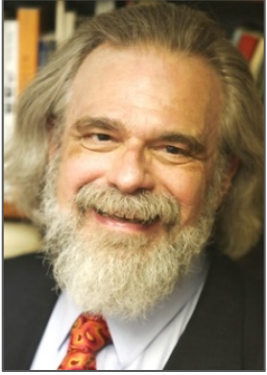




The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: Building Bridges, Celebrating Community

From the Minister



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

Three points for this month's column:

(1) I think that the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg is getting the hang of virtual church.

Together we have learned to make good

use of Zoom in worship and meetings—even choir rehearsals! In September, we did a breakout gathering during coffee hour. Going forward, I want coffee hour to break into small groups to allow members to speak more intimately with each other than is possible when everyone is in a single Zoom room.

(2) Today, the world we live in is scary. The pandemic is scary enough. The countries that have dealt the best with it are countries with capable political leadership at the national level. To the extent that we have made progress in the United States, it has been largely due to political leadership at the state level. While Dr. Anthony Fauci and agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control are providing national leadership, national political leadership is not strong. The states that are doing well are those whose political leaders are taking the advice of Dr. Fauci and other medical leaders seriously and acting decisively.

(3) At the same time, our society is engaged in a reckoning about race that is unlike anything I have seen in my lifetime. It is, of course, contested. The outcome is uncertain. And the national political leadership is just not there.

It is just as important that we stay engaged with the reckoning on race as it is that we work to contain the coronavirus. Both are necessary if this nation is to survive and thrive.

It can survive. It can thrive. The church can fulfill its Mission of “welcoming and nurturing all with dignity and respect ...[and]... empowering them to act for justice in the world.” We can thrive.

In cyberspace and in the flesh and blood world, the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg matters.

The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson

Worship online 10:30 a.m. Sundays

October 4: You Are Not the One You Think You Are, John Terlazzo

John Terlazzo is a local poet, musician and philosopher.

Hinduism tells us [TAT TVAM ASI](#), meaning “Thou Art THAT.” You aren’t your body, or your personality, or your career, or your possessions – No; your True Nature is beyond all definition or concept. The service presents musings derived from a life of meditation.

October 11: The Sacred Earth, Rev. Johnson

This sermon honors Indigenous Peoples Day by reflecting on the understanding of environmental justice presented by Dina Gilio-Whitaker, a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, in her book, *As Long as Grass Grows* [[Beacon Press](#), 2019].

October 18: A Church with A Mission: Equipping and Empowering Individuals, Rev. Johnson

However inspiring a church’s mission may be and however lofty its goals for justice, its effectiveness and its integrity are in the hands of its members. Part of its mission is to prepare people to carry out its mission and to support them in this work and in their own spiritual growth. This is the third and final sermon in a series on the Mission of the UCH.

October 25: Our Country, Right and Wrong, Rev. Johnson and Rev. Rob Keithan

Rob Keithan is Minister of Social Justice at All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, D.C., and the son of UCH members Jim and Nan Cavanaugh.

The phrase “My country, right or wrong” is attributed to war hero Stephan Decatur in 1816 as an expression of patriotism. In a well-received 1871 speech, US Senator Carl Schurz modified the phrase to add an important condition: “My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right.” Here in 2020, on the eve of one of the most important elections of our lifetime, how do we feel about this country of ours? And who’s included in “ours” anyway?

Each Sunday morning, the church will email:

- 📧 A link to the Youtube video of the Sunday service
- 📧 A link to Zoom session for 11:30 coffee and conversation

Check-in with Rev. Johnson

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

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

Rev. Johnson is also available by phone at 717-564-4761 ext. 700 or via email at revjohnson@harrisburguu.org

President's Message



By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

My cat (Indy) has suddenly become a lap cat. As soon as the first cool evening arrived, she jumped up on my lap as I was watching television. And most afternoons and evenings since then, she has jumped up onto my lap anytime she finds me sitting defenseless in the chair.

I hate to admit it, but I enjoy having a lap cat, at least in the cold months. I tend to be a little restless, and she helps keep me grounded, quite literally, since I can't get up easily. There's also something stabilizing about having another creature in the house. She's only a cat, not a human, but apparently that's enough for me.

Indy is not an especially needy cat. She only needs what all cats need. And she needs what all people need also...community, companionship, encouragement, and hope. I enjoy having her around.

Our church is my main community these days. With many things closed, off limits, or quarantined, you have remained. I look forward to the Sunday service each week, as well as adult RE events, and Friday night trivia. And who would have thought that board meetings are an opportunity for connection?!?!

We all need community, and I hope that you are staying in contact with the church. I hope you are participating in our various events, watching the Sunday services, and reaching out to other church members.

This quarantine is likely to last several more months, so we must keep our community strong until we can meet again. We should not allow our bonds to unravel, because it would take much more effort and energy to reconnect ourselves several months from now.

We are also a church with a mission. Inwardly, we support each other as we learn and grow throughout our lives. We help each other navigate the highs and lows of life. With social unrest, climate change, and political turmoil all around us, we need each other and our mission more than ever. This is a fundamental part of our church mission and our responsibility to each other.

Outwardly, our mission is to make our world a better place, to bring love, justice, and healing to a broken world. UCH has been a beacon to the community for nearly 100 years, promoting our values, protesting injustice, and holding our leaders accountable. These turbulent times call us to join with our fellow church members and UUs around the country to make our voices heard. We cannot allow the voices of division, oppression, and short-sightedness to continue. We must stand against them.

As always, I am grateful to each of you in my church community. Thank you for supporting me and for supporting others. Thank you for bringing hope to our members, into the community, and into the world around us. This is what UCH is. This is our mission.

David Spear

UCH MISSION STATEMENT

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg is an inclusive, loving community of faith committed to welcoming and nurturing all with dignity and respect. We make a difference by encouraging lifelong spiritual exploration, equipping individuals for service, and empowering them to act for justice in the world.

Congregational Meeting

The UCH held a Congregation Meeting on Sept. 20 via Zoom and voted to adopt a final budget for the current fiscal year. The minutes have been [posted online](#). They will need to be approved by the congregation at a future congregational meeting, but the preliminary document can be viewed now. Feedback is welcome.

We also recorded the second half of the recent congregational meeting. This included the updates from the Ministerial Search Committee, various teams and committees, and staff. If you missed it or would like to view it again, you can view it on [Youtube](#).

October Share the Plate: Gather the Spirit for Justice

Each month, we share the Sunday plate with a local non-profit. This month, we share with Gather the Spirit for Justice.

[Gather the Spirit for Justice](#) (GTSFJ) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that brings together Allison Hill residents, area organizations, businesses, and churches to address issues of social justice and economic equity. It was jointly founded by UCH and the Shared Ministry during the time we operated at 1508 Market Street. It now operates out of Christ Lutheran Church, 124 South 13th Street.

GTSFJ strives to be a place where people can find common ground, to meet and discuss the changes that need to be made to make Harrisburg a great place to live for all of its citizens.

During the COVID pandemic, GTSFJ is not open for community hours, but it is working to make its current space more usable for visitors. It also continues to work in Allison Hill by providing masks and hand washing stations in strategic locations near their Christ Lutheran Church and by encouraging voter engagement together with Power to the Hill.

– Submitted by UCH Finance Committee



Ministerial Search Committee

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

Congregational Survey

The deadline for completing the electronic survey for analysis was Sept. 30, and the MSC is deeply grateful to everyone who completed theirs. At this point, the MSC will use the Survey Monkey tools to analyze the data collected and organize it to present to potential ministers. It will also give us all an idea of who the UCH is and who we are looking for in our next settled minister. This will not be the final opportunity for gathering this information, however!



Search Charettes

All those with opinions or insights into the search for UCH's next settled minister are invited to *share them* at a Ministerial Search Committee Charette! What is a charette? A charette is defined as "collaborative sessions in which stakeholders contribute to the solution of a project." Here's what this means in our case.

Project: The successful calling of a settled minister for the UCH.

Solution: The best way possible to complete the project.

Stakeholders: Those who care about and who will benefit from the success of the project.

Collaborative sessions: These will be Zoom meetings, currently planned for Oct. 18 and Oct. 25 in place of our regular 11:30 am "Virtual Coffee Hour." An additional mid-October weeknight date is to be determined.

Each of the three MSC Charettes will cover identical discussion questions, so members only need to attend one. Please direct questions about the survey or charettes to [Bridgette Parker](#). General information about the MSC and the search for a settled minister can be found at the [MSC web page](#).

– Submitted by Bridgette Parker

Helping People in Prison and Their Families

Although our church building is closed, people are in prison and they and their families are in need of support. Here's what's happening.

Dauphin County Bail Fund

Three UCH members are serving as mainstays with the [Dauphin County Bail Fund](#) (DC|bf). They identify likely candidates held at the 850-bed prison, interview them, identify people who seem to be safe bets, recommend them to the bail fund committee, and take the bail money to the judge or courthouse. To date, Margaret Carrow, John Hargreaves and Darlene Kvaternik have recommended about 20 inmates and have posted more than \$250,000 in bail money.

The bail fund was started as result of the Mother's Black Mama's Day Bailout held in Atlanta in 2017. Please check out the [website](#) to learn more about the organization and to donate if you want to help.

—Submitted by John Hargreaves



Election Support

The [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#), [Forward Justice](#), and the [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#) have partnered to provide voter protection support in 10 key states, including Pennsylvania, during 2020's general electoral cycle. We need people in those states to be our eyes and ears on the ground on election day. To learn more, visit the [Voter Protection page](#) on the Poor People's Campaign website.

—Submitted by Margaret Carrow

The need for the Poor Peoples' Campaign was brought out by Bryan Stevenson in *Just Mercy*, when he said, "The opposite of poverty is justice." I see this in life every time I talk with a prison inmate who had to depend on an overworked Public Defender (PD) who had too little time to do an adequate job. PDs routinely encourage their clients to plead guilty in exchange for "Time served" so they get to go home with a conviction that may not have been justified.

—Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh



Capital Region Ex-offenders Support Coalition

Ed. note: As UCH Lay Chaplain (at Dauphin County Prison and Women's Work Release), Jim Cavanaugh represents the UCH at CRESC meetings.

Jim Cavanaugh invites you to visit a meeting of the [Capital Region Ex-offenders Support Coalition](#) (CRESC), which meets via Zoom every third Thursday. Their [website](#) has opportunities to join and to check out the committees that actually do the work: Mentoring, Housing, Financial Education, Employment, Women's issues, and my favorite, Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is chaired by successful re-entrant Lisa Kessler-Peters, who would like to send you an invitation and Zoom link for the October 28 meeting. Just email her at lisa@scsinc.org

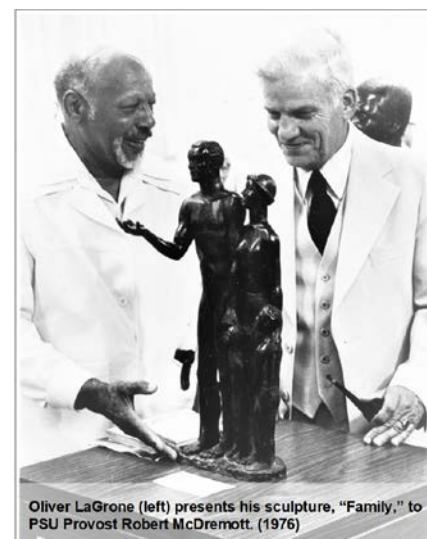
—Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh



Participate in the LaGrone Scholarship

Help decide who will get \$10,000 toward post-secondary schooling! That's the task of the 2021 Selection Panel, choosing from among Harrisburg High School applicants. Two adults and one youth from UCH, and two City of Harrisburg residents make the decision. We anticipate that this year's work will take place via Zoom. The meetings will be 7:00 p.m. Thursdays, April 1, 8, and 15, 2021. If you would like to participate in this deeply satisfying task, please contact [Rick Hawley](#), chair of the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship is named for the accomplished sculptor, poet, and educator friend of UCH, Oliver LaGrone (1906-1995). You see his work on display in the foyer, the bust of *Harriet Tubman*, on the screen shelf at the front of the sanctuary, *Ballet to Disco* and in the Common Room on the lower level, *Mask*. For more on this inspiring man, please read the [Wikipedia entry](#).

—Submitted by Cordell Affeldt



Clover Lane Cleanup

The Clover Lane campus covers several acres in front and back of the church, including 17 individual garden areas ranging in size from a few flower pots to 1,400 square feet. The church pays a lawn service to keep the grass mowed, but the flower beds and garden spots are maintained by members of the church.

One thing the coronavirus hasn't stopped is the pace at which these gardens grow, and those spaces over the spring and summer have become wildly overgrown with the good, bad, and ugly. (Lots of ugly!) In order to put a bit of order back and reduce the burden of a cleanup when church services begin again, we are looking to have one or perhaps more workdays, following socially safe distancing.

We're also looking for a dozen volunteers. This could be you, UU, or yUU.



The Scoop:

Date: Oct 10 with two separate work periods, shown below. Please contact [Ron Skrabut](#) or [Debbie Reihart](#) to reserve your place on the team!

Grounds Clean-Up Oct. 10 *

Period	Sign-Up	
9:00 - Noon	Ron Skrabut	717-236-1876
	ronskrabut@hotmail.com	
12:30 - 3:30	Debbie Reihart	717-678-1165
	deborah.reihart@gmail.com	

* Rain date Oct. 17

Ground rules:

- ⊕ Participants will be limited to 6 people in each session.
- ⊕ Social distancing and masks will be practiced.
- ⊕ Suggested tools: gloves, cultivator, or other devices for removing weeds, bucket, or tarp for debris removal, pruning shears, water. The church has some tools, which we will "uncover" in clearing the grounds, but we recommend bringing your own hand tools.
- ⊕ Restrooms will be available.

Other Opportunities

If you cannot volunteer on this date, please work at your own pace/schedule. Any small amount of time you have available during most daylight hours to work in the gardens would be useful. Before going, please call Tavia at the church (717-564-4761), to confirm there is no conflict.

— Submitted by Ron Skrabut



Religious Exploration (RE)



By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)

In the September issue of **THE REPORTER**, I mentioned how we are engaging in monthly theme-based ministry in our RE program. Well, last month our families received a packet full of readings and activities about “**Our Chalice**” via U.S. mail.

Now that we have learned about and understand our important UU symbol “Our Chalice,” we will be focusing on **Creating Sabbath Space**. Creating Sabbath Space comes from [Soul Matters Sharing Circle](#), a network of UU congregations who follow the same monthly themes so churches can more easily share small group material, as well as worship, sermon, music and children’s religious education resources.

Soul Matters shares with us that “the theological underpinning rests in two ancient ideas held in various forms across many religions: (1) In times of trouble, be extra sure to keep the Sabbath (i.e., make space for worship, rest and connection) and (2) Home altars help bring your faith into your daily life.”

October’s program will be sent out weekly via email in a pdf with our Children & Youth (C&Y) RE Newsletter. If you are not receiving our C&YRE newsletter, please contact [Cory](#) and she will add you to the list. If you are not receiving our C&YRE newsletter but would like to sign up for our Creating Sabbath Space program for the month of October, please sign up [online](#).

Each weekly installment will include three components:

- ✚ Guidance for building a family home altar, growing it each week by adding a new component one by one.
- ✚ A family worship to honor those weekly additions to your altar.
- ✚ A couple of “after-worship” activities to continue your family Sabbath time by connecting and relaxing together.

Cory will also hold weekly 30-minute Zoom meetings at 4:30 p.m. Thursdays for anyone who chooses to participate. *Please note: Attending the Zoom meetings is not a requirement to participate in this program.* We will hold our first Zoom call **Oct. 1** and every Thursday through **Nov. 5**. This will be a time to share our altar tables and discuss our experience.

This is something for anyone to participate in whether you come from a family of one or if there are several families living in the same household – “**you all**” are invited to join us!

Our weekly themes for October in **Creating Sabbath Space** include:

- Week 1: Welcome and Creating the Core Pieces of Our Chalice Home
- Week 2: Nurturing Ourselves by Caring for Others
- Week 3: Honoring Your Uniqueness
- Week 4: Honoring the Natural World
- Week 5: Celebrating Your Spiritual Community
- Week 6: Making Room for Grief and Loss

Cory

Church News

UUPLAN is now UUJusticePA

UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) is/was a non-profit advocacy group supporting economic, immigration and environmental justice in Pennsylvania. The organization has now changed its name.

Working with a super-great Marketing Team, the Board, and Justice Team Leaders, UUPLAN’s leaders have come to the consensus that UUPLAN doesn’t say as much about who we are and what we do as our new name UUJusticePA. Our full name is Unitarian Universalist Justice Pennsylvania, and our acronym is UUJusticePA. Please

check out the updates on our website <https://uujusticepa.org/> and feel free to contact me with any and all questions and suggestions about bringing our UU values to the state legislature at director@uujusticepa.org.

— Submitted by Rev. Joan M. Sabatino, Director



2020 Auction: Nov 7-14

Happy October! Halloween season is here, so why not grab some popcorn and enjoy a classic horror flick from the era of silent films? The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, released in 1920, is usually considered the first true horror film. The movie is known for its surreal makeup and lighting effects, although because electricity was strictly rationed in Germany after World War I, all of the “city lighting” in the movie had to be painted onto a paper background instead of being actually lit. All movies released in 1920 are now in the public domain, so you can watch this movie for free at the [Open Culture website](#). But have no fear, our virtual Roaring 20’s silent auction won’t be as surreal as this silent film! If you are horrified that October 1 has come and gone, take a deep breath. The donation deadline has been extended until the witching hour (midnight) on Sunday, October 4th. Please send a description and photos of your donation to uchauction@gmail.com. All item donations will be held by the donor, who will arrange for transfer directly with the winner after the auction. \$50 minimum value please, for all donations. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 7, and Saturday, November 14 (You can bid that whole week) to see what surprises lurk around the corner at the interactive virtual opening and closing events!



– Submitted by Ann Stillwater

We March. We Act.

We March. We Act. (WM.WA.) is a lay-led ministry focused on taking effective actions to resist any assaults on world peace or the inherent worth and dignity of all. It also provides local leadership and coordination for statewide social justice activities when they occur in Harrisburg. It collaborates with the “Power to the Hill” program of Gather the Spirit for Justice.

Fifty volunteers turned out on Sept. 19 to support We March. We Act. and Power to the Hill Voter Engagement Day. We spread the word by phone banking and placing fliers at homes and talking to anyone who happened to be outside. Special shout-out to the following UCH members:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 👤 Kathryn Malarich | 👤 Linda Diehl |
| 👤 Darlene Kvaternik | 👤 Barbara Pearce |
| 👤 Marilyn McHenry | 👤 Melanie Stegman |
| 👤 Allyn Rosenberger | 👤 Ann Stillwater |
| 👤 Maggie Shaver-Wilson | 👤 Cordell Affeldt |

Please contact [Wendy Shaver](#) if interested in volunteering for the next one on October 17.

– Submitted by Wendy Shaver



UUtheVote



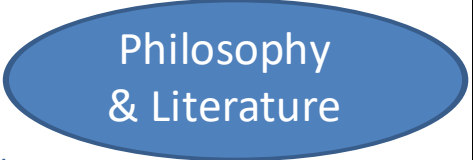

Please Join [UUtheVote’s](#) final push in Pennsylvania before the election. We need 1,000 UUs in Pennsylvania to take part in moving our values more fully into our political system – that’s 20% of PA UUs and hopefully 20% of the UCH! All of our activities are non-partisan voter registration, vote-by-mail, and voter activation work. We are working with the following partners: [PA Stands Up](#), [CASA](#), [Poor People’s Campaign PA](#), [Vote Forward](#), and [Pennsylvania United](#).



Write letters, Textbank and/or Phonebank using Thrutalk right from your own home. You will need a phone and a computer or laptop with Chrome or Firefox. (Tablets and iPad do have the technology for this function). Online training is available. Read the [Dialer Help Guide](#) and/or watch [a dialer demo](#). Find out how you can join the effort to support UUtheVote. Link to the [UUtheVote weekly schedule](#) for Pennsylvania and scroll down below the map.

Finally, tell UUtheVote what you are doing. Track your volunteer hours on this [simple form](#).

– Submitted by Rachel Mark

Date	Time	Group	Location
Fri 2	6:00	Online Trivia Night	Zoom
<p>Our weekly trivia night continues tonight, hosted each week by a different member of our community. Join your church friends for a unique set of trivia, combined with humor and merriment. Repeats weekly at 6:00 p.m. The Zoom link appears each week in <i>News You Can UUs</i> and on the Facebook events page.</p> <p>Please contact Dan Vaughn for additional information.</p>			
Wed 7	7:00	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Zoom
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, Ann Stillwater will lead a brief program on deep listening from the Thich Nhat Hanh lineage. Some writing is involved, so please bring your preferred tools such a journal and writing implement, or computer.</p> <p>All who identify as women are welcome in a co-creating sacred space. This will be a Zoom meeting, and a link will be sent a day or so prior to the meeting time. Check-in starts at 6:30 p.m., the circle begins at 7:00 p.m., ending by 8:00 p.m. Contact Rebecca Waldemar for further information.</p>			
Sun 11	7:00	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Zoom
<p>The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. and (historically) at the church. During the current pandemic, the session is a virtual meeting via Zoom. This month, the group meets to discuss <i>An Indigenous People’s History of the United States</i>, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. From the Internet:</p> <p>Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz tells An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States with meticulous attention to an impressive volume of verifiable factual information, beginning with the premise (later on competently argued and fully proven) that from the beginning U.S. history is a tale of colonial settlement bent on decimating an entire indigenous population in order to appropriate vast new properties and resources. In other words, an invasion of a land inhabited by a pre-existing people with laws and covenants and self-governmental structures identifying them as the rightful owners and rulers of this place.</p> <p>Please contact Don Brown for information.</p>			
Tue 27	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	Zoom
<p>Theme: The Roaring ’20s Date (virtual): November 7-14, 2020</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 2020 Church Auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year’s auction a huge success.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are planning to meet via Zoom. If you are already a member of the Auction Committee, you will receive an email invite to attend the meeting. Otherwise, please contact Patti Hazell if you wish to attend.</p>			

Clover Lane Coffee House, Virtual

Save the date! UCH presents a virtual coffee house at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6.

– Submitted by Kel Kyle

