settled minister takes shape, John Ballance and Rev. Don will lead us in an exploration of UU ministry and ministers in the 21st Century. What’s changed, what hasn’t, what never will?

May 13, 2018
MOVING RIGHT ALONG
Rev. Joan Van Becelaere

This spring, as we establish a Search Team and start the process of looking for a new settled minister, we will find ourselves moving along from one way of being a church and doing our ministry together into a different and new way of being a church and doing ministry together. We will talk about this process and how it may impact our life together as a congregation in the coming months.

Q & A about the Settled Minister Search - Rev. Joan Van Becelaere will lead our service on May 13th and talk with us about how the settled minister search process may impact our life together as a congregation. She will stay after the service for an informal Q & A session in the East Room with anyone interested in talking about this process in more depth.

May 20, 2018
CHECK-IN 2.0
Rev. Don Rollins

It’s important to take a pause in all the “doing” of the interim period. Don will take this time to offer a second review of our shared ministry.

May 27, 2018
WAR AND PEACE IN POETRY AND SONG
Rev. Don Rollins

Mattress sales and cookouts notwithstanding, Memorial Day is at its core, a somber occasion. This service is centered around a series of war poems and songs from different eras.
My year as President is drawing to a close. A few people have heard me say that this was not what I signed up for. When I agreed to the nomination of vice president, Scott was here, and we had no indication he was leaving. I expected my year as president to be relatively status quo. But that is not what happened. I ended my year as vice president in a flurry working with the board to find an interim minister and helping with the planning of Scott's goodbye party. Then my presidency began, and we had a new interim minister, in the second year of an interim DLFD, a new office manager, a new governance system and no Buildings and Grounds chair! Sheesh… how many more grey hairs have I earned this year? I am not complaining, I'm just surprised that I made it to the end of the year with any hair. LOL!

Even with all that chaos it has been a good year. I will expound on what we have done and what we have yet to do in my annual report, but for this article, I want to write about what I have learned about myself and this church from this year.

• I have learned that the board is so important. Sometimes the mantle of the presidency can weigh heavily, but stepping into the board room and being reminded that I don’t wear the responsibility alone was always a relief. Especially with this incredible board. We have done a lot of work in that room, but we have laughed as much. Seriously, we have some amazing people leading this church. Each one of them is beautiful inside and out, and they love this church so much. Every decision they made was driven ultimately by that love.

• I have learned that people of this congregation can be very passionate about things. I guess I always knew that, but I didn’t experience the true impact of that until I became president. Sometimes that passion is an inspiration to us all moving us forward, and sometimes that passion has taken us out of covenant. Sometimes, I have personally felt inspired by witnessing that passion and other times I have felt under attack by that passion. More of the former than the later.

• I have witnessed some of the hardest workers I have ever seen. There are so many unsung heroes of our church, so many people who dedicate so much of themselves to this church. I have to wonder, “Do we do enough to thank them?” I think the true way to thank these people is not only with words or with gifts, but to offer to take some of the load from them. It is not enough to be grateful; the true way we thank each other is to offer to help. Sometimes people don’t even know what help they need, so take the time to ask them about what needs to be done so you can find a way to assist.

• I have learned so much more, but this article is already too long.

As I end my last month as president, I think back on my intercom article from November of last year in which I asked the question: “Is the way we are doing things kind to our staff/volunteers?” So many of the choices I have made this year have been driven by that question. I ask that you continue to ask that question of yourselves, in the coming years: “Am I being kind to our staff and volunteers and fellow congregants?” By asking this question, you will always be in covenant, and you know that the work you do will come from a place of love.

Your new president will be, Susie Wood. I have had the absolute honor to work very closely with her over this past year. I can honestly say, she is one of the kindest people I have ever met. She is passionate without being overbearing, she will take the load from your back when she sees you are weighed down. She has six times my stamina, but knows when she needs to lean on others when her own weight becomes too heavy, and I will be there to help her with that weight. She is the example of the kindness I have been speaking of all year, so please be kind to her. She took this leadership role with the full knowledge of what she is in for. She deserves a medal for that bravery alone.

I look forward to my final year on the board with lots of big changes coming down the pike, but even through all that, let’s not lose sight of who we are. Change can be hard. Change shakes us at our core. It sets us off kilter, but at the root of it, we really do love one another and love our church. That will always be the solid ground we stand on.

Robyn
The DLFD Search Team is delighted to announce that Ms. Dana Poss will become UUCNH’s new Director of Lifespan Faith Development (DLFD) beginning August 2018! Below is a short biography of Dana.

Dana was the volunteer Youth Advisor for the UU Church of Birmingham before becoming the Youth Programs Director at the UU Congregation of Atlanta in 2008, where she served for five years. Following this period, Dana moved to Idaho, where she served for two years as the Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration at the UU Church of the Palouse. Dana returned home to Georgia in 2015 and spent two years as an Acting DRE at 3 local congregations. She returned to the Atlanta congregation last year and currently serves as a lead teacher for elementary children in religious education. She has served on the Mid-South district board and is a trained Healthy Congregations Consultant, a UUA Chrysalis-certified youth director, an OWL facilitator, and a member of the Liberal Religious Educators Association. She has led numerous trainings for youth advisors, youth leaders, and DREs as well as volunteering at The Mountain Retreat Center in North Carolina and Camp de Benneville Pines in California. In addition to her professional experience, Dana enjoys gardening, reading, and DIY projects. She has 3 grown children in California, Florida, and North Carolina. She looks forward to relocating to the Pittsburgh area and getting to know everyone at UUCNH!

DLFD Search Team: Dawn Lindsay (Chair), Melissa Nelson, Erin Terrizzi, Tarin Wilks (Youth representative), Rev Don Rollins.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM (LDT) NOMINATIONS

LDT is chartered by the Bylaws with nominating Board and LDT members for election by the Congregation at the annual meeting. We are pleased to announce our slate of candidates for the May 20, 2018 annual meeting:

- For Board of Trustees – 3-year terms: Mary Ellen Johnson (President’s Track), Kathi Finch
- For LDT Voting Members – 3-year terms: Jen Suehr, Amy Wilks

2017-18 LDT – Completing their terms: Joe Meier, Ed Rockman; Continuing Members: Stacy Conlin, Chuck Berry, and Sandy Faulkner
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARE EXPECTING
(TO CALL A NEW MINISTER)

Our ministerial search has begun. We thought it was important that we share the upcoming time line with the congregation. This is all about to be kicked into high gear. By this time next we should have a good idea, if not already called our candidate for our new settled minister. Below is a general, high level time line based on information shared by the UUA transitions team.

- May 2018 - Search committee (SC) formed, Joan Van Becelaere from the UUA will speak from the pulpit about our expectations and the work we will need to do as a congregation.
- May - Oct 2018 - The SC meets with UUA transitions officer and goes on a retreat. During this time the team will likely survey the congregation and conduct small group meetings.
- July - Nov 2018 - The SC will analyze and distribute the results of the survey, prepare the information packet and website for the potential candidates to review.
- End of Nov 2018 – The SC complete the online application for a minister.
- Jan - Early Feb 2019 - The SC will call interested ministers, exchange packet, evaluate ministers and conduct interviews. They will select and schedule candidates for pre-candidate weekends in neutral pulpits.
- Feb - Mar 2019 – have pre-candidate weekends and interview references.
- End of March 2019 – Make offer to first choice of candidates.
- April - May 2019 - Candidating week, and congregational meeting to vote on calling the minister August 2019- New settled minister arrives!!!!!

As you can see, lots of work needs to be done quickly but with great care. Once they are picked, please be sure to thank our Search Committee often and they will be working very hard for all of us.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us in the exercise of our congregational polity on May 20th at 12 noon. Three very important votes will occur at this meeting. Our new board members will be selected, our ministerial search committee will be called and annual budget be voted on. Please stay tuned to the e news for the full agenda.

Light food and beverages will be served. If you are unable to join us for the meeting, proxy forms will be available on the website and board members can get copies before the meeting. See you there!
MEET THE CHURCH

New to UUCNH? Want to Know More?
Then join us for Meet the Church
On Sunday, May 27th from noon – 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!

UUCNH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

FAITHFUL TO OUR FUTURE

May 1st marks for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere the true passage of Winter into Spring. Snow had better just stay away. Similarly, May brings the transition from the completion of the annual Stewardship Campaign to the culmination of the church year with the mid-month Congregational Meeting, during which finances are reviewed, plans for the near future are discussed, and elections for the following year's leadership are performed.

The generosity, forward thinking, love, and the reality of offsetting 2018 taxes with donations, have all come together to give UUCNH's 2018-2019 church year a successfully funded beginning through all of our pledges. As this passage from the UUA reminds us, Stewardship is so much more than just money:

“Healthy faith communities see stewardship as a vital component of their ministry. They understand that stewardship is an act of worship. Worship includes the joyful sharing of gifts (aptitude, ability, and money), call (willingness to proclaim the congregation’s spiritual message), and spiritual vocation (willingness to take up volunteer efforts to support the faith community). Note that gifts have a wider meaning than money exchanged for the programs and ministries of a faith community. For example, one’s gift to the faith community might be to serve on the finance committee because one has a good understanding of financial matters. Or a member with landscaping ability might agree to become the caretaker of the memorial garden. All kinds of gifts should be valued and considered meaningful. Stewardship, then, is the growing, nurturing, promoting, and building of the gifts, call, and spiritual vocation of the members of a faith community. Stewardship is not necessarily the things people do, but the spirit that influences the things they do.”

I thank you all for continuing to make UUCNH in your image, in our image, and in the image of our collective future.

I'd also like to thank the wonderful people of the Stewardship Team: Ginny Walzer, Lois Madden, Joe Meier, Susie Wood, Robyn Travers, Don Rollins, and our board liaison, Jan Hoeter, as well as all of our non-Stewardship Team Visiting Stewards: Lindsay Scott, Tassi Bisers, Chris Hill, Joyce Kepner, Carol Ballance, Bruce Travers, Midge Miles, Lynn Richards, and Ed Rockman.

Alex Landefeld, Chair
The Stewardship Team - Stewardship@uucnh.org
FINANCE COMMITTEE

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

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.

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. Need more information or have a questions, contact Tom Yeh, Lindsay Scott, or Mary Ellen Johnson.

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: lynnbeesrar@gmail.com
724-776-4183 H
Classes for children and youth for the 2017 – 2018 year are coming to a close this month...already!?! On behalf of the Children and Youth Faith Development Team I thank all of the leaders who have offered their time, energy, enthusiasm and compassion to serve UUCNH in this way.

UU religious education through the lifespan operates on the premise that everyone is a teacher, and everyone a learner...no matter one’s age or abilities. I believe that is what brings satisfaction and growth when you lead classes or groups. With explicit intention to be together in a way that manifests our values we can and do learn so much from each other.

**DAISIES AND THANK YOU TO:**

- Nursery Coordinator: Kristen Clarke, with Elizabeth Erbrecht, Zach Erbrecht, Mark Swihart and Amy Terrizzi. Paid caregivers: Katy Swidal and Gianna Amplo.
- PreK/K class Coordinator: Jen Suehr, with Katie Smith, Becca Shreckengast, Jackie Vasseur, Alexa Nelson and Ana Gongloff.
- 1st – 2nd Grade Coordinator: Lara Patton, with Erin Terrizzi, Justin Weinbaum, Vanessa Picard and Melissa Shackleford.
- Our Whole Lives (OWL) 1st & 2nd Grade leaders: Pam Weaver and Kip Ruefle
- 3rd – 4th Grade Coordinator: Rebecca Hovermale, with Bill McAdams, Jenny DeMann, John DeMann and Erin Wick
- 5th – 6th Grade: Tony Palermo, Ed Patton, Allyson Zadnik, Andy Zadnik
- Youth Group Coordinator: Rachael Smart, with Robyn Travers, Chris Vaughn and Don Nelson. Youth leaders: Tarin and James C. Co-chairs, Ellie and Lorenzo, Worship Leaders, Asa and Mikayla, Spirit Committee.

In Peace,

Jennifer Halperin
Interim Director of Lifespan Faith Development

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH CALENDAR**

**MAY 6** - RE appreciation breakfast 9:00 – 10:00 am Upstairs
Regular am classes
Young Adult Brunch 12:00 – 1:00 pm Upstairs

**MAY 13** - Regular am classes

**MAY 18 – 20** - OMD (regional) Youth Spring Conference. West Shore UU Church, (Cleveland)

**MAY 20** - Regular am classes (Last day of class)
Youth Group Meeting 6:15 pm

**MAY 26 – 27** - Youth Group Sleepover

**MAY 27** - PreK/K -Children’s Chapel with Jen H, 1st – 6th attend dinosaur presentation with Tony Palermo

**JUNE 3** - Flower Communion All-ages Sunday service. **Bring a flower!**
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.

PLAYGROUND AND BIKING AT NORTH PARK

WHEN: May 12th at 4:00 pm
WHERE: Meeting Place: North Park Black & Gold Playground (near the pool)
BRING: A snack to share, bikes optional

LET’S MEET AND GREET AT THE PICNIC

The semi-annual all church picnic following the service. With luck we will be able to be outside for this fun picnic. Tony P. brings his face paints and there’s lots of room to play and visit. Bring a blanket to sit on if you’d like. For more information contact: Dawn Lindsay at northparkmom@gmail.com.

WHEN: June 3rd after the service
WHERE: UUCNH
BRING: A dish to share

DAISIES AND THANK YOU....

To all of the Adult Faith Development class coordinators and group leaders/facilitators this past year! Dick Myers, Tony Palermo, Sue Luebbert Ron Smart, Becca Shreckengast, Rachael Smart, Michelle Broge-Connor, Edie Swihart, Joe Meier, Stephen Fuegi, Dawn Lindsay, Alex Saksen, Ellen Saksen, Emily Artis, Carol Ballance
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.

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Dick Myers - dmyers.rlm@gmail.com
When: May 27th at Noon– 1:15 pm
Where: East Room

Humanist Group (Fourth Sunday, May 27, after the service, East Room) – Time magazine has called the last several decades “the Coarsening of America.” From the new frankness in every day discourse in homes and at schools to the blather of rude emotions in music, news and politics, we’re just not as polite as we should be. So what started this mess? Sports...er, well, professional wrestling! Sort of. Let’s discuss. See Tony Palermo for details. tpalermo@consolidated.net. Also, to be added to the email list and receive announcements and supplemental materials for upcoming meetings, email Dick Myers at dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.

JESUS DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Tony Palermo - tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: May 20th at 12:00 – 1:15 pm
Where: Justice Room (upstairs)

Jesus Discussion Group (Third Sunday, May 20, after the service, upstairs, follow the yellow signs) – Mark’s gospel left the Jesus followers with a stark, almost desolate story of a social/religious movement looking for rescue to early intervention by the Deity. When it didn’t happen, their earthy, emotional founder began to morph into the mysterious, uniquely God-touched man of Matthew and Luke and his followers began to establish a Kingdom of God on Earth. See Tony Palermo for details - tpalermo@consolidated.net.
PSI [PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS]

Facilitator: Tony Palermo - tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: May 6th at 12:00 – 1:15 pm
Where: Growth Room (Upstairs, follow the signs)

PSI Group (First Sunday, May 6, after the service, upstairs, follow the yellow signs) – The chemical chasm between living and non-living matter has been referred to as another example of the need for a divine spark. And yet Chemistry suggests that this divide can be bridged by Nature. We’ll begin looking at the basics of the atom and how they relate to the molecules of Life. See Tony Palermo for details. tpalermo@consolidated.net

SISTERS-IN-SPRIT

Facilitators: Rachael Smart – thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
Michelle Broge-Connor - brogemm@gmail.com
When: May 9th at 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, you can contact either Rachael Smart at thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com or Michelle Broge-Connor at brogemm@gmail.com.

UU CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

Facilitator: Joe Meier - meierke@msn.com
Facilitator: Edie Swihart
When: May 13th at 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!
UU PAMPHLET SERIES WITH THE MINISTER

Mark your calendars for the 4th Sunday of the month, 9 am – 10 am. 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.

- May 27th - UU: A Spiritual Home for LGBTQ People

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. Our next Wonderful Wednesday will be May 2nd with a potluck starting at 6:00 pm and vespers led by Don at 6:45 pm. Help with the potluck setup/cleanup is appreciated.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

"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

BREAKFORTH ENSEMBLE

Facilitator: David Miles - miles@ohiou.edu
When: May 13th at 9:00 – 10:00 am
      May 20th at 9:00 – 10:00 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.
MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

Facilitator: Sue Luebbert – luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com or call 412-366-9553
When: May 8th and May 22nd from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Where: Sanctuary

Our usual pattern is to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, and you can always check by going to: http://uucnh.org/calendar/. We welcome anyone interested in mindful meditation, whether you have little or no experience in meditation, or you have practiced for years. 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. Examples from recent meetings are: guided meditation, readings or talks (audio or video) from wise teachers, and sound meditation with crystal bowls. To receive updates and reminders or if you have any questions please contact Sue Luebbert (see above).

THE CRAFT GROUP

Facilitator: Irene Dinning - 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!

THANK YOU

The Craft Group sends its’ thanks to all of you who supported our recent Spring Small Scale Sale and hope that you are enjoying the items you purchased. Proceeds from our sales are used to fund projects which are not included in the church budget.

THE QUILTERS GROUP

Facilitator: Peggy Trevanion - birdies4@comcast.net or 412-366-4348
When: May 8th at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (second Tuesday of the month)
Where: East Room

We would like to thank those who told us how much they enjoyed our quilts in the West Room. We are open to anyone who would like to learn more about piecing and quilting.
THE UKE GROUP

Facilitator: Sandy Faulkner - sfaulk50@aol.com or 412-366-5973
When: May 7\textsuperscript{th} at 7:00 – 9:00 pm
May 21\textsuperscript{st} at 7:00 – 9:00 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.

UU MINGLING SINGLES!

Single people, share covenant, have fun, and meet someone!

CALLING ALL UU SINGLES! - Single people, share covenant, have fun, and meet someone! Join UUMS’s – Unitarian Universalist Mingling Singles. We’re like-minded singles who get together for fellowship and socializing. Out next topic of discussion will be "Attachment Theory" as it relates to choosing and maintaining your relationship(s). So that participants are on the same page, please use Google and/or Youtube to get a basic understanding before coming to the meeting.

We’ll meet on the third Friday of the month at UU Church of the North Hills, in the East Room. Next meeting will be Friday, May 18, from 6 – 7:30 pm. Then at approximately 7:30 pm, we’ll move our gathering about a mile away to the Franklin Inn Mexican Restaurant and Bar, where we’ll continue our mingling. Whether you’re gay, straight, transgender or fluid...happily single or looking to find your soul mate, join the UUMS's! For questions for more information, contact Richard at (724) 814-0808.

UUCNH COFFEEHOUSE!

Due to building availability, this month’s coffeehouse has been moved to Friday, May 25\textsuperscript{th}, at 7:30 PM. Don has to be away to officiate a memorial service, so Bruce Travers will once again emcee. Come share a talent, or just enjoy a really good time with UUCNH friends and their friends.

Note: There will be no coffeehouse in June, but the new season starts on Friday, July 6\textsuperscript{th}. 
Please don’t be dissuaded by reviews which call this a difficult book to read. It is complex, densely written, and does move between time periods in a non-linear manner. There are many characters which appear in the story, and the "Dramatis Personae" list at the back of the book is helpful. Having said that, it is one of the best books I've ever read (and it did win the Pulitzer Prize, as well as many other awards). It takes place in a fictional town in Virginia before the Civil War, and the descriptions and experience of slavery are like none I've ever read. Eschewing stereotypes, the story focuses on the child of a slave who comes under the tutelage of his white master, and identifies with him and the seduction of power to the extent that he comes to own slaves himself. Although this was a rare occurrence (in 1830, just under 13,000 slaves were owned by free black people, and 42% were owned by family members simply for protection, while over 2 million were owned by whites), this book characterizes a subject which is morally complex and filled with bitter insight into the varied psychological landscape that was American slavery. This is certainly a book of pain, but the author’s masterful writing also makes it one of great beauty.

FUTURE SCHEDULED TITLES:

- June 8, 2018: *Frankenstein: or the Modern Prometheus* – Author: Mary Shelley; 1818
  142-280 pages, depending on edition; fiction
  Book Moderator: Gene Watson

YOGA

Facilitator: Amy Wilks – okwilks@gmail.com
When: May 15th, Tuesday @ 12:00 – 1:00 pm
      May 21st, Monday @ 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Where: Growth Room or Justice Room

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.

Amy has been practicing yoga for almost ten years and 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.
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

It’s Spring… Time for a … “A UUCNH Work Party”!
Saturday, June 2\textsuperscript{nd} from 8:30 am to 3:00 PM

To all those people who utilize this wonderful space, the Building and Grounds committee needs your help to keep this remarkable place as beautiful and functional as possible. So...two days a year one in the spring, and one in the fall we ask you the congregation to help with tasks of cleaning, minor repairs, window washing, just to mention a few of the ongoing tasks that are necessary to keep UUCNH in functioning order.

So set Saturday June 2\textsuperscript{nd} aside, we’ll need your help to make UUCNH Shine! Bring your energy, elbow grease, buckets, vacuums, gloves, rakes and shovels. You can come for the day or a just few hours. We’ll welcome your fellowship and assistance to help us with the work. Lunch will be provided.

Thank you from the Building and Grounds Committee

FOR THE HUNGER GARDEN

What a spring season we’re having! Nevertheless, we’ve taken the soil samples, and gotten most of the seeds ordered. With the forecast of good weather soon, we should have the garden ready for the Bellwood youth to participate in planting onion sets and snow peas (an annual tradition!) by the end of the month. Spring greens will follow, and should be ready for harvest by the time the Farm Stand starts up. Thanks to Ron Smart, Lindsay Scott, and Maggie Wilson for volunteering to help this season. Something new – I am building frames for more external raised beds for Peggy T.’s plans for a “sensory garden”. Dick Myers
EQUAL EXCHANGE FOR YOU AND THE FARMERS

When you buy a Fair Trade item, you’re supporting small farmers. That means they earn a fair amount for their work, allowing them to pay for healthcare, education and other basic necessities. 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, Caramel Crunch, and Very Dark (up to 80%!) plus Organic Milk Chocolate with a hint of hazelnut ($4 each, or 3 for $10)

And we have a Chamomile, Ginger, Rooibos and Chai Teas ($4 each) to warm you up! (Note: we have some samples out with the tea if you want to try one during Coffee Hour!)

RECYCLING UUCNH STYLE

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL COLLECTION

The PA Resources Council (PRC) and other groups are sponsoring three collection events in Allegheny County this summer. The first one will be at North Park swimming pool parking lot on Saturday, May 5th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. You can bring aerosol cans, batteries, most old liquids, like cleaning products, auto maintenance products, home environment and improvement supplies, hobby products, personal care & pharmaceuticals, and lawn & garden care products. The cost is $3/galloon -CASH ONLY. See the information on the Social Action bulletin board, PRC’s website, or talk to Chris Hill at coffee hour.

HARD TO RECYCLE COLLECTIONS

The PA Resources Council (PRC) is also sponsoring collection events this year for tires, electronic waste (computers, TVs, etc.), cell phones, batteries, etc. They will take Fluorescent Tubes-a hard to safely get rid of item! There are fees for this collection, although most electronics are free. See the sheet on the social action bulletin board or go to PRC’s Hard to Recycle page for a listing. The first collection will be on Saturday, May 12th from 9 AM to 1 PM at Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills. If you have any questions, contact Chris Hill at 412.366.9553 or chill613@comcast.net.

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.
Our congregation started our Green Sanctuary journey at the very end of January 2017. Although we did make a brief presentation at the March 2018 midyear congregational meeting, it seemed to be time for a comprehensive update. So here is a summary of the ground covered so far on our Green Sanctuary journey.

Our launch in January 2017 was the end of step one of the six-step journey as defined by the UUA. We began the second step quickly in February 2017 with monthly meetings of the interested and willing (now our Green Sanctuary Team), developing and conducting a congregational survey and conducting church committee surveys. Several members of the Green Sanctuary team (Connie Hester and Jen Fontaine) started to publish weekly Green Tips covering everything from the familiar (recycling) to the surprising (washing underwear). These dedicated souls continue to provide this service to our congregation – inspiring us to think and act in new green ways every day.

The Green Sanctuary team continues to meet monthly and is getting close to finishing the assessment phase of our journey. We have been so lucky to have special opportunities offered to us on this second step of our Green Sanctuary journey. First, a generous solar company from West Virginia – MTV Solar - offered to give us a start on solar panels for our roof – what a wonderful opportunity. We expect to have the first 12 panels up and running in the next month. Members and friends of our church who purchase solar systems from MTV can donate a panel to our church’s array. Secondly, we applied for and were selected to be a site for a CMU graduate sustainability study. In cooperation with our energy auditor, the CMU team is analyzing our current energy and resources uses and patterns. The CMU team will make recommendations for all levels of changes and improvements to reduce our carbon footprint and make our church more sustainable. This information along with our energy audit should allow us to prioritize our future sustainability and energy conservation actions and better understand how our activities impact our planet.

We are starting to look beyond our church to see how we might have impact in our community and beyond. We will have our first Green Sanctuary Share the Plate on April 22nd supporting the Southwest PA Environmental Health Project. The executive director of SWPA EHP will be with us and introduce us to how SWPA EHP is documenting and educating communities regarding the health impacts of unconventional oil and gas extraction.

We have recently been approached by and are in conversation with Sunnyhill (UU Church of the South Hills) and St. Brendan’s Episcopal Church in Franklin Park. We expect to collaborate with these churches regarding environmental justice efforts including local happenings related to the arrival fracking activity in several neighboring communities. Our wonderful craft group has created all sorts of reused and recycled treasures for last fall’s and this spring’s craft sales. These craft creations inspire us and minimize things going into landfills. We continue to look for ways to make our Sunday services “greener” including adding screens and projection capabilities to our West Room. Our Memorial Garden group is gearing up to create a landscape plan for the church and Memorial Garden using a landscape architect firm with experience and focus on native species and environmentally friendly design.

We will continue with our multigenerational Earth Day celebration this year – our church celebration will be on April 29th. We plan to have a presentations regarding creating a monarch waystation from a nature expert from North Park, a solar presentation, make some recycled flowers and hear CMU’s preliminary findings on our church’s sustainability project.

We hope to have our church assessment completed within the next few months. Our Green Sanctuary team is working offer an adult religious education program from the UUA called “Our Place in the Web” in the next few months to help us focus on an area or areas for our environmental justice efforts. We also are planning a speaker and film series in the fall regarding environmental justice and climate change.

So our congregation is on a roll on our Green Sanctuary journey. Thank you for your contribution to making our church and our world a greener and more just planet.
Candidate Forum on criminal legal system issues

May 7, 2018
6 PM

at the
First Unitarian Church
605 Morewood Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Criminal justice intersects with many critical issues in our communities – mass incarceration, housing, health care, disability justice, education, immigrant rights, policing, LGBTQ issues, reentry, and more. At this forum, District 19, 20, 21, and 34 candidates running in the May 15 primary for the PA legislature will be invited to answer questions on these important issues, presented by a range of community groups and organizations.

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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Candidates</th>
<th>Neighborhoods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Jake Wheatley (incumbent)</td>
<td>Downtown, Hill District, North Side, Allentown, Beltzhoover, Knoxville, South Oakland, Hazelwood</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ebony Taylor (challenger)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aerion Abney (challenger)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Adam Ravenstahl (incumbent)</td>
<td>Northview Heights, Brighton Heights, Lawrenceville, Strip District, Polish Hill, Troy Hill, Avalon Boro, Bellevue Boro, West View</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Michael Devine (challenger)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Dom Costa (incumbent)</td>
<td>Bloomfield, Upper Lawrenceville, Stanton Heights, Morningside, Aspinwall Boro, Etna, Millvale, O'haras Twp, Reserve Twp, Shaler, Sharpsburg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sara Innamorato (challenger)</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Paul Costa (incumbent)</td>
<td>Hazelwood, Duck Hollow, Swisshelm Park, Braddock, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Edgewood, Forest Hills, Homestead, North Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, Turtle Creek, West Homestead Boro, Wilkins Twp</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Summer Lee (challenger)</td>
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Sponsored by the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration (CADDI-West), First Unitarian Church, ACLU of Pennsylvania, UUPLAN, Alliance for Police Accountability, Elsinore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice, Human Rights Coalition - Fed Up! chapter, P.O.O.R.L.A.W., and Voter Empowerment Education & Enrichment Movement.
NHCO PROVIDES FREE HOME SAFETY CHECKS FOR SENIORS
North Hills Community Outreach can provide a free home safety check for senior citizens in northern Allegheny County north of the City of Pittsburgh. Trained volunteers will do a thorough safety check, install smoke detectors or change the batteries in current smoke detectors. Seniors will also be provided with a bathmat, a flashlight with fresh batteries, a night light, baking soda for grease fires, plus other helpful items. After the check is completed, seniors may request free grab bars to be installed in a bathroom or a free railing installed in a home inside stairwell. Those installations will be done at a later date by a state licensed professional contractor, at no charge. Interested seniors who reside in northern Allegheny County north of the city should contact Cathy at 412-307-0069 X 3313 or email clpschirer@nhco.org. For more information about other services provided by NHCO, please visit www.nhco.org or call 412-487-6316.

NHCO COLLECTING SPRING CLEANING SUPPLIES
North Hills Community Outreach is collecting Spring Cleaning supplies for distribution to the families who use its three food pantries. Items are appreciated by June 8, but will be accepted year round. Items needed include: laundry detergent, antibacterial wipes, all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, dish detergent, pack of sponges, paper towels and canvas shopping bags. Please donate Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm at NHCO Allison Park, 1975 Ferguson Road, Hampton, or NHCO North Boroughs, AGH-Suburban Campus, 100 S. Jackson Avenue, Bellevue, or call 412-487-6316 option 1 to make alternate arrangements.

WALK FOR NHCO IN THE HIGHMARK WALK
Join North Hills Community Outreach in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community May 12! When you register to walk, and/or fundraise for NHCO, 100% of the proceeds support NHCO’s programs to help local families in need. Registration is now open at http://hcf.convio.net/nhco. This is a great family activity. Dogs are welcome! For more information, please contact Maria at mschristina@nhco.org or 412-408-3830.

VEHICLE DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR NHCO'S TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Your unwanted car, van, truck, boat, RV or motorcycle can help several low-income individuals or families. Vehicles donated to North Hills Community Outreach’s Transportation Assistance program are sold at auction and 100 percent of the funds NHCO receives help local people in need overcome transportation challenges. Your donated car could change lives. FREE pickup or towing and hassle-free donation process. Please visit nhco.org or call 412-408-3830 x 3225. Please note that Community Auto is no longer a program of NHCO.

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.

NHCO OFFERS GOAL-SETTING HELP FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING
NHCO’s Pathways program helps low-income people set goals for employment or education. Our coordinators meet one on one with people to coach and provide free resources and support. Appointments are available. For information, call Abby in North Boroughs (Bellevue) at 412-307-0069, Nicole in Millvale at 412-408-3830 or Shela in McKees Rocks at 412-331-1685 ext. 233.

NHCO NEEDS ON-BOARD VOLUNTEER DISPATCHERS FOR OUR SENIOR SHUTTLES
North Hills Community Outreach urgently needs volunteer on-board dispatchers for its two Free Rides for Seniors shuttles, which transport seniors in the Route 28 communities to UPMC medical appointments and shopping during weekdays. No special license is needed and training is provided. Shifts are short. Please contact Kerry at kkmulhern@nhco.org or 412-449-0151 for more information.
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.
INTERCOM article submission Deadline for the June Intercom will be on **May 21**

- All submissions are to be sent to [office@uucnh.org](mailto:office@uucnh.org).
- Please put in the SUBJECT line: **Intercom Submission**.
- Format your submission in PLAIN TEXT in a **Word or PDF document**, single spacing, and **CALIBRI 11 font** (if possible). Also, if you send a picture or flyer please send each as a JIF, JPEG, or image file.
- Review and/or edit your submissions before sending and also confirm that the dates you list are correct. Submissions go to print as received.

PUBLICATIONS DEADLINE REMINDERS

Managing the UUCNH’s Intercom, E-News, Order of Service Announcements and any other periodic publication needs the timely support from everyone. Late or last minute requests cause undue stress and add to the delay of production. Here is a few suggestions to help lighten the load and to keep the finalizing of these documents and reports on a timely schedule:

- 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**. Late submissions mean more work.
- Please submit a “lean” copy, proofread by you.
- 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 and reminders!
Remember Mom’s Day
May 13th

happy mother’s day
Happy Memorial Day
May 30th

Thank you to all our military personnel for the sacrifices you have made for our freedom.