



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

Minister's Message

By Rev. Eric Posa

Healthy Congregations – As I discussed in one of my January sermons (at both campuses), one of the challenges faced by many congregations is to maintain healthy relationships within the congregation. We have a great opportunity at UCH to explore this issue and learn more about how our church can “develop healthy patterns of living together in community” and “learn to focus on strength, resources, and options for the future” as our church moves forward.



On the afternoon of Sunday, March 1, UCH will host a Healthy Congregations workshop. Two regional staff members from the UUA's Central East Regional Group (“CERG,” pronounced “surge”) will be here to co-facilitate: Mark Bernstein and the Rev. David Pyle. They will also preach in worship that morning: Mark at Clover Lane, and David at Market Street. The workshop begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Clover Lane sanctuary, with an estimated end time of 4:00 PM. Childcare will be provided, and we will host a potluck lunch at Clover Lane that day from 12:15 p.m. until just before 1:30; please bring a dish to share. Please join us for a full but rich day for our church on March 1st.

Stewardship – I look forward to exploring together, with you all, the stewardship of our church as we move forward in the new year, with a new minister coming in August.

This is a key time to consider what you can do, within your means, to strengthen and empower UCH to move forward into the most successful possible future, as you enter into relationship with a new Senior Minister. Our new stewardship team, ably led by Jim Cavanaugh, is coming together to lead our efforts to support the financial well-being of our church and the generosity of our members (details, page 3). For scheduling reasons, we have chosen March 8 as the kickoff date. This will be an exciting worship service at each of our campuses – NOT some stereotypical “Sermon on the Amount” (that’s a sermon I will NEVER preach)– but a celebration of all that is wonderful about our church. We hope all of you can join us on March 8.

In faith, *Eric*

Assistant Minister's Message, Page 2

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

February 2015 At-a-Glance

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sun 1	10:30	“The Root of All Evil?” Rev. Eric Posa
	11:00	“Good Times and Bad Times,” Rev. Donna Renfro
	1:00	Imbolc/Candelmas/Groundhog Day
Mon 2	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 3	5:45	Adult RGL: Dinner/Video
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 4	6:00	QueenSpirit
Thu 5	7:00	Choir Practice, both locations
Sun 8	10:30	“Good and Evil: the Human Experience,” Sandy Hamstra
	11:00	“The Root of All Evil?” Rev. Posa
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature
Mon 9	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 10	6:30	Women’s Night Out (offsite)
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Thu 12	7:00	Choir Practice, both locations
Fri 13	7:30	Clover Lane Coffee House
Sat 14	9:00	Common Ground Café
Sun 15	10:30	“Is Love Really All You Need?” Rev. Posa
	11:00	“The Power of Love,” Rev. Renfro
	12:30	Minister’s Startup for Rev. Renfro
Mon 16	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 17	10:00	CroneSpirit
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 18	7:00	Clover Grove
Thu 19	7:00	Choir Practice, both locations
Sun 22	10:30	“The Power of Love,” Rev. Renfro
	11:00	“Good and Evil: the Human Experience,” Sandy Hamstra
	12:15	UUCF Communion Service
Mon 23	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 24	6:30	2015 Auction Committee meeting
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Thu 26	7:00	Choir Practice, both locations
Sat 28	9:00	Community Café
Sun 1	10:30	Guest speaker: Mark Bernstein
	11:00	Guest speaker: Rev. David Pyle
	1:30	Healthy Congregations Workshop

Occurs at Market Street

February Theme:
Good and Evil

Share the Plate:
Rebuilding Together
Greater Harrisburg

President's Message



We are so fortunate to belong to a church community that lives its faith through service and generosity to the community. UCH practices generosity and caring for those that are in need of assistance.

Year to date the church has been able to give more than \$6,000 as part of the "Share the Plate" to various non-profit organizations in Harrisburg. There have been enough special contributions from members and friends to fund the Common Ground Cafe breakfasts provided at our Market St Campus: over 500 meals a month to those that need a meal and a safe place to visit their friends and neighbors.

Our current pledges and special stewardship donations have been strong enough to provide two campuses with two ministers, music, religious education for the children, and places for our lay led ministries to meet, while bringing the estimated budget deficit down to about \$25,000 or \$30,000.

The new 501c3, Gather the Spirit for Justice, has started receiving donations and will be applying for grants and gifts to maintain and expand the services offered at the Common Ground Community Center. All of these efforts are tangible proof of our commitment to not only discuss the issues of social injustice, but do make actual changes in our neighborhoods.

If you love your church as much as I do, show it with generosity of your "time, talent, and treasure." Our church is only able to provide when we all give.

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

FEBRUARY TRUSTEE ASSIGNMENTS		
DATE	CLOVER LANE	MARKET ST
1	Laura Shemick	Debbie Reihart
8	Dennis Hursh	Judy Linder
15	Dave Forster	Dennis Hursh
22	Nan Cavanaugh	Dennis Hursh

Assistant Minister's Message

By Rev. Donna Renfro

I am so pleased to report that we have hired a person to be RGL Coordinator for Market Street. You may have seen her in the nursery at both Clover and Market. Her name is Kimber Dudley, and except for her occasional (6-8 times a year) weekend duties as Co-Chair of the Joseph Priestley UUA District Young Adult Committee on Planning and Conference Coordination (YACPACC), she will be in the Market Street halls and classrooms, talking to teachers, ensuring the safety, consistency and ease of the RGL program, and providing administrative support and communication during the week. We will need more nursery volunteers and one more paid nursery worker at Market Street. Her hire comes just in time, as I will not be in the church Feb. 2-13. Please welcome her and help her as she gets grounded in RGL work.



On Sunday, Feb. 15, there will be a workshop known as the Minister's Start-Up from 12:30-4:30 at Market Street. All congregants are invited, to clarify my job duties and our expectations and goals for me as your Assistant Minister. I have realized another place where your experience and mine are different - in that I will not take the standard four-week study time and four-week vacation in one block in the summer time. I very much believe in having ministerial presence during part of the summer and having breaks for rest and study during the 'church year.' I will be at the

biannual Ministers' Conference Feb. 2-6 then I will take a week of vacation to visit my son.

I am also excited about the possibilities of having all the teacher's schedules and the entire RGL calendar on the new website and maybe even curriculum and messaging for Sunday morning class preparations. Watch for details and we welcome your suggestions as we move forward in this new interactive part of the website.

This month our theme is Evil, and yet, it is also Valentine's Day midmonth, so thoughts of the many ways we love are also in the air. I invite you to consider how you love yourself, your family, and your neighbors, and have conversations with your family and other church members about how love manifests in your life. I'll be sending you love from the ministers' gathering from those of us who have committed to love this faith, and love from my family time, which has become quite rare and quite precious.

Racial Justice Concerns

As I have worked in the Market Street outreach programs, it has become clear to me that poverty is an underlying issue in our work for racial justice. We are working with Tri -County Community Action to bring a Poverty Simulation Event to our church, and to have another Getting Ahead Program during the Spring and early Summer. There will be many ways for our members to support these programs. Watch for more details in the *News You Can UU's* in the coming weeks.

Blessings on us all! *Donna*

Stewardship

We will start our stewardship canvass on March 8, and you will be hearing from many UCH members why they choose to support our church with their time and talent and financial resources. The canvass goal is a simple one: full participation by all our members and as many friends as possible. It will offer many ways to be involved, many ways to pledge, and many ways to have fun. Fun?? Read on:

Burma Shave Poetry

The UCH 'Burma-Shave Poetry' write-a-thon will be our way of updating the old Burma-Shave signs that we used to see along highways, like this one. All RGL classes, Lay-Led Ministries, Committees and other groups will be asked to write poems that reflect how we support our UCH, like this example. Our poems will be printed big enough for all to see and posted all around both buildings beginning March 8th and continuing through the canvass.

—Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

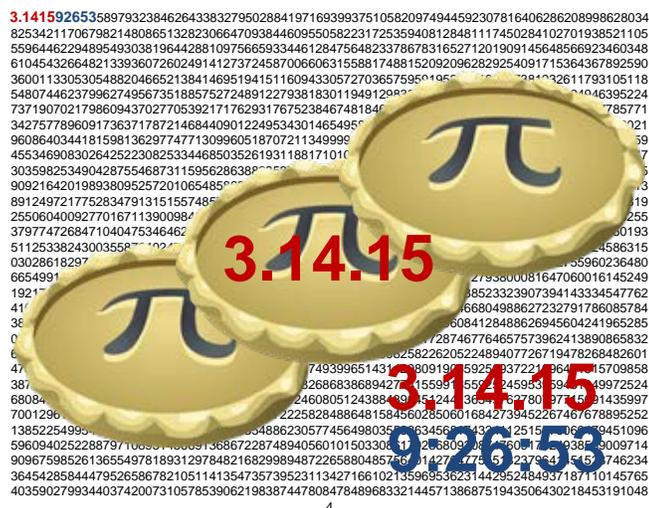


Pi DAY!!

This year March 14, 2015, is the same numerically as the beginning of Pi 3.1415. Seems like the numbers are in our favor to enjoy and share your favorite "pie" at an all church pot luck celebration to put some fun into our 2015 Stewardship Campaign. Bring your favorite Whoopie **pie**, dessert **pie**, pizza **pie**, **potpie** or quiche (**pie**) to share with our beloved church community. We have learned that a 'sequential time' will occur on 3/14/15 at 9:26:53 following the sequence of pi, so stick around for the ...celebration?

For any additional information, please contact [Patti Hazell](#). See you Saturday, March 14, 2015 @ 6:00pm!

—Submitted by Patti Hazell



Lay-Led Ministries

Worship Leaders Sought for Clover Lane Summer Services

Although we're in the midst of the winter doldrums, it's not too soon to start thinking about summer and our annual series of lay-led summer services. The Clover Lane worship team is looking for people to serve either as lay liturgist or sermon presenter during this year's summer series. Many of the services will be based on the six UU Sources of the Living Tradition:

- ➊ **Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder**, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ➋ **Words and deeds of prophetic women and men** which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- ➌ **Wisdom from the world's religions** which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ➍ **Jewish and Christian teachings** which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- ➎ **Humanist teachings** which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- ➏ **Spiritual teachings** of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Those who present sermons will receive questions to guide them in thinking about one of these sources and the role it has played in their spiritual development and journey. Lay liturgists will be responsible for presenting all elements of the service other than the sermon, unless the person presenting the sermon also wants to take responsibility for one or more additional elements such as a reading or prayer. Liturgists will get a script with all of the elements and materials for their use during the service.

If you are interested in participating in the summer services at Clover Lane, please contact [John Hope](#) or [Linda Hope](#). Tell us which role you are interested in and Sunday dates during June, July, and August that you know you will not be available. Specific scheduling will depend in part on when Rev. Renfro will be preaching at Clover Lane and when our new settled minister will begin conducting services.

Assignments and dates will be decided at a training program that will be held in April to assist all sermon presenters and lay liturgists with their roles for the summer.

—Submitted by John and Linda Hope

LaGrone Invitational

Four UCH writers will read from their works at the LaGrone Invitational, scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Clover Lane campus. They are Cordell Affeldt, Dorothy Brown, Wendy Colby, and Lois Voigt, reading original works of poetry, prose, and humor. Some of Oliver LaGrone's own writings also will be read during the program.

Members of **THE OLIVER COLLECTIVE**, who contribute art works for periodic shows to benefit the scholarship fund, will be putting together "swag bags" for those who attend the Invitational to take with them as a memento of the event. Refreshments will be served.

Donate at the event. The suggested donation is \$20; give more if you can and less if you can't, but be sure to come and donate whatever you are able to so we can help keep the LaGrone Scholarship Fund the largest local higher education scholarship available to Harrisburg High School youth.

The Scholarship Fund was created in 1974 and reorganized in 1992 to honor the late Oliver LaGrone, a sculptor, poet, educator, and humanitarian, who had been a member of UCH. Each year, a Scholar is selected from among applicants from the Harrisburg School District. The selection committee includes two adults and one youth from UCH and two community members. The 2015 Scholar will receive a total of \$6,000 for post-high school education, making it the largest local scholarship available in this area. Scholars also are assigned a mentor from UCH, generally someone who works in or is familiar with their field of interest. Mentors maintain a supportive relationship with Scholars during their time in school.

— Submitted by John Hope

SOS Fair

Many thanks to the 25 lay-led ministries and other organizations that participated in the SOS Fair sessions at Market Street and Clover Lane in January! And thanks especially to the many UCH members and friends who walked through the exhibits to learn about the wonderful activities one can participate in at our church.

- 🍌 **If you signed up to participate** with one or more of the groups, someone from the group will contact you directly with information on how to get involved. If you don't hear anything by the end of February, please contact the SOS Team ([Laura Edinger](#), [Nancy Hall](#), [Debbie Reihart](#), [John Hope](#) or [Linda Hope](#)) and we will follow-through on your behalf and make sure you get connected.
- 🍌 **If you didn't sign up** during the Fair but still want to participate in one of the groups, please let us know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate people.
- 🍌 **If you took a Discovery of Gifts form** from the SOS display, please complete and return it to us so we can put you in the database. And if you have not yet filled out a Discovery of Gifts [form](#), please download it and return to a member of the committee.

Stay tuned for more information from SOS on what we can all do working together to Share our Service and Strengthen Our Spirit.

— submitted by John Hope

LaGrone Invitational

2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 18

Readings by:

Cordell Affeldt

Dorothy Brown

Wendy Colby

Lois Voigt



LaGrone Scholarship
Report

Tyler Ryan Killian

Shannon and Matt Killian are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Tyler Ryan Killian, born Dec. 4, 2014, at Harrisburg Hospital. He weighed 9 lbs 1 oz and measured 20.5 inches.



Shannon grew up at the UCH and is the daughter of UCH member Roger Ostdahl and his wife, Maureen Callahan (1946-2013).

Ministerial Search Committee

Committee Report

The Ministerial Search Committee has completed its review of credentials and Skype interviews with interested ministers and has selected three pre-candidates from among the seven interested ministers. We have scheduled extended time with them in February and March to interview them in depth, hear them preach at a neutral pulpit, and get to know them better. This is a highly confidential process, so we cannot discuss these candidates or introduce them to you at this point. In fact, we will need some private time at each campus for tours and discussion with candidates without other congregation members present. This protects the pre-candidates' privacy and keeps the search committee from being biased by any individual or group in the church.

All of our candidates have many strong points to recommend them, yet they are all different. The committee has learned a great deal from you, the members of this community, as the year has progressed. Know that we hold what you have shared with us first and foremost in our thinking as we enter into the discernment process of the search.

When you have time, please take the opportunity to review the electronic "packet" of information we have provided for the candidates! We believe the [website](#) is a concise and colorful view of our community and mission.

—Submitted by Linda Hope, Chair



Search Timeline	
✓	UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) visits
✓	Ministerial Search Committee selected
✓	Search Committee meets with MSR and plans its work
✓	Search Committee holds its retreat
✓	Congregational Survey distributed and tabulated
✓	UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative visits
✓	Congregational Record Completed on UUA Transitions website
✓	Cottage Meeting results summarized
✓	Packet completed (Dec. 31)
✓	Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop
✓	Search committee begins considering potential candidates
➔	Search Committee interviews / observes several candidates
	Search Committee selects one candidate
	Candidating Week and Congregational vote

Search Committee	Member	Email
	Group Email	searchcom@harrisburguu.org
	Linda Hope, Chair	neesa46@gmail.com
	Nick Wilson, Co-Secretary	nicholasr72@gmail.com
	Peter Adams, Treasurer	peterjeffreyadams@gmail.com
	Karan Mallah	kmallah@msn.com
	David Spear	spear130@gmail.com
	Karen Sykes	klsykes@verizon.net
	Kendra Trufahnestock, Co-Secretary	ktrufahnestock@gmail.com

UUPLAN

Dial in to UUPlan!

If you share my desire to have our UU principles reflected in public policy on these and other issues, please consider joining one of our statewide UUPLAN Justice Teams. Call in once a month to stay informed about social justice issues that matter to you and hear about what we're doing to bring UU values to the public square in Pennsylvania.



While some UUs may have the time to directly engage with public officials on a regular basis, most of us have busy lives – lives that make it difficult to visit our legislators or write letters concerning the issues of the day. That's where the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) comes in. As our mission statement says, we "promote our values to policy makers to advance just legislation." We represent our 40 UU congregations and 6000 UUs in Pennsylvania on matters of justice. Click [here](#) to join and thank you!

Monthly UUPlan Conference Calls		
Call in number: 760-984-1000 Access code: 107933#		
Team	Meeting Day	Time
Anti-Mass Incarceration	Last Monday	8:00 p.m.
Economic Justice	Second Monday	7:00 p.m.
Environmental Justice	Second Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Immigration Justice	Third Monday	Noon
LGBT	Fourth Thursday	8:00 p.m.
Reproductive Justice	Third Wednesday	7:00 p.m.

—Submitted by Anita Mentzer

Please synchronize your calendar for these UCH-sponsored events.

Sun 1 2:00 Imbolc Clover Lane

Clover Grove will sponsor an Imbolc (Candlemas/Groundhog Day) Celebration 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. The family-friendly event begins with a brief, interactive ritual on vulnerability, based on the work of Brené Brown. Please bring a potluck item for a mid-afternoon “lupper.” Take a risk and make some candy - our usual taffy pull may give way to marshmallow-making!

Please contact annstillwater@gmail.com for additional information.



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. **Repeats every Monday.**

Contact [Ed Sykes](#). No experience necessary!

Tue 3 7:00 Mindfulness Meditation (weekly) Clover Lane

Mindfulness is an acquired skill, practiced during meditation and vital in our everyday lives. The Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG) provides a space to practice together in support of one another.



- ⊕ Everyone is welcome. Affiliation with any organization/belief system is neither promoted nor discouraged.
- ⊕ Engaging in safe, respectful and welcoming conduct is the only expectation. Participation is entirely voluntary.
- ⊕ Two 25 minute periods of meditation with a short reading, discussion and rest between. Stay for one sitting or both.
- ⊕ Bring your own seating or use our cushions, benches, and chairs.

Contact [Chuck Daley](#) or [George Hellmann](#) **Repeats every Tuesday.** Third Tuesday is silent meditation

Wed 4 6:00 QueenSpirit Clover Lane

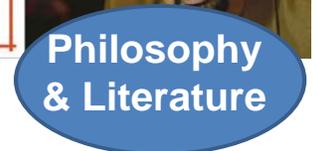
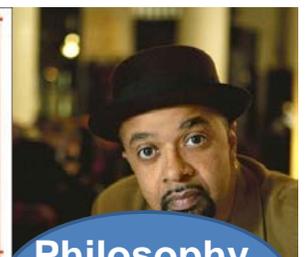
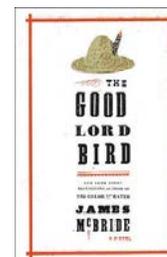
Queen Spirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Come to the February Circle and create the Queen Spirit you want. Ann Stillwater will bring a guided meditation, based on Gael Chiarella’s writings. Ann will lead us with a relaxation body scan and chakra balancing. Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share; bring your place setting and serving spoons and plates. Potluck at 6:00; circle at 7:00. Contact [Randa Todd](#).



Sun 8 7:00 Philosophy & Literature Clover Lane

The Philosophy & Literature Group usually meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. This month, the group meets to discuss James McBride’s historical novel, *The Good Lord Bird*. From one Amazon reviewer:

BIRD is the story of a young black boy, Henry Shackleford, snatched up by abolitionist John Brown and taken away from his family after the youngster’s father is killed in a scuffle. Mistaken for a girl by the crusty old man, Henrietta became his name. What follows is Onion’s account of Brown’s rabid attempt to free all the slaves and the boy’s adventures disguised as a girl.



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

Tue 10 6:30 Women’s Night Out Off-Site

Women’s Night Out is a lay-led ministry of the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at a local restaurant chosen by our committee, normally alternating locations between the East and West Shores each month. To join Women’s Night Out and experience the fun and friendship of our group first-hand as well as providing support to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, please contact [Rima Cameron](#) by Feb. 9.

Women's Night Out!
 Tuesday, Feb 10 @ 6:30pm
 Pho 7 Spice, 4830 Carlisle Pike

Fri 13 7:30 Clover Lane Coffee House Clover Lane

Clover Lane Coffee House welcomes the Steve Rudolph Jazz Trio for our coffee house this month. Admission is \$10 at the door (\$25 max per family); all are welcome.

Born in Evansville, IN, [Steve Rudolph](#) is a major figure on the Central Pennsylvania jazz scene. He was



awarded two Jazz Composition Fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), has produced 11 acclaimed CDs over the past 40 years, and serves as Executive Director of Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz. His experience encompasses concert performances with jazz masters such as Louie Bellson, Clark Terry, Terry Gibbs, Rufus Reid, Buddy Tate, Al Grey, the Mills Brothers, and Cal Collins. He has toured throughout the U.S., India, Europe, Canada, Russia and the Caribbean. Steve is also a Yamaha Keyboard Artist and is in demand as a clinician and performer.

Vocalist **Cathy Chemi** is a Professor of Voice at Kutztown College, well known for her association with Big Band leader Harry James in the late 1960s and early 1970s, with whom she toured the U.S. and Europe. Bassist **Kevin MacConnell** is a member of the faculty at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He has performed with jazz legends such as Mel Torme, Nancy Wilson, Billy Eckstine, Joe Williams and tenor saxophonist Ernie Watts and has made television appearances/performances with Diahann Carroll, Marilyn McCoo, Merv Griffin, Natalie Cole and opera diva Denyce Graves.

Please contact a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com for other information.



Sat 14 9:00 Common Ground Café Market Street

Common Ground Café occurs at our Market Street campus on the second and last Saturday of the month. The café opens at 9:00 a.m., and you can be a part of the action! No experience necessary, and drop-ins are always welcome.



Repeats Feb 28. To join the list of volunteers, please contact Clay Lambert.

Tue 17 10:00 CroneSpirit Clover Lane

The lay-led ministry, CroneSpirit, will meet from 10 a.m. - noon in Fuller Chapel at the Clover Lane campus. Our topic this month is "Maintaining Health." We are:

- ⊕ A discussion group for women over 65, both UCH members and non-members
- ⊕ Honoring a crone tradition of conscious female aging and self-power
- ⊕ For personal enrichment, such as through intellect, knowledge, comfort or companionship, anticipating a maximum of 10 women
- ⊕ Sharing, listening and learning, without gossip or speaking disrespectfully to or about each other
- ⊕ Discussion topics planned quarterly by those in attendance; group guidelines refined by the group at least annually



We look forward to seeing you. For information please contact Joan Hellmann.

Wed 18 6:00 Clover Grove Clover Lane

Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists. This month, we gather to celebrate Chinese New Year! Join us, eat Chinese food, find out your horoscope for the Year of the Goat, and play a few Chinese-inspired games. Please bring one serving of your favorite Chinese dish and we will take care of the rest. All are welcome.



Please contact Jen Wallitsch if childcare is needed or requested. All are welcome.

Sun 22 12:15 UUCF Communion Market Street

UCH's lay-led Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship (UUCF) will have a communion service, including Bible reading, following the morning worship services. All are welcome to attend.

Our next communion service is March 29 (Palm Sunday, since many will be away for Easter).

Information about the national organization is available at the UUCF [website](http://www.uucf.org), including a number of print resources for UU Christians.

Please contact Jim Cavanaugh for additional information about the local organization.



Tue 24 6:30 Auction Committee Clover Lane

Come brainstorm ideas, themes and be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous auction committee. Your talent and help planning the 2015 All-Church Auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success and need your help.

Please contact Patti Hazell for additional information – and mark your calendar for auction night: November 7th, 2015!

