



President's Message

By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

My mom grew up on a dairy farm in Chester County. There were lots of cows to attend to, and most of the land was devoted to growing corn to feed the animals.

Early in our childhood, we learned the rhyme that corn should be "knee high by the 4th of

July." I'll check again in a few days, but it looks like the corn may be right on schedule this year.

Yes, it's July. The heart of summer has arrived, and life is slowing down.

Rev. Johnson will be taking vacation for most of July. It's what most of our ministers have done, and it's especially needed this summer. The last 12 months have been difficult and exhausting for ministers as they ran their churches through Zoom.

Thankfully, our church leaders and staff have been in their roles for several years, so the church can almost run on autopilot for a month. If something significant arises, we can call on Rev. Johnson, but otherwise, we will be fine through this month.

The Board is taking this month to dig deeper into our church governance. It was one of our Goals for Institutional Transformation from 2018, and as Rev. Johnson mentioned in his final sermon, we haven't made much progress on this one. Governance can be a wonky topic, but it has a significant impact on most areas of church life, so it's worth spending some time and effort to make it work right for us.

Have you heard of policy governance? That's the model that UCH adopted in 2005, replacing the committee structure that preceded it. It has some distinct advantages, especially for moderate-sized churches like ours.

The model was adapted for churches from the corporate and nonprofit world. Think of any large corporation. It likely has a board of directors, who set the corporation's overall direction. The chief executive officer (CEO) then implements this and runs the day-to-day operations.

We have a Board of Trustees, which determines the structure of our church, holds fiduciary responsibilities, and sets our policies. The Finance Committee and a couple of others report to the Board.

The minister serves the role of CEO and runs the day-to-day operations. All the staff report to the minister, as do all of the teams and lay-led ministries. The minister also serves as the spiritual leader.

Worship online 10:30 a.m. Sundays

July 4: Cycles and Cicadas!, Melanie Stegman

July 11: Play, Cory Ness

July 18: Living our UU Values: Doing Social Justice, organized by Rachel Mark and Jim Cavanaugh

July 25: Making New My Spiritual Journey at UCH, Jim Handshaw

Each Sunday morning, the church will email:

- 📧 A link to the Zoom or [YouTube video](#) of the service
- 📧 A link to the Zoom session for 11:30 coffee and conversation

We encourage members to set aside a small sacred space at home to enjoy the service. Having rituals in place at home can help us participate in services together, even though we are not able to be sharing in one another's company in person.

Where does the congregation fit into all of this? You own it. You own the church legally, and you own the church morally. It is your church, so all the church leaders and the staff ultimately report to you.

This is the tricky part of policy governance. How do we involve the members in the life of the church? You own the church, yet the minister is our CEO, so how much autonomy can you have? How can you be involved if the staff are already capably keeping the church operating?

Part of the answer is to advocate for what you want, to speak up and give your input. We need to hear your thoughts.

Another part of the answer is to become involved in teams and committees. These have some authority to discuss topics, make recommendations, and even implement some actions. This still leaves some gray areas at the boundaries, and this is what the Board needs to discuss.

What do you think? How do you think the church should be run? What's the appropriate way for members to be involved? How can you take initiative without interfering with other activities or other roles?

Please let us know. Call your leaders or email them. You can always call or email me about anything. We have heard plenty of comments about our governance over the years, but much of that has been informal and brief. We would welcome some deeper conversations with you.

David Spear

Input Solicited for Clover Lane Improvements

The Board of Trustees has created a Building Task Force to investigate and recommend a prioritized list of building and grounds improvements for action beginning Fall 2021. Recommendations will consider structural integrity, cost, funding, complexity, and design aesthetics. The task force will seek input from design professionals and vendors, as needed. But first we hope to draw upon ideas and knowledge from members, friends, and staff. Clover Lane is your church home; your opinion and vision matter.

Please send those thoughts and suggestions to [Cordell Affeldt](#) at your earliest convenience. Other members of the task force are Kathleen Gorak, Ray Harris, and Kate Quimby. The task force will consider your ideas and move forward with our task from there. It has been many years since our building and grounds have received the TLC required to make UCH a welcoming and safe space for current members as well as the many that we hope will join us under the leadership of our new minister, the Rev. David Kohlmeier.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Namaste and Blessed Be,

—Submitted by Kate Quimby for the UCH Building Task Force

Notes from the Sanctuary



By Hannah Belser, Worship Service Accompanist

I greet you, once again, from our beloved sanctuary! This is the final edition of *Notes from the Sanctuary*. The mission has been accomplished. And what was that mission? A dear friend of mine sent the following words to me last fall (poet unknown). They say so beautifully and clearly what I have wanted to impart to you through this monthly column:

We are connected at the heart...
Love is not canceled.
Hope is not canceled.
Songs are not canceled.
Kindness is not canceled.
Compassion and wisdom and courage
are not canceled.
We are not canceled.
We will get through this...
together.

The pandemic is receding, we hope, though it is not quite time to sit in our actual sanctuary together. Soon, my friends, soon. The politics continue. Reread the words above. Rev. David

begins his work with us on Aug. 1, and his first sermon will be on Aug. 8, unless things change before then.

Interestingly, Rev. David's time with us begins in the time of harvest. Harvest

is the time of reaping what has been sown. That means that we, the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, are birthing a new chapter in our history together: our next settled minister will arrive in August. At the same time, we are harvesting the results of our most recent collective efforts to continue our mission here at UCH: Rev. David begins his work with us in August. The cycle of life happens in big ways through the seasonal calendar and in small ways through each month, each week, each day, each hour.

Perhaps that is what comforts me the most, this circle of life. My fervent hope is that you have felt comforted too, through reading this column over these past months.

Alleluia, Amen, Namaste, Blessed Be.



Notes from the Sanctuary

Information for Potential New Members

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg is a welcoming congregation, open to people from any/all (or no) religious backgrounds. If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, we encourage you to peruse [100 Questions that Non-Members Ask about Unitarian Universalism](#) for background information about our faith tradition. An overview of the "Pathways to Membership" at UCH appears on our [website](#).

For further information about our congregation and the membership process, please feel free to reach out to [Bart Carpenter](#) or another member of the Membership Action Council. During the pandemic, we are conducting information sessions via Zoom, and we welcome your inquiries.





— Submitted by Bart Carpenter



Helping People in Prison and Their Families

Helping People in Prison and Their Families is a lay-led ministry at UCH.

UCH members are helping people in prison and their families through the following organizations:

	<p>Pennsylvania – Poor People's Campaign, currently fighting for a bold reconciliation package to advance equity by investing in marginalized communities, supporting childcare, and fostering improved public transit and public schools.</p>
	<p>Dauphin County Bail Fund, dedicated to freeing our community members from cages and ending the practice of cash bail.</p>
	<p>Capital Region Ex-Offenders Support Coalition (CRESC), currently being reinvented as the Dauphin County Reentry Coalition with representation from county and state agencies, nonprofits, ministries, and chaplains like Jim Cavanaugh, who serves the women at Dauphin County Work Release Center.</p>
	<p>Prison Action Committee of Christian Churches United, currently wrestling with when to re-start the Reentry Breakfasts that were hosted by area churches each month before the pandemic. Historically, UCH has hosted the monthly breakfast on a Saturday morning in September.</p>

— Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

General Assembly Report

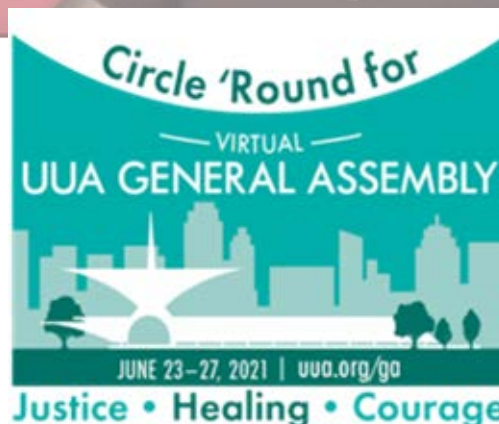
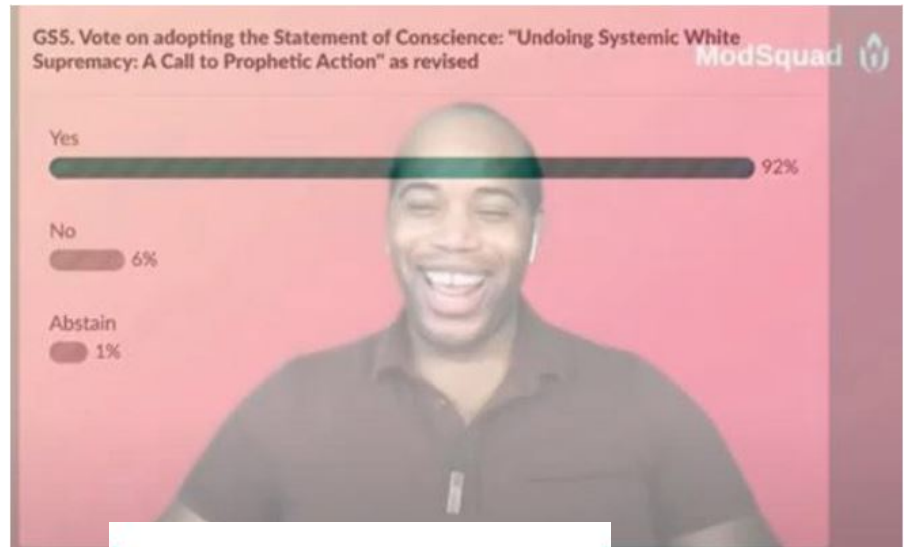
The 60th annual General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) was held June 23-27, conducted virtually this year due to the pandemic. The theme was “Justice, Healing” Courage.” Our own Gregory Carrow-Boyd, completing his term on the UUA Board of Trustees, served as one of the moderators at many of the general sessions, doing so with expertise and calm, in spite of technical challenges and the wildly disparate wishes and needs of thousands of UUs. Greg is the son of UCH member Margaret Carrow and grew up at UCH.

The agenda and multiple reports are available at the [GA website](#). Among other things, GA affirmed three Actions of Immediate witness to advocate for all of the following:

- 📍 [Transgender, nonbinary and intersex communities](#)
- 📍 [Comprehensive healthcare](#)
- 📍 [Increased voting rights](#)

GA also adopted a Statement of Conscience on undoing systemic white supremacy.

— Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh



UCH Auction: Nov. 13, 2021

The United States Declaration of Independence was *Made in PA* on July 4, 1776. The Declaration delineated the many reasons why the thirteen colonies were separating from British rule. “By the people, for the people” inspired similar sentiments around the world.

Just as our country started down a new path on July 4, 1776, UCH is moving forward with a new settled minister. We didn’t have to overthrow a despotic regime, however. After many years of service from supportive transitional ministers like Reverends Eric Posner, Mike Walker, Lynn Cox, and Anthony Johnson, we look forward to a new beginning with Rev. David Miller Kohlmeier. Let there be red, white and blue glitter! (Rev. David reportedly prefers blue).

Now we are experiencing a new independence from COVID restrictions! As we carefully re-enter the world, what new books, recipes, natural areas, or skills have you discovered or developed during the pandemic? Have you knitted something

fabulous? Discovered a new recipe? Is there something you could share with our community for the 2021 *Made In PA* auction on Saturday, Nov. 13?

Save the date and please send your ideas and questions to uchauction@gmail.com. Celebrate our independence and the excitement of moving forward into a new era of UCH!



Share the Plate: Furry Friends Network

Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with Furry Friends Network.

Based in Boiling Springs, [Furry Friends Network](http://FurryFriendsNetwork.org) (FFN) is dedicated to saving the lives of unwanted dogs and cats by providing necessary medical treatment, spay/neuter surgeries, and foster and adoption services. FFN utilizes a network of foster homes providing lifesaving care to abandoned, unwanted animals until forever homes are found, offering second chances for animals that otherwise might not have had much hope.



Other Organizations

Gather the Spirit for Justice

Ed. note: Gather the Spirit for Justice (GTSFJ) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization 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.

After more than a year of closure and limited service due to the coronavirus pandemic, Gather the Spirit for Justice is pleased to announce a grand reopening event. Details surrounding the celebration are still unfolding, but be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, August 14.

In the meantime, GTSFJ is accepting limited appointments for neighbors and community members with immediate needs. Anyone who needs an ID or other services should call 717-512-9449 for appointment availability.



Focus on: Román Colón

Ed. note: Our 2017 scholar, Román Colón, graduated from Penn State this year. Cordell Affeldt interviewed him for this story.

Román Colón: May 2017, LaGrone Scholar. May 2021, Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, Penn State. June 2021: Mid Penn Bank employee. A success story rich in satisfying detail.

Román (row MAHN) was chosen to receive the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship in the 25th anniversary year of the reconfigured LaGrone award. During the reception following his recognition that year, Román interacted (again) with the very first scholarship recipient, Leland Nelson (LaGrone Scholar, 1992). They had met first at a Harrisburg High School (HHS) program arranged by Leland to support HHS students' entrepreneurial interests. Román attended HHS' SciTech campus. At SciTech, he also learned that his principal, Sieta Bonner Achampong, was a LaGrone Scholar (1997). These Harrisburg leaders sparked Román's respect for the legacy he would represent as a LaGrone Scholar.



Prompted by an inspiring teacher at SciTech, Román began his Penn State studies in civil engineering. Before long, he switched to a field that more deeply matched his passions, but still required ongoing problem-solving. He believes that, "What you pay today, you see tomorrow." Román became a Finance major. His 3.82 grade point average attests to his commitment to scholarship and to graduating in a timely fashion to take maximum advantage of his other, full-ride, scholarship.

Competitive by nature, Román will also continue as a companion and son to his hard-working mother. In fact, it was through her work that he gained extended exposure to an accomplished professional, igniting Román's youthful thirst for accomplishment. He reports that he wants to be "one percent better every day", positioned to give back to society. "You lay bricks one at a time."

UCH member Mark Malarich has a Penn State degree in engineering and agreed to serve as LaGrone mentor to Román. "He has an entrepreneurial spirit to him, which I think will serve him well," Mark said. "Already in high school he had dabbled in the stock market. I'm so glad that he's put himself into a field where his passion seems to lie. I'm also glad that he was savvy to the advantage of graduating without the debt that is so common these days.

"When Mid Penn bank followed up Román's listing me as a reference, I was pleased. I told them I do a lot of interviewing and hire a lot of people. I would be glad to have him on my team."

Román started June 1 at Mid Penn Bank in Harrisburg. In job seeking, he prioritized joining a culture where employees are more than a number, where his efforts will not be "lost in the sauce." At Mid Penn, he will have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships and network at the mid-size bank. He is beginning as a Professional Development Associate, an employee responsible to learn all aspects of banking, from retail to credit. Rotations within different Mid Penn departments will vary in length, depending on the information he needs to absorb. Although he will work in the breadth of bank services, including wealth management and credit analysis, at this point, the possibility of becoming a commercial lender particularly interests him. Román also anticipates contributing to the community by one day teaching financial literacy to varied ages of underprivileged citizens.

As I talked with Román for this article, I was struck by the parallels between Román Colón and Oliver LaGrone. Román, the sketch artist; Oliver the sculptor. Román the philosopher; Oliver the poet. Each generous, giving men, scholars, artists, teachers. A match indeed.

— Submitted by Cordell Affeldt



Adam Malarich – Kylie Weaver

Adam Malarich, son of UCH members Kathy and Mark Malarich, was married June 26 to Kylie Weaver, daughter of Frank and Laura Weaver of Jackson, NJ. The couple met in the Jazz Lab Band at Rowan University. The outdoor wedding took place at Mountain Lakes House, an events venue near Princeton, NJ. This is the repeat celebration of a smaller wedding that occurred last year under pandemic conditions. Adam's brother, Nate, played piano for the ceremony. Adam also played a few numbers on his trumpet with the wedding band, led by George Rabbai, his jazz trumpet instructor at Rowan.

Adam completed his master's degree in Jazz Trumpet in May 2020. The couple had planned a major wedding event shortly after graduation but deferred it due to the pandemic. They celebrated a small family wedding June 26, 2021, in the backyard of their home in Tom's River, NJ.

Adam gives private trumpet lessons in New Jersey, has completed major renovations on the couple's home, and is intending to pursue a Realtor license in the future. Kylie teaches band at a middle school. They are doting parents of two small, spoiled dogs: Coda and Benjamin.

The couple are on a two-week honeymoon at Walt Disney World in Florida.



Elizabeth Breach (1920-2021)

Anne Elizabeth Breach, 91, died June 22 at Commonwealth Senior Living Center. A graveside service was held June 29 at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, the Rev. Dr. Amy Doyle Welin, Dean, officiating. She is survived by a son, Richard, of Camp Hill; one grandson; and four great grandchildren.

Elizabeth joined UCH in 1992 and continued as a pledging member even after moving into Commonwealth. At UCH, she was a long-time member of the Craft Group/Women's Night Out. For years, in days prior to email and cell phone, she was responsible for coordinating the monthly event, contacting each member, and arranging reservations at the designated vendor. Elizabeth was also an active member of "Loaves of Love," which is a food pantry for AIDS patients and their families; she baked for the group for more than 10 years. Elizabeth was an opera lover and participated in opera events with friends and other UCH members. She was also a repeat bidder for tickets to the annual "Treehouse Tea Party" when it was offered as an auction event.



Date	Time	Group	Location
Fri 2	Various	Heart Rhythm Meditation	Zoom
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Friday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (Friday Zoom link) 🕒 Monday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Monday link) <p>People can drop-in or out as they want. Please contact Libby Tisdell for additional information.</p>			
			Heart Rhythm Meditation
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, Robin Broderick facilitates a summer solstice circle.</p> <p>All who identify as women are welcome to join in co-creating this sacred space. This will be a Zoom meeting, and a link will be sent a day or so prior to the meeting time. Check-in starts at 6:30 p.m., the circle begins at 7:00 p.m., ending by 8:30 p.m. Contact Rebecca Waldemar (717-364-2029) for further information.</p>			
			QueenSpirit
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>Our Undemocratic Constitution: Where the Constitution Goes Wrong</i> by Sanford Levinson. From Amazon.com:</p> <p>Levinson argues that too many of our Constitution's provisions promote either unjust or ineffective government. Under the existing blueprint, we can neither rid ourselves of incompetent presidents nor assure continuity of government following catastrophic attacks. Less important, perhaps, but certainly problematic, is the appointment of Supreme Court judges for life. Adding insult to injury, the United States Constitution is the most difficult to amend or update of any constitution currently existing in the world today. Democratic debate leaves few stones unturned, but we tend to take our basic constitutional structures for granted. Levinson boldly challenges the American people to undertake a long overdue public discussion on how they might best reform this most hallowed document and construct a constitution adequate to our democratic values.</p> <p>Books for the remainder of the year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Aug. 8 - <i>Emma Lazarus</i>, by Esther Schor 🕒 Sept. 12 - <i>The Reactionary Mind</i>, by Cory Robin 🕒 Oct. 10 - <i>Metropolis: A History of the City, Humankind's Greatest Invention</i>, by Ben Wilson 🕒 Nov. 14 - <i>Barnum: An American Life</i>, by Robert Wilson <p>Please contact Don Brown for information.</p>			
			Philosophy & Literature
Tue 27	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	Zoom
<p>Theme: Made in PA</p> <p>Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021</p> <p>Place: UCH Clover Lane</p> <p>The Auction Planning Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. This month, the meeting is again via Zoom.</p> <p>Start thinking now about auction ideas and donations for 2021! Come brainstorm ideas, themes, and be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2021 Church Auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success.</p> <p>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.</p>			
			