



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg: an inclusive, loving community of faith committed to welcoming and nurturing all with dignity and respect.

From the Minister



The Rev. Bran Lennox serves as UCH Minister

Dear UCH Members and friends,
Our liturgical theme for the month of April is "Push," and I find that timely in a funny way. In congregational life, April tends to be the big "push"

before the close of the church year. We are in the midst of our Stewardship Campaign; we are finalizing our budget proposals; we are preparing for the annual meeting. The logistical and the mundane often take front and center in this season.

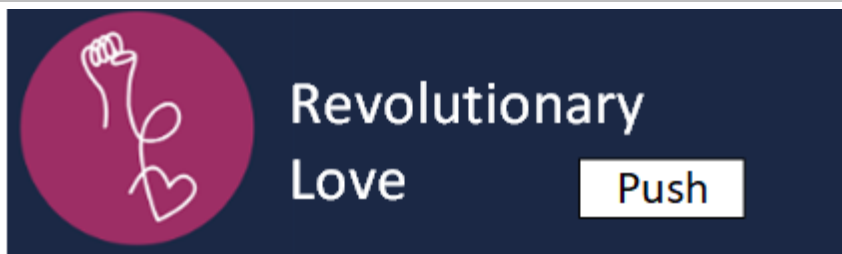
While there is something sacred to be found in the journey of supporting this community's existence, from pledging and volunteering all the way out to setting agendas and crunching numbers, it still matters that we continue to restore ourselves through our spiritual practices.

Spring has arrived, and with it, an invitation to enjoy the great outdoors. I invite you to breathe (in between the pushing) this month by engaging your appreciation of nature. Open a window and listen to birdsong. Take in the sights and scents of blooming trees. Take a stroll around our church grounds and try to catch something you've never noticed before. Use the Internet or your local library to learn about your local native plants and animals.

Here at UCH, grounding as a community in those things which give us life enables us to go forth and live our values. In supporting our own congregation as well as seeking to improve the world, we may find meaning and a sense of purpose.

Let's push ahead into the next season with joy and dedication.

Rev. Bran



Worship 10:30am Sundays

April 5: Magic Recipes, J.D. Stillwater

Eggs and seeds are quintessential symbols of birth and spring, but did you ever really contemplate the magic that hides inside them? The new science of emergence is like 1+1 = poetry; it's magic, but also rigorous science, and spring is full of this magical unfolding. The secret is (*shhh...*): *We are that magic, too!*

April 12: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is, Rev. Bran

Our stewardship season is coming to a close, but the call to live our values carries on. We'll explore what changes for us when we choose to prioritize *doing good over seeming good*.

April 19: Earth Stewardship, Rev. Bran

Caring for our community also means caring for the land with which we live. Let's celebrate Earth Day with a re-commitment to our environment!

April 26: The Convenience Trap, Rev. Bran

In today's world, we are sold "convenience" at every turn. Entitlement and emptiness about. What have we lost by focusing on product over process?

Each Sunday, the church emails a [Zoom link](#) for the Sunday service, i.e., it is the same link each week. We also upload a recording of the service each week to the [UCH YouTube site](#).

Vespers

Vespers is a way of welcoming the arrival of evening time with shared spiritual centering. The 45-minute candle-lit service is filled with song, poetry, meditation, and reflection. Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Collective Liberation Tip of the Month

This is the season for starting seeds! If gardening is one of your interests, take advantage of this time to plant a little extra community spirit. Try attending a local Seedling Swap or organize one of your own. This is another great opportunity to strike up conversation with your neighbors! When we strengthen local networks, we work against the isolation and toxic individualism which divide us.

April Share the Plate: Community Check-Up Center

Each month, we share the Sunday plate with a local non-profit. This month, we share with the Community Check Up Center.

Located in the Hall Manor neighborhood of Harrisburg, the [Community Check-Up Center](#) (CCC) is a non-profit health center providing quality care to Harrisburg's diverse and underserved children and adults. All are welcome, respected, and treated regardless of their ability to pay. CCC strives to partner with other health and non-profit organizations to support our patients and their neighborhoods.



– Submitted by UCH Finance Committee



From the Board of Trustees

By Karen Baker

The Board of Trustees has been reviewing UCH Bylaws and recommends revisions to three sections for the Congregation to consider at the May 31 Annual Meeting.

Trustees on Duty

Date	Trustee	Date	Trustee
Apr 5	Yvonne Werzinsky	Apr 19	Sharon Vaughn
Apr 12	Chris Dutton	Apr 26	Deb Puskar

Recommended change # 1 – Membership (voting rights)

Current Bylaw: Voting rights in the congregational meetings of the Church shall be reserved to active members, age thirteen or older, who have made a financial or service contribution of record within one year prior to the date of such meeting.

Proposed Change: Voting rights in the congregational meetings of the Church shall be reserved to active members, age thirteen or older, who have been members of the church for at least 90 days. Active membership shall be determined annually, using a policy or procedure approved by the Board.

Rationale: In keeping with UCH values of inclusivity and equity, we want to hear from every member regardless of their ability to contribute financially or through service in any given year.

Recommended change #2: Board of Trustees

Current Bylaw: There shall be a Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") composed of nine trustees. One-third of the Board shall be elected at each Annual Meeting. Board terms shall begin on July 1 and are three years in length.

Proposed Change: There shall be a Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") composed of seven trustees serving staggered terms which are three years in length. Board terms shall start and end with the first meeting of the Board in July.

Rationale: Seven is a more realistic expectation for recruitment purposes for a congregation of our current size.

Board Notes

Submitted by Andy Back, Clerk

The Board of Trustees met March 19 for its monthly meeting. Highlights of the agenda include:

Playground Plans

Ellen Roane, chair of the Playground Task Force, presented the findings from their research as well as a proposed plan for our new playground. The estimated cost would be about \$30,000. The Board approved the plan and authorized expenditures up to \$35,000 which was the amount reserved for a playground out of the Capital Campaign Fund.

Stewardship Committee Update

The Board approved a Finance committee recommendation to set the Stewardship target goal at \$375,000. Hannah Belser was appointed to the Stewardship team to assist with this year’s campaign.

Board meetings are held at 6:30pm on the third Thursday of the month and are open to the congregation. Time is allotted at the beginning of each Board meeting for public comments. The Board email is board@uchbg.org.

Recommended change #3: Minister

Current Bylaw: A. Calling a Minister

1. In the event of a ministerial vacancy, the Board shall establish a search committee to recommend a candidate to the congregation to fill the vacancy.

Proposed Change: A. Calling a Minister

1. In the event of a ministerial vacancy, the Board shall establish a search committee to recommend a candidate to the congregation to fill the vacancy. Any candidate for the role must be a fellowshipped minister in good standing with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA.

Rationale: The UUA has a thorough vetting process for ministers and rigorous standards regarding ministerial qualifications, responsibilities, and behavior.

Next steps:

Week of May 10 – additional materials will be distributed including expanded rationales for each of the proposed changes, and current procedures for determining active membership.

May 17 (Noon): Town Hall meeting to discuss proposed Bylaw changes.

May 31 (Noon): Annual meeting where Members will vote on proposed changes.



Karen Baker

For the UCH Board of Trustees

“Live Generosity!” 2026-27 Stewardship Campaign

By now, you should have received your mailing from the Stewardship Team, asking you to complete your pledge for the 2026-27 fiscal year. We now have a wonderful settled minister as well as a great team of staff to lead us. Now is the time for us to dig a little deeper and show that we are serious in our commitment to this community. As we go to press, we have raised 48% of our goal of \$375,000. Will you be a part of our campaign to LIVE GENEROSITY and do your part to meet, or even exceed, our goal?

If you would like to pledge online, there is a [link](#) under Members > Member Resources > Stewardship Forms. If you have already completed your pledge, THANK YOU. And UCH also welcomes participation by non-members who wish to make a pledge.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Joyce Stoltzfus](#); if she cannot answer your questions, she will find someone who can. The Stewardship Team this year is Joyce Stoltzfus (chair), with Hannah Belser, John Hargreaves, Mary Henninger-Voss, Linda Hope, and Deb Puskar.

— Submitted by [Joyce Stoltzfus](#)



2026-27 UCH STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Board Nominations

Every year, the congregation meets to inform members and friends of the business of the church and the plans of the church, to vote on church priorities (i.e., the budget), and to elect members to fill vacancies that may exist on the Board of Trustees. This year, the Board has four open positions: three 3-year positions and one 2-year position. UCH members are invited to contact [Laura Shemick](#) if they are interested in running.

Sometimes we have more candidates than positions, and sometimes we have more positions than candidates. Whatever the case, we encourage you to put your name forward if you want to serve the UCH community through governance. Prior experience in non-profit governance is helpful but not essential. The most important factors for a candidate are a willingness to do the work of the church in a thoughtful fashion, faithfully reading materials, attending meetings, and contributing thoughts based on experience and facts. Candidate biographies will be published in the May REPORTER.

—Submitted by [Laura Shemick](#)

General Assembly 2026

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. Historically, these were always in-person, with the location varying each year. For 2026, the UUA has created a virtual “everywhere GA” with both online and multiple in-person options. The main in-person events will be held in Louisville, KY, with satellite events at eight UU churches across the country. From Sunday-Tuesday, June 14-16, delegates will engage in fully virtual General Sessions focused on the business of the UUA. Thursday and Friday are break days. Programming then resumes Friday-Sunday, with worship, featured speakers, and Meet the Moment themed programs that can be experienced online, in Louisville, or at satellite locations. This flexible model is intended to make GA more accessible, sustainable, and connected for UUs everywhere. Details of the entire week are available at the [GA website](#).



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

Advance registration ranges from \$25 (Satellite) to \$350 (online), with no charge for online access to the business sessions. UCH is entitled to send five delegates to GA. Delegates' registration fees are reimbursed by UCH up to \$200 per person; delegates may attend in person or virtually.

If you would like to be a delegate, please contact [Laura Shemick](#). The Board will then determine who will be delegates at its April meeting.

—Submitted by [Laura Shemick](#)

Opportunities for Lifespan Faith Development



Cory Ness, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Children/Youth Faith Development

Sunday morning: Childcare is available in the nursery downstairs with Patti Hazell for anyone age 5 and younger. Faith development classes are available for children in grades 1 — 12. All children through 2nd Grade must be picked up by their parents/caregivers no later than 11:45am.

Curriculum: Last year, UUs across the U.S. voted to update the UUA bylaws to define our common Shared Values, with Love at the center. This year, our LFD program is following a love-focused curriculum called [The Revolutionary Love Project](#), based on *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur. The Revolutionary Love project draws on various spiritual and philosophical traditions, advocating for love as a way to combat hate and violence and as a means to bridge divides and build inclusive communities. The curriculum draws on Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, and Indigenous spiritual traditions as well as feminist and queer theory. The curriculum themes are summarized in the accompanying graphic.

April R.E. Schedule

Date	Teacher	
	Grades 1-5	Grades 6-12
Apr 5	WCW - Easter	
Apr 12	Rachel & Chelsea	Dean & Peter
Apr 19	Bridgette & Chelsea	TBD & Dean
Apr 26	Social Justice and Action	

The Revolutionary Love Project

Monthly Themes

Sept: Wonder	Feb: Reimagine
Oct: Grieve	Mar: Breathe
Nov: Fight	April: Push
Dec: Rage	May: Transition
Jan: Listen	June: Joy

April Celebrations

Join us at the UCH for our
EASTER EGG HUNT
Sunday, April 5, 2026
Directly After Our Church Service
1280 Clover Lane Harrisburg PA 17113

Family Passover Potluck Seder
5:00-7:00pm Monday, April 6
Hosted by Rev. Bran, Sable Stewart, and Cory Ness
PLEASE SIGN UP [ONLINE](#)

Adult Activities

Covenant Groups (recurring)

Covenant Groups meet monthly from September to June, normally in the second week of the month. Sessions are 60-90 minutes long, with discussion each month on a different aspect of Revolutionary Love. Enrollment is capped at 10 people per group; for most groups, we ask participants to enroll for the full year. At this point, we have scheduled the following groups:

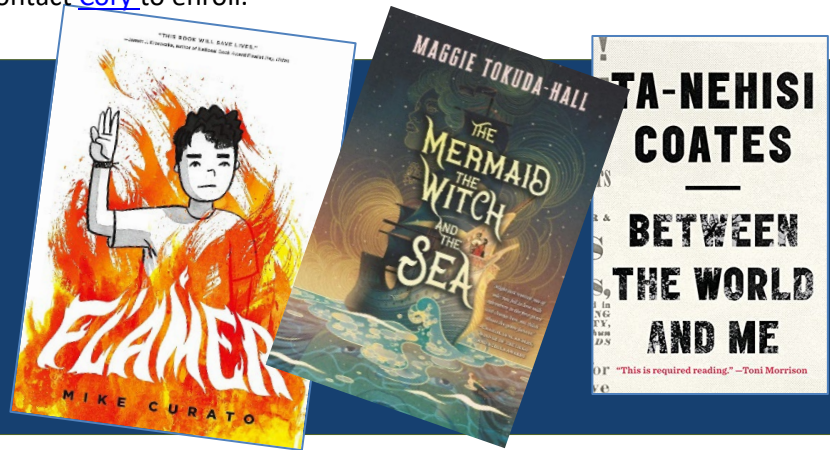
- 🕒 5:30pm second Monday (Clover Lane)
- 🕒 7:00pm third Monday (Zoom)
- 🕒 1:00pm second Tuesday (Zoom)
- 🕒 7:00pm third Tuesday (Zoom); drop-ins welcome
- 🕒 1:00pm second Thursday (Clover Lane)

Most groups are at capacity. If you'd like to give it a try, please contact [Bart Carpenter](#).

Banned Book Discussion ~ bimonthly September-April at 7:15pm

Join the “Banned Books Club” to read and discuss young adult literature that has been banned for one reason or another. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday at 7:15 pm. Contact [Cory](#) to enroll.

Banned Book Club



May 28: *Flamer*, by Mike Curato

This graphic novel follows a boy navigating bullying and his queer identity at summer camp, frequently facing bans due to its LGBTQ+ themes and honest depictions of teen self-discovery.

Sept. 24: *The Mermaid, the Witch, and the Sea*, by Maggie Tokuda-Hall

A pirate and a princess attempt to escape a dark world of magic and slavery, though the book is often challenged for its queer romance, gender-fluidity, and depictions of colonial violence.

November: *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis.

Cory is also taking nominations for 2027! Please review the [Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2024](#) listed by the American Library Association, PEN America’s [Banned Books List 2025](#), or a similar source for ideas.

Revolutionary Love through Creativity (formerly: Creativity Matters) (recurring)

Revolutionary Love Through Creativity helps members engage in the monthly themes and explore spiritual growth through creative expression. It’s about allowing our intuition and imagination to guide us. This program is designed for everyone - no experience or artistic skill required. Just bring a playful and adventurous attitude. We will discover creative exercises to work on prior to our meeting along with inspirational material and reflection questions to get your creative juices flowing. The project options include such things as: collage, storytelling, scrapbooking, sketching, photography, creative writing, watercolor painting, fabric arts, sculpture, movement, music, and more. A creative journal is strongly encouraged.

🕒 **1:00pm fourth Thursday** (Zoom), led by Cory Ness

Stitchers Group (recurring)

Join us at 10:00am every 2nd Friday for the Stitchers Group, a needle arts group for knitters/crocheters/quilters/cross stitchers/weavers and more, where we can all gather with our projects to stitch and chat on Zoom. No agenda – just building connections. Contact Cory to be added to the group.

Depression Support Groups (Zoom, twice monthly)

UCH has a depression support group. The purpose of the group is to provide a community of and for people who are living with situations of depression. It is a confidential, safe place for people to be honest about depression in their lives.

🕒 **1:00pm, 1st and 3rd Wednesday**, led by Cory Ness. Contact [Cory](#) to enroll.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven (Sponsored by QueenSpirit) Alternate months

This program is based on *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: An Exploration of Women's Power Past, Present and Future*. by [Rev. Dr. Shirley Ranck](#). The program explores the relationship between women's religious history and the personal issues that arise in women living in this patriarchal society. The primary question raised is: How would your life have been different if, when growing up, the divine had been imaged as female? The program is for women ages 14 and up. The final session includes lunch and a closing ritual.

🕒 10:00am — 2:00pm Saturday, May 30 (Clover Lane)



St. Stephen's Collaborative Book Club (7:00pm first Wednesday, via Zoom)

In collaboration with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, UCH members are cordially invited to participate in a monthly book discussion. The group meets via Zoom, normally on the first Wednesday. On the horizon:

- 🕒 **April:** Fredrick Backman, *My Friends: A Novel*. *My Friends* follows 18-year-old Louisa, a foster child and aspiring artist who embarks on a cross-country journey to uncover the origin of a world-famous painting she has inherited. The story interweaves her journey with the lives of four outcasts—Joar, Ted, Ali, and a gifted boy known as "the artist"—who formed an unbreakable bond while escaping difficult home lives 25 years earlier. Ultimately, it is a bittersweet exploration of the transformative power of art and how the fierce loyalties we forge in our youth can ripple through time to change a stranger's life.
- 🕒 **April:** Bruno Bettelheim, *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales*. Analyzing a wide range of traditional stories, from the tales of Sindbad to "The Three Little Pigs," "Hansel and Gretel," and "Sleeping Beauty," psychologist Bruno Bettelheim shows how the fantastical, sometimes cruel, but always deeply significant narrative strands of the classic fairy tales can aid in our greatest human task, that of finding meaning for one's life.



Please contact [Bart/Kate Carpenter](#) for further information.

Poetry Corner

Ed. note: Each month the REPORTER features a poem that aligns with the church's theme of the month. For April, this is "Push." For May, the theme is "Transition." If you would like to nominate a poem on this topic, please send it to [Andrea Justice](#) or [Dorothy Brown](#) by April 15.

Push, Poet, Push

By Dr. Belavadi K. Prabhakar

I'm not a woman—I don't conceive,
No womb to swell, no pain to grieve.
Yet I have felt that sacred strain—
The joy was deeply intertwined with the poet's pain.
I birth my verses, line by line,
Each one breathes, each one shines.
Not just alive—they steal your breath,
A spark of soul, defying death.
From the first idea, I reel and sway,
Nausea strikes, dreams drift away.
I ache, I groan, I chase a gleam—
A beauty born from a fevered dream.

And when the labour grips me tight,
I push with all my inner might.
The blossom blooms, the ink runs free—
A pain of joy, a jubilee.
This joy from agony, fierce and brief,
Outshines a mother's nine-month grief.
Her cord is cut, her child set free—
But mine stays bound eternally.
A birth where no cord's ever torn,
The poet and poem are forever born.
Sweet, sweating, short—but never apart,
Each verse still pulses in my heart.

Context: Dr. Belavadi K. Prabhakar is a retired Professor of Chemistry at Millersville University, where he spent decades blending scientific precision with academic leadership. A poet by spirit and a scholar of Kannada heritage, his literary work fuses mythological inquiry and philosophical depth into what he calls a space of "sacred incompleteness." In his recent 2025 collections, such as *The Epic In Her Breath*, he explores the "push" of creative labor as a vital, soul-shaking force that binds the author to their work eternally.

New Member Profiles

Please welcome these new members to our congregation!

Meet these new members!



Tia Barndt



Charlie Buckwalter



Colette Eckert and Judy Baumgardner



Sara Gondwe

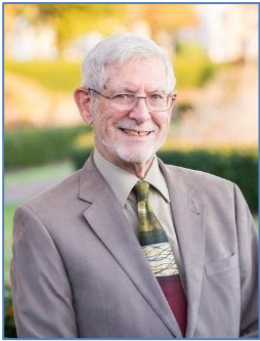
Transitions



Eric Scheib (1957-2026)

[Eric Scheib](#), husband of UCH member Kate Scheib, died March 6 after a battle with lung cancer. He was 68. He is survived by Kate, six children, 18 grandchildren, and three siblings. Services will be held at 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at UCH.

Larry Beyer (1945-2026)



UCH member [Lawrence "Larry" Beyer](#), 81, died March 14 in Mechanicsburg. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, UCH member Cordell Affeldt; a daughter, Gwynn Gibbons (David) and son Nevin Beyer (Cynthia); and three grandchildren. Larry was predeceased by his first wife, Marsha Beyer, in 1987.

Living in Elysburg, Larry and Marsha joined UCH in 1985 as remote members and brought the teens to Harrisburg to participate in [About Your Sexuality](#) sessions. Larry, Gwynn, and Nevin subsequently moved to Harrisburg after Marsha's death. He and Cordell were married at UCH on Oct. 30, 1992.

Larry was an avid outdoorsman. He donated fishing and canoeing activities to the auction on multiple occasions. In the 2020s, he spent untold hours with his chainsaw, helping to take down overgrown trees and shrubs across the church property. For decades, he sang bass in the UCH choir.

Services are scheduled for Saturday, April 18, at UCH. Visitation is at 10:00 a.m., a celebration of life at 11:00 a.m., and a reception afterwards. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the [UU Service Committee](#) or [The Nature Conservancy](#).

Please Wear Name Tags

The Membership Team provides name tags for members and frequent visitors, including pronoun stickers for those who want to use them. With the large number of visitors each week, we encourage everyone to wear a name tag. Please reach out to [Bart Carpenter](#) if you need a new name tag.

— Submitted by Bart Carpenter, Membership Team



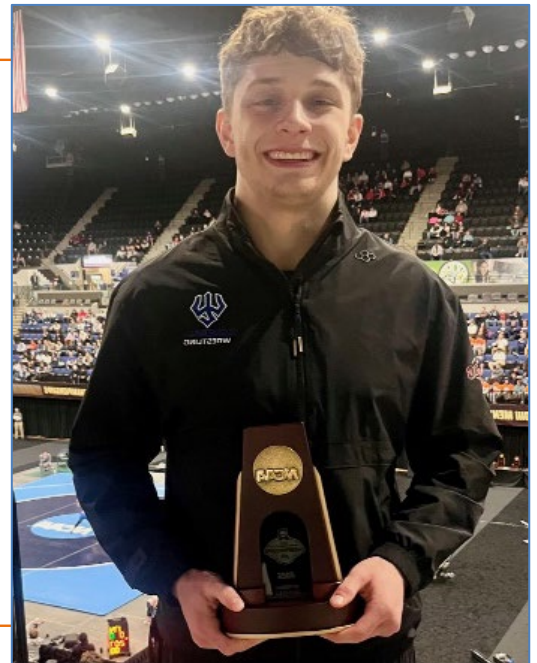
Alice Winner: 79th Birthday

Tom and Alice Winner celebrated her 79th birthday on March 25. Alice has been in memory care for almost two years and moved to Arden Courts 16 months ago.



Kudos to Liam Flanagan

Liam Flanagan, the son of staff member Tavia Flanagan, recently competed in the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championship in Cedar Rapids, IA. Liam earned a sixth-place finish and was honored as an All-American. The sophomore at Washington and Lee University in Virginia finished the season with a record of 30-3. He is also a two-time Academic All-American with a current GPA of 3.95 in the biology program of study.



New Member Orientation

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](#).

We do orientation sessions via Zoom for people potentially interested in membership. 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 Team. We will be happy to sign you up!

— Submitted by Bart Carpenter



LaGrone News

Save the Date!! Sunday, June 7th, will be our annual Oliver LaGrone Scholar Celebration! Keep our Selection Panel in your thoughts this month as they process the applications and select the 2026 scholar. Next month we will announce the new scholar! Thanks to all of you for your continued interest and support of this important church program!

— Submitted by *Deb Haken*

UU Musical on the Horizon

“Nothing About Us Without Creative Arts Therapy” is planning a UU musical in August, with performances at UCH and the UU Congregation of York. We are actively recruiting singers! If interested, please contact [MarySebastian](#). Rehearsals will occur during spring/summer on alternating weekends.

— Submitted by *MarySebastian Summerstroh*

Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by *Kate Carpenter (chair), Linda Hope, and Joan McCabe*

Introducing the Volunteer Coordinating Team

The purpose of the Volunteer Coordinating Team is to empower, advise, and support church leaders who are in need of volunteers to help carry out the mission of their committee, team, or social group. Our team will:

- ➊ Assist groups or individuals to clearly and engagingly articulate their specific requirements for volunteers.
- ➋ Provide guidance about how best to recruit volunteers by using a variety of means including: News You Can UUse, The Reporter, the church database, flyers, posters, direct emails, and by posting their volunteer requests digitally on Sundays. The team will provide extra support as needed.
- ➌ Encourage all members and friends to explore the many ways they can use their skills, talents and interests to help foster a sense of belonging and community at UCH.
- ➍ Provide a list of all the groups in the church and their contact people and assist in maintaining the church database with time and talent information about members and friends.



The members of the Volunteer Coordinating Team are Kate Carpenter, Joan McCabe, and Linda Hope. Please contact [Kate Carpenter](#) to request our assistance.

Open call:

Here at UCH, we often say that community is built around the table. We are currently looking for a few good people to join the Coffee & Kitchen Crew. No experience necessary, just a willingness to pitch in and serve our community by helping to staff the coffee counter and help out in the kitchen as needed. For more details, please contact [Kate Carpenter](#) or our new Kitchen Manager, [Joy Wood](#), to find out how YOU can be a part of the crew.

Together we build the circle of community!

Applause:

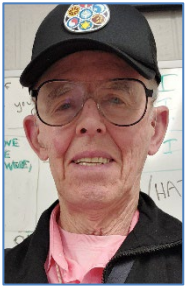
As April is National Volunteer month, now would be a good time to thank a volunteer. Anyone you see putting things away, clearing up, putting chairs back in line or whatever they might be doing—tell them thanks for helping out. It’s like having someone come to our house and help with chores. UCH belongs to all of us and much of what we do here could not happen without a mighty host of people who give of their time and talents to make things run smoothly. In fact, you don’t have to just do this in April. Everyone appreciates a word of thanks all year long.

If you have a desire to volunteer, but haven’t found your niche yet, contact the Volunteer Coordinating Team, and we can help you plug in and find your happy place.

Thanks to all those who faithfully care for our community!

Commissioned Lay Chaplain's Report

Jim Cavanaugh is UCH's Commissioned Lay Chaplain.



Work Release Center

The pastoral care I offer the residents at the Dauphin County Women's [Work Release Center](#) (WRC) takes the form of conversations, sometimes including prayer, but that depends on the person's religious inclination or lack thereof. I recently had a newly arrived resident walk into the multipurpose room I use as my chaplain's office. She arrived while I was setting up; posting signs by the door and inside the room; and laying out the desk runner I use with a chalice, a battery-powered candle, and a Sioux "talking stick." I invited her to take a seat, and she waited patiently until I could sit down and introduce myself, including my standard, "I am here for every resident regardless of their faith or not. Do you have a religious faith you're connected to?" or words to that effect. She described herself as non-denominational, i.e., a generic Protestant, and that (like any answer she could have given) was fine. We had a good conversation, and she appreciated the three gifts: The breath prayer, a pocket planner, and a full-sized calendar she chose from many donated ones.



Later that afternoon two women walked in together and asked me to pray for them. "What about?" "We want to go home." We talked for a while, I prayed to 'Spirit of Life, Gracious and loving God,'" and then we talked more. A lot more. When we parted, they were smiling, and whether or not they go home as soon as they hope, I think our time together helped them deal with the situation. I may have shared my newest mantra: 'life is imperfect, deal with it.'

Reproductive Justice

Reproductive Justice is intersectional, so a new possibility for our efforts to Make a Difference for Reproductive Justice in PA may focus on improving Black maternal health by assisting Black Doulas (non-medical birth companions) who are helping Black pregnant women in PA, by providing them with printed materials for the patient to keep, like the [Black Mamas Health Guide](#).



We continue to advocate for the package of bills in the General Assembly known as [Momnibus 2.0](#) (a group of bills focused on Black maternal health). And we look forward to [Black Maternal Health Week](#) this month, April 11- 17. This year's theme is "Rooted in Joy + Justice," focusing on the holistic well-being of Black mothers and their families.

UUJusticePA

[UUJusticePA](#) is a statewide advocacy organization that connects UU congregations across Pennsylvania to promote progressive public policy in Harrisburg. It represents 40 UU congregations and more than 5,000 members across the Commonwealth. Headquartered in Harrisburg, UUJusticePA acts as the primary vehicle for UUs to bring their religious values—such as the inherent worth of every person and the use of the democratic process—into the state legislative arena. an advocacy group that promotes UU values across the state. Its Executive Director is UCH member Michael Mehrazar.



UUJusticePA operates through specialized issue teams that meet monthly via conference calls to coordinate statewide efforts. Meetings are conducted via Zoom. Please feel free to [sign](#)





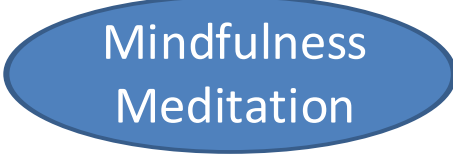

[up](#) for the mailing list and join any of the groups; you can also use the QR code to access the sign-up screen. Meetings this month occur as shown in the accompanying graphic.

— Submitted by Michael Mehrazar

April 2026 Meeting Schedule

- **Environmental:** April 2 @ 7 PM
- **LGBTQIA+:** April 13 @ 7 PM
- **Economic:** April 14 @ 7 PM
- **Reproductive:** April 15 @ 7:30 PM
- **Good Government:** April 16 @ 7 PM
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** April 27 @ 8 PM
- **Gun Violence Prevention:** TBD

Recurring Events Calendar

Date	Time	Group	Location
Wed 1	5:30pm	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Common Room
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of each month. This month, we do a circle on Tea with Your Muse. Invite your muse to tea to connect with your higher creative self through free writing and clearing space to hear what your muse has to say.</p> <p>Join us for a potluck at 5:30. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. The circle begins at 6:30pm and ends no later than 8:30pm Contact Robin Broderick for additional information.</p>			
Thu 2	6:00pm	Rainbow Connection	Fuller Chapel
<p>Rainbow Connection is a closed AA meeting for people who identify as LGBTQIA+ and are experiencing problems with alcoholism. Closed meetings are designed for individuals experiencing alcoholism and actively focused on sobriety. Repeats weekly. Please contact Kat A (they/them) at 717-329-4650 for further information.</p>			
Fri 3	Various	Heart Rhythm Meditation	Zoom
<p>Heart Rhythm Meditation (HRM) is a type of meditation that involves conscious breathing, in which the individual controls their breathing in order to influence their mental, emotional, and physical state. Join Libby Tisdell and Jimmy Handshaw in twice-weekly sessions, via Zoom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Monday afternoons from 4:30 — 5:30pm via Zoom 🕒 Friday mornings from 11:30am — 12:30pm via Zoom <p>People can drop in as they want. Please contact Jimmy Handshaw for the Zoom link.</p>			
Mon 6	6:30pm	Amrit Yoga (Weekly)	Fuller Chapel
<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. No experience necessary! Contact John Hargreaves. Repeats every Monday.</p>			
Tue 7	6:00pm	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG)	Fuller Chapel
<p>Mindfulness is an acquired skill, practiced while meditating but vital in our everyday lives. Mindfulness helps in reducing stress, managing pain, focusing attention, and overcoming habitual negative behavior. Mindfulness can also point the way to spiritual practice, calming the mind, developing awareness and insight, and bringing us into the present moment. The ability to be mindful is strengthened through consistent practice. MMG provides a space for us to practice together in support of one another. Please join MMG each Tuesday evening for meditation, readings, and discussion led by Rebecca Waldemar. Please contact Rebecca Waldemar for additional information. Repeats weekly.</p>			
Tue 7	6:30pm	Auction Planning Committee	Zoom
<p>The Auction Planning Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month. Start thinking now about auction ideas and donations for 2026! Come brainstorm ideas, themes, and be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2026 church auction are always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success.</p> <p>Please contact Patti Hazell for additional information. A zoom link will be sent to committee members a few days prior to the meeting.</p>			

Date	Time	Group	Location
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Wed 8	1:00pm	Aging: the Next Chapter	Fuller Chapel
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Are you navigating the tribulations of aging? Retirement communities, aging in place, aches and pains, health challenges, loneliness, family dynamics, discovering a new chapter of your sense of self... becoming an elder is far from straightforward!

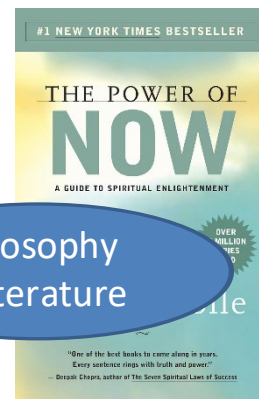
Join us as we launch a new affinity group to discuss all things aging. [Theresa Alberici](#) and Rev. Bran host and facilitate the group on second Wednesdays.



Sun 12	7:00pm	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Zoom
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The Philosophy & Literature Group normally meets on the second Sunday of each month by Zoom. This month, the group will discuss *The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment*, by Eckhart Tolle. Recommended by Guy Dannelley.

Much more than simple principles and platitudes, the book takes readers on an inspiring spiritual journey to find their true and deepest self and reach the ultimate in personal growth and spirituality: the discovery of truth and light. In the first chapter, Tolle introduces readers to enlightenment and its natural enemy, the mind. He awakens readers to their role as a creator of pain and shows them how to have a pain-free identity by living fully in the present. The journey is thrilling, and along the way, the author shows how to connect to the indestructible essence of our Being, "the eternal, ever-present One Life beyond the myriad forms of life that are subject to birth and death."



Philosophy & Literature

On the horizons:

- 📅 **May:** *Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions*, by Temple Grandin
- 📅 **June:** *Not a Nation of Immigrants: Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Please contact [MaryJean Glick](#), [Jim Cavanaugh](#), or [Guy Dannelley](#) for further information.

Tue 14	1:00pm	Women's Lunch Out	Off site
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Women's Lunch 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 at a local restaurant, alternating locations between the East and West Shores. Each month, participants take a collection. Proceeds are divided between the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry and UCH.



This month, we meet at [Marzoni's Brick Oven & Brewing Co.](#), Restaurant, 4925 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg. Please contact [Ann Sitrin](#) (text 717-439-6090) for additional information. RSVP by the Monday beforehand.

Wed 15	6:00pm	Clover Grove	Common Room
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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 celebrate Navajo traditions. Join us for a special Earth Day event. We will learn about the Navajo and focus on a few rituals they do to celebrate the Earth. Robin will be leading this discussion from her experience visiting their culture centers. Navajo Nations are the largest Native American sovereign territory in the U.S. We will also look ahead to planning the winter solstice this coming December 2026.



We start with a potluck — bring something to share. Please contact [Wayne Minich](#) for further information and/or join the Clover Grove [Facebook Group](#).

Date	Time	Group	Location
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Sat 18 **10:00am** **Power to the Hill** **Allison Hill**

Power to the Hill (P2H) is a UCH lay-led ministry focused on empowering the residents of the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg. P2H focuses on voter registration and “get out the vote” campaigns in the neighborhood. We convene at Christ Lutheran Church, 124 S 13th St. Please arrive at 9:45am for light snacks, and lunch follows each engagement day.



Voter engagement days

- ☉ March 21
- ☉ May 16
- ☉ July 18
- ☉ September 19
- ☉ April 18
- ☉ June 13
- ☉ August 15
- ☉ October 17

Rekurs monthly, normally on the third Saturday. All are welcome! Please contact [Wendy Shaver](#) for additional information.

Sat 25 **9:00pm** **Grounds and Gardens** **Clover Lane**

Enjoy fresh air, sunshine and make some new UCH friends! Put down your devices and join the Grounds and Garden Team to keep our campus looking neat and tidy! We have scheduled three Saturdays in the Spring and Fall and three Wednesday evenings during the summer months for our workdays.

Future Garden Workdays

Date	Day	Time	Lunch
May 9	Saturday	9am - 2pm	BYO
June 3 (rain date 6/27)	Wednesday	4pm - 8pm	BYO
July 1 (rain date 7/25)	Wednesday	4pm - 8pm	BYO
Aug 5 (rain date 8/29)	Wednesday	4pm - 8pm	BYO
Aug 29	Saturday	9am - 2pm	BYO
Sept 26	Saturday	9am - 2pm	BYO
Oct 17	Saturday	9am - 2pm	Lunch provided

Not sure about how to discern a weed from a potential flower - you can partner with an experienced gardener. We have tools and supplies - all we need is your helping hands and enthusiasm. See you at church...in the garden.

Please contact [Anita Mentzer](#) for additional information.

Sun 26 **12:30pm** **Game Meet** **Common Room**

“Game Meet” meets monthly, usually on a Sunday afternoon or Friday evening. This month, we meet 12:30-2:30pm on Sunday, April 22. We will have cards available and several board games.

- ☉ Bring your games
- ☉ Bring snacks or a bag lunch
- ☉ Bring friends



If you have any questions, please contact [Dan Vaughn](#).

Tue 28 **4:45pm** **Grief Support** **Clover Lane**

Libby Tisdell, co-chair of the Caring Connection Team, and Rev. Bran are leading a new grief support group open to anyone who wishes to attend. It meets the 4th Tuesday at 4:45pm and will end in time for participants to attend evening vespers.



As a minister, Rev. Bran has had much experience in helping others navigate this process, and Libby serves as a hospital chaplain at the Hershey Medical Center. If possible, please let [Libby](#) (717-579-8835) know in advance that you plan to attend.

Save the date: Rev. Bran’s Installation Aug. 22

The UCH Board of Trustees cordially invites members and friends to the ceremony installing Rev. Bran as our called minister. Details to follow.

Contact People for UCH Committees, Teams, & Groups

Updated 3/26/2026 by Kate Carpenter, Volunteer Coordinator

Aesthetics Team	Cordell Affeldt
Aging – The Next Chapter	Theresa Alberici
Auction	Patti Hazell
Banned Book Discussion	Cory Ness
Board of Trustees	Karen Baker
Building Maintenance Team	Dave Forster
Call Planning Task Force	Rima Cameron
Caring Connection	Libby Tisdell Marjy Schubauer
Choir/Bell Choir	Yvonne DuVal
Clover Grove	Robin Broderick
Coffee Hour & Kitchen Crew	Michael McCullough Joy Wood
Communications	Dan Vaughn
Covenant Groups	Bart Carpenter
Décor and Store	Mary Lynn Fecile
Depression Support Group	Cory Ness
ESL Tutoring Program	Kevin Geist
Food Pantry	Barbara Bryne Eileen Wolf
Finance Committee	Kathy Malarich
Game Night	Dan Vaughn
Gather the Spirit for Justice	Darlene Kvaternik
Grief Support	Libby Tisdell
Grounds & Gardens	Anita Mentzer
Harbor a Haitian Harrisburg	Kevin Geist
Heart Rhythm Meditation	Libby Tisdell
Leadership Development	Laura Shemick

Life Span Faith Development	Cory Ness
Membership Team	Bart Carpenter
Memorial Service Reception	Donna Hoover
Mindfulness Meditation	Rebecca Waldemar
Oliver LaGrone Scholarship	Deb Haken
Philosophy and Literature	MaryJean Glick
Power to the Hill	Wendy Shaver
Queen Spirit	Susan Norris
Reproductive Justice Allies	Barb Pearce
Revolutionary Love thru Creativity	Cory Ness
Social Justice Roundtable	Rachel Mark
St. Stephens Collaborative Book Club	Bart Carpenter Cory Ness
Stewardship	Joyce Stoltzfus
Stitchers Group	Cory Ness
Sunday Sign-In Team	Kate Carpenter
Technology	David Spear
Ushers & Greeters	Bart Carpenter
UU Common Read	Cory Ness
UU Justice PA	Rachel Mark
Volunteer Coordinators	Kate Carpenter Linda Hope Joan McCabe
Women’s Lunch Out	Ann Sitrin
Worship Team	Amy Firestine
Yoga	Ed Sykes

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