



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: Building Bridges, Celebrating Community

Sunday Services

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

Oct 4 Walking with Grace

When considered as a virtue and a state of being based in theistic belief, the concept of grace has often been overlooked in UU circles. However, even in a non-theistic sense, grace still has meaning: It is finding joy in life and sharing it with others. One finds grace in the extended hand helping another to stand up. We also recognize that someday, it may be you or I that need that helping hand. Rev. Mike discusses how grace is living a fulfilled life as best we can, and how we can share and use that sense of grace to help others do the same.

Oct 11 Who Was Here First?

A critique of Columbus Day, Rev. Mike explores the question of who was here first. Why do we say Columbus discovered America, when the continent was already populated? The globe-spanning error of colonialism has profoundly affected the course of history, and cultural misappropriation in the modern era has only compounded the error. What can we do now to right the wrong? Finally, how do we help others, without "othering" them to a point of creating a separation so wide that the other's humanity is no longer visible to us, or vice versa? Holding up the humanity of others, who also hold onto our own.

Oct 18 The Work of Many Hands

The proverb, "Many hands make light work," has been in the English lexicon since at least the 15th Century. It was used to good effect by the Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones (1843-1918), who organized the Western Unitarian Conference (WUC), to bring Unitarian congregations together and have a louder, collective voice, mostly (in his mind) to promote peace. WUC was one of a few organizations that merged and eventually evolved into the current Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Holding up the idea of a collaborative ministry (to which we each contribute), Rev. Mike helps us explore how our many hands can make light work in fulfilling the missions of UCH.

Oct 25 Compassion--the Energy for Service

Distinguishing between "compassion" and "pity," we will consider compassion on both the personal and global spheres. Rev. Joyce Stoltzfus, a UCH member and chaplain at a local hospice center, will incorporate personal experiences as well as thoughts from the recent book on *Toxic Charity*, by Robert Lupton.

Minister's Message

The Wayside Pulpit: Holding Onto Our Humanity

By Rev. Michael Walker, Interim Minister

Dear friends,
When our new Worship Committee was brainstorming worship themes for this church-year, we came up with many good ideas. One that seemed particular poignant to me is the phrase, *Holding Onto Our Humanity*. Someone lifted up current events in the world, (continued on page 9)



Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

October 2015 At-a-Glance

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sun 4	Various	Sunday worship, both campuses
Mon 5	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 6	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 7	6:00	QueenSpirit
Thu 8	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sat 10	9:00	Common Ground Café
	9:00	Ministerial Startup
Sun 11	various	Sunday worship, both campuses, with clothing drive pickup afterward
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature
Mon 12	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 13	6:30	Women's Night Out
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
	7:30	Stewardship Task Force
Thu 15	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Fri 16	7:00	OLIVER COLLECTIVE Art Show
	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House
Sat 17	8:30	Breast Cancer Awareness (offsite)
Sun 18	Various	Sunday worship, both campuses, and OLIVER COLLECTIVE Art Show
	5:00	Congregational Meeting
Mon 19	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 20	10:00	CroneSpirit
	6:30	Solstice Planning
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
	7:30	Stewardship Task Force
Wed 21	7:00	Clover Grove
Thu 22	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sun 25	Various	Sunday worship
Mon 26	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 27	6:30	Auction planning: Show YUUR Colors!
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Thu 29	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sat 31	9:00	Common Ground Café

Occurs at Market Street

Looking Ahead:

Nov. 7, Auction/Fundraiser

Share the Plate for October
UUPALM

October Theme
Holding onto Our Humanity

Message from our President

By Laura Shemick, President



This September has been most inspiring. Nearly half of our members have shared their thoughts and concerns about UCH in small group meetings, and our new interim minister has preached wonderfully uplifting and thought-provoking sermons at both our campuses. This month we will have a ministerial start-up retreat for all members (October 10; details page 9), and a congregational meeting to check on our progress toward our numerous goals (Oct. 18; agenda to be posted closer to the date).

Some questions I've been pondering this month include these: how do people in congregations participate in the life of the church? Will everyone be able to attend the start-up retreat and the congregational meeting? Is everyone at church interested in matters of mission and governance? There are as many answers to these questions as there are members and friends of UCH. Actually, if truth be told, there are probably more answers than members and friends, since UUs have been known to have more than one opinion on a subject and to give "on the one hand" replies from time to time.

There is no "should" or "shouldn't" answer. People participate in the life of a congregation according to their abilities, their needs, their preferences, and the demands that life outside the church makes upon them. People can be highly active in multiple areas of church one year and be just Sunday attendees another. We all know some folks who seem to be nuclear-powered, always taking care of vital details like food at parties and receptions, making sure the sidewalks are completely clear of snow and ice, calling to get auction donations, or urging us to write that letter to that legislator. We have lay liturgists and RGL teachers, singers and gardeners, people who reorganize the closets and take out the trash, people who edit or proof the Reporter and vacuum the carpets after events. Each and every one of us takes on one or more of numerous roles over time at UCH.

Why, then, should hard-working volunteers give up their Saturday for a "start-up retreat?" The simple fact is this: Together, we make UCH what it is. We each know who we are as individuals, and we must gather together to collectively decide what we are as a congregation. We do this at one place, at one time, to ensure that we hear as many of our voices as possible, and speak to as many of our fellow congregants as possible, so that we may decide together our path.

To a lesser extent, the same logic applies to our upcoming congregational meeting. While we will decide few things at the meeting, everyone who loves UCH will have the chance to hear about the progress being made on important matters like budget, staff, and programs. Our consultant, Mike Harris, will give us his analysis of our situation, and we will have the chance to discuss and debate our future. Please mark both the retreat and the congregational meeting on your calendar. The congregational meeting will be a potluck dinner, and the retreat will have lunch supplied.

On another note: I had a long talk with a member recently on how changes get made at UCH. This is obviously a hugely important issue, since we as UUs are always interested in making things better. It is my hope that in the very near future an extremely clear explanation

OCTOBER TRUSTEE ASSIGNMENTS		
DATE	MARKET STREET	CLOVER LANE
4	Laura Shemick	Dave Forster
11	Chris Dutton	Marilyn McHenry
18	Tom Conners	Laura Shemick
25		

will be placed on the website, and from time to time in the Reporter; it is in the best interest of UCH for everyone to understand How Things Get Done, and in the best interest of those who make church happen to have the benefit of the great pool of experience and knowledge existing in members and friends.

Lastly: In September I related the beginning of the story of the Fellowship Movement in the American Unitarian Association, which led to the formation of many small lay-led congregations. One unanticipated result was antipathy toward ministers, and another was small, cozy congregations in which newcomers were not easily assimilated. This is not to say that all who founded or attended lay-led congregations thought ministers unnecessary, or were less than enthusiastic toward new folks – it's just that a significant percentage of congregations were uninterested in professional religious leadership, or stayed resolutely small, or did both.

There's nothing wrong with having a small congregation of, say, 50 to 100 adult members, all of whom know each other to a greater or lesser degree. What became apparent over time, however, was that once a UU congregation was established in a town or city, it was unlikely that another UU congregation would rise up in the same geographic area. The UUA, unlike many faiths in America, did not found churches and send ministers to serve them; the UUA has long relied on people discovering the UU faith, creating congregations, and governing them to the best of their abilities. The UUA has never had the inclination or the power to tell UU congregations whether to call ministers, how to integrate new members, or what programs to offer. UU congregations are self-governing.

Fortunately or unfortunately, most people feel comfortable in an environment that is familiar, with familiar faces and routines, knowing what is to happen, more or less, on a Sunday morning. And the smaller the group, the easier it is to maintain this kind of equilibrium. It is a natural tendency of a group such as a congregation to embrace constancy, and a natural tendency to avoid disruption in routine and environment. Relating these tendencies to the Fellowship Movement, it became apparent over time that many would-be UUs were not able to find a religious home in small lay-led congregations; far too many simply melted away, or joined other liberal faiths that were better able to integrate them into the lives of the church.

This is a fairly simplistic explanation of the Fellowship Movement in our history, and of course does not apply to the hundreds of small congregations in New England that pre-date the Fellowship Movement. Next month I'll describe some ways that congregations have worked to invite new UUs to join them, and how they integrate new members into the life of the church. Until then, see you in church.

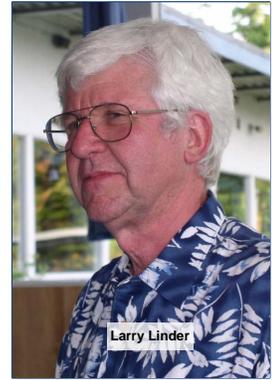
Respectfully submitted,
Laura Shemick

Pastoral Care Associates

The Pastoral Care Associates are pleased to announce that UCH members Barb VanHorn and Larry Linder have completed training to serve as Associates and are full members of our team. Associates are available to be a listening presence for UCH members in times of short-term crisis or intermittently for ongoing problems. Information shared is held in confidence by the Associate and the Minister. In addition to Barb and Larry, Pastoral Care Associates are Jim Cavanaugh, Kathleen Daugherty, Nancy Hall, Kathy Stewart, and Marj Forster.



Barbara VanHorn



Larry Linder

Rev. Walker is seeking a UCH member to coordinate the activities of the Pastoral Care Associates. Normal activities include:

- ⊕ Membership-focused tasks
 - Serve as intake person for members seeking assistance
 - Match members with an Associate
 - Follow up to ensure contact is maintained
 - Contact the Minister for specific needs.
- ⊕ Support to Associates
 - Convene quarterly meetings of the Associates and in-service training as needed.
 - Coordinate initiatives to enhance Pastoral Care, such as an on line sign up for congregants to volunteer meals and transportation to members in need.
 - Maintaining performance statistics for annual/ad-hoc reporting

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact [Rev. Walker](#).

—Submitted by Marj Forster



Show YUUR Colors at the UCH Church Auction on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Clover Lane. Support the church in one of its biggest fundraisers with delicious food, musical entertainment from the church youth, and a cash bar with beer and wine.

Visit our church [web site](#) and click on the link: **UCH Auction Show “YUUR” Colors** to donate events, items, and to sign up to provide food. Host a dinner party, tea, dance classes, or game night. Provide dog sitting, food, or an afternoon of helping the winner in shopping for that whatever is in your expertise (computer, special dress, car, lawn mower, etc.). Your donations are the core of the auction! Back by popular demand is the BASKET RAFFLE. Tickets are \$1 each or 10 for \$5 dollars. At the auction, check out all the goodies donated by our lay-led ministries!

The Auction Book will be available on the website by October 25. Paper copies will also be available on the night of the auction. Proxy bidding available if you cannot attend.

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

Drop-off for donations and cash & carry items: Thursday/Friday Nov. 5-6 after 5:30pm at Clover Lane or contact Patti Hazell to schedule an alternate time.

Come join the fun somewhere over the rainbow on November 7 starting at 5:30-maybe you will go home with a pot of gold! Questions, contact [Patti Hazell](#).

LaGrone Book Shuffle

Please save any unwanted books, CDs, and DVDs for the upcoming Book Shuffle (February 2016) benefitting the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship. Details will be forthcoming.

—Submitted by Jessica Chuckalovcak

Great Pumpkin Chase Oct. 23

The 22nd Annual Great Pumpkin Chase starts at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, on City Island. Hosted by St. Stephen’s Episcopal Cathedral, it is a 5K run/1 mile walk with all proceeds benefiting three local charities, one of which is [Common Ground Café](#) at our Market Street campus. Race/walk [registration](#) is \$25 before Oct. 11, \$30 day of the race. Please contact [Dan Myers](#) for additional information.

— Submitted by Dan Myers

Detail Calendar

October 2015

DATE	TIME	GROUP	LOCATION
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Mon 5	6:30	Amrit Yoga (Weekly)	Clover Lane
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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!

Tue 6	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (Weekly)	Clover Lane
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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. **October 20 is silent meditation; no speaking.**



Contact [Chuck Daley](#). **Repeats every Tuesday.**

Wed 7	6:00	Queen Spirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
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Queen Spirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Ann Stillwater will facilitate a circle exploring white privilege. Join us in exploring a sometimes uncomfortable topic in a safe space. 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 [Randa Todd](#). QueenSpirit is also hosting the Solstice this year; planning session is Oct. 20 (see below).



Sat 10	9:00	Common Ground Café (Twice a month)	Market
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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.



Repeats October 31. To join the list of volunteers, please contact [Clay Lambert](#).

Sat 10	9:00	Ministerial Startup	Clover Lane
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Special day-long planning event (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.), facilitated by the Rev. David Pyle, District Executive for the UUA’s Joseph Priestley District, open to the entire congregation. The purpose is to ensure the new ministry of UCH is a successful one (related discussion, page 9). There will be opportunities for members to discuss future possibilities and get information from the UUA; it will also include opportunities for members to give feedback to the UUA and to our new interim minister, the Rev. Michael Walker. Ideally, the session will provide Rev. Mike with the necessary background so that we can have an effective ministry at UCH this year. Volunteers for Common Ground Café can join the session mid-day; lunch provided.

All members are invited and encouraged to help us get this church-year off to a good start! Contact [Rev. Mike](#) with questions.

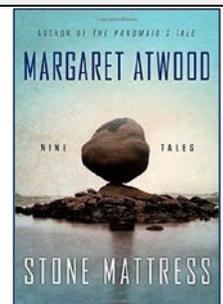
Sun 11	Various	Clothing/Purse Drive	Both Campuses
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October 11 is “intake” at both campuses for gently used winter coats and clothing for Market Street neighbors, plus used purses for [Change Purse](#). Please contact [Kathleen Daugherty](#) if you have questions on either program.

Sun 11	7:00	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Clover Lane
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The Philosophy & Literature Group usually meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. This month, the group meets to discuss *Stone Mattress: Nine Tales* by *Margret Atwood*. From amazon.com:

In this extraordinary collection, Margaret Atwood gives us nine unforgettable tales that reveal the grotesque, delightfully wicked facets of humanity. “Alphinland,” the first of three loosely linked tales, introduces us to a fantasy writer who is guided through a stormy winter evening by the voice of her late husband. In “Lusus Naturae,” a young woman, monstrously transformed by a genetic defect, is mistaken for a vampire. And in the title story, a woman who has killed four husbands discovers an opportunity to exact vengeance on the first man who ever wronged her.



The group meets at Clover Lane this month. All members and friends are welcome. Please contact [Don Brown](#) for information.

Tue 13 6:30 Women's Night Out (Monthly)**Off-site**

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 the Peppermill, just off the Rossmoyne Exit of Route 15 South. To join us for dinner and experience the friendship while providing support to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, please contact [Linda Brown](#) by Friday 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	

Tue 13 7:30 LTFH Task Force**Clover Lane**

Our Goal: Long-Term Financial Health for UCH

LTFH meets October 13 to discuss ways to achieve long-term financial health for UCH. Discussion continues on *The Soul of Money* by Lynne Twist, and how we can apply these principles. Among other things, at this meeting we will:

- ⊕ Discuss doing a common read/ book discussion
- ⊕ Review legacy materials from UUA and other congregations
- ⊕ Identify topics for financial literacy classes and potential presenters.

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

**Fri 16 7:00 OLIVER COLLECTIVE Art Show****Clover Lane**

It's not too early for holiday shopping! Yes, Fall has only just started, but it won't be that long until we're into December with Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa gift-giving opportunities. The UCH artisans who are members of **THE OLIVER COLLECTIVE** have the answer for many of your gift-giving questions.

Purses and Fibers and Pots, oh my!

Your are cordially invited to the
Autumn Art Showing

Presented by
the OLIVER COLLECTIVE

Clover Lane
6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16
12:30 p.m. Sunday Oct. 18
Market Street
10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct 18

*Proceeds benefit the Oliver
LaGrone Scholarship Fund*

Unique and limited edition art treasures will be available Oct. 16 at Clover Lane Coffee House and Oct. 18 following worship in the community rooms at both campuses. Available art items will include textile wearables and accessories, knitted wearables, wooden lamps and tables, pottery, note cards, photography, box-framed assemblages, crochet wearables, jewelry, needlework, and outsider art. Each item is clearly marked with a donation amount; contribute that amount or more.

A LaGrone Scholar is selected annually from among applicants who will graduate from Harrisburg High School. A member of UCH with related interests serves as a mentor for the Scholar's post-secondary education. The 2015 Scholar received a total of \$5,500 from the Fund toward post-high school educational expenses.

Come and support the coffeehouse, enjoy the entertainment, browse the **COLLECTIVE** show, enjoy refreshments provided by **COLLECTIVE** members, and help a very worthy cause. You also get first crack at all the items **COLLECTIVE** members have lovingly created for you. Hard to beat that kind of arrangement! If you can't make it to the coffeehouse, be sure to check out the **COLLECTIVE** shows at the two campus coffee hours. Thanks for your support.

–Submitted by *John Hope*

Fri 16	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House	Clover Lane
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Clover Lane Coffee House sponsors concerts monthly from September to May, normally at 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday. Admission \$10 at the door, maximum \$25 per family. This month (only), a \$45 season pass is available for purchase, valid for the rest of the church year. All are welcome.

Our artist this month is [Mouths of Babe](#): Ty Greenstein (of Girlyman) and Ingrid Elizabeth (of Coyote Grace). This tender tomboy and rough-and-tumble lady come together to melt hearts and shake souls with undeniable chemistry and a truly unexpected heralding of wisdom. Mouths of Babes' sound is equal parts celebration and blues, folk and soul, salve and anthem—an invitation to love this life, to sing your sob story and end it with a smile. These two songwriters light up the stage—juggling harmonies, guitar, bass, foot percussion, cajón, banjo, harmonica, and ukulele from song to song, inviting the audience to join the choir, and engaging listeners with sentiments that range from heartfelt to hilarious.



Anyone interested in helping with concerts this year should contact [Bart Carpenter](#).

Sat 17	8:30	Breast Cancer Awareness	Off-site
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UCH's lay-led ministry on Breast Cancer Awareness joins others in the mid-state for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. The 5K walk is one of nearly 300 occurring across the U.S. this month. Registration starts at 7:30; the walk starts at 8:30. Walk begins/ends at City Island. Please contact [Jim Cavanaugh](#) to register or sign up at the [local website](#).



Tue 20	10:00	CroneSpirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
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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 "Myths: Loneliness Is More Likely and Creativity Declines with Age." 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](#).

Tue 20	6:30	Solstice Planning	Clover Lane
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Solstice is less than three months away! QueenSpirit is holding an open planning meeting Oct. 20; everyone is welcome. **This is the meeting where the Winter Solstice celebration takes shape.** Please bring your ideas, energy and enthusiasm. Many different roles are available, from holding a sign to leading a song, and lots in between. Please join us in creating a meaningful Winter Solstice celebration of the darkest time of the year for UCH and the greater Harrisburg community! Contact [Ann Stillwater](#).

Wed 21	6:00	Clover Grove (Monthly)	Clover Lane
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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 members will spend an evening playing Beyond the Veil. Join us on Wednesday October 21 from 6-8 PM in the Clover Lane community room to discuss and practice the ancient art of Divination. Snacks are welcome but not required.



Please contact [Kirsten Salvatore](#) about arranging childcare (participants split the cost).

Tue 27	6:30	Auction Committee (Monthly)	Clover Lane
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Help make the UCH auction a record-breaker! Please join the UCH Auction Committee as we finalize plans for this year's **Show YUUR Colors**. Contact [Patti Hazell](#) if you can help, but are unable to attend the planning session. And please save the auction date: 5:30 p.m., Saturday, November 7!

LaGrone Scholar Update

Daouda Kassimou, our 2013 LaGrone scholar, has begun his third year at Penn State Harrisburg. He has chosen mechanical engineering as his major. He has assumed a heavy, five-course load for the fall term: two English and one each of physics, linear algebra and calculus.

Daouda hopes to graduate within two years; however, he figures his studies will take longer than the customary four-year undergraduate stint due to a part-time security job on weekends. He lives with his father approximately two minutes from our Market Street campus. David Spear is his mentor.

–Submitted by Lee Olson

Eleanor Margot Keithan

Rev. Rob and Mandy Keithan are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Margot, born September 18 in Washington D.C. She was 3 lbs 12 oz and 17 inches long. Eleanor was several weeks early ("She already has a mind of her own," say Rob and Mandy) but is quite healthy, and the whole family is doing well.

Rob is the son of UCH life members Jim and Nan Cavanaugh and grew up at UCH. He is currently working as a consultant on faith engagement with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

–Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh



Gently Used Winter Clothing/Women's Purses Oct. 11

Two clothing drives converge on Oct. 11, at both campuses:

🌟 Please Share Gently Used Winter Coats and Clothes with our Market St neighbors!!!

Now that it's officially autumn, are you looking through those winter items, knowing you'll never wear them again? There are people who will! The clothing bank at [Common Ground Community Center](#), at our Market Street campus, is no longer operating year-round. Instead, it will occur via quarterly appeals targeted for specific items. Please bring coats, boots, sweaters, gloves, and other items to either campus on Sunday, October 11. Sizes and clothes for all ages are welcome. New underwear and socks are always needed.

There will be well-marked receptacles where you can leave the donated clothing. You can also drop them off during CGCC hours the following week, Oct. 12-16. Thank you!!!

🌟 Women's Purses

[Change Purse](#) is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to fighting sex trafficking through raising awareness and financially supporting faith-based organizations that provide hope, healing, and restoration, through their direct work with victims and survivors of sex trafficking. Penbrook United Church of Christ is collaborating with Change Purse this fall, and CGCC's Ann Van Dyke has reached out to the UCH to coordinate collections.

Change Purse will accept all brands and styles of purses as long as they are currently in style and are in new or like new condition. They must be free from stains, odors, or tears and have only minimal signs of use and wear on both the interior and exterior of the purse.

Thank you!!! –Submitted by Kathleen Daugherty



Save Your Calendars for Women's Work Release

Save Calendars for Work Release Participants

In addition to Sunday classified advertisements, please save those extra calendars that tend to start arriving at this time of year. Our lay-led ministry, Helping People in Prison and Their Families, recently took in a handful of extra calendars donated by UCH members, and they are very popular – and an assistance to work-release participants in keeping their appointments!

–Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

UUPLAN Annual Meeting Nov. 14

Are you a person who wants to make a difference by putting your faith into action? Are you interested in the Pennsylvania legislative process and how it impacts our environment and social justice?



If you have answered YES to any of the above questions, then we want YOU! Join others of similar mind at the UUPLAN Annual Meeting on November 14, 2015 from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at the UU Fellowship of Centre County in State College. Register online.

Keynote speakers:

- John Poole, Director of [Pennsylvanians United to Amend](#), and Neil Goldstein (UUPLAN Economic Justice co-chair) will speak on money in politics: *All of the Above: How Social Justice Initiatives are Thwarted by Money and Politics in DC.*
- Irene Habermann, [PA Interfaith Impact Network](#) will discuss one-on-one conversations: *Connecting Congregations and Building our Power.*

Our work is only made possible by your financial support. If you have not yet joined UUPLAN for 2015, please take a few minutes to [support](#) our justice teams. Your financial support is critical to our work. Also note that October's Share-the-Plate recipient is the 501(c)3 associated with UUPLAN, Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Advocacy Legislative Ministry (UUPALM).

To find out more about the work of any of our Justice Teams, please feel free to participate in monthly conference calls (chart) or contact [Anita Mentzer](#).

—Submitted by Anita Mentzer

Monthly UUPLAN Conference Calls		
Call in number: 641-715-3286 Access code: 107933#		
Team	Meeting Day	Time
Anti-Mass Incarceration	Last Monday	8:00 p.m.
Economic Justice	Second Monday	7:00 p.m.
Environmental Justice	Second Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Immigration Justice	Third Monday	Noon
LGBTQ	Fourth Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Reproductive Justice	Third Wednesday	7:00 p.m.

“Our Whole Lives” Starts Oct. 8

UCH is offering RGL classes on healthy sexuality through the “Our Whole Lives” (OWL) program, a vital part of UU formation for our young people. As Unitarians, we believe that sexuality is an integral part of being human, and healthy sexuality is important to a happy life. The curriculum provides age-appropriate information for children and teens to understand this fundamental aspect of human nature. **OWL classes for Grades 7-9 start Oct. 11**; all youth in those grades should proceed directly to their classroom at the beginning of the worship service; the class typically runs 75 minutes, i.e., somewhat longer than the service. Classes for Grades 5-6 and Grades 10-12 will be offered after the New Year.

The UUA frames the program in terms of our religious values: “The Our Whole Lives curricula help transform a cultural climate of fear and confusion into a new reality of lives lived congruent with the values of the inherent worth and dignity of each and every person.” We seek to present our youth with a holistic view of sexuality that allows them to appreciate their own bodies and sexuality, respect the bodies and sexuality of others, and to provide them with the information and perspectives to make healthy decisions for themselves.



At the elementary level, OWL introduces children to basic sexual anatomy and processes and issues related to puberty, family, and relationships. At the teen level, OWL promotes awareness and acceptance of differing gender identities and sexual preferences. It provides information for teens to make healthy decisions for their own bodies. In a society where sexuality is often damaged by exploitation and the treatment of persons as objects, OWL offers a very different viewpoint and frames sexuality in terms of values such as self-worth, sexual health, justice, and responsibility. The courses are quite intense and require a sense of trust between all the participants in the room.

All of the facilitators for this program have received specialized training in order to lead OWL classes, but a guiding precept of the OWL curriculum is that parents are the first sexual educators. Parents are welcome to view/review materials and sometimes are asked to continue conversations begun in the classroom. We have already held a parent orientation for grades 7-9, and parents of children in the other OWL grades will be invited to an orientation later this year.

The “Our Whole Lives” curricula actually do not stop with high school. There are also UU-based courses for young adult and mature adult groups. The need for healing and perspective on ourselves as sexual beings in fact continues for our whole lives. Someday maybe you too could be a participant in a sex-education course that’s definitely not your high school health teacher’s sex education course.

—Submitted by Mary Henninger-Voss

Minister's Message

(from page 1)

such as refugees from the Syrian civil war dying in the Mediterranean. Our common humanity also crosses my mind every time I drive down Market Street, seeing all those buildings boarded up and condemned, but knowing that people who are otherwise homeless inhabit many of them. I thought our common humanity was called into question last month, when a rich hedge fund manager who bought out a pharmaceutical company raised the price of a particular cancer and AIDS-related drug from about \$13 per pill to \$750 per pill — because that's the humane thing to do? I think not.

I have long believed that we are called to extend our common humanity to all. I am reminded of our First Principle, which states that we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and our Second Principle, in which we uphold justice, equity and compassion in human relations. It is not a coincidence that the first [two principles](#) speak to our common humanity. These are integral parts of the UU identity. We preach it from the pulpit, we shout it on the streets, we share in letters to legislators; in so many ways, so many UUs share this message of our common humanity with those who may have forgotten it.

We are beginning to see a dawning awareness of our collective need to hold onto our humanity, when we realize

and then say aloud that Black Lives Matter. Bringing that awareness to politicians, who should pass laws that will cause the retraining of police and instill accountability for lives taken is a good step in the right direction. Changing our assumptions about those who may look different than ourselves, in whatever way. Be the change we want to see in the world, as Mahatma Gandhi once taught the world.

At the local level, concern for our common humanity has led some to participate in programs addressing hunger and poverty in Allison Hill. Others work to educate politicians and corporate leaders about climate change, because a cataclysmic change would affect all humanity and our future generations. Good work is happening here, which inspires me, and hopefully many others. Thank you all.

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. 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.

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

2015-16 Goals for Collaborative Ministry

Co-created by the UCH Board of Trustees and Rev. Michael Walker, August 29, 2015

At the recent Board Retreat, our Trustees and Rev. Michael Walker discussed in detail the congregation's needs in seven areas of concentration (listed below, in no particular order), then prioritized those needs within each of the seven areas. These goals are meant to be a roadmap for the collaborative ministry of the UCH and are also particular areas of concentration for Rev. Mike. By using the word 'collaborative,' we recognize that the talents and perspectives of members are important, and that ministry is a process that values the voices and contributions of both laity and clergy.

Worship and Liturgical Leadership

We respect and plan to continue supporting the distinct cultural, musical and liturgical styles found at each campus. We desire thought-provoking, heartfelt sermons, with thought given to theological diversity (spiritual, humanist, world religions, etc.). We encourage congregational involvement in the process of planning and conducting worship, and we have a desire to encourage more intra-congregational cooperation and flow of people between campuses.

Pastoral Care and Counseling

While supporting existing and future lay-led ministries that provide pastoral care, it is also expected that Rev. Mike will be available to provide pastoral care and counseling to members in their times of need. Rev. Mike will also be in consultation with the Pastoral Care Associates, so that they can support and inform each other's work. Finally, Rev. Mike is keeping office hours at both campuses and is available by appointment at other times, at either campus or at alternate locations (such as a coffee shop near one's home).

Social Justice and Advocacy

The Board and Rev. Mike will invite UCH members and friends into dialogue about the social justice mission(s) of both campuses, knowing that they may differ. Clear definition of the mission of each campus is needed. Furthermore, although an independent organization, Gather the Spirit for Justice (GTS), has a social justice mission that many UCH members wish to support, the Board has charged Rev. Mike to help clarify¹ the roles and responsibilities for UCH, GTS, and the committees charged with running outreach programs at Market Street.

Religious Growth and Learning

Religious Growth and Learning (RGL) is a vital ministry of UCH. The Board wishes to ensure thriving RGL programs at both campuses, and Rev. Mike is charged with providing resources and direction so that this happens. He is asked to advise staff and the RGL committee about potential programming. Furthermore, we notice a distinct need for Adult RGL classes and request that Rev. Mike develop programming and/or recruit others to do so.

Operations, Administration and Finance

The Board directs Rev. Mike to oversee staff and volunteers who support the operations of the church at both campuses, including reviewing the overall staffing needs of the congregation, as needed to support our mission(s). Particular attention is to be given to the state of our finances and the church budget. Finally, in accordance with the spirit of Policy Governance, Rev. Mike and his staff are charged with ensuring accurate and timely reports are available as needed by the Board and pertinent committees.

Fellowship and Fun

There was a strong desire for more social events and opportunities for fun, just for the sake of fun, within the congregation. To that end, the Board empowered one of its members (Debbie Reihart) to recruit folks for a “Fun Committee.” Who wouldn’t want to be on a fun committee? Rev. Mike will provide support and encouragement, and allot staff resources when necessary, to facilitate these events. We also see a need to offer our appreciation for the hard work of so many volunteers, and this celebration is planned for Sunday services at both campuses, later in the church-year.

Congregation-Wide Issues and “Other Duties as Assigned”

This catch-all category has a number of important goals and priorities.

We recognize a need to focus on membership and to re-vitalize the Membership Action Council. It is with gratitude that we recognize that Bart Carpenter has been keeping MAC going — almost single-handedly! — for quite some time now.

A major task for us this year is to build (or rebuild) trust among members and friends of UCH, across both campuses and beyond. We recognize that we need to have some very important discussions this church-year (Sept 2015 - Aug 2016) about the identity, mission and vision of the congregation. With that said, we hasten to emphasize that these discussions are not meant to write a new pithy mission statement and then forget about it; rather, we need to come to a collective (two campus) understanding of who we are and what we are here to do. We realize that part of this discussion will lead us to consider if we are better together or separate — and we recognize that this is going to be a challenging and emotional discussion to have. Our goal is to work together over the course of the church-year, hoping that we can reach a point of consensus by the end of that time. Rev. Mike’s role is to help us create safe space for these discussions and to be an impartial facilitator.

Rev. Mike has been asked to help us bring clarity to our understandings of the roles of the Board, Staff, Volunteers, and in our relationship to the independent non-profit, GTS. An accurate and comprehensive organizational chart is also needed.

Further work on how to do policy governance well is needed. The Board felt that Rev. Mike’s time in this regard would be best spent “doing policy governance, rather than teaching about policy governance.” That is, to lead by example. So far, Rev. Mike has sought to do this in an open and inclusive way (such as during the big-tent discussions about worship, at the Worship Retreat and newly formed Worship Committee), and it is the Board’s desire to continue this collaborative approach. Rev. Mike feels it is critical that the voices of members be heard in the process of developing programs. Another way of saying this is that we realize that it’s a misunderstanding to assume that policy governance means “our staff does everything, without any input from members.” In fact, the Board and Rev. Mike recognize that the congregation is stronger when the talents and strengths of its members are utilized to create and nurture a sense of beloved community.

¹ By “clarify,” we mean to identify and name those roles and responsibilities, not to assign or dictate them.