



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: Building Bridges, Celebrating Community

From the Minister

Rev. David Kohlmeier is UCH's settled minister.



Transitions. Transitions. Transitions.

Everything is in flux these days. Granted, life is always changing; the Buddha once said that one of the most fundamental of all truths is impermanence. I feel, though, that there is even more change in the air than normal. It's been how many months since the pandemic began? And even

though the vaccine has helped so much seem "normal," as I write this the Delta variant is calling so much of that progress into question. As a parent, I ask every day, "Just how safe is it for my kids?" And time would fail me here to talk about all the political tensions that continue to increase in our nation, and in our commonwealth.

Then, of course, there is UCH itself. This is my first monthly column as your new settled minister, as UCH's first settled minister in a very long time. As any new ministry begins, the question is always, "So...now what happens?"

Transitions. Transitions. Transitions.

In yoga, the teaching says that the transition from one pose to another is in some ways more important than the poses themselves, and in those stretches and transitions the body is at its most vulnerable. That feels like where we are. We are stretching ourselves, as a church and as a broader faith, and as we stretch ourselves, we are open to possibilities beyond our imagining. I do believe this is a historic moment, but it also means we're vulnerable.

When stretching and moving in yoga, we have to mind our limits. We have to know our bodies. And so right now is a time for accepting our limitations. Now is a time for treating our edges and limits, and those of others, with even greater love

So, care for yourself. These are not days for excessive productivity or addiction to the illusion of "perfection."

Give yourself space. Do something every day for yourself that is kind. Care for your body, your heart, your mind.

And care for others. Give each other grace. When someone else isn't their best self, when they forget to respond to an email or when they drop some other kind of ball, be patient. We have all gone through so much for so long now. None of us are totally at our best these days. Be kind to each other, as you would have others be kind to you.

If this past year has taught us anything, it's that we are interwoven in more ways than we can imagine. We hold our lives in each other's hands. So be kind to each other. Let there be grace in the stretching. Let there be love in the transition.

In the days and weeks and months ahead, I so look forward to getting to know you. Please email me. Let's make time to talk. Let me know your journey, how life and this pandemic have stretched you. Share with me the wisdom you've learned. Let's imagine, together, what UCH might bring to this moment. What new ways are we called to love each other? What new challenging uncomfortable stretches are we called to take together?

Breathe. Stretch. Love yourself. Love each other.

We're all in this together. Let's get started! *Reverend David Kohlmeier*

Worship 10:30 a.m. Sundays

August 1: Minding Nature, [Rev. Renee Ruchotzke](#)

An exploration about how we might heal our relationships with each other and with the planet.

August 8: Onward and Upward Forever!, Rev. David

A slogan popular among Unitarians almost 100 years ago was "We believe in the progress of [hu]mankind onward and upward forever!" What made them so optimistic about humanity and the future? Is that kind of optimism realistic, or naive? In this moment of new beginnings for our church, with so much still uncertain in our world, let's explore this old Unitarian slogan and look toward the future together.

August 15: Sabbath as Resistance, Rev. David

In a culture obsessed with always being busy, where so many of us measure our worth by how productive we are, taking moments to rest can be an act of resistance. Using theologian Walter Brueggemann's book, *Sabbath as Resistance*, this service will look in particular at the Jewish custom of Shabbat and challenge us to reject the lies of our modern-day Pharaoh economy.

August 22: God vs. Coronavirus, Rev. David

After more than a year of living through the pandemic, and with the rising variants making the future ever more uncertain, what have we learned? What has COVID-19 revealed about healthy vs. toxic religion? What has it taught us about the deeper meaning of our Unitarian Universalist Principles? This is what we'll reflect on together.

August 31: Resurrecting the Humanist Heart, Rev. David

An important source of the UU tradition is Humanism: an ethical way of life centered on reason, science, and human flourishing, rather than on a God. This includes many Atheists and Agnostics. Some UU Humanists, however, are feeling left behind as our common faith becomes more accepting and affirming of so-called "language of reverence." What is the place for Humanism in Unitarian Universalism today?

Effective August 8, we will worship at Clover Lane, with remote access also available (page 2). Details forthcoming via email announcement.

President's Message

By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg officially has a settled minister! That's right, Rev. David begins his ministry with us August 1.

This is an important and impressive milestone for us. It's the beginning of a new chapter in our church life. We have worked hard over many years to prepare ourselves for this moment, and we have succeeded. We are ready.

Rev. David will be our first settled minister in eight years. Perhaps you wonder how this is different than an interim minister. They are both ministers, right? They're both ministers, but they focus on different things. An interim minister can help a congregation transition between one settled minister and the next, helping the congregation determine who they are and what they need. Sometimes there is grief after the loss of a minister. Sometimes the congregation has grown and changed, or the community or culture around them has changed, and they need to adapt. An interim minister can help the congregation with these transitions.

A settled minister hopes to develop a long-term spiritual relationship with a congregation, in ways that may not be possible when a congregation is in transition. It can be a deeper ministry, because they are developing a longer-term relationship and focusing on longer-term goals and aspirations. (For a quick explanation of how the term "settled" comes from English Common Law, check out this article, "So seriously... What is a Settled Pastor?")

David and his family moved to Devon several weeks ago. It's in Chester County, not far from Paoli, and about half an hour from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, where David's spouse Amotz will pursue his studies. David will commute from Devon, either by car or train, and we will work out the schedule, just as we did for Rev. Lyn

Cox and Rev. Tony Johnson, so that he can be present with us when needed.

Ten years ago, it would have seemed strange for a minister to commute to work. Today it seems much more normal, especially when combined with the technology we have all discovered over the past year. Rev. Tony commuted from New Jersey to Harrisburg for two years of his ministry with us, staying at an apartment when he was here. Before that, Rev. Lyn commuted back and forth from Baltimore.

Rev. David's arrival coincides with our steps to reopen the building and meet in person. The reopening task force has been investigating how we can do this safely and appropriately. Nobody knows for sure what future church life or church practices will be, although it is likely to be a blend of the old and the new. We will investigate this new world together!

He will give his first sermon August 8. There will also be a special outdoor welcoming party for him that afternoon. Check the weekly email for final details.

Beyond that, Rev. David will spend the first several weeks getting to know the members of our church, as well as the various volunteer and leadership groups. There are a lot of us! We have 220 voting members, plus numerous friends, so please be patient as he learns each of us by name. And let's make it easier for him by wearing our name tags. Please also make sure the church office has your photograph on file in the online directory. If you're unsure whether your photo is available, please check out the Members Online Directory.

I am thrilled to start this new chapter of our church life. We are truly ready for this moment, and I see good times ahead for our congregation. Please join me in welcoming Rev. David to our congregation, as we start this next chapter of our life together.

David Spear

Sunday Services Update

Effective Aug. 8, UCH intends to conduct worship services on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, with live streaming via Zoom. There is limited seating capacity. The church office will send an email each Tuesday with information on how to reserve a seat and any specific instructions for "code of conduct." For those attending services on site, we will follow the color-coded system introduced in June. This involves color-coded name tags, where the individual signifies:

Table with 2 columns: Color and Description. Rows: Red (socially distanced), Yellow (closer proximity), Green (with a hug)

Logistics for on-site services are subject to change, based on changes in COVID.

Multigenerational Theme for Summer: PLAY



By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)

The last time I wrote to you was in June as I was attending our virtual Liberal Religious Education Associations (LREDA) Professional Days. These were followed by our virtual General Assembly along with a couple of our staff members and congregants. This in turn was followed by a much-needed two-week study leave to reflect on new learnings as well as some much-needed rest as we prepare for our new minister's arrival. Now I am back, and I come filled with renewed energy and lots of ideas for this coming year.

While I was away, I had a youth contact me about their need for some volunteer community service hours. Community Service requirements are quite common in our schools as well as for college applicants. On my first day back, I had the opportunity to work with this youth. The first thing we did was introduce ourselves, and we discussed their interests, and what their hopes and dreams are for UCH. I remind you that my service started with you during this pandemic, so sadly, I really don't know many of our youth. So you can only imagine what a joy it was to spend some time with this individual! I especially enjoyed hearing their stories about what this place means to them. Our youth are the future of this church.... their ideas, energy, and love for UCH are contagious and serve as a reminder of what a gift our children are to our faith and community.

Religious professionals know that at the heart of our religion are the ideas of questioning, seeking, wondering, exploring ideas and changing our minds when we reach a new understanding.

At this time our children and youth are facing uncertainty. This past year it was a roller coaster of uncertainty. Will school be in-person or online? Will my parents, my relatives, my friends, become sick with Covid? Will I? What will tomorrow bring? Yes, our youth ask lots of questions and they are used to a certain amount of ambiguity.

However, our faith offers the skills needed to navigate life. We empower them to have faith in themselves and the "spirit of life." We teach them our UU principles and sources. We model our principles by accepting our youth for who they are and we love them for their own individuality.

We offer our youth the gift of community. Our kiddos find supportive peers and an extended family that supports them through their successes and challenges. Our community likes to hear their voices and listens attentively to their thoughts and ideas. For example, in my experience the Coming-of-Age Service is one of the most well attended services, as it reminds us of our own youth. But more importantly, we grow as adults when we listen to our youth share their own credos or their belief statement, knowing that what our youth say today may well change the next day, the next week, or the next year when they are exposed to new learnings and experiences. Why do we listen to our youth? We listen because their ideas matter!

If you have a youth in need of hours, please let me know, as I would love to find ways in which they can become involved and part of our wider community.

Theme-Based Ministry

Theme-based ministry helps create multigenerational connections as people of all ages explore common themes in age-appropriate ways. Theme-based ministry extends faith development beyond Sunday morning. Families can continue the conversation in the car ride home or over the dinner table; our covenant groups are given resources so they can go deeper with the theme. This model can be used with any sized congregation.

Why Theme-Based Ministry? Please consider the following, adapted from [UUA material](#).

- ⊕ Offer worship experiences with depth
- ⊕ Ensure a balance of theological and religious learning
- ⊕ Better integrate spiritually connected programming across the lifespan
- ⊕ Weave a central thread throughout all church programming
- ⊕ Build a cohesive theological understanding

Please Register for 2021-22 Children/Youth RE

If you have not done so already, please register your child or children/youth for Religious Education at [this link](#) as soon as possible.

Religious Exploration (continued)

- ✚ Find common language and common symbols
- ✚ Embrace a practical theology you use in everyday life
- ✚ Meet the very real challenge of today's busy families and intermittent church attendance
- ✚ Give focus to your music and arts staff

For our theme-based ministry (chart), we have chosen to work with [Soul Matters Sharing Circle](#), a resource-sharing UU collaborative involving hundreds of UU churches. The Soul Matters Sharing Circle is a network of UU congregations who follow the same monthly themes so we can more easily share covenant group material, as well as worship, sermon, music and children's religious education resources. They are a web of support and connection. Companions traveling a new journey together each month.

Monthly Themes 2021-22

Month	Theme	Month	Theme
September	Embracing Possibility	February	Widening the Circle
October	Cultivating Relationship	March	Renewing Faith
November	Holding History	April	Awakening
December	Opening to Joy	May	Nurturing Beauty
January	Living with Intention	June	Celebrating Blessings

You will hear about our themes in our Worship Services, E-news, covenant groups, Children & Youth RE Programming and our C&Y RE Newsletters

2021-2022 RE Registration – Yes! It's Time!

Flexibility is the key to success this year in our Children & Youth RE program. Months ago, I was planning on the new program year to include Our Whole Lives (OWL) programming for all of our kids. However, due to Delta COVID, we are monitoring the safety of our programs closely. This means that for now, we will be supporting synchronous and asynchronous activities based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for safely gathering with our children and youth. Please also refer to [UUA Guidance on Gathering In-Person When COVID-19 Subsides](#).

I am hopeful that our Children & Youth programming will be able to meet again in person soon. Until we can gather in person and begin our OWL programs, we will be using the Soul Matters themes as listed above. We will begin in September with the theme of *Embracing Possibility*; how appropriate while living in these times of uncertainty.

In either case, we do encourage all families to register your children and youth for the 2021-2022 RE year as soon as possible, so we can plan for volunteer needs and UU activities. If you cannot access the web link to register, please contact [me directly](#). We'll be recruiting volunteers separately this year. Look for communication later this summer.

Fall Covenant Groups

The Covenant Group Ministry Team was hoping to announce with certainty whether Covenant Groups would meet in person or via Zoom starting in September. Until there is an official announcement that UCH is reopening to in-person indoor meetings, we will plan to meet via Zoom. These arrangements will be fluid as circumstances dictate. We are tentatively planning to offer groups at the same times as last year: the second Monday and second Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and on the second Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. Even if in-person meetings become available, we will strive to provide some accommodation for those who would prefer to remain socially distant.

Covenant groups are a wonderful way to get to know and keep in touch with fellow congregants while enriching your personal spiritual journey. Covenant Groups provide:

- ✚ A place to belong
- ✚ A place for spiritual exploration where each person's journey is honored
- ✚ A sacred space where the stories of our lives are heard
- ✚ A safe place, strengthening the fabric of our beloved community
- ✚ A place to listen better and care more.

An official sign-up will be made available early this month, but you may direct questions or pre-registry requests to [Bridgette Parker](#) (text 214-202-7532). The Covenant Group Ministry Team looks forward to seeing you in the Fall!

—Submitted by Bridgette Parker

UCH Auction: Nov. 13, 2021

The Auction Committee welcomes Rev. David! We look forward to sharing stories that inspire us to work towards realizing our UU principles. Here is a Harrisburg story about recent social justice progress.

Last year, the Commonwealth Monument Project dedicated "[A Gathering at the Crossroads.](#)" Near the Capitol at the corner of Walnut and Third streets, this group of bronze figures commemorates the Old Eighth Ward, which was a vibrant Black neighborhood before it was destroyed to expand the Capitol complex. It coincided with the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage (19th Amendment) and the 150th anniversary of Black male suffrage (15th Amendment). In addition, on June 15, 2021, a Toni Morrison "[Bench by the Road](#)" was dedicated nearby. There are only about 30 such benches worldwide, so it is an honor to have one in Harrisburg.



Please visit this "small bench by the road" marking the unsung heroes of color that Morrison thought would never be remembered. This year's UCH auction theme, "Made in PA," is an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the history, resources, and heroes of all kinds in this area.

Please donate to help our auction succeed in its mission. Perhaps you can help a church member write their story or create an audio version for their family members. Do you have an interesting piece of local, exotic, or church history that you can donate for the auction? Maybe you are deeply knowledgeable about some little-known local lore and could offer a guided tour event. Are you an expert at helping us look at our biases and privilege? Let us consider the deeper currents and honor the previously unknown stories as we work to create a more just and equitable world.

Please save the date and join us for community-building and fun at the auction on Saturday, Nov. 13. Get your questions answered, volunteer, or donate to the auction now (and BEFORE October 1) by emailing uchauction@gmail.com.

The Case of the Missing Time Capsule

We have received a query from Sara (Murphy) Laird, who attended UCH as a child in the early 1990s. She recalls participating in an all-youth event involving burying a time capsule near the cherry trees...to be opened some decades later. Gregory Boyd has corroborated the story, confirming it occurred during Stan Sears' ministry (1990-1998). Greg also says children/youth buried another time capsule in the early 2000s when Howard Dana was minister.

Please contact [Cory Ness](#) or [Bart Carpenter](#) if you have memories of either time capsule! We'd love to see what we can dig up!

Gather the Spirit for Justice: Grand Re-Opening Celebration

Ed. note: Gather the Spirit for Justice (GTSFJ) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization jointly founded by UCH and the Shared Ministry during the time we operated at 1508 Market Street. It now operates out of Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street.

After more than a year of closure and limited service due to the coronavirus pandemic, Gather the Spirit for Justice is pleased to invite UCH members to a grand re-opening Open House event from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 14. All are invited to come get reacquainted with the newly painted space or visit for the first time. Come enjoy a hot dog fresh off the grill with other refreshments, play a game of cornhole, line dance with neighbors, or just hang out.

The Common Ground Community Center is planning to reopen to the general public in September with new hours of operation in the afternoon/early evening. This new availability will offer community members who work (or attend school) during the day greater access to the Center. The GTSFJ board is working closely with Jacquie Rucker, Program Director, and the staff at Christ Lutheran to finalize the schedule and will be reaching out to ask for volunteer support in the very near future.



Share the Plate: Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope

Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope.

Located at the back of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 248 Seneca Street in Harrisburg, [Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope](#) is a 501(c)3 organization that provides high quality, culturally competent, free, faith-based primary healthcare to uninsured and underserved adults in the greater Harrisburg communities. In addition to volunteers, paid staff includes an executive director, a medical director, and [Kay Huber](#), formerly of Shared Ministry, who serves as a nurse practitioner. Earlier this spring, Beacon held vaccine clinics for 273 community members. Kay reports: "One of our patients from Nigeria was so excited to receive her vaccine, she asked to take selfies with the volunteers to send back to Nigeria to encourage her family and friends not to be afraid of the vaccine."



BEACON CLINIC

For Health and Hope

Information for Potential New Members

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg is a welcoming congregation, open to people from any/all (or no) religious backgrounds. If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, we encourage you to peruse [100 Questions that Non-Members Ask about Unitarian Universalism](#) for background information about our faith tradition. An overview of the "Pathways to Membership" at UCH appears on our [website](#).

For further information about our congregation and the membership process, please feel free to reach out to [Bart Carpenter](#) or another member of the Membership Action Council. During the pandemic, we are conducting information sessions via Zoom, and we welcome your inquiries.

— Submitted by Bart Carpenter



Guest Column

By Jim Cavanaugh, Lay Community Minister



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are UU Values that could come to our congregation - explicitly

We UUs support diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a rule, even though they aren't specifically stated in our Seven Principles. Some have suggested that UCH adopt the 8th Principle that has been circulating in UU congregations for a while,¹ but that issue is being addressed by a [UUA commission](#). Perhaps a better way to address our need for a congregational emphasis on DEI is in the UUA report [Widening the Circle of Concern](#), in the [Governance section](#) of all places. Among other things, the report suggests that congregations should consider adding DEI statements to their bylaws.

The diversity consultants who wrote this point out:

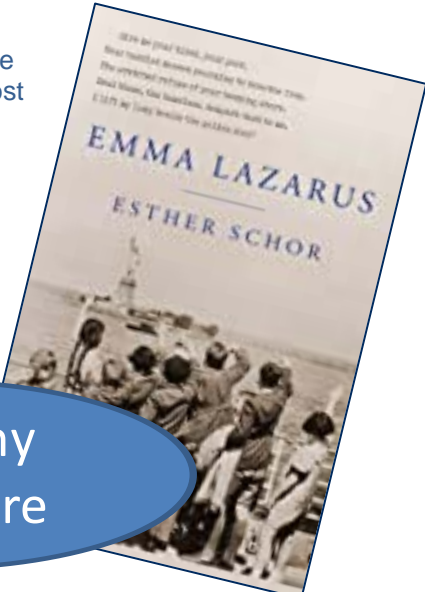
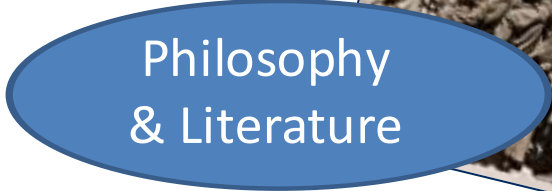
While bylaws can be changed, it is likely that statements reflecting the evolving DEI issues and concerns will change more frequently. As a result, it may be more utilitarian to create a policy related to DEI, then refer to the separate policy from the bylaws. Such a reference could include: "The UUA [or UCH] and the Board are committed to incorporating the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the governance and operations of this corporation [congregation]. These values are (or shall be) included in a DEI policy adopted by the Board [and updated annually]."

Maybe UCH could add a brief statement about incorporating the values of DEI to our bylaws and adopt a policy – to be updated annually – stating what we are doing to implement the new emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. Making ourselves accountable is a good way to get change to happen, don't you think?

The [Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice](#) (PA RCRJ), which I serve as President Emeritus as part of my Community Ministry, added words like these to their bylaws a few months ago. The PA RCRJ board, which was originally all white, now includes three women of color. Meetings routinely include the question: "who else should be at this meeting."

¹ We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Date	Time	Group	Location
Mon 2	Various	Heart Rhythm Meditation	Zoom
<p>Heart Rhythm Meditation (HRM) is a type of meditation that involves conscious breathing, in which the individual consciously controls their breathing in order to influence their mental, emotional, and physical state. Join Libby Tisdell in twice-weekly sessions, via Zoom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Friday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (Friday Zoom link) 🕒 Monday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Monday link) <p>People can drop in or out as they want. Please contact Libby Tisdell for additional information.</p>			
Wed 4	6:00	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Offsite
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. SoulCollage facilitator Susan Norris will guide us in creating our own soul collage cards. SoulCollage is an intuitive arts practice that develops creativity and intuition, encourages self-discovery, and provides personal guidance. You do not have to be an artist to make the cards.</p> <p>The August 4th Queen Spirit Circle will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the New Cumberland Borough Park pavilion, 517 Front St, New Cumberland. Everyone will be able to create at least one card. Bring images, glue stick, card stock (5" x 8", or comfortable working size), scissors, and cutting mat. If you do not have all these items, Susan will supply lots of pictures, extra x-acto knives, card stock, and glue sticks.</p> <p>All who identify as women are welcome in a co-creating sacred space. Please bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share. Bring your place setting and serving spoons. Potluck begins at 6 p.m. and our circle begins at 7 p.m. Contact Rebecca Waldemar (717-364-2029) for further information.</p>			
Sun 8	7:00	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Zoom
<p>The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. and (historically) at the church. During the current pandemic, the session is a virtual meeting via Zoom. This month, the group meets to discuss <i>Emma Lazarus</i> by Esther Schor. From Amazon.com:</p> <p>This is the definitive biography of the poet whose sonnet "The New Colossus" appears on the base of the Statue of Liberty, welcoming immigrants to their new home. Emma Lazarus’s most famous poem gave a voice to the Statue of Liberty, but her remarkable life has remained a mystery until now. She was a woman so far ahead of her time that we are still scrambling to catch up with her—a feminist, a Zionist, and an internationally famous Jewish American writer before these categories even existed.</p> <p>Drawing upon a cache of personal letters undiscovered until the 1980s, Esther Schor brings this vital woman to life in all her complexity. Born into a wealthy Sephardic family in 1849, Lazarus published her first volume of verse at seventeen and gained entrée into New York’s elite literary circles. Although she once referred to her family as “outlaw” Jews, she felt a deep attachment to Jewish history and peoplehood. Her compassion for the downtrodden Jews of Eastern Europe—refugees whose lives had little in common with her own—helped redefine the meaning of America itself.</p> <p>Books for the remainder of the year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Sept. 12 - <i>The Reactionary Mind</i>, by Cory Robin 🕒 Oct. 10 - <i>Metropolis: A History of the City, Humankind's Greatest Invention</i>, by Ben Wilson 🕒 Nov. 14 - <i>Barnum: An American Life</i>, by Robert Wilson <p>Please contact Don Brown for information.</p>			



Date	Time	Group	Location
Tue 24	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	Zoom
<p>Theme: Made in PA</p> <p>Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021</p> <p>Place: UCH Clover Lane</p> <p>The Auction Planning Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. This month, the meeting is again via Zoom.</p> <p>Start thinking now about auction ideas and donations for 2021! Come brainstorm ideas, themes, and be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2021 Church Auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success.</p> <p>Please contact Patti Hazell (717-576-9848) for additional information. A Zoom link will be sent to Auction Committee members a few days prior to the meeting.</p>			
Sat 28	8:00	Adopt-a-Highway	Off-site
<p>The Adopt-a-Highway cadre is responsible for two miles of Lindle Road near the Clover Lane campus. Policing actions are held in the spring, summer, and fall. THIS IS THE DAY. Also note we meet at 8:00 a.m. to avoid the heat. PennDOT provides orange safety vests and highway warning signs that we use during litter pick-ups. It also provides trash bags and picks up the bagged litter from the roadside. Volunteers must be at least eight years old, and those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Swatara Church of God, 4860 Lindle Road. Please contact John Hargreaves for information.</p>			



Membership News

Sin Rabe

Welcome this new member to our congregation!

Sin (sounds like "seen") Rabe is an information technology professional, a digital artist, poet, philosopher and part-time madman. He is the current Body Master of [Azul Nox Oasis](#) in Harrisburg; was a co-founder of the Maryland Alliance of Earth Traditions and Religions in Westminster, MD; and was co-founder of the neopagan Crann Bethad Protogrove, [ADF](#). He has been active in various spiritual communities since 1989.

Sin studies comparative religion and practices a variety of spiritual systems and methodologies using elements of Gnosticism, and both earth-based and celestial toolkits. He teaches on earth-based magicks, Western ceremonial traditions, planetary, and [Thelemic](#) topics. Also, he can make a mean cup of coffee.



Jefferson Brown (1978-2021)

We mourn the loss to our community.



Jefferson Daniel Brown, 42, died unexpectedly on July 13 of complications from epilepsy. He is the son of UCH members Don and Linda Brown. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his brother, Ben. A memorial service is scheduled Oct. 9 at UCH.

Jeff grew up at UCH and participated in Religious Education during the 1980s and 1990s. He graduated from Camp Hill High School and Penn State/Harrisburg. In 2006, Jeff and Ben moved to Austin, Texas, to pursue a career in music. In the intervening years, they were active in multiple ensembles, including [No Show Ponies](#), [The Savage Poor](#), and [Shinyribs](#). Jeff was an active songwriter and musician on the Austin music scene. In 2018, he was recognized as one of the 10 best bass players in Austin. Jeff also wrote and performed a weekly radio show, *Rock N Roll Janitor*, on KBSR, Black Sparrow Radio, which helped listeners experience deeper meanings in songs by comparing tunes from various genres through common themes.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Jeff's memory to Ryleigh Shover, whom Jeff helped raise as a daughter. Checks can be made payable to Linda Brown, including "Ryleigh" in the subject line.