



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: Building Bridges, Celebrating Community

From the Minister



Rev. David Kohlmeier is UCH's minister.

This morning, I was grabbing coffee while taking the kids to school and daycare. As we waited, we looked at some of the trees outside, bursting with color. I commented on how much I loved the bright pink blossoms on one tree. Ramona

observed that those were great, but she liked the white ones on a nearby bush better. "They're smaller, and not as bright, but that's okay!" What a great reminder!

Our theme for the month is "Nurturing Beauty," and of course that makes me think straightaway of big bold things like those bright pink flowers, or other dramatic examples of spring beauty. What Ramona reminded me of, though, was that beauty can also be small, subtle, and not quite as flashy.

In many Native American traditions, "beauty" isn't just aesthetic, it's also moral. To live a good life, to do the right thing, to be in right relationship with your own body, each other, and the Earth, is "the beautiful road." There is beauty in living a good life.

Maybe that means that one way to think of our church life is that we are practicing beauty with each other. We do that by taking care of our buildings and grounds, by investing and working on the literal beauty of our space; but we also do that by how we treat each other. We do that when we extend kindness and compassion, when we give each other grace and respect. We nurture beauty by taking our covenant seriously, both in how we talk to each other but also in how we treat the marginalized, vulnerable, and oppressed. We do this when we give our time, our passions, and the treasure we have to the ministry and vision of our congregation. We do that by acting for justice in the world, nurturing a beautiful way for everyone.

It's all about beauty: the fiery and bright beauty, but also, maybe even more so, the subtle, humble, overlooked beauty of small, everyday goodness.

Go and live in beauty.

Rev. David

Stewardship Committee Report

These are exciting times for the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. As of April 28, we have received 94 pledges totaling an amount of \$313,120 toward our goal of \$390,000. YOUR SUPPORT is very much appreciated. THANK YOU!

—Submitted by David Powell for the Stewardship Committee, including Justin Sciamanna, Ray Harris, John Hargreaves, Ed Sykes, and Rev. David

Worship 10:30 a.m. Sundays

May theme: Nurturing Beauty

May 1: The Gospel According to Vincent van Gogh, Rev. David
Vincent van Gogh is one of the most well-known artists in history, but did you know that he originally wanted to be a minister? And did you know that he first began painting as a way to illustrate his understanding of the Gospel? In this service we'll look at just a few of his works and try to discern some of the spiritual wisdom in it.

May 8: Mama's Day, Rev. David

An initiative of the nonprofit [Forward Together](#) (and endorsed by the UUA), "Mama's Day" is a celebration of "all the mamas in our lives—biological and chosen, adoptive and foster, queer and trans, nearby and far." It's also a call for all families to have what they need in order to thrive. Let's celebrate Mama's Day!

May 15: Beautiful Road, Rev. David

In many Native American spiritual traditions, there is the concept of "the good road" or "walking the beautiful path." This service will invite us to learn from these traditions, and consider how in our own lives we might "journey in beauty."

May 22: LaGrone Sunday, Rev. David

Our annual Sunday celebrating the legacy of artist Oliver LaGrone and honoring the newest scholars of the Oliver LaGrone scholarship. The sermon will reflect on LeGrone's "Ballet to Disco" sculpture, which resides on our chancel. What is the significance of this particular piece having such a prominent place every Sunday morning? Let's find out.

May 29: Memorial Day, Laura Shemick

Memorial Day is for remembering our honored friends and relatives, but our UU principles also call us to remember all who have passed from this world with kindness and compassion. We have seen more death and despair in the past two years than at any time since perhaps the Second World War, and many of us are nearly numb from seeing and hearing of tragedy. How do we cope?.

We are now streaming Sunday services on [YouTube](#) 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.

CRAFTING
OUR FUTURE
TOGETHER



2022-23 UCH STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

Spring seems to have actually arrived this year. The days are warmer, and the sunlight is lasting longer each day. Hopefully the April showers will bring us May flowers, and we can watch our beautiful grounds explode with color and life.

Our congregation is also awakening, with our building now open and activities beginning in earnest once again. This continues to be a very promising time for us, as we re-energize and revitalize ourselves for the future.

It was a joy to host our Congregational Meeting on April 24, when the congregation voted unanimously to ordain Greg Boyd as a minister within the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Greg grew up in our church, and it is a delight that we can ordain one of our own to begin deeper ministry. As Greg pointed out, we will be in long-term covenant with him as he continues and expands his ministry. In the meantime, Greg will return to Los Angeles to continue his current ministry there.

The ordination ceremony will likely take place sometime in August. If you'd like to be part of the planning team for that, please reach out to Rev. David.

The Congregational Meeting was also a symbol of the future of our church, and of most churches around the country. It was hybrid, with more than 50 members attending in the sanctuary and more than 30 attending through Zoom. We had plenty of practice holding meetings through Zoom during the quarantine, and we were able to combine that with our long history of in-person meetings. It takes a couple of extra hands to hold hybrid meetings, but we're now comfortable with it. This will be the future of our church.

Speaking of which, our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15. That is the Sunday after Mother's Day, so fear not, you'll be able to take Mom out for dinner the week before and still attend our meeting. I hope that many of

you can attend, either in person or through Zoom, because we need to vote on two major items: a budget for the next church year and new Board members.

We got a sneak preview of our budget for next year at the meeting April 24. Our pledge goal is \$390,000, and as of publication time, we had received pledges of \$313,120, which is 80.3% of our goal. That still leaves a sizable gap in income, so if you have not submitted your pledge yet, please do so soon. If you have questions, please reach out to Ed Sykes, John Hargreaves, or Lois Voigt.

We will distribute an updated budget proposal before the annual meeting, and it will need to reflect the amount of pledging we have received by that time. The Board is committed to a balanced budget, but there are unfortunately very few places to cut the budget if needed. Approximately 75% of our budget is for staff salaries and benefits so any reduction would likely reduce hours and reduce or eliminate raises. Another possible target would be our contributions to the UUA. They have been wonderfully helpful during the pandemic, so I would lament any cuts to them. Let's see if we can meet our pledge goal of \$390,000.

The budget is our only concern at the moment because otherwise the church is getting stronger and more vibrant week by week. With the building now open, people are getting more involved, and we're doing more planning for the future.

I appreciate what Mary Henninger-Voss said at the end of the recent meeting. We have accomplished the goals that we set for ourselves back in 2018. Her team is now helping us develop new goals and set our direction for the next several years. I encourage you to give your input if you haven't already and stay involved in this process as it unfolds over the coming year. This is perhaps the most vital of all tasks now. We are on a generally good footing, so now is the time to plan for the next years of our beloved community.

David Spear

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.



Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2021

Through the first 9 months of our fiscal year, we have an excess of income over expenses of \$32,587, summarized in the table at right. That is near where we would hope to be given expenses invariably exceed income during the last three months of the fiscal year. We anticipate perhaps ending the year with a small surplus, discussed below.

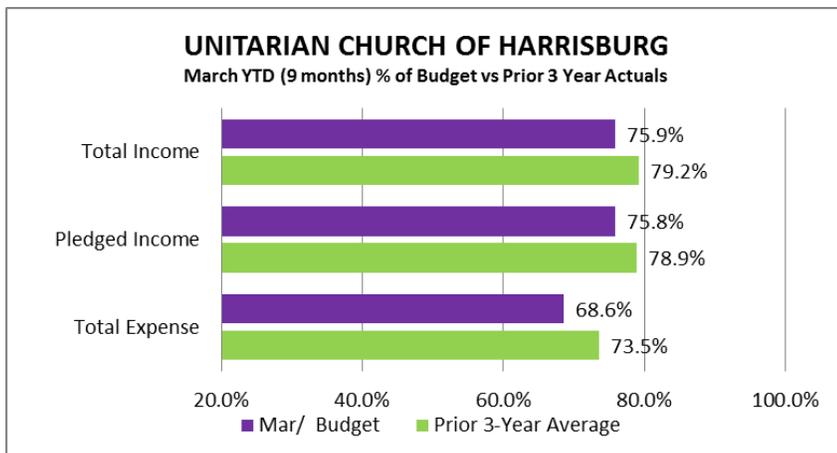
	Mar '22	FY22 Budget
Total Income	339,568	447,600
Total Expenses	(306,981)	(447,600)
Net	32,587	0

The accompanying chart shows three summary line items in the budget, comparing current year-to-date (YTD) to prior years, with comments on each line item (below).

➊ **Total Income** has lagged behind expectations because *Unpledged Income*, the church's share of the *Plate Offering*, *Rental Income*, *Auction Income*, and *Grocery Card Sales* are significantly below planned levels. Income from these sources will likely be a combined \$25,000-\$30,000 below expectations at the end of the fiscal year.

➋ **Pledged Income** is also a little behind budget. We received 75.8% of our *Stewardship Pledge Income* goal of \$370,000 through March, versus the 3-year average of 78.9%. *Stewardship Gifts* were lower than usual the past three months and may fall slightly short of the net expectation for the fiscal year (we budget for 4% in unfilled pledges and are trending slightly above that rate).

➌ **Total Expenses** of \$306,981 YTD are fortunately less than expected. Total expenses at fiscal year-end should be \$30,000 below planned levels because ministerial moving expenses were less than budgeted and the Congregational Administrator position was not filled for the past 5 months.



If we meet our expectations for *Stewardship Pledge Income*, we should complete the year with a small surplus because the open administrative position savings should offset the income shortfall.

—Submitted by Lois Voigt, Treasurer

May Share the Plate: Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund

Each month, we share the Sunday plate with a local non-profit. This month, we share with LaGrone Scholarship Fund.

The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship program offers the largest local scholarship available to graduates of Harrisburg Public High Schools. Scholars receive \$12,000 (\$3,000 annually) and are assigned a mentor to provide advice and guidance during their post-secondary education. The scholarship is named for Oliver LaGrone (1906-1995), a nationally noted poet, sculptor, philosopher, humanitarian, and ardent supporter of UCH.

— Submitted by UCH Finance Committee

Helping People in Prison and their Families

In April 2023, our lay-led Helping People in Prison and their Families ministry will sponsor a “Community Connections Reentry Breakfast” as we did a dozen times in the past, coordinated by the [Prison Action Committee of Christian Churches United](#). Jim Cavanaugh has been a member since 2005 and coordinates events with them. Each month a different church provides a Saturday morning hot breakfast, an inspirational speaker, and a welcoming atmosphere. The breakfasts were put on hold due to the pandemic and are restarting this summer.

Because we focus on women and their families, we always have a woman speaker, like [Marsha Banks](#), who spoke when she was “graduated” from women’s work release following a three-year time at SCI Muncy. Because it has been so long, we’re giving a lot of advance notice so the UCH community can begin thinking about volunteering – having lots of UCH people is what has made past breakfasts a success. Our volunteers set up tables and chairs on Friday, begin cooking early Saturday morning, serve buffet-style when our guests have arrived, and clean up after they leave about 10:30am. When we set a date (likely the third or fourth Saturday) we will publicize it so you can “Save The Date.”

— Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

Opportunities for Religious Exploration



By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)

We have two adult activities this month, plus ongoing RE for children/youth.

Adult RE

Stitchers Group (Ongoing)

This group gathers via Zoom the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. No agenda – just building connections. Contact [Cory](#) if you want her to add you to this group.

Defund Fear by Zach Norris: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 11

UCH congregants and friends are invited to read [Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment](#) by Zach Norris (Beacon Press, 2021) as the next Common Read. We will start discussion sessions this month. Please register at [this link](#).

Please consider viewing the [recorded conversation](#) moderated by *UU World* executive editor, Roger Santodomingo, who engages Norris with UU religious professionals on ways the book resonates for UUs. The conversation calls us to respond individually and collectively with prophetic, faith-based participation in our shared public safety.

As Unitarian Universalists, the matters raised in *Defund Fear* invite us to respond to public safety in the U.S. today through a lens of faith. Norris illuminates and examines society's "punish first" public safety practices, in part, by exposing the traumatic and dehumanizing experiences of individuals who have shared them for the sole purpose of opening minds and hearts to bring change. Our values call us to approach this book with humility toward these stories and appreciation of the tellers' generosity and purpose. Everyone has a place in the stories Norris offers. Bring self-awareness of your place in your community and the world to seek your role in the stories and in the challenges they call forth.

For your care, for your growth, and for the care and growth of others in your community with whom you will discuss *Defund Fear*, it is strongly recommended that you enter this book with these questions by your side:

- ⊕ What is my connection to the stories told and the harms named? Where am I in these stories? In what ways have the system's "punish first" responses either benefitted or harmed my community?
- ⊕ What is my story of public safety? In what ways has fear shaped my assumptions and experiences about public safety?
- ⊕ What is my complicity? Does my sense of safety help to create "un"-safety for someone else? What shape does, or could, my accountability take?
- ⊕ What support do I have and what do I need, in bringing my raw self to this book and the faith questions it asks me?

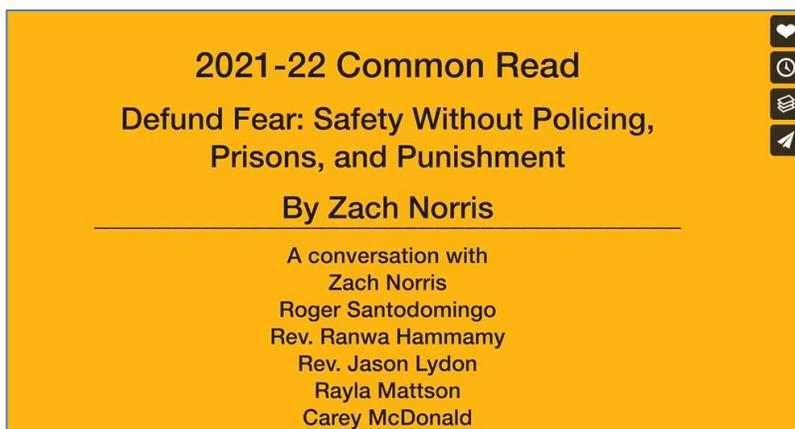
May Theme: Nurturing Beauty

As most of you know, UCH has aligned this year's weekly services and the RE program with a series of monthly themes. Our RE program in turn is leveraging information from the [Soul Matters Sharing Circle](#) for much of the detailed material we use for children, youth, and covenant groups. Our May theme is Nurturing Beauty.

Beauty.
We appreciate it.
How could we not?
We wonder at it.
Get absorbed in it.
Analyze it, if it's got a frame around it.

Grow it.
Point at it.
Collect it.
Share it.
Save it.

But how often do we listen to it?



How often do we ask, "What is it trying to get me to hear?"
Rather than, "Do I like it or not?"

It's just so hard to step outside
our mangled view of the world
that sees everything in the light of consumption.
Not everything is here for our possession.
Not everything is here to entertain us.
Not everything is meant to be put to use, even you.

We must find our way back,
to those questions that were once alive
but now are buried deep:
"What if beauty is here to make us wise?"
"What if beauty is the way the sacred speaks?"

Yes! Yes! It does so much more than decorate.

It demands. It calls. It asks for commitment.
It doesn't just say "Love and appreciate me."
It says "Protect me! Fight for me!"
It steps out in front of us and points to a precious world
that needs our help.
It paints a picture of new ways of living
and declares, "Follow me there!"

It says, "Even in hell holes I find a way to grow."
It sings, "This world was made for more than work."
It whispers, "Use me to heal."
It pleads, "Nurture a new relationship with me. One that
allows me to talk!"
So, what is it saying to you?

— From Soul Matters Circle, LLC

What Does it Mean to Nurture Beauty?

From the Soul Matters team:

Sociologist [Tressie McMillan Cottom](#) has written extensively about the construction of beauty. She argues that the way beauty is most often conceptualized in the dominant culture is as that which has aesthetic value that can be capitalized upon. And the way this plays out is that a few people profit from a beauty standard that is so narrow that the majority of people could only achieve it with great expenditures of money.

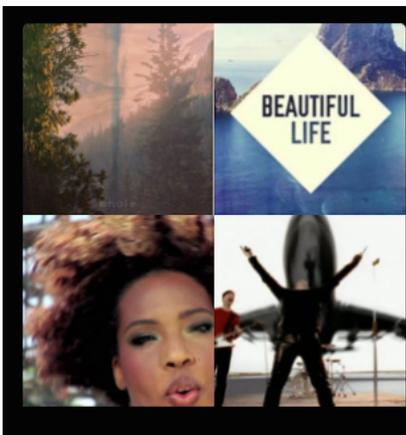
A couple of months ago, the phenomenal pop artist [Lizzo did an interview](#) with *Harper's Bazaar* in which she said, "What I'm doing is stepping into my confidence and my power to create my own beauty standard. And one day that will just be *the* standard."

Can you imagine that a day when *the* standard of beauty is the standard that one sets for one's self? We are going to be nurturing that kind of beauty in ourselves this month, the kind that emanates from within, and is unique and evolving and personal. We're also going to be nurturing our own ability to find beauty in the everyday. And finally, we will be creating beauty, too, because the act of creating something beautiful is a kind of nurturing of one's self, too.

Khalil Gibran says that beauty is "a light in the heart." A constant in all our *Soulful Home* packets is the intention for you to find something within that nurtures that light in the heart of you, the parent, guardian, and very special adult in the life of a UU child. May your own beauty, the beauty of the love you share, and the beauty of our shared word be balm for the spirit this month!

Playlists

Please also consider listening to a playlist from [YouTube](#) as a form of musical meditation on Nurturing Beauty.



Nurturing Beauty - Soul Matters - May 2022

Playlist • Soul Matters • 2022
11 songs • 39 minutes

Monthly musical inspiration from Soul Matters.
Check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>
More Soul Matters music on Spotify: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/spotify-lists.html>

LESS

SHUFFLE

ADD TO LIBRARY

Also consider the playlists for [other months](#).

2022 LaGrone Scholar: Sara Farheen

The LaGrone Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Sara Farheen as our 2022 Scholar. She is a Harrisburg High senior, four-year honors classes enrollee, and four-year Honor Roll student with a delightful, giving personality. Sara is one of the primary caregivers to a grandmother with aggressive Parkinson’s disease and deeply motivated to become a physician’s assistant. Her student work includes a Hershey Med Center collaboration between medical and high school students. She has volunteered as a tutor through the Islamic Society of Greater Harrisburg and to bring companionship and care assistance to residents at the Ecumenical Community nursing home.



Sara is also a dual enrollee at Harrisburg University, where she is learning about entrepreneurship and business administration. Sara wants to turn her small henna business into a non-profit to benefit impoverished communities in her home country of Pakistan and elsewhere. From Sara’s LaGrone Scholarship personal essay: “I want to be the advocate for the voiceless, the caregiver for the forgotten, and the listener to all those who are hurting.”

The Selection Panel this year included UCH members Carol Buskirk and Diana Fishlock, UCH youth member Elliotte DeCoursey, and City of Harrisburg resident Jenny Williams. The panel worked over three evenings in April to come to a final decision. Panelists hewed to the scholarship’s intent to encourage (1) education in the face of financial need and (2) the ability to use knowledge/life skills to overcome other obstacles in their lives.

Sara is our 30th LaGrone Scholar! On Sunday, May 22, we will welcome her at Clover Lane along with our recent past scholars who received their awards virtually, due to the pandemic: Cristina Ledesma, 2020, and Heather Rojas, 2021. They are, respectively, navigating a social work program at Shippensburg and a nursing program at Lancaster College of Health Sciences. Cristina and her mother are attending; Heather has a work conflict, but will send remarks with her UCH Mentor, Susan Jones-Sink.

The 10:30 a.m. Sunday service will be followed by an in-person reception in the Common Room. It’s a party! Enjoy yourself with scholars, family members, UCH mentors, LaGrone Committee members and activists. See the Scholar Memory Album, the Oliver LaGrone album filled with sculpture photos and memorabilia, and a special video of LaGrone speaking and singing.

Members of the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee are Sharon Vaughn; Diane Stables, financials; Chris Dutton; Margaret Carrow; and Cordell Affeldt, chairperson. We meet primarily via Zoom. We need and would value having your help with our well-organized tasks!

—Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

Membership News

Gregory Carrow-Boyd Ordination

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg held a Special Congregational Meeting on April 24 and voted to ordain Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd, as a Unitarian Universalist minister. The vote was 79 in favor, with two abstentions. Greg is Credentialed Religious Educator—Master Level.



Gregory is the son of UCH member Margaret Carrow and grew up in the UCH. He was instrumental in lowering the membership age from 18 to 13 in the early 2000s. He signed the book at age 16 and represented the congregation for several years at the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Annual Spring Seminar and as a delegate at General Assembly. Greg previously served the congregation on the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee as a member of the Senior High Youth Group. He also served as Director of Young Adult Ministry from 2009 to 2010. He served as House Professor at our former Harry Potter camps and co-led the Community Building Task Force with Kate Carpenter when we designed our strategic plan.

He is currently living in California. Among other things, he serves as the Director of Research and Innovation for More Than Sex-Ed, a Greater LA-based sexuality education collective that brings the comprehensive sexuality education curriculum, Our Whole Lives, to schools, home school groups and the greater community.

The ordination itself will occur in August. Please contact Rev. David if interested in helping plan the event.

Ed. note: Formerly known as UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN), UUJusticePA is a non-profit advocacy group supporting economic, immigration and environmental justice in Pennsylvania. Members of UCH and other UU congregations across the state participate in its six social justice teams.

May 8: Post-Carding for Justice

On behalf of UUJusticePA, I am asking our congregation to think about the consequences of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 956](#) and House Bill (HB) 2252, proposing to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to state that there is no right to abortion or funding for an abortion. Please join in writing postcards to our legislators on Mothers' Day, May 8, 2022, urging them NOT to support these bills, which will discriminate against many of Pennsylvania's citizens. I want my children and grandchildren to continue to live their lives with the freedom to choose and to have safe medical care, just as I have had during my life.



- If you are concerned about how our legislature is planning ways to avoid a possible Governor's veto to pass any legislation, **sign a postcard!**
- If you are concerned that the state legislature will now circumvent the veto power of the Governor and add bills to the constitution as amendments to further a conservative agenda, **sign a postcard!**
- If you don't want our government telling anyone with a uterus what to do medically with their bodies, **sign a postcard!**
- If you don't want to give up the freedoms attached to Roe vs. Wade, such as a doctor's ability to remove products of conception that are not viable or are the result of a rape, incest, or those that could harm the health of the mother, **sign a postcard!**
- If you don't want our state legislature to begin chipping away at any right that we have been guaranteed by our state Constitution, which has never been done before, **sign a post card!**

We will be hosting a post-carding session for you to urge your legislators to respect our freedom of choice. Please stop by our table on May 8 and follow these simple steps:

1. In the space for a message on the post card, write "As a person of faith, I urge you to vote NO on SB 956."
2. Write your name and address on the card.
3. If you are writing to your legislator (a list will be provided), write that you are a constituent.
4. Put a provided stamp on your card, along with the address of the legislator in the address spot. These will be provided.
5. Give your post card to Karen Sykes or any of the people at the table. We will mail these for you! Thank you for taking the time to do some justice work!

—Submitted by Karen Sykes, co-leader of the Reproductive Justice team of UUJusticePA

May 20-21: UUJusticePA Annual Meeting

UUJusticePA will convene its annual meeting at Clover Lane. The meeting begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Friday, with the program starting at 7:00 p.m., including a performance by the Central PA Womyn's Chorus. On Saturday, the keynote speaker is [Rev. Fred Small](#). A UU minister for more than two decades, Fred is also a singer-songwriter and environmental lawyer. In 2015 he left parish ministry to devote his energies to advocating and organizing for environmental, racial, and climate justice. A full agenda, including a link to register for the event, appears at the [UUJusticePA website](#).

—Submitted by Rachel Mark



June 11-13: PA Climate Convergence

Save the date! This summer, UCH has a unique opportunity to participate in the [PA Climate Convergence](#) in Harrisburg, starting Saturday, June 11. Saturday events include arts, music, and fun at Riverfront Park. Sunday will include a multifaith gathering, speakers, panelists, and a march led by youth and children; pre-register with [Lorax](#) to get a Lorax hat and T-shirt. Monday will offer an opportunity to participate in direct action to inform our legislators of the urgent need to act on climate.

In preparation for the event, UUJusticePA has been working closely with [Better Path Coalition](#) and [March on Harrisburg](#). We also encourage people to watch the PBS *Frontline* series, "[The Power of Big Oil](#)" on the epic story of our failure to tackle climate change. You'll also meet some very admirable, several sad and regretful, and one or two unrepentant individuals.

—Submitted by Rachel Mark

Date	Time	Group	Location
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Mon 2	Various	Heart Rhythm Meditation	Zoom
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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.



Wed 4	6:00/7:00	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Common Room
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QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, SoulCollage® facilitator Susan Norris will guide us in creating our own collaged cards. SoulCollage® is an intuitive arts practice that develops creativity and intuition, encourages self-discovery, and provides personal guidance.

You do not have to be an artist to make the cards. Everyone will be able to create at least one card. Bring images, glue stick, card stock (5x8" or comfortable working size), scissors, and cutting mat. If you do not have all these items, Susan will supply lots of pictures, extra X-acto knives, card stock, and glue sticks. She will also have on hand copies of the basics of SoulCollage® for people new to the process, or for those who need a refresher.

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.



Sun 15	7:00	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Zoom
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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. This month, we meet on the third Sunday to avoid conflict with Mother’s Day. During the current pandemic, the session is a virtual meeting via Zoom. This month, the group meets to discuss *Deaths of Despair and Future of Capitalism*, by Anne Case and Angus Deaton. From Amazon:

Deaths of despair from suicide, drug overdose, and alcoholism are rising dramatically in the United States, claiming hundreds of thousands of American lives. Anne Case and Angus Deaton explain the overwhelming surge in these deaths and shed light on the social and economic forces that are making life harder for the working class. As the college educated become healthier and wealthier, adults without a degree are literally dying from pain and despair. Case and Deaton tie the crisis to the weakening position of labor, the growing power of corporations, and a rapacious health-care sector that redistributes working-class wages into the pockets of the wealthy. This critically important book paints a troubling portrait of the American dream in decline, and provides solutions that can rein in capitalism's excesses and make it work for everyone.

On the horizon:

- 🕒 **June:** Edward Dolnick, *The Writing of the Gods: The Race to Decode the Rosetta Stone*
- 🕒 **July:** Annie Proulx, *Bird Cloud: A Memoir of Place*
- 🕒 **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.

Tue 24	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	Zoom
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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.

Save these dates!

After-Church Meetings:

- 🕒 **May 15** Congregational Meeting to vote on the budget for fiscal year 2022-23
- 🕒 **June 5** (rain date, June 12), all-church picnic and reUUnion

Market Street Garden Day: May 7

Work continues apace on the Shadow's Garden at 1260-1270 Market Street, up the street from our former Market Street campus. It's a slow process, but several members from UCH and Gather the Spirit for Justice, have been working with Allison Hill residents to defeat overgrown weeds and make paths between garden beds by spreading cardboard and wood chips. Our goal is to get additional topsoil, plant vegetables and flowers in raised beds, and groom the perennials, some of which we had rescued from our previous UCH location.

The City of Harrisburg is also planting cherry trees along Market Street, and we'll be tending flower planters to enhance the streetscape. It's a lively neighborhood environment, and it's fun to work together with friends and neighbors to make improvements.

We're also thrilled to note a new mural overlooking the garden, arranged by the non-profit [Sprocket Mural Works](#) with support by Giant Foods and Tri-County Community Action. The mural's scene—children, flowers and color—were among the top themes requested by neighborhood residents. The mural was created by Cuban artists Katerina Santos and Juan Travieso, who create art together under the name [TRATOS](#), based in Miami.



Our next day at Shadow's Garden is Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please contact [Darlene Kvaternik](#) (717-343-9426) if interested in volunteering.

—Submitted by [Darlene Kvaternik](#)

Church Family ReUUnion, June 5

Please mark your calendars for a "reunion" at noon on Sunday, June 5 (rain date: June 12). The UCH Engagement Team requests your company at an all-church picnic potluck. Come for community, games, and to reunite with your church family. Bring a lawn chair and/or blankets and even a game if you have one to share.

Rita's Water Ice will be provided for all in attendance, but we cannot throw a party with just dessert! If you would like to contribute a main dish, side dish, or any other treats, please sign up during coffee hour or email [Katie Sciamanna](#). If you are available to help set up before or clean up after, please text or call Arly Henninger-Voss at 717-932-4848.

The team is also creating a collaborative "Guess the UU game" to play at the picnic and needs your help! If you would like to be featured in the game, please send a picture of a younger version of yourself (baby pictures would be great!) to [Katie Sciamanna](#) no later than May 18. You can scan a photo or take a photo of your photo and send it to her, or you can also give it to her or another team member at coffee hour.

Any questions? Contact [Rebecca Waldemar](#) at 717-364-2029. We hope to see you there!

—Submitted by [Rebecca Waldemar](#)

Come Together, November 5

Tra la la, it's May, although most of us are not coming together around the May Pole, we are likely to come together at other outdoor gatherings. We expect to be coming together at UCH on November 5 for the UCH Auction, a fun and fund-raising community extravaganza. It is not too early to consider what you will donate to the auction. Perhaps you COULD offer a May Pole party or another outdoor event next year. Questions? uchauction@gmail.com.

—Submitted by [Patti Hazell](#)

Come Together 11-05-2022