



**The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: Building Bridges, Celebrating Community**

**The Wayside Pulpit**

**Being a Beloved Community Is Hard Work**

By Rev. Michael Walker, Interim Minister



Dear friends,  
First off, I want wish you all a Happy New Year! Our worship theme for January is *Living in Beloved Community*, and that phrase seems to most often elicit one of two reactions. The first is that the concept, beloved

community, is considered wishy-washy, airy-fairy, fluffy-bunny and Pollyanna-ish. The second common reaction usually comes after a pause of thoughtful rumination, and then the realization, "Gosh, being a beloved community really sounds like hard work!" There is not much for me to say to the first reaction, other than to channel the second one back to whomever I'm talking with.

Indeed, being a beloved community is hard work. My experience at UCH has been that we are a community full of people who are thoughtful and kind. Being a beloved community includes that, but that's not all. Sometimes, we find that we need to have deep and sometimes controversial discussions, being open to hearing all sides of an issue. As we see in Laura Shemick's column (p.2), the Board is gathering a great deal of information to present to the congregation this spring, about various ways we could organize our congregation(s) to better meet our collective needs.

Another matter that illustrates how hard our work is, as we work together at being a beloved community, is the church's financial state. While the members and friends who are here have been very generous (and for which we are all very grateful), we still do not have the funds we need to operate the church in the same way that we have been for the last many years. Membership has declined from UCH's high several years ago, as have the number of pledge-units (although the average pledge per pledge-unit has stayed about the same). The Board and I have had many discussions now, and we are all very clear about one thing — the status quo is not working very well. We have a huge deficit in the budget, we have been borrowing from the principal of the endowment (and not just a small percentage of earnings, which would be a healthier practice), and we've recently learned that many of our 'restricted funds' have actually been commingled in the church checking account (which we often call the 'general fund'). For this last matter, I don't believe any malintent was in play — in a previous

era of this church, when we had all the money we needed, it was easy to pay our bills without ever touching the restricted funds. Now, however, with our budget being so much tighter, we have realized that we have been unintentionally spending and

**January Theme**  
**Living in Beloved Community**

**Worship Services**

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Market Street, 11:30 a.m. Clover Lane**

**Jan 3** *Winter, A Time to Fill Our "Spirit Storehouses"* Hannah Belser  
In this time of winter, come hear what the ancient Chinese practice of acupuncture tells us about Winter, the season of Water. What does our body-mind-spirit need so that we can fill our "Spirit Storehouse?" And what might this wisdom tradition offer us as we continue the journey in our Beloved Community?

**Jan 10** *White Privilege - Another Elephant in the Room* Brian Kahler  
This service is about Brian's struggles with and denial of White Privilege, including the horrific racism in his family in the 1950s, a huge (almost) relationship-ending fight, and some AHA! moments, among other not-to-be-missed stuff...

**Jan 17** *An Answer to Injustice* Rev. Michael Walker  
Liberation Theology allows us to consider the work of social justice exemplars, particularly the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coming out of the Latin American culture in response to abject poverty, Liberation Theology has been an update to our understanding of Jesus' example of addressing economic, social and political realities in ways that relieve the pressure on the poorest and less able in society.

**Jan 24** *Faith, Hope and Love Abide* Rev. Michael Walker  
About his own UU congregation, Rev. Dr. Robert French Leavens once wrote, "Through this quiet hour breathes/The worship of ages, /The cathedral music of history./Three unseen guests attend, /Faith, hope, and love:/Let all our hearts prepare them a place." A Biblical phrase that has entered common language is: "Faith, hope, love abide... and the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13.) This morning, we explore what faith, hope and love have to offer in our contemporary, secular world.

**Jan 31** *Living a Rainbow Life in a Black and White World* Rev. Michael Walker  
Freedom is not free — it is something we work to maintain, day in and day out. Many people, of many orientations, have worked for equal rights and protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people, in the workplace, in the wedding chapel, and walking down the street. In this sermon, we reflect on living life with the belief that these freedoms are a right, even while we are surrounded by a more conservative society in which some members believe that their own rights are eroded by giving others the same rights. In recognition of the growing movement for LGBTQ rights, Rev. Mike will share some of his related life experiences.

**Share the Plate for January**  
**Planned Parenthood**

## January 2016 At-a-Glance

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sun 3	various	Sunday worship, both campuses
Mon 4	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 5	6:30	Women's Night Out
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 6	6:00	QueenSpirit
Thu 7	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sat 9	9:00	Common Ground Café
Sun 10	various	Sunday worship, both campuses
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature
Mon 11	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 12	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Thu 14	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Fri 15	7:30	Coffee House: Umble-Druck Jazz
Sun 17	Various	Sunday worship, both campuses
Mon 18	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 19	10:00	CroneSpirit
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 20	6:00	Clover Grove
Thu 21	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sun 24	Various	Sunday worship, both campuses
Mon 25	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 26	6:30	Auction Committee
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Thu 28	7:00	Choir practice, both campuses
Sat 30	9:00	Common Ground Café
	9:00	MMG Day of Mindfulness
Sun 31	various	Sunday worship, both campuses

 Occurs at Market Street

replenishing money from the restricted funds on a monthly basis. The Board, staff and I are all resolved to address this issue aggressively in the New Year. The Board has authorized the staff to set up a Money Market account, and we will be moving money into that account regularly, until the full \$40k+ has been moved.

How this affects beloved community is that we need to be aware that working at this does not preclude or prevent us from making hard decisions, if that is necessary. Since I have made a commitment to our Board to do everything I can to ensure that UCH ends the fiscal year in the black (and, at the risk of being too blunt, I don't do "smoke and mirrors"), some hard decisions will need to be made. The Board and I will continue to discuss the church's needs as a part of the decision-making process, and the congregation will be regularly informed about decisions that may affect you. This is part of our commitment to you — to keep the congregation informed. We also wish you to be aware that any changes we may make to church infrastructure are done for the purpose of ensuring that the church survives this year and next — but not beyond. As a continuation of all the Healthy Congregation work, the upcoming discussions that the Board will invite you to participate in will be to decide the church's long-term structure. Short-term decisions are not meant to imply we have already decided what the end result will be for those discussions.

Yes, being a beloved community is hard work. The saying goes, 'many hands make light work.' It is by working together that we will determine the best course for UCH's future. And thank you all for being part of that!

**May it ever be so and blessed be you all!**

— Rev. Mike

Rev. Michael Walker is the Interim Minister at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. He is interested in connecting with you! You may email him with questions and concerns at [revmike@harrisburguu.org](mailto:revmike@harrisburguu.org). If you need an appointment, you may schedule one by calling the office at 717-564-4761 or emailing one of the [administrative](#) staff.

## Message from our President

By Laura Shemick, President



One of my favorite authors says the governing body of an organization signals to its constituents what is important by spending most of its time on that item. By that standard, the Board of Trustees should be spending most of its time on our vision (*Build Bridges, Create Community*). And, to be fair, most of the Board's activities over the past seven months have been about building bridges

and repairing our community, which suffered a severe shock when we did not call a settled minister in May.

Our congregation is making steady progress on our plans. We asked a consultant to help us identify the top issues facing us;

we asked the Healthy Congregations Task Force to collect information for him; we have identified the top issues and have a timetable, with deadlines, for the work we are doing respecting those issues. The Board is working on two of the top three items listed in Mike Harris' October 2015 report to the church: the multisite task force and governance. The Healthy Congregations Task Force is working on the third big issue, how we are as a community — that is, how we interact and how we relate to one another.

The multisite task force, coordinated by board members Debbie Reihart and Chris Dutton, has gathered volunteer workers from the board and the congregation to investigate and analyze the ways in which multisite congregations do their work. It is very important that this fact-collection and analysis be done thoroughly, as the decision that we as a congregation make in May will be based on those facts. What activities will we have at our two sites? What staff? Can we expand or must

JANUARY TRUSTEE ASSIGNMENTS		
DATE	MARKET STREET	CLOVER LANE
3	Debbie Reihart	Laura Shemick
10	Tom Conners	Mary Henninger-Voss
17	Laura Shemick	Dave Forster
24	Laura Shemick	Marilyn McHenry
31	Laura Shemick	Nan Cavanaugh

we contract what we are now doing at Clover Lane and Market Street? Can we work with other groups or congregations going forward, to make even more of what we have?

It is important for us to be thorough, because our situation today – more money than we have is needed to fund current programs and staff – cannot continue “as is.” Our annual income as a congregation has been and will continue to be supplemented by our reserves (also called the endowment) unless we increase pledge and other income; our reserves are finite– they will not last forever.

Once the facts have been collected and analyzed, every member of the congregation will be able to review them and voice their preferences for the shape of UCH going forward. The Board will publicize the materials and host meetings for candid discussions about them. Those discussions will lead to the creation of specific options, which the congregation will review; we will adopt one of those options in May.

And now for a word about “the speed of church.” It’s understandable that people who are not personally involved in fact-collection and analysis view the process as excruciatingly long. It’s true. This type of project in particular has a great many moving parts, all of which must fit together at the end. Please be patient, and remember that having a lot of people involved in making a good decision takes quite some time. Decision theory says that one person can make a decision quickly, but those who are not involved might not support it. A small group can make a decision over a longer time, but it

might not be supported by a significant number of folks outside that group. A very large group (such as our congregation) must take quite some time to make a decision, with as many people as possible involved, for the decision to accurately reflect the will of the group and to be a true path to the future.

The third item on the Board’s to-do list is the issue of governance. Many folks in our congregation, oddly enough, have not made a deep study of our governance structure, perhaps because it is a very dull subject with no immediate effects. As a result, confusion reigns about who does what, why and when. This problem actually occurs in any group that has more than about 50 people, so UCH is not unique by any means. It is, however, a continuing source of annoyance to congregants who want to get things done.

Please look at the website for a new page, “How Things Work at UCH.” This item has also been published on bulletin boards, for those who prefer hard copy. More than a “who to call” list, this page allows the curious to find out who makes coffee hour happen, why the gardens look so nice, how to get items into the newsletter, and what the Board actually does.

Additionally, the Board is considering bylaw changes for how the congregation makes important decisions. The desired end is a very large number of votes when important issues are at hand. To that end, we are also considering changes in how voting occurs. Our bylaws currently require a specific number of members to be physically present at congregational meetings. There are pluses and minuses for such a requirement, as there are for voting electronically or by mail. The Board will present the proposed bylaw changes to the congregation soon; we encourage and hope for a vigorous and civil debate.

Happy New Year, and thank you, as always, for your heartfelt participation in our community.

Respectfully submitted, *Laura Shemick,*

## Membership News

### **Annabelle Victoria Stone-Thonus**

UCH members Ben and Nikki Stone-Thonus are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Annabelle Victoria, born at 10:00 a.m. Dec. 4, 2015, at Harrisburg Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs. 8oz and was 18 inches long. She is the granddaughter of UCH member Pat Kauffman and joins her brother Jackson, 3, at home.



### **Greg Boyd**

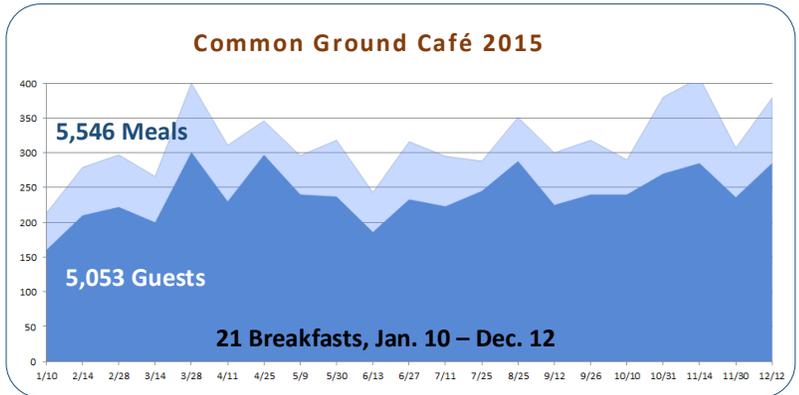
UCH member Gregory Boyd, currently serving as Interim Director of Religious Education at Neighborhood UU Church (Pasadena, CA), reads a “Story for All Ages” at the Christmas Eve Family Service at the church. His mother, UCH member Margaret Carrow, was also present at the service.



## Gather the Spirit for Justice

Gather the Spirit for Justice (GTS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that brings together residents of Allison Hill, area organizations, businesses, and churches to address issues of social justice and economic equity. In collaboration with the UCH, it is responsible for executing the Common Ground Community Café and Common Ground Community Center.

Common Ground Café, also known as the Community Breakfast, occurs on the second and last Saturday of the month. A typical breakfast “crew” includes 25-30 volunteers from UCH, sister organizations, and community residents. Over the past year, we have orchestrated 21 breakfasts, served more than 5,000 guests, and teamed with the following organizations to staff the event:



- ⊕ Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
- ⊕ Harrisburg Keystone Rotary Club
- ⊕ Isaac's Famous Grilled Sandwiches
- ⊕ Giant Foods/Ahold
- ⊕ Colonial Park United Church of Christ
- ⊕ Messiah College
- ⊕ Camp Hill United Church of Christ
- ⊕ Capital Area Intermediate Unit
- ⊕ Camp Hill Presbyterian Church
- ⊕ St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral

GTS is pleased to announce receipt of a \$10,000 donation from Ahold, the parent company of Giant Foods, in support of the Community Breakfast. Pictured in the photo are (from right) Samantha Krepps of Giant and GTS board members Tom Conners, Wanda Givens, and Jeff Sigel. In the background is UCH member and breakfast volunteer Chris Chase.



— Compiled from information provided by Donna Hoskins-Helm, Jeff Sigel and Frances Myers

## Wayside Pulpit at Market Street

The Market Street campus ended the year on a many-colored note with a new sign installed in the “wayside pulpit” just before Christmas, commissioned and donated by a member of the congregation.

The term “wayside pulpit” has a Unitarian background. The roadside bulletin board was introduced to North American churches in 1919 by Rev. Henry Hallam Saunderson, minister of the First Parish Church of Brighton, Mass., and secretary of the American Unitarian Association's publicity department (1915-21). As he later reported, “Many bulletin boards in front of churches were ineffectual because they were either kept empty or held notices which had outlived their usefulness.” Inspired by the local wayside shrines he had seen in Europe, Saunderson decided to create “wayside sermons,” liberal messages that would make people stop, read, and search their conscience. As noted in our wayside pulpit,

“EVERYONE IS WELCOME!”

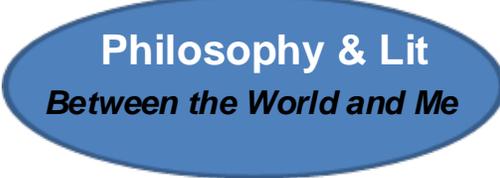


## Philosophy and Literature

The Philosophy & Literature Group usually meets on the second Sunday (June-April) and on the third Sunday in May, usually at Clover Lane. In December, the group chooses its reading list for the upcoming year. The reading list for the New Year follows.

### 2016 Reading List

MONTH	BOOK
January	<i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta-Nehisi Coates A searing meditation on what it means to be black in America today, it takes the form of a letter from Coates to his 14-year-old son, Samori, and speaks of the perils of living in a country where unarmed black men and boys are dying at the hands of police officers. It won the National Book Award for Nonfiction in 2015.
February	<i>My Brilliant Friend: Neapolitan Novels</i> , by Elena Ferrante A modern masterpiece from one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, <i>My Brilliant Friend</i> is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante's inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship.
March	<i>Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption</i> by Bryan Stevenson The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. <i>Just Mercy</i> is also the UUA's Common Read for 2015-16, with a <a href="#">study guide</a> and PowerPoint presentation available to foster discussion.
April	<i>Fire Underground: The Ongoing Tragedy of The Centralia Mine Fire</i> by David DeKok Pennsylvania natives (and lots of folks elsewhere) have heard of Centralia, Pa. -- a small town ravaged by an underground mine fire that has been burning since 1962. David DeKok tells the whole story here. It's a fascinating tale of (bipartisan) bureaucratic bungling, wishful thinking and outright stubbornness. You might think an entire book about a mine fire would get a little dry. Think again. DeKok is a seasoned reporter with an eye for detail who tells the story with verve..
May	<i>The Innovators: How a Group of Inventors, Hackers, Geniuses and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution</i> , by Walter Isaacson Following his blockbuster biography of Steve Jobs, Walter Isaacson has now given us <i>The Innovators</i> , the revealing story of the people who created the computer and the Internet. It is destined to be the standard history of the digital revolution and an indispensable guide to how innovation really happens.
June	<i>Being Mortal and What Matters at the End</i> , by Atul Gawande The book tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending.
July	<i>The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War</i> by Stephen Kintzer The book describes the central figures in U.S. foreign policy and intelligence activities for over four decades and how the Dulles brothers shaped America's standoff with the Soviet Union, led the U.S. into war in Vietnam, and helped topple governments they thought unfriendly to American interests.
August	<i>Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel</i> by Carl Safina The book takes us inside animals' lives and minds, witnessing their profound capacity for perception, thought and emotion, showing why the word "it" is often inappropriate as we discover "who" they really are.
September	<i>Life Inc: How Corporatism Conquered the World, and How We Can Take It Back</i> by Douglas Rushkoff Rushkoff traces how corporations went from being convenient legal fictions to being the dominant fact of contemporary life. The resulting ideology, corporatism, has infiltrated all aspects of civics, commerce, and culture. <i>Life Inc</i> explains why we see our homes as investments rather than places to live, our 401(k) plans as the ultimate measure of success, and the Internet as just another place to do business. Most important, Rushkoff illuminates both how we've become disconnected from our world and how we can reconnect to our towns, to the value we can create, and, mostly, to one another.
October	<i>The ISIS Apocalypse: History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State</i> by William McCants The book explains how the Islamic State attracted so many followers and conquered so much land by being more ruthless, more apocalyptic, and more devoted to state-building than its competitors.
November	<i>Corporations Are Not People: Why They Have More Rights Than You Do and What You Can Do About It</i> by Jeffery D. Clements This is the first practical guide for every citizen on the problem of corporate personhood and the tools we have to overturn it. Jeff Clements explains why the Citizen's United case is the final win in a campaign for corporate domination of the state that began in the 1970s under Richard Nixon. More than this, Clements shows how unfettered corporate rights will impact public health, energy policy, the environment, and the justice system.

DATE	TIME	GROUP	LOCATION
<b>Mon 4</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Amrit Yoga (Weekly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>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.</p> <p><b>Repeats every Monday.</b> Contact <a href="#">Ed Sykes</a>. No experience necessary!</p>			
<b>Tue 5</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Mindfulness Meditation Group (Weekly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Mindfulness is an acquired skill, practiced while meditating but vital in our everyday lives. Mindfulness is helpful in reducing stress, managing pain, focusing attention, and overcoming habitual negative behavior. Mindfulness can also point the way to spiritual practice, calming the mind and developing awareness and insight.</p> <p>The ability to be mindful is strengthened through consistent practice. Mindfulness Meditation Group provides a space for us to practice together in support of one another. Contact <a href="#">Chuck Daley</a>. <b>Repeats every Tuesday.</b></p> <p><b>Also note</b> special day-long event on Jan. 31.</p>			
<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Queen Spirit (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Queen Spirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. All women are welcome to join together in creating a wonderful new year of QueenSpirit Circles. We have heard some QS sisters talking about topics they want to explore...Wednesday, Jan. 6, is the time to bring your ideas to the circle and watch what grows out of our brainstorming to create circles for the first half of 2016. We already have a program for June: Cordell and Carlotta will be bringing in the QueenSpirit quilt, and we will work together on the finishing stitches that are needed to complete it. Very exciting. We really appreciate all the hard work, time, and commitment that they have put into this project to bring it to this point.</p> <p>Potluck starts at 6:00 p.m.; please bring your own table service and a dish to share; circle starts at 7:00 p.m. Contact <a href="#">Randa Todd</a>.</p>			
<b>Thu 7</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsals</b>	<b>Both campuses</b>
<p>The Market Street choir begins rehearsing for the new year, tonight at 7:00 pm. If you have been contemplating joining, please come. Come a little early and we'll fill you in on all you need to know and plan to stay for rehearsal. If you like what you hear, come back again the next week! The group is open to adults and high school teens. Questions? Contact <a href="#">Sparkie Radcliffe</a>.</p> <p>Note: the Clover Lane choir has open rehearsals each week. Please contact <a href="#">Linda Hope</a> if interested in participating.</p>			
<b>Sat 9</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>Common Ground Café (twice a month)</b>	<b>Market</b>
<p>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. <b>Repeats January 30.</b></p> <p>To join the list of volunteers, please contact <a href="#">Clay Lambert</a>.</p>			
<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>The Philosophy &amp; Literature Group usually meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. A list of all books for 2016 appears on page 5. This month, we discuss <i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta-Nehisi Coates. A searing meditation on what it means to be black in America today, this book-length letter from Coates to his 14-year-old son, Samori, speaks of the perils of living in a country where unarmed black men and boys are dying at the hands of police officers.</p> <p>The group meets at Clover lane this month. All are welcome. Please contact <a href="#">Don Brown</a> for information.</p>			

<b>Fri 15</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>Clover Lane Coffee House</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Clover Lane Coffee House sponsors concerts monthly from September to May, normally at 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday. Admission \$10 at the door, maximum \$25 per family. All are welcome.</p> <p>This month, we are pleased to present Jay Umble and Bill Druck, performing as a jazz duo. Among other things, Jay is an adjunct music faculty member at Bucknell University, Susquehanna University and Messiah College; leader of several local bands; and the author of nine publications on jazz and blues guitar. He has four solo CDs and one with long-time collaborator Bill Druck.</p> <p>Bill is a six-string and seven-string guitarist who plays contemporary music and modern jazz while staying rooted in the traditional jazz tradition. He is on the faculty of York College of Pennsylvania, where he teaches jazz guitar and contemporary electric guitar with focus on musicianship, fretboard harmony, and improv tools. The duo collaborated in creating their 2012 CD, <i>Relevance</i>, subtitled, "Two guitar players traveling the musical road from tonal jazz to textural abstraction."</p> <p>Please contact <a href="#">Bart Carpenter</a> for additional information.</p>			
			
<b>Tue 12</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Women's Night Out (Monthly)</b>	<b>Off-site</b>
<p>Women's Night Out is a lay-led ministry that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at a local restaurant, alternating locations between the East and West Shores. Each month at dinner, participants take a collection and contribute to the Ecumenical Food Pantry.</p> <p>This month, we meet at Isaac's Restaurant in West Shore Plaza, Lemoyne. To join us for dinner and experience the friendship while providing support to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, please contact <a href="#">Ann Sitrin</a> by Sunday, Jan. 10.</p>			
			
<b>Tue 19</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>CroneSpirit (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>The lay-led ministry CroneSpirit meets from 10 a.m. - noon in Fuller Chapel at the Clover Lane campus. Our topic this month is "Keep Good Mental Health When Physical Health Fails." We are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👩 A discussion group for women over 65, both UCH members and non-members</li> <li>👩 Honoring a crone tradition of conscious female aging and self-power</li> <li>👩 For personal enrichment, such as through intellect, knowledge, comfort or companionship, anticipating a maximum of 10 women</li> <li>👩 Sharing, listening and learning, without gossip or speaking disrespectfully to or about each other</li> </ul> <p>We look forward to seeing you. For information, please contact <a href="#">Joan Hellmann</a>.</p>			
			
<b>Wed 20</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Clover Grove (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists that meets on the third Wednesday. This month, Clover Grove members will have a potluck and plan our 2016 schedule. Join us on Wednesday January, 20 from 6-8 PM in the Clover Lane community room and bring a dish to share. Please contact <a href="#">Kirsten Salvatore</a> about arranging childcare (participants split the cost). If interested in joining the Clover Grove mailing list, please contact <a href="#">Jen Wallitsch</a>.</p>			
			
<b>Tue 26</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Auction Committee (Monthly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Come brainstorm ideas, themes and be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2016 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 <a href="#">Patti Hazell</a> for additional information and mark your calendar for auction night: Saturday, November 5th, 2016!</p>			
			
<b>Sat 30</b>	<b>8:45</b>	<b>MMG Day of Mindfulness</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Mindful Meditation Group (MMG) is sponsoring a Mindfulness Day with Harrisburg "Water in the Wave" Sangha. Water in the Wave is a community that practices meditation in the tradition of Plum Village (France) and Buddhist priest Thích Nhất Hạnh (b. 1926). Nhất Hạnh has published more than 100 books; is active in the peace movement; and refrains from animal product consumption as a means of nonviolence towards animals. The Day of Mindfulness will help participants nurture mindfulness in their daily lives and promote greater understanding and love.</p> <p>The session is open to all; no prior experience necessary. Participants should wear clothing appropriate for simple body movement or meditative positions; chairs and cushions are available for mindfulness exercises.</p> <p><b>Pre-registration required</b>; please contact <a href="#">Judy Linder</a> or <a href="#">Chuck Daley</a>.</p>			

## Merced Ramirez Saldana

Our 2014 LaGrone Scholar was Merced Ramirez Saldana, now a junior business major at Messiah College. He did not meet his Fall Semester goal of straight As, but he says he did well and liked all of his classes: Spanish, Microeconomics, Introduction to Christian Theology, a course on social inequality, and a computer class. He has also participated in the Latin Dance Club (photo) at Messiah. Merced is looking forward to a slightly lighter load in the spring, with only four classes: a Spanish literature class, a business course entitled “Making a Better World,” a class in organizational behavior, and a religion course on Judaism. He will also continue working as an assistant to professors in the Spanish department and as a Spanish tutor on campus. He hopes to increase his hours as a tutor at the Joshua Group, a non-profit organization that mentors at-risk youth in Allison Hill; he is honored to now serve on their Board of Directors.



Last summer Merced met a retired doctor named John Rohrer who was starting a “peacekeepers” group in Harrisburg, similar to a neighborhood watch group. Merced has joined in this endeavor and works with a group of 5 to 10 people walking the streets of the Allison Hill area, meeting business owners and residents to hear their concerns and be a peaceful presence in the neighborhood. Merced is hopeful that he can turn this work into an experiential learning project for school. —Submitted by Amy Allen

## LaGrone Luncheon



Each year, the Oliver LaGrone Committee hosts a luncheon in late December for current scholars and their mentors. Attending this year were Mark Santana Crespo (2015) and his mentor John Hargreaves; Merced Ramirez Saldana (2014) and his mentor, Jeff Sigel. Also present were Rick Hawley, mentor to Stanley Lumpkin (2102) and Jess Chuckalovcak, Amy Allen, Lee Olsen, and Cordell Affeldt.



## 2015 Book Shuffle

The Oliver LaGrone Book shuffle is back! Please hold onto books, CDs, or DVDs to donate to our upcoming sale. Intake starts Jan. 31 at the Clover Lane campus, with the sale occurring Feb. 7 and Feb. 14 before and after the Clover Lane service.

The book shuffle is a great fundraiser for the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee. Money raised from the sale of the books and other material goes directly to the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund. Help make it a success by donating old books and then buying 'new to you' books.

Questions? Need to arrange an alternate donation time? Want to donate baked goods to sell at the shuffle? Please contact [Jess Chuckalovcak](#) to discuss logistics. — Submitted by Jess Chuckalovcak

## OLIVER COLLECTIVE Year-End Report

The OLIVER COLLECTIVE wishes to thank all who participated in last year’s art shows to benefit the UCH Oliver LaGrone Scholarship. Through your generous donations for the art works created by COLLECTIVE members, we added \$1,534.41 to the scholarship fund.

For the 2015 COLLECTIVE shows, special thanks to Producer Wendy Colby; Artists Cordell Affeldt, Linda Brown, Wendy Colby, Mary Lynn Fecile, Gary Fey, Kevin Geist, John Gilbert, Patti Hazell, Linda Hope, Joe Mellilo, Susan Norris, Karen Sykes, Marybeth Williams, and Charleen Williamson; and Involved Supporters Mary Ann Coffman, Hannah Belser, Larry Beyer, Pam Desch, John Hope, and Charlene Senglaub. —Submitted by John Hope