



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: Building Bridges, Celebrating Community

## From the Minister



Rev. David Kohlmeier is UCH's minister.

I'm writing this just two days after it became official that the Supreme Court has overturned Roe vs. Wade. I'm here in an RV, near my mom's trailer, out the "family holler" (as I call it), here in West Virginia, attending our UU General Assembly. There is something isolating about such huge news happening when I'm so remote from the rest of the world. At the same time, even though it's only via my screen, I'm feeling held. It was palpable at GA, even virtually, the solidarity our Unitarian Universalist faith has on the issue of bodily autonomy and consent.

I'm reminded just how fragile things feel right now. I look at how much the rising gas prices and inflation have created big challenges for our family budget; I look at just how many basic freedoms are threatened in the concurrent opinion to Dobbs, written by Justice Clarence Thomas... if you feel anxious, or concerned, you're not alone. I'm not going to even try to catalog here all that is going on.

For those of you who have been leading the fight for reproductive for justice, thank you. Please care for yourself. We will all need your guidance and wisdom even more in the months ahead. For those of you afraid because of this ruling, please know you're not alone. We're all in this together.

And for those of you who maybe don't understand why so many of us are reacting the way we are, for those of us who may not be supporters of abortion (and the right to personal conscience is a core Unitarian Universalist value, it's part of our Fifth Principle), I ask that you make some time to listen right now. Hear the stories of those who are afraid right now. Take this moment to practice compassionate care for others. That's good advice for all of us!

Our UU General Assembly just passed an Action of Immediate Witness on this issue (with a resounding 99.7% of the votes in favor) that has concrete suggestions what individuals and congregations can do. Organizing opportunities are coming. This is long-haul work, and we will tackle it together

I close with part of that Action, that sums up my feelings better than I can:

"Our Unitarian Universalist faith affirms that all of our bodies are sacred, and that we are each endowed with the twin gifts of agency and conscience. Each of us should have the power to decide what does and doesn't happen to our bodies at every moment of our lives because consent and self-determination are holy..."

Controlling people's bodies during pregnancy is about enforcing white supremacy, patriarchy, and ruling-class power...

Our faith compels us to take liberatory action in response."

Amen.

Yours, *Rev. David*

## Worship 10:30 a.m. Sundays

### July theme: Defiant Love

While Rev. David is on vacation, the Worship Team has lined up an outstanding series of guest speakers.

**July 3: JD Stillwater**

**July 10: Rev. Joan Sabatino**

**July 17: Jim Handshaw and Don Brown**

**July 24: Lois Voigt and Marjy Schubauer-Hartman**

**July 31: Rev. David**

Sunday services stream on YouTube

([www.youtube.com/UCHBG](http://www.youtube.com/UCHBG)) as well as Zoom. Each Sunday morning, you can watch the live stream on YouTube in the "UCH" group and/or use the Zoom link emailed by the church office.

## July 21: Zoom Session 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.

This month, we have scheduled a special "New Member Zoom Session" at 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 21. If you would like to attend, please contact [Bart](#) to register.



### July Share the Plate: Downtown Daily Bread

Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with Downtown Daily Bread in Harrisburg.

[Downtown Daily Bread](#) (DDB) is a ministry of Pine Street Presbyterian Church, 310 N. Third Street. The 501(c)3 organization serves the hungry and homeless of Harrisburg, providing a daily lunch, counseling services, showers, lockers, mail delivery, and a safe and secure environment to rest and access a variety of other assistance. Breakfast is served Mon-Fri from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.; lunch is served from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. every day; and other services are available on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



DDB also partners with other organizations in Central Pennsylvania. For example, UPMC’s Street Medicine team conducts a “Street Feet” clinic every two months, and its Resources, Education and Comprehensive Care for HIV (REACCH) team provides HIV testing several times a year. Harrisburg University of Science and Technology provides weekly harvests of fresh produce from the university’s hydroponics/aquaponics garden.

– Submitted by UCH Finance Committee

### UCH President Mary Lynn Fecile

At the June 21 board meeting, Mary Lynn Fecile was elected as President of the Board of Trustees, effective July 1. Mary Lynn takes over for David Spear, who reached term limits on June 30. At the July meeting, the Board will elect the remaining officers: Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk.

Mary Lynn brings a wealth of experience to this role, including serving two years as a trustee, participating in the Re-Opening Task Force and the Capital Improvements Task Force, and chairing a Ministerial Search Committee.

Thanks to Mary Lynn for her dedication to the church. Please give her your support as she helps to lead this church in the coming year.

- Submitted by David Spear



### New Church Administrator

Please welcome our new church administrator, Jacqueline Swanson. She replaces Kel Kyle, who left last fall. In her own words:

I am a human resource professional with several years of nonprofit administration experience. I received my bachelor’s from York College in Sociology and my master’s from Penn State in Human Resources and Employee Relations. My specialty is employment law, compliance, and employee advocacy and equity.

My family moved from York to Harrisburg in spring of 2018. I have a son, Hadrian, who is 6 and just graduated from Kindergarten. He is the light and exasperation of my life.

I am also easily distracted by plants and rabbits. If you can’t find me, I’m probably outside in my garden pulling weeds and talking lovingly to the rabbits eyeing my vegetables.

I am beyond thrilled to join the team; the energy and excitement is palpable and infectious. I look forward to collaborating with this amazing group of people and facilitating growth and positive change

You can reach her at [jswanson@uchbg.org](mailto:jswanson@uchbg.org)



### Opportunities for Religious Exploration

By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)

Our summer RE program continues apace! Topics for July include all of the following:

- 🍷 July 10 Create Book Notes
- 🍷 July 17 Treats for the Humane Society
- 🍷 July 24 Cards of Encouragement
- 🍷 July 31 Beautify Mother Earth

If you can volunteer to assist with our summer program, please contact [Cory Ness](#). We also have a sign-up board in the upper lobby.



### Ballet to Disco

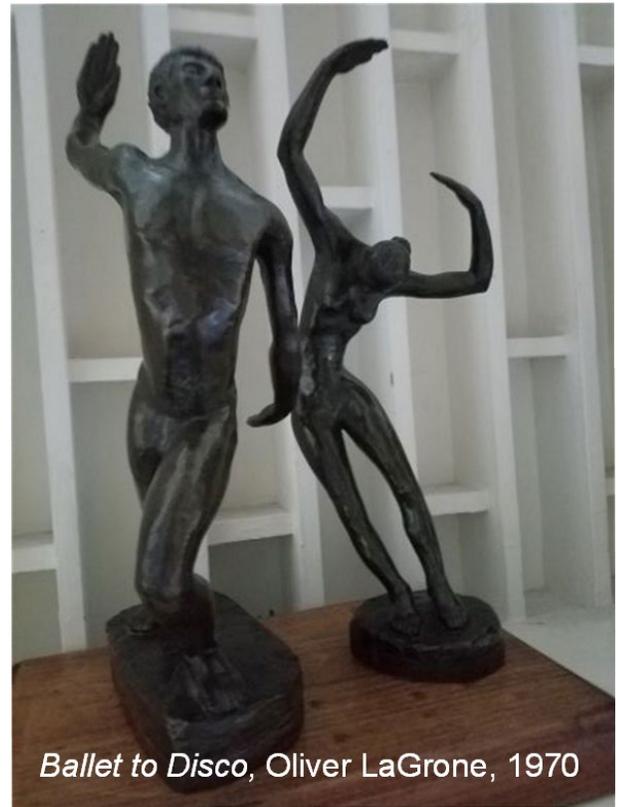
You’ve seen it at the front of our sanctuary, displayed on the shelf of the screen at the rear of the speakers’ platform. *Ballet to Disco* is composed of two separate figures, mounted so their complementary positions can be opposed in multiple ways, as intended by sculptor Oliver LaGrone.

Rev. David Kohlmeier drew fresh attention to the sculpture on Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Sunday this spring, inviting participants to interact with and move the sculpture, displayed for the day on a free-standing table. He noted that LaGrone felt that no piece is finished until another person is inspired by it to make something else. Rev. David also noted:

Here’s what it says to me: Human bodies—in motion—together. Human bodies made to move and pivot together, dancing to some kind of rhythm. As LaGrone observed, ‘If there is a constant in the universe, perhaps it’s rhythm.’ What is the thing that you are being asked to contribute to the dance of life?

These are two Black bodies. We are in a culture that has not treated Black bodies with respect historically, reminding all who are under-valued that they, too, can and should ‘dance’. What bodies are you treating differently without even knowing it? Who are the bodies that you are not respecting?

Ballet is proper, classical, European. Disco, a popular dance from the ‘60s, is improv, contemporary, right-down-the-street ordinary. In *Ballet to Disco*, LaGrone integrated the two. How can we break down our prejudices about what is high and low, acceptable and not acceptable? What do you see in the dance?”



LaGrone created the sculpture in 1970 and subsequently sold it to UCH members Lowery and Marilyn McHenry in 1983. In transferring the artwork, LaGrone also provided the McHenrys with a document describing it:

The genesis, or ‘route of arrival’ of *Ballet to Disco* was one of the simplest I can recall. It first occurred as a nebulous need to ‘make a statement’ around replays of some harmonizing dance patterns and rhythms I’d seen somewhere, sometime, performed by some dancer. It involved a male dancer—doing parts from several dance routines—I believe modified by Joe Cooksey and other personalities of modern and classic dance. As soon as I made the center ‘genesis lines’ of the male in ‘free association’ doodlings—I saw a dynamic dance figure emerging and each spontaneous uncontrived motion of my sketching hand made a positive addition to the representation. Then it was immediately clear that a female figure was needed as the contrast and complement for a ‘whole’ statement.

The McHenrys in 1999 donated this work to the church. It is cast in bronze, each lithe figure later mounted individually as devised by woodworker and then-UCH member John Quimby. The full base is further secured through the platform-screen with a padlock so the two don’t dance away.

Other LaGrone sculptures at UCH are *Mask* (plaster, bronze patina, Common Room, wall plaque), *George Washington Carver* (plaster, bronze patina, minister’s study), and *Harriet Tubman* (bronze, foyer).

—Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

### Book Shuffle

Attention: YES, the Oliver LaGrone Book Shuffle is back in the fall of 2022!

- 🍷 WHO – Harrisburg UUs and all those neighbors, friends and family who like to read and to support a good cause
- 🍷 WHAT- the Oliver LaGrone Book Shuffle
- 🍷 WHERE- in person at UCH in the Priestley Room
- 🍷 WHEN- Sale Dates Sunday, September 25 and October 2
- 🍷 WHY- Raising money for the OLG Scholarship Fund

So save those hardbacks, paperbacks, CDs, and DVDs to donate this fall, with intake beginning Sept. 11. Also please be aware some things really don’t sell: encyclopedias, magazines, outdated textbooks, etc. Please be discriminating.

P.S. If you enjoy spending time browsing in a bookstore, [Nan Cavanaugh](#) has a short-term volunteer job for you.

—Submitted by Nan Cavanaugh

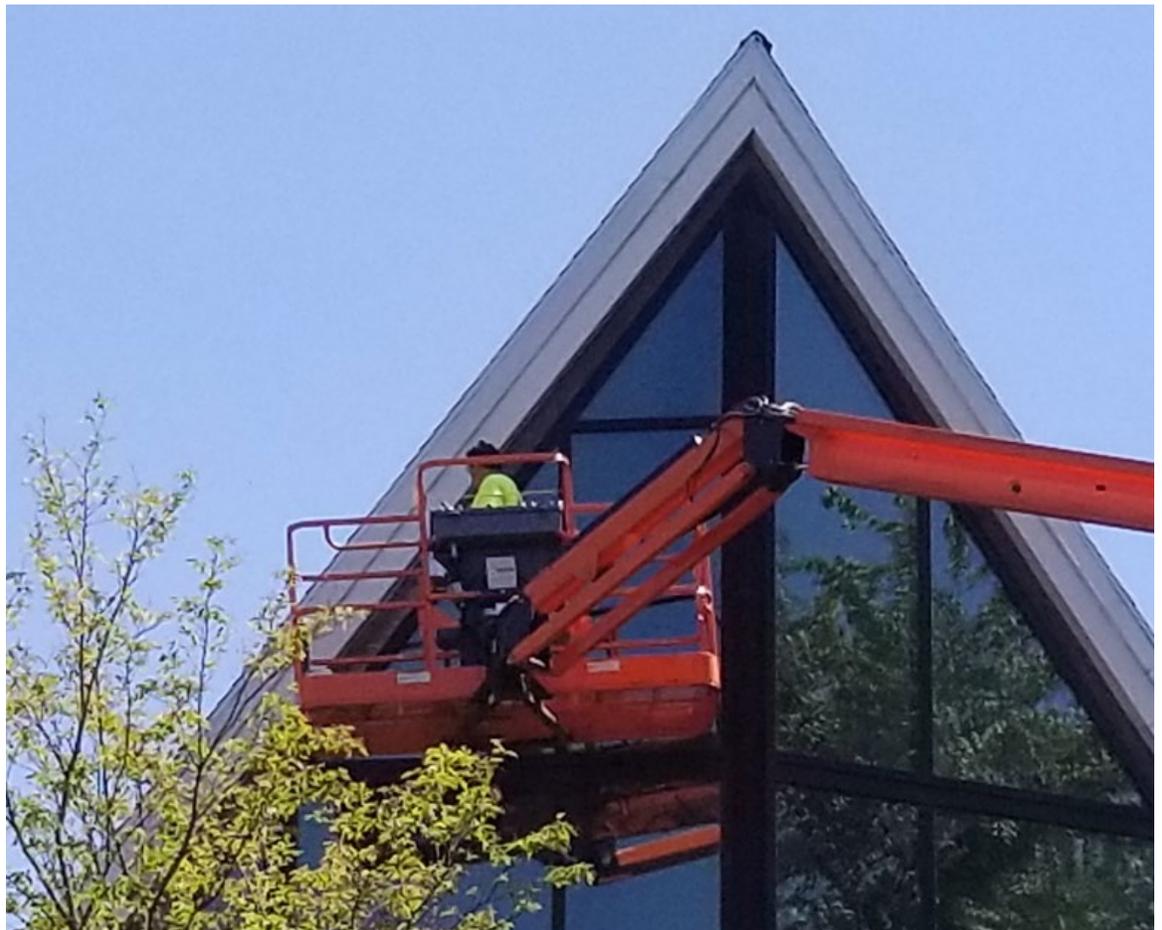
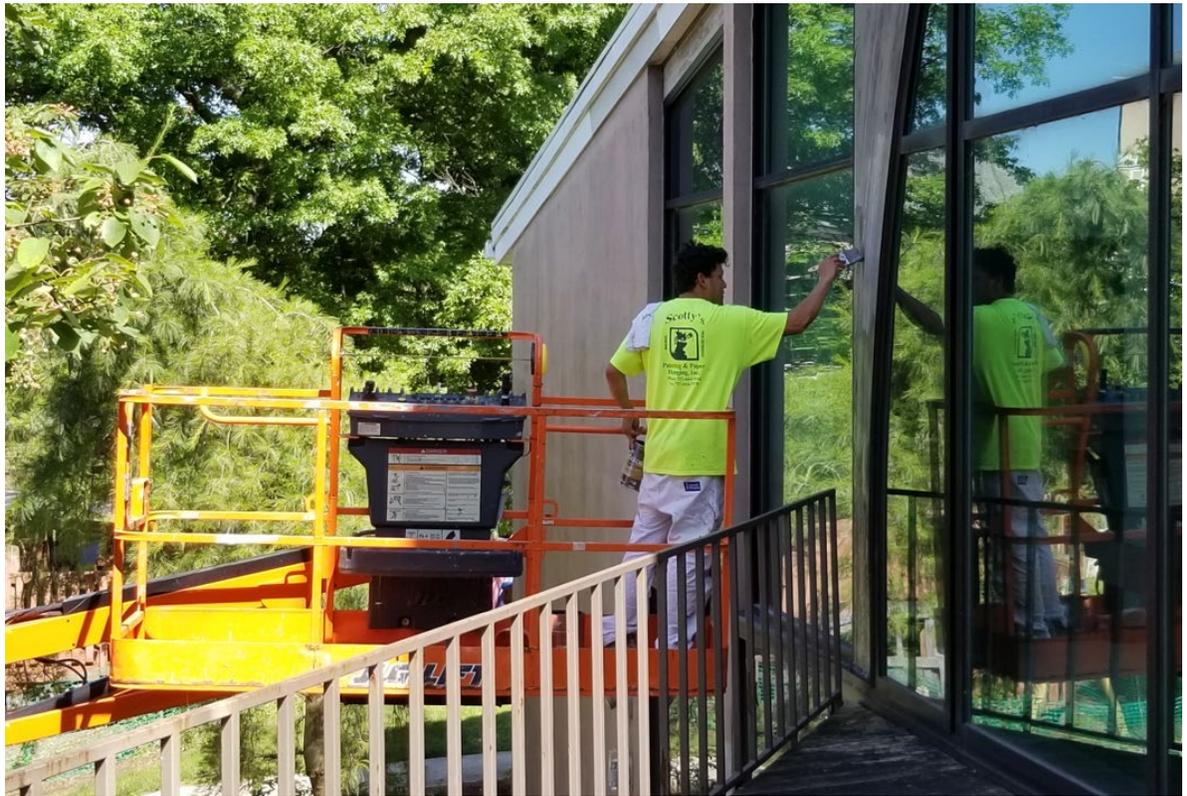
### **Sanctuary Maintenance**

The wooden beam on the north face of our sanctuary was given a protective coating in June. The wood had become oxidized and softened from decades of exposure to the sun and the elements.

Using the lift bucket, the repair team blasted off the oxidized surface and applied a coat of protective stain. This beam is the main structural element that supports the roof and the large windows, so it was essential for it to be protected. The beam was added in the 1993 building expansion and had not been addressed since then.

The cost of the renovation was approximately \$6,000.

*- Submitted by David Spear*



Date	Time	Group	Location
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<b>Fri 1</b>	<b>Various</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. **No meditation July 4 and July 12-27.**

<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>6:00/7:00</b>	<b>QueenSpirit (Monthly)</b>	<b>Common Room</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, we explore femine beauty and feminine beauty rituals.

All who identify as women are welcome in a co-creating sacred space. This is an in-person event. Please bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share, your place setting, and serving spoons. Potluck begins at 6 p.m. and our circle begins at 7 p.m. Contact [Rebecca Waldemar](#) (717-364-2029) for further information.

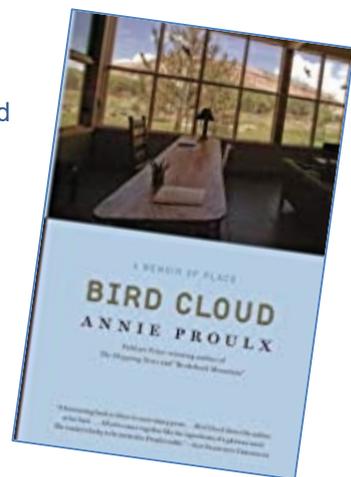


<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
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The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. and (historically) at the church. During the current pandemic, the session is a virtual meeting via Zoom. This month, the group meets to discuss *Bird Cloud: A Memoir of Place*, by Annie Proulx. From Amazon.com:

“Bird Cloud” is the name Annie Proulx gave to 640 acres of Wyoming wetlands and prairie and four-hundred-foot cliffs plunging down to the North Platte River. On the day she first visited, a cloud in the shape of a bird hung in the evening sky. Proulx also saw pelicans, bald eagles, golden eagles, great blue herons, ravens, scores of bluebirds, harriers, kestrels, elk, deer and a dozen antelope. She fell in love with the land, then owned by the Nature Conservancy, and she knew what she wanted to build on it—a house in harmony with her work, her appetites and her character, a library surrounded by bedrooms and a kitchen.

Bird Cloud is the story of designing and constructing that house—with its solar panels, Japanese soak tub, concrete floor, and elk horn handles on kitchen cabinets. It is also an enthralling natural history and archaeology of the region—inhabited for millennia by Ute, Arapaho, and Shoshone Indians—and a family history, going back to nineteenth-century Mississippi riverboat captains and Canadian settlers.



On the horizon:

- 🕒 **August:** Amanda Gorman, *Call Us What We Carry: Poems*
- 🕒 **September:** Damon Galgut, *The Promise: A Novel*
- 🕒 **October:** Regina Stoltzfus and Tobin Shearer, *Been in the Struggle: Pursuing an Antiracist Spirituality*
- 🕒 **November:** Kazuo Ishiguro, *Klara and the Sun*

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

<b>Tue 26</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Auction Planning Committee</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
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**Date:** Nov. 5, 2022 **Place:** UCH Clover Lane

The Auction Planning Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. This month, the meeting is again via Zoom. Start thinking now about auction ideas and donations for 2022! Come brainstorm ideas, themes, and be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2022 Church Auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success.

Please contact [Patti Hazell](#) (717-576-9848) for additional information. A Zoom link will be sent to Auction Committee members a few days prior to the meeting.

## Important Dates

Save these dates!

### Zoom Talk with Rev. Katey Zey, 7:30 p.m. July 7

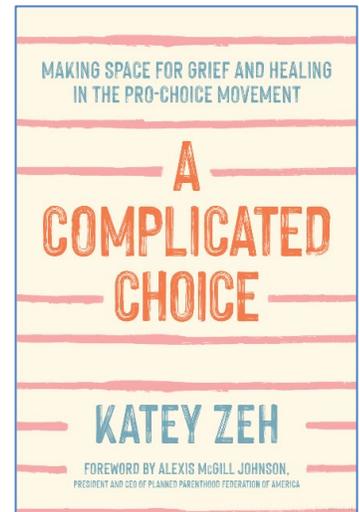


Please plan to attend a Zoom interview with author and reproductive justice activist [Rev. Katey Zey](#). She is Executive Director of the national Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and author of *A Complicated Choice: Making Space for Grief and Healing In The Pro-Choice Movement*. The event is hosted by UUJusticePA, featuring interviewers Michele Hamilton of the Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice (RCRJ) and Rev. Joan Sabatino, Executive Director of UU JusticePA.

It will include discussion of reproductive justice (RJ) actions we can all take following the June 24 Supreme Court decision to strike *Roe vs Wade*.

The discussion will include talking about the Action of Immediate Witness “[We Do Not Consent](#)” adopted by the recently-ended General Assembly. It will be presented by your UCH RJ team, the statewide UUJusticePA RJ team (Karen Sykes is co-chair) and the Pennsylvania RCRJ. Because of Zoom security concerns, all are asked to pre-register at the [UUJusticePA website](#).

— Submitted by Karen Sykes



### Reproductive Justice ~ July 30 Pride Fest

UCH Reproductive Justice allies are partnering with the PA Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice at Pride Fest on July 30 in Harrisburg. We are looking for members/friends who might be willing to spend two hours at our table at Pride Fest near the Capitol. Hours we'll need help are between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Other UUs will also be involved with the UCH table there as well. No experience necessary. We will have brochures to pass out. Come meet and talk to people at the festival about reproductive justice and the rights of all to equal treatment under the law. For further info, contact [Barb Pearce](#) (717-697-4114).

### Central PA “UU Revival,” Saturday, Aug. 13, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

UCH members, families and guests are invited to a “UU Revival” sponsored by the various UU congregations of Central Pennsylvania. The ministers of our respective congregations have been in discussion on how to create regional connections across the congregations – and to celebrate light at the end of (or learning to live with) COVID.

- 🕒 11:00 – 12:00 Multigenerational worship led by Bubble Wands
- 🕒 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and mingling (bring your own picnic and chairs)
- 🕒 1:00 – 1:30 Breakout Session 1
- 🕒 1:30 – 2:00 Breakout Session 2
- 🕒 1:00 – 2:00 Games (overlaps with breakout sessions)
- 🕒 2:00 – 4:00 Music

Details forthcoming in *News You Can UUse* and the August **REPORTER**.

### Come Together, November 5

This month, “**We the people**” come together to celebrate the Declaration of Independence, and we gather again in November for the UCH auction. Together we can secure “**certain unalienable Rights**” as a nation and a congregation. What can you donate to the UCH auction towards “**Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness?**” Do you have a new skill or talent discovered or developed during the summer or the time spent at home during COVID? By offering to share your ability you'll come together with new and old UCH friends.

And what local community-minded businesses do you frequent that might donate to the auction? Print the [business donation letter](#) and see what you can round up! Let us “**mutually pledge to each others our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor.**”



Save the date of Saturday, November 5, to Come Together at UCH! Contact [uchauction@gmail.com](mailto:uchauction@gmail.com) to make a donation, volunteer, or if you have any questions.

— Submitted by Patti Hazel