Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills

INTERCOM

OCTOBER 2017
You may recall the Hassidic tale of two men, one old, one young, who cross paths while walking in opposite directions.

As they pause to rest together, the old man asks where the young man is headed. The reply is the very village his elder just left. “What are people like there?” the younger traveler asks. Came the answer, “Oh, they’re wonderful people. Full of love and eager to laugh.”

“And what about the people in the place you’re leaving? Are they also kind and full of joy?” asked the old man. “Oh, they are horrible people. They have no love, no joy.”

And so it was each man resumed his walk, and found what he chose to find in his new home. The young once again saw only the negative, and blamed his new neighbors. But the old man, only light and goodness. He had nothing but praise for his new hometown.

Perhaps you’ve heard tell of Appreciative Inquiry (AI) - a process whereby congregations gather to talk about their history, looking for strengths rather than trying to “fix” their deficits. The idea is to double-down on what the church does best, be it justice work, lifespan growth, pastoral care or worship.

A blue ribbon task force and I will soon be giving you some details about how UUCNH members/friends (starting with children and youth) will be participating in all. Here’s what we’ll be doing:

1. Schedule small groups (including one or two at the church);
2. Facilitate discussions based on a few simple but deep questions;
3. Sort through the answers to identify strengths, and;
4. Present the findings, and use them as part of a church-wide strategic plan.

For now, keep an eye out for how this tried and true process will be taking shape at UUCNH. The task force and I hope to wrap up no later than mid-December, so we’ll need to get cracking soon.

Thanks in advance for your support and participation. Good things will come of this work.

Blessings,
Don

**PASTORAL SCHEDULE**

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

October 1, 2017 – “BREAKING THE SILENCE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”
Rev. Don Rollins

Although much light has been shed on domestic violence over the past twenty years, it remains a reality for too many children, adults and families. Don will lead us in a look at the many aspects of abuse, including the spiritual.

October 8, 2017 – “HOW STRONG IS OUR FAITH?”
Paula Cole Jones

It has been 20 years since the UUA passed a resolution to undo racism in our institution. Just last month over 600 UU congregations agreed to do teach-ins on white supremacy. What is our responsibility as Unitarian Universalists to finish the unfinished business of racial justice and inclusion? How do we stand in solidarity with the social movements of our times and how do they change us? Now is the time for UU Principles to guide us, but do they go far and deep enough to result in social change regarding racial inequity? Some think it is time for an 8th Principle. Paula Cole Jones is the keynote speaker at UUPLAN’s annual meeting, which will be held at UUCNH. She is a lifelong member of All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, DC. Her experience in this multicultural congregation led to her involvement as a leader in antiracism, anti-oppression, multicultural training and consulting with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Her insights into the topic of racial justice are especially relevant to UU’s today.

October 15, 2017 – “WHY GOD IS A BASEBALL FAN: PROCESS THEOLOGY AND THE NATIONAL PASTIME”
Rev. Don Rollins

Many a UU minister has a baseball sermon or two. Don’s is a spin on the game through the lens of what process theologians call the Creative Exchange.

October 22, 2017 – “ONE MAN’S QUEST FOR WHOleness”
Rev. Don Rollins

UU congregations are once again being called to talk about white supremacy within and without our circles. (You may recall the first two “sit-ins” were scheduled in May.) This service is based on story as a starting place for change - including Don’s. (Visit uuteachin.org for some background. Note some links are still being updated.)

October 29, 2017 – “THE JOURNEY INWARD”
John Ballance

One of the undated readings in Dag Hammarskjold’s book Markings says simply, “The longest journey is the journey inward, for he who has chosen his destiny has started upon his quest for the source of his being.” As Unitarian Universalists, we might frame the metaphor not as “the quest for the source of his being” but as “the quest for the meaning of life.” We will explore together some of the many dimensions of our individual and collective searches for understanding the meaning of life and the meanings of our lives.
GETTING TO KNOW UU!  Weekly After-Church Sessions

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - 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 available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

**October 8<sup>th</sup> - What Is A Unitarian Universalist?**
Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session as we take a look at the history of Unitarian Universalism and consider the seven principles and sources of inspiration we value today. 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).

**October 15<sup>th</sup> - The Church in the Barn**
Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session as we take a tour of our wonderfully re-imagined dairy barn and reflect on the history of our congregation. 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 available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Together on Sundays**
Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session as we focus on our Sunday morning services and explore the importance of this time together. 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 available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

**October 29<sup>th</sup> - Our Work In The World**
Come join this week’s Getting to Know UU session and see how we’re working to make the world a better place through social justice and community service. 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 available if requested by Friday at 9:00 pm. (contact dlfdjh@uucnh.org).

SAVE THE DATE

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY – November 5<sup>th</sup>**

If you have attended **What is a Unitarian Universalist, Q&A With the Minister** and **Membership 101** and are interested in joining our church, please contact Cris Graham **connections@uucnh.org** so we can include you in this special celebration! (Deadline for joining this service is October 22<sup>nd</sup>)
Wow, we have started the church year off with a bang. Like always. We had a great potluck, services have been fun and full of music and laughter, RE teachers have started their year. We have so many events on the horizon, UUPlan meeting, Senior High Con, Cluster Assembly all using our awesome facilities. In many ways, it feels very normal. However, our church is going through so many changes as once that in many ways it feels very topsy turvy as well. Very soon, we will begin listening sessions where we can give the congregation a chance to talk about how you are feeling and how you felt about the past 6 years of settled ministry. More to come on that... I hope you will attend.

The board has been meeting and looking at some hard questions. How efficiently do we function as a board and a church? How well are we managing our funds? Are we being kind to our volunteers? Are we being kind to our staff? How do we manage and understand the responsibility and accountability when it comes to our committees and committee chairs? Are we taking the time to covenant with the right groups and individuals? Why are we doing what we are doing? Is it because it is efficient and makes sense to do so, or because that is how we have always done it? Are we willing and able to change? How do we change, yet still remain who we are as a church? In these next 2 years, we will be asking many of these kinds of questions. The board meetings are more robust, and interesting to say the least.

On a personal note, it is so good to see so many of you back at church. I love summer for its vacations and weather and beautiful flowers. I also love fall for all the colors and the cool nights, but I mostly love it because I see all of you again.

~ Robyn

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Home Phone</th>
<th>Cell Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Cypher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alkate@consolidated.net">alkate@consolidated.net</a></td>
<td>724-625-7912</td>
<td>724-316-4694</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Powers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan-a-powers@comcast.net">susan-a-powers@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>412-427-7300</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marsha Albright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkalbright@gmail.com">mkalbright@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>412-487-4565</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Swihart</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mswihart@spang.com">mswihart@spang.com</a></td>
<td>412-369-9321</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Hill</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chill613@comcast.net">chill613@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>412-366-9553</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Richards</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brich@consolidated.net">brich@consolidated.net</a></td>
<td>724-776-4183</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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IT’S A GREAT DAY TO SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTING!

Coffee Hour– a big part of the glue that holds the UUCNH together! But it doesn’t just happen all on its own – if each of us who enjoys Coffee Hour would take a turn or two by signing up to host or co-host, we will continue to enjoy our Coffee Hour time together. 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. What’s the return? The undying thanks of your Loving Religious Community! Sign up today for the coming church year on the poster in Friendship Hall. Pick your favorite date(s) so we can continue enjoying our Coffee Hour. Questions? Contact Tassi Bisers tbisers@yahoo.com.

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!
THE HUNGER GARDEN

The main Hunger Garden contributions to the Farm Stand nowadays are lima beans, Peggy’s heirloom tomatoes, Swiss Chard, and lots and lots of beans. I have never had such a prolific season for Kentucky Wonder pole beans! That leads to contemplation of still another “life lesson via vegetables”.

Choose either side of the row of pole beans. Pick that side left to right. Pick very carefully, looking up and down, inside and out. You’ll think you got them all. Then pick on the same side, but working right to left. You’ll be astonished at what you missed on the first pass.

In these troubled social and political times, having the patience – and humility – to look at situations from a different point of view is essential if we are ever to live up to the ideals of the UU Principles: especially 1 through 4.

~Dick Myers dmyers.rlm@gmail.co

SAVE THE DATE!

FOR A UUCNH WORK PARTY
(Following the Service)

(Date Change) Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 from 12:00 am to 4:00 pm – Yes, once again Building and Grounds Committee needs your help to ready UUCNH for the coming winter. So come to church with your work clothes and plan to stay for an hour or so. Lunch will be provided and childcare will be available. There are lots of tasks that need done from cleaning, repairs, checking emergency lights, cleaning upholstered chairs, ceiling fans, dusting smoke alarms and the list goes on. So come, for some community sharing and at the same time give a polish and shine to our wonderful building. There is a sign-up sheet in Friendship Hall. Thank you from your ever working B & G Committee.
WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF UUCNH

Here at UUCNH we experience and share in many traditions, with the common threads being loving and sharing. Mother Teresa says it best:

A Lifelong Sharing

Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning.

Love has to be put into action and that action is service.

Whatever form we are,
able or disabled,
rich or poor,
it is not how much we do,
but how much love we put in the doing;
a lifelong sharing of love with others.

-Mother Teresa

As we become stewards for UUCNH, we must consider what we can contribute to maintain the community, maintain our building, maintain our employees, our inside and outside activities, and grow our whole organization. We can look to the Unitarian Universalist Association for guidance:

"In making your decision, consider the four commitment levels below and how they relate to your membership. Consider your UU values in thinking about your income and your financial commitment to the congregation, as expressed in the four levels below. Note that within each commitment level, the guide is progressive, with giving levels rising with capacity.

- Supporter: The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.
- Sustainer: The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.
- Visionary: My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.
- Transformer: I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income."  http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/fair_share_contribution_guide.pdf
2017 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

WHAT – Join fellow Unitarian Universalists for a day of camaraderie, connection, and collaboration!
WHEN – Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 9am-3pm
WHERE – Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills
REGISTRATION – The registration fee is $20 and includes lunch. Registration opens October 5.

- 8:30 am – Doors open and Check-in – Come early for refreshments and socializing.
- 9:00 am – Welcome and Opening – Banner parade and worship.
- 9:30 am – Morning Session – Speaker tba.
- 10:45 am – Annual Business Meeting – Congregational roll call, election of board members, a financial report, and a “state of the cluster” report.
- 11:30 am – Lunch and Time to Connect
- 12:30 pm – Afternoon Session - Special remarks by Rev. Renee Waun and collaboration workshops.
- 2:45 pm – Closing

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](http://uupittsburgh.org/assembly).

SON OF UUCNH FOUNDERS, JANE AND ADRIAN SPRINGER, TO VISIT ON OCTOBER 15, 2017

We will welcome Adrian Springer, Jr (Bud) and his wife Michaela (Mickey) to our service on October 15th. Bud’s parents, Jane and Adrian Springer, Sr., were founders of UUCNH. Bud was raised in this church and went to Pitt, then worked for the restaurants named Johnnie Garneau’s before moving to California. He and Mickey now live in Wisconsin and have been visiting his sisters, Susan and Janice, who live east of here. They are returning home and are stopping here to visit the Memorial Garden where his parents’ ashes are interred and to revisit the church. Jane died in 1983 and her ashes were interred in the roots of a blue spruce tree that Adrian, Bud, and his sisters planted in the Memorial Garden. Adrian Sr. moved back to California and later married Barbara. He and Barbara died within four weeks of each other in 2001. Their ashes are also interred under the blue spruce tree in the Memorial Garden and there are in-ground markers to honor all three of Bud’s parents. If you are a member or friend who remembers the Springers, please mark that date on your calendar and come and greet them. If you haven’t met them yet, come and welcome them.
LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

A MESSAGE FROM THE DLFD SEARCH COMMITTEE -
ANNOUNCING UUCNH GATHERINGS IN OCTOBER

Please mark your calendars for Story of Us conversations! Every evening from October 18 through 23rd from 7 - 8:30 pm there will be gatherings either at the Nelson’s home or at church to involve everyone in a small group setting. We are making opportunities to talk about what kind of Lifespan Faith Development program we want and what kind of person should we look for. We hope in these small groups to hear about the history of children, youth and adult programming in the congregation. We will also talk about where we are now, and what is most meaningful to us in today’s time. Your input is welcome- whether you have been coming for as long as you can remember, or if you are brand new to the congregation, or if you are somewhere in-between. **Hope to see you there!**

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**

- **October 1** – Regular classes.  
- **October 8** – Regular classes.  
- **October 15** – Regular classes.  
- **October 22** – Regular classes.  
- **October 29** – Regular classes. UNICEF pumpkin event. Children decorate pumpkins for pumpkin “contest” after the service. “Vote” for your favorites by putting coins in the UNICEF boxes next to each pumpkin.
ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

COVENANT CIRCLES – SMALL GROUP MINISTRY TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

In a unique format that emphasizes deep listening and deep sharing, participants gather in small groups of eight to ten people to explore spiritual themes from *Soul to Soul: Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing* by Rev. Christine Robinson (First Unitarian Church Albuquerque) Skinner House, 2012. Facilitators will be recruited and trained to both help create and maintain a meeting space that encourages respect and encouragement for participant's sharing. Groups will be formed by daytime, evening or weekend preference. For more information and with questions, contact Jennifer Halperin, Interim DLFD at:

- [uucnhdlfd@gmail.com](mailto:uucnhdlfd@gmail.com)
- [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScS3ISHPB84gjwz1ESF1Re8cqVWe6t1Q9q3xR72UX4tD738DA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScS3ISHPB84gjwz1ESF1Re8cqVWe6t1Q9q3xR72UX4tD738DA/viewform)

CARNEGIE MUSEUM’S 20/20 SHOW

Mark your calendar for November 5th for a field trip to the Carnegie Museum to see “*The Most Important Art Show in America*” according to Vogue Magazine’s John Ortved which addresses topics of 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.

DEATH CAFE PITTSBURGH

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 25 @ 6 pm – 8:30 pm. We are happy to host Death Cafe Pittsburgh, celebrating 2 wonderful years of Death Cafe Pittsburgh! Death Cafés are intended to engage in open dialogue about death and how death influences life, all while in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. There will be a potluck from 6 – 7 pm, with the conversation taking place from 7 - 8:30 pm. Please bring something – savory or sweet – to share. We will supply coffee, tea, cutlery, napkins, and plates. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Please RSVP by emailing us at deathcafe@pittsburgh@gmail.com.

What is a Death Cafe?

At a Death Cafe people, often strangers, gather to eat, drink tea and discuss death. Our objective is ‘to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives’. A Death Cafe is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. Facilitated by Rachel Butler, senior research coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Research on Health Care.
THE STORY OF US

Please save time in your October calendar to take advantage of the opportunity to meet in small groups and talk about what has been meaningful in your experience with children, youth and adults here at church.

What is this opportunity?
These are important conversations that will: 1) help shape our future Lifespan Faith Development programs and 2) guide our Director of Lifespan Faith Development Search Committee as we prepare to search for new, professional religious education leadership (fall 2018). When all of the conversations conclude and the results compiled, we will have a “product” to give to the Search Committee for their use. Let your voice be heard!

From October 18th – 24th, every day, we will offer a small group conversation in someone’s home for two hours. You will be able to sign up at church or online to be part of one. We will try and have locations spread out geographically, plus there will be a couple of groups right after church on October 22nd. Children and youth ages 8 and up are welcomed and included in this process. We will arrange childcare for children through age 7.

What Are We Going to Do?
Well, we’re going to listen to one another while we...

• Discover and explore our changing Lifespan Faith Development landscape
• Dream and articulate a vision of the future that we want
• Design the principles and propositions our vision needs
• Imagine—what kind of professional religious educator will help make our vision become our destiny?

COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH: ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The Adult Faith Development (AFD) team coordinates all adult Faith Development course and discussion groups. Whether you are a newcomer or a long term member, our goal is to meet the needs of UUCNH adults who wish to enrich their spiritual lives.

This year AFD offerings include:

• 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 dlfdh@uucnh.org.
From the first use of fire, to the landing of a probe on Saturn’s moon Titan, from bloodletting to gene therapy, from hunting/gathering to today’s mega-farms, from the arrow to the H-bomb, we are a species irreversibly altered by technology. Earth’s current population cannot be sustained without it, and few of us would prefer living under pre-industrial conditions. Yet, many of our social and environmental problems have arisen as by-products and unintended consequences of our inventiveness.

On October 22, at noon in the East Room, Jon Hamrahi will facilitate the Humanist Discussion Group meeting, in which we will ponder the limitations of technology, particularly when isolated from humanitarian and moral values, and how certain of UU’s seven principles matter in how we might better manage the future.

If you are not on the email distribution list that gets additional information about upcoming meetings, please contact dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.

Hidden in the New Testament are nuggets of “pre-literary tradition” which show that belief in the divinity of Jesus began very early in the history of his followers. We’ll walk deeper along the road of “How Jesus Became God,” one of our source texts, by Professor, Bart Ehrman. Sunday, October 15th @ noon – 1:15 pm, upstairs (follow the yellow signs). See Tony Palermo for details. 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 pm 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. Any questions or comments, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com or call (412) 366-9553.

PSI [PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS]

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: October 1, 2017 @ Noon
Where: Upstairs, follow the signs

Morality as a gift from the Deity might simply be another form of Creationism. Noted primatologist Franz De Waal believes otherwise: human morality is a product of evolutionary precursors. We’ll start the discussion Sunday, October 1st, after the service @ 12:00 – 1:15 pm, upstairs (follow the yellow signs). See Tony Palermo for more details. tpalermo@consolidated.net
SISTERS-IN-SPRIT

Facilitators:  Rachael Smart  
  Michelle Broge-Connor  
Contacts:  thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com  
  brogemm@gmail.com  
When:  October 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 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:  October 8, 2017 @ 9:15 am  
Where:  Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room  

Do you self-identify as a 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 9:15 am, in the Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room. Co-Led by Joe Meier and Edie Swihart.
SYSTEMIC CHANGE TEAM

- UUPLAN Annual Meeting “Forward Together” at UUCNH! We are hosting the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) Annual Meeting. Be at church Oct. 6 and 7. Learn about all the work we do to bring UU values into the public arena. Workshops presented by Paula Cole Jones, Sue Broughton, Bill Bartlett and Rep. Edward C. Gainey. To register please go to www.uuplan.org.
- FREE Gospel Chorale Concert! Friday evening, 7:00 -8:30 p.m. at UUCNH. Concert features the Lemington Gospel Chorale under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Deryck Tines.
- NORTH (Neighboring Organizations Responding Together with Hope) will kick off their fall activities with a dinner on October 19 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. The church is at 1965 Ferguson Rd., Allison Park, Pa 15101.

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.

UU THINGS TO DO

Sunday, October 15, 2017 @2:00 pm-3:30 pm
Where: Under the tent in Schenley Plaza, Oakland

Celebrating Openness And Welcome As Part Of October Gay History Month

“Welcoming, Affirming, Embracing... Together We Can!”

A public interfaith witness of welcome and inclusion for LGBTQIA persons, their families, and allies by varied faith communities.
TRY SOME FAIR TRADE ICED TEA!

UUCNH is offering Equal Exchange Fair Trade Tea in several varieties. Try some iced at your home or office—a box of 20 tea bags is only $4 (3 for $10). You’ll be supporting UUCNH and giving small farmers a more livable, consistent wage.

The types (all Organic) we have right now are Chai, Rooibos (red tea from Africa), Chamomile and Darjeeling. There are many other varieties, so we’ll try some others over time. If there’s a specific tea you’d like, contact Chris Hill during Tea Time on Sunday!

UPCOMING RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES!

FINAL HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL COLLECTIONS

The PA Resources Council (PRC) and other groups are sponsoring collection events in Washington and Allegheny Counties this summer. The final one will be on October 14th at Brady’s Run Park Recycling Center. The events run from 9 AM to 1 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/gallon – CASH ONLY. See information on the Social Action bulletin board, check PRC’s website, talk to Chris Hill at coffee hour, or email him at chill613@comcast.net.
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.

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NHCO Winter Coat Drive Continues Through October 13th

North Hills Community Outreach will collect new and gently used winter coats for local families in need September 1 through October 17. All sizes are appreciated; children’s and adult XL - XXL are especially needed. Coats should be clean and have working fasteners. Hats, gloves and scarves are also welcome. Donations can be dropped off at NHCO Allison Park, 1975 Ferguson Road, Hampton, Monday – Friday, 9 am - 4 pm, September 1 through October 17, or in the NHCO Allison Park food pantry during special donation hours, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Saturday, October 7. Due to space limitations, NHCO is unable to accept coats after October 13. For more information or alternate donation options, please contact Vicki at vdburst@nhco.org or 412-487-6316 opt 1.
NHCO Annual Thanksgiving Food Collection Begins October 9th
North Hills Community Outreach is collecting food items to create complete Thanksgiving meals to distribute to local families in need. Last year, nearly 800 local families received nourishing Thanksgiving meals. Items that make a meal include: grocery store gift cards of at least $15 for turkey purchase, large boxes of stuffing mix and instant mashed potatoes, canned cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, easy pumpkin pie mix, evaporated milk, muffin mix, turkey gravy mix and napkins. Donations are accepted through November 10, but preferably before October 27 for a timely distribution. 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 9:00am- noon, Saturday, November 4 and 6:30pm-8:00 pm, Wednesday, November 15. For more information, visit nhco.org or call 412-487-6316 opt. 1

NHCO Needs Volunteers In The Upper Route 28 Corridor; Now Offers Online Registration For Volunteering To Help Seniors
North Hills Community Outreach has a particular need for volunteers interested in helping seniors in the route 28 corridor near Tarentum and Brackenridge. Specifically, volunteer drivers and dispatchers are needed for the Free Rides for Seniors’ shuttle, and individual volunteers are needed to help seniors get to appointments and shopping. NHCO 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/.

NHCO General Volunteer Orientations
North Hills Community Outreach will host Volunteer Orientation sessions at 10am, Thursday, October 12 in NHCO Millvale, 416 Lincoln Avenue, Millvale. Needs include volunteers to ring bells in November and December, harvest produce and prepare our Bellevue garden beds for winter, 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.

NHCO Offers Free LET’S COOK Workshops In Millvale
North Hills Community Outreach, in partnership with Christ Lutheran Church of Millvale, is offering free Let's Cook workshops for those interested in learning tips and techniques for eating healthy on a budget. Topics include soups, roasting vegetables, freezing and storing, stir-frying, oven-frying, microwaving, fermenting, smoothies, and herbs and spices. Classes are held 10:30am to noon, the third Saturday of each month through November in Christ Lutheran Church, 917 Evergreen Road, Millvale. The next class is October 21. Registration is appreciated, but a limited number of walk-ins are welcome. This class is made possible by a 100 Days of Us grant from The Sprout Fund. Please register by calling 412-408-3830 x 3225.

Working Families Are Waiting: Donate Your Car To Community Auto
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. Ask us about donating fleet cars! 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. Please contact Community Auto, a program of North Hills Community Outreach, at 724-443-8300 or visit communityauto.org.
"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 GROUP

Facilitator: David Miles  
Contact: miles@ohiou.edu  
When: October 8 & 15 @ 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: 412-741-6463, dinning1@comcast.net  
When: Every Thursday, 10:00 am  
Where: East Room

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

Facilitator: Sandy Faulkner  
Contact: sfaulk50@aol.com or 412-366-5973  
When: October 2 & 16, 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: sfaulk50@aol.com.

UUCNH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Manuel Lombardero  
Contact: manel_sl@yahoo.com  
When: October 13, 2017 @ 7 – 9 pm  
Where: UUCNH, East Room  
Moderator: Manuel Lombardero  
Title: Signs Preceding the End of the World  
Author: Yuri Herrera; Translator: Lisa Dillman

Review: Signs Preceding the End of the World was suggested by me as a 'break' from some of the other heftier readings we have taken up in recent months. This is a very short (~100 pages) novel about a young Mexican woman crossing over to the United States for a family errand. Author Yuri Herrera's language does not try to follow standard Spanish forms, and the original novel is a bit hard to read for the uninitiated in Mexican colloquialisms. Thankfully, translator Lisa Dillman's tour de force rendition into English captures the tone of Herrera's original work, making the story quite accessible to an English-language audience. There is no glamour in Signs; the world is presented with harsh and unadorned realism. A quick read no doubt (no more than an afternoon), this novel offers a unique opportunity to see the world through the eyes of our southern neighbors.

~Manuel Lombardero

FUTURE TITLES - November 10th: Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance; 2016

Other titles currently under consideration, yet to be scheduled:
- To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf; 1927
- Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson; 2015
- The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson; 2012
- Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow; 2005
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

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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:
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- 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 November Intercom will be on October 21.

Please get your articles into me by October 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 newsletter, e-news and orders of service 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, and both the e-news and Order of Service announcements will be due Wednesdays by noon;

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

3. Space in the order of service is limited, so be patient if your event doesn’t always get listed.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to our publications details!
Have a Safe and Happy Halloween