



Minister's Message



I'm writing this column a few days before Black Friday, and I'm hoping I can avoid all major shopping for the entire day. As you may know, "Black Friday" is the day after Thanksgiving, and for many years, it has been the busiest shopping day of the year. The nickname refers to the fact that this is the day when many retail stores, even if they've been operating in the red since Jan. 1, finally start running in the black. I always thought

the name sounded more ominous than that, and perhaps with good reason.

What surprises me most about the multitude of sales and promotions is the way that so many consumers will respond to the retailers. Several years ago, when I was an interim minister in San Antonio, was the first time I personally saw tents and sleeping bags lining the sidewalk in front of a major electronics store – dozens of people had been camped out for days at the store, to be first in line to purchase a new video game console debuting that week. These were people who had placed the importance of their jobs, their interpersonal relationships, and certainly of their comfort and convenience, below the importance of owning a consumer good a few weeks before other people.

These actions reveal the highest functional values in a person's life. By "functional values," I mean the values one lives by, whether or not they're the same values a person claims to hold. When people place owning a video game unit ASAP over employment, family, and permanent shelter, they say loudly and clearly what they value, even if they would deny such values vocally. Not just what they value, but what they revere; what they worship.

Emerson pointed out that every person worships something. It's just a short step from worshipping that which we value, to treating it like a god in our lives. If the Biblical prophets Isaiah or Hosea were alive today, I think they'd denounce the campers lined up outside that electronics store as idolaters – worshippers of false gods. Leaders of the early Jesus movement might recognize and name these idolatrous values as the values of Empire, which they knew all too well under Roman rule. But in this case, the idol, the imperial value, was not the video game console, it was the lust for ownership and possession that trumps everything else.

I'd be tempted to join the prophets in their exhortations, but first I'd need to step back and examine my own functional values. Are there any things that my actions show me to worship inappropriately? Do I have any idols in my life? Am I buying in to the values of Empire, rather than the values of my Unitarian Universalist faith? It's a good question for each of us to ask ourselves as the year comes to an end and the holidays approach, because there are a lot of false "gods" and imperial values out there – consumerism, success, safety; food, sex, drugs – and worshipping these less tangible idols is a real danger, even for us religious liberals.

In worship this December, we'll explore different ways to resist these imperial idolatries. We'll consider how popular culture (*The Hunger Games*), faith traditions (Advent), and our social justice work and interpersonal relationships can provide us with tools to live more whole and faithful lives, true to our deepest values and commitments, rather than getting caught up in the madness that is the contemporary American celebration of Christmas. I hope, in the absurd busyness of this holiday season, we each will make time to reflect on our deeper values, as well as our functional ones, and consider how we might live out our deep values more fully and more consistently.

In faith, *Rev. Eric Posa*

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

December 2013 At-a-Glance

Please check website for last-minute updates

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sun 1	9:00	"Playing the Hunger Games," Rev. Eric Posa
	11:00	
Mon 2	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 3	5:45	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG), Chuck Daley
Wed 4	noon	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	6:00	Queen Spirit, Randa Todd
Dec 6	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House, Bart Carpenter
Sun 8	9:00	"Actively Waiting," Rev. Posa
	11:00	
Mon 9	7:00	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 10	5:45	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	7:00	Tenets of <i>Toxic Charity</i> , John Forest
	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 11	noon	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	7:00	Board of Trustees, Laura Shemick
Sun 15	9:00	Second (Third) Sunday Forum, Andrea Minick Rudolph
	11:00	Annual Christmas Pageant, Nick Wilson
	6:00	Philosophy and Literature
Mon 16	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 17	5:45	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 18	noon	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	6:00	Clover Grove, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Sat 21	5:00	Winter Solstice, Patti Hazell
Sun 22	9:00	"Christmas Work," Rev. Posa
	11:00	
Mon 23	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 24	6:30	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	9:00	
Sun 29	9:00	Guest Sermon, Rabbi Carl Choper
	11:00	
Mon 30	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes

Occurs at Market Street campus

Community Hours, 10:00- noon, every MWF except holidays

President's Message



The Board of Trustees has been working on the fourth issue for this interim period: Leadership and Governance. We have started to work on two policies that set a calendar for monitoring the executive and holding him/her to the limits and goals formally approved several years ago. Monitoring and accountability of the executive should be two of the main

functions of our Board. Our duty to the congregation is to make sure that the needs of the church are met.

The Board has held two informal meetings in addition to our monthly meeting to discuss in detail how we govern, our weaknesses as well as our strengths. We have also sought Eric's advice, since he recently attended a seminar about policy style governance. Our first responsibility is to the mission of the church. That mission is determined by the congregation and will be the topic of one of the future congregational meetings that Eric is holding. In the meantime, it is the Board's responsibility to review the *Ends* and the *Executive Limitations* documents to improve the process from the Board's perspective. For example, one policy that is missing is the calendar of when various ends, i.e., formal benchmarks, are reviewed and what action taken if they are not being met. A team of trustees is creating the calendar and means of review for these benchmarks. Other policies are also in process, and I'll write more news about them as they develop. Our focus is on how to be a more effective Board of Trustees.

We are also continuing to support Mary Henniger-Voss' Communication Team, which is an integral part of helping to develop communication between the Board and congregation. This includes continuing the monthly "Brew with the Board" discussions after church services. We are always happy to hear a variety of perspectives.

Other miscellaneous items that the Board will be addressing is a clearer organization chart, and the best way to proceed with a new mortgage to take over for the balloon payment due July 24th. We are also participating in the five interim issues and

invite all members of the congregation to join us. Our success in the path to a settled minister depends heavily on each of us. Be thinking of how you will support our journey.

Of course the "Holiday" season is here in full force. The masterful marketers are trying their best to make us "want" stuff we probably don't need. I must confess I am a bit of a Grinch, but I would guess that there are many of you who also share my dislike of the commercialism that bombards us. If you would like to join me, I invite you to give our church a Christmas/holiday present. One important contribution you may want to consider is serving as a volunteer for RGL this spring. A second is a cash donation to any of the funds that you'd like to support. That could include the Endowment

Fund, an extra amount on your pledge, extra to your plate donation, and/or pay your District and National (UUA) dues of \$82.50 per person. (Just be sure to indicate what you would like to do in the memo line of your check or the category selection on the website).

If UCH is part of your family, like it is for me, it deserves to be included in your holiday budget.

Laura Shemick, Vice President of the Board, will be assuming most of my duties in the month of December. I am undergoing knee replacement surgery and will not be functioning at 100% for several weeks. Laura will be chairing the December Board meeting, as well as performing other duties. I am very grateful to have Laura as a backup. The church has been very fortunate to have Trustees now and in the past with such skill and willingness to serve the church.

Remember Michael Durall's advice:

During this period of transition, I hope church members will hold true to your current mission statement, which reads in part, "To be a beacon of love and tolerance." The ground rule of "all voices being heard" does not mean that all ideas put forward will prevail. If a member's wish is not the direction the leadership decides, I urge members to be slow to anger and quick to forgive, and remain team players. Maybe the next decision will go your way.

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

Five Core Issues for Discussion

1. History/Legacy of the church
2. Mission/ the way forward
3. Connections: to the UUA, JPD, and others that share our values
4. **Leadership/Governance**
5. Future/Commitment to a new direction

Sunday Service Assignments for December, inc. Christmas Eve					
CLOVER LANE			MARKET STREET		
DATE	TRUSTEE	USHER/GUESTBOOK	TRUSTEE	USHER	GUESTBOOK
1	Nan Cavanaugh		Dennis Hursh		Bart Carpenter
8	Mary H-Voss		Chris Dutton		Bart Carpenter
15	Dave Forster		Laura Shemick		Bart Carpenter
22	Marilyn McHenry		Laura Shemick		Bart Carpenter
29	Laura Edinger		Dennis Hursh		Bart Carpenter

Contact Steve Todd
if interested in ushering

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Please synchronize your calendar for these UCH-sponsored events.

Mon 2 6:30 Amrit Yoga (weekly) Clover Lane

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 3 7:00 Mindfulness Meditation (weekly) Clover Lane

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.

Tue 3 5:45 Friedman's Fables & Food Clover Lane

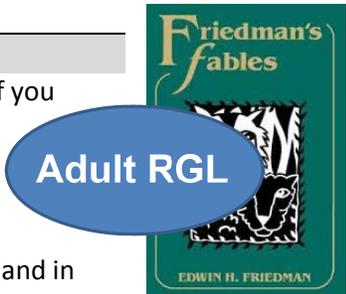
—and—

Wed 4 noon Friedman's Fables & Food Market Street

DATE	FABLE
Dec. 3/4	"The Power of Belief"
Dec. 10/11	"An American Holly"
Dec. 17/18	"Soaring"

The weekly book study of *Friedman's Fables* continues! If you haven't tried it, now is the chance: Tuesday evening at Clover Lane, Wednesday noon at Market Street. (No sessions the week of Christmas.) Each week, we read one fable, promptly on time. Then we spend the rest of

the hour discussing its insights into our relationships with one another: in church, in our families, and in other areas of our lives. Please bring a "brown bag" lunch or dinner with you, if desired.



Wed 4 6:00 Queen Spirit Clover Lane

Queen Spirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, Debbie Page leads a circle on "The Untethered Soul." Please come and help make the celebration wonderful.

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.

Fri 6 7:00 Clover Lane Coffee House: Jugelbandi Clover Lane

Clover Lane Coffee House is pleased to collaborate this month with Susquehanna Folk Music Society to present a "jugelbandi" with musicians John Protopapas (sitar) and Ranendra Das (tabla). Admission is \$10 at the door; \$25 maximum per family. All are welcome.

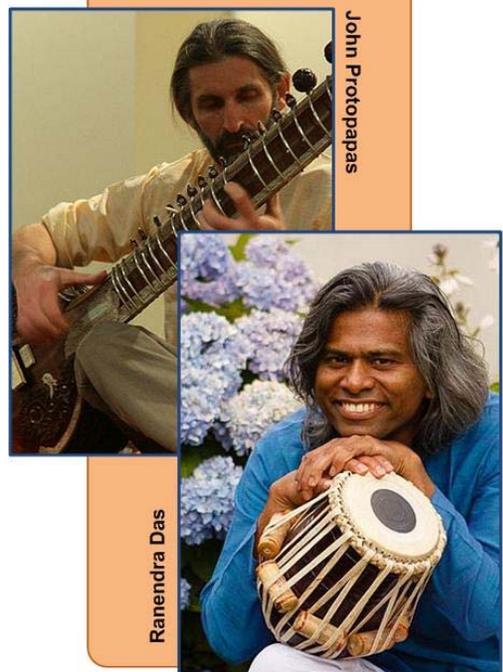
A jugalbandi is a performance in North Indian classical music featuring a duet of two solo musicians. The word itself means, literally, "entwined twins." The duet can be either vocal or instrumental. So you can image this as an exotic Indian jam session. We have also invited local Indian singers Ambily James and Shakil Shamji to each perform a song with the musicians to demonstrate the interplay of vocals and instruments in a jugalbandi.

John Protopapas grew up in South Africa in a Greek immigrant family, went to India as a young adult —and stayed for 22 years, studying with Virendra Kumar Sen in Dehradun and Gopal Shankar Mishra and Rabindran Narayan Goswami in Varanasi. Now living in York, he performs regularly in local Indian venues and teaches world music at York College.

Bangladeshi native Ranendra Das learned tabla from his father, then began formal training with Mahibur Rahman (Mahit) and went on to study with Milan Bhattacharya. After moving to the U.S. in 1995, he was initiated by his guru and world-renowned tabla maestro, Pandit Samir Chatterjee. Since then he has been going through the rigorous discipline of lessons and practice according to the ancient Guru-Shishya Parampara (master-disciple tradition). He has an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College (VT) and plays several percussion instruments.

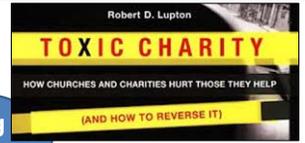
Contact a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com.

Harrisburg Jugelbandi



Tue 10 7:00 Implementing Principles of Toxic Charity Clover Lane

All are welcome to join in the continuing discussion of Robert Lupton's *Toxic Charity*, facilitated by John Forest. Participants will discuss some of the ways UCH engages in social justice and ideas for the future based on the tenets of the book.



Ongoing Discussion

RSVP appreciated but not required; all are welcome. Contact John at john.forest@gmail.com.

Sat 14 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.

Common Ground Café

To join the list of volunteers, contact Clay Lambert, commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com. **No breakfast December 28.**

Sun 15 9:00 Sunday Forum: Living as an Agnostic in a Christian Society Clover Lane

Our guest speaker this month is Andrea Minick Rudolph, a Buddhist priest and professional therapist who spoke last year on dance and the human spirit. This time she speaks on living as a non-Christian in a Christian society.

Third Sunday Forum

It can be difficult being an agnostic, humanist, atheist, Unitarian, or anything non-Christian in a society dominated by Christian beliefs, especially during the Christmas season. How can a person live comfortably in such a setting? Join us for a thoughtful, broad-based discussion about this topic at Clover Lane at 9:00 a.m., then a joint worship service at Market Street. All are welcome.

December: Forum is Third Sunday. Beginning January 12, Second Sunday Forum will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sun 15 6:00 Philosophy & Literature Group Clover Lane

The Philosophy & Literature Group usually meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. This month, it's a potluck and discussion of candidate books for 2014. Pot-luck at 6 p.m.; book selection starts at 7 p.m. Please bring information on one or two titles; include a description of the book and its availability. You can email suggestions to Michael Mark, mmarkpa@aol.com, prior to the date and he will compile a list for easier consideration. All UCH members and friends are welcome. We can use some more thinkers and readers.

Philosophy & Literature

LaGrone Report

We are overjoyed to report that the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund received an extremely generous donation in the amount of \$100,000 last week from an anonymous donor. This funding will strengthen the scholarship program by leaps and bounds. A very special thank you goes out to our donor!

OLIVER COLLECTIVE

The **OLIVE COLLECTIVE** is pleased to report sales of \$1,588 from the annual art sale in November and poetry reading! Many thanks to all who contributed artistically, logistically, and monetarily. Special thanks to Anne Moore and Wendy Colby for coordinating the show gallery at Clover Lane and Market Street, respectively.

Holiday Appeal

The season of giving is upon us. For that hard-to-get person on your list, consider donating in his/her name to the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund. The money directly benefits Harrisburg High School graduates, and your contribution is tax-deductible.

Ed. note: this text was compiled from information provided by Sparkie Radcliffe, Wendy Colby, the program description at www.gettingaheadnetwork.com, and the REPORTER archives.

The UCH is hosting another weekly cycle of the Getting Ahead program starting Dec. 4 at our Market Street campus. Based on theory and practices articulated in *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by-World* (Philip DeVol, 2004) and *Bridges Out of Poverty* (Ruby Payne, Philip DeVol, 1999), the ground-breaking program is a structured means of showing participants how to use the hidden rules of class to build up financial, emotional, social, and other resources to create initial steps toward self-sufficiency. It fits squarely into the model described in *Toxic Charity*.

The UCH hosted the program January-May 2012, providing space, food, and childcare at our Market Street campus. This time, the program has hired childcare providers, so we are only responsible for space and meals.

Here is what is needed each Wednesday

Meal Preparation

- Cook at the church or bring from home a well-balanced meal for approximately 35 people that includes meat, veggies and/or fruit; can include bread
- Provide a dessert that can be eaten with fingers and napkins, i.e., brownies, cookies, cupcakes, etc.
- Quantity is more important than quality
- Food should be well seasoned
- Meal can be plated or served family style
- Meal to be served at 5:30 p.m.; please plan on eating with the participants and their families

Clean up

- Please plan to eat with the families prior to cleaning up
- Clean-up can begin at 6:00 p.m.
- Wash and dry dishes
- Wipe tables and chairs
- Sweep floor; wet mop if necessary
- Return room to pre-dinner configuration

Other options:

- Families or groups are encouraged to do this work. If one family wants to cook, perhaps the other family would like to clean up and both can split the cost of the food. Be creative! Provide your own favorite dinner and share it with other families.
- Lay-led ministries are encouraged to participate. It would be a great way to have fun together, meet some new folks, and support social justice.
- If you belong to an external organization that is looking for a project, encourage them to consider this opportunity.
- If you would like to give monetarily, donations will be accepted to cover the cost of a dinner. Suggested donation: \$175. If you would like to assist without being involved in purchasing the food, that is also a possibility.

Reported by a prior participant:

I have learned that not having the solution to the problems facing me, and asking for help, was not admitting failure or giving up control. I knew where I needed to be, but I didn't know how to get there. The Getting Ahead course has shown me areas of my life where I have sabotaged obtaining my goals without even realizing it. [It] has given me the support and encouragement I need to admit that I can't fix everything overnight, that it's okay to say no or to take a step back and breathe, and that accepting help does not make me a less of a person. I have learned so much in these classes that I never learned in high school, college, or even 34 years of living. I think this is a class that should be taught to everyone. Not only did I learn why certain choices I made affected aspects of my life that I would have never connected, it also taught me how others view me and how to change that view to my benefit.

We have already lined up coverage for the December sessions and are accepting registration for Jan. 8 - April 16. Please contact Wendy Colby at wendy.colby@gmail.com for additional information and/or to sign up.

Auction Report

As we go to press, the Auction Committee is pleased to report \$11,000 in sales from the **Lights! Camera! AUCTION!** event of Nov. 2. Many thanks to Bart Carpenter and Patti Hazell for coordinating, with an able assist by multiple members of QueenSpirit! And hyperactive bidding by members and friends of the UCH! Please plan ahead for Nov. 1, 2014.



Christian Unitarian Universalists

Twelve UCH members and friends met with the Rev. Ron Robinson after services Nov. 10 to discuss Christian UUs. Rev. Robinson is Executive Director of the UU Christian Fellowship ([UUCF](#)) and was in Harrisburg to speak at the 9 a.m. Forum and lead the 11 a.m. Worship Service in his role as minister of a “missional church” bringing services to a very poor area outside of Tulsa, OK. He met with the UCH group after the service to discuss the work of UUCF and how it could aid those at UCH interested in sharing their commitment to Jesus’ radical message within the context of the UCH focus on spiritual diversity.

Members of the UUCF “seek to freely follow the radical loving and liberating spirit of Jesus and to share this spirit within and without the Unitarian Universalist Association.” Organized in 1945 by leading Unitarian ministers and laity in Boston, UUCF now has members across the U.S., Canada and several other countries, providing resources and support to laypeople and clergy who are interested in living the teachings of Jesus within the context of Unitarian Universalism.

UUCF doesn’t require common theological beliefs or spiritual practices. It says it welcomes all who want to be partners in a Great Conversation about God, Jesus, the Bible, and spiritual disciplines. It recognizes that Unitarians and Universalists have roots in the liberalizing movements within the Protestant Christian Radical Reformation and that in many places Christianity remains the common way to be a UU.

“UU Christians feel we can best follow the spirit of Jesus and best deepen our spiritual lives within the freedom of UU congregations, whether or not those congregations are expressly Christian-oriented,” the fellowship says. It doesn’t require its participants to call themselves Christians (or UUs, for that matter). Many express themselves as “Jesus followers” or just as “Unitarian Universalists” or as “liberal religionists” or some other term, and many prefer not to use any identifying label.

“We simply have a core response to Jesus as a ‘song in our heart’ that stirs us to service in the world and to growing our minds and souls,” a UUCF brochure says. “Our fellowship is also open to seekers and to those who are not Unitarian Universalists, those who may be Christians in other traditions, or followers of other religions. We welcome people who find value and meaning among us and in supporting our values and purposes. We don’t think Jesus would have it any other way.”

Some who attended the session with Robinson spoke emotionally of feeling as though they needed to hide their Christian beliefs at UCH and expressed regret that they

couldn’t feel more comfortable in being open about their spiritual journey. They said it often seemed to be easier to be open about sexual and gender orientation in a UU congregation than to be open about wanting to follow Jesus’ example. Robinson said he often hears such sentiments when he talks about UUCF around the country, and the fellowship helps provide resources and support for UU Christians who are ready to “come out” within their congregations.

Recognizing that many non-Christian UUs (and others) carry deep hurts from their experiences with Christian churches and leaders, as do many Christian UUs, one participant in the discussion with Robinson said it is important that non-Christian UUs hear that “we are not the ones who hurt you.”

Participants also said they hoped non-Christian UUs could recognize the benefits of a spiritual diversity that includes Christianity as well as many other paths and traditions. They said that programs or activities should be planned and conducted in such a way that they honor diversity and the UU principles, rather than creating divisiveness or disharmony.



UCH Christians told Robinson they hoped to further explore ways in which they could express their spiritual understandings and leadings within the context of this congregation. That starts with inviting other people interested in the Christian history and current practice of Unitarian Universalism and who were not aware of or could not participate in the discussion with Robinson to join them in future activities. The group then could consider book readings/discussions, Bible study, prayer circles or meetings, time for communion services, and other possible activities that could appeal to UCH Christians and the rest of the congregation, just as other church programs appeal to UCH members and friends who identify primarily with other spiritual paths.

The UUCF brochure notes that “just as those in the UUCF may tap into the spiritual roots of multiple ways of following Jesus within the Christian tradition, so many in the UUCF find meaning in a convergence of their Christianity with other paths. The conversational community that is the UUCF is stronger for containing both our similarities and our differences.”

For more information on participating in such a conversation at UCH, contact Jim Cavanaugh at jimcav3790@gmail.com or 561-0634, or Linda and John Hope at neesa46@gmail.com or 497-3695.

—Submitted by John and Linda Hope

Religious Growth and Learning

Compiled from reports by Trish Brandon, Director of Religious Education, and Leeann Rhoades, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

December Services

☀ Sunday, Dec 1 – no RGL

Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, there are no regular RGL sessions. Children are welcome to participate in a group activity downstairs after opening rituals. Childcare is available.

☀ Sunday, Dec 8 – Deck the Halls!

Children and youth are invited to join in ornament making at 9:00 and 11:00 during regular RGL sessions. Participants are welcome to make one for home and one for the tree at church. Many thanks to craftswoman extraordinaire Wendy Colby for organizing the crafts this year!

The festivities include the Youth Group's annual fundraising soup event during coffee hour at both campuses. This sale supports the scholarship fund for the mission trip in June and other youth group activities.

☀ Sunday, Dec 15 – Christmas Pageant

Nick Wilson is leading an impromptu pageant at the 11:00 a.m. service, focused on the traditional Christmas story. All are encouraged to participate.

☀ Saturday, Dec 21 – Winter Solstice (Clover Lane)

Childcare available

☀ Tuesday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve

Family service, 6:30 p.m. at Market Street; childcare available. Contemplative service, 9:00 p.m. at Clover Lane; no childcare.

☀ Sunday, Dec 22 – Regular RGL

This is a regular Sunday.

☀ Sunday, Dec 29 – Regular RGL

This is a regular Sunday.

Giving "Tree" via Santa's Shop – Contributions due Dec. 8; Store opens Dec. 14

The UCH is stocking and managing a special Santa's Gift Shop this year at our Market Street campus. Over the past few weeks, we have arranged work assignments for elementary children in our community who have provided service to the church and paid them with vouchers redeemable at the gift shop. They will redeem these by shopping for gifts during the community breakfast at the Common Ground Café on Dec. 14, and doing their own gift-wrap.

Donations needed (unwrapped) by Sunday, Dec. 8:

Toys and gift items valued under \$10, suitable for elementary aged children and/or suitable for children to give as presents to family and friends of all ages. **Suggestions:** Educational toys, simple craft kit, Play-Doh, jewelry, books, toy trucks/cars, hats, mittens. Unwrapped please! Children will shop and select gifts for loved ones and wrap them.

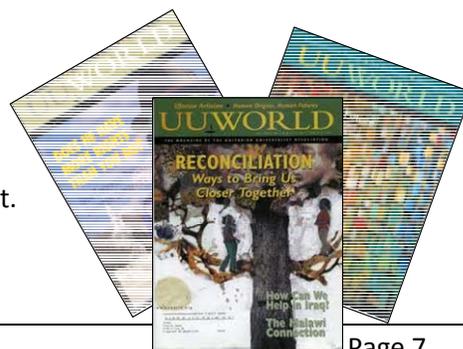
- ☀ Please drop off donations to either church by December 8th.
 - ✓ Clover Lane: Common Room near the bottom of the front stairs.
 - ✓ Market Street: at the back of the sanctuary.

Help needed on Saturday, Dec. 14:

"Santa's Gift Shop" will feature these donated items in the Latimer Room at Common Ground Café from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 14. Santa helpers and gift wrappers needed to support the store on Dec 14th! Contact Wendy Shaver wendyshaver@verizon.net or Trish Brandon 564-4761, DREHarrisburg@gmail.com to volunteer!

Save the World!

The *UU World* quarterly denomination magazine that is! The RGL program will put them to good use! Recycle your *UU World* in the "Recycled World Magazine Box" in the Clover Lane Common Room at Clover Lane or Fellowship Hall at Market Street. Nature-oriented magazines are also welcome.



Membership News

Welcome these new members to our congregation!

Eric and Jody Choi

Eric and Jody Choi moved to Harrisburg from Kansas and live downtown. He works for the U.S. Army at the National Guard headquarters on north Second Street; she is about to become a fulltime homemaker (baby due Nov. 25).



They found us via Google, and their Connection Coaches are Cordell Affeldt and Larry Beyer.

Tiki Kapur

Tiki Kapur is a second-generation Indian-American who grew up in Harrisburg. She and her husband, Mohun, and their children Annika, 8, and Aedan, 6, live in Enola. Tiki was raised Hindu; she was attracted to the UCH by our sense of inclusion of all religions and our focus on social justice.



Tiki began attending the UCH two years ago. Her Connection Coach is fellow soccer-mom, Kate Newton.

Craig Raisner

Craig Raisner is a native of Marysville now living on Front Street in Harrisburg. He is an Elementary Principal and Federal Grants Coordinator for the Halifax Area School District, with previous experience as an Assistant Professor for Music and Early Childhood Education at Penn State.



Craig is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys whitewater kayaking, backpacking, and working with the Boy Scouts of America. His favorite past-time activity is canoe camping with his partner Leeann Rhoades who introduced him to UCH last year. His Connection Coach is Gerry Brandon.

Amanda and Mike Thomas

Amanda Thomas is an assistant professor of Mathematics Education at Penn State Harrisburg, and her husband, Mike, works from home for Menlo Logistics, managing auto parts delivery to GM dealerships throughout the Northeast. They live in Hummelstown with their three children, Alexis, 15; Quinton, 12; and Leighton, 4.



The Thomases found us on the Internet; their Connection Coaches are Mary and James Henninger-Voss.

Greenbelt Cleanup

Members of our children's Religious Growth and Learning (RGL) program helped clean up along the Harrisburg Greenbelt last month. Pictured are (from left) Jonnece Thompson and Kiyerra Nace, granddaughters of Wanda Abou El Nagga; and Arielle Bunce, daughter Kendall Bunce.

—Submitted by Trish Brandon



Houts, Pratts, Cameron , Forsters



Marj and Dave Forster visited three former UCH families this fall. In Richmond, they met Richard and Nancy Pratt (photo), who invited Rima (Bowser) Cameron to dinner while they were there. Marj reports that Rima had already joined the UU choir after arriving in Richmond only a few weeks prior.

They also met Peter and Mary Houts during a visit to New York City and brought back two of Peter's paintings, for exhibition in the Paxtang Art Association's annual show.

Myers 30th Wedding Anniversary



Dan and Frances Myers celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a family trip to Las Vegas. They were married Dec. 28, 1983, in Barrington, IL. Pictured in Las Vegas are (from left) Alleyah, Alaza, Frances, Dan, Clare and Maeda.



Bill Adams

Bill Adams, son of Ann Sitrin and Peter Adams, was co-author of an op-ed piece in the [New York Times](#), published Nov. 8. Bill is an associate of the Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. The article is extracted from his just-published book, *In Line Behind a Billion People: How Scarcity Will Define China's Ascent in the Next Decade*, co-authored with Damien Ma. Bill grew up at UCH and served as a member of the Joseph Priestly District's youth steering committee from UCH. In that capacity, he visited other churches throughout the District to encourage teens to get involved with UU youth group activities.

Don/Linda Brown

Dear Unitarian Friends,

Linda and I are in Japan this semester while I am teaching Human Rights Law at Nagoya University, School of Law. We have been reading about the positive developments at the UCH and look forward to returning in January to participate in the affairs of church.

Getting to know Japan is a positive mind-blowing experience with a culture that exudes an over-the-top politeness unlike anything we have seen around the world. There is also an amazing tolerance for different religions like no other place I have seen. Depending on the life event they want to celebrate, the Japanese move from Shinto to Buddhism without skipping a beat. The Japanese greet each other as if they truly respect the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings.



Located on the Pacific coast on central Honshu, **Nagoya** (名古屋市 *Nagoya-shi*) is the capital of Aichi Prefecture; one of Japan's major ports along with those of Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Yokohama, Chiba, and Kitakyushu; and is the center of Japan's third largest metropolitan region (population 8.74 million). Nearly 3 million people live in the city itself.

– Submitted by Don Brown

Inside UCH highlights church programs and services so UCH members and friends better understand all that is going on in the church and how they can become more involved.

Unitarian Universalists are very good at taking care of each other in their congregations. Nothing shows that more than the Pastoral Care Program at UCH. The coordinator of the program, Marj Forster, says that its main focus is listening. The program was organized in its current form three years ago by the Rev. Kathie Teeter, who relocated last summer to another state.



Currently, six people have been trained and function as Pastoral Care Associates. They provide support, compassion, and a listening presence to members who are hospitalized, grieving, needing long-term care, facing job loss, adjusting to life-changing situations, and other similar circumstances. The care associates are tasked with presence and support and walking the journey with the people they serve. It can be a powerful tool to have someone who can reflect back your feelings or thoughts, and our care associates are trained to do just that.

Pastoral care associates are not trained therapists. Their job is to listen and to refer the individual to other services and agencies as appropriate. A hallmark of the program is absolute confidentiality.

This program does not replace the minister and his/her duties to those in need, but it can help stretch and enhance

his/her ability to provide support over a longer period of time. Support varies in duration depending on the circumstances. It might be one visit, several visits, or extend longer. Among other things Pastoral Care can also connect people to other UCH members who have offered to assist in support tasks, e.g., helping with meals, transportation, etc. This occurs via the “Chalice Hands” program coordinated by Pastoral Care Associate Karen Sykes. The other Pastoral Associates are Paul Showalter, Kathleen Dougherty, Joyce Hoskins, and Jim Cavanaugh

Marj feels many individuals could use her team’s support but may feel they don’t want to bother anyone or may tend to be very self-sufficient. Sometimes people receive

support from other UCH or outside groups in which they participate.

Additionally, some may feel they don’t want their situation to become common knowledge. She assured us that confidentiality is integral to the program.

Anyone who needs/wants support can contact Marj

and she will assign them to an associate based on geography and type of need. Her preferred contact is the confidential pastoral care voice mail at 564-4761, Option 8.

For anyone interested in becoming a pastoral care associate, training is mandatory and available when several people are ready to commit. Just contact Marj and she will let you know when the next training opportunity becomes available.

—Submitted by Linda and John Hope

How You Can Help

The purpose of Pastoral Care is to assist UCH members in life changing situations. Naturally, Pastoral Care Associates can only *assist if they know that someone needs help*.

Making a Referral

- **In person:** You may contact the Rev. Eric Posa, Coordinator Marj Forster, or any staff member directly
- **Voice mail:** leave a confidential, detailed message regarding any life-changing event by calling the office at 717-564-4761, Option 8 (Pastoral Care Coordinator)
- **Email:** write pastoralcare@harrisburguu.org.

How Purchasing Giant, Weis, or Karns Gift Cards Helps UCH

If you shop at Giant, Weis, or Karns, you can also support the church by buying their gift cards through UCH. There is no extra charge or markup. Giant pays 10% of the face value to the church; Weis and Karns pay 5%. Each year, we make approximately \$30,000 from this grocery store program.

You can be on the automatic monthly purchase or purchase them as needed. Place orders with Anne Moore via email (giftcard@harrisburguu.org) or leave her a note in her mailbox at Clover Lane.

