



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

Minister's Message

Excerpted and expanded from the sermon of 2/17/13



A couple of years ago I was talking to Michael Mark in the church office. We were musing aloud what the church's mission statement should be. Michael joked that maybe it should be, "The church that finally got off its butt and did something." We both laughed. It was a funny quip—and of course not at all appropriate for a mission statement. But it did point to the fact that the UCH had stopped just talking about social justice and had actually begun to do it.

Anyone who thinks that a congregation is going to be a neat and tidy place has never been part of one that was doing much. Anyone who thinks that the members of a congregation are always going to get along and agree has never been involved in leadership in a church. Anyone who doesn't think that conflict and power struggles and grandstanding and pouting are a part of church life has never spent much time with Unitarian Universalists. We UUs have innumerable good qualities. And we have our shadow side, too.

We UUs are high-minded, idealistic humanitarians who fear for the future of the planet. And we are often just as classist, racist, sexist, or heterosexist as any of our neighbors. We UUs are people of relative wealth and privilege. And we are not exempt from the same mean-spirited selfishness displayed throughout American society. As a congregation we struggle continually between watching out for ourselves and trying to be of service to others. The current struggle that UCH is going through is not about theology or worship style or even location. Our current struggle is a struggle of mission. Are we a church just for ourselves? Or are we a church that is engaged in the wider world in a meaningful way? My guess is that different members of the church have different ideas about what our mission should be. Hence the conflict.

One of the main reasons for belonging to a congregation is that it will make you a better person than you would choose to be on your own. One of a congregation's chief roles is to bring out the better selves in its members. It is there to make you care about other people. It is there to make you acknowledge the stranger. It is there to liberate some of your money for the good of society. It is there to demand some of your time be spent serving others. It is there to help you get over your very-natural human selfishness. A congregation is there to redeem your miserly self so that you might actually enjoy life. It is there to trick you into being good and being happy.

If you love the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, you need to make a generous pledge to it for next year. If you love this congregation, you need to invest in it, not take a "wait and see" attitude. Never has your investment in UCH stood a better chance of making a bad situation much, much better. Never has your congregation needed your support more.

See you in church.

Love, Howard

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

March 2013 At-a-Glance

Please check website for last-minute updates

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sat 2	7:30	Classic Comedy Movie Night, Judy Linder
Sun 3	9:00	<i>Seven Candles</i> , presentation by JD Stillwater
	11:00	
Mon 4	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 5	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG), Chuck Daley
Wed 6	6:00	Queen Spirit, Randa Todd
Sat 9	9:00	Common Ground Café, Clay Lambert
Sun 10	9:00	Moral Issues Forum: <i>How to Live a Life in Poverty</i> , led by Peter Zurflieh
	11:00	Multigenerational Service: <i>Questioning Assumptions</i> , led by UCH Youth Group
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature, Dick Hoke
Mon 11	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 12	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 13	7:00	Board of Trustees, Judy Linder
Fri 15	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House, Bart Carpenter
Sun 17	9:00	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i> , Rev. Dana, followed by Coffee with the Board (both services). Music by Arcona Reel Band. Second service is a joint service with The Shared Ministry, led by Rev. Dana and Rev. Richard Gordon.
	11:00	
Mon 18	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 19	7:00	Silent MMG, Daley
Wed 20	6:00	Clover Grove, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Sun 24	9:00	<i>Pesach—Passover</i> , Rabbi Carl Choper
	11:00	
Mon 25	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 26	7:00	MMG, Daley
Sat 30	9:00	Common Ground Café, Lambert
Sun 31	9:00	<i>Easter for All Souls</i> , Rev. Dana
	11:00	

Market Street Event

President's Message



What do you and I expect from church? Why do you and I belong to the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg? I suspect that there are some answers to these two questions that most of us have in common. These two questions are also appropriate to ponder as we prepare for next year.

For example, each of us needs to think about what is important to us about church membership that fills a very personal need. That would be the "I" statement. One thing that is important to me is that church offers a regular time for me to focus on my own spiritual health as well as opportunities to be of service to the community. Another is to have the support of those who are more than just friends/acquaintances, but kindred souls. Church provides a place of diversity of opinions yet still provides closeness, tolerance, and acceptance. It is our Beloved Community.

To quote Lyle Shaller's *What People Expect from Church*:

Nurturing the human bonds within the congregation does empower the congregation and individual members to extend themselves lovingly to all the world. But the building up of supportive relationships within the congregation is itself the church's mission. It could be argued that it is the church's primary mission.

The UCH mission statement states, "The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg strives to be 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 first have to be that beacon of love to each other and to every person that steps into our sacred space. So, each of us has to take that first step of "being" that Beloved Community,

Espresso Your Love for the UCH!

Why do I pledge every year to this church? Because I want this church to exist. I've been a Unitarian Universalist since 1978. At that time, my family was living in Rochester, Minnesota. I had grown up in a traditional Jewish family, but my husband, Peter Adams, was not interested in joining a temple. We were lucky enough to have met some Unitarians in Rochester and our children were attending pre-school in the UU church building. When my three-year-old son came home terrified by stories of the devil that he had heard from a neighbor, I knew it was time to get serious about religion. Our family needed a place where we could all fit in, and we found it with the UUs.

Over the years we've been members of four different UU churches in the various places we've lived. We've always felt welcome and valued. We came to the church like many people do, because of our children. But now that our children are grown, we continue here because it has become a very important part of our lives. We value the fine people we have come to know and so many of the experiences we have had. I'm pledging and I'm urging all UCH members and friends to pledge generously to keep our dear church healthy, strong, growing and evolving.

—Submitted by Ann Sitrin

internally to him- or herself, and internally within our own sacred space. Then the second step is to extend that Beloved Community not only to each other but to the external community and the earth. Not an easy thing to do, is it?

Of course, for the church to follow its mission, it needs the support of the congregation. The congregation shows its support by attending services and programs (such as the lay-led ministries); volunteering; and of course, donating money. For the church to open its doors, it needs to have all of the above. It is the commitment we have to our Beloved Community that makes it all work.

This month is the start of the annual pledge drive. The church budget is driven by the members' pledges, just as your own household budget is driven by your income. In order to fund our children and youth programs, music, and a new interim minister, our church needs your support. You can show your support and love of your church by a strong pledge. Even a modest increase in your pledge makes an impact on the church's offerings.

The good news is that so far we have received pledges from 116 of our 320 households, totaling \$246,052; of these, 46 percent have increased their pledge from last year. I am also pleased to report we are receiving pledges from friends and new members who live in the neighborhood near the Market Street campus. Strong pledges are a way to show our commitment to the mission of our church.

Please regard your individual pledge as your way to show support and commitment to the UCH as we continue "being" a Beloved Community to ourselves, each other, and the community .

May we all be well, happy, and peaceful!

Judy



2013-14 Stewardship Campaign

Sat 2 7:30 Classic Comedy Movie Night

Come one, come all! UCH members and friends are invited to a family-friendly "Saturday Night at the Movies," featuring *Some Like It Hot*. Starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon.



Classic Comedy Move Night

Bring snacks or finger food to pass.

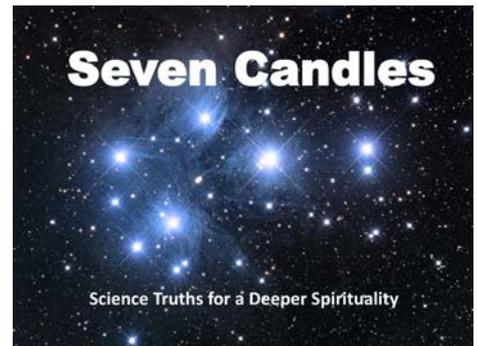
Contact Judy Linder, jclinder09@gmail.com.

Sun 3 9:00 Clover Lane, 11:00 Market Street

A special multimedia service led by J.D. Stillwater! The "Seven Candles" are direct expressions of well-established scientific and cosmological phenomena. They are also seven deeply spiritual truths. Seven Candles is NOT "proof of God," nor is it "proof there's no God." It's just science, described in a way that deliberately uncovers, emphasizes, and embraces the spiritual implications of these scientific discoveries.

We live at a time when discoveries by the scientific community are challenging our perceptions of reality. As in Galileo's time, we can choose to experience these new-found truths as obstacles in our spiritual paths, or we can embrace them, striding towards a deeper, more connected life.

JD Stillwater is a science educator, author and thinker. He is a student of physics, cosmology and the workings and origins of the world in which we live. He is also a long-time member of the UCH and former president of the Board of Trustees. He has presented "Seven Candles" at multiple venues across the Mid-Atlantic.



Mon 4 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 5 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.

Wed 6 6:00 Queen Spirit: "We Make the Way by Walking"

Queen Spirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, Patti Hazell and Randa Todd present a circle on "The Red Tent." Please bring something red for the altar. Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share, plus your place setting and serving spoons and plates.

We come 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, lrrt1946@yahoo.com.

Sat 9 9:00 Common Ground Café

Market Street

In collaboration with the Shared Ministry, the UCH is now in its fourth year of operating the Common Ground Café at our Market Street campus. It occurs on the second and last Saturday of the month, 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. **Repeats March 30.**



Sun 10 9:00 Moral Issues Forum: "Dance and the Human Spirit"

The Forum meets on the Second Sunday each month for lecture/discussion on moral and ethical issues from a non-religious viewpoint. Normally, a speaker presents his/her views on a topic with ethical and moral implications, then the floor is open for discussion and questions. This month, our topic is "How to Live a Life in Poverty." How does one make ends meet when living in poverty? It takes more resourcefulness than most people realize. Come learn about a world that is unknown to many of us.



Peter Zurflieh is a lawyer who has worked with poverty-related issues for many years, and is a tireless advocate for people in need. He works with the Community Justice Project, a non-profit, public interest law firm that is part of Pennsylvania's Legal Aid Network. It has offices in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Reading.

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

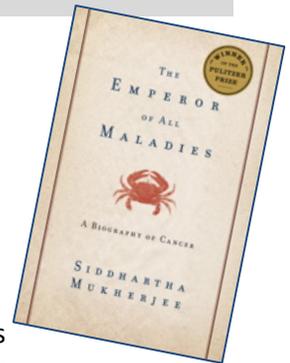
Sun 10 11:00 Multigenerational Service Market Street

Questioning Assumptions service led by UCH High School Youth. Teens explore how unexamined beliefs, assumptions, false notions, and erroneous opinions may keep us from being present to what is. The focus is on how both dress and technology influence relationships. UU Principle #4, *a free and responsible search for truth and meaning*, was the impetus for discussion that led to today's service.

Sun 10 7:00 Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday each month. This month, the group meets at Clover Lane to discuss *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, by Siddhartha Mukherjee, a cancer physician and researcher at Columbia University. A former Rhodes scholar, he graduated from Stanford, Oxford (where he received a PhD studying cancer-causing viruses) and Harvard Medical School. His laboratory focuses on discovering new cancer drugs using innovative biological methods.

Published in 2010, *The Emperor of All Maladies* won the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction and the Guardian Prize; was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and was described by *Time* as one of the 100 most influential books of the last 100 years and by *The New York Times Magazine* as among the 100 best works of non-fiction. Bob Coleman is host. Contact Dick Hoke, Rrhone@aol.com.

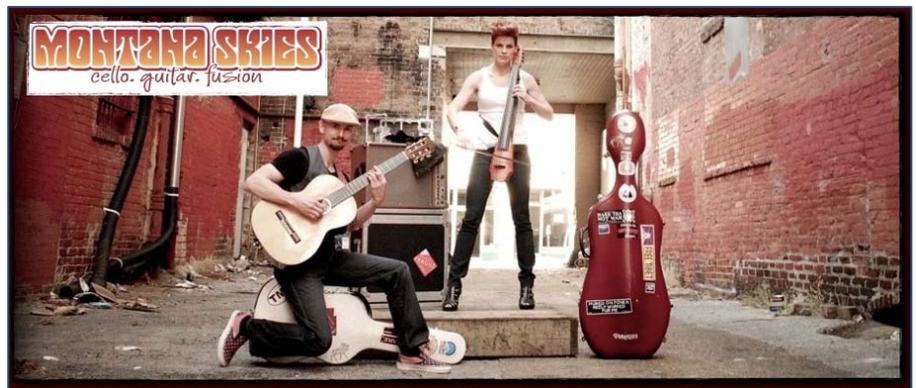


Fri 15 7:30 Clover Lane Coffee House \$10 admission/\$25 max per family

Clover Lane Coffee House offers a series of concerts by local and traveling artists, normally on the Third Friday of every month. This month, we welcome the fusion duo Montana Skies in their Harrisburg debut! Admission is \$10 donation at the door; all are welcome.

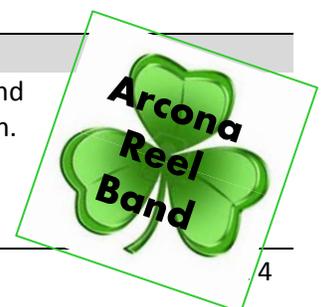
Montana Skies is the husband/wife team Jonathan (steel string and spanish/nylon guitar) and Jennifer (acoustic cello and her custom 6-String Electric cello) Adams.

Their repertoire runs the musical gauntlet of genres, including Spanish-inspired pieces that would not sound out of place in a spaghetti western to riffs from contemporary Top 40 rock and roll, such as "House of the Rising Sun." The duo are based in Georgia and met while studying music at the University of Georgia/Athens. Contact a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com.



Sun 17 9:00 Clover Lane, 11:00 Market Street

St. Patrick's Day service, with music provided by Arcona Reel Band! Featuring Sparkie Radcliffe and Brian Kahler, Alanna Berger and Blaise Liffick, Phil and Donna Hoskins-Helm, and Claudia Harrison. Second service co-led by Rev. Howard Dana and Rev. Richard Gordon of The Shared Ministry.



Other Dates

Events of interest, at the UCH and elsewhere

Saturday, March 9: Global Ecstatic Chant

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York (UUCY) is pleased to present the musical group One Love in an evening of global ecstatic chant. Throughout the ages and across cultures, prayer through song and simple body movement has been a powerful vehicle for connecting with the Divine. ONE LOVE weaves together ancient and contemporary prayer songs and chants from a rainbow of spiritual traditions and practices, including Hindu Kirtan, Sufi Zikr, earth-based religions, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and more.

Jody Kessler, a singer-songwriter and Interfaith Minister and one of the band's founders, describes the program as an "interfaith devotional chanting experience."

They emphasize the word "experience" because they present their work not as a performance but rather as a participatory co-creation, as they invite the audience to join in with singing and prayerful movement. Rev. Kessler is leading services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, with music provided by the band.

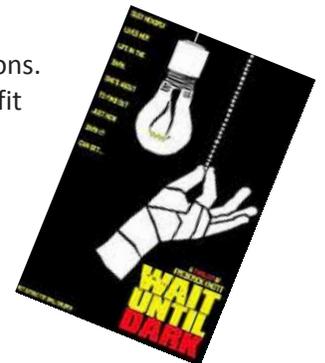


Logistics: 6:30 p.m., coffee and snacks, 7:00 p.m. performance. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, 925 South George St. Tickets \$10; \$5 teens, students, seniors; free for children 12 and under. Donations of non-perishable food items to support the local food pantry are also welcome. Contact Robert Felton, chair, rbrtfelton@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 17: Wait Until Dark

UCH has historically supported the Ecumenical Food Pantry with food and with financial donations. Now you can provide additional support while having a great evening at the theater. As a benefit performance for the Ecumenical Food Pantry, Theatre Harrisburg presents *Wait Until Dark*. This popular suspense thriller is guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat through the dark tension-filled final scene.

Logistics: Dessert Buffet, 6:30 pm, curtain 7:30 pm. Krevsky Center, 6th Street at Hurlock, Harrisburg. Tickets \$30. Contact Michael Mark, 566-6055, mmarkpa@aol.com.



Tuesday, March 26: Marriage Equality Vigil

On March 26-27, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's Proposition 8. DOMA states that marriage is between one man and one woman and allows states not to recognize same-sex marriages performed in jurisdictions where it is legal; Proposition 8 reversed the ability for same-sex couples in California to legally marry.

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats are organizing a "Light the Way to Justice" vigil as part of a nationwide effort to bring attention to Marriage Equality. They hope to gather a coalition of LGBT- supportive groups for the event. There will be an organized program including speakers, music, and candle light. The UCH has been a leader in the local effort to support marriage equality, so please be there!

Logistics: 3:40 pm - 8:00 p.m. at the Federal Court House, Third and Walnut Street in Harrisburg. Contact Alanna Berger alannaberger@comcast.net.



Save the Date

April 3: Torch of Global Enlightenment

The Religion and Society Center and The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg are collaborating to present the Torch Awards at Dixon Center, 2986 North Second Street. The UCH will be honored as an organization that "advances the exploration and development of religiously-based social teachings for today's multi-cultural and multi-faith society." Pre-registration required for the awards banquet at 7:00pm.



—Submitted by Rabbi Carl Choper

April 14: Sparkie Radcliffe Appreciation

This year we celebrate the 10+ year anniversary of Sparkie Radcliffe as our Music Director! April 14 is "Music for the Soul," and we plan to celebrate in style. All and sundry are encouraged to mail or bring a card with a personal memory of Sparkie's ministry. There is a collection box near the freezer at Market Street and a mail slot on the far right end over the coat rack at Clover Lane.

—Submitted by Trish Brandon

April Fund-Raisers for Oliver LaGrone Scholarship

For those indulging in early spring cleaning, please save books, CDs, and other gently used items of literary value for the annual Book Shuffle! The spring fund-raiser features a Book Shuffle; artwork by **The OLIVER COLLECTIVE** at Clover Lane and at Market Street; and a special pre-sale of artwork during the April coffee house. Please contact any of the following: Jessica Chuckalovcak (Book Shuffle); Gary Fey (artwork); and Margaret Carrow (coffee house refreshments).

—Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

Rebuilding Together Workday: April 27

Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg's (RTGH) is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing houses and communities in Central Pennsylvania, assuring that low-income homeowners live in warmth, safety, and independence. They make this impact by providing necessary repairs free of charge to existing homeowners — most frequently on National Rebuilding Day, usually held on the last Saturday in April.



UCH member David Powell volunteers throughout the year for RTGH. For the spring building day, each year he assembles a crew of UCH members to work on a specific house, usually but not always in Allison Hill. As in the past, he is looking for other UCH members who are handy with hand and power tools. Past projects have included repairing interior walls, porches, installing water heaters, repairing stairs and railings, painting, installing storm doors, installing insulation, laying down flooring, minor concrete work, minor electrical work, etc. If interested/available, please contact Dave at 717-796-7635 or xrsyz39@gmail.com. Participants also receive a free T-shirt, lunch on site, and a picnic dinner later in the day.

—Submitted by David Powell

Obituaries

We mourn the loss of three members of our extended community.

Dick Anliot

Richard B. Anliot, 86, of Mechanicsburg, died February 20 after a brief illness. He was a life member of the UCH and a faithful and active member for more than 50 years. He is survived by two children, Linda Miller of Biglerville and James Anliot of Hingham, MA; one sister; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at the UCH Clover Lane campus, UCH member Jim Cavanaugh officiating.

Tom Brown

Thomas E. Brown, 83, of Mechanicsburg, husband of UCH member Dorothy Brown, died peacefully Feb. 16. He is survived by Dorothy, five children, six grandchildren, and two sisters. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 23, at the Clover Lane campus, Rev. Howard Dana officiating.

Phyllis Carrow

Phyllis Carrow, 83, of Brooklyn, NY, died Feb. 16 in her sleep. She was the mother of UCH member Margaret Carrow and grandmother of UCH member Greg Boyd. Services were held February 22 in Brooklyn.

February in Review

February was an exciting month for all UCH members!

OWL Classes

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is an educational curriculum developed by the UUA that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL provides facts about anatomy and human development and also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Classes began at the UCH last month for 5th and 6th graders, plus 4th graders turning 10 prior to June 1, and will run through the end of April. Many thanks to Peter Adams and Becky Weiler-Timmins for leading this year's class.

—Submitted by *Trish Brandon*

News from UUPLAN

The UUPLAN Environmental Justice team promotes the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Unitarian Universalism's seventh principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, calls Unitarian Universalists to action regarding environmental justice.”

With those words in mind, on Sunday, February 17th, ten UCH members participated in the Forward on Climate Rally in Washington, D.C., along with 40,000 other demonstrators who gathered to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline. Shown in the accompanying photo from the event are (from left) Susan Norris; Lenka Platt, 12; David Platt; Rachel Mark; and Michael Mark.

The UUPLAN Economic Justice Team is collaborating with the Coalition to STOP Payday Lending in PA to oppose legislation that would legalize predatory lending. In February we held two “Letters to Legislators” drives which resulted in more than 90 letters from UCH members opposing payday lending delivered to six Pennsylvania Senators. We're planning a call-in day and lobby day in Harrisburg during March.

UCH now has six members on the UUPLAN team. If you would like more information on UUPLAN, please contact either Rachel Mark (rachelmark@paonline.com) or Anita Mentzer (anita.s.mentzer@gmail.com). Membership is \$20 per year. A link to the membership form is on the homepage at www.uuplan.org, or request one from Rachel or Anita.

—Submitted by *Rachel Mark & Anita Mentzer*

Aiden Lambert Dedication



Aiden James Hudson Lambert was dedicated at the second service on Feb. 17, 2013, by Rev. Howard Dana. Aiden is the son of Clay and Erica Lambert and grandson of John and Anita Mentzer. Also present were Aiden's paternal grandparents, Connie and Ernest Lambert; aunts Marisa Lambert and Elayna Oglesby; and his great-grandmother, June Miller.

