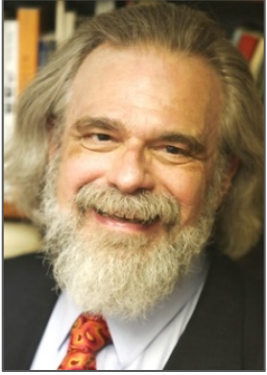




From the Minister



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

February 2021 is a short month. Every February is a short month, even during a leap year when it has 29 rather than 28 days. 2020 was a leap year. But I doubt that the additional day in February was the reason why it seemed too long to

many people. It was more likely the pandemic and the politics of a highly contentious presidential election that made year seem interminable to some. I can feel grateful that this February has only the usual 28 days.

February is also Black History Month, which is important to me as a minister and as an individual. Both the national culture and that of our faith are essentially white and European. Although the population of the United States will likely become a majority-minority population by 2050 (Wikipedia estimates that this will likely happen between 2041 and 2046), there are already places in the U.S. that are majority-minority in population. The city where I live is one of them. Since the odds of my living to be 100 years old and living in a majority-minority USA are slight, I feel (and have for some time felt) that I am lucky as a white person of European ancestry to be living the future now.

Whatever your or my location in the chronological history and demographic dynamism of the U.S., we can each choose to live into the future. Too many of our fellow citizens resist aspects of the future that will come about whether they or we as individuals welcome these aspects or not. I celebrate the increasingly multicultural reality of this nation. But that does not mean that I easily accept or adapt to all the changes. Or even like all of them.

When we adapt to the changes—a big part of which is learning to live as part of a population that looks different than the one that I grew up in—we change ourselves. We become more expansive in our cultural reality and in our sense—and the objective reality—of who we are.

My sister and I have more than once acknowledged that we were fortunate to grow up in a more racially and economically diverse neighborhood than many of our generational peers in the 1950s and '60s. This gift has served my sister (continued on page 10)

Worship online

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

Feb 7: Community Ministry Sunday: Looking for Inherent Worth and Dignity in All the Wrong Places, Jim Cavanaugh

On the first Sunday in February, UUs celebrate [Community Ministry Sunday](#). Community ministry is care for the world outside the walls of the local congregation. Many UUs are doing lay community ministry and don't know it: advocacy, community breakfasts, voter registration canvassing, and community organizing are all community ministry, as is chaplaincy. Jim will talk about some of the interesting souls he has encountered (or might encounter) in his chaplaincy.

Feb 14: Fat Sunday: A Service in the Spirit of Mardi Gras, Rev. Johnson
"Mardi Gras" means "Fat Tuesday." It is the day before Ash Wednesday and the time for one last bash before the fasting and reflection of the Christian season of Lent. I have noticed that even not-particularly religious people participate by giving up something for Lent. The Fat Sunday service celebrates life and also reflects on the meaning of life in the face of sacrifice and death. **Service is live on Zoom!**

Feb 21: Meditation Service — Libby Tisdell
A guided meditation, led by "our own" Libby Tisdell.

Feb 28: African American Humanism: A Challenge to Black and White Americans, Rev. Johnson

The scholarly research and writing of Anthony Pinn has illuminated religious humanism for two decades. In exploring the broad expanse of African American religions, he has traced the long existence of religious and philosophical humanism—including nontheistic humanism—among African Americans. He challenges stereotypes held by white people and his fellow African Americans. **Service is live on Zoom!**

Each Sunday morning, the church will email:

- 📍 A link to the Zoom (Feb. 14,28) or [YouTube video](#) of the Sunday service
- 📍 A link to the Zoom session for 11:30 coffee and conversation

We encourage members to set aside a small sacred space at home to enjoy the service. Having rituals in place at home can help us participate in services together, even though we are not able to be sharing in one another's company in person.

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)

Other times available by appointment.

President's Message



By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

"I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together."

Did you sing this song in church as a kid? I did, when I was growing up as a Methodist in Lancaster.

The song continues: "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people."

Exactly. The church is the people, not the pretty building, not the Sunday services, not the rituals. The church is the people.

This is especially true for Unitarian Universalists. Our congregations are owned and operated independently. We get helpful guidance from the UUA, and we rightly pay dues for that, but we are an independent congregation, just like all other UU churches.

We emphasized this idea at our recent congregational meeting. You are the owners of UCH, and it is your choice how it operates, what its mission is, and what actions we take.

Sometimes people think that the Board controls the direction of our congregation. We actually don't, or at least we shouldn't. The Board is only responsible for overseeing finances, buying or selling properties, suggesting changes to bylaws, and clarifying the expectations of our minister. And even in those, we are answerable to the members. We endeavor to enact whatever the membership wants and needs.

What about the minister? We ask Rev. Johnson to give us spiritual guidance and direction. He oversees all the teams in the church, as well as all the staff. We ask him to discern what our needs are and minister to us. But if you ask him (as I have), he will tell you that this is ultimately up to the church members. He values your input.

Maybe our beloved staff? After all, they help us create beautiful music, organize Sunday services, get all the bills paid, and keep the building in good shape. This is vital work, and we rely on their expertise, but it is on behalf of you, the members.

We talked about the volunteer program at the congregational meeting Jan. 31. The minister and the Board all agree that the members must be involved in the life of the church because that is what creates connections. We cannot watch from the sidelines.

The volunteer program is the first step of formalizing your involvement. It will take some time to start the program, find a coordinator, and get people involved, especially during this quarantine time. At the moment, it is symbolic of what is yet to come.

Even now, however, there are ways to get involved. Choose what you are passionate about and find out where that passion can be used. Let us know what you want to do, and we will find a way to get you involved. The quarantine has complicated everything, yet slowly but surely we will expand volunteerism and build an even more vibrant, active church, where we can live out our values.

When I joined the church in 2007, I was utterly mystified about how to get involved. I didn't know what opportunities were available, and I didn't know who to ask. Regrettably, I was too shy to speak up. Please don't make the same mistake I did.

We're working to make processes and information clearer now and to increase opportunities for engagement. Please know that we want the members to be involved, because it is your church. You, the members, *are* the church.

David Spear

Share the Plate: Speranza Animal Rescue

Each month, we share our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with Speranza Animal Rescue of Mechanicsburg.

Based on a farm near Mechanicsburg, [Speranza Animal Rescue](#) rescues animals, mainly dogs, from a variety of situations. Animals saved have come from owners surrendering, dogs on the euthanasia list at kill-shelters and from unimaginable cases of abuse, neglect, and misfortune. Speranza takes on cases regardless of the medical costs associated and accepts dogs with behavioral issues that most rescue organizations won't consider. It also welcomes volunteers to assist with dog-walking and other farm chores. UCH member Debbie Reihart is involved with the organization and nominated them for Share the Plate.



Congregational Meeting Jan. 31

The Board convened a congregational meeting January 31 to update the congregation on a number of recent decisions.

Finance Committee chair Lois Voigt presented information on recently approved finance-related policies and endowments.

- The church's long-term reserves and endowments have been transferred into four separate accounts in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. This pooled fund has demonstrated favorable returns and has a focus on socially responsible investing.
- A Planned Giving Committee has been created, which can help accept gifts and bequests to the church and assist church members in adding UCH to their wills. James Henninger-Voss is the chair of this new committee.
- A new endowment and long-term investment policy establishes how each fund can be used, invested, and protected for the future.

The Board has created a Committee Coordination Council and a Lay Ministry Council, similar to a council that existed previously. The councils can help the various teams and ministries to coordinate their activities together. Both are led by the Vice President of the Board.

The Board passed a policy for a Volunteer Program, to aid in increasing volunteerism and member participation. The policy was supported by the Minister, who will implement the policy and find a volunteer coordinator.

The Ministerial Search Committee provided a status update, indicating that they are currently evaluating several candidates to become our next settled minister. They will choose one candidate to recommend to the congregation in the coming months.

Treasurer Ed Sykes provided a financial update, indicating that income is currently matching what was pledged. We anticipate ending the fiscal year at or slightly better than the budgeted deficit of \$40,000.

He also announced that our application to convert the federal Payroll Protection Program loan to a grant has been accepted, providing our church with approximately \$50,000 that should offset this year's budgeted deficit.

There were no items for the congregation to vote on at this meeting.

The meeting can be viewed on the [UCH YouTube channel](#); the agenda and other documents are available on the [shared Google drive](#).

– Submitted by David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

From the Finance Committee

As you may remember, the budget which was approved by the congregation for this fiscal year had a deficit of approximately \$40,000. The ongoing pandemic has limited the types of fundraising activities that we can engage in, so many of the standard methods (such as holding trips, dinners or get-togethers) can't be held. The ministerial candidates identified by our Ministerial Search Committee will be looking to see if our financial situation is a healthy one, so it is important that we make progress toward reducing the budget deficit.

How can you help with the progress toward reducing the budget deficit? Consider making an extra donation if you are able, above and beyond your annual pledge to UCH, from the economic stimulus payment you just received, or the one you received earlier last year. Not able to make an extra donation right now? Then consider making an extra donation if the new Biden administration authorizes another round of economic stimulus payments in the near future.

To make sure that your donation is recorded properly, please put a note on your check's memo line to indicate that this is an extra donation, above your regular pledge. If you have a question about your pledge, please contact [Kel Kyle](#) or [Tavia Flanagan](#).

– Submitted by Donna Hoskins-Helm, Finance Committee

Join the Gift Card Program Family!

If you shop at Giant, Weis, or Karns, you can also support the church by buying their gift cards through UCH. There is no surcharge or markup. Giant pays 10% of the face value to the church; Weis and Karns pay 5%. The \$500 a month you spend at Giant would mean \$50 to UCH, an annual contribution of \$600! The grocery gift card forms are available [online](#) or on the hallway bulletin board (near the restrooms) in the Common Room. If you have any questions about the gift card program, please email [Tavia Flanagan](#) or call the church office. Thank you for your support!

Worship Team Report

Now that vaccines are becoming available, we are hopeful that in-person services will resume later this year. For now, we have scheduled live Zoom services twice a month, i.e., two services will be live and the remaining ones pre-recorded. We will also record the live services and edit/upload them to YouTube. Please keep an eye on the weekly *News You Can UU's* for notification of when the Zoom recording is available on YouTube. And if you haven't already subscribed to our YouTube channel, please do so by clicking [here](#).

The Worship Team includes Debbie Reihart and Amy Firestine, co-chairs; Rev. Johnson, Minister; Yvonne DuVal, Director of Music; Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration; congregants Theresa Alberici, Nan Cavanaugh, Jim Cavanaugh, Laura Edinger, JD Stillwater, Dan Vaughn, and Emily Webb; and support from Kel Kyle, Congregational Administrator; Tavia Flanagan, Office Assistant; and Bill Brown, Tech Team.

We want to hear from you! We encourage you to share your ideas for potential service topics, non-Service discussion ideas, or if you want to become a lay liturgist. Please contact [Amy](#) or [Debbie](#). Please also consider sharing your joys and sorrows using the [online portal](#). This remains an important part of our services; it's a way for us to feel connected to each other.

This community matters! We love you, we miss you, and we want to hear from you.

– Submitted by Amy Firestine, Worship Team

Notes from the Sanctuary



By Hannah Belser, Worship Service Accompanist

Hello from our beloved sanctuary! As I watched our Christmas Eve service in December, I was reminded of other Christmas Eve services in the past, those we spent in our sanctuary together. In a Christmas greeting, I heard from a dear friend who remarked, "That you continue to share your gift in times of uncertainty and distance is a boon to my soul." I was reminded powerfully of the circumstances under which we find ourselves living, congregating, and worshipping: we are not allowed in the building at

Clover for worship because we would risk passing along a deadly virus to our friends and family in our beloved sanctuary. No, thank you.

"Times of uncertainty and distance." These particular words impacted me in a way that I had not fully appreciated before. You see, I am in our sanctuary several times a week to record music for our virtual Sunday services, so I am not so distant from being present there as are most members of the congregation. I have watched the seasons change from summer to fall to winter through those beautifully expansive windows behind the rood screen. I have watched nature celebrate the birth of new growth and life in Spring. The heat of the summer days also heated up the corner in which I play the piano, and I noticed a raccoon mother who shepherded her brood of young ones across our upper parking lot going to who knows where. And now, with the winter upon us, I enjoy the bare branches of bushes and trees, the falling of new snow upon those branches, and the remaking of two of the three branches of our government.

In truth, sometimes I feel as though the sanctuary is My Sanctuary, and I will charge a toll for all to pay when we are finally allowed back into the space together. Of course, any toll collected would go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund so that Rev. Tony can continue our mission of service to any who may need help!

I have enjoyed the solitude and quiet when it's just me. I have enjoyed filling the sanctuary with sound, most times good and sometimes not great! When I sing, I always picture you in the seats listening with grateful hearts, eyes closed, smiles on your faces, staring into the great beyond through our beautiful windows, and I think some, perhaps, catching a quick nap. I have mostly conquered my stage fright because of you, so don't think for a moment that you are the only ones receiving a boon to your souls on a Sunday morning, whether virtually or in person!

So, dear friends, while I look forward to meeting you in person again in our beloved sanctuary, I will visit you again with some, hopefully, noteworthy musings in this space next month. Until then, may love and kindness fill your hearts as we walk through these dark times together.



Notes from the Sanctuary

Ministerial Search Committee

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

In January, the MSC received from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) a list of applicants potentially interested in becoming our new settled minister. These applicants are in the nationwide “pool” of those who are seeking ministry this year. The MSC then selects its candidates from among this collection of ministers, all of whom have been approved and credentialed by the UUA.

We were fortunate to have a sizable number of minister-applicants who liked the information we submitted about the church for their consideration – quite a compliment to UCH! This information included the results of our survey, charettes, and focus groups – information you provided us with – thank you! And so last month, the MSC began the arduous, weeks-long process of reviewing the applicants’ extensive written materials, virtual sermons, and ministerial websites. Our committee conducted a number of Zoom interviews and also checked their references, again via Zoom interviews.



We are happy to say that we have selected four excellent “pre-candidates” for further review, and we hope they will accept this invitation. These pre-candidates also have had opportunities to ask questions about UCH, so they have a preliminary “feel” for our church, and are excited about the possibility of joining us.

Now begins the in-depth review of these pre-candidates in February and March. This review includes conducting more detailed interviews of the ministers and requesting additional information on file with the UUA. We will also observe each pre-candidate conduct a worship service (virtually) with other UU churches who have agreed to assist us with this. Besides the second interview and guest sermon, the MSC will also develop other ways to further interact with each pre-candidate, including a virtual dinner, some additional casual conversation, and more.

As you can see, the search process is as thorough as it can realistically be! During the pre-candidating phase, it is possible that any of these ministers may decide that UCH might not be the best fit for them. If so, we will have the opportunity to invite other pre-candidates. But with at least several strong “finalists,” we are confident that we can propose an excellent minister for your approval.

The very nature of this extremely thorough process will result in our discovering the one unreservedly strongest candidate. In April, we will choose that final candidate to present to the congregation. There will be a number of opportunities for everyone to meet the prospective minister, virtually if necessary, prior to voting to call them.

In order for the minister to accept our call, they need to be confident that the vast majority of us do indeed want them as our new settled minister. A minister will be hesitant to accept a call unless at least 95% of the congregation vote “yes.” A minister will almost certainly decline a call that falls below 90%. To be successful, a new ministry needs to start out with the full support of the congregation. Otherwise, it will be harder for the minister and the congregation to establish a good relationship. And so, it is critical that we have as many of us as possible attend the congregational vote in April and that an overwhelming majority of us feel confident casting a “yes” vote!

This very careful search process, designed and refined by the UUA over decades, gives our congregation the best possible opportunity to find the minister who is best suited to guide us forward on our journey together, and who really wants to be here with us. And your search committee takes this responsibility, and the trust that you have bestowed on us, very seriously, and is working very hard on your behalf. Your faith in us is well-founded. After having spoken at some length with the ministers who most impressed us with their experience, their qualifications, and their personalities, we are also really excited for ourselves as a committee, and for our church!

In next month’s **REPORTER**, we will be happy to share responses to any questions that you would like to ask of us. Please email them to [the MSC](#), and we will respond to the best of our ability. In the meantime, please keep the MSC in your thoughts as we work through this next important phase of finding our new minister!

– Submitted by Marsha Dulaney

February: A Month of Renewal

By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)



Thirty Days of Love

Sponsored by the UUA, [Side with Love](#) is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness the power of love to stop oppression. Each year, they sponsor a *Thirty Days of Love* celebration in January/February. UCH kicked off the program Jan. 31 with Rev. Tony's sermon on "Widening the Circle of Concern" (related story, below).

Thirty Days of Love focuses on four themes from a recently published report called [Widening the Circle of Concern](#), which was developed by

the Commission on Institutional Change, a UUA-commissioned group charged with researching, reporting, and making recommendations for transforming white supremacy and other oppressions in the institutional history and practices of the UUA and its 1,000-plus congregations and covenanted communities. It is an opportunity to lift up the ways UUs, and many of our partner organizations are building and organizing by taking bold, courageous action for intersectional racial justice.

Each week, we will share a 'playlist' or 'menu' of activities for individuals to interact with, connected with our weekly theme on padlet. Many of our UCH families are familiar with this platform as it serves as a sort of "bulletin board" with curated information in an easy-to-follow format. Padlet will include weekly playlists for general, kid, youth, and family/ multigenerational audiences, which will include activities in the categories of reading, watching, participating, listening and worshipping. The month-long schedule appears in the accompanying table.

Click [here](#) for **Week 1 Living our Values in the World** Padlet. We will also provide updated links each week via *News You Can UU's*.



Weekly Schedule

Wk	Dates	Theme
1	Jan 31 - Feb 6	Living Our Values in the World
2	Feb 7 -13	Hospitality and Inclusion
3	Feb 14-20	Educating for Liberation
4	Feb 21-28	Restoration and Reparations

Winter/Spring Adult Education

We are planning four courses this winter/spring designed for adults or older teens. These include all of the following:

- Widening the Circle of Concern** (starts 7:00 p.m. Feb. 2)

Please obtain a copy of the report and read the Introduction and Chapter 1 prior to class. The Jan. 31 worship service introduced the topic, and we will continue the discussion for several weeks. This is an important discussion of the future of Unitarian Universalism as a religious movement and as an association of local congregations, such as UCH. UCH members can obtain a hardcopy from the [UUA bookstore](#), an e-book from [Amazon](#), or a free download from [the UUA](#). Please [pre-register](#) for the class with Rev. Tony.
- SoulCollage** (1:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20)

SoulCollage is a creative, fun tool for easy, artful self-expression. Using intuition and imagination, you create your own deck of collaged cards, where each card reflects a different aspect of who you are. This is our second session, led by Cory Ness. If you were unable to attend the first session and wish to participate at this one, please contact [Cory](#).
- Healing the Heart of Democracy** (date TBD)

Based on a groundbreaking book by Parker J. Palmer, a nationally recognized author and agent of positive social change, the discussion group will explore practical ways of bridging the current political divide and beginning to reclaim our unity in an era of divide-and-conquer politics.
- Breathe: A Letter to My Sons**, by Imani Perry (date TBD)

Breathe is the UUA [Common Read](#) for 2020-21. Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, the book issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. Perry admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. Breathe offers a broader meditation on race, gender, and the meaning of a life well lived and is also an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience.

LaGrone Report

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 27, the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee hosted a holiday Zoom videoconference with scholars and mentors. Sadly, our usual outing to a local restaurant did not occur this year due to COVID-related safety concerns. The annual holiday gathering is an opportunity for committee, scholars, and mentors to interact and get to know one another just a bit better. Scholars that were able to join us online were Román Colón, a senior at Penn State, and Cristina Ledesma, a first-year student at Shippensburg University. The committee was represented by Rick Hawley (chair), Diane Stables, Linda Brown, and Cordell Affeldt. Mentors who were able to join us were Meg Burton Connors and Karen Mallah.

Words of encouragement, interest, support, and wisdom were shared with scholars both in their written invitation to the meeting and during the meeting. Román is on track to graduate from Penn State this spring. Both he and Cristina are achieving excellent grade point averages (GPAs) and both of them appear enthusiastic about their future.

Our scholars who were unable to join us, “Kenny” Akingbesote and Sabina Dahal, are also achieving excellent GPAs. Although a high GPA is not the only important measure of progress and success, it sure is a nice thing to have! Kenny will be taking a semester off from her studies at Harrisburg Area Community College this Spring, and Sabina will be continuing at Penn State.

– Submitted by Rick Hawley

Gather the Spirit for Justice

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. This information is collated from GTSFJ's online newsletter. GTSFJ is closed during the pandemic. During this time, they are remodeling the space and providing community assistance as they are able, such as the table event Feb. 6.

MLK Day of Service

Multiple volunteers participated in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s day of service in a painting day to freshen up quarters at Christ Lutheran. With a fresh coat of primer on the walls and trim throughout the entryway and community room, the space is bright and refreshing. Many thanks to Art Williams, Michelle Loucas, Reb Loucas, Scott Siciliano, program director Jacquie Rucker, and board members Clay Lambert, John Abbott, and Beth Ann McCoy for masking up and staying socially-distant to start this much-needed task.



Community Day: Feb. 6

GTSFJ has scheduled Round 2 of painting on Saturday, Feb. 6. Painting will be done in two shifts: 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Please use the [sign-up sheet](#) to provide your name and contact information.

As part of the second painting day, GTSFJ will hold a table event (weather permitting) with donation items for community members outside the GTSFJ entrance. Offerings will include socks, face shields/masks, neck scarves, and select adult and child underwear and outerwear items, as well as any donated toiletry and other items from the GTSFJ donor community. Please review the [wish list](#) or call 717-260-9320 regarding alternate items.

Technical Assistance Needed

GTSFJ is seeking the assistance of a technical or digital volunteer to help with the development of an upcoming event. Current students or young professionals encouraged to reply! Please contact [Clay Lambert](#) for more information.

Silent Auction Items Requested

Historically, GTSFJ has scheduled a concert fundraiser and silent auction in January each year. Pandemic is preventing any sort of concert, but GTSFJ is seeking donated items for a 2021 silent auction event. Welcome items include food, beverage, health/safety, or beauty gift baskets; dining, food retail, or grocery delivery service gift cards; artwork; and more – basically, any item that may be helpful to those struggling with services and necessities during this pandemic! Please contact info@gatherthespirit.org to coordinate donation pick up or delivery.

GTSFJ strives to be a place where people can find common ground, to meet and discuss the changes that need to be made to make Harrisburg a great place to live for all of its citizens. Please also consider [monetary donations](#) to support our mission.

Libby Tisdell Distinguished Professor



UCH member Libby Tisdell has been designated a Distinguished Professor by her colleagues at the Pennsylvania State University. The title of distinguished professor recognizes the academic contributions of full-time faculty members who hold the rank of professor. Distinguished professors are acknowledged leaders in their fields of research or creative activity; demonstrate significant leadership in raising the University's standards in teaching, research, or creative activity and service; and exhibit excellent teaching skills.

Libby is Professor of Lifelong Learning and Adult Education in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education (since 2002). She also serves as a part-time chaplain at Penn State Health, Hershey Medical Center. Her research interests include spirituality and culture in adult and higher education; critical media literacy and

financial literacy among adult learners; and feminist and social justice issues in higher and adult education. Congratulations, Libby!

Peter Houts (1933-2020)

Former UCH member Peter Houts, 87, died Dec. 25 in Brooklyn, NY. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary; their two sons, Thomas and David; and four grandchildren.

Peter grew up in Great Neck, NY. He earned a B.A. from Antioch College and a PhD in social psychology from the University of Michigan. He taught at Goucher College (1963-65), was a doctoral fellow at Stanford Medical School (1965-67), then joined the faculty at Penn State's newly founded College of Medicine in Hershey, retiring after 31 years as a full professor in 1998.

Much of his professional work focused on learning and the needs of vulnerable populations. From this research, he developed a curriculum using realistic achievable goals to train frontline caregivers of the mentally disabled and chronically mentally ill. His interest in problem-solving led him to create educational programs for family caregivers of cancer patients, working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the American Cancer Society. He also conducted research on the social and psychological effects of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. After his retirement, he remained active for many years as a consultant and reviewer of journal articles.

Peter and Mary were long-time members of UCH until moving to New York in 2011. At UCH, Peter was active in Unisingers, the Philosophy and Literature Group, Humanist Forum, and the Clover Lane Garden crew. He was a talented amateur photographer, weaver and painter. After retirement, he studied painting and graphic design at the Pennsylvania School of Art and Design. In the ensuing years, many local nonprofit organizations, including UCH, benefited from his artistic skills, as he designed and printed posters for them.

Until moving to Brooklyn, Peter and Mary lived on a small farm in Hummelstown for four decades. Among other things, they raised sheep, goats, pigs and bees.




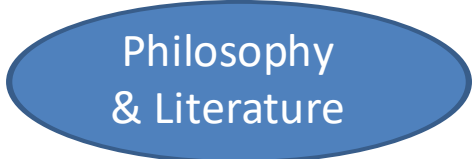
Information for Potential New Members

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, Chair, Membership Action Council



Date	Time	Group	Location
Mon 1	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>			
Tue 2	7:00	Widening the Circle of Concern	Zoom
<p>Rev. Tony leads a discussion on <i>Widening the Circle of Concern</i> as part of Adult RE. Details page 6.</p>			
Wed 3	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, Debby Ellenberger will lead ritual and reflection on the topic of Connection. A special item will be mailed to each participant to use in the ritual. If you will be a new participant, please email your postal address to Rebecca Waldemar. Be sure to give enough time to receive the mailing by Feb. 3. Bring your envelope along with a pen and paper for writing reflections to the Circle.</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 7	2:00	UCH Open Forum	Zoom
<p>UCH Open Forum meets every other Sunday at 2:00 pm for 60-90 minutes. The goal is to 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. Host Guy Dannelly creates break-out rooms around what people want to discuss, current events, politics, religion, pandemic, science, or maybe even psychology, or sociology. The subjects vary based on attendance.</p> <p>At the start of every meeting, each person has one minute to say what's on their mind, then Guy uses that to create the breakout rooms. For additional information, please contact Guy Dannelly. Repeats Feb. 21.</p>			
Sun 14	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>The People, No: A Brief History of Anti-Populism</i>, by Thomas Frank. From the Internet:</p> <p style="color: blue;">In this book Thomas Frank does an admirable job of tracing the history of the word “populism” which was coined by the People’s Party in the late 19th century to describe itself but which many now use as a derogatory term to refer to movements supporting mean-spirited demagogues. He also offers an informative history of the People’s Party, showing that it recognized women, endeavored to combat racism, and promoted education. His apparent goal in doing this is to disassociate the party and “populism properly understood” from bigoted right-wing movements that are now described as populist.</p> <p>For March, the group will read and discuss <i>Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art</i>, by Rebecca Sykes. Please contact Don Brown for information.</p>			
Sat 20	1:00	SoulCollage	Zoom
<p>Cory Ness continues Session II of SoulCollage. Details page 6.</p>			

Date	Time	Group	Location
Tue 23	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	Zoom
<p>Theme: TBD Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021</p> <p>Soon happier days will be here again, start now thinking about auction ideas and donations for 2021!</p> <p>The Auction Planning Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. 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>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are planning to meet via Zoom. If you are already a member of the Auction Committee, you will receive an email invite to attend the meeting. Otherwise, please contact Patti Hazell if you wish to attend.</p>			
Wed 24	7:00	Humanist Forum	Zoom
<p>The UCH Humanist Forum invites you to our next Zoom gathering at 7:00 p.m. Feb. 24, for a presentation by planetary scientist David Grinspoon, an American astrobiologist and author of <i>Earth in Human Hands: Shaping our Planet's Future</i>. He has studied, written and lectured about human influences on the earth. He learned that many of the humanists—historians, literary theorists, and theologians among them—were also interested in exploring the changing relationship between humanity and the planet. His research led him to the Washington Anthropocene Group, which has met at the Library of Congress, and includes geologists, historians, geographers, anthropologists, paleontologists, and others. Please watch for the weekly <i>News You Can UU's</i> for the Zoom link.</p> <p>If you are interested in joining the Forum, please contact Rachel Mark.</p>			



Minister's Column

(Continued from page 1)

Well, first in her career in banking and then in her choice to move to Peru, where she lived for more than a quarter century. It has served me well in working with congregations much different from each other and in communities much different from each other, as a minister, community and political organizer and nonprofit manager.

As prospective ministers have been calling me to ask questions about the UCH and the Harrisburg area, I have been able to tell them how this church and this area has the capacity to live into the future and thrive. To enlarge this conversation of living into the future, I invite you to join me in discussing the UUA report *Widening the Circle of Concern* (page 6). Click [here](#) to sign up! Please read the introductory materials (including "Trends") and the chapter titled "Theology" before the first session Feb. 2.

February is a short month. But February 2021 will be a very full month.

Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson

UUJusticePA

Did you know that [UUJusticePA](#) is the social justice advocacy arm of UUs in Pennsylvania? Why do we need UUJusticePA?



- ⊕ There is a crisis in Harrisburg.
- ⊕ We the People of our Commonwealth are not being heard.
- ⊕ Legislators' priorities are often not in line with our UU values.
- ⊕ Finally and most importantly: because being an activist is integral to who we are as Unitarian Universalists.

Please consider [supporting the efforts of UUJPA](#) by becoming a member. As a member of UUJPA you will receive:

- ⊕ The UUJPA monthly newsletter
- ⊕ Legislative Action Alerts
- ⊕ Legislative New Alerts
- ⊕ Invitations to our Speakers Series and programs co-sponsored by our UUJPA teams and social justice partners.

Our next major initiative is on [judicial gerrymandering](#).

– Submitted by Anita Mentzer, Liaison