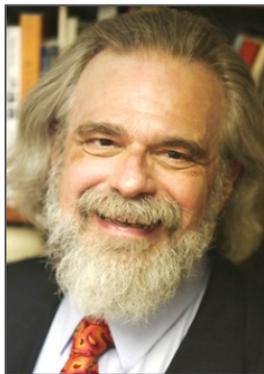




From the Minister



The Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson is serving as UCH Minister 2018-21.

What we call the Holiday Season is a mix of European, Middle Eastern and Pagan cultural practices. This is because, over time and space, humanity meets and mixes.

My reality is that I grew up in a world that was culturally Christian in that Christianity

(in many varieties) was the dominant but not the only religion. In my childhood in New York and New England, Judaism was the only significant alternative. I now know that this perspective was limited but common in the 1950s and '60s. Today we know now that Christian culture was not solely the product of Judaism and Christianity's lived experience in Europe and the Mediterranean region. Indeed, all the historical narratives of the birth of Jesus seem to indicate that the nativity was in the spring not the winter of the year. Somehow, Christmas—the birth of Jesus who became known as the Christ (messiah)—became associated with the ancient Saturnalia rather than with the spring equinox. Easter became associated with the spring equinox because of the connection of the passion narrative with Passover.

It would be extremely interesting to document how these associations came about. But I suspect that knowing for sure how they came about would not diminish associations developed over two millennia and on three (or more) continents.

Indeed, the truth of religious stories is the truth that people give them—not their verifiable facticity. While the historical hints in the gospels and other ancient sources may clarify the origins of the sacred stories and holy days, they are less important than the meanings and practices of members of several cultures and faiths who have lived with these stories over two millennia.

I know this statement creeps out many of my fellow rationalists when I say it, but I will stand by it: The verifiable facts behind many religious stories and teachings in many faiths—not just in Christianity, to which Unitarianism and Universalism trace their origins—are less important than the meanings the adherents to these traditions ascribed to them. These meanings both interpret verifiable facts—sparse as they may be—and challenge any confidence we have that we have arrived at absolute truth.

Rather, the truth is in the interpretation of the best history we know. The best rational and historical research and interpretation can support an array of understandings of what any person may sincerely believe to be the facts. What rationalist, scientific moderns identify as the hard facts are really the best interpretations of partial data. But it's what we have, so I say: Let's make the most of it.

One of the best and most profound courses I took at Harvard Divinity School was titled "Jesus of Nazareth." It was taught by Dieter Georgi, a German-born and educated biblical scholar. Georgi was convinced that even the earliest texts, on which the gospels were based, were themselves interpretations even as they claimed to be factual history or biography. All faith is, in fact, interpretation. Faith is not handed down to us. People create faith out of the history and interpretations of history handed down to them by making their own interpretations in the light of experience. *(Continued on page 5).*

Worship online

10:30 a.m. Sundays • 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve

Dec 6: Boughs from the World Tree — Rev. Johnson

There are sacred trees in many religions and cultures. There is a world tree at the center of many creation stories. The hanging of the greens and the Christmas tree are representations of the world tree.

Dec 13: The Paradoxes of Hannukah — Rev. Johnson

Hannukah is a minor holiday in world Judaism. But it looms large in American culture. It tells the story of a people fighting for the freedom to live by their own strict laws. These are two of the paradoxes of Hannukah.

Dec 20: Expectation and Hope — Rev. Johnson

On the Sunday before Christmas, we celebrate the Advent season with readings and music.

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service — Rev. Johnson

A service of candles and carols, broadcast live, with some recorded elements.

Dec 27: Poetry Sunday — Dorothy Brown

Our annual end-of-year contemplative poetry service. Each Sunday morning, the church will email:

- 🔗 A link to the [YouTube video](#) of the Sunday service
- 🔗 A link to the Zoom session for 11:30 coffee and conversation

Check-in with Rev. Johnson

Rev. Johnson is scheduling times when you can reach him by Zoom, without an appointment, to check in, talk about your concerns, and stay connected. These virtual office hours are scheduled as follows:

- 🔗 [Tuesdays](#) 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Meeting ID: 822 2393 4730)
- 🔗 [Wednesdays](#) noon to 1:00 p.m. (Meeting ID: 813 0455 0819)

President's Message



By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

Like many of you, I was glued to my television from November 3 until November 5. I watched as polygons on the television turned red or turned blue. I watched the electoral vote counts rise, quickly at first, then excruciatingly slowly. It was more tense than any drama or thriller movie, as I impatiently waited for the results. The initial returns came in quickly, but it took a long time for the tide to turn as the mail-in votes were counted.

I am immensely grateful that we will have new leadership in January. It will be reassuring to be led by individuals who are honest, honorable, and selfless. Our country should have better days ahead if our leaders at least attempt to govern for all citizens.

I'm optimistic that better leadership will set a new direction for our country, but I also know that "we the people" must also make an effort. We must work to heal our rifts and talk to those we disagree with. It is right and proper to protest, stand for our values, and work towards progress, but it must be paired with an understanding of others, to find common ground where progress is possible.

It will take some time for America to heal itself and heal our divisions, assuming that our country puts our minds to it. But I'm also optimistic because I have seen in my own lifetime how other countries have renewed themselves.

Many of you will remember what happened in South Africa. I was moved almost to tears when I saw Nelson Mandela become president in 1994 and throw off the burden of apartheid. I saw him initiate the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, getting people from white and black backgrounds to talk to each other and at least understand each other. Today, South Africa still has great inequality, but they have healed immensely because of their hard work.

Church Council

In an ongoing attempt by the Board and the Minister to foster a volunteer culture at UCH, the reconstituted Church Council met for the first time on Nov. 11. The Council consists of representatives from the "structural" committees of the church, including Religious Exploration, Choir, Worship Team, Stewardship Team, Finance Committee, Membership Action Council, Beautify UCH Building & Grounds, Leadership Development, and Planned Giving. Two additional teams will soon be created: Communication and Technology, and they will join the Council for our next meeting in 4 to 6 months.

Many subjects were discussed at the meeting, and attendees suggested ways we can support each other in furthering our Church Mission. The minutes can be viewed [at this link](#).

After the first of the year, we plan to hold a meeting of the Lay Ministries Council.

— Guy Dannelley, Vice President, UCH Board of Trustees

Around the same time came the tragic events in Rwanda. There, the majority Hutus went on a rampage against the minority Tutsis who held political power, leading to the death of more than 800,000 citizens. What I hadn't realized is that the country has quietly rebuilt itself and is now the safest country in all of Africa. Women make up 2/3 of the Parliament. They have a thriving economy. It's a small country, just the size of Maryland, but they have shown what is possible if people work together to rebuild their society.

On a much smaller scale, our congregation has already shown that we can be an example of working together to hear different viewpoints, understand each other, and find a common identity. We have worked through cottage meetings, charettes, and congregational discussions and found our vision and our mission.

Even as the pandemic and quarantine slow down our work and keep us separated, we continue to work towards our future. We are learning how to use technology and finding additional ways to connect. We are pursuing new ways of worshiping together, and some of this may stay with us even after the quarantine is lifted.

Our Search Committee is working to find us a settled minister for next year, and the Board of Trustees and minister are working to streamline and improve governance processes, so the next minister doesn't need to.

I continue to be proud to be a part of this community and this congregation, and especially proud of all the hard work you have done over the last several years. It is an inspiration to me, and I hope that others can see what we have done and know that they too can accomplish great things. I know the future is bright for the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. And I hope that we can be part of the progress that this nation needs in the coming year.

David Spear

December: Gratitude and Thanksgiving



By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)

UUs honor and celebrate a wide range of holidays and occasions over the course of a year. Unlike other faith traditions that use a single lectionary (a collection of scripture readings appointed for a given day or occasion), the topics and themes for UU worship services are usually chosen independently by worship leaders in congregations. In this month of December, our primary focus this year will be on Chalica and Advent. In the future years we are together, I will bring attention to Hannukah, Solstice, and Kwanzaa. The accompanying table shows various dates for these traditions. Below you will find some brief

descriptions of Chalica and Advent from a UU perspective. Additional information, activities for children and youth, videos, and more can be accessed on our padlets.

Seasonal Holidays

November	
29	First Sunday of Advent
December	
6	Second Sunday of Advent
7	First Day of Chalica
10	Hannukah begins at sunset
13	Third Sunday of Advent
18	Hannukah ends at sunset
20	Fourth Sunday of Advent
21	Winter Solstice/Yule
25	Christmas
26	Kwanzaa begins

Advent

Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the nativity of Jesus. The name derives from the Latin *adventus* ("coming"). Marked over the course of the four Sundays before Christmas,¹ Advent is traditionally celebrated with an advent wreath: a ring of evergreen with three purple candles and one pink one (or four purple candles) that represent: Hope, Love, Joy (pink) and Peace. WorshipWeb offers a UU Advent Calendar, created by a UU minister Ralph Roberts, to count down the days in December to Christmas Eve (December 24). Click [this link](#) to view it.

Due to its temporal nature, many of the historic milestones in this Advent calendar aren't necessarily recognized on the precise day that they're celebrated. For example, Kwanzaa is recognized here on Dec. 2 instead of Dec. 26, and the Dec. 12 image recognizes Clara Barton's birthday.

More than perfect historic accuracy, then, this Advent calendar is offered in the spirit of holding up and delighting in the ways that our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors had a foundational role in many of the winter holidays and the innumerable ways they're celebrated by people everywhere.



Chalica

[Chalica](#) is a uniquely UU holiday dreamed up by Darlene Marshall in 2005. Never heard of it? This is not surprising, as Chalica is still not widely known or celebrated. But, the number of congregations who observe the holiday is growing.

What is Chalica and when is it celebrated? Chalica is a week-long holiday, during which we honor and celebrate our seven UU principles. Those who celebrate Chalica spend each day reflecting on one principle—putting it into practice through their words and deeds. The celebration kicks off at home on the **first Monday in December**, and usually ends the following Sunday. Each night of Chalica, a chalice is lit, and homemade gifts may be given. There are even several Chalica songs which could be sung—find them on YouTube!

At the UU Church of Ventura, CA, where the congregation has been celebrating Chalica for several years, congregants have reported that they've given charitable donations, volunteered, and reconciled with family members on different days of Chalica. However, Chalica does not need to be such a huge undertaking. Marshall has a word of advice for families who might stress about adding Chalica to other December holidays. She says, "Don't make Chalica into another holiday obligation. People don't have to do hard things for it. They can send a card to someone, or stand up for someone on the playground." She adds, "I've let [Chalica] take on a life of its own. It can either be a serious spiritual exercise or a fun thing to do. All holidays evolve through the people who celebrate them. I don't want too much ownership; I just put the idea out and I'm happy to let it become what it will."

Click [this link](#) to view the seven days of Chalica along with numerous stories, videos and activities.

¹In Eastern Orthodox churches, which use the Julian calendar, Advent begins earlier and lasts 40 days rather than four weeks.

Outerwear/Underwear Tree Donations

To keep the Outerwear/Underwear tree tradition alive, we will be accepting donations throughout the month of December for the <virtual> tree. This year’s Outerwear/Underwear donations can be done in one of two ways:

- You may choose to drop off purchased items at the front of the UCH building, utilizing the purple bins that will be placed outside the UCH main doors; or
- You can make a monetary donation, in one of two ways: By clicking on the link on the UCH page for donations and choosing the Outerwear/Underwear option, or you can mail in a check to UCH, putting Outerwear/Underwear in the memo line.



The items placed in the bins outside the front entrance will be brought inside by UCH elven staff during the week when staff is present at the church building throughout the donation period. Donations will be accepted Monday, Dec. 7, through Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021. A member of the Worship Team will use all monetary donations received by the deadline to purchase additional items not included in the items dropped off at the church.

— Submitted by Amy Firestine, Worship Team

UCH Open Forum, Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

We are starting a new opportunity for members to grow in community, meeting every other Sunday at 2:00 pm for 60-90 minutes starting Dec. 13. The first meeting will explore how we provide opportunities for church members to regularly share their views about important issues going on in our shared culture, discussions that the pandemic has prevented us from doing face-to-face. I’ll create breakout rooms around what people want to discuss, current events, politics, religion, pandemic, science, or maybe even psychology, or sociology. The subjects are up to you.

At the start of every meeting, each person will have one minute to say what's on their mind, then I'll use that to create the breakout rooms. My hope is we can explore the spaces between each other's views, gaining a deeper understanding of each other.

— Submitted by Guy Dannelley

Lay Pastoral Care Associates

Who should contact the Pastoral Care Associates?

- People who are hospitalized
- People who are grieving a loss
- People who are separated or divorcing
- People who need long-term care
- People who are terminally ill
- People experiencing job loss
- People experiencing financial struggle
- People in abusive situations
- People adjusting to difficult life changes
- People with a family member in prison
- Family members of all the above

Please contact Rev. Tony or [Jim Cavanaugh](#) as needed.

UCH Pastoral Associates



Jim Cavanaugh



Nan Cavanaugh



Ray Harris



Kathy Stewart

Clover Lane Groundskeeping

The Grounds Committee is making plans to clean up the property prior to February, when we expect site visits (real or virtual) by candidate ministers. To that end, we have targeted the following major tasks:

- ✚ Remove dead branches/twigs scattered around the property
- ✚ Knock down and remove brown, dead weed stocks on the rear island and the east side of the drive to the lower parking lot
- ✚ Clean up two small garden areas on the rear western side of the church

We anticipate using professional services to then mulch most of the beds, especially those close to the building.

If anyone has an hour or so to contribute over the next two months, please contact [Ron Skrabut](mailto:Ron.Skrabut@UCH.edu) (717-236-1876). We will then attempt to line up a brief work event using volunteers.

— Submitted by Ron Skrabut

LaGrone Report

Ayobami Kehinde Akingbesote, known as Kenny, is our 2019 Oliver LaGrone Scholar. She is the daughter of Steve and Mojisola Akingbesote of Harrisburg. She was a graduate of the John Harris Campus of Harrisburg High School, where she attained distinguished honors and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Kenny came to the U.S. in 2017 from her native Nigeria.

Kenny is taking prerequisite courses online from Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) while she is living with family in New Jersey. Her last prerequisite for HACC's Health Career Program was Microbiology. When she is done, she will apply for the Clinicals phase in Fall 2021. Her goal is to be a nurse.

In Kenny's own words, "I'm doing great right now. Thanks to the church for helping me with this because without this organization, I wouldn't be in school. I sincerely appreciate everyone."

Church member Ann Stillwater, a school nurse, is Kenny's Mentor.

If you would like information about the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund or would like to volunteer to help the committee, please contact [Rick Hawley](mailto:Rick.Hawley@UCH.edu). For donations to the Scholarship Fund, please write OLSF on the memo line of your check and send it to the UCH office. Thank you.

— Submitted by Linda Brown



Minister's Column

Continued from Page 1.

At Christmas and Easter, the great festivals of Christianity, I find connections with its ancient origins and also with its interpretations over nearly two millennia. I find the connections with the Hellenic—definitely non-Christian environment—in which Christianity arose and the cultures with which its adherents interacted over the centuries. I especially find connections with older pagan customs in Europe.

I could make myself crazy trying to create and present an internally consistent understanding of Christmas, the holiday which gave Americans "the Holiday Season." Or I can immerse myself in the experience and dynamism of history still being made. I can find inspiration and ethical clarification in the mixed-up 2020 holiday season, when our real-time Christmas Eve service will be virtual.

Please join me in this celebratory adventure as we conclude 2020 and move into 2021. The adventure is far from over. Meeting and mixing may be socially distanced, but we can still meet and mix, even if customary travels and practices are disrupted.

Happy Holidays!!!

Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson

Auction Report

To quote the Mitch Miller band, “With someone like you, a pal good and true,” so far we have raised more than \$5,700 for UCH through the Roaring '20s auction last month. That is a total to be proud of, in this pandemic year when there is so much heartbreak in our world.

One hundred years ago, in the last pandemic, toddler Rosalia Lombardo passed away from the “Spanish Flu” in Sicily. Her parents were so heartbroken that they had her body preserved, and it was placed in the Catacombe dei Cappucini, where this “Sicilian Sleeping Beauty” is still a major attraction, even a century later.

Let us not forget the life in our live virtual events. At our opening event, Kathy Malarich had the highest ABV beer (5.5%) and Marj Forster the lowest ABV at 0% for her non-alcoholic beer. On November 14, which was more “whiskey” (with Elmer Fudd accent), the Templeton Rye whisky or the jokes? Of course it was not as “whisky” as Al Capone’s bank robberies, which led to our amazing Al Capone’s vault.

Don’t go to sleep for the next century: you can start now thinking about auction ideas and donations for next year!

Note: the Auction Committee has notified all donors of the people who bid on their items, including contact information for the winning bidder. Please contact these individuals to arrange delivery or schedule the service/event. At press time, there were still a few unpaid invoices; if you are unsure of the status of your invoice/payment, please contact the church office.

Open Auction Items

Finally, a few auction items are still available, listed below. If you are interested in bidding, please contact [Bart Carpenter](#).

– Submitted by Patti Hazell

Item	Description
<p>209 - Sun Catcher "Let There Be Light" Donor: Charlie Peters Minimum bid: \$75</p>	<p>Item up for bid is a stained glass sun catcher. It is 10 inches by 6 1/2 inches. Created by Charlie Peters, titled "Let There Be Light". The design is his adaptation of a pattern from the Stained Glass News.</p>
<p>211 - "Dragon's Stash" necklace and matching earrings Donor: Michael McCullough Minimum bid: \$35</p>	<p>From the 2019 Gem and Mineral Show, all pieces created from "Dragons Stash" are excellently manufactured - nothing homemade or amateur about these pieces. The necklace consists of oval green Malachite beads, black Onyx beads with carved Onyx flower, blue Lapis Lazuli beads, and stainless steel accents. The second set of earrings are deep green colored faux emeralds. Photographs do not do justice to these beautiful pieces. Value \$68.</p>
<p>218 - Computer Carrying Case, black and pink Donor: Carol Bird Minimum bid: \$35</p>	<p>Custom bag good for carrying computer or everyday wear! Up for bid is a handy dandy Computer Commuter Bag. A roomy size of 15" x 12" with many pockets for accessories, pens, cords, etc. Handmade and donated by Carol Bird. Color is sassy hot pink with black print.</p>
<p>219 - Christmas table runner with classic beige trim Donor: Carol Bird Minimum bid: \$10</p>	<p>Christmas table runner, poinsettia motif with classic beige border access any holiday table or decor. The table runners are 40 inches long by 16 inches wide. Handmade and donated by Carol Bird.</p>
<p>223 - Vintage 8-Point Star Pattern Quilt Donor: Susan Norris Minimum bid: \$200</p>	<p>8-point star quilt, approx 50" x 80", hand quilted and tied, combination of machine and hand assembly. Cotton top comprises modern and older (1950s/1960s) fabrics, with the occasional synthetic thrown in; cotton batting and back. Machine wash cool, gentle cycle; cool, gentle tumble dry. The 8-point star pattern has been popular for at least 100 years and showcases the quilter's sewing and piecing skills.</p>
<p>224 - Crochet Wrap Donor: Kay Skiles-Gurish Minimum bid: \$15</p>	<p>Wrap yourself in comfort in this blue fashionable and warm wrap done in crochet by Kay. Some parts were crocheted during Sunday services. Very soft yarn. Dimension are 20" wide x 60" long - 98% Acrylic and 2% polyester machine washable</p>

Item	Description
<p>225 - Think Different Poster Set Donor: JD Stillwater Minimum bid: \$50</p>	<p>"Each is 11 x 17" and yes, there are 10 of them. Released in 2000, the "Educator Set" of posters from Apple Computer's Think Different ad campaign is now in the province of collectors. Each poster features a gorgeous black-and-white photograph of a famous innovator, with a small Apple logo in one corner and the phrase "Think Different." In spite of scathing criticism from grammarians, Apple's Think Different campaign won the 1998 Emmy award for Best Commercial and the 2000 Grand Effie award for Most Effective Campaign in the U.S. This is a brand-new, still-in-shrink-wrap set,² featuring Albert Einstein, Amelia Earhart, Miles Davis, Jim Henson (and Kermit), Jane Goodall, Mahatma Gandhi, John and Yoko, Cesar Chavez, James Watson, and Pablo Picasso. Recent finished auctions on eBay for the same set averaged around \$160, with a high of \$300.</p>
<p>230 - Felting of "Manhattan Lights" Lupines Donor: Marj Forster Minimum bid: \$50</p>	<p>This felting of "Manhattan Lights" Lupines by Marj Forster will brighten any corner. It is in a 5" by 7" free-standing frame, crafted by Heartwood Frames in Sherburne, NY, and includes glass.</p>
<p>406 - Math and Science Tutoring Donor: David Spear Minimum bid: \$50</p>	<p>Want to be the "Bee's Knees" in Math or Science? Help is a winning bid away. If your textbooks and homework seem like they were written in a foreign language, ask David Spear to explain it in clear, simple English. Two sessions of one hour each can help you understand the material. Help is available for basic math, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus I, physics, chemistry, or SATs.</p>
<p>703 - Rolling Green Cemetery - Double Depth Plot Donor: Bart/Kate Carpenter Minimum bid: \$2,000</p>	<p>The Roaring Twenties also saw the founding of Rolling Green Cemetery, 1811 Carlisle Road in Camp Hill. At the time of its inception in 1929, Rolling Green was designated as one of the first cemeteries in the U.S. to incorporate the memorial park concept. Rolling Green's flush-to-ground grave markers allow visitors an unobstructed view of the cemetery's beautiful grounds, impeccable landscaping, and the numerous shade trees flanking the premise. Up for auction is a double depth plot (Lot 7D in Block 0), suitable for up to two people, donated by Kate and Bart Carpenter. Please note that the cemetery no longer sells double-depth lots in that section, i.e. nowadays you have to buy two separate lots. Current list value per the cemetery is \$4,192.50. Minimum bid \$2,000. The Carpenters will pay the \$150 transfer fee for the deed.</p>

December Share the Plate: Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven

Each month, we share the Sunday plate with a local non-profit. This month, we share with the Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven (SHSH).

[Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven](#) (SHSH) is a residential facility offering support and stable housing to men who are/were chronically homeless. It is managed by Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area. The program offers long-term housing within a supportive community for up to 25 formerly homeless men in Dauphin County. The program is designed to help chronically homeless men—those living on the street for a year or more, many of whom are also dealing with mental illness— to get off the street. Once in a safe, stable environment, they work on goals related to income, employment, life skills, physical and mental health, and, in many cases, addiction. New residents live in dormitory-style housing. Upon achievement of specific goals related to income and stability, they become eligible for one of ten private rooms. Over time, it is their goal to help the men, when able, to move to their own apartment or other permanent housing.



– Submitted by UCH Finance Committee

²It is in a shrink-wrapped package of three full sets, but JD is giving the other two sets to his kids this fall. It IS new, but won't be shrink-wrapped when you get it.

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) was elected by the congregation and charged with identifying a settled minister for our congregation.

Monthly Report

November was a busy month for the Ministerial Search Committee. On November 20, the MSC submitted UCH's Congregational Record to the UUA Transitions Office. The CR is an in-depth look at UCH, which provides information about our church to prospective ministerial candidates. In completing the CR, the MSC used the congregational survey results, as well as comments and ideas expressed during the charette meetings and during the focus groups. In responding to over 52 questions and requests, we also drew upon our collective knowledge, and information provided by staff, the Board, the congregation's records, as well as by members.

Once the CR is approved by the Transitions Office, it will be posted on December 1 for potential ministerial applicants to review. Currently, the MSC is completing a packet of documents that it has prepared and gathered from staff, the board, the finance committee, the contract negotiating team and others. The packet will be provided during the month of December to ministers who apply to be considered for UCH's next settled minister.

Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT)

The *Beyond Categorical Thinking* workshop was held via Zoom on Saturday, Nov. 21. The workshop was conducted by Keith Kron of the UUA Transitions Office. The purpose of the workshop was to help the congregation think inclusively and without any unfair discrimination in the search and calling process. When we picture the "ideal minister" (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical and mental ability, race, and sexual orientation) a certain picture comes to mind. It can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. As we get caught up in comparing candidates to our "picture," we can forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

The BCT workshop was attended by more than 40 congregants. We learned quite a bit about ourselves during the workshop. We reviewed case studies taken from real search committee episodes, and we discussed our own concerns about and the perceived benefits of a minister who is of a different race or ethnicity or gender identity than most of our members, or who has a physical or mental disability. A summary of the main takeaways from the workshop will be included in the documents packet that we will provide to ministerial applicants and that will be available to the congregation.

New Website

An MSC website specific to the ministerial search and for ministers who have expressed an interest in UCH has been designed by the MSC. This website is password-protected and it includes a variety of information about our congregation. The link and the password will be offered to ministerial candidates when they indicate an interest in applying for UCH's settled minister position. In addition to ministers, the website will be available to church members once it is launched. Look for information about how to access the website and the password in News You Can UUs.



Next Steps

Following publication on Dec. 1 of UCH's Congregational Record on the UUA Ministerial Search website, ministers can start to review our information. They have the month of December to review and compare the congregational records of all churches in search.

Beginning Jan. 2, 2021, ministers will submit their applications for churches they are interested in. The MSC then follows a lengthy process to review the applications and to select 3 or 4 pre-candidates to review in depth, including interviews of the ministers and references, and observation of each pre-candidate conducting a worship service. This will occur during February and March. In April, the MSC will choose a final candidate to present to the congregation. There will be opportunities for everyone to meet the candidate, virtually if necessary, prior to voting to call the minister.

— Submitted by Chris Dutton, Chair

Date	Time	Group	Location
Wed 2	7:00	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Zoom
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, Susan Norris will be facilitating a circle on the wheel of the year.</p> <p>All who identify as women are welcome in a co-creating sacred space. This will be a Zoom meeting, and a link will be sent a day or so prior to the meeting time. Check-in starts at 6:30 p.m., the circle begins at 7:00 p.m., ending by 8:30 p.m. Contact Rebecca Waldemar for further information.</p>			
Sun 6	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 and decide on books for 2021. Please contact Don Brown for information.</p>			
Fri 4	6:00	Online Trivia Night	Zoom
<p>Our weekly trivia night continues tonight, hosted each week by a different member of our community. Join your church friends for a unique set of trivia, combined with humor and merriment. Repeats weekly at 6:00 p.m. The Zoom link appears each week in <i>News You Can UUs</i> and on the Facebook events page. No session on Dec. 25.</p> <p>Please contact Dan Vaughn for additional information.</p>			

Dec. 6: Hanging of the Greens

This year our Hanging of the Greens service will be a partially live virtual service starting at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6. We hope you will join us, and during the service we encourage you to:

- 🍷 Wear an Ugly Holiday Sweater or Fun Holiday PJs
- 🍷 Start Hanging your own Greens around your personal Abode
- 🍷 Learn about Chalica
- 🍷 Do Crafts
- 🍷 Sing along to Classic Holiday Hymns
- 🍷 Have a plate of cookies or special holiday dessert to partake of during the service

Special Hanging of The Greens Boxes

In order to prepare for the service, our Director of Religious Education, Cory Ness, has put together special boxes for the congregation that will contain various items specific to the Hanging of the Greens service. These boxes will be hand-delivered to congregants’ doorsteps Dec. 4-5 by DRE elves, and we request that you do not open these boxes until the service Dec. 6.

Congregants will want to have ready for use during the service: glue; scissors; a small jar lid or mini plate; and crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils.



Send in Pictures by December 14

And as you do a craft, hang greens and/or wear your favorite holiday sweater, please take pictures and email them to [Yvonne DuVal](#), then look for them to be part of a collage during a holiday hymn as part of our Christmas Eve service. If you are unable to make the service on Dec. 6, please still send in family photos taken as you decorate, dress in holiday wear and other holiday-themed photos. All pictures need to be sent in no later than Monday, Dec. 14.

We thank you all, in advance, for your kindness and generosity during this Season of Giving.

— Submitted by Amy Firestine, Worship Team