JANUARY 2017

2350 W. Ingomar Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-366-0244

office@uucnh.org
Website: uucnh.org

Board President:
Ivan Baumwell
president@uucnh.org

Church Office Hours:

Rev. Scott Rudolph, Minister
Tuesday 12-4
Wednesday 9-1
Thursday 9-1
Available By Appointment
minister@uucnh.org

Lynne Ferrari
Office Administrator,
Online Intercom
M-F - 9-3
office@uucnh.org

Dawn Fitzgerald-Swidal
Intercom Editor
Rowan@OctoberMorning.com
(All Intercom Submissions
Go To Dawn)

Sunday Services start
at 10:30 A.M.

Religious Education Classes
run concurrently with the
service. Nursery Care is provided.

Coffee Hour with coffee &
conversation for adults
& children immediately follows.

THOUGHTS SCOTT BEGOT:

There has been a lot of talk
about how 2016 was a horrible
year. I would have to agree.
There was the election (depend-
ing on who you voted for, I
suppose), the Zika virus, a steady
presence of terror attacks, more
killings of black men by law enforce-
ment, more killing of law enforce-
ment by unhinged people, Brexit, civil war and mass killing in Syria, ISIS,
climate change, the death of Prince, David
Bowie, Leonard Cohen, Muhammad Ali ... I’ll
stop. I could keep going, but that was becoming
depressing.

This has been a terribly hard year. But there has
also been beauty and goodness. There has been
victory. There has been laughter and love.
Because of the Ice Bucket Challenge, we may
have found the gene responsible for ALS, 800
hostages were rescued from Boko Haram, solar
power is thriving in California, during a 24 hour
period in India this year, a bunch of people
planted 50 million trees, the hole in the ozone is
actually getting better (a model for hope), child
mortality continues to descend, manatees, tigers, and pandas... oh my! -all are up
population, Harriet Tubman is going to replace
Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill, and this list
could also go on and on. And furthermore, let us
not forget that there are still puppies, rainbows,
stars, fuzzy caterpillars, and snuggly blankets.

There is also our church, which is thriving -
which is pushing into new space and deepening
in ways that we hoped for years ago. I spend a
lot of time at church, so while my news feed
offers me despair, my daily life is filled with
inspiration as I witness the way our church
meets the needs of its people, how our
members work together, and how we dream for
our future and then courageously move forward
into those aspirations. My daily life is full of
goodness because I spend my days and
evenings with the members of UUCNH. In hard
times, my spirit is lifted by the reality of our
church. If you get discouraged, I invite you to
simply look around our community. Trust me.
You will feel better. What good is a church if it
doesn’t provide us with hope? Our church
provides me with so much hope. And a place to
participate in bringing hope into being. UUCNH
is hope filled and hope fulfilling.

In Hope,
The mid-year congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22 at noon. The Board will host a light lunch and it will be a good time for us all to catch up with goings-on at UUCNH this first half of the church year (fiscal year). Above and beyond catching up and taking stock, there will be two important issues to vote on. One will be to reduce the size of the Board from 9 members to 7 with the secretary being selected from the Board, rather than being someone outside the Board. The other issue to be voted on will be whether to proceed with the process of UUCNH becoming a Green Sanctuary. A presentation of what that would entail will be delivered at the meeting, but, as a heads-up, the Board is enthusiastically in favor of this. The meeting will also be an opportunity for our newer members to get a broader sense of the church.

Whether it is a result of the Communications Team spreading the good word about our presence as a liberal church in the North Hills, after-shocks from the election, or our having reached some critical mass, there has been a noticeable surge in attendance this Fall. This surge has led to some issues with seating at the church. There are a few things we can do to alleviate the crunch. We would like to encourage all people arriving for the Sunday Service to take seats as far forward as possible and to move to the center of their row. The last couple of rows should be left for late arrivals. Growth is a good “problem” to have and we can make it less of a problem if we deal with it mindfully.

Lastly, given the rich diversity of religious backgrounds we come from and the diversity of beliefs we hold, UU’s relate to and celebrate the holidays in many different ways. Regardless of how you recognize the holidays, my wish is that you each enjoy togetherness with a wealth of friends and family and find peace and love at the end of this year. It’s a great foundation to start off the new year and to allow us, as my favorite line from a Christmas song goes, “to face unafraid the plans that we’ve made.”

Ivan Baumwell, President-- UUCNH Board of Trustees
New Years, and a great time for a new start! But another resolution? How about a different way: letting go of last year’s bumps and bruises and starting again at peace with ourselves. Join us as we do just that in the UU Burning Bowl Ceremony.

January 8, 2017
THANKING ATHEISTS
Rev. Scott Rudolph

Religious humanists, atheists, free thinkers, and agnostics have changed the American landscape in the last half century. Christian theism used to be the only accepted mainstream belief. Now, it is more in our society for people to fee comfortable following their own search for truth and meaning wherever that may lead them. And for that, a thanks is due.

January 15, 2017
HOW MANY PARTS OF YOU ARE THERE?
Rev. Scott Rudolph

Every interaction is a multicultural interaction. This is because each of us brings with us a multitude of pieces of our own identity, personal history, and varied cultures with us wherever we go. As we understand our own complex identity, we begin to allow space for others as well.

What if your internal sense of identity doesn’t match what people see on the outside? Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe those who transcend conventional expectations of gender identity or expression. Today, members of the Pittsburgh chapter of PFLAG will help us understand the term transgender, why transgender individuals feel compelled to transition, and the challenges they face in today’s world.

SST-Congregational meeting- Transgender Panel - (trans-name tag)

January 29, 2017
PLEASE PRESS ALL THE BUTTONS
Rev. Scott Rudolph

Describing what exactly Unitarian Universalists believe can be tricky. We share some things in common, and we all also each bring our own beliefs. Could you describe our religious tradition in the time you were with traveling from floor to floor on an elevator? Invite someone with you to church on this “Bring a Friend” Sunday as we give it a try.
Each year UUCNH holds a Stewardship Pledge Drive. We will do so again this spring. As we prepare for this year's campaign, it is well for us to think about why we raise money and why we ask for financial support from members and friends.

We do not ask for your money so that we can pay for heat and electricity, so that the snow is plowed and the grass is mowed, although all of those bills will be paid by pledge dollars.

We ask for your financial commitment to fulfill our mission and to provide a liberal religious community in North Hills. We have, for over fifty years, been a presence, a sanctuary for liberal religious practice, community and social justice.

Visitors and friends come to us to explore the possibility of fulfilling a need in their own hearts and lives. They come for their children who need guidance in learning tolerance and acceptance of themselves and others. Visitors may come because they are different and want to be part of a community that values and cherishes them just as they are.

We exist for each other. We exist because we have chosen to be here for ourselves and for those we will never meet.

Please consider your deep reasons for being a part of our community as we prepare for our new pledge drive.

Thank You,
Lou Bartolomucci
Chair Stewardship Team
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Your Leadership Development Team (LDT) is at work. We recently invited Rev Scott Rudolph to meet with us. This is a renewal of a practice from when LDT was created some five years ago.

Our first piece of business with Scott was to affirm our roles and how we work together. Under our bylaws, LDT nominates Board and LDT members. We affirmed that Scott would act as a consultant, suggesting and advising on nominees. UUCNH operates in accordance with its bylaws, which in Article I, grants our Members “authority for all matters relating to UUCNH.” Our tradition of congregational polity shapes our ideas of a lay governed organization with lay control over the selection of Board and LDT membership.

Our other responsibilities, assigned to us by the Board, are “identifying and training potential lay leaders and providing support and further leadership development to current congregational lay leaders…” (LDT CAR document.) Scott has been of great assistance to us with these efforts. We expect to continue to call on his assistance.

In early fall, we conducted our annual LDT retreat with the Committee of Chairs (CofC). We provided sessions on, among other things, a Governance Task Force Update (Ed Rockman), Emotional Intelligence (Sandy Faulkner) and How to Run a Meeting Like a Leader (Matt Ferry). We also heard from Robyn Travers, Vice President and Chair of the CofC, who discussed Committee business.

Later, in mid-November, we held our annual invitation gathering session with newer people who have been identified as potential leaders in the Church. This is a casual evening event where we can get to know these people and they can get to know each other and the LDT members. The session is long on informal conversation and short on formal presentations about volunteering at the Church.

If you have anything you’d like to hear from or say to us, please contact us in any way that feels comfortable to you – at Church, email, or phone.

JANUARY 2017 LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CALENDAR

January 1:
Intergenerational service - no classes

January 8:
Regular AM classes
OWL 5/6 Parent/Child Orientation: 12 – 2pm

January 14: Junior and Senior High Anti-Racism training at First Unitarian Church Pittsburgh:
10am – 5pm

January 15:
Regular AM classes
OWL 7/8: 6 – 9pm
OWL 5/6: 6 – 7:30pm

January 22:
Regular AM classes
OWL 5/6: 6 – 7:30pm

“Education that is religious is clearly a transcendent activity. Its ultimate goal is to liberate persons to fulfill their potentialities for authenticity and creativity. It is guided by a vision that urges people to interpret their lives, to relate to others, and to engage with the world in ways that they perceive to be ultimate.”

Lifespan Faith Development Programs: Our Whole Lives

We are pleased to announce that OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) for children in 5th & 6th grades is starting in January (Sunday evenings from 6 - 7:30pm) for eight weeks at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. Pam Weaver and Kip Ruefle will be the class leaders. Both are trained and experienced OWL teachers.

There is a mandatory parent/child orientation on Sunday, January 8, 2017 from 12 - 2pm.

In order to attend the program, your child will need a signed permission slip, which we will give you on January 8th. If you would like your child to participate but are unable to make the January 8th meeting, please contact Jennifer Halperin (uucnhdlfd@gmail.com). There is no fee for the course, although we may ask you to occasionally provide food.

Mystery Pals
Beginning In January

This popular multi-generational activity provides an opportunity for youth and adults in the congregation to get to know one another and form new relationships. Pals exchange clues about themselves via code names over three weeks and eventually reveal themselves at a fun party.

Do you have a CLUE? It’s Mystery Pal Sign-up Time

Are you interested in connecting with a UUCNH member of a different generation?? Do you have a secret code name? Here is your chance to give clues to try to get someone to guess who you really are and try to figure out another’s secret code name.

On January 8, children will sign up to participate in their classrooms. On January 15, there will be a table set up in Friendship Hall where adults can sign up and where you'll receive your secret pal's code name.

Then on January 22, January 29 and February 5, turn in a letter to the mail folder (in the upstairs hallway) of your secret pal that gives clues to your identity. And on February 12, we will have our big reveal mystery pal party where you will exchange a small gift. Sound like fun? It is. Come join us!

UU Service Committee Guest At Your Table Program

A friendly reminder about UUSC's Guest at Your Table fundraising program. Our focus for this year is Defying Hate - in solidarity with and support of the global and collaborative effort to defy Islamophobia, xenophobia, and other forms of hate and bigotry from the ground up, while also putting pressure on powers at the top.

The UU Service Committee is a human rights organization affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. By “inviting” a guest at your table you support the important work the UUSC does with local partners organizing relief work or advocacy efforts.

Boxes are at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Put one by your table and drop coins into it this month. You can bring the boxes back to church any time in January. Last day of collection will be January 29.
ARE YOU READY TO HELP UUCNH BE A GREEN SANCTUARY?

Hi! My name is Susie Wood. I hope you might be interested in joining me to introduce and plan the Green Sanctuary journey at UUCNH.

Green Sanctuary is a UUA program designed to weave (or in our case, more deeply weave) practices, attitudes and actions of environmental stewardship through our lives, our children’s lives, our congregation and out into our community. Green Sanctuary seeks to build individual, congregational, community and global environmental knowledge, practices and action to improve our lives and the world. I cannot think of a more important project to do in this time of global warming. You can check out the vast resources related to Green Sanctuary at uua.org/environment/sanctuary.

We are just starting in the first step in the Green Sanctuary process: establishing a team to lead the introduction of the project, inform the congregation, and work to gain congregational approval to move forward. As you may know, our congregation has identified social justice and climate change as our areas of congregational focus. Green Sanctuary aligns perfectly with those identified themes. This project is expected to include Religious Education (RE), buildings and grounds, worship and almost all the activities and committees of UUCNH. Scott has also spoken with Board members and reports enthusiastic support.

This initiative is expected to last for two to three years (maybe more or maybe less). I am asking you to consider joining us for phase one of the project (and more if you like) – launch, building knowledge and enthusiasm, and gaining congregational approval to proceed.

The entire project includes several steps that you may also be interested in and/or bring special expertise to. Any assistance or expertise you would like to bring to this project will be greatly appreciated. I would be happy to speak with you via phone, email or in person. You can contact me via wood.susie@gmail.com or 412.203.1247. Watch the weekly e-news for our first meeting in January – come join us!

I think this project will be fun and exciting as we evaluate our environmental situation and activities, build our knowledge and levels of expertise through all parts of our beloved community, and find and perform environmental activities within our community to live our values and improve the world. One of the most exciting components of the Green Sanctuary process is environmental justice – with our congregation partnering with a local community/group to actively assist with community-identified environmental activities to improve lives and the environment. As you can see, there are so many ways to get involved and help while having fun and doing good for the planet.

UU CLUSTER NEWS

Check out our local Cluster Website at www.uupittsburgh.org. See what is happening with other UU’s in our area, and for UU events that are open to all.
January 4, 2016
Potluck – 6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Every 1st Wednesday of the month in this worship service, we will create a space for “that transcending mystery and wonder which moves us to a renewal of the spirit.”

The services will be following a different format than our more traditional Sunday morning service.

There will be music, reflection, sharing, silence, and ritual. Children are welcome at the service. Childcare will be provided in the nursery for toddlers and younger ones. Come join us as we gather the spirit!

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:

Mark Swihart
mswihart@spang.com
412-369-9321

Susan Powers
susan-a-powers@comcast.net
412-427-7300

Marsha Albright
mkalbright@gmail.com
412-487-4565

Tom Brown
mrteb@comcast.net
412-915-9156

Kathy Cypher
alkate@consolidated.net
724-316-4694
Systemic change team for January

Did you make a New Years' Resolution to do more to live out your UU values? Do you want to get involved in social justice work? Systemic Change team wants to help you do that!

The first step you should take is to register to vote – and be sure you go vote! The next step is to know who represents you. Who is your representative on your school board, your township/borough board, county council, state and federal legislators. Find out who they are, put their contact information in your cell phone. Then you'll be ready to call them when you need to! If you've never called them, watch for our barn blog about doing social justice work, we'll have tips to help you get started.

UUCNH belongs to four organizations that do social justice work. They are NORTH (Neighboring Organizations Responding Together for Hope), PIIN (Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network) and UUPLAN (Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network) and UUSC (UU Service Committee). It's a lot to keep track of, one of the main jobs of our staff and committee is to prioritize the information we send on to you.

N.O.R.T.H. is hosting a “Friendship Dinner” at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church on Thursday, January 19 from 6-8 p.m. The dinner itself will feature a buffet of appropriately prepared foods, including vegetarian options. There will be no charge, but a donation basket will be available to help defray costs. Each table of eight to ten guests will spend time in conversation around several questions designed to illuminate our concerns, hopes, and/or fears, going forward. After our table conversation, a brief plenary time will hear some of the highlights of these talks, and may help us focus on possible next steps-- how we will stand together with one another and collaborate for social justice and religious freedom, respecting the rights and beliefs of all. Please contact Carol Ballance at cstbwexford@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

UUPLAN has received a challenge grant for $9,000.00! Please consider donating to OUR state social justice organization. We would hate to leave any money on the table. Please go to www.uuplan.org. One of the main ways UUPLAN works is through justice teams that meet monthly via Zoom. We need to know who is interested in what work – we'll put you on an e-mail list. If you're willing to be on the conference call we'd love to have you do that! The justice teams are; anti-mass incarceration, economic justice, environmental justice, gun violence prevention, immigration justice, reproductive justice and good government. We will have sign up sheets during coffee hours in January or contact Carol Ballance at stbwexford@gmail.com.

We will host a Reproductive Rights Roundtable after church on January 29. Liz Perkins of First Unitarian Pittsburgh is the co-chair of UUPLAN's reproductive justice team and will have a short program and answer questions.

Meet The Church
Sunday, January 15 -12-1p.m. Sanctuary

Newcomers -- Grab your coffee or tea, bring your questions, and join us for an introduction to our church! This informal session provides basic information about UU'ism and UUCNH. Childcare is provided. Contact Chuck Berry (cdberry13@gmail.com)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

INTRODUCING FAITH AND JUSTICE WEDNESDAYS

The Adult Faith Development Team is pleased to announce a new Wednesday discussion series on topics of general interest to the congregation. Each discussion will be preceded by a potluck and will regularly take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The schedule for Spring 2017 will be as follows:

Potluck supper: 6:00 - 7:00pm
Workshop: 7:00 - 8:30pm

Jan 25, 2017: Book Discussion: The Third Reconstruction by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
Feb 22, 2017: Corruption of Our Democracy - Fair Districts PA - Sue Broughton
Mar 22, 2017: Escalating Inequality - UUA Study Action Issue
Apr 26, 2017: Groundswell Rising: Fracking Documentary - Documentary Film
May 24, 2017: Book Discussion: Reclaiming Prophetic Witness by Paul Rasor - Book discussion

Hope to see you all there!

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN THE CHURCH?

Come to the Fundraising meeting on January 29th at noon! We will start planning events for 2017. Fresh faces and ideas are always great!

Remember to save your stuff! Rummage sale will be the weekend after Mother's Day.
Did you make a New Years’ Resolution to do more to live out your UU values? Do you want to get involved in social justice work? Systemic Change team wants to help you do that!

The first step you should take is to register to vote – and be sure you go vote! The next step is to know who represents you. Who is your representative on your school board, your township/city/borough board, county council, state and federal legislators. Find out who they are, put their contact information in your cell phone. Then you’ll be ready to call them when you need to! If you’ve never called them, watch for our barn blog about doing social justice work, we’ll have tips to help you get started.

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UU Christian Perspectives

Co-Facilitators: Joe Meier, Edie Swihart
Contact: meierke@msn.com
When: Jan 8 2017 @ 9:15am
Where: Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room

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

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

Humanist Discussion Group

Facilitator: Dick Myers
Contact: dmyers.rlm@gmail.com
When: Jan 29, 2017 @ Noon
Where: East Room

Due to the Congressional Meeting on January 22, the January meeting of the Humanist Discussion Group has been re-scheduled for January 29”, at noon in the East Room. At that meeting, we will work on an understanding of the negative perceptions that many persons have of Humanism, and our own ideas of how to best communicate our individual perspectives in constructive ways.

To be added to the email distribution list and receive additional information regarding our discussion topics, contact Dick Myers at dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.

PSI Group

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: Jan 1, 2017

On the assumption that Jan. 1st will be a tough sell, let’s try Jan. 8th for this month only: after the service, upstairs, follow the yellow signs. Having discussed in detail the pros, cons, stumbling blocks and possibilities of monotheism, we turn now to the problem of fruitful, non-inflammatory dialogue with those of other paradigms or world views. Methods as well as meeting points will be on the agenda.

Contact Tony for more details at tpalermo@consolidated.net.

Barnraisers

Facilitator: Rachael Smart
Contact: thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
When: Jan 23, 2017 @ 6:30 pm
Where: Friendship Hall

Barn Raisers is a community group in which members give/receive various services in exchange for time dollars. This is a concept known as timebanking. Types of services vary greatly from babysitting to yard work to help writing resumes to painting.

There are so many ways in which we can help each other through timebanking and build community and friendships at the same time. Barn Raisers will periodically host a potluck dinner where members can gather to socialize and discuss exchanges. Our next potluck is tentatively scheduled for April 24.

For more information on the group, e-mail timebank.barnraisers@gmail.com or see our Facebook page.
MEN’S GROUP

Facilitators: Hal Dixler
Contacts: halleyypgh@gmail.com
When: Facilitated topic: 2nd Sunday at noon
Open forum: 4th Tuesday at 6 PM
Where: Sundays in the East Room; Tuesdays in the Truth and Meaning Room (Youth)

Tuesdays in the Truth and Meaning Room (Youth)

The next meeting of the UUCNH Men’s Group will convene around noon on Sunday, January 8, 2017, in the East Room. This is a facilitated meeting, one in which a member of the group leads a discussion of a topic of his choice.

Open Forum will meet on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

The Men’s Group is open to all men, including visitors, who enjoy exchanging ideas and opinions with others. The principal obligations are an open mind and a gentlemanly disposition.

We meet the 2nd Sunday and the 4th Tuesday of every month. Sunday meetings are scheduled after the regular church service and are usually facilitated by a member.

Tuesday meetings are not facilitated; discussion is free-form, with no prior definition of a subject and are scheduled for 6 PM.

There is also monthly movie night being discussed. For more information on the Men’s Group, please contact Hal.

JEANS DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: t palermo@ consolidated.net
When: Jan 15 2017

We’ve explored the gospels outside the New Testament canon and discovered that, while they can flesh out much of today’s mythology, they fall short of delivering real information about what happened in Palestine two millennia ago to so change the theology of the western world. For that, we move in a different direction. See Tony Palermo for details, t palermo@ consolidated.net.

SISTERS IN SPIRIT

Facilitators: Rachael Smart
Contacts: thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
When: Jan 11, 2017 @ 6:30pm
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 participate in our January new members meeting on January 11 or to learn more about the group, contact either Rachael Smart at thesmart family3@yahoo.com or Michelle Broge-Connor at brogemm@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT
Winter 2017 Community Activities

UUCNH Quilting Group

Facilitator: Peggy Trevanion - 412-366-4348 or birdies4@comcast.net
When: Jan 10 @ 10:00am
Where: East Room

The second Tuesday of the month is when the UUCNH Quilters meet to work on projects and share interesting techniques. We meet in the East Room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch.

For more information, contact Peggy Trevanion at 412-366-4348 or birdies4@comcast.net.

The Craft Group

Facilitator: Irene Dinning - 412-741-6463
When: Every Thursday, 10:00am
Where: East Room

We are a long-time UUCNH group that welcomes other crafters: those who want to learn needlework (such as knitting, crocheting, and embroidery), 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
sfaulk50@aol.com, 412-366-5973
When: Jan 2 & 16 @ 7:30pm
Where: East Room

We meet the first and third Monday. 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.

UUCNH Families Group

Facilitators: Carla Bickel
Contact: c.marie11@yahoo.com
When: February 5 at 3:30PM
Where: UUNCH

February 5 @ 3pm: Bowling for all ages at Perry Park Lanes.

And mark your calendars for these upcoming events listed below:

March 19: Games afternoon, right after church! Pizza provided.

April 8 @ 10a: Fun Fore All.

June 17 @ 11:30a: the 2nd annual Families Group Picnic at North Park. We had a lot of fun at the 1st picnic - this is one you do not want to miss! Additionally, our very own Carmen Thomson of CPThomson Photography will be doing mini photoshoots at the picnic! The price will be $75 for 10 edited photos. All proceeds will be donated to UUCNH.

October 1: Fall Carnival at UUCNH.
Hello Readers,
For those who wish to get a head start on January, the next book is A Fine Balance, by Rohinton Mistry.

Future Title:
February 10, 2017: - Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

In January 2017 we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, January 10th and January 24th. 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. Join us for one evening, or as many as you would like.

We practice silent meditation, guided meditation, and either walking meditation or another form of movement meditation. Usually there are short readings, often from Pema Chodron or Thich Nhat Hanh. The facilitator often leads the meeting, but anyone who has attended at least one meeting is welcome and encouraged to lead a meeting.

You are invited to come early to have a cup of tea with us before the formal program starts - church is open and the urn of hot water is available by 6:40.

Questions or comments, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com, or (412) 366-9553.

The Adult Faith Development Team is sponsoring a Faith and Justice Book Discussion Series. This occasional series will provide a forum for the church community to read and discuss books that directly pertain to the development of our Unitarian Universalist faith, and which promote the social justice mission of the church. The first discussion in this series is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017.

We will be reading The Third Reconstruction by Rev. William Barber, this year’s UUA Common Read. Rev. Barber is the leader of the Moral Mondays movement, which started in North Carolina and has since spread to state capitols all over the country. He was an inspiring speaker at this year's UUA General Assembly. In this book, Rev. Barber argues that this nation needs to undergo a third reconstruction, that lives up to the promise of the post-Civil War-era Reconstruction, and that of the Civil Rights era. For more information, please see the following link: http://www.beacon.org/The-Third-Reconstruction-P1139.aspx

Copies of this book are now available in the church library. We encourage everyone who checks out a copy to return it promptly, so that others have an opportunity to read it. There are also limited copies available in the Carnegie system. The next discussion in the series will be on Wednesday, May 24th, 2017 on Reclaiming Prophetic Witness by Paul Rasor. Copies of this book will also be available in the church library shortly.
UUCNH is helping support the mission of North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) by participating in their 2017 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 & $22) of temple oranges or Indian River pink grapefruit; honey tangerines for $22 and two specialty boxes at $34: the Citrus Sampler contains navel oranges and Indian River grapefruit, while the Fresh Trio also contains Anjou pears. Also: a Junior Fresh Trio with 6 of each for $24.

Order forms are available beginning in January from Chris Hill or on the bulletin board in Friendship Hall. Orders due by February 5th, with delivery Sunday, March 5th. All orders COD!

**NHCO General Volunteer Orientations**

North Hills Community Outreach will host Volunteer Orientation sessions at 10am, Thursday, January 12 at NHCO North Boroughs in the physician’s dining room, AGH-Suburban Campus, 100 S. Jackson Ave., Bellevue and Thursday, February 9 at NHCO Millvale.

Volunteer needs include drivers for Free Rides for Seniors shuttles, drivers to transport seniors to appointments, volunteers for the Pittsburgh Marathon, groups or individuals to hold collections and fund raisers, and more. Please register with Harriet at hzgibbs@nhco.org or 412-408-3830 x 3204.

**SHARING WINTER WARMTH WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED, THROUGH NHCO**

Sharing – it’s what North Hills Community Outreach is about. We are an organization of “People Helping People.” Neighbors help neighbors, and kind strangers share so that others might not go without.

Because you wish to ease the suffering of families in hardship and are willing to share what you have, thousands of your neighbors can face the challenge of their poverty with dignity and courage.

In addition to multiple self-sufficiency programs, food pantries and sharing projects, NHCO has a special Sharing Winter Warmth program. Each winter, we accept financial donations so that senior citizens, disabled adults and families in hardship can receive from $50 to $75 in credits toward either a heat or light bill. Because they know they are receiving this one-time gift, families can budget for medicine, food, gas or other bills.

Your contribution to Sharing Winter Warmth means so much to a family struggling to heat their home during the cold winter season. A mom knows her children don’t have to do homework while bundled in coats. An elderly man on a fixed income doesn’t need to use his oven to heat his kitchen.

To donate to NHCO’s Sharing Winter Warmth program, donate online at nhco.org/donate or send checks to NHCO (memo: Sharing Projects), 1975 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. Individual donations made through December 31, 2016, could be matched thanks to an anonymous donor. (Check with your HR department to learn if your employer matches your donation, too!)

For more information, visit nhco.org or call 412-487-6316. Thank you!
For January: Cereal & Oatmeal

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 — Cereal & Oatmeal— to be brought to church.

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

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

Donate a Car

Donate Your Vehicle To Community Auto: Working Families Are Waiting To Purchase A Car!

Your unwanted running vehicle can help a low-income, working individual. Vehicles donated to Community Auto are repaired and sold at below-market value to local, working families who need them to get to work. Cars not suitable for repair are sold at auction and the money is used for the program.

Please contact Community Auto, a program of North Hills Community Outreach, at 724-443-8300 or www.communityauto.org. You could change a life and get the maximum tax deduction. FREE pickup and notary.

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%!

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.
The Gift Card Team

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.
FROM THE EDITOR:
INTERCOM SUBMISSIONS IN JANUARY
FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE

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

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

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