



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg is an inclusive, gloriously diverse, deeply connected spiritual community dedicated to the practice of radical service.

Minister's Message



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg has been holding two Sunday services each week for ten years. What has changed in those ten years, however, is our reason for doing so. Originally, the congregation voted to go to two services to alleviate crowding in the sanctuary. Now that we own a sanctuary that is large enough for the congregation to worship together, we continue with two services for other reasons, primarily related to the evolutionary process; at the same time, I believe we have failed to leverage our assets.

I want to ask what we are really gaining and losing by holding separate services. We gain in retaining a connection to both physical locations on Sunday morning, but we lose in the physical separation of our congregants. I believe we would be much stronger as a congregation if we could enjoy the energy and vitality of a unified service each week -- one of the primary reasons we started looking for a new building six years ago. Frankly, with a single service, our staff can pursue expanded options to support adult religious education and social/family events than is currently possible. If we can regain the sense of unity that only occurs with a single service, how much stronger a voice might we have for those who seek Unitarian Universalism?

In his 2009 report to the UCH, consultant Mike Durall wrote:

Since acquiring the Market Street property, your congregation has had a certain greatness thrust upon it. ...Your congregation has the potential to achieve what most UU congregations only dream of. Your church can become a beacon of hope and promise to UU congregations nationwide.

However, this accomplishment will not result from minor tweaks to the current scheme of things. Rather, it is imperative that the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg redefines its role and purpose in this place and time.

Mike Durall admires us. He told us what we needed to hear. I fear, though, our congregation has largely ignored his words. In trying to be "one congregation with two buildings" we have made minor tweaks. We have tried to be all things to all people. And in doing so, we have allowed ourselves to drift apart. We are quickly becoming "two congregations with one staff." It is time to think about redefining our role and purpose as the Unitarian

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg December 2012 At-a-Glance

Please check website for last-minute updates

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sat 1	Noon	Youth Group baking/cooking, Leeann Rhodes
	7:30	"Around the World in Song," Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus concert, \$20
Sun 2	9:00	"Hanukkah", Rabbi Carl Choper
	11:00	
	1:00	All-Church Forum , "Challenge of Our Two Campuses," Mary Henninger-Voss
Mon 3	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 4	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG), Chuck Daley
Wed 5	6:00	Queen Spirit, Randa Todd
Sat 8	7:00	Relay for Life bus trip to NYC, Nejoua Meflah
	9:00	Common Ground Café, Clay Lambert
Sun 9	9:00	Moral Issues Forum: <i>What Is Racism, Really?</i>
	11:00	Multigenerational Service: "Would You Like to Hold the Baby", the UCH Christmas pageant
	4:00	"Silver Belles: A Birthday Candlelight Concert," Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus, \$20
Mon 10	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 11	7:00	Silent MMG, Daley
Wed 12	7:00	Board of Trustees, Judy Linder
Fri 14	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House, Bart Carpenter
Sun 16	9:00	"In Pursuit of Solitude," Rev. Howard N. Dana, followed by Coffee and Conversation with the Board
	11:00	
	6:30	Philosophy and Literature, Dick Hoke
Mon 17	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 18	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 19	7:00	Clover Grove, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Fri 21	6:00	Winter Solstice, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Sun 23		No Services
Mon 24	6:30	Christmas Eve service, multigenerational
	9:00	Contemplative Christmas Eve service
Sat 29	8:30	Clean-up Day at Common Ground Café
Sun 30	9:00	"Stopping by Woods" a service inspired by Robert Frost's poem, Rev. Dana
	11:00	

Market Street Event

ALL-CHURCH FORM

As we go to press on Dec. 4, the all-church forum (page 1) has come and gone, well attended by 117 UCH members. The Board of Trustees is collating the suggestions and will advise on next steps.

Church of Harrisburg, to recommit ourselves to our mission of serving as "a beacon of love, tolerance, justice, reason, and spiritual exploration as we worship together and foster growth in ourselves, each other, our community, and our earth."

We do need to retain ownership and use of both of our buildings; each serves us in a good way. The Clover Lane campus is a wonderful place for evening events and meetings. It is a perfect location for retreats and workshops. The sanctuary is lovely for small weddings and memorial services. Our grounds provide a meditative space for us as well. The Market Street campus gives us the space we need on Sunday morning, provides us with social justice opportunities, and creates a new opportunity

for community worship that is just beginning to materialize. Its visibility makes us known to more and more people.

CAN WE TAKE MIKE DURALL'S WORDS SERIOUSLY and grow into the greatness that has been thrust upon us? I invite you to engage in conversation about the topic with fellow church members, with the Board, and with me. I hope you will attend the gathering at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 2, at Clover Lane, when we begin discussion on "The Challenges of Our Two Campuses." It's a discussion that is long overdue, and you will need to be part of the conversation.

See you in church.

Love, Howard

President's Message



Here we are again with the holiday season. For some it is the spiritual highlight of the year, for others it is a painful reminder of empty materialism, or both. I dutifully make out a list for gifts, try to remember what we sent last year, plan annual donations, and try to make the best of things.

For me it is also a time to be generous to those that have very little. There are mittens and hats to buy for the tree at church, extra cans of food for the Food Bank, even the extra donation for pet food when we buy cat food. It makes me feel good to both be able to give and then to do it. I am also proud of our church when it gives half the plate collection to a local charity because it makes a difference in our community. Sometimes it is difficult to find joy or happiness in our day, but generosity to others is a way to create that feeling.

OUR CHURCH HAS QUITE A REPUTATION within the greater UU community for caring for others. We were voted to be a "Breakthrough Congregation" because of our bold move purchasing the Market Street campus. I watched the video again (produced by some of our members) that was shown at the General Assembly illustrating the process of buying the property. There were so many enthusiastic testimonials by our members in it. There were comments about how UCH extended its reach into a community in need. When the church hired Michael Durall, a consultant, to suggest improvements in our church, his report's opening comments were that our church "has had greatness thrust upon it. (We) do not have the choice to

remain a representative UU congregation with its familiar ways.[...] To make (our) venture successful, I encourage all church members to consider the church their primary volunteer commitment and their primary charitable commitment for the coming three years."

So here we are, about two years later, and many of us do make UCH our primary commitment. We have grown as a congregation through working at the twice-a-month community breakfasts. We have hosted events for those trying to re-enter society after being incarcerated. Our members have volunteered to prepare many suppers for those learning skills to exit a life of poverty. These are like holiday presents to each other and our community. We are growing in tolerance as we learn about the lives of our neighbors in Allison Hill. I feel a connection to the community when I do even simple things like help deliver a few Thanksgiving dinners, or cook at the breakfasts. As I walk to the door at the Market Street campus, I now see some familiar faces instead of strangers. I smile at them and say "Hello, how are things?" Sometimes I even get a hug. We have worked hard and have shared in the good times and difficult times trying to live our faith. We have attracted new members because of this commitment to social justice.

I FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT that I support our church with both my time and "treasure." Our Annual Pledges are the way that we provide a roof over the heads of all of us and our favorite projects. I think I'll add a special donation to UCH to the top of my holiday gift list, and hope that you will too.

May we all be well, happy, and peaceful! Judy

Please check website for last-minute updates. All events at Clover Lane unless otherwise indicated.

Sat 1 noon- 4 :00 p.m.

Youth Group will spend the afternoon baking and cooking (pastries and soups, respectively) today. They will be selling and serving the food items after both services Sunday, Dec. 2. This is their major fund-raising event for the summer mission trip, scheduled for June 2013 at The Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C.



Sun 2 1:00 All-Church Forum

Please plan to attend the all-church Forum Workshop on Sunday December 2. We apologize for the short notice. The workshops were announced in October and have been in planning for months, but the holiday schedule crept up on us. This first workshop will be focused on "The Challenges of Our Two Campuses;" at least two more will take place later in the year concerning church governance and church financing.

In order to have a full and constructive conversation, we need to have as much participation as we can, and from all points of the spectrum of perspectives. Whether you are disgruntled or delighted; whether you are newcomers or Church founders; whether you lean toward traditional spirituality or atheism, we need to hear your voice in thinking forward the direction of the Church. Seriously: we need everyone in the room.

These are "Forum Workshops" because we hope to provide a forum for all participants to be heard, and to workshop with the congregation creative solutions to the challenges facing the Church. More than ten generous people have volunteered and trained to facilitate small group discussions that will help us define the challenges of our two campuses, and propose workable resolutions. Joan Hellman has bravely and graciously agreed to coordinate discussion among the collective group so that all ideas can be aired and examined by all those assembled. In this way, each participant will have the opportunity to speak, and ideas can be channeled and explored by the group as a whole. We will ask the group to make recommendations for the Board to consider.



The Board of Trustee recognizes that organization for communications has lagged behind the growth of the Church, and that we will have a lot to catch up on. We know that there are many issues that will need to be discussed over the coming year, but hope that by focusing attention on one category at a time, we will be able to sort through many issues of concern in a democratic and cooperative way.

Mary Henninger-Voss, Chair, Board Task Force on Communications

Mon 3 6:30 Amrit Yoga (weekly)

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. Led by Ed Sykes, esykes@state.pa.us. No experience necessary! **Repeats every Monday.**

Tue 4 7:00 Mindfulness Meditation (weekly)

Two 25-minute periods of meditation with a short reading, discussion and rest between. Coordinated by Chuck Daley, MMG@harrisburguu.org. **Repeats every Tuesday.** Third Tuesday is silent meditation, fifth Tuesday a special program.

Wed 5 6:00 Queen Spirit: Reclaiming the Dark: Come Home to Yourself

QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Bring a favorite dish, dessert, or beverage to share, and bring your place setting, serving spoons, and plates. This month, Patti Hazell and Ann Stillwater present "Reclaiming the Dark: Come Home to Yourself." Participants are welcome to bring items for the altar that are symbols of pain/shame or that inspire change during the dark times of their lives

As always, we cherish this time together to share our stories, be nourished and affirmed in our journeys, and provide and receive spiritual enrichment. Potluck at 6:00, followed by the circle. Contact Randa Todd, lr1946@yahoo.com.

Reclaiming the Dark!

Come Home to Yourself

May all that is unforgiven in you
Be released.
May your fears yield
Their deepest tranquilities.
May all that is unloved in you
Blossom into a future
Graced with love.

- John O'Donohue

Thu 6 6:15 Sacred Singing: Chants from the World's Religious Traditions (in hiatus)

This is a meditative and prayerful way of tuning into your deeper self, connecting with others, and attempting to bring peace into the world. **Suspended for December**, with plans to resume in January. Contact Libby Tisdell, ejt11@psu.edu.



Sat 8 9:00 Common Ground Café Market Street

The UCH is now in its third year of operating the Common Ground Café twice a month at our Market Street campus, and attendance continues to increase! 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. We also need volunteers to work with neighborhood children.

To join the e-list of community volunteers, please contact Clay Lambert, commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com. No breakfast on Dec. 29 - this is our annual cleaning day.

Sun 9 9:00 Moral Issues Forum: "What Is Racism?"

We all decry racism. But what is it exactly? Is it really about race? Or maybe culture? Or class? And where does it come from? If we want to eliminate racism, we must first understand what it is, and what it is not.

David Liu is chairman of the Sociology Department at Harrisburg Area Community College, where he teaches a class on race and cultural relations. The class examines the relationship between minority and majority groups and the relation of these groups to social stratification, economics, political and educational institutions in the culture!

The Second Sunday Forum meets monthly for lecture and discussion on moral and ethical issues from a non-religious viewpoint. They are planned and conducted by the Humanism Lay-Led Ministry. A speaker presents his/her views on a topic with ethical and moral implications for approximately 30 minutes. After the presentation, the floor is open for discussion and questions. People in attendance share their views on the day's topic so that we learn, not only from our speaker, but from each other. For more information, please contact David Spear, spear130@gmail.com.



Wed 12 7:00 UCH Board Meeting

Board meetings are open to members. For an agenda, please contact Judy Linder, jlinder09@gmail.com.

Fri 14 7:30 Clover Lane Coffee House \$10 admission

Clover Lane Coffee House offers a series of concerts by local and traveling artists, normally monthly on the Third Friday. In December, we are scheduled for the second Friday. This month we welcome The Stray Birds, a major hit last year. Admission is \$10 at the door; all are welcome.

Featured on NPR Music! November 24, 2012: *The Lancaster County trio is one of the finest young bands on the folk circuit.* Raised on music within a few miles of farmland from each other in Lancaster County, The Stray Birds are a trio of captivating chemistry and sensitive musicality. From bustling street corners to silent halls, their performances speak to an uncompromising reverence for songs. Contact a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com.



Sun 16 noon Giving Tree Deadline is today

This year's UCH Giving Tree will benefit The Joshua Group, a nonprofit organization just a block or so down Market Street. It is an organization that mentors at-risk youth and is located in and works with youth primarily in the Allison Hill neighborhood. The Joshua Group seeks to provide hope and support for at-risk youth primarily through education and vocational opportunities. We are providing these youth with toiletries, hats, gloves, socks and books.



All gifts for the Giving Tree must be purchased and brought to Clover Lane or Market Street by Dec. 16 - there is no service on Dec. 23. Please contact Tracy Richards, tmrichards3@comcast.net, 717-533-3102, if questions.

Sun 16 6:30 Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy & Literature Group normally meets on the second Sunday of the month. This month, the group meets at Clover Lane on the third Sunday, for potluck and to plan the booklist for 2013. Contact Dick Hoke, Rrhoke@aol.com.

Fri 21 6:00 Clover Grove: Winter Solstice ~ Ritual, Potluck, Sacred Fire

Clover Grove is joined by the Youth Group and Queen Spirit to bring an unforgettable Solstice experience to close out the year. We hope that you will join us for an evening of Sun Worship and Fellowship! The evening includes a presentation ritual and potluck, featuring South American cuisine. Outside, a Sacred Fire will keep us warm as the drummers beat out a rhythm for dancing and chanting. We will be making an offering to the Fire as part of our presentation this year as well.



We are also celebrating the transition to a new era on the Mayan calendar. The Long Count calendar is a non-circular linear calendar using Base 20 and Base 18 (chart) used by several Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican cultures, most notably the Maya. It identifies a day by counting the number of days passed since a mythical creation date that corresponds to August 11, 3114 BCE and was widely used on monuments. Winter Solstice coincides with the beginning of the fourteenth "Baktun" (properly *b'ak'tun*), written as 13.0.0.0.0!

Blessings to all and to all, a Happy New Solar Year!!!

MAYAN LONG COUNT CALENDAR
(LINEAR COUNT OF 5 CYCLICAL PERIODS)

December 20, 2012
is
12.19.19.17.19

UNITY CORPUS
ETHNIC STUDIES

Baktun	Katun	Tun	Winal	Kin
(20 katun)	(20 tun)	(18 winal)	(20 kin)	(1 kin)
144,000 days	7,200 days	360 days	20 days	1 day

Therefore, December 21, 2012 is written **13.0.0.0.0**
the 14th Baktun or the Beginning of a New Era

Sat 29 8:30 Community Café Cleanup

It's that time of year again- time to clean-up and reorganize the Market Street kitchen to set things up for another great year of Community Breakfasts in 2013. Cleanup continues throughout the morning and into the early afternoon. We are looking for volunteers to help with a number of activities:

- Emptying, cleaning and relining cabinets/drawers
- Reorganizing and relabeling kitchen cabinets/drawers; we are hoping to add pictures this year so it is easier to see what belongs in each cabinet
- Thoroughly cleaning counters, floors, stove/oven, etc
- Cleaning and reorganizing kids activities cabinet
- Cleaning and reorganizing supply cabinets and shelves

We will take on as many of these tasks as we can, based on how many volunteers are available. Please join us for part or all of the day.

Pizza will be provided at noon for volunteers. Please let me know if you plan to volunteer and whether you will be joining us for pizza so we can get an accurate count. Contact Clay Lambert, commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com.

www.harrisburguu.org

Learn more

- about Unitarian Universalism: "[Voices of a Liberal Faith](#)"
- [Standing on the Side of Love](#) sermon by Fred Small

New [Members On-Line Directory \(and more\)](#)

Give Now to UCH [The Directory](#)

[The User Guide: pdf or doc](#)

The Time is Nigh!

As you wrap up loose ends for the end of the year, don't forget the UCH. You can drop an extra check in the plate Christmas Eve or use the website to make an electronic donation.

Year-End Donations

Special Reports

Submitted by UCH members.

Living an Authentic Life Seminar

A capacity audience participated in the seminar Nov. 17, 2012, presented by Dr. Thomas Legere. Based on his 2007 book of the same name, Legere took the group through a life journey that begins with a newborns' "perfection or divinity." The group was asked to set aside any theological beliefs and consider only personal experience. Without exception, there was agreement that babies are by nature "without fear, guilt, shame, hang-ups, neuroses, body-hatred, and self-rejection." The group also concurred that babies are by nature "in awe, connected to their bodies, communicative of their needs, connected to nature, trusting, spontaneous, creative and joyful." What then happens to us as we grow and mature?

Legere likened this dis-connect to a metaphorical expulsion from the Garden of Eden as we are cut off from our primal bliss as infants. This occurs when we experience a "primal wound," a mistreatment that causes us to start shutting down and protecting ourselves. This is often our first hint of fear, based on a felt sense that life is not totally safe.

Throughout the day-long seminar we learned the varied routes we utilize to navigate life based on our survival personality, the one we devised to cope with the primal wound. This journey often results in depression or a major life-changing event. It is this "spiritual-death" that can give us the freedom to reclaim our authentic selves.

All attendees agreed that Dr. Legere's presentation was thought-provoking and challenging. Since a number of participants have asked to hear him again, we are looking at possible future seminars of interest.

—Submitted by Rev. Kathie Teeter

Green Sanctuary Report

In the past two weeks, we heard Starhawk talk about climate change, the need to embrace new ways to live, such as with local food and permaculture, and our own pastor, Howard Dana, talk about local and ethical eating. Starhawk talked about the necessity of a shift in our worldview, about becoming an agent of change and justice. While individual actions are important, she emphasized the critical importance of connection with others, the need to find our voice and join it to the voices of others.

Not to be alarming, but the news is, in fact, becoming more alarming every day. At right are just a few of recent headlines. Do I want to alarm people I care about? No. However, if it is alarm that inspires us to action, then we need to be alarmed. To what actions can we be inspired?

- 🍌 Individual changes in our personal habits. Join Green Sanctuary's "Creative Zone" campaign and commit to change in the name of someone or something you love.
- 🍌 State and national advocacy of renewable energy policies. Citizens Climate Lobby (national organization) has a Harrisburg chapter which meets monthly at UCH.

It is together that we can make a difference. It is together that we share and cope with the fears and anxieties that come with the headlines!!

—Submitted by Rachel Mark

LaGrone Scholarship

THANKS to the many generous people who contributed to the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund over several weekends this fall. We collected \$2,415.72! Thanks, too, to more than 20 artists who donated to the sale. The total raised by **OLIVER COLLECTIVE** artists since the group's inception in 2009 is \$13,518.72! —Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

Ecumenical Pantry

UCH, along with dozens of other churches, has a long history of supporting the Ecumenical Food Pantry. The Pantry aims to provide an emergency 3-day supply of food, once a month, to every client in need. The Pantry currently serves

A FEW HEADLINES

Climate "changing before our eyes," World Meteorological Organization, 11/28/12

Five Crucial New Findings about Climate Change: Five new reports prove that if we don't take our heads out of the sand immediately, we'll be in really hot water. *Alternet*, 11/21/12

The latest predictions on climate change should shock us into action, *The Guardian*, 11/19/12

UN statement: **"Methane released from melting ice could push climate past tipping point"**

over 2,900 people per month. The recent incredible increase in the number of requests for food can be successfully met only if there is a significant increase in both food donations and financial support. You can learn more about this critical situation at www.ecumenicalfoodpantry.org and click on Pantry News and Appeal. Food donations can be placed at the left side of the lobby (Clover Lane) or in the baskets at the rear of the sanctuary (Market Street). Checks to the Ecumenical Food Pantry can be mailed to: Ecumenical Food Pantry, 901 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg PA 17102-1700. Please contact michaelmark@paonline.com for additional information. — Submitted by Michael Mark

Dec. 8: Relay for Life Bus Trip to NYC

Sign up now for a day-trip to New York City! Bus leaves Colonial Park mall at 7:00 a.m., arriving in NYC at 10:00 a.m. Leave New York at 7:00 p.m., arriving in Harrisburg at 10:00 p.m. \$40 payable in advance; proceeds go the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" fund-raiser. Please contact nejyra1@yahoo.com to sign up. — Submitted by Nejoua Meflah

Congratulations

Ella Louise Landis

Lisa Michele Landis is pleased to announce the birth of her daughter, Ella Louise, born at 3:47 a.m. Nov. 14. She weighed 6 lbs 11.9 ounces and was 19" long, with a head full of red hair. Lisa joined the UCH in August.

Hannah Smith and Debra Brubaker

UCH member Hannah Smith and her partner, Debra Brubaker, were married Nov. 24 in a simple Quaker-style ceremony at Village Acres Farm in Mifflintown, where they now live. The ceremony took place in the barn, followed by a joyous celebration in the farm's FoodShed. The celebration was attended by 100 members of Hannah and Debra's families, as well a several close friends and their families. Family included the children, Chandler and Owen Scott-Smith, as well as Hannah's father and her three siblings - the first time the collective group was together in more than a decade. Debra's parents, both from a conservative Mennonite tradition, and her three siblings were all in attendance. Many other farmers and their families local to rural Juniata county attended as well.



Ed. Note: Miss Katie, one of our Allison Hill neighbors, wrote this poem and handed it to Brian Kahler.

Thank You!!

Thank you for all the nice things
The Thanksgiving basket was a blessing
Thanks for open up the door
And letting me in once more
A nice place to sit down
With people all around
Thank you, all of you
Sometimes don't know what I'd do without
you -
Coffee, juice and sometimes cake

And all your concern and the love is
great
Not turning people away
Even when they're having a bad day
Also for the things they say
Pastor Richard, Brian, Sparky,
Miss Judith, Rachel, Miss Ann
Mr. Tom and Meg, Miss Shirley, oh
Better not forget Miss Emma and
Arlene

- Miss Katie