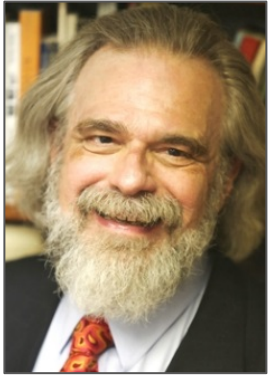




## From the Minister

The Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson is serving as UCH Minister 2018-20.



I made a point of getting out the Advent candle holder and wreath that had been in the Market Street church and ordering new candles for it. Of all the congregations I have served, the UCH is the only one to have a tradition of lighting Advent candles on the four Sundays preceding Christmas. It is a beautiful tradition and the five-foot-high candle and wreath stand

from Market Street is truly worthy of the tradition of lighting one candle of the first Sunday of Advent, two on the second, three of the fourth, and four on the fourth Sunday of Advent. The four candles represent hope, peace, joy, and love.

While this Christian custom marks the season leading to Christmas, it also provides an opening for the other faith traditions that we draw upon during what we call (somewhat awkwardly) “the holiday season.” The wreath may date back to ancient Rome, or maybe to the Germanic/Scandinavian Yuletide, with its greens and yule log burning. The Christmas tree seems to have Germanic pagan roots and also draws on the ancient Roman custom of candle stands at Saturnalia. Trees are symbols of life in religions and cultures in many parts of the world. My favorite is Yggdrasil, an ash tree (a hardwood, not a conifer) that is always green and stands at the center of the Earth in Norse mythology. But I cannot separate that ash tree from the Christmas tree in the house I was sharing, where a representation of the Buddha appeared on an upper branch.

In the course of four Sundays, we will celebrate the season with aspects of pagan, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, and other religious practices that have festivals in this season or aspects of whose practices have found their way into the inclusivity of Unitarian Universalism.

\* \* \*

I want to thank all of you who expressed their condolences to me and my family, following the death of my youngest sister, Deborah Lynn Johnson, on October 23. In spite of the disabilities with which she was born or developed as she aged and the limitations these imposed on her life, she had a remarkably happy and mostly healthy 54 years. I salute and thank our parents, Fred and Thelma Johnson, who resisted the pressures common in the early 1960s to place a child with Down Syndrome in an institution. Their determination to raise their fifth child at home made a big and positive difference in Debbie’s life and in the lives of her brothers and sisters.

\* \* \*

I come back to Christmas, the celebration of the birth of a child in inauspicious circumstances in an obscure corner of the Roman Empire. A child, the stories tell us, who grew into an adult who gathered a group of disciples and spoke to anyone who would listen to him. As the late Peter Gomes (university preacher at Harvard) put it, the real story of Jesus’s life and death is that he empowered ordinary people to do extraordinary things that changed the world.

As ambitious as you or I may be and as successful as some may be, during most of our days we are doing ordinary things the best we can. We work. We look after the children. We watch out for our neighbors. We pay our taxes.

But then there are days like Christmas or the feasts and holy days of other religions that say to us: You are more than ordinary. What you do is important. Occasionally what you do is especially wise or heroic. What you do may be extraordinary.

May this season open you to extraordinary possibilities.

*The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson*

### Worship Services

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

Date	In the Pulpit	Title
1-Dec	Various	Hanging of the Greens
8-Dec	Rev. Johnson	Who's on the Universalist Holiday Tree?
15-Dec	Rev. Johnson	In Covenant: Constructive Opposition
22-Dec	Rev. Johnson & Yvonne DuVal	Evensong: A Solstice to Rise Up!
24-Dec	Rev. Johnson	Christmas Eve Service
29-Dec	Various	Contemplative Poetry Service

### President's Message



*By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees*

I was shocked to find myself already listening to Christmas music a few weeks ago. This was two weeks before Thanksgiving! I was horrified that I had broken my own cardinal rule to not celebrate Christmas at least until Advent begins.

In my own defense, it wasn't truly Christmas music. It was more like music

for cold weather. You know, traditional tunes or Celtic music with old instruments, in keeping with the changing temperatures. Regardless, the cold weather is here. It took long enough, but the weather is finally getting downright chilly.

This is typically the time to stay indoors, turn up the heat, pile on the blankets, and partially hibernate for the winter. It's traditionally the fallow time of the agricultural year, when the planting, tending, and harvesting are finished...the time to take a break and rest our bodies.

At our church, however, there is plenty of activity. The RE committee, for example, is busy interviewing candidates for the DRE position. And that's on top of planning and running Sunday morning classes.

The minister and staff are continuing to collaborate well in preparing Sunday morning services. The Legacy Committee is developing a much-needed planned giving program. The Finance Committee is stabilizing our endowment policy and updating our procedures. The Congregational Life Team continues to work hard in unifying our congregation.

### A Financial Update

We're starting this fiscal year in good financial health, and this bodes well for balancing the budget by the end of June. At the moment, we're approximately \$45,000 ahead of expenses. This is wonderful, but remember that expenses increase during the winter, due to higher costs from heating and snow removal. Also, some church members pay their entire pledge at the beginning of the fiscal year, making our finances appear extra rosy. So yes, we continue to need your contributions.

In November, we had to replace the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the lower level of Clover Lane. We had hoped the original HVAC system would last a few more years, but when one of the two compressors totally failed, we deemed it prudent to replace the entire system. This was an untimely expense, and it cost us \$20,441.92. However, we are fortunate in two ways. First, the older system lasted far longer than anyone expected. And second, we had recently placed \$25,000 in our capital fund derived from the sale of the Market Street building, last year's budget surplus, and an anonymous gift.

The new carpet in the entryway continues to beautify our building. The old carpet had to be replaced, because it had worn and become a tripping hazard. We are now safer after this \$5,468.62 project.

The HVAC and carpet replacement have unfortunately used all the \$25,000 that we had recently deposited, but at least we didn't have to ask for additional donations or dip further into our reserves.

*— Submitted by David Spear*

Volunteers are stepping up to participate in the life of the congregation, in ways too numerous to list. And there are many others working hard week by week to keep the engine of the congregation functioning. It truly takes a village, and we have a Beloved Village.

Sunday Trustees	
Date	Trustee
1-Dec	Joe Melillo
8-Dec	Guy Dannelley
15-Dec	Keva Brown
22-Dec	Patti Hazell
29-Dec	Dennis Hursh

The Board is also very active, coordinating with some of these committees and performing its oversight responsibilities. Our main thrust, however, is laying the groundwork for our next settled minister, but more about that later.

Our lower level should remain warm this winter, thanks to a new HVAC system. It was an unexpected expense (see below), but our financial situation nonetheless remains strong, thanks to your generosity and some good planning.

December has arrived, and we are in the season of Advent, so it is now socially acceptable to play Christmas music. Whatever kind of Christmas music you like, play it loudly and joyfully and celebrate fully.

Enjoy time with family and friends this season. Many of us find our closest friends and adopted families here within our congregation, and I'm grateful for these bonds. Thanks to all of you for keeping our church community strong and vibrant.

Have a joyous holiday season!

*David Spear*

### ***Share the Plate: Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven***

*Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven to support its winter overnight shelter, known as Winter Overnight Safe Haven.*

[Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven](#) (SHSH) is a residential facility offering support and stable housing to men who are/were chronically homeless. It is managed by Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area. In winter, this includes the overnight Shelter, known as Winter Overnight Safe Haven (WOSH), which operates December through March. Homeless men are offered a warm, safe place to sleep at the SHSH building, thanks to volunteers from area churches and civic organizations. Two chaperones welcome up to 24 guests, offer hot beverages and snacks, get a decent night's sleep, and leave the next morning in time to prepare for work or a weekend activity.

### **Sign Up to Chaperone**

In addition to sharing the plate, we are also participating in the chaperone program by supplying volunteers for the nights of January 8-11, 2020. Serving as a volunteer at the winter overnight shelter is simple, safe and so rewarding! Each night two volunteers from an area church or civic group arrive about 7:30 p.m., put on the coffee pot, set out cocoa and granola bars, and move mattresses and blankets from a closet into the large sleeping room. Beginning at 8:00, up to 24 homeless men are admitted and checked in by a professional staff member, who greets most by name. The men choose a mattress and settle in, chatting with acquaintances and the chaperones, reading, or going right to sleep. All are well behaved and weary, having walked a mile or two in the cold to the shelter after spending the day on the streets. They are grateful for a warm, safe resting place and know that anyone who causes problems will be sent away.

The staffer leaves about 9:30, and many of the guests are asleep before lights out at 10:00. Volunteers sleep in a separate room next door, lulled off by the sound of snoring and George mumbling in his sleep.

Chaperones are up at 6:00 a.m. the next morning to fix coffee for early risers, who walk to jobs. Saying goodbye to guests by 7:00, hearing many a "Thank you" and "Bless you," they finish with a brief cleanup and are able to leave for breakfast by 7:20. Please contact [Meg Conners](#) if interested in volunteering.

### ***Holiday Gift Card Fundraiser***

UCH will have additional gift cards available (Giant, Weis, Karns) in December. If you don't already participate in the twice-monthly program, this is a chance to get grocery cards on a one-time basis. Order forms and instructions are available [online](#), or pick up an orange order form at Clover Lane.

For forms received by Dec. 3, we will mail cards on Dec. 5. For forms received by Dec. 18, we will mail cards on Dec. 20. Please email [tavia@harrisburguu.org](mailto:tavia@harrisburguu.org) with any questions.

### ***2019 Auction Update***

Thank you all who rocked out with us at the "Peace, Love & MUUsic, a celebration of Woodstock" church auction Nov. 2. Your support of the church is essential and appreciated. We SCORED! Our goal was to raise \$11,000, and the current total is \$14,541 – we exceeded our goal!

Special thanks go out to all the cool cats and especially our leader Patti Hazell; auctioneer Bart Carpenter; Silent Auction MC host Pete Trufahnestock; auction book creator Kathy Malarich; Marjy Hartman, Debbie Reihart, and Bill Brown for the entertainment; and the rest of the auction committee: Dave Forster, Ann Stillwater, Donna Hoover, Mike McCullough, Nathalie Hoke, Sandy Hamstra, Marsha Dulaney, Jessica Lybarger, Yvonne Werzinky, Katie Fowler, Justin and Katie Sciamanna, as well as all who donated food, time, items, and events.

Hundreds of hours were spent helping make this a great peace-fest for UCH. The grooviness continues, as you enjoy all the cool stuff from this year's auction. Just 'cause the auction is over, don't space out: start to think about events and services that you can offer next year. And if you have feedback for how to improve the auction or want to help plan next year's event, please contact [UCHauction@gmail.com](mailto:UCHauction@gmail.com).

– Submitted by Patti Hazell

### ***Hanging of the Greens***

The Hanging of the Greens is the beginning of what we hope will be a new tradition at UCH, combining old customs with new understandings of preparing for the holiday season. Sharing Christian traditions, pagan practices and other wintertime observances from around the world, we will gather at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 1, to sing, have readings, share inspiration and jointly decorate our sanctuary and foyer with trimmings from various evergreens, holly and other seasonal greens. Included in the decorations will be our holiday tree and live poinsettias that members and friends will be able to pre-purchase and take home on Christmas Eve. Also, craft tables will be set up within the sanctuary for all to help make paper chains and other decorations to display.

At 11:45 all who wish to attend will go down to the Common Room to share in a variety of soups, chili, and desserts. For further information, text Dan Vaughn at 717-383-3824 or contact any member of the worship team.

– Submitted by Dan Vaughn



### ***Examining Whiteness: Examples on Institutional Racism***

Since 2017, a lay-led group of UCH members and friends has been exploring [Examining Whiteness: An Anti-Racism Curriculum](#) and developing thought-provoking synopses. This month's focus: *Sustaining Systemic Racism*.

Can there be racism without racists? Have we, blind to our blindness, silently and collectively opted for inequality?

🎥 *The House You Live In, How the Racial Wealth Gap Was Created* (6 min) on [YouTube](#).

– Submitted by Cordell Affeldt and Chris Dutton

### ***Volunteer & Community Engagement Fair***

Did you know: through UCH you can help keep a neighboring highway clean, practice yoga or meditation, talk about some excellent fiction or non-fiction books, participate in charity walks, work with our children on Sunday mornings, beautify the church grounds, and many other diverse activities?

Your chance to learn more about these opportunities and many others comes on **Sunday, January 26, 2020**, during the Volunteer & Community Engagement Fair. We will be hosting many lay-led ministries and other organizations that are looking for new people to join their ranks.

The Fair will be held in the Common Room following worship. Each participating group will have a display explaining its purpose and work, handout materials, and a sign-up sheet for new members. Someone from each organization will be at the display to discuss the group's activities, the time commitment involved, and the need for new members. Each group also will provide some snacks to go with your coffee!!

We also would like to help UCH members and friends recognize service to the church as an integral part of one's spiritual journey. In working together on a variety of projects through our church, we help build the beloved community that we seek.

By working together in a variety of ways, we can do great things building a stronger community of communities. The Fair is a fun way to find out what all is going on and how you can be a bigger part of the action. Please join us on January 26, 2020, to Share our Service and Strengthen our Spirit. For additional information, please contact [Guy Dannelley](#).

– Submitted by Guy Dannelley





## Helping People in Prison and Their Families

Advocacy can make a difference. This is our chance to make a difference for women and men in prisons and jails across PA, because a number of bills that were introduced last spring are still in committee rather than being reported out and enacted. While there are nine in UUPLAN's ["Dignity" package](#), we are especially focused on three which could have major impact if enacted into law, described below. My thanks to Rev. Joan Sabatino, UUPLAN's Director of Legislative Affairs, for helping winnow the list.

### House Bill (HB) 1008 [Feminine hygiene products](#)

Introduced by Rep. Isabella V. Fitzgerald, HB 1008 would require state prisons to provide feminine hygiene products to all female inmates at no cost, regardless of their financial means. Women would not have to demonstrate proof of need or undergo a medical authorization or diagnosis to receive the products.

Rep. Fitzgerald notes that while "the DOC [Department of Corrections] recently changed its internal policy to provide these products, my legislation is critical in cementing this change in state law and ensuring that future administrations cannot easily rescind the practice."

### HB 1009 [Alternative sentences for pregnant offenders](#)

Introduced by Rep. Summer Lee, HB 1009 will require that pregnant women who were not convicted of a violent crime receive alternative sentences to ensure their health during pregnancy and their ability to be a mother to their children. Alternative sentencing programs allow mothers to remain in a supervised and structured community instead of being incarcerated. Rep. Lee notes, "As my legislation only applies to non-violent offenders, their sentencing to a community-based alternative poses no danger to the public."

### HB 1014 [Trauma-informed care](#)

Also introduced by Rep. Lee, HB 1014 "would create an environment in our correctional institutions that properly assists and rehabilitates incarcerated individuals who have experienced trauma. Individuals who have experienced trauma of any type need support and understanding from trained staff and should be given a chance to feel empowered and safe as they move towards rehabilitation and re-entry into society. Unfortunately, some trauma survivors can be re-traumatized by well-meaning correctional staff who may not be trauma-informed. By requiring all correctional institutions to provide trauma-informed care to incarcerated individuals and train staff on how to properly assist trauma survivors, we will be able to continue to reduce recidivism rates and prepare individuals for successful re-entry."

Each of these was introduced in April and was referred to the House Judiciary committee. Our UUPLAN Criminal Justice Reform team (Co-chaired by UCH member Margaret Carrow) is supporting all these bills. Learn more about the team at the UUPLAN [web page](#). And for those who live in or near Camp Hill, Rep. Sheryl M. Delozier (R-Cumberland County) serves on that committee. She would be a good contact for people wanting to support any or all of these bills, as would Rep. Patty Kim (D-Harrisburg), who is not listed as a cosponsor for any of the three but would likely be open to discussion of that possibility.

– Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

## New Membership Class

The Membership Action Council welcomes all and sundry for an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg! The class runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. Content includes *Jeopardy!*, discussion of Unitarian Universalism (past, present, and future), and specifics about the UCH congregation. At the end of the class, those who wish may sign the membership book. In any given class, about half the group are simply seeking information, i.e., there is no compulsion or expectation that attendees will join the church.

Please contact [Bart Carpenter](#), [Denny Byrne](#), or [Dan Vaughn](#) for additional information. We will send advance reading material to those who pre-register. All are welcome, and please feel free to refer a friend.

– Submitted by Bart Carpenter

Famous UUs in the U.S.	7 Principles	UCH Folks	Lay-Led Ministries	UU History
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Next New Membership Class: 9:00 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, Clover Lane				
<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>

## Rodin – Milles – LaGrone – UCH

Each year, UCH selects an individual LaGrone scholar from among applicants from the Harrisburg School District and pairs him/her with a UCH mentor. This article profiles a long history of mentorship associated with Oliver LaGrone himself.

Oliver LaGrone was also chosen to receive mentorship. At the prestigious Cranbrook Academy of Art near Detroit, the Swedish sculptor and Cranbrook faculty member [Carl Milles](#) (MILL-es) lived in a campus home designed by fellow faculty member, Eliel Saarinen. Milles was head of the [Cranbrook Department of Sculpture](#) 1931-1950. Oliver took his sculptures to Cranbrook, and in November 1941, Milles selected Oliver to study with him. Milles himself had been mentored by French sculptor [August Rodin](#).

Milles advised Oliver not to go to the admissions office because Cranbrook did not accept African American students. By the turn of the year, however, Cranbrook records show Oliver was the first such to be formally accepted. Milles even arranged for Oliver to receive a McGregor scholarship and supplemented it personally because he was so committed to offer

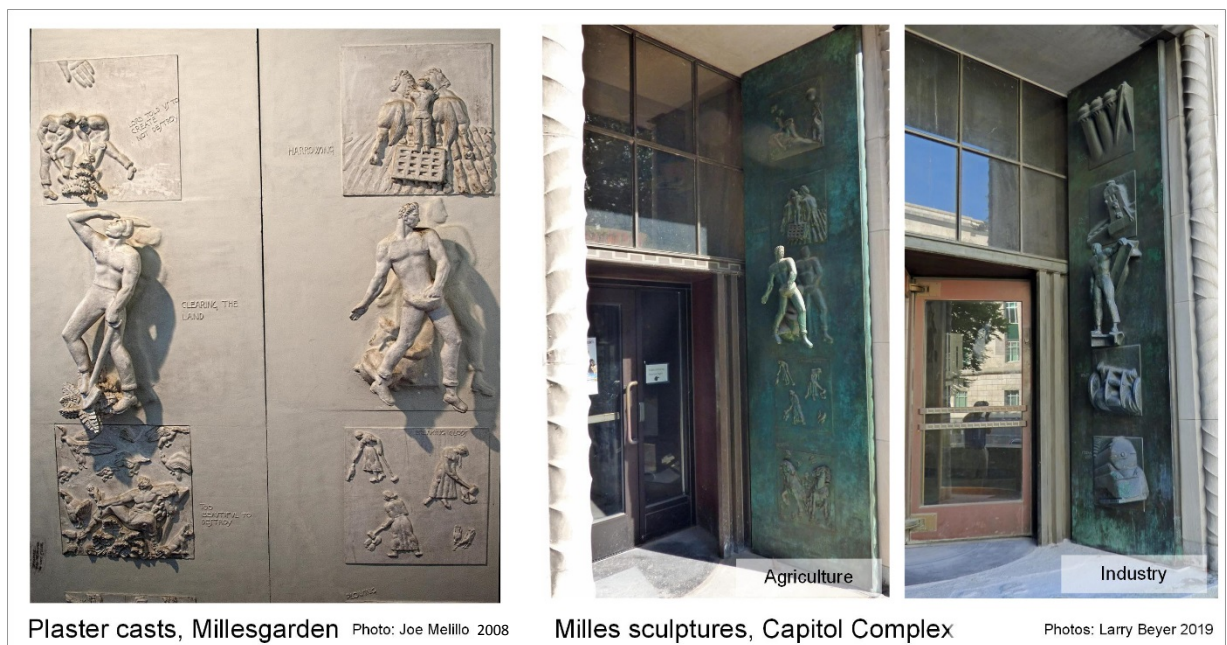
mentorship to Oliver. The couple who founded Cranbrook purchased more than 60 sculptures by Milles, many displayed today on the beautifully landscaped campus in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. UCH member Cordell Affeldt visited the archives at Cranbrook last summer and also viewed numerous Milles sculptures on the campus.

In Harrisburg, six huge sets of bronze double doors with designs [sculpted by Milles in 1938](#) adorn the Finance Building in the Capitol Complex. They depict workers on Pennsylvania farms as well as in those in the glass, oil, steel and anthracite industries. The sculptures on the North Street side of the building, the plaza side, illustrate the principal industries of Pennsylvania—agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

But wait, there's more! Located outside Stockholm, [Millesgarden](#) was the Swedish home of Carl and Olga Milles and today is a sculpture park and art museum. When UCH members Joe and Kandy Melillo and Don and Linda Brown visited it in 2008, they found plaster casts of the Harrisburg sculptures, shown in the accompanying photograph.

Rodin, Milles, LaGrone, UCH: the mentoring continues.

– Submitted by Cordell Affeldt





We celebrate. We mourn.

### **Don Brown Receives UNESCO Award**

UCH member Don Brown received UNESCO's [Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science](#), awarded Nov. 14 in Paris. The Avicenna Prize is awarded every two years to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in the field of ethics in science. An independent international jury, composed of three members of UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, unanimously recommended Don based on his sound scientific contribution to the ethics of science and technology, particularly the ethics of climate change and environmental sustainability; his unique qualities as a scientist, environmental lawyer, climate change educator, activist and opinion-leader; and his lifetime commitment to, and outstanding impact on, the ethics of climate change science and policy-making. He is the first American to win this prestigious award.



The award ceremony took place Nov. 14 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The award was made by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. Also participating in the ceremony were Xiong Qu, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, and Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Jalali, Permanent Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO. Iran initiated the establishment of the Avicenna Prize in 2003.

The UNESCO Avicenna Prize is named after the 11th century Persian physician and philosopher known in Europe as Avicenna (980-1038). A healer and humanist, Avicenna developed an exemplary holistic approach that captures the essence of ethics in science and has thus come to serve as a source of inspiration for the promotion of this concern, which is of central importance to UNESCO. The prize includes the gold Avicenna Medal, a certificate, a monetary award, and a one-week academic visit to Iran.

The Prize rewards the following activities:

- High-quality reflection and research on ethical issues raised by recent scientific and technological advances;
- Policy advice on ethical issues in research and development to better design and implement science ethics policies;
- Activities aimed at developing educational practices and training about the ethical dimensions of science;
- Outstanding contributions to foster science communication, public awareness, and debate on the ethics of science and Technology

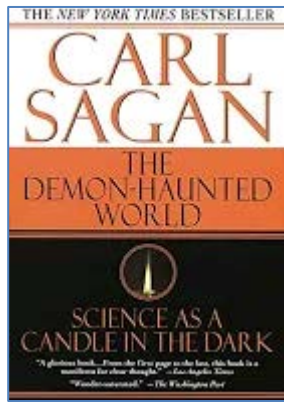
Don is a world-renowned expert in environmental science and more specifically in the international climate change ethics movement. His book *Climate Change Ethics: Navigating the Perfect Moral Storm* (2013) provides an influential analysis of why ethical principles have been neglected and how to include them in the climate change conversation. Don is Scholar in Residence for Sustainability Ethics and Law at Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Gettysburg College.

### **Miriam Sykes (1932-2019)**

[Miriam Sykes](#), 87, of Boiling Springs, died Nov. 11 at home. She was the mother of UCH member Ed Sykes. She is survived by four sons and their spouses; four grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Nov. 14 at Ewing Brothers Funeral Home, with Rev. Tony Johnson conducting. Subsequent inurnment was at Cumberland Valley Memorial Gardens, Carlisle.



Date	Time	Group	Location
Mon 2	6:30	Amrit Yoga (Weekly)	Clover Lane
<p>Amrit yoga is a form of hatha yoga developed by Yogi Amrit Desai. The entire process moves and stretches every part of your body for an energetic workout and includes a calming, meditative relaxation at the end.</p> <p>No experience necessary! Contact <a href="#">Ed Sykes</a>. Repeats every Monday. <b>Will not meet Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.</b></p>			Amrit Yoga
Tue 3	6:45	Mindfulness Meditation Group (Weekly)	Clover Lane
<p>Mindfulness is an acquired skill, practiced while meditating but vital in our everyday lives. Mindfulness is helpful in reducing stress, managing pain, focusing attention, and overcoming habitual negative behavior. Mindfulness can also point the way to spiritual practice, calming the mind and developing awareness and insight.</p> <p>The ability to be mindful is strengthened through consistent practice. Mindfulness Meditation Group provides a space for us to practice together in support of one another. Contact <a href="#">Chuck Daley</a>. Repeats every Tuesday. <b>Will not meet Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.</b></p>			Mindfulness Meditation
Wed 4	6:00	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that normally meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, we will be finalizing plans for the Winter Solstice Celebration, Saturday, December 21, at 4:30 pm.</p> <p>Please bring a favorite snack or beverage to share. All women, and those who gender-identify as women, are welcome. Please bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share. Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Circle starts at 7:00 p.m., ending at 8:30 pm. Contact <a href="#">Rebecca Waldemar</a> for further information.</p>			QueenSpirit Solstice Preparations
Thu 5	7:00	Humanist Lay-Led Ministry	Clover Lane
<p>The Humanist Lay-Led Ministry meets approximately once per month to discuss issues of interest to UU humanists. This month, we meet to discuss <a href="#">The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark</a>, by astrophysicist Carl Sagan (1934-1996). Among other things, Sagan once wrote:</p> <p>One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been taken.</p> <p>As we face critical times when accepted science is attacked, and ultraconservative religious and nationalist rhetoric is on the rise, now is the time to understand "Science as a Candle in the Dark." Sagan's perceptions on illusions, delusions, chicanery, science, and critical thinking are always relevant. For additional information, please contact <a href="#">Rachel Mark</a>.</p>			
Sun 8	9:30	Sunday Morning Forum (Weekly)	Clover Lane
<p>Facilitated by <a href="#">Fred Binkley</a>, <a href="#">Barb Pearce</a>, and others, the group meets for an hour of discussion on Sunday mornings at Clover Lane during the hour prior to services, with varying topics. <b>Forum meets twice in December.</b> Topics are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dec. 8:</b> Current events and/or impeachment issues and/or other political mayhem, led by Fred Binkley.</li> <li><b>Dec. 15:</b> Max Maxwell will lead a forum on how to discuss sociopolitical issues with people who seem unable to reason objectively.</li> </ul> <p>Please contact <a href="#">Barb Pearce</a> for additional information.</p>			Sunday Morning Forum



Date	Time	Group	Location
Sun 8	6:30	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Off-site
<p>The Philosophy &amp; Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. at Clover Lane. <b>This month, we meet offsite at 6:30.</b> We have reserved a room at Fiesta Mexico Restaurant, 3957 Paxton Street, to celebrate our 40 years as a group and to identify books for 2020. Please contact <a href="#">Don Brown</a> for information.</p>			Philosophy & Literature
Tue 10	6:30	Women's Night Out (Monthly)	Off-site
<p>Women's Night Out is a lay-led ministry that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at a local restaurant, alternating locations between the East and West Shores. Each month at dinner, participants take a collection. Proceeds are divided between the Ecumenical Food Pantry and UCH.</p> <p>Our group meets Tuesday, December 12, at <a href="#">The Mill</a>, 810 Old West Chocolate Avenue, Hershey. Please RSVP to <a href="#">Chris Dutton</a> or <a href="#">Diane Stables</a> by the Sunday beforehand.</p>			Women's Night Out The Mill/Hershey
Fri 13	6:30	Open Conversation with the Minister	Clover Lan
<p>The Minister is eager to hear from you! Please join Rev. Johnson in Fuller Chapel from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for an open discussion of whatever is on your mind. No reservations necessary – come as you are. Light refreshments will be served.</p>			Open Meeting with the Minister
Sun 15	Noon	Solstice Planning Session	Clover Lane
<p>Would you like to help create the winter solstice ritual that will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 21? Please join us for the next planning meeting at noon on Sunday, Dec. 15, in the Priestley room. QueenSpirit has chosen the theme of honoring the moon, with an easy-for-all simple dance or two. All church members and friends are welcome to help make this a memorable and meaningful solstice ritual!</p> <p>Any questions? Contact <a href="#">Rebecca Waldemar</a> for more info or if you can't make the meeting.</p>			QueenSpirit Solstice Planning
Tue 17	10:00	CroneSpirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>The lay-led ministry CroneSpirit meets from 10 a.m. - noon in Fuller Chapel on the third Tuesday of the month. Our topic this month is <i>Arts and the Art of Remembering through Paintings and Poems</i>. We are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ A discussion group for women over 65, both UCH members and non-members</li> <li>☺ Honoring a crone tradition of conscious female aging and self-power</li> <li>☺ For personal enrichment, such as through intellect, knowledge, comfort or companionship, anticipating a maximum of 10 women</li> <li>☺ Sharing, listening and learning, without gossip to or about each other</li> </ul> <p>We look forward to seeing you. For information, please contact <a href="#">Joan Hellmann</a>.</p>			CroneSpirit Arts and the Art of Remembering
Wed 18	6:00	Clover Grove (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists that meets on the third Wednesday, with a program that varies based on the cycle of seasons and forces of nature. This month, we will share favorite stories of the Yuletide and do a short candle lighting. Potluck will be soup and sandwiches.</p> <p>We gather on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6:30-ish in the Common Room. Please contact <a href="#">Wayne Minich</a> for further information.</p>			Clover Grove Yuletide Sharing

Date	Time	Group	Location
Sat 21	4:30	Winter Solstice Celebration	Clover Lane

Connect with the introspective energy of the moon as we dance our way into winter at UCH's annual solstice service. At this dark time of the year, the moon's light gets more time to shine, and we can reflect on the cyclical energies of our lives. We have scheduled the afternoon/evening as follows:

**4:30 p.m. celebration:** Yasmin Haut will lead us in Dances of Universal Peace as part of the service. Sharing your voice while remaining seated is a wonderful and meaningful way to participate if movement is not easy or enjoyable for you

**Shared meal:** Bring cookies for the soup and bread meal afterwards or email [Rebecca Waldemar](#) if you want to contribute more.

**7:00 p.m. Dances of Universal Peace:** If you enjoy the service, please stay for the full dance, a Rumi celebration led by Yasmin with musical accompaniment. Dance ends at 9:00 p.m. Let us dance into a new season together!

## Solstice Celebration

### Also on Tap:

- 7:00 p.m. Dec. 1 Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus: Confessions of An Elf(ie)**  
Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus presents a Christmas concert at UCH Clover Lane. No cover.

A North Pole elf with a determined mission breaks the Elfin Code of Silence in order to bring our 21st Century world an update on the true meaning of Christmas and the very real spirit of Santa Claus. His outsider perspective of the world offers each person who celebrates Christmas a valuable lesson on the holiday, their lives, and an inside look at who Santa Claus really is.



### General Assembly

Registration is [open](#) for 2020 General Assembly (GA), to be held next year in Providence, RI. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

The [theme](#) next year is "Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!" As noted at the GA website, "We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world."

**UUA  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
JUNE 24-28, 2020**