



*The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: Building Bridges, Celebrating Community*

**Sunday Services**

**Market Street - 9:30 • Clover Lane - 11:30**

**Sept 6 Open Hearts, Open Minds**

Who are you? Who am I? How do we build relationships and find our way together? This will be Rev. Mike’s first service at UCH. We’ll have the same sermon at both campuses, but the services will have different “flavors,” as has been the UCH custom for some time.

**Sept 13 Coming Home, Again**

The official kick-off for the church year, this Sunday is “ingathering” or “homecoming.” Come join in celebration, greet friends you haven’t seen all summer, and make new ones! Rev. Mike will talk about being on a journey together and finding ourselves at home with each other. Food and fellowship after the service.

**Sept 20 Building Bridges Needs Careful Engineering**

Riffing on the UCH’s motto — *Build Bridges, Celebrate Community* — we explore bridges we have built or will build, in our church, community, families and personal lives. “Building bridges, between our divisions,” as the UU hymn says. Rev. Mike will be in the pulpit.

**Sept 27 Repentance, Redemption, and Rejoicing**

**9:30 Market Street:** Through words and music, Alanna Berger will lead the congregation in an exploration of the three September Jewish Holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot.

**Sept 27 Climate Change:**

**Pope Francis' Encyclical and UUs**

**11:30 Clover Lane:** This is the weekend that Pope Francis will be in Philadelphia. UCH member Don Brown, Scholar in Residence and Professor of Sustainability Law and Ethics at Weidner University Commonwealth Law School and a noted author on the ethics of climate change, will discuss the Pope's Encyclical on climate change and other related topics.

**Minister's Message**

**The Wayside Pulpit: Find Our Way Together**

*By Rev. Michael Walker, Interim Minister*

Dear friends,

Our newly minted Worship Committee will soon be asked to brainstorm worship themes for the year. But, while we’re waiting to have that conversation, I picked a theme for September: Getting Acquainted and Finding Our Way Together. As a matter of fact, I’ve been itching to get back in the pulpit and start preaching. I’ve missed it the last few months, so I’ve been a little envious as I’ve been with you, sitting in the pews and enjoying some excellent lay-led services. It’s an internal tug-of-war for me — in the normal scheme of things, I rarely get to sit

(continued on page 8)



**Unitarian Church of Harrisburg**

**September 2015 At-a-Glance**

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Tue 1	1:00	Mural Painting Party
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 2	6:00	QueenSpirit
Thu 3	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sun 6	various	Sunday worship, both campuses
Tue 8	6:30	Women’s Night Out
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Thu 10	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sat 12	9:00	Common Ground Café
Sun 13	Various	Sunday worship, both campuses
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature
Mon 14	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 15	10:00	CroneSpirit
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
	7:30	Stewardship Task Force
Wed 16	7:00	Clover Grove
Thu 17	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Fri 18	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House
Sun 20	Various	Sunday worship, both campuses
Mon 21	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 22	6:30	Auction planning: Show YoUUR Colors!
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Thu 24	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sat 29	9:00	Common Ground Café
Sun 27	Various	Sunday worship, both campuses
Mon 28	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 29	6:30	Solstice Planning
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group

Occurs at Market Street

Share the Plate for September:  
**The Circle School**

**September Theme:**  
Finding Our Way Together

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**Looking Ahead:**

- Oct 10 Ministerial Start-Up (What is our mission?)**
- Oct. 18 Congregational Meeting (How is our health?)**
- Nov. 7, Auction/Fundraiser

Message from the Board

By Laura Shemick, President



Welcome to our new Interim Minister, the Rev. Michael Walker! The Board has met with Rev. Mike and, by the time you read this, we will have finished our Fall Retreat, where we will have set our goals for the upcoming church year. We have lots and lots of work to do in all aspects of church life, and the biggest challenge for each of us

doubtless will be picking the areas in which we choose to concentrate our work for the congregation for the coming year.

**Before anything else:** The Board extends its deepest gratitude to Karen Sykes and David Spear, who stepped up to offer their services to UCH as the temporary Executive Team for the summer of 2015. Karen and David worked tirelessly to keep the church on track in June and July, meeting with staff, preparing written reports, and keeping the Board advised on church matters. Without them, we would not be as well prepared as we are today for Rev. Mike’s arrival.

**More kudos:** The ad hoc RGL team has also worked tirelessly since May to develop a dynamite program for our children and youth for the upcoming year. Karen Grimm Thomas, Wanda Abou El Nagga, Dennis Hursh, Mary Henninger-Voss and Mary Lynn Fecile have spent endless hours doing surveys, discussing, debating, recruiting, and arranging, working with Rev. Donna Renfro. As a result, programming is available at both campuses every week for small children, while older children will attend classes at alternating campuses.

**Even more kudos:** To the 35 dedicated folks who spent their evening August 16 with Rev. Mike, exploring many and varied possibilities for worship services for the coming year. The group raised and discussed numerous options and eventually recommended Sunday services at both campuses, times to be determined by the Board. The Board, when handed this ~~not~~ ~~potato~~ important decision, ultimately decided on the 9:30 Market/11:30 Clover schedule presented elsewhere in this newsletter. Whether coffee should be between or after services is still a bit up in the air; there is no question that providing services at different times makes it possible for RGL teachers to attend services instead of missing them, and there is also no question that Rev. Walker will have to jump in his car not too long after a service ends. There also is absolutely no question that the times are not perfect for everyone at UCH.



SEPTEMBER TRUSTEE ASSIGNMENTS		
DATE	9:30 MARKET STREET	11:30 CLOVER LANE
6	Judy Linder	Laura Shemick
13	Dennis Hursh	Mary Henninger-Voss
20	Debbie Reihart	Laura Edinger
27	Chris Dutton	Marilyn McHenry

Feel free to call me, email me, or snag me at church if you would like to express your views. This schedule is in effect for September 2015 through June 2016. We’ll re-evaluate at that time.

**Important dates:** At the upcoming ministerial start-up, the congregation will have the chance to be with the Board and Rev. Mike on Saturday, Oct. 10, to discuss our mission and goals. This will be facilitated by our District Executive, Rev. David Pyle. The Congregational Meeting will then take place on Sunday, Oct. 18. The Board will give an update on the budget, and our independent consultant will give a report on the small group meetings led by the Healthy Congregations Task Force.

**Oct 10 Ministerial Start-Up Session  
Oct. 18 Congregational Meeting**

**And now, a little history** on UU congregations... UU congregations vary widely in size and culture. When I first began attending the UU Fellowship of Centre County, it was the year that the Unitarian Association of America and the Universalist Church of America merged to become the UUA. The congregation I attended was founded in the 1950s as a Unitarian fellowship.

We had no minister at UUFCC. The daily work of the church was done by volunteers, many of whom were not gainfully employed, or underemployed, because of societal biases, although they were capable, energetic people. The Fellowship included 75 to 100 people, including children, and services featured lay speakers, flowers brought by enthusiastic gardeners, music by talented members, and lengthy announcements that were often recruitment pitches for members’ projects. We had a part-time secretary who answered the phone, typed up the newsletter, and mimeographed the order of service. I recall that we paid youth group members by the dandelion to weed the lawn.

In the 1950s the American Unitarian Association faced an acute shortage of ministers. Its response was the Fellowship Movement, which encouraged Unitarians to start congregations in their homes and move to larger spaces as attendance increased. Many of these minister-less congregations exist today in vastly different form, although some continue without ministers.

**An unanticipated result** of the Fellowship Movement was to instill in some UUs the idea that ministers were not necessary for a UU congregation. A second unanticipated result was that some fellowships resolutely remained small, cozy places, a type of congregation denoted as “family” style by those who study congregations. Such congregations served their members well, but newcomers often found it difficult to make a place in them.

Next month, I’ll write more about this topic. In the meantime, enjoy church and participate with laughter and smiles in the many, many things UCH does.

In faith, *Laura Shemick*

## Healthy Congregations Task Force

As most of you know, the Board formed the Healthy Congregation Task Force to assist Mike Harris, our consultant, in facilitating a listening process within our congregation and in gathering information for him. Since our first small group session June 14, we have met with 102 members and friends who gathered to share their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and concerns about UCH. We are pleased with the response so far and look forward to hearing from many more of you as we return to our fall routines and schedules.

**THE TASK FORCE IS WILLING** to meet with any individual or group of individuals and to travel to homes, restaurants, Starbucks, parks, wherever, to listen. You may also attend a session after Sunday services at either location. We would like to remind you that part of the process is not just for the Task Force to hear your thoughts and concerns, but for all of us to hear each other in a safe environment. Rebuilding trust is one of the key components of healing and cannot be done in a vacuum.

Please contact a task force member to reserve a seat in a small group or for options for sharing your experience. Task force members include Laura Edinger, Laura Shemick, Nancy Hall, Chris Dutton, Kate Carpenter, Debbie Reihart, and Sandy Hamstra. Childcare is also available, by prior request! Please contact [Sara Palmer](#) at least five days in advance.

**MIKE HARRIS WILL PRESENT A REPORT** to the congregation at the October congregational meeting. Please make sure that he has heard you prior to his report! Be part of healing and commit to the future of UCH.

Please contact [Sandy Hamstra](#) for additional information.

*—Submitted by Sandy Hamstra, Chair*



### Healthy Congregations Training Led by Rev. Dr. Richard Speck

**9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on four Saturdays:  
Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, and Dec 15  
Wilmington, DE**

These four workshops are designed for a time of rapid changes in congregations. They are based in an understanding of the congregation

functioning as an emotional system of interrelated parts. It is a new way of thinking about both the congregation and its leadership.

You will view the congregation as a whole, as an organism, as a system. No one part promotes health or illness in a system; everything contributes for good or ill.

The congregation is seen as a whole unit in need of care by the leadership. Therefore, these workshops center around the stewardship of the congregation: how leaders care for, respond to, and oversee the congregation's life together.

We will carpool from Harrisburg. If interested in enrolling, please contact a member of the Healthy Congregations team.

## Find Your Place in Creating Worship at Clover Lane

Worship is at the heart of our church community. Involvement of many people each Sunday contributes to making worship a transformative experience for us all. As we start a new worship year at our Clover Lane campus, we are looking for people who want to help create the best worship experience possible by serving as usher, lay liturgist, or choir member. No experience is necessary for any of these positions—just a willingness to be present when you are able and a desire to serve and participate.

**Ushers** are the “face of UCH,” greeting newcomers and long-time friends alike when they enter the building for the 11:30 a.m. service. They distribute the Orders of Service, help visitors get name tags and find their way around the building, help people find seats and obtain hymnals in the sanctuary, and take the offering. Ushers are asked to sign up in advance for dates on which they can work; we need two ushers for every service. If you would like more information or want to volunteer, contact [John Hope](#).

**Lay Liturgists** assist the minister, guest speakers, and other worship leaders in conducting the service. They arrive early to prepare the sanctuary for worship and carry out duties as requested by the worship leader. Likely tasks include lighting the chalice and the peace candle, assisting with the children's message, doing a reading, and assisting with Joys and Sorrows. Lay Liturgists also may be asked to provide a Member Reflection—a three-minute personal statement on a question raised by the service's theme. Lay Liturgists are asked to attend a training session with the minister and campus worship coordinators to review the program and the elements that will be asked of them. For more information or to volunteer, contact [Linda](#) or [John Hope](#).

**Choir Members** participate as their schedule permits in almost all weekly services from September through May and special occasions as scheduled. The choir sings a variety of works either as an introit or as special music to add to the overall worship experience. Their presence also helps strengthen congregational singing. The choir is open to all who want to participate in the Clover Lane Music Ministry. There are no auditions and you do not need to know how to read music. What we are looking for is a commitment to attend as many rehearsals and services as you can and to help bring the joy of music to our worship. Rehearsals are held on Thursday nights in the sanctuary from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Choir members are expected to be in their seats by 10:50 a.m. each Sunday for warm-up and to run through that day's music. For more information or to join, contact [Linda Hope](#).

*—Submitted by Linda and John Hope*

**RGL Report**

Hello everyone! I'm Sara Palmer, and I was recently named RGL Head Coordinator. I enthusiastically serve both campuses, assisted by the RGL Steering Committee and (at Market Street) Kimber Dudley. Please feel free to contact [me](#) or [Kimber](#) via email or before/after RGL on Sundays.

The RGL program for 2015-2016 is gearing up, and families are registering their kiddos for a year of fun, fellowship, and UU Principles. We are also providing OWL (Our Whole Lives) programs for 5th & 6th, 7th-9th, and 10th-12th Grade congregants. If you have not yet registered your family for RGL, please visit the UCH [homepage](#) and click the "Families" button on the right hand side.

Building community starts with UU! We can also use volunteers from across the congregation: We need assistance in the Nursery and with all age groups. (It's easier than you think, I promise.) We also need adults to help with Project Days, with Deck The Halls, with opportunities to sing and move, Social Justice, the Greenbelt, and more.

-Submitted by Sara Palmer



**Oliver LaGrone**

The Oliver La Grone Committee wishes a great school year to the current OL scholars and thank you to the UCH members that are their mentors. Funding for the OL Scholarship comes from donations by individual members of the UCH and friends and family – thank you!

-Submitted by Margaret Carrow

AWARD	SCHOLAR	MAJOR AND UNIVERSITY	UCH MENTOR
2015	Mark Santana Crespo	Criminal Justice, Penn State University, Harrisburg	John Hargreaves
2014	Merced Ramirez Saldana	International Business, Messiah College	Jeff Sigel
2013	Daouda Kassimou	Mechanical Engineering, Penn State University, Harrisburg	David Spear
2012	Stanley Lumpkin, Jr.	Sports Management and Business, Shippensburg University	Dr. Rick Hawley

**Oliver Collective**

THE OLIVER COLLECTIVE plans fall showings on the following dates:

- 🕒 Friday, Oct 18, with Clover Lane Coffee House
- 🕒 Sunday, Oct 20, following services at each campus
- 🕒 Sunday, Dec 6, following services at each campus

-Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

**Other UU News**

**UUPLAN is having an impact!**

- 🕒 UUPLAN was a key player in June, helping to prevent a payday loan co-sponsorship memo, introduced in the Senate, from getting traction.
- 🕒 UUPLAN was one of two religious organizations invited to participate in the press conference to introduce the legislation in the PA Women's Health Agenda.
- 🕒 UUPLAN members have been on the planning team with the PA Council of Churches for a major state-wide conference on mass incarceration scheduled for the weekend of October 23-25 in Harrisburg.
- 🕒 Since UUPLAN has been involved, at least five immigrant families have been released from the Berks County Detention Center.
- 🕒 UUPLAN has been instrumental in setting up meetings in Luzerne County and Lebanon County to persuade Senator Lisa Baker and Rep. Mauree Gingrich to permit committee votes on minimum wage legislation.
- 🕒 UUPLAN, along with the Dauphin County Bar Association and the Career Link Center will sponsor an Expungement Clinic for returning citizens on October 10th in Harrisburg.
- 🕒 UUPLAN Lobby Day visits helped to move an expungement reform bill - HB 1425 - out of committee. It is now in appropriations and awaits a House floor vote.
- 🕒 In response to UUPLAN connections, four Philadelphia area UU congregations have volunteered to be phone bank sites to contact friends and neighbors about the Pennsylvania Fairness Act.

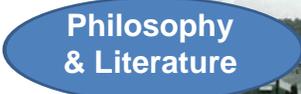
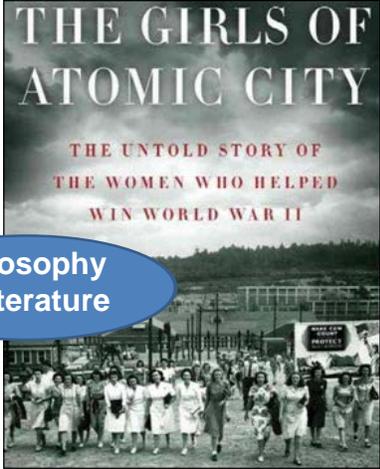


Our work is only made possible by your financial support. If you have not yet joined UUPLAN for 2015, please take a few minutes, [right here](#), to support our justice teams. Your financial support is critical to our work.

To find out more about the work of any of these Justice Teams, please contact [Anita Mentzer](#). —Submitted by Anita Mentzer

## Detail Calendar

September 2015

DATE	TIME	GROUP	LOCATION
<b>Tue 1</b>	<b>1:00</b>	<b>Neighborhood Beautification</b>	<b>Market Street</b>
<p>Please join UCH, Tri-County Community Action Revitalization Outreach program, Shalom House and other community groups for a painting party from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will be painting murals that will then be hung on the abandoned building at 1458 Market Street and on the retaining wall at 1212 Market Street.</p> <p>Nothing is needed except your participation! Contact <a href="#">Sparkie Radcliffe</a> for details.</p>			
<b>Tue 1</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Mindfulness Meditation Group (Weekly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Mindfulness is an acquired skill, practiced while meditating but vital in our everyday lives. Mindfulness is helpful in reducing stress, managing pain, focusing attention, and overcoming habitual negative behavior. Mindfulness can also point the way to spiritual practice, calming the mind and developing awareness and insight. The ability to be mindful is strengthened through consistent practice. Mindfulness Meditation Group provides a space for us to practice together in support of one another. Contact <a href="#">Chuck Daley</a> or <a href="#">George Hellmann</a>. <b>Repeats every Tuesday.</b></p>			
<b>Wed 2</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Queen Spirit (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Queen Spirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Jennifer Wallitsch will lead us in a circle exploring leadership. Bring a dish to share. Potluck starts at 6 p.m.; please bring your own table service and a dish to share; circle starts at 7p.m. Contact <a href="#">Randa Todd</a>.</p> <p>QueenSpirit is also hosting the Solstice this year; our first planning session is Sept. 29 (see below).</p>			
<b>Thu 3</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Open Rehearsal – Market Street Unisingers</b>	<b>Market Street</b>
<p>The Unisingers (Market Street choir) begins rehearsing for the new church year, tonight at 7:00 pm. If you have been contemplating joining, please come. Come a little early and we'll fill you in on all you need to know and plan to stay for rehearsal. If you like what you hear, come back again the next week! The group is open to adults and high school teens. Questions? Contact <a href="#">Sparkie Radcliffe</a>.</p>			
<b>Sat 8</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Common Ground Café (Twice a month)</b>	<b>Market</b>
<p>Common Ground Café occurs at our Market Street campus on the second and last Saturday of the month. The café opens at 9:00 a.m., and you can be a part of the action! No experience necessary, and drop-ins are always welcome.</p> <p><b>Repeats September 29.</b> To join the list of volunteers, please contact <a href="#">Clay Lambert</a>.</p>			
<b>Sun 9</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>The Philosophy &amp; Literature Group usually meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. This month, the group meets to discuss <i>The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II</i>, by Denise Kiernan. From amazon.com:</p> <p>Atomic-bomb history includes works about the communities of workers attached to the main installations where the first nuclear weapon was built. Kiernan's contribution covers Oak Ridge, Tennessee, site of enormous factories built to separate uranium isotopes. A type of oral history, Kiernan's account derives from her intensive interviews with 10 women who, in their youth, labored in a range of occupations at Oak Ridge, from janitor to machine operator to secretary to engineer. With surrounding scaffolding of the scientific fundamentals and the 1942–45 technical development of the bomb, the narrative runs as a collection of individuals' life stories that recall circumstances of recruitment and the spartan conditions at Oak Ridge, on and off the job. Some commonalities of experience include the secrecy in which the women worked and the discrimination they endured (racial segregation in the case of the janitor; sexism in the cases of white women workers). Kiernan snugly fits original research into the creation story of Oak Ridge and should engage readers interested in both women's history and the background of the atomic bomb.</p> <p>The group meets at Clover Lane this month. All members and friends are welcome. Please contact <a href="#">Don Brown</a> for information.</p>			 

DATE	TIME	GROUP	LOCATION
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<b>Tue 11</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Women's Night Out (Monthly)</b>	<b>Off-site</b>
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Women's Night Out is a lay-led ministry that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at a local restaurant, alternating locations between the East and West Shores. Each month at dinner, participants take a collection and contribute to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. This month, we meet at Millworks, in Midtown Harrisburg. To join us for dinner and experience the friendship while providing support to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, please contact [Linda Brown](#) two days prior to the event.

Women's Night Out	
Date	Venue
July 14	Gilligan's on Eisenhower Boulevard
Aug. 11	Isaac's at West Shore Plaza
Sept. 8	Millworks in Midtown
Oct. 13	The Peppermill @ Wesley Drive Plaza
Nov. 10	Fiesta Mexico @ Tecport
Dec. 8	Cafe Magnolia
Second Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m., alternating shores	

<b>Mon 14</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Amrit Yoga (Weekly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
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Amrit yoga is a form of hatha yoga developed by Yogi Amrit Desai. The entire process moves and stretches every part of your body for an energetic workout and includes a calming, meditative relaxation at the end. **Repeats every Monday.**

Contact [Ed Sykes](#). No experience necessary!



<b>Tue 15</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>CroneSpirit (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
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The lay-led ministry CroneSpirit will meet from 10 a.m. - noon in Fuller Chapel at the Clover Lane campus. Our topic this month is "The Myth That More Exercise Is Better." We are:

- A discussion group for women over 65, both UCH members and non-members
- Honoring a crone tradition of conscious female aging and self-power
- For personal enrichment, such as through intellect, knowledge, comfort or companionship, anticipating a maximum of 10 women
- Sharing, listening and learning, without gossip or speaking disrespectfully to or about each other

We look forward to seeing you. For information, please contact [Joan Hellmann](#).



<b>Tue 15</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>LTFH Task Force</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
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**Our Goal:** Long-Term Financial Health for UCH      **Our smallest problem:** What to call us?

We will meet September 15 to begin working on ways to achieve long-term financial health for UCH, and maybe a more pronounceable (for those who don't speak Klingon) name than 'LTFH task force.' We will be brainstorming possible steps toward this goal, steps as varied as:

- Reading and discussing *The Soul of Money* by Lynne Twist,
- Creating a Legacy Society at UCH (comprising of members who have included UCH in their wills),
- Presenting a class for UCH members and friends on Money Management / Financial Literacy (how to avoid having too much money left at the end of the money), and/or perhaps:
- Changing the stewardship process.

Join [Jim Cavanaugh](#) and [Donna Hoskins-Helm](#) for a challenging yet rewarding discussion.



<b>Wed 16</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Clover Grove (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
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Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists that meets on the third Wednesday. This month, Clover Grove will give thanks for a fruitful harvest with a Mabon feast. All are welcome! Please bring a dish for the pot luck dinner.

Please contact [Jen Wallitsch](#) for further information or to arrange for childcare (participants split the cost).



<b>Fri 18</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>Clover Lane Coffee House</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
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Clover Lane Coffee House is pleased to kick off its 14th season, with perennial favorites Womack & Lowery scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18. Admission is \$10 donation; season tickets are \$45 for 9 concerts. Concerts are generally third Friday, September – May. Anyone interested in helping with concerts this year should contact [Bart Carpenter](#).



DATE	TIME	GROUP	LOCATION
<b>Tue 22</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Auction Committee (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
Please join the UCH Auction Committee as we plan this year's Show YUUR Colors! We meet on the fourth Tuesday at Clover Lane. And please save the date: 5:30 p.m., Saturday, November 7! Contact <a href="#">Patti Hazell</a> .			
<b>Tue 29</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Solstice Planning</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
Winter, already?!? No, it is not winter yet, but we are starting to plan for our Winter Solstice Ritual. Would you like to help? QueenSpirit is taking the lead this year but welcomes help from other church members. We welcome your creativity in creating a meaningful solstice celebration. Contact <a href="mailto:annstillwater@gmail.com">annstillwater@gmail.com</a> if you are interested but can't make the meeting.			
<b>Tue 29</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Bhante San</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>

MMG is pleased to welcome Bhante Sanyatha ("Bhante San"), also known as the "Monk on the Go," on a return visit to the UCH. The purpose of Bhante San's "Monk on the Go" journey is to inspire people to find themselves in-depth and to be inspired by people who already have found it. As he notes on his web site, "My Heart is my temple and the brain is my map. The rest I'll figure out living simply, one day at a time." All are welcome. Free-will offering to cover Bhante San's expenses.



**Bhante Sanyatha**

**Save the date:** Bhante Sujatha of Blue Lotus Temple and Meditation Center returns to MMG on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015.

**Other events**

**Shawn Thomas, 7:00 p.m. Saturday, September 17**

**MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg**

Shawn Thomas is a contemporary Christian singer/songwriter whose ministry includes an outreach to the LGBT community. In 2010, he published a book describing his experience as being both gay and Christian. *Unashamed - Coming Out of the Second Closet* deals with being in the crosshairs from both groups, as many Christians think his sexuality is incompatible with faith and many in the LGBT community believe his faith runs contrary to LGBT causes.

**Harmony Walk, 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 20**

**Wesley Union AME Zion Church, 2219 N 5th Street**

InterReligious Forum of Greater Harrisburg is pleased to sponsor Harmony Walk, starting at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20, at the entrance to Wesley Union AME Zion Church, 2219 N 5th Street, Harrisburg. Included in the Walk are representatives from Christian, Jewish, Islamic, and other religions. At each stop, a religious leader will share words about the value of harmony among religions and about the theme of the Walk: Unity in Diversity. A bus will be available for individuals who have difficulty walking.

From the Wesley Union AME Zion Church, participants will proceed to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, St Paul Episcopal Church, Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church, Keshet Israel Congregation, ending at the Hadee Mosque. At the mosque, a light dinner will be provided by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.



The always-amazing UCH Church Auction is on its way. Please join us for an evening of fun on Saturday, November 7, at Clover Lane. This is a time of great fun for our church community, and also one of our major fundraisers for the year.

To make a donation, visit our church web site and click on the newly created link: [UCH Auction Show "YUUR" Colors!](#) It lists all the details on how to donate events, items, food, etc.

Tickets are on sale each Sunday during coffee hour. \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Childcare will be provided.

Questions, contact [Patti Hazell](#) (telephone 717-576-9848).

## Congratulations

Please congratulate these members of our community!



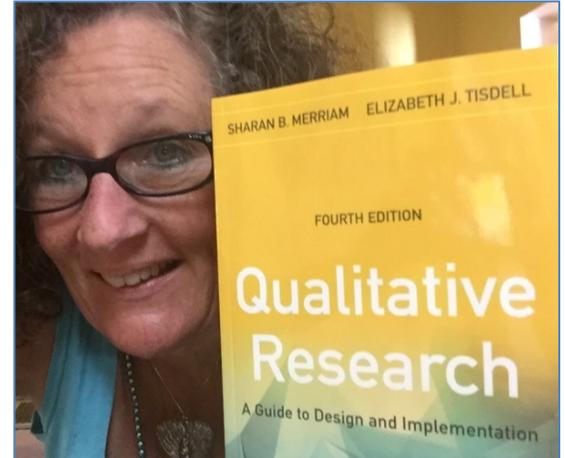
### Hoover-Brown Wedding

UCH members Bill and Julie Brown are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Samm, to Colby Hoover, on August 10, 2015. The ceremony was conducted by Paul Herzer in the Browns' home.

Colby is the son of James Hoover and Alice Anderson of Plainfield, PA, and an ensign in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Hampton Roads, VA. Samm grew up at UCH and will remain in

Harrisburg until December, when she will move to Virginia.

### Publication



Congratulations to Dr. Libby Tisdell on the publication of her co-authored book, *Qualitative Research: A Guide to Design and Implementation* (Fourth Edition). Libby is professor of adult education and coordinator of the doctoral program in adult education at Penn State University Harrisburg.

## Minister's Message

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in the pews and I love to do so when I can. And yet, I have all these ideas and feelings for which preaching is my main outlet, and so I love that, too.

I came to this rather late, if you wondered. I grew up in a fundamentalist family, and for deeply personal reasons (which I will likely preach about at some point!), I left the church for some 25 years. I spent those years delving into meditation, earth-based spirituality, and other spiritual practices and communities. When I finally found my way back to a church, I thought I had a handicap. I didn't know anything about preaching; in fact, I was pretty intimidated by the whole idea and thought I wouldn't be any good at it. At one point, my internship supervisor (Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube in San Diego) laughed at me and told me it was all in my head, because he thought I was pretty good! What a shock! No one ever told me that before. I really needed to have someone else point out this positive thing to me, because I simply couldn't see it for myself.

When the opportunity arises, I try to return that favor (in the "paying it forward" manner) by pointing out to others what they are good at and how they are making a difference. In fact, in the month I have been in Harrisburg, taking in all the conversations I've had with so many of you, I've started to see many things that UCH is good at and how you all are making a

difference in the surrounding community and in the lives of our members. I suspect that has been something that many could not really see at a conscious level (at least lately), because of all the worry about money, the unsuccessful Call for Settled Ministry, and other matters in UCH that have taken up lots of air-time. So, expect my sermons this month to point out what you do well, how you make a difference, and begin to ask the question of where we are going to go together. And, by asking that question, the conversation then leaves room for your answers. That's the other beauty of preaching, if I can let you in on a secret — although it seems like a one-way conversation, it never is. Your feedback will become part of the overall conversation.

Talking about UCH's collective future and celebrating your successes is a conversation worth having!

May it ever be so and blessed be you all!

— Rev. Mike

Rev. Michael Walker is the Interim Minister at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. He is interested in connecting with you! You may email him with questions and concerns at [revmike@harrisburguu.org](mailto:revmike@harrisburguu.org). If you need an appointment with our minister, you may schedule one by calling the office at 717-564-4761 or emailing one of the [administrative](#) staff.