INTERCOM

November, 2017

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE NORTH HILLS

NOVEMBER
It’s never been easy to be a devout religious liberal. Then again - and despite unfair characterizations in our ranks - it’s not easy to be a devout evangelical, either.

Having lived in both camps, I often cringe when folks from either tradition discount the spiritual wherewithal it takes to (a) craft an independent faith (UUism) or (b) follow the example of Jesus (Christianity evangelical-style, in this case).

To be sure, even though both traditions peeled off from the Protestant fold, they are disparate - even at odds - on many core issues.

Yet those deep differences were set aside last month when, due to concerns about adequate space, those coordinating the celebration of life for UUCNH’s Hannah Baldwin-May began looking for a larger venue. Thanks to the funeral director working with Hannah’s family, Grace Community Church in Cranberry graciously agreed to lend us their space, and at the last minute.

Grace is what has been referred to as a megachurch, with multiple staff and an array of multigenerational programming. Their building is modern and immaculate, with an eye toward use over conventional definitions of beauty. But what’s most striking about Grace is its commitment to hospitality - not as a byproduct of being a committed evangelical Christian, but the very center. Not once did a staff person challenge our values, or to try to set limits on how the service was designed.

The point here is that for all the disdain we religious liberals pour on places like Grace, there is often a deeper reality that puts us to shame. For real, how many of our congregations do you think would open their hearts and doors for a Pentecostal church to grieve and celebrate their dead in their own way? Hopefully, more than I imagine. But that’s not the lesson. The lesson is that kindness and help in times of need are not the property of any particular faith or tribe; and though that reality doesn’t always square with the prejudices (pre-judgments) that so easily infiltrate our minds and words, it doesn’t make it any less true. The proof is in the walk, not the talk.

So in this month of giving thanks for what still works in these politically convoluted, chaos-addicted times, let us be grateful that there are still plenty of good people just waiting to apply their faith in service to the stranger. And maybe challenge ourselves to better follow their shining example.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving,

Don

---

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.
November 5, 2017
“FADING LIGHT: SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER AND THE SOUL”
Rev. Don Rollins

Starting with pagan rituals, and continuing through today, humans have marked the onset of winter. Don will lead us in a more spiritual understanding of this annual passage. Remember to change your clocks back an hour for the end of Daylight Savings Time so that you don’t miss the service!

November 12, 2017
“RAISE A PUPPY, CHANGE A LIFE”
Carolyn Hrach

Carolyn Hrach has been raising puppies for Canine Companions for Independence since 1993. You’ve probably seen her in church with many of them. These days, she is raising Boris, her 14th puppy. Carolyn will relate the story of her volunteer efforts with Canine Companions and the impacts the dogs have had on her and everyone involved.

November 19, 2017
“THANKSGIVING MULTIGENERATIONAL GATHERING”
Rev. Don Rollins

Bring the whole family as UUCNH celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday, including a one-man presentation about family, aging and gratitude.

November 26, 2017
“THIRTY YEARS ON”
Rev. Don Rollins

This month marks the 30th anniversary of Don’s ordination into the UU ministry. What’s changed, what hasn’t, and what lies ahead?
November 5, 2017
FRIENDSHIP, CARING, AND FUN

Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session and explore what it means to be a part of a community that cares for each other, supports each other, and knows how to have a good time! Visitors and longtime members alike are welcome. Feel free to pick up some snacks at coffee hour and then head back into the sanctuary; this interactive session begins at noon and will last one hour. Child care is available if requested by Friday at 9:00 p.m. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

November 12, 2017
MEMBERSHIP 101

Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session as we talk about the experience of joining our community and what it means to “sign the book” of a Unitarian Universalist fellowship. Visitors and longtime members alike are welcome! Feel free to pick up some snacks at coffee hour and then head back into the sanctuary; this interactive session begins at noon and will last one hour. Child care is available if requested by Friday at 9:00 p.m. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

November 19, 2017
LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session as we explore how Unitarian Universalists approach religious education, both in childhood and every stage of life thereafter! Visitors and longtime members alike are welcome. Feel free to pick up some snacks at coffee hour and then head back into the sanctuary; this interactive session begins at noon and will last one hour. Child care is available if requested by Friday at 9:00 p.m. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

November 26, 2017
Q&A WITH THE MINISTER

Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session as our minister bravely takes on any and all questions from the floor (provided they’re on-topic, anyway!). Visitors and longtime members alike are welcome. Feel free to pick up some snacks at coffee hour and then head back into the sanctuary; this interactive session begins at noon and will last one hour. Child care is available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).
William Pollard once said, “Without change there is no innovation, creativity or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable.”

No truer words describe the atmosphere of our church right now. We are in a place of change, looking for innovation, creativity and for incentive for improvement.

We hired Jennifer Halpern as our interim DLFD knowing that she would bring with her new ideas and creativity, and that through her work we could find the incentive for improvement. We have tried to embrace that change openly and we will need to continue to embrace changes as we start next year with a new settled DLFD with their own ideas and creativity for our Children and Youth as well as Adult Faith Development. How will we maneuver those differences? Will we encourage it and be a part of it, or will we push against it because that is not how we have always done it? My hope is for the former.

Then Reverend Rudolph moved on after six years of wonderful church. We could have worked to find another settled minister, but we as a church decided to hire an interim minister. We were embracing change; we were initiating change to create better opportunities. While our time with Scott was wonderful, we know that, in many ways, we were not where we are supposed to be. And as the quote says, change is inevitable. How we do church is changing across the UUA, and we need to look to the new models of church structure and systems to see what will make us better and what does not work for our barn in the suburbs. We hired Reverend Don, because part of his job is to tell us what other churches are doing to manage themselves and what changes in our faith need to be addressed. His experience and expertise are invaluable. We need to hear him when he speaks from that experience. Trust me, I know this is hard. We are deeply entrenched in our traditions. I love this church so much and I love what we do. However, in the last few months, I have learned to ask a few questions. I hope that perhaps you, too, will ask these of yourself as we look to start making changes.

- Is what we do the right thing, even if it is working?
- Are we just following tradition because it is what we have always done, or is there another reason?
- What would the end result of this change look like? Who would it help?
- Is this way of doing things kind to our staff/committees?
- Is there harm in trying another way? Is the harm to egos, or is it real harm to who we are as a church?
- What do we want to become and will this change help us get to that place or hinder it?

As the quote states, change is inevitable. Being a player in how that change happens will help us manage it together. So I ask all of us (I even ask this of myself)... let us truly listen to what our professionals are telling us and give it a shot. We hired them because we knew we needed to change. Let’s embrace change with open minds and a bit of discernment and we will weather these next two years together, stronger, and be a better church and community for it.

~ Robyn
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

A WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We’re so glad you came! We hope that you were greeted warmly and felt at home. If you have any questions on your next visit, please feel free to stop and chat with any of our ushers or greeters. If they don’t know the answer, they will gladly try to find someone who does! If you would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism in general or about our congregation in particular, we will have informational sessions every week, held after church in the sanctuary. These interactive sessions, called “Getting to Know UU,” will last one hour and will cover a variety of topics on a rotating basis. Longtime members and first-time visitors alike are welcome, and for those contemplating membership, attendance is especially encouraged. Childcare is provided, and you will have time to grab a snack at coffee hour before each session begins. We hope to see you there!

UUCNH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

I HAVE A DREAM THAT YOU ALL CAN MAKE COME TRUE

"I say to you today, my friends, though, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Dr. Martin Luther King


I too have a dream. While the Stewardship Team has not yet identified a theme for the 2018-2019 Stewardship Campaign, which will kick off in Spring of 2018, my dream is painted with a broader brush: I dream for 100% pledge participation by all members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills (UUCNH).

Let me throw a few numbers to you: Per the October 2017 numbers for the 2017-2018 year, we had 122 pledges, with pledged total of $302,000. 24% of the annual pledge has been received, and 76% will be received in the future—that's probably pretty standard for the first quarter. The first 10% of pledgers (12 families) gave 38% of the funds, and the next 20% (24 families) gave an additional 30%, while the remaining 70%, or 88 families, gave 32%.

But wait, you say. One hundred and twenty-two families/pledge units. Isn't that everyone? Nope, just 67% of the total 180 families/pledge units at UUCNH. So we need to convince that additional 33% to pledge or renew their pledges. How can we do that?

Well, part of my job as Stewardship Chair, off-season, is to do that "ask" (along with the minister) of new members, but also to touch base with the "unpledged". Here’s my tactic: if you have not pledged yet, consider putting on that yellow card that is on top of the NHCO food pantry cabinet your name, address, and a pledge of just $1.00—or, if you pledged last year, fill in your previous pledge. Put the card in the pledge box that is also on the food pantry cabinet, or you can put in the "Stewardship" mail box in the office.

Respectfully yours,
Alex Landefeld
Chair, Stewardship Team
LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM

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

Kathy Cypher:  alkate@consolidated.net  
724-625-7912 H  
724-316-4694 C  

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

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

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

Chris Hill:  chill613@comcast.net  
412-366-9553  

Lynn Richards:  brich@consolidated.net  
724-776-4183 H

THE HUNGER GARDEN

Well, the Hunger Garden is now just about done for the season. I left the Swiss Chard (that can last until a hard freeze) for anyone who wants to go in and help themselves – just be sure to close the gate so that the deer don’t develop bad habits. Many thanks to those who helped throughout the season. Special thanks to the small crew that helped in the final clean-up.

The boards around the raised beds are deteriorating and, at some point, we will need to put together a project to install new woodwork. Not an emergency, but I’d welcome any volunteers to look over the situation and help make a plan and estimate costs. I’m a great digger in dirt, but a lousy carpenter.

~Dick Myers  dmyers.rlm@gmail.co
CRAFT GROUP HOLIDAY SALE

NOVEMBER 19TH IS THE FIRST DAY

COME SEE ALL THE BEAUTIFUL ITEMS THAT THE CRAFT GROUP HAS BEEN MAKING FOR YOUR DELIGHT!

Our Upcycled Treasures table will showcase purses made from vintage jeans and small glass chalices made from antique glass. We will have beautiful earrings with Swarovski jewels and the Green Sanctuary symbol. Our Christmas table will feature Swedish wooden trees and framed dimensional fabric Christmas tree pictures. Also, Christmas Santas from the collection of the late Marilyn Altman which were donated by her daughter, Lynn Richards.

We will have many gift items such as glassware etched with the UUCNH’s twin silos, travel rolls for your napkins and silverware to take to a covered dish supper, “It’s a UU Thing” tie-dyed tee shirts, crocheted marketing bags, aprons, and fancy knitted washcloths wrapped with ribbons along with a scrubby ready for gifting. New this year, are earrings in lovely colored stones; each pair will compliment your wardrobe or be the perfect gift. Look for lots of scarves, hats, and wrist warmers for yourself, for winter gifts, or for donating to UUCNH’s Giving Tree. We will have your old favorites with a new twist: scrubbies, in Steeler colors or in colors to harmonize with your kitchen, and children’s crocheted balls in new colors. Plus there will be lots more items.

Look for Dale’s table with new greeting cards. Dave will be there with his hand-made wooden pens. Also you will find our baked goods table which always has yummy treats for you to take home (or eat there)! This year we will have a holiday gift bag set with bag, tissue, and gift tag for $1 so that you can take your gift with you ready to give.

Visit us in the East Room for the first day of the Craft Group’s Holiday Sale which is on Sunday, November 19. We’ll be here from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The second and last day of our sale will be Sunday, December 3.

Remember that many of our items are one-of-a-kind. So shop early. You don’t want be disappointed.

All proceeds are used to fund “unbudgeted” church projects.

QUILT TO BE RAFFLED BY CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group is pleased to raffle a quilt made and donated by Rachel Swarts. It is pieced in shades of burgundy, cream, and navy, machine quilted, and measures 82½ by 89 inches which is considered queen-size.

- Raffle tickets will be available each Sunday after church from November 5 through December 3.
- One ticket is $2 and three can be purchased for $5.

The quilt will be on display when we sell tickets. The drawing will be held on December 3 at 12:30 pm in the East Room at the close of the second day of the Holiday Craft Sale.
UUCNH STARTS A COFFEEHOUSE!

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

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY IS BACK!!

Starting Wednesday, November 1st and continuing on 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.
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.

**UPCOMING UU THINGS TO DO**

2017 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

Annual Assembly
Unitarian Universalists of Greater Pittsburgh

Saturday November 4 2017 9am-3pm
UU Church of the North Hills in Franklin Park

Join fellow Unitarian Universalists for a day of camaraderie, connection, and collaboration!

Speakers include: Rev. Deryck Tines on Living with Racism and Oppression, City of Asylum founder Henry Reese on Decentering Whiteness, and Rev. Renee Waun on A Life in Ministry.

Plus worship, music, a banner parade, and more!

Register now at uupittsburgh.org/assembly

Everyone welcome! Child care is available. You do not need to be a Unitarian Universalist or a member of a Unitarian Universalist congregation to attend. We are committed to making participation accessible to all. If the registration fee is a burden to you, contact your Minister or Board President and ask about having the fee waived. Congregational delegates are assigned based on Feb 1 2017 certified membership (1 for every 50 members) and have voting privileges at the business meeting. Contact your Board President if you would like to serve as a delegate. There will be a special collection to support Youth projects, please be as generous as possible! More info: http://uupittsburgh.org/assembly.
“The intersection of learning, worship, seeking justice, being in right relationship, building loving community across age and other barriers, working to be inclusive, and put an end to oppression—this is the core of congregational life.” — Cindy Leitner, UU Religious Educator

This month the DLFD Search Committee (Dawn Lindsay, Melissa Nelson, Stephen Fuegi, Erin Terrizzi, Tarin Wilks, Rev. Don and I) will be busy compiling data from congregational conversations about Lifespan Faith Development. We will use it in putting together a job description for the next settled DLFD. This is an exciting prospect—folks were encouraged to think about the best, most meaningful experiences they and/or their children have had at UUCNH, to dream about what opportunities and activities would be happening in the future, and to design how to make that dream come true. Especially, to think about the kind of leader they would want to bring out the best in the congregation...a vital, thriving, multi-generational community.

You have invested your time and resources in Lifespan Faith Development and the value you place on it shows! This is manifested an attitude I have experienced of wanting to live into the mission of the church, and knowing loving leadership. I strongly urge you, if you have some thoughts about what would be meaningful moving forward, to share it with one of the Search Committee members. Even if, and especially if, you don’t have, or no longer have children in the program.

In peace,
Jennifer Halperin
Interim Director of Lifespan Faith Development

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Families begin in the service together each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. Children are dismissed to their Faith Development Classes after a Time For All Ages.

CALENDAR

- **November 5** – Regular classes.
- **November 12** – Regular classes.
- **November 19** – Families Group Thanksgiving Party – 3 pm @ UUCNH (see elsewhere for more info.)
- **November 19** – Thanksgiving multi-generational service. Classes for PreK/K and 1st & 2nd groups only. 3rd and up stay in service.
- **November 26** – Thanksgiving break. No classes. Multi-age activities.
THANKSGIVING AT EVERY TABLE FOOD COLLECTION

Please help our children and youth collect food items for North Hills Community Outreach’s Thanksgiving at Every Table. Each of the following classes will have boxes in their classrooms to collect the following items. We will be collecting November 5th and 12th. Thank You!

- **Nursery** – package of turkey gravy mix/napkins
- **Preschool/Kindergarten** – large box stuffing mix/large box instant mashed potatoes – Peace room
- **1st/2nd grades** – 15-oz can cranberry sauce/16-oz can vegetable – Worth & Dignity room
- **3rd/4th grades** – box pie crust mix/29-oz can “easy” pumpkin pie mix – Justice room
- **5th/6th grades** – 12-oz can evaporated milk/box muffin mix – Growth room
- **Youth** - $10 grocery card (to purchase turkey)

FAMILIES GROUP

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

UPCOMING EVENTS ARE:

- *Thanksgiving party* – Sunday, November 19th, 3pm.
- *Winter holiday and tree trimming party* – Saturday, December 2nn.
- *Parent’s Night Out* – This is a cooperative babysitting program where parents sign up to watch their and other children at the church while parents have a few hours out and then the other parents reciprocate another evening. If you are interested in learning more about it for next time (spring), please contact Abby Vaughn at akunz@andrew.cmu.edu.
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.

CARNegie MUSEUM’S 20/20 SHOW

Mark your calendar for November Saturday, November 18th for a field trip to the Carnegie Museum to see, “The Most Important Art Show in America” according to Vogue Magazine’s John Ortved, addressing topics the history of forced labor in America, the prison-industrial complex, and the importance of art during times of political and social change.

Adult Faith Development and Systemic Change teams at UUCNH are sponsoring this field trip after church on Sunday afternoon. Thanks to Greg Jarold for arranging the docent tour.

The first ten people who sign up will get a docent tour and free admission.
You can Sign Up Here:  https://uucnh.breezechms.com/form/fbed17

THIS YEAR AFD OFFERINGS

- Affinity Groups: Christian Perspectives, Humanist Discussion Group and Sisters in Spirit
- Classes and Events: Jesus Discussion Group, PSI (Philosophical and Spiritual Insights) Group, Faith and Justice Wednesday’s Death Café Pittsburgh, Docent led visit to Carnegie Museum’s “20/20” art show, Articulating your UU Faith, UU Pamphlet series, Facilitator Training.
- Spiritual Practice groups: Dance Jam, Meditation Group, Covenant Circles. Please check the printed Program Guide (at the Welcome table) for dates and times!

And we always encourage members and friends who are interested in sharing a spiritual practice or interest with others to fill out a proposal for a group/class or activity. For more information please contact Stephen Fuegi, Chair, at sdfuegi@gmail.com or Jennifer Halperin at dlfdjh@uucnh.org.
HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Dick Myers  
Contact: dmyers.rlm@gmail.com  
When: November 26, 2017 @ 12 – 2:00 pm  
Where: East Room

We’re all, in general, familiar with some of the statistics relating to our consumerist society: to name just a few,

- Humans have created 8.3 billion tons of plastics, most of which ends up creating a global pollution problem, releasing endocrine disrupter chemicals into our reproductive systems.
- It is estimated that Americans toss about 80 pounds of clothing per person per year, due in part to the “fast fashion” industry that is successful in making consumers feel out of style with last season’s wardrobe.
- Food waste, just at the consumer level, runs to about 250 pounds per person per year.
- Our leaders insist that we must “grow the economy” – but waste counts toward that statistic. Unfortunately, the economy is also “grown” by wasting things and breaking things.

But are there also non-statistical factors that might make us question our consumerist lifestyles? Has the advertising industry created a culture of shopping, buying, owning, and discarding “things” to an extent that our very souls get eroded and our ability to enjoy simple, natural pleasures is blunted?

On November 26, at noon in the East Room, Marilyn Myers will facilitate the discussion, as we peruse the overall topic at the macro level, and our own experiences within a culture of consumerism. If you are not on the email distribution list that gets additional information about upcoming meetings, please contact dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.

JESUS DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Tony Palermo  
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net  
When: November 19 @ 12:00 – 1:15 pm  
Where: Upstairs after the service

True, the seeds of Jesus’ image as a divine manifestation were sown well within 60-70 years of his death, but the story blossoms from there. By the end of the following century, many wondered if he was human at all. See Tony Palermo for details or email him at tpalermo@consolidated.net.
MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

There will be no formally scheduled meetings. However, we hope to meet occasionally, particularly to enjoy the opportunity for walking meditation on our beautiful grounds when the weather is favorable! We practice silent meditation, guided meditation, and either walking meditation or another form of movement meditation. Any meetings will be announced with at least a day's notice via the meditation email list. To add your name to the list, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com. Meetings will be from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary. Generally I will look for Tuesday or Wednesday nights as possibilities.

We welcome anyone interested in mindful meditation, whether you have little or no experience in meditation, or you have practiced for years. Questions or comments, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com, or (412) 366-9553.

PSI [PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS]

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: November 5, 2017 @ Noon – 1:15 pm
Where: Upstairs, follow the signs

Having established that humankind was preceded in its searching for a moral foundation by earlier critters attempting the same, we’ll now move onto areas in which humans have taken the next step, communal morality, and examine alternative systems developed there. 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:** November 8, 2017 @ 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:** November 12, 2017 @ 9:15 – 10:30 am  

**Where:** Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room  

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

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

DR. JOAN DUVALL-SMITH, the Pennsylvania State President of the NAACP, will be giving a talk on Trauma-Informed Education, highlighting the need for adequate resources to address trauma among students and ensure they receive the support they need to succeed in an educational setting. She will be speaking at St. James AME Church, 444 Lincoln Ave, Pittsburgh, on Wednesday, Nov. 8th from 5:30-8 PM. Admission is free but attendees are requested to register. See the following Facebook event link for details: https://www.facebook.com/events/155690975029096/?ti=cl.

A FORUM ON EMBRACING THE RETURNING CITIZEN: RESTORING DIGNITY TO THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED will be held at Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, Nov. 18th from 6-8 PM. The panel will feature speakers from the Ex-Prisoners Organizing (EXPO) group from Wisconsin, as well as Meghan Briggs, Director of Aftercare for the Foundation of Hope, and will be moderated by Rev. Buena Dudley. Admission is free. For additional information, contact Scilla Wahrhaftig, (412) 361-1581, Scillahw@gmail.com.

EQUAL EXCHANGE GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

TO GIVE A FAIRTRADE ITEM FOR THE HOLIDAYS IS WAY BETTER THAN TO RECEIVE!

CONSIDER GIVING SOME:

- Organic Coffee-French Roast, Breakfast Blend, Mind, Body & Soul, or Decaf, available in whole bean or drip grind ($9/bag)
- Organic Dark Chocolate bars-with Almonds, With Mint, 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 (sic) Hour!) Take care of all your gift giving needs right here at UUCNH!
"I was bold in the pursuit of knowledge, never fearing to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led, and bearding every authority which stood in their way." – Thomas Jefferson

BREAK FORTH ENSEMBLE

**Facilitator:** David Miles  
**Contact:** miles@ohiou.edu  
**When:** November 12 & 19, 2017 @ 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.

THE CRAFT GROUP

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

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

THE UKE GROUP

**Facilitator:** Sandy Faulkner  
**Contact:** sfaukl50@aol.com or 412-366-5973  
**When:** November 6 & 20, 2017 @ 7:30 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: sfaukl50@aol.com.
UUCNH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Manuel Lombardero
Contact: manel_sl@yahoo.com
When: November 10, 2017 @ 7 – 9 pm
Where: UUCNH, East Room
Moderator: Bill Faulkner
Title: Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis
Author: J. D. Vance

REVIEW: “From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America’s white working class.

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis - that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over 40 years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.’s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love" and moved north from Kentucky’s Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility.

But as the family saga of Hillbilly Elegy plays out, we learn that this is only the short, superficial version. Vance’s grandparents, his aunt, his uncle, his sister, and most of all his mother struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Vance piercingly shows how he himself still carries around the demons of their chaotic family history.

A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, Hillbilly Elegy is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.”

~Manuel Lombardero

FUTURE TITLES:

- February 9, 2018 - The Orphan Master’s Son; Author: Adam Johnson; 2012
- March 9, 2018 - To the Lighthouse; Author: Virginia Woolf; 1927
- April 13, 2018 - The Known World; Author: Edward P. Jones
COFFEE HOUR HOSTING

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS STILL NEEDED!

Coffee Hour— it's a big part of the glue that holds UUCNH together! Who doesn't enjoy spending time after the service talking with friends and having a lovely snack? Which is why we need you to sign up to host/co-host a coffee hour! What’s involved? Bringing healthy snacks, setting up, making provided coffee, tea and apple juice, and cleaning up. Truly, it doesn’t need to be expensive or complicated, and you contribute to making UUCNH a nurturing place for everyone!

Sign up for the coming church year on the poster in Friendship Hall. Pick your favorite date(s) so all of us can continue to enjoy Coffee Hour in our wonderful community! Dates are still open in December for this year, plus dates open in 2018 - sign up today! Questions? Contact Tassi Bisers at tbisers@yahoo.com

NHCO FOOD PANTRY DONATION CUPBOARD

FOR OCTOBER: POTATOES (OF ANY KIND)

- 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 – **Potatoes (of any kind)** -- 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.
NHCO’S ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT COLLECTION BEGINS NOVEMBER 13
North Hills Community Outreach is accepting new toys, games, sporting equipment, apparel and gift cards for children ages birth through 18, from November 13 through December 13; earlier donations are encouraged! Gifts cards and gifts appropriate for teens are especially needed! NHCO offices, including the main office at 1975 Ferguson Road, Hampton, are open weekdays, 9am-4pm. The pantry behind the main building in Hampton will be open for donations 6:30pm-8:00 pm, Wednesday, November 15, or alternate plans can be made by calling 412-487-6316 opt 1. For more information, visit nhco.org.

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

NHCO GENERAL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS
North Hills Community Outreach will host a Volunteer Orientation session at 10am, Thursday, November 9 in NHCO Allison Park, 1975 Ferguson Road. This will be the last orientation session of the year. Needs include volunteers to ring bells in November and December, drivers for Free Rides for Seniors shuttles, drivers to transport seniors to appointments and more. Please register with Harriet at hzklatte.org or 412-408-3830 x 3204.

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.

ASK THE ATTORNEY SESSIONS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES
Free legal consultation for noncriminal matters such as divorce, bankruptcy, credit issues, family matters, rent disputes and more is available for families in need at North Hills Community Outreach locations the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm except December. The next ATA session is at NHCO North Boroughs November 15 and will be the last session of 2017. Attendees MUST preregister for these sessions by contacting Jackie at jmboggs@nhco.org or call 412-408-3830 x 3217.

DONATE YOUR CAR TO COMMUNITY AUTO BEFORE YEAR END
Your unwanted running vehicle can help a low-income, working individual. Year-end is the time to think about tax-deductions! 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. Ask us about donating fleet cars! 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 when your car goes to a working family in need. FREE pickup and notary.
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. The Gift Card Team

NOW YOU CAN SUPPORT UUCNH THROUGH AmazonSmile

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES. UUCNH BENEFITS.

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

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

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

The article submission Deadline for the December Intercom will be on December 21

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

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

PUBLICATIONS DEADLINE REMINDERS FROM REV. DON ROLLINS

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

1. Treat the deadlines as firm: the Intercom is the 21st of each month, the E-NEWS and OOS Announcements will be due by end of day the Tuesday prior. Please note, due to Thanksgiving the office will be closed November 23 & 24 and the deadline for that week’s OOS Announcements and E-NEWS is Friday, November 17.

2. Both Dawn (Volunteer) and Sona (Office Manager) are good at what they do, but late submissions mean more work. Also, please submit a “lean” copy.

3. Space in the OOS Announcements is limited, so please be patient if your event doesn’t always get listed.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to our publications details!
Remember to change your clocks back an hour for the end of Daylight Savings Time so that you don’t miss the service!

Reminder: November 5, 2017