



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

Minister's Message



On Friday afternoon, September 14, 2012 at a prayer vigil for the latest gun killing in Harrisburg, I stood on the steps of our Market Street church and told those who had gathered that we, the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, were not going anywhere. I said we had come to the City of Harrisburg to bring more peace, hope, love, and justice to the corner of 16th and

Market Streets. I said we had made a promise and that we meant to keep it. And at the same time, a little voice in the back of my head said, "You are crazy, you know! Who are you to promise anything to these people? Who are you to commit your congregation to work that is so difficult?" And that little voice is right, too. Who are any of us to promise that we will try to make things better? Who are we to get people's hopes up? Each of us knows that, despite our effort, some things work out well and some things work out poorly. Some projects succeed and some fail. Some choices turn out to be good ones and other turn out to be foolish ones.

As I stood there in the beautiful autumn afternoon light looking out at that small crowd, the little voice of doubt left me as quickly as it had come. I realized that I honestly did not know how things would turn out—for me, for us, for the neighborhood. But what gave me hope was that I saw the full range of humanity before me. I saw UCH members, young and old. I saw Latino and African American residents of Allison Hill. I saw a Baptist minister and a rabbi and a leader in the Nation of Islam. I saw people from the Catholic Worker House. I saw the mayor of Harrisburg and the chief of police, too. I saw Sparkie and Trish and Tom and Meg and Cordell and Blaise and so many more—members of our congregation who had simply showed up because of a promise we made as a congregation four years ago. When I looked over that small crowd, I realized that it didn't really

matter what UCH had said it would do when we took up residence in the City of Harrisburg. It mattered what we did, long after those promises had been made. Only our actions could make a difference.

Promises are important. And the commitment that follows the promises is even more important. Where we go. What we do. How we are. What we say. These are the important things. And we will get it wrong from time to time. We are human. We will break our covenants and have to repair them. But what we do is still the most important thing. Love, Howard

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg October 2012 At-a-Glance

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Mon 1	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 2	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG), Chuck Daley
	7:00	Adult RGL: "The New Normal," Rev. Howard Dana
Wed 3	6:00	Queen Spirit, Randa Todd
	7:00	Reproductive Rights, Barbara Pearce
Thu 4	6:15	Sacred Singing, Libby Tisdell
Sat 6	9:00	Adopt a Highway, John Hargreaves
	9:00	UCH Plant Sale, Ron Skrabut
Sun 7	9:00	"Awakening - Parabola," Rev. Dana
	11:00	
Mon 8	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
	7:00	Adult Literacy, Sparkie Radcliffe
Tue 9	7:00	MMG, Daley
	7:00	Adult RGL: "The New Normal," Rev. Dana
Wed 10	7:00	Board of Trustees, Judy Linder
Thu 11	6:15	Sacred Singing, Libby Tisdell
Sat 13	9:00	Common Ground Café, Clay Lambert
Sun 14	9:00	Moral Issues Forum
	11:00	Multigenerational Service: "Lives That Speak"
	12:30	Young Adult Get-Together, Leanne Rhodes
	2:00	IP&L Conference
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature, Dick Hoke
Mon 15	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 16	7:00	Silent MMG, Daley
	7:00	Adult RGL: "The New Normal," Rev. Dana
Wed 17	7:00	Clover Grove, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Thu 18	7:00	"Meet the Minister," Rev. Dana
	6:15	Sacred Singing, Libby Tisdell
Fri 19	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House, Bart Carpenter
Sat 20	9:00	Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
Sun 21	9:00	"Sunday Dilemma: God or the <i>New York Times</i> ," Rev. Dana
	11:00	LaGrone Art Sale (both campuses)
Mon 22	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 23	7:00	MMG, Daley
Thu 25	6:15	Sacred Singing, Libby Tisdell
Fri 26	6:00	Samhain Costume Party, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Sat 27	9:00	Common Ground Café, Clay Lambert
Sun 28	9:00	"Attack of the Zombies," Rev. Dana
	11:00	LaGrone Art Sale (both campuses)
Mon 29	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 30	7:00	Silent MMG, Daley

Market Street Event

UCH annual auction: Nov. 3, 2012

Donate Your Time, Talent, Treasure

Red, White and Blue: Vote UU!

This advertisement has been approved by the UCH Auction Committee

President's Message



The church year is in full swing, with quite an extensive range of activities for us. The sheer scope of lay-led ministries, Religious Growth and Learning (RGL) classes, and Coffee House Concerts, was one of the main reasons for Larry and me to join this church. We came from a very small UU congregation in upstate New York.

UCH seemed to do many of the same things, but also much more. As you browse through the Annual Edition of the REPORTER that was mailed out a few weeks ago, you can see the many things to choose from. As the year goes on, other events will most likely be added to the calendar. We are so fortunate to have a growing, vibrant church.

On September 22, I was invited to give the welcome at the monthly Community Connections Re-Entry Breakfast sponsored by the Prison Action Committee of Christian Churches United. It was held at our Market Street campus and co-sponsored by UCH's Helping Women in Prison and Their Families. This was the first re-entry breakfast that I've attended, and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet those in the program and learn about their plans to exit halfway houses and probation. Some of them even spoke to the group about their struggle to change their lives by leaving addiction or other illegal activities behind. This was not just about having breakfast, but about gaining strength from others to face their difficult struggles. It seems that sometimes a meal is more than a meal. Volunteers from our church and Messiah College made it happen. Margaret Carrow was the chef in charge of a plentiful meal, Jim Cavanaugh organized the program, and Brad Bechtel provided the music. Chris Dutton, John Hargreaves, Phil Hoskins-Helm, Tom Conners, Ann Lebo, Kathleen Daugherty, Marilyn McHenry, Nancy Hall, Cathy Montes, Wendy Colby, Larry Linder, and many others supported this event for

members of our community who are struggling to find jobs, education, and a life free of addiction. Here is an opportunity for us to live our faith.

Another "old" program at UCH is seeking a new life. When Larry and I joined UCH, we also joined a COUCH group. "COUCH" is an acronym for "Connecting Our Unitarian Church of Harrisburg" and UCH's small group ministry. The group that we joined, and currently belong to, has been together for many years. We were new to the area, and they were a wonderful resource. They helped us find our way around. We still meet twice a month, and enjoy the friendship of this caring group.

COUCH Contact:

jmelillo1@comcast.net
jmmelillo@gmail.com

717-545-6756 (home)
717-433-6164 (cell)

So, what is this about seeking a new life? The number of active COUCH groups has dwindled, and the number of new members wanting to join a small group has grown. While many churches are closing their doors, we are growing, and there is a need to form new COUCH groups. What a great dilemma! Joe Melillo has volunteered to help increase the number of groups by training additional "facilitators" who can then lead more groups. Notice the title: there is no group leader. The group, once it gets going, can decide topics of conversation, events (like picnics, movies), and projects (like providing refreshments at Coffee House concerts). The choices are endless. The facilitator merely facilitates.

We belong to a large church with two campuses, so it is not as easy to meet a variety of people in the congregation. COUCH is a great way to widen your horizons within UCH, meet others, and have fun. Please contact Joe to sign up.

May we all be well, happy, and peaceful!

Judy

Detail Calendar

October 2012

Please check website for last-minute updates.

Mon 1 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. Two one-hour sessions led by Ed Sykes, esykes@state.pa.us. No experience necessary! **Repeats every Monday.**

Tue 2 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.

Tue 2 7:00 Adult RGL: The New Normal

From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Joseph Priestly room at Clover Lane, discussion led by Rev. Howard Dana. Attend them singly or attend all three; no pre-registration needed. For each session, Howard will bring an article or example to get the conversation going. Repeats Oct. 9 and Oct. 16.

Discussion Topics

- 🌟 Oct. 2: Dwindling Church
- 🌟 Oct. 9: Your Retirement is Your Responsibility
- 🌟 Oct. 16: The "Browning" of America

Wed 3 6:00 Queen Spirit: Celebrate the Fall Harvest

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, Lisa Acri and Niurka Beyes-Garua collaborate on a circle on "Exploring the End of the World." Participants can bring items that represents their current life or what they imagine their new life to be when the end of the world arrives.

The End of the World

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, Irrt1946@yahoo.com.

Wed 3 7:00 Reproductive Rights: Screening/Filmmaker Discussion

Reproductive Rights Lay-Led Ministry is pleased to host "CHOICE at RISK: A Screening and Community Gathering" with Oscar-nominated, Emmy-winning filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman. Dorothy is on a national tour, supported in part by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), presenting excerpts from her PBS trilogy, *From the Back Alleys to the SUPREME COURT & Beyond*. These videos, related to abortion rights, catalyze discussion and ignite activism.



For further information, please contact barbpearce@verizon.net.

Thu 4 6:15 Sacred Singing: Chants from the World's Religious traditions

This is a meditative and prayerful way of tuning into your deeper self and connecting with others and attempting to bring peace in the world. Tonight's theme is re-turning in light of this week being Yom Kippur. Led by Libby Tisdell, inspired by her walk of the Camino de Santiago, where she and her fellow pilgrims sang many of these chants as they walked. No singing/chanting experience necessary!

Sacred Singing

Repeats Oct. 11, 18, 25. Contact Libby Tisdell, ejt11@psu.edu.

Sat 6 9:00 Adopt-A-Highway

The Adopt-a-Highway cadre is responsible for two miles of Lindle Road near the Clover Lane campus. Policing actions are held in the spring, summer and fall. THIS IS THE DAY. PennDOT provides orange safety vests and highway warning signs that we use during litter pick-ups. It also provides trash bags and picks up the bagged litter from the roadside.

Volunteers must be at least eight years old, and those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact John Hargreaves, cierpinski@comcast.net. Meet at Clover Lane to start.

Sat 6 9:00 UCH Plant Sale

Fall is for planting! The UCH Grounds Committee is pleased to sponsor a "division of the spoils" plant sale, with volunteers ready to show you plants available for division and transplanting, answer your questions on care and nurturing, and dig 'em up for you! Prices negotiable on site. Chair Ron Skrabut has compiled a list of plants immediately available (below) and will update it throughout the year. If you can't make it on Oct. 6, let us know another time (or season), and we'll make it happen!

The following items are immediately available:

- 🌟 Bronze-leaf canna lilies
- 🌟 Daylily Stella d'Oro
- 🌟 Miscanthus grass
- 🌟 Hosta, multiple varieties
- 🌟 Peonies
- 🌟 One redbud, 5 ft. tall
- 🌟 Sedum
- 🌟 Solomon Seal
- 🌟 Yucca

For additional information, please contact Ron Skrabut, ronskrabut@hotmail.com.



Mon 8 7:00 Adult Literacy

A recent survey of the people who come into Community Hours at the Market Street campus revealed a desire for adult literacy classes. Several UCH members have indicated that they have skills or interest in teaching adult literacy. Please attend this formation meeting for anyone interested in working with adult literacy. This would include people with experience and people who would like to learn to teach. This is an information-gathering meeting. A yummy dessert will be offered as a reward for your attendance! For more information contact Wendy Colby wendy.colby@gmail.com or Sparkie Radcliffe music@harrisburguu.org.



Wed 10 7:00 UCH Board Meeting

Board meetings are open to members. For an agenda, please contact Judy Linder, jclinder09@gmail.com.

Sat 13 9:00 Common Ground Café

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. on the second and last Saturday of the month, and you can be a part of the action! No experience necessary, and drop-ins are always welcome. Job assignments are made the morning of the event. To join the e-list of community volunteers, please contact Clay Lambert, clay.jh.lambert@gmail.com. Event repeats October 27 (last Saturday of the month).

Sun 14 9:00 Moral Issues Forum: Democracy Around the World - Can America Learn from Other Countries?

Is the American form of democracy the best? Some would argue that we have the purest form, and that European governments are actually socialist. Can there be different forms of democracy? And can America learn anything from other countries, like Norway, India, and Taiwan?

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. This month's forum features Ben Christ, professor of government and politics at Harrisburg Area Community College, where he teaches courses on international relations and comparative politics.

For more information, please contact David Spear, spear130@gmail.com.

Sun 14 12:30 Young Adult Event

Come for lunch and conversation at Jumbo Buffet; 2810 Paxton Street! A great chance to get to know like-minded young adults ages, ages 18 - 30. For more information contact Leeann Rhoades at youth.youngadult@harrisburguu.org.

Sun 14 2:00 Interfaith Power & Light Statewide Conference

UCH/Green Sanctuary is pleased to host the statewide conference this year. Open to the public, free of charge - all are encouraged to attend. Two keynote speakers (below) and multiple mini-events.



“Power for Pennsylvania: Progress on Energy and Climate”

Dr. Richard Alley of Pennsylvania State University has more than 200 scientific publications; has been recognized with numerous awards including election to the US National Academy of Sciences; and is the host of the recent PBS series *Earth: The Operators’ Manual*.

“Green our Faiths: Educating and Mobilizing our Communities to Protect the Earth”

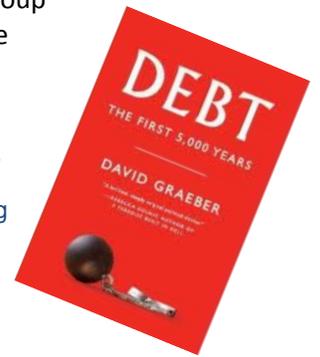
Rev. Fletcher Harper is Executive Director of GreenFaith, a national interfaith organization that inspires, educates and mobilizes people of diverse religious backgrounds for environmental leadership. An award-winning spiritual writer, he teaches and speaks at houses of worship nationwide about the moral, spiritual basis for environmental stewardship and justice. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Union Theological Seminary.

Contact RachelMark@paonline.com. URL http://paip.org/index_files/AM2012.htm

Sun 14 7:00 Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of the month. This month, the group meets at Marilyn McHenry's to discuss *Debt: The First 5,000 Years* by David Graeber. From Melville House Press.com:

Every economics textbook says the same thing: Money was invented to replace onerous and complicated barter systems—to relieve ancient people from having to haul their goods to market. The problem with this version of history? There's not a shred of evidence to support it. Here anthropologist David Graeber presents a stunning reversal of conventional wisdom. He shows that 5,000 years ago, during the beginning of the agrarian empires, humans have used elaborate credit systems. It is in this era, Graeber shows, that we also first encounter a society divided into debtors and creditors.



Contact Dick Hoke, Rrhoke@aol.com.

Mon 15 7:00 OLIVER COLLECTIVE intake

This year's theme for the **OLIVER COLLECTIVE** is "Art for Everyone." Old members, new members, and UCH friends are invited to bring in their artwork for the upcoming show! If you have art to offer, please contact Wally Wenklar wmwenkla@te.com; Gary Fey, gary.fey@fedex.com; or Patti Hazell pahazell@yahoo.com. We can also use assistance setting up the show.

Wed 17 7:00 Clover Grove: Seasonal Celebration

The veil is growing thinner as we approach *Samhain*. Our meeting will be reviewing the party planned for the following week and also looking ahead to the Winter Solstice in December. We will be entertaining ideas for both events and concreting our concepts into action. As always, bring a snack to share if you want. This will be an organic meeting of the minds!

Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists. This group meets monthly at Clover Lane to discuss spiritual issues related to those of a similar path and celebrates, with ritual, the phases of the Earth and Moon. All are welcome. Contact Nikki Stone, bnlady79@yahoo.com.

Thu 18 7:00 "Meet the Minister"

The Membership Action Council (MAC) is pleased to present a small group discussion with Howard Dana! This session is intended for newer members of the congregation to ask questions about the UCH, the UUA, or Unitarian Universalism in general! No pre-registration necessary.

If you would like to submit topics for discussion ahead of time, please contact, a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com.

Meet the Minister

Fri 19 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. This month we welcome Drew Nelson, a Native American with a passion for environmental justice. Admission is \$10 at the door; all are welcome.

A Michigan-born Navy veteran, Drew is a storytelling songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. A fly fisherman and world traveler, he writes as a witness to the lives and journeys of those he has met along the way, mixing Americana and roots-rock with traditional folk styles. Contact a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com.



Sat 20 8:30 Making Strides against Breast Cancer

Walk with our UCH Unistriders as we take part in *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*, starting from City Island. Meet at 8:30 a.m.; we start at 9:00. The walk itself (with thousands of like-minded folks) takes about an hour — at the pace we choose. Each walker gets sponsors to raise money for breast cancer research, education, outreach and survivor support. Each year that I do this, I learn more about women whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. For details, please contact Jim Cavanaugh, jimcav3790@gmail.com.

Sun21/28 10:00 OLIVER COLLECTIVE

This year's theme for the **OLIVER COLLECTIVE** is "Art for Everyone." On Sunday, October 21st and Sunday, October 28th, go downstairs after either service and select from the wide variety of creations provided by UCH artists and artisans and artfully displayed by our own Wally Wenklar and his staff. The main show is at Clover Lane, with a smaller boutique at Market Street.



- ☉ Choose from many options: ceramics, crafted wearables such as scarves, totes, capes, coats and vests. Ponder the paintings and framed photography as well as collages and assemblages, hand-made lamps, tables and chopping boards.
- ☉ For those attending the Clover Lane Coffee House on Oct. 19, the **OLIVER COLLECTIVE** will be on display to further enhance the coffee house atmosphere.
- ☉ All proceeds from these sales go solely to La Grone scholarships for graduates of Harrisburg High School. In past years our modest scholarship awards have been the largest locally offered to the young people of the city of Harrisburg. There are many deserving teens and the scholarships are awarded after much consideration by a panel that includes, in addition to UCH members, a UCH teen and members of the Harrisburg community.

Bring your checkbook! Your support for art is a support for a Harrisburg future scholar. If you have art to offer, please contact Wally Wenklar wmwenkla@te.com; Gary Fey, gary.fey@fedex.com; or Patti Hazell pahazell@yahoo.com.

Fri 26 6:00 Samhain (Halloween) Party

Screamings and Salivations to UCH Gremlins and Ghouls! Clover Grove Pagans are planning the annual Samhain (Halloween) Celebration for Friday, October 26. We will begin the evening event with a potluck dinner. Bring a favorite food item that is harvest-oriented. At 7:00 pm, join us for the fun. The rest of the evening is for the Costume Party, caramel apples, and other fun activities. Bring the kids, as we are a very family-friendly group. We will have lots of Hallowe'en Music and tons of fun. At some point, we will hold a small gathering - a Circle of sorts - to remember our ancestors. We will start to wind down around 9:30 p.m. The Party should be a blast!



Elsewhere in October

8:00 p.m. Oct. 12: Friday Night Live at the Forum (500 Walnut Street)

Christian Fellowship Prayer Tabernacle (CFPT) Ministry Promotions and the American Diabetes Association of Central PA present "Friday Night Live at the Forum II, The Peace and Togetherness Showcase of the Year Overshadowing All Violence." The free concert event features Central Pennsylvania's largest showcase of inspirational talent on one stage. A cross-cultural tribute to lives lost through violence in Harrisburg and surrounding communities will take place on this evening. In a semblance of peace, white roses will be laid on the stage by surviving family members, as a visual presentation showing the universal effect of violence plays in the backdrop.



Performers for the evening include Sung From the Heart (appearing at Clover Lane on Nov. 9 - ed.), Christian Aguilar and the Hispanglo Worship Team, GAT Fellowship Community Choir, Hip-Hop Artist B-Wright, Poet Tiger Rose, Cassie Porter, Jalena Jenkins-Posten, Jeret Pinckney, and many more. No admission charge; a freewill donation will be collected on behalf of the American Diabetes Association.

After October

Nov. 3: Red, White and Blue: Vote UU!

The annual UCH auction is approaching! Our theme this year is topical, timely, and tenacious! We encourage you to identify donations of time, talent and/or treasure for this event. If you can contribute to the potluck, we're looking for food that celebrates our great country: Maine blueberries, Pennsylvania Dutch Whoopie pies, Tex-Mex, Maryland Crab, Mississippi Mud Cake, etc.

Please contact a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com to donate items to the auction itself; contact Debbie Reihart debbiedoore@yahoo.com to assist with the comestibles.

— Submitted by Bart Carpenter



Nov. 17: Living an Authentic Life

Pastoral Associates sponsors a day of spiritual growth, facilitated by Dr. Thomas Legere. Legere has been a university professor, author, and psychotherapist for over 35 years. He holds degrees in philosophy, theology, and spirituality and a Ph.D in psychology. He is also the author of three books on spirituality, including *Living an Authentic Life*.

— Submitted by Kathie Teeter

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 Manhattan at 10:00 a.m. Leave New York at 7:00 p.m., arriving 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

Other News

National Merit Semifinalists

Congratulations to two UCH Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program! They are Orlando Forest, son of John Forest and Cathy Montes (Susquehanna High School) and Dylan Devenyi, son of Atilla and Tracy Devenyy (Hershey High School).

Beam-Buckheit wedding

Leta Beam and Jim Buckheit were united in marriage on July 13. On Sunday, Sept. 9, the congregation led by the Rev. Howard Dana blessed the marriage during services at each campus.

Desmond Huebner birth

Alexandra and Matt Huebner of Knoxville, Tenn., are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Desmond Marten Huebner, on Sept. 8, 2012. He weighed 4 pounds, 11 ounces at birth and was 7 weeks premature. Ali grew up at the UCH, was a longtime Unisinger, and is the daughter of Donna and Phil Hoskins-Helm and granddaughter of Don and Barb Hoskins. Donna has returned from Knoxville and reports Desmond should be coming home soon.