



## President's Message



*By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees*

Every November, I am reminded why Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's a time of gratitude, something that I should focus on more each and every day. It's a time to be with family and friends, to celebrate the bonds we have.

Over the past few years, I have seen how the members of our congregation are strongly bonded together. I see this day by day, week by week, month by month. I've seen it for the more than six years that I've been on the board.

Take a few moments and reflect on the unity in our congregation. Not every congregation is this fortunate, but we are. I am truly grateful for that.

**W**e now transition into the advent season, the traditional time of looking forward to Christmas. We are also in our own time of advent, looking ahead to things to come.

One of these is to hire a minister to help with the coordination of our staff, teams, committees, and events. We already have our vision of who we are, and an administrative minister can help guide our efforts towards that vision. Our church has many, many moving parts, and we need to coordinate those.

This past week, the board interviewed three candidates for this role, all of whom are very capable. Our challenge is to select the one who is best for us, and we hope to do that within a few weeks.

**T**his time of advent is also leading us towards the completion of our strategic plan. This plan takes our vision of who we are and turns it into specific goals and processes to help us get there. It's a kind of road map.

The Strategic Planning Team is now coordinating with the various teams and committees of the congregation, filling in the final details of the plan that will guide us forward.

We anticipate that this will lead into a capital campaign sometime in the spring, although the exact details are yet to be worked out. This has been a long time coming, after the interruption by Covid and other events, but soon we will actually be there.

I'm immensely grateful to be a part of this church community, and I hope you will join me in the next steps in the life of our congregation.

*David Spear*

## December Share the Plate: YWCA of Greater Harrisburg

*Each month, we share the Sunday plate with a local non-profit. This month, we share with the YWCA's Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) program.*

The [YWCA of Greater Harrisburg](#) is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. It also manages and executes a Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) program that provides comprehensive crisis and counseling services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This includes a crisis hotline, individual and group counseling, and medical and court accompaniments. Services are available to victims and non-offending family members of all ages and genders and are free and confidential. Earlier this fall, VIP provided six weekly virtual opportunities for survivors of sexual assault from UCH to process recent events with a trained counselor.

*—Nominated by Karen Baker, Ad Hoc Pastoral Care Team*

## Worship 10:30 a.m. Sundays

### December Theme: Wonder

**Dec. 4: Rev Kathy Ellis, Waiting, Hoping and Loving**  
Multigenerational service; no religious exploration (RE)

**Dec. 11: JD Stillwater, Love in Darkening Days**  
A message of light to light the darkening days of December

**Dec. 18: Cory Ness and Yvonne DuVal, The Light Is Reborn: Multigenerational Solstice Ritual**

As we approach the longest night of the year, we anxiously await the return of the sun. Join us for a multigenerational, winter solstice ritual where we contemplate the balance of dark and light.

**Dec. 24: Rev. Rob Keithan (7:00 p.m.)**

A special Christmas Eve service led by the son of Jim and Nan Cavanaugh

**Dec. 25: Christmas Day service**

An informal service of seasonal readings

Sunday services stream on Zoom. Please contact the [church office](#) to receive the link on Sunday morning, or watch on [Youtube](#).

### Opportunities for Religious Exploration

By Cory Ness, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)



December calendar for children's RE:

- 🕒 **Dec. 4:** Multigenerational Hanging of the Greens Service – NO RE
- 🕒 **Dec. 11:** RE for elementary and middle grades and youth group
- 🕒 **Dec. 18:** Multigenerational winter solstice service - no RE
- 🕒 **Dec. 25:** No RE

If you are interested in volunteering with the Children/Youth RE program, please contact [Cory Ness](#). Please also refer to our children and youth [RE newsletter](#) for additional information.

### Theme-Based Ministry

We have chosen to work again this year with [Soul Matters Sharing Circle](#), a resource-sharing UU collaborative involving hundreds of UU churches. Our theme for December is WONDER.

December Theme:  
Wonder

### Welcome to the Path of Wonder

From Soul Matters:

*This seems to me the main problem... How can we contrive to be at once astonished at the world and yet at home in it?... How can this world give us at once the fascination of a strange town and the comfort and honor of being our own town?*

— G.K. Chesterton

The path of wonder seems well worn. It's a journey that brings us down to size. Just think of those pictures which reveal that our galaxy is just one of billions more. Or think of when you've stared into the empty darkness of a midnight sky or an endless ocean. Such images remind us that the universe is more vast than we can imagine. They leave us with a sense of wonder that overwhelms. In the face of such an incomprehensible abyss, one can't help but feel humbled and small.

But religion never wants us to stop there. Hold on, it says. Just stand at the abyss a bit longer. Lean in a little bit more. And when you do, you'll realize that this path doesn't end with a deep darkness that doesn't care. No, if we remain there in witness long enough, a new message emerges. You look into the vast mystery and surprisingly, it stares back, as if to say, "Welcome home."

As astronomers tell us, contemplation of the vast universe doesn't make them feel smaller; it makes them realize the larger story of which they are a part. We are stardust, as they say. From the vastness we came and to it we will return. In other words, the path of wonder is not so much about feeling small; it's about feeling connected.

### What Does it Mean to be a Family of Wonder?

Just this side of wonder is humility. We can't get to wonder but through it, through the acknowledgement that what we have encountered, thought, accepted as truth, and assumed to be correct about the world up until that moment of surprise and delight has been, in fact, an inadequate picture of reality. How wonderful! How wonderful to be wrong that the world is as we had come to believe it to be! That makes room for all sorts of discovery. We don't get there without humility.

As UUs, we sometimes talk about being a people of wonder, but it's worth more of our attention, because as a spiritual value, it brings us much closer to the faith movement we want to be. To wonder, we have to be open-hearted and open-minded. To wonder, we have to question. We have to get beyond our cultural conditioning. We have to disregard the easy explanations and simplistic binaries. We have to remind one another that we do not know all there is to know. This is the work of a people of liberal religion. And lucky are we who share our lives with children and youth, for wonder is much closer to the surface for many of them.

This month, as we make time and space for wonder in our families—stringing garlands, “reading” wordless picture books, sitting at the feet of youth prophets, drawing and folding beautiful (and maybe quite funny!) things—may we share that sparkle, joy, surprise, delight, and love with all of those around us. There is wisdom in wonder, and we will need both to make this journey as a faithful people together.

Yours, filled with wonder and gratitude, — Teresa, on behalf of the Soul Matters team

### ***LaGrone Scholar Report***

*Ed. Note: The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship is available annually to graduates from any of the four campuses of Harrisburg High School. A unique component of the award is a match to a UCH mentor of like circumstances or area of interest.*

Cristina Ledesma is thriving at Shippensburg University. The 2020 LaGrone Scholar is immersed in social work studies, even mentoring other students.

There's a story behind that. Given her ability to organize and her facility with numbers, Cristina began as an accounting student. But her freshman experience came as the pandemic unfolded in 2020. She took most classes online, edging into new student relationships. However, the chance that COVID-19 offered for reflection led to Cristina's realizing that she didn't feel passionate about accounting. It was her psychology classes that most intrigued her. Deciding to major in social work has been the fit she sought.

Interestingly, Cristina credits excellent teaching back at Harrisburg High School's Sci Tech campus with having opened her mind to new people and cultures. Despite the individuality stressed in American culture, Cristina continues to take strength from her close family network, including her mother, aunt and uncle, and grandparents in Harrisburg and relatives in Mexico who maintain active family relationships. This mature young woman also finds satisfaction in time by herself and consciously embraces strategies for continual personal and school learning.

Word of her academic success led to Cristina this year being solicited as a writing tutor for the student learning center at Shippensburg. She now supports other social work students in the extended writing assignments integral to their matriculation. Diversity, social justice, and practice-based learning all intrigue her. As a Latina, she is fascinated by a gender issues class in which she is currently enrolled, exploring the intersectionality of race, sexism, gender, even homophobia. Growing relationships with other social work students bring her deep satisfaction.

Possible fields of practice for a social work major include counseling, case management, disabilities studies and advocacy, but it is policy and research that have particular appeal for Cristina. She is finding that values-based learning truly excites her, and she is expecting to achieve a Master of Social Work. She reports that her relationship with her LaGrone Mentor, Dr. Karen Mallah, is contributing to her personal confidence and initiative.

— Submitted by Cordell Affeldt



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

Did you know that 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 get-out-the-vote drives, work with our children on Sunday mornings, beautify the church grounds, and join in many other diverse activities?

Your chance to learn more about these opportunities and many others comes on **Sunday, February 5, 2023**, during the Volunteer 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 that service to the church is 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 Feb. 5 to share our service and strengthen our spirit.

— Submitted by Guy Dannelley



### Auction

It was *A Long and Winding Road* to UCH's 2022 auction, *Come Together*. It makes all of us feel *Glad All Over* to have raised \$11,895, and that will increase as folks sign up for open event slots.

And, besides all those who got what they bid on, the winners are: Ringo Bingo: Paul Haken, Deb Haken, and Marilyn McHenry; 50/50 Raffle: Laura Edinger (she donated it back to the church-thank you Laura!), and the Penny Wars song: *Here Comes the Sun*.

Thank you to all those who made it possible, especially the Auction Committee with its amazing chair, Patti Hazell, and auctioneer extraordinaire, Bart Carpenter. Thanks to all who donated and attended--we had a fun and fund-raising time!

If you bid and have not sent your check to church yet, please do so now, with the memo Auction 2022 in the memo line. If you have ideas for next year, please contact [uchauction@gmail.com](mailto:uchauction@gmail.com) and plan to join the auction committee with *All We've Got to Do* to make the 2023 auction even better!

— Submitted by Patti Hazell



### Chaplaincy Report



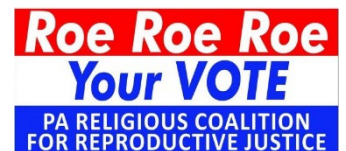
*Ed. Note: Jim Cavanaugh is UCH's Lay Community Minister who works for Reproductive Justice and serves as a volunteer Chaplain.*

My chaplaincy at the Dauphin County Women's Work Release Center continued in November, with a few newcomers arriving each week to be greeted and offered the three gifts I offer them all: First, a "breath prayer" (both prayer and meditation) they can say out loud or just think without a sound: "God with me / Me with God." The slow breathing always calms a person down, but the meaning of the words can be more powerful, reminding them wherever they are that God is with them, and they are

with God. And for those having trouble falling asleep (often the case for someone who is locked up, knowing they will wake up where they don't want to be), I point out that saying or thinking the breath prayer will often help them fall asleep. And it works! The second and third gifts are a pocket planner they can carry anywhere, and a full-sized calendar (like the ones UCH folks donate) featuring scenery and room to write. Being able to choose their own planner and calendar brings a smile, as a rule, and lets me invite every newcomer to meet me and get their gifts- even if they aren't sure what a chaplain is or does. The conversations we have are the pastoral counseling I have been offering since 2007, and a few women who are back again remember the breath prayer and are glad to get the gifts. I am a bit sad when a "newcomer" is a returning former resident, but when it happens, I give them a smile and a listening ear and an offer to pray if they like – and they often want a comforting prayer.



The [Prison Action Committee of Christian Churches United](#) worked to coordinate donated turkeys for the residents at Work Release and will be doing likewise to see that residents receive Christmas gifts, regardless of any family support.



My community ministry for reproductive justice focused on advocacy up to the election and will continue for the long run – featuring a modified bumper sticker.

Our [Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice](#) will be focusing on meeting with state legislators in December regarding the incredibly important votes on Day One of the new session when they adopt the rules that will govern the operation of the House/Senate and the operation of committees. As my report last month noted, a bill from the other house that passed with strong bipartisan support may be ignored by the committee chair under the rules adopted in the past, to die at the end of the session, like the Dignity for Incarcerated Women act (House Bill 1419). It passed the House unanimously Sept. 19 and was sent to the Senate – where it sat in the Judiciary Committee without action. We are working with the [Fix Harrisburg](#) teams of [Fair Districts PA](#) to visit every new legislator and help them realize the importance of changing the rules to permit bipartisan bills to be voted on by the committees.

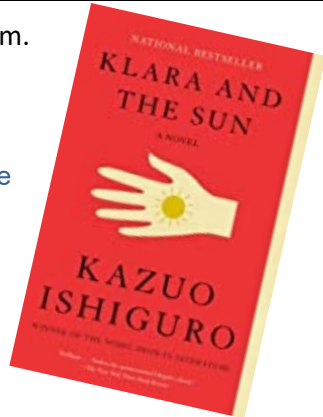


— Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh



## Calendar of Recurring Events

December 2022

Date	Time	Group	Location
<b>Fri 2</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Heart Rhythm Meditation</b>	<b>Zoom</b>
<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> <p>🕒 Tuesday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. 🕒 Friday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m.</p> <p>People can drop in or out as they want. Please contact <a href="#">Libby Tisdell</a> for the Zoom link.</p>			
<div>Heart Rhythm Meditation</div>			
<b>Mon 5</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Amrit Yoga (Weekly)</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<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.</p>			
<div>Amrit Yoga</div>			
<b>Wed 7</b>	<b>6:00/7:00</b>	<b>QueenSpirit (Monthly)</b>	<b>Common Room</b>
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, we will have a <a href="#">white elephant gift exchange</a>. Do you have a thing in your house that you'd like to pass on to someone else? Maybe that puzzle you never figured out, or that disco ball that you used once and has been hanging in your game room for decades, a troll doll, a book series that you loved, a warm scarf, a houseplant? Look around and see what you have, wrap it up, and....if you don't have a something to swap, don't worry, there will be extras just in case. This is meant to be a fun and silly evening spent with our QueenSpirit sisters. We will also take time to discuss and decide on the format of our circles for next year.</p> <p>All who identify as women are welcome in a co-creating sacred space. This is an in-person event. Please bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share, your place setting, and serving spoons. Potluck begins at 6 p.m. and our circle begins at 7 p.m. Contact <a href="#">Rebecca Waldemar</a> (717-364-2029) for further information.</p>			
<div>QueenSpirit White Elephant</div>			
<b>Sun 11</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)</b>	<b>Offsite</b>
<p>The Philosophy &amp; Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. and (historically) at the church. This month, the group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Gilligans (Eisenhower Boulevard) to discuss <i>Klara and the Sun</i>, by Kazuo Ishiguro. From Amazon.com:</p> <p>Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. Klara and the Sun is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?.</p> <p>The group will also discuss/confirm candidate books for 2023. Please contact <a href="#">Don Brown</a> for information.</p>			
<div>  </div>			
<b>Sat 17</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Clover Grove</b>	<b>Clover Lane</b>
<p>Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists that normally meets on the third Wednesday, with a program that varies based on the cycle of seasons and forces of nature. This month, we meet on Saturday, Dec. 17, for a Winter Solstice celebration. Arrive at 4:30; celebration at 5:00; dinner at 6:00.</p> <p>Please contact <a href="#">Wayne Minich</a> for further information.</p>			
<div>Clover Grove Winter Solstice</div>			

## Other Events

### ***Holiday Concert at UCH***

After two years of not having holiday concerts due to the pandemic, [Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus](#) is coming back for two weekends of holiday concert fun. The first concert is at UCH at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2.

Founded in 1987, the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus serves the central Pennsylvania region by delivering a distinctive brand of enjoyable entertainment that's suitable for the entire family.

A festive holiday-themed poster for the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus. It features a pink background with white snowflakes, a red ribbon, and a small evergreen branch with gold ornaments. The text reads: "IT'S FINALLY TIME TO Come Out for the Holidays Again!" in a mix of fonts. Below this, it says "2 WEEKENDS", "4 GREAT LOCATIONS", and "FREE CONCERTS". The concert schedule is listed: Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg; Saturday, December 17 at 4 p.m. at the Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church; Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m. at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church; and Sunday, December 18 at 4 p.m. at the Heidelberg United Church of Christ. The poster also includes the website www.HarrisburgGayMensChorus.org and a credit to Reid Kille for graphic design.

IT'S FINALLY TIME TO **Come Out for the Holidays Again!**

**2** WEEKENDS    **4** GREAT LOCATIONS    **FREE** CONCERTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 • 7:30 p.m.  
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG  
1280 CLOVER LANE, HARRISBURG, PA 17113

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 4 p.m.  
BERGSTRASSE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
9 HAHNSTOWN ROAD EPHRATA, PA 17522

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 • 4 p.m.  
ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
121 N SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

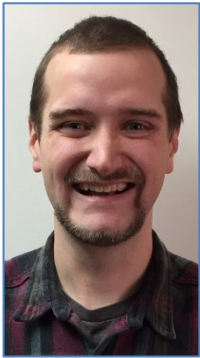
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 • 4 p.m.  
HEIDELBERG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
47 W PHILADELPHIA STREET YORK, PA 17401

REID KILLE  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

www.HarrisburgGayMensChorus.org

## Membership News

*We celebrate. We mourn.*



### ***Kyle Petris***

Please welcome Kyle Petris to our congregation. Kyle works for the Department of Human Services in Harrisburg. In his short time at UCH, Kyle has become involved in ushering, the Grounds and Garden Team, and the Safe Congregation Team. Welcome Kyle!

### ***Hartman-Rigg***

Alexandra Hartman, daughter of UCH member Marjy Schubauer-Hartman, was married to Colby Rigg on October 22 at the home and gardens of family friends Annette and Steve Spahr in Camp Hill. A small gathering of friends and family shared in their ceremony, which was conducted by Alex's sister, Fallon Hartman.

Alex and Colby live in Lancaster. Alex works as a manager at Hershey Medical Center in the pediatric hospital's food services. Colby, a recent graduate of Mount Saint Mary's University, works for BAI Excavation near Wilmington, DE.

## ***In Memoriam***

### ***Kathy Stewart (1934-2022)***

[Kathy Stewart](#), 84, long-time member of UCH, died Nov. 21 after a brief struggle with cancer. Over the years, Kathy was involved in our Market Street ministry, Gather the Spirit for Justice (GTSFJ), the UCH choir, and Pastoral Care Associates. She was also a physical therapist with extensive experience in Traeger and cranial sacral therapy; for years, she donated her services to the UCH auction and to GTSFJ.

Kathy is survived by her four children and their spouses, four grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a sister, and nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

### ***Sheela Lentz (1949-2022)***

[Sheela Lynn Lentz](#), 74, died Nov. 14 after a long battle with cancer. She is the mother of our DRE, Cory Ness. Services were held Nov. 18 at Keffer Funeral Home in York, with Cory officiating. Condolences to Cory and Daryl.

### ***Louis Fecile (1939-2022)***

[Louis Fecile](#), 83, died Oct. 23 from complications of Parkinson's disease and nephrotic syndrome. He is the father of UCH member Mary Lynn Fecile. A celebration of life and prayer service were held Nov. 26 in West Reading. Condolences to Mary Lynn and her family, Paul, Alex and Jonathan Haidet.