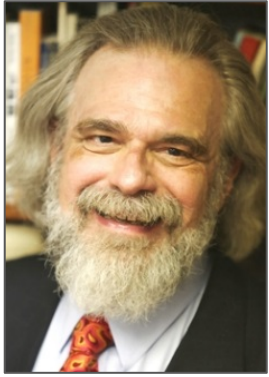




## From the Minister



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

It is May. Spring time! The season is familiar but the circumstances are not. Living in a shutdown society is something I had read about and heard about but never expected to experience. It is an experience I would rather not have. But I cannot choose not to have it. So I will try to follow the Buddhist advice to be mindful in the present moment. And then, take action as appropriate.

As much as I like being home and as readily as you and I are able to communicate electronically, I miss the face-to-face interaction with church members, visitors, staff, colleagues, and neighbors that typically make up much of my day. I can make no plausible prediction as to when we will resume in-person services. But you and I can collaborate to have the fullest congregational life possible while physically distancing. Your ready adaptation to services, meetings, and other activities online speaks to the overall healthiness of the congregation as a community, as well as to your individual willingness to adapt.

About the time you receive this edition of THE REPORTER, you will receive an actual stamped and mailed letter about the stewardship campaign to fund the church year that begins July 1, 2020. The stewardship mailing includes a pledge form and guidelines for pledging at different income levels. Circumstances are very different than they were a year ago, when we launched the stewardship campaign for the current church year. Hence the lateness of the initial stewardship mailing. Your Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, stewardship team, and staff are working diligently to keep the church on a firm financial footing, even as many members are struggling to keep their families on a firm financial footing. The stewardship and budget process will run later than usual. But we have a terrific stewardship team available to help you as you determine your pledge for the coming year. The members are: Dennis Byrne, David Forster, John Hargreaves, David Powell, Justin Sciamanna, Edward Sykes, and Sharon Vaughn. Members of the team are available to answer your questions. If you have not received the mailing by May 6th, email [Tavia Flanagan](#) and ask that it be re-sent to you.

I encourage you to live fully every day. Be mindful and be active. If you have not done so, I encourage you to take part in the virtual coffee hour on Sunday morning. If you need to talk, call me during the check-in office hours listed below. If you need a different time, email me to set up an appointment.

Be assured that the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg will remain strong for its members through this difficult time. Be assured that even with the necessity of physical distancing, I am readily available to serve the members of this church.

*The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson*

## Share the Plate: Central Pennsylvania Food Bank

*Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit. This month, we share the plate with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.*

The [Central Pennsylvania Food Bank](#) serves 27 counties across Pennsylvania. An affiliate of [Feeding America](#) and [Feeding Pennsylvania](#), the food bank maintains healthy food hub locations in Harrisburg and Williamsport to serve the geographically dispersed community and distributes food via a large network of local Partner Agencies.



## Worship Services

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Date	In the Pulpit	Title
3-May	Gregory Carrow-Boyd	Apocalypse Now?
10-May	Rev. Johnson	In the Same Boat
17-May	Rev. Johnson	In Covenant: Remind Others
24-May	Dan Vaughn	A New Memorial
31-May	Rev. Johnson	Still Learning: Oliver LaGrone Sunday

Each Sunday morning, the church will email:

- 📧 A link to the components for 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 will be on [Wednesday](#) from 11:00 a.m. to noon and [Thursday](#) from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Rev. Johnson is also available by phone at 717-564-4761.

### President's Message



*By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees*

A month ago, I wrote that I was not happy about being stuck at home. And here we are a month later, still stuck at home. Sigh.... Well, at least I'm not infected. I'm grateful for that.

I hope that you are all adapting well to this new abnormal. Overall, it seems that people have resigned themselves to the

new reality, at least for now. Many of us had hoped that this would pass quickly, yet now it seems that the new abnormal may be with us for a while.

I'm grateful that our church has adapted very quickly. Organizationally, we are far ahead of some other churches that were not so nimble. Our Sunday Services get better each week. More and more activities have transferred to Zoom. Social events are popping up. I'm grateful that our minister and staff have helped us stay united and uplifted by responding quickly.

**T**he work of the church continues, despite the circumstances. Committees have continued to meet, but of course by Zoom. Plans continue to be made. The staff are working as hard as before, if not harder.

Our annual meeting (see below) scheduled for May 17 will continue as planned also. It will be held online through Zoom, starting at 2 pm. Please see the separate article about the meeting.

Why not delay the meeting? One reason is that the bylaws require us to hold a meeting in May each year. We must

prepare a budget for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1st. Perhaps we could find some way to wiggle out of those requirements, but that would not help us. The work of the church must continue.

**S**tewardship is also proceeding, only slightly delayed from our original date. We need to know how much our members can pledge in order to make a proper budget. Please see the separate article about this also.

We do know that the economic times are uncertain and that some have been more affected than others. We ask for your generosity, but we also understand that planning may be more challenging than normal this year.

Even in uncertain times, we must continue looking forward and plan for our future. Most other churches are moving forward as well. We will probably need to revisit the budget in a few months and adjust our plans accordingly. We are all learning to be adaptable these days, and we can do the same for our budget.

**O**verall, our church has been on an upward trajectory for the last few years. Each year, we have improved our finances, strengthened our unity, and clarified our vision of who we are and how we wish to grow.

This is no time to stop. Despite the terrible disruption from COVID-19, we must keep ourselves connected and work for our future. Please know that your leaders are united in this, and we ask you to join us in nurturing our community and planning for the coming year.

*David Spear*

### ***Annual Meeting 2:00 p.m. May 17***

Our annual meeting will be held as originally scheduled, on Sunday, May 17. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm. Sign-in will begin at 1:30 pm.

The meeting will be held through Zoom, as we unfortunately will not be able to gather in our sanctuary. (And yes, we verified that a virtual meeting is legal according to our bylaws and Pennsylvania law.)

You should soon receive a formal letter of invitation, which will include details about these four topics.

- 🕒 Vote for members of the Board of Trustees
- 🕒 Discuss and vote on the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021
- 🕒 Discuss and vote on the church Mission
- 🕒 Affirm the nominees for the Ministerial Search Committee

If you are not familiar with Zoom, consider attending another Zoom event to learn how it works. It's designed to be user-friendly. YouTube is also full of videos about how to use it. You do not need a Zoom account in order to participate.

This will be an interesting and enjoyable opportunity for our church community to gather together again. We look forward to seeing you there.

*– Submitted by David Spear*

### Stewardship Campaign

The theme of this year's campaign is "Let's Everyone Actively Pledge" aka LEAP. Stewardship letters were mailed April 29 and should be in your (physical) mailbox even as you read **THE REPORTER**. Once you complete your pledge form, please return it via one of the following:

- 📧 **U.S. Mail:** UCH Stewardship, 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17113
- 📧 **Email** via [stewardship@uchbg.org](mailto:stewardship@uchbg.org)
- 📠 **Fax** to 717-455-9469



LET'S EVERYONE ACTIVELY PLEDGE

*UCH Stewardship Campaign*  
**2020-2021**

Many thanks to this year's Stewardship Team: Dave Powell, Ed Sykes, Justin Sciamanna, Denny Byrne, Sharon Vaughn, John Hargreaves and Dave Forster. Visit our Stewardship [page](#) on our website for more info.

— Submitted by Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson

### Search Committee

Social distancing has not prevented the newly formed Ministerial Search Committee from taking their first steps toward UCH's goal of finding a settled minister in 2021. Chris Dutton, Laura Edinger, Dan Vaughn, Emily Webb, Marsha Dulaney, Bridgette Parker, and Jane Bechtel have been meeting via Zoom and delving into the search handbook from the UUA to begin planning for the coming months. They have already virtually met with Christine Purcell, UUA Transitions Program Manager, and will begin to divide tasks among themselves soon.

Look for them to be reaching out to the congregation for input on the search this summer.

— Submitted by Bridgette Parker



### Virtual General Assembly, June 24-28

General Assembly (GA), originally scheduled for June 24-28 in Providence, RI, will be a virtual event this year. Last month, the UUA Board of Trustees passed a resolution to make the 2020 GA a 100% virtual event. This decision alleviates the anxiety and concern shared by many about how GA might proceed, given the impact of COVID-19. It also gives the UUA time to plan a more robust and rewarding virtual experience.

A virtual GA has many benefits, including a significant reduction in carbon footprint and the possibility of higher attendance, since it is more accessible for delegates and anyone else burdened by travel costs or time. For many years, the UUA has offered virtual attendance as an option. This year, the UUA intends to scale and enhance technology to accommodate a more global audience. Across the country, UU congregations have embraced virtual meetings and Sunday services, and the UUA considers this an extension of that trend.

The [theme](#) this 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."



### UCH Zoom

*Submitted by Kel Kyle*

We have been using Zoom teleconferencing for almost three years at UCH. When the pandemic began, we found ourselves in a good spot for providing virtual gatherings quickly as we already knew the framework. At present, we can host three concurrent meetings. The average number of Zoom meetings has risen from three to 92 in April alone.

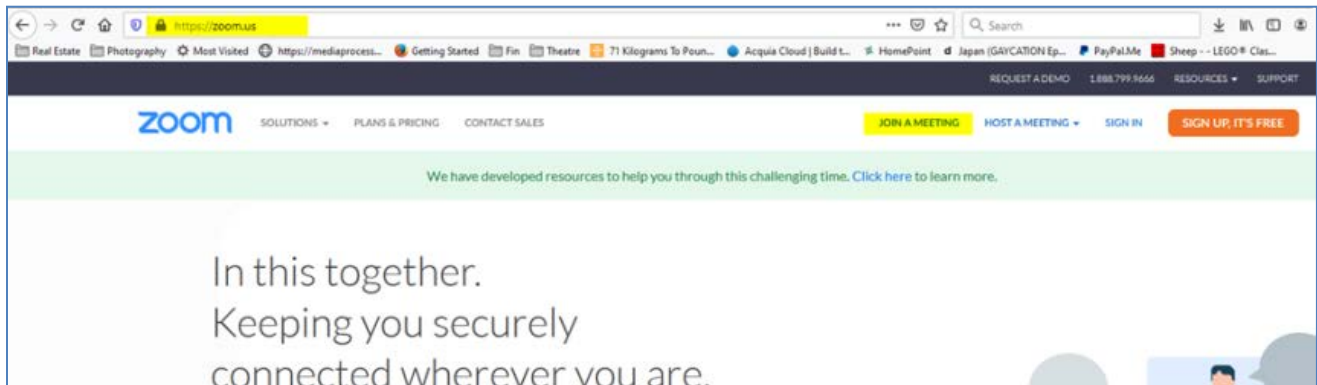
The feedback we've received has been one of relief - thankful we have a way to connect to our church family when we cannot be there in person. Many are enjoying not only the diverse uses of Zoom (Sunday Services to Trivia Night), but comment how easy it is to use Zoom itself. Tavia, Yvonne and Kel have spent time helping church members get connected as needed. Please do not hesitate to reach out to [Tavia](#) as your point of contact for getting started on Zoom. She has a list of people who are looking forward to helping you navigate into our virtual space.

For those who have not yet ventured into Zoom, here are a few tips about connecting to Zoom, which I hope will help you be more comfortable in using it.

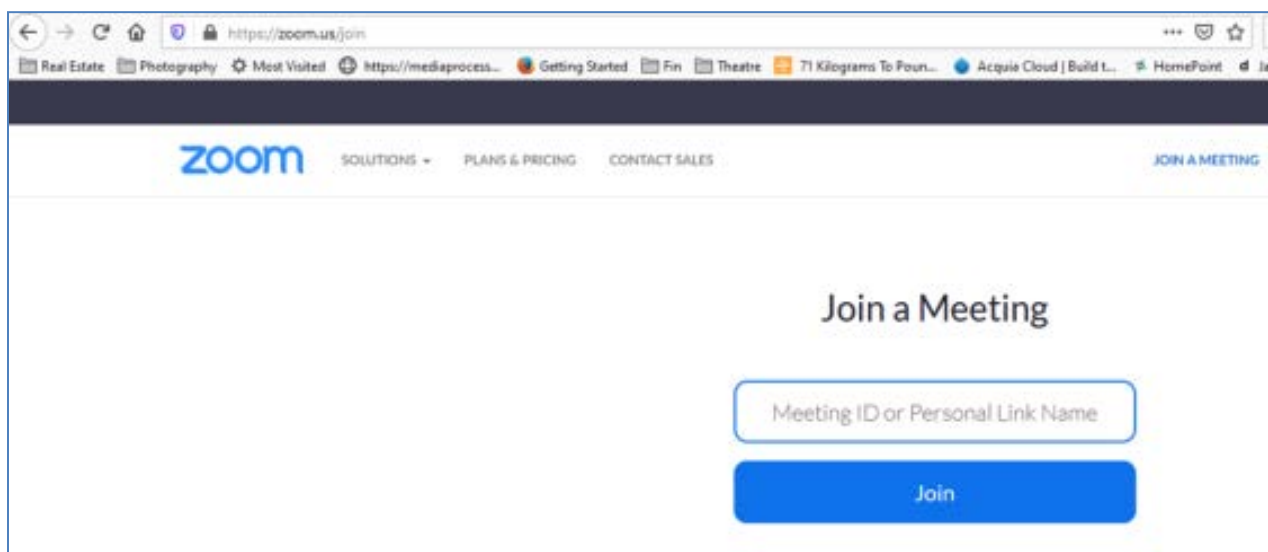
### Connecting to Zoom

There are many devices (cell phones to tablets to desktops and more) you can use to access Zoom. From there, all you need is the Zoom app ([Andriods](#) | [iPhones](#)) or an internet web browser .

- 🕒 If you are using a browser, go to <https://zoom.us> and click on the Join a Meeting link



- 🕒 On the next page, enter the Meeting ID and click the blue button that says Join.

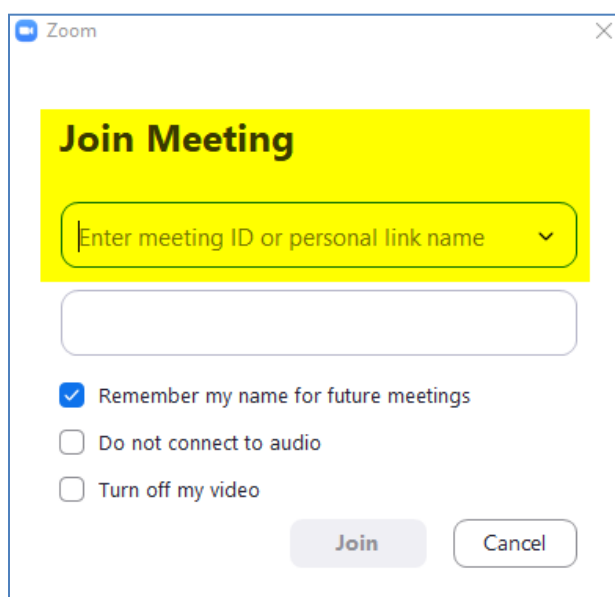




- 🔔 If you are using the Zoom app, launch it and click on Join a Meeting



- 🔔 Type in the meeting ID and click on the Join button.



## Recurring Meetings

Each week in *News You Can UUs*, we publish the weekly virtual events and place them on our weekly calendar at the bottom of the email. You can find the Meeting ID's on our public Facebook events page and our website as well. Current recurring meetings appear in the table below.

Day	Time	Event	Meeting ID
Sundays	11:30 am	Coffee Hour	915 649 362
Mondays	4:30 pm	Heart Rhythm Meditation	240 803 288
Wednesdays	11:00 am	Virtual Check-in with Rev. Johnson	763 586 240
	4:30 pm	Heart Rhythm Meditation	240 803 288
Thursdays	7:00 pm	Virtual Check-in with Rev. Johnson	762 330 940
Fridays	9:30 am	Heart Rhythm Meditation	867 866 774
	6:00 pm	Trivia Night	971 7118 3287

Also, Covenant Groups are meeting via Zoom each month. Please contact your group leader for the meeting ID.



### *Spring at Clover Lane*

It's going on seven weeks or more since many of you have seen our lovely church grounds. I am fortunate enough to be at the church three times per week. On those days, in addition to office time, I walk through the building, making sure all is well and walk around the entire property outside. Except for our various beds needing some serious gardening attention, flowers are blooming, ferns are fiddling, and the birds, squirrels, bunnies, and groundhogs are content. Below are just a few photos from the past few weeks so you, too, can share in the beauty that surrounds our church home.

— Submitted by Kel Kyle





### ***LaGrone Scholar***

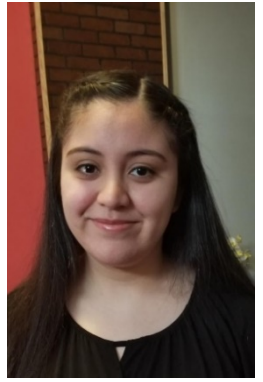
The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce our 2020 scholar, Cristina Ledesma, a senior at the SciTech campus of Harrisburg High School. Cristina plans to study Accounting at Shippensburg University this fall.

Due to the pandemic, the selection panel conducted all meetings via Zoom videoconferencing. Because not all applicants have access to Zoom, the panel determined to make its selection based solely on the written information provided by the applicants. On April 16, the panel met for the third and final Zoom conference to determine the scholarship recipient.

The scholarship is currently \$10,000 over the course of the scholar's studies. In addition, UCH provides a mentor to meet/work with the scholars throughout their years in college. We are currently seeking a mentor for Cristina and particularly looking for a member with a background in accounting or another business-related major. If interested, please contact [Rick Hawley](#) to discuss what could be a challenging and rewarding task that can help a young person to succeed.

The Committee expresses its gratitude to this year's panel: UCH members Linda Diehl and Kate Quimby, and our community member, Dr. Eric Selvey.

– Submitted by Rick Hawley



### ***Examining Whiteness: The Inside Word***

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: *The Inside Word*.

Two from the global majority speak frankly with love. "White People: I Don't Want You to Understand Me Better, I Want You to Understand Yourselves", Ijeoma Oluo – [PDF file](#).

☪ "Some Thoughts on Mercy" – Ralph Gay, PA-born academic writes beautifully on his experiences as a black man – [PDF file](#)

– Submitted by Cordell Affeldt and Kate Quimby

### ***UCH Facebook Pages***

For those who are active on Facebook, UCH has two ways to connect with one another and with the wider world. We have our public-facing *Unitarian Church of Harrisburg* and a private *Unitarian Church of Harrisburg Discussion Group* page.

**Public-Facing Page:** The public-facing *Unitarian Church of Harrisburg* page is the page that the world sees. Anyone looking us up on Facebook will find us there. This is the page you can send to people who are looking to join a church community to check us out. This is also the page where all church events are posted, including sermon topics for upcoming services and all of the church-wide Zoom events. You can add events to your calendar, and you can share them right from that page! To have reminders and notifications show up in your timeline newsfeed, make sure you like and follow the page.

**Private Group Site:** The private *Unitarian Church of Harrisburg Discussion Group* is available for members and friends to share thoughts and ideas about a broad array of topics, some UU-centered, some UCH-centered, some UU-values centered. As with all church discussion and engagement, those who participate in the group follow a covenant that is pinned to the top of the page so it's the first thing you see upon entering. If you are a church member or friend of UCH receiving this newsletter and wish to be added to the discussion page, either [Bart Carpenter](#) or [Laura Edinger](#) can help you with that.

Wishing for you all good health and spirits as we continue to move through this uncertain time. May we remain connected in all ways possible.


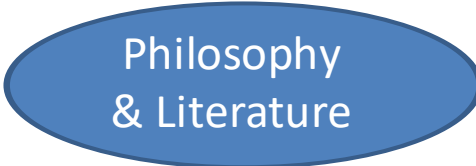
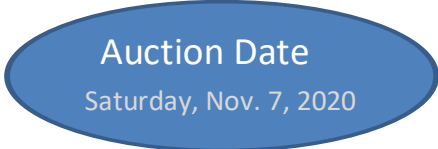
– Submitted by Laura Edinger

### ***UCH Legacy Society***

Our UCH Legacy Society Committee is working to keep our chalice burning brightly for the next generation. Please consider including UCH in your Will or estate plan. Talk with Jim Cavanaugh, Joe Melillo, James Henninger-Voss, or Joan Hellmann if you have questions.

– Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh



Date	Time	Group	Location
Wed 6	7:00	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, we will be meeting via Zoom to check in and reach out to our sisters during this challenging time of isolation. A computer or smart phone can be used for a video / audio feed, or you can call in for audio only. All women and those who gender-identify as women are welcome in a co-creating sacred space.</p> <p>Circle 7:00-8:30 pm. If you are already a member of the QueenSpirit Google group, you will receive an email invite to attend the meeting. Otherwise, please contact <a href="#">Rebecca Waldemar</a> for further information.</p>			
Sun 19	7:00	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Virtual
<p>The Philosophy &amp; Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We meet on the third Sunday this month to avoid conflicting with Mother's Day. This month, the group meets to discuss <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i>, by Viktor Frankl. From Wikipedia:</p> <p><i>Man's Search for Meaning</i> is a 1946 book by Dr. Viktor Frankl chronicling his experiences as a prisoner in Nazi concentration camps and describing his psychotherapeutic method, which involved identifying a purpose in life to feel positive about and then immersively imagining that outcome. According to Frankl, the way prisoners imagined the future affected their longevity. The book intends to answer the question "How was everyday life in a concentration camp reflected in the mind of the average prisoner?" Part One is Frankl's analysis of his experiences in the concentration camps, while Part Two introduces his ideas of meaning and his theory, logotherapy.</p> <p>According to a 2012 survey conducted by the Library of Congress, <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i> belongs to a list of "the ten most influential books in the United States." At the time of Frankl's death in 1997, the book had sold more than 10 million copies and had been translated into 24 languages.</p> <p>In May, the session is a virtual meeting via Zoom. Please contact <a href="#">Don Brown</a> for information.</p>			
Tue 28	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	
<p>Theme: The Roaring 20s Date: November 7, 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 <a href="#">Patti Hazell</a> if you wish to attend.</p>			

## Re-Entry Breakfast: Sept. 19

This year will be the 13th time UCH hosts the Community Connections Breakfast, hosted each month by a different church. The guests are brought by vans or volunteer cars from work release and halfway houses in the Harrisburg area to enjoy a hot meal, an inspiring speaker, and our appreciation of their 'inherent worth and dignity.' Please save the date: Saturday, Sept. 19

– Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

## Lay Pastoral Care Associates

Who should contact the Pastoral Care Associates?

- ☺ People who are hospitalized
- ☺ People who are grieving a loss
- ☺ People who are separated or divorcing
- ☺ People who need long term care
- ☺ People who are terminally ill
- ☺ People experiencing job loss
- ☺ People experiencing financial struggle
- ☺ People in abusive situations
- ☺ People adjusting to difficult life changes
- ☺ People with a family member in prison
- ☺ Family members of all the above

Please contact Rev. Tony or [Jim Cavanaugh](#) as needed.