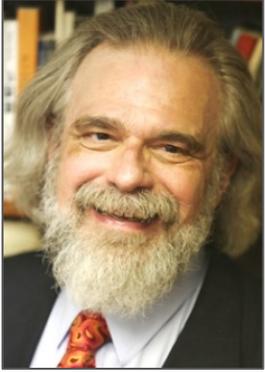




## From the Minister



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

January derives its name from the Roman deity Janus, the god of beginnings and endings, of openings and closings. Mostly, Janus is depicted with two heads – one facing backward and one forward. There are some images where the deity has

four faces facing in four directions. Even as we move forward, it is important to keep looking to the right and to the left. Danger and opportunity are not always right in front of us.

While it is important for a person to sustain forward movement—which in a year like 2020 was hard-earned—none of us can afford to ignore what is going on around us as we move ahead.

And if 2020 was for you a year with little forward movement or even a year where you lost ground, a look to the right and to the left may be as helpful as a look backward in order for you to determine your future direction and how to move in that direction.

As I write this column during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, I am taking time for reflection backward, forward, and to the sides. One reason that there is a Sunday in January for which I have not yet posted a sermon topic is that I am thinking hard about this transition from 2020—a year of many unusual challenges—to 2021—a year for which we have reason to be hopeful, but which will still be fraught with challenge.

And remember, as you look left and right, even with the physical separation caused by the pandemic, you are surrounded by people in this church who love and support you.

Final—but important--note: One way to look backward, forward and from side to side is by means of focused discussion. I invite you to join me in discussing the recently issued report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change: Widening the Circle of Concern. The report is the result of the commission's study of institutional racism and white supremacy culture within the UUA and of how to bring about the institutional and cultural change needed to dismantle this culture. The discussions will be on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., and continue for eleven weeks, beginning on January 19th. Please register for the discussion by January 10th by emailing me at [revjohnson@harrisburguu.org](mailto:revjohnson@harrisburguu.org) and using the subject line "Widening the Circle."

And don't forget my drop-in office hours on Tuesday and Wednesday. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson*

### Worship online

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

##### Jan 3: Up in Flames: Letting Go and Moving Forward – Cory Ness

What a year! What do you need to let go, so you can lead a life with emotional and spiritual balance? Attendees will be invited to "let go" by sharing words in the chat box during our **live ZOOM service** or holding them in their hearts, words that represent this past year. We will then release our "words" so we can begin to "move forward" to a hopeful New Year.

##### Jan 10: Wild Dreams of a New Beginning — Rev. Johnson

Every new year has new possibilities. I draw title from a poem by Lawrence Ferlinghetti, but the sermon is neither based on nor about the poem, which was published in 1976. But it is inspired by it.

##### Jan 17: The Arc of the Moral Universe: Who Bends It? - Rev. Johnson

On the Sunday prior to the Martin Luther King holiday and three days prior to the presidential inauguration, I want to reflect on the idea of the moral arc of the universe bending toward justice. Many people know the idea from King's speeches and writing. The idea was not original with King, but he gave it life.

##### Jan 24: A Faith for All Seasons — Rev. Johnson

Liberal religion in general and Unitarian Universalism in particular have often been criticized for being too at home in seasons of peace and happiness and insufficient for seasons of evil and suffering. Nothing could be further from the truth.

##### Jan 31: Topic TBD — Rev. Johnson

Each Sunday morning, the church will email:

- 🔔 A link to the Zoom (Jan. 3) 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*

The year 2020 is one to forget. Many people tell me they are looking forward to changing the calendar on January 1st and putting this current year behind us. It's perhaps the one thing that people agree on at the moment.

This year has been difficult for nearly everyone, and of course for some much more than for others. First a pandemic resulting in a quarantine, which caused separation, isolation, and disruption to our social fabric. And on top of that, there is incompetence, corruption, and divisiveness at the highest levels of government.

But thankfully the tide is turning. There are better days ahead of us, both as a country and as a church community.

Whoever your preferred candidate was in the recent election, the President-elect is already bringing competence, honesty, and integrity to the White House. His cabinet appointments are capable people who want the best for their departments and who also possess basic human decency. It's likely that they will fill their departments with others who share these same qualities.

This year has also been difficult on our beloved congregation. Only two and a half months into the year, we had to cancel all in-person activities. For a congregation that is focused on community, this was a profound loss, and one that we still may be struggling with. It also left many of us isolated and alone, which is the opposite of what our spirits need, the opposite of what our community usually provides.

Thanks to our capable staff, our operations and procedures adapted quickly and moved online. This was vital, but it still

left our minister, staff, and committees separated. Remote working is a remarkable alternative, but it is not the same as working together in person. It adds more complexity, everything takes longer, and the human bonds are diminished.

Nonetheless, please don't underestimate the value of continuing our operations. This is what will allow us to shift back to in-person programming relatively easily when the quarantine is lifted. Everything is in place for when that time arrives.

Let's also remember that many good things happened this year. We learned new ways of being together and new ways of doing church. The vaccines are applying amazing new science and methods that can be used to fight future diseases. There have innovations far and wide that can be continued even after the quarantine finishes.

It feels awkward to feel hopeful about the future when there are still calamities all around us. Indeed, this long nightmare will not be over this month or the next or even the next. Nonetheless, the changes in national leadership and the vaccines give me hope that the nightmare is at least winding down and will eventually be vanquished.

So let's celebrate the new year with a little extra gusto. Even if the parties are a bit smaller this year, even if we celebrate over Zoom, or even if we celebrate alone, let's ring in the new year with a little extra enthusiasm.

And the next morning, let's enter the new year with a relaxed stretch, a wider smile, and a little spring in our step. There are good days ahead of us.

*David Spear*

## Ministerial Search Committee

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

### FAQs about the Search for a Settled Minister

**What is happening this month?** On Jan. 2, 2021, the MSC will receive from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) a list of ministers who are interested in UCH. This begins an arduous process where the MSC reviews the ministers who have expressed an interest in UCH. By the beginning of February, the MSC will have reviewed materials, conducted interviews, and checked references. Three or four "precandidates" will be selected for further review. An in-depth review of these precandidates will occur during the months of February and March and will include interviews of the ministers and additional references requested by the MSC. We will observe each precandidate conduct a worship service (virtually) and develop other ways to further interact.

**What is a settled minister?** A settled minister is someone the congregation calls "to the pulpit" by congregational vote, to serve for as long as both the congregation and the minister wish to continue the relationship.

## Ministerial Search Committee (continued)

(continued from the preceding page)

**Why a settled minister?** Calling a settled minister creates a mutual commitment that allows the minister and the congregation to form a strong bond. Ideally, we form a relationship that lasts a long time. We get to know each other in a deeper way. As we come out of the pandemic and other traumatic events of this past year, that sense of strong connection and commitment will be essential for us to move ahead. A settled minister can watch and learn what moves us as a congregation and encourage us in that direction. They will participate in the continuity of our lives, watching our children grow up and conducting our weddings and memorial services. They will interact with other faiths and community organizations and help to establish UCH as a presence in the community.

**What is a search?** UCH's bylaws authorize the Board of Trustees to establish a Search Committee whose job it is to "search" for a suitable candidate for the settled ministry. The Search Committee then recommends that candidate to the congregation for a vote.

**How is the search conducted?** At its simplest level, the search is conducted by each of two parties – the ministerial search committee on behalf of the congregation and the minister – who exchange materials and engage in interactions that aim to encourage an honest and thoughtful evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses, goals, and challenges of each. Then, based upon that evaluation, each determines if there is a mutual interest in working together.

**Who designs the search process for UU congregations?** The Transitions Office of the UUA has designed a search process that is accessible via the MinistrySearch website. The website is password-protected and is used by congregations in search for a minister. Ministers in search use it as well. Using the designed processes helps congregations and ministers find a good match.

**How has COVID-19 affected the search process?** We have no idea when the COVID-19 vaccines will make it safe enough for all to meet in person. Knowing that, the work of our MSC is likely to be completely virtual. It has been virtual so far. The good news is that the experience of congregations and ministers in the final months of search last year (February – April 2020) as well as from other years has proven that it can be done very well. The Transitions Office has provided to us information and ideas about how other UU search committees completed the search process last year. All of them had successful calls.

**Does the MSC receive guidance from the Transitions Office?** Yes, the MSC receives guidance when appropriate. The search, however, is the responsibility of the congregation's Search Committee, which must do the work of finding a candidate to recommend to the congregation. Each congregation is unique, and our MSC's job is to match our uniqueness to a minister who meets our needs and expectations, who appreciates us, and who wants to work with us.

**Do we get feedback from the Transitions Office on our materials?** Yes. They have been very complimentary of our work so far – for our Congregational Record and our Documents Packet. You, the congregation, played a key role in providing the MSC with the substance and with the ideas for developing our materials. Rev. Johnson, staff, the Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, lay leaders and committees also directly helped with these efforts.

**Is there a comparable search process by ministers?** Yes. Ministers in search for a congregation to serve must complete and submit a Ministerial Record which describes the minister's background, leadership style, approach to worship and preaching, pastoral care, religious exploration, music, community building and other aspects of a minister's work and personality.

**How many votes do we need to call a minister?** Under UCH's bylaws, a ministerial candidate is "called to the pulpit" upon approval by two-thirds of the voting members present at a congregational meeting. The quorum for such a meeting is 30% of the voting membership.

**How many votes will it take for a minister to accept a call?** Meeting the requirements of UCH's bylaws does not mean that a minister will accept a call from the congregation. A minister will be hesitant to accept a call unless the vote is at least 95% in favor of the call. A minister will almost certainly decline a call that falls below 90% in favor of the call. To be successful, a new ministry needs to start out with the full support of the congregation. Without it, the minister and the congregation will have a more difficult time establishing a good relationship.

In next month's **REPORTER**, we will share more responses to frequently asked questions. If you have any questions that you would like to share, please send them to an MSC member, and we will attempt to respond. In the meantime, please keep the MSC in mind as we work to complete January's tasks!

— Submitted by Chris Dutton, Chair

### January: A Month of Renewal

By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)



#### What Does it Mean to be a Family of Renewal?

This year we will begin our monthly themes for our families with RENEWAL. The packet author from Soul Matters, Teresa Honey Youngblood, shares the following with us:

A few years ago, working as a hospital chaplain, I was visiting with a family who had just had a baby, the couple's fifth. The father was sitting on the one, plastic couch in the room, holding his sleeping newborn swaddled in the white-with-pink-and-blue-stripes blanket known to all parents who birth in an American hospital these days. The dad's sister was there, too, and as she looked at the calm and comfortable duo, she said to him, "Number five! Guess you got this whole daddy thing pretty well figured out by now!" To which he replied, exhausted but with great surety, "No, I'm a new daddy every time."

What a beautiful perspective on parenthood! When we embrace renewal, we accept that what worked in the past may not work in the future, and we trade the confidence of experience and mastery for the release, excitement, and opportunity of beginner's mind. That kind of renewal is a gift to our kids and ourselves.

While renewal comes with a sense of excitement, it may also be hard to come by this month. The near future looms. We look ahead to a major electoral transition and a back-to-school scenario that is far from ideal. We look around at the effects of a poorly handled pandemic response—joblessness, overwork, sickness, death, discord and strife. We look inward and worry: How much more can we take? Are we up to the task of turning our country around? Is renewal even possible?

When faced with feelings like this, it helps to remember that renewal is not a solo effort. We're not in this alone. So as you engage this packet this month, we hope you keep in mind that other UU families from all over the country are doing it, too. May this awareness of spiritual solidarity help renew your hope.

For more information on RENEWAL check out our online [padlet](#).

#### Adult Education Opportunities Coming Soon!

We have several adult education offerings scheduled for 2021, discussed below. Please watch *News You Can UU's* for registration information.

**Widening the Circle of Concern** with Rev. Tony Johnson beginning **Tuesday, January 19 at 7 p.m.** Will recur weekly, with duration to be determined by the discussion.

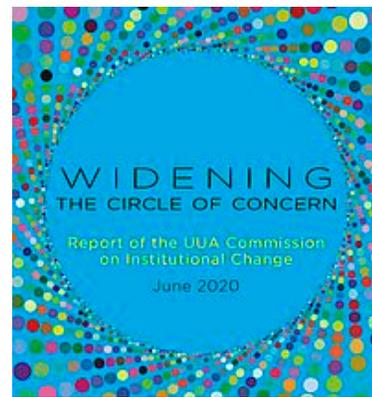
The UUA Commission on Institutional Change presented its recommendations and take-aways from its final report, *Widening the Circle of Concern*, to the delegates and attendees of the 2020 General Assembly. UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray's called the UUA's Commission on Institutional Change's report "critically important for all Unitarian Universalists."

Placing the work in context, Frederick-Gray writes:

The Commission on Institutional Change (COIC) completed their report in February 2020, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, everything that has come to pass during this pandemic has only reinforced how urgently we are in need of transformation.

As the Commissioners write: 'This crisis has revealed the disparities that exist at all levels for the well-being for Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color as well as for LGBTQ individuals, people living with limited economic means, and people living with disabilities. Addressing them within our faith becomes more important, not less.'

In this season of turning and change, marked by so much heartbreak and loss, I continue to be inspired by all the ways Unitarian Universalists just like you are actively showing up for liberating change within our faith community and with our larger communities and planet. There is hope to be found in doing the work of love and justice. Everything you do, and the work we are doing together, is a great source of my hope during this time."



The complete text is available for reading at the [UUA website](#). It is also available in hard copy from the [UUA bookstore](#) or electronically in Kindle format from [Amazon](#). This report will be foundational for our future work.

## Religious Exploration (continued)

(continued from the preceding page)

**SoulCollage**® with Cory our Director of Religious Exploration, a trained SoulCollage facilitator

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. The cards are made from simple materials: magazine images, scissors, glue, and mat board. This soul-tending practice honors one's personal journey, while promoting personal growth and self-acceptance.

Best of all, it is a creative process that is truly accessible to everyone, even people who believe they have no artistic ability.

SoulCollage is unique because once an individual card has been created, there is still much to be discovered. Through journaling, visualization and other activities, you are invited to step deeper into each card and discover how it relates to your inner and outer world. And through readings, you can use your deck to answer questions that can help you to navigate more smoothly through your daily life.

**Dates:** Two Saturdays, January 16 & February 20 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. via ZOOM

Participants are encouraged to save magazines, travel brochures, leaflets, etc. Anything that has colorful images that can be cut out and used for the collage process will be useful.

**Healing the Heart of Democracy** with Cory and volunteers using a rotating facilitation model.

Might you be fed up with the juvenile exchanges during the recent Presidential election and its debates? Worried about the inability of our elected and appointed leaders to end the policy gridlock and begin addressing the major challenges facing our nation? But, feeling powerless to change the disturbing trajectory of contemporary American politics? You might be a candidate for the UCH's new discussion group on: Healing the Heart of Democracy.

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.

The focus will be on Palmer's five "habits of the heart" that can be developed within everyday settings such as families, neighborhoods, classrooms, congregations and workplaces to help restore a government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

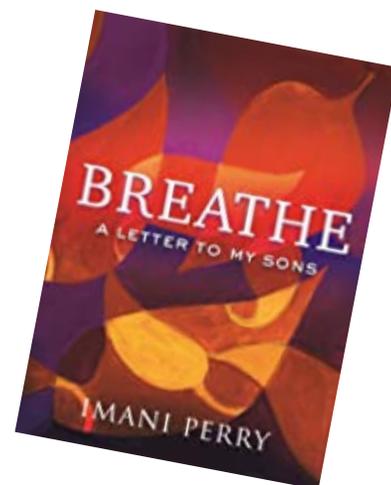
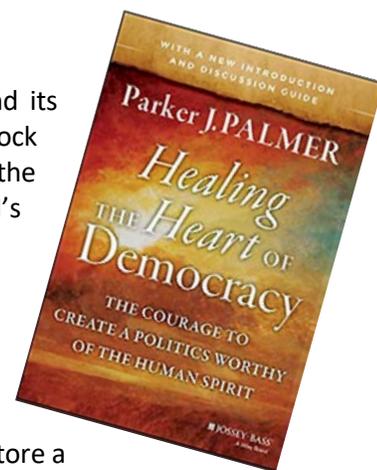
**Dates:** TBD

**Breathe: A Letter to My Sons** by Imani Perry, The UUA Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. Logistics TBD.

Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls Breathe "an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction...a parent's unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children's right simply to be possible."

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. You may purchase this book in hardcover from the [UUA Bookstore](#); group discount available. The e-book and audio book (CD or MP3) are available from [Bookshop.org](#) or in multiple formats from [Amazon](#).

**Dates:** TBD



### **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. Each grocery store pays UCH a rebate: 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 office sends out cards twice a month (on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). You can establish an auto-payment cycle (prepaying via direct debit) or you can write a check when you receive your cards. Registration forms (and additional information about the program) are available [online](#). If you have any questions about the gift card program, please contact [Tavia Flanagan](#).

Thank you for your support!



### **Nominations Solicited for Share the Plate Recipients**

As part of our mission UCH gives the weekly plate collection to a local non-profit organization who is doing good works in our area. Each month a different non-profit organization is chosen to be the recipient by the Finance Committee. But how does the Finance Committee get the names of these non-profit organizations? From you, the members of UCH.



If you work with or know of a local non-profit organization who would be a deserving recipient, now is the perfect time to nominate them to receive a month of plate collections in 2021. Just fill out the online [form](#) and mail it (to the church office) or e-mail it (to the church treasurer, [Ed Sykes](#)). Your nomination will be reviewed at the next monthly Finance Committee meeting, and you'll be notified of our decision.

Can't think of a worthy local non-profit organization right now to nominate? That's okay - the Finance Committee accepts nominations year-round. We look forward to receiving your nominations!

— Submitted by the Finance Committee

### **Share the Plate: Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg**

*Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg.*

For the past 25 years [Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg](#) (RTGH) has been providing free home repair and modification services to local low-income homeowner such as the elderly, disabled, families with children, and veterans in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry and upper York counties. RTGH's goal is to make a sustainable impact and preserve affordable homeownership. UCH member Dave Powell has volunteered at RTGH for many years and would welcome the company of any other UCH member who owns a toolbox and knows how to use it.



Date	Time	Group	Location
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<b>Mon 4</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Heart Rhythm Meditation</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
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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:

- 🕒 Friday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. ([Friday zoom link](#))
- 🕒 Monday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. ([Monday link](#))



People can drop-in or out as they want. Please contact [Libby Tisdell](#) for additional information.

<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>QueenSpirit (Monthly)</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
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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.

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.



<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>2:00</b>	<b>UCH Open Forum</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
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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.

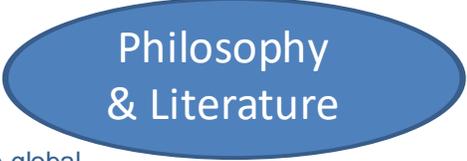


At the start of every meeting, each person has one minute to say what's on their mind, then Guy uses that to create the breakout rooms. For additional information, please contact [Guy Dannelly](#).

<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
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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 *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, co-authored by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu; the book was recommended by Lori Reed. From the Internet:

In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's 80th birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? They traded intimate stories, teased each other continually, and shared their spiritual practices. By the end of a week filled with laughter and punctuated with tears, these two global heroes had stared into the abyss and despair of our time and revealed how to live a life brimming with joy.



Other titles for 2021 (alphabetical by author) are:

- 🕒 Dalai Lama, *Beyond Religion: Ethics for the Whole World*
- 🕒 Thomas Frank, *The People No: A Brief History of Anti-Populism*
- 🕒 Sanford Levinson, *Our Undemocratic Constitution: Where the Constitution Goes Wrong (and How We the People Can Correct It)*
- 🕒 Corey Robin, *The Reactionary Mind: Conservatism from Edmund Burke to Donald Trump*
- 🕒 Michael Sandel, *Democracy's Discontent: America In Search Of a Public Poilicy*
- 🕒 Esther Schor, *Emma Lazarus*
- 🕒 Rebecca Sykes, *Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art*
- 🕒 Ben Wilson, *Metropolis: A History of the City, Humankind’s Greatest Invention*
- 🕒 Robert Wilson, *Barnum: An American Life*
- 🕒 Fareed Zakaria, *Ten Lessons for a Post Pandemic World*

Please contact [Don Brown](#) for information.

Date	Time	Group	Location
Wed 13	7:00	Humanist Forum	Zoom
<p>The UCH Humanist Forum invites you to our next Zoom gathering at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13. The topic is “what can humanism offer to existential dread?”</p> <p>On Wednesday, February 24, at 7PM, we will host planetary scientist David Grinspoon, American astrobiologist, author of <i>Earth in Human Hands: Shaping our Planet's Future</i>. Grinspoon’s research in comparative planetology, is focused on climate evolution on planets and implications for habitability. He has studied, written, and lectured on the human influence on Earth, as seen in a cosmic perspective.</p> <p>If you are interested in joining the Forum, please contact <a href="#">Rachel Mark</a>.</p>			
Tue 26	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	Zoom
<p>Theme: TBD Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021</p> <p>“Orange” you glad 2020 is over! 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 <a href="#">Patti Hazell</a> if you wish to attend.</p> <p><b>No January meeting schedule. Next regular meeting is Feb. 23</b></p>			



**Membership Information**

*Please welcome this new member to our congregation!*

**Carol Buskirk**

Carol’s interest in Unitarianism goes way back to her high school years, when she learned about it from Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. However, she never encountered a Unitarian Church until she moved to Harrisburg. Since then, she’s attended concerts and other events at UCH and known a number of members. Most recently, she has become a regular at our Heart Rhythm Meditation Group. Carol says she always knew Unitarians were “her people,” and she looks forward to becoming part of the community. Her Connection Coach is Libby Tisdell.



**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



*Ed note: This report was compiled from the UUJusticePA website and information provided by UCH member Rachel Mark, who coordinates the Social Justice Round Table at UCH.*

Formerly known as UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN), [UUJusticePA](#) is a non-profit advocacy group supporting economic, immigration and environmental justice in Pennsylvania. Its Board of Trustees includes UCH member Margaret Carrow and nine other UUs from congregations across the state.



## Justice Teams

UUJusticePA organizes its initiatives around six Justice Teams, which meet monthly to coordinate efforts. Each Justice Team focuses on major bills before the General Assembly within the specific focus area. The meetings are virtual and open to any like-minded UCH members. Meetings last about an hour.

The text below discusses each team and identifies the UCH member(s) that serve as UCH liaisons.

JUSTICE TEAM	UCH LIAISON(S)
<p><b>Criminal Justice Reform</b></p> <p>Meets at 8:00 p.m. on the last Monday of the month. Major issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. End Death by Incarceration/Life without Parole</li> <li>2. Reform the parole and probation systems</li> <li>3. Oppose mandatory minimum sentencing</li> <li>4. Reduce and restrict the use of Solitary Confinement</li> </ol> <p><b>Partner organizations</b> include the <a href="#">Pennsylvania Prison Society</a>; the <a href="#">Dauphin Co. Bail Fund</a>; the <a href="#">American Civil Liberties Union</a>; <a href="#">Books Through Bars</a>; the Church of the Larger Fellowship Prison Ministry, known as <a href="#">Worthy Now</a>; the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration and it's local branch, <a href="#">Decarcerate PA</a>; Philadelphia-based <a href="#">Healing Communities USA</a>, and the <a href="#">National Religious Campaign Against Torture</a></p>	 <p>Margaret Carrow      Jim Hargreaves      Jim Cavanaugh</p>
<p><b>Economic Justice</b></p> <p>Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday, odd-numbered months. Issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose Payday lending</li> <li>2. Support increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 Per hour and eliminate tipped wages</li> <li>3. Support Single-payer health care plan in PA / Support PA Fair Share Tax Plan</li> </ol> <p><b>Partner organizations</b> include <a href="#">Raise the Wage PA</a>; the <a href="#">Pennsylvania Health Access Network</a>; <a href="#">Education Voters of Pennsylvania</a>; <a href="#">Public Citizens for Children and Youth</a>; and the <a href="#">Education Law Center</a>.</p>	 <p>Anita Mentzer      Barbara Byrne</p>
<p><b>Environmental Justice</b></p> <p>Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. Major issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure.</li> <li>2. Support carbon pricing efforts - Citizens Climate Lobby, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Climate Solution Caucus</li> <li>3. Encourage and support congregations to divest from fossil fuels, obtain renewable energy</li> <li>4. Support the banning of single use plastics (bags, straws, etc.)</li> </ol> <p><b>Partner organizations</b> include the <a href="#">Better Path Coalition</a>; <a href="#">the Citizens Climate Lobby</a>; <a href="#">PennEnvironment</a>; <a href="#">PennFuture</a>; <a href="#">Marcellus Outreach</a></p>	 <p>Rachel Mark</p>

JUSTICE TEAM	UCH LIAISON(S)
<p><a href="#">Butler</a>; and <a href="#">Physicians for Social Responsibility</a> with offices in Philadelphia and Harrisburg.</p>	
<p><b>Good Government</b></p> <p>Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday, odd-numbered months. Major issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support Fair Districting - Oppose Gerrymandering</li> <li>2. Support a Gift Ban for Legislators</li> <li>3. Free and Fair Elections - Support Article 5 Convention of the States</li> </ol> <p>Partner organizations include <a href="#">Fair Districts PA</a>; <a href="#">March on Harrisburg</a>; <a href="#">Common Cause Pennsylvania</a>; and the <a href="#">League of Women Voters</a>.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Darlene Kvatemik</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Barbara Pearce</p> </div> </div>
<p><b>Gun Violence Prevention</b></p> <p>Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday, odd-numbered months. Major issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Universal Background Checks-close the loophole for long gun private sales: HB-673</li> <li>2. Extreme Risk Protection Order-ERPO, take guns away temporarily from someone who poses a danger to themselves or others.</li> <li>3. Gun Training-requiring everyone to go through a gun safety course before owning a gun.</li> <li>4. Gun Licensing- requiring a series of steps mandated by the state, including safety course, background checks and psychological testing in order to own a gun.</li> </ol>	<p>(Open)</p>
<p><b>Reproductive Justice</b></p> <p>Meets at 8:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Major issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support The Family Care Act (providing PAID family leave in PA)</li> <li>2. Support HB 1586 – Sex Education and Affirmative Consent</li> <li>3. HB 1291 – Enacting a Commonsense Gift Ban</li> </ol> <p>Partner organizations include the <a href="#">Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice</a>; <a href="#">NARAL Prochoice America</a>; <a href="#">Planned Parenthood</a> and its three Pennsylvania entities; the <a href="#">Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice</a>; the Pittsburgh-based <a href="#">Women and Girls Foundation</a>; and the <a href="#">Women’s Law Project</a>.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Barbara Pearce</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Jim Cavanaugh</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Karen Sykes</p> </div> </div>

## Other UUJusticePA News

### Poor People’s Campaign

UUJusticePa also supports the national [Poor People’s Campaign](#), with Margaret Carrow serving as a liaison. Partner organizations include [Put People First! PA](#), the [Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania](#), [AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power \(ACT UP!\)](#) of Philadelphia; the [Better Path Coalition](#); [Pittsburghers for Public Transit](#); [Global Women’s Strike/Every Mother is a Working Mother](#); [March on Harrisburg](#); the Pittsburgh-based [Thomas Merton Center](#); and [Just Harvest](#), and others

### UUJusticePA Sunday Forum 2:00 p.m. Jan. 3

Please join UUJusticePA at 2:00 p.m. Jan. 3 for a presentation by Lori Mitzel and Jean Hadley of Fair Districts Dauphin County. They will present information about procedural rules in the State House, why they are destructive, and what we can do to reform them. The House will vote on these rules on Jan. 5. The time is now to understand, ask questions, and act. Please watch for the Zoom link in the “News You Can UU’s” on the preceding Friday.