



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

From the Ministers

The Rev. Drs. Kathy Ellis and Sandra Fees are serving as UCH Ministers through July 2024.



Never Complete, Never Perfect

We must embody the changes we wish to see and not just say that we believe in the changes. We must actually live the changes with every fabric of our being. If we believe in the promise of our faith, we must continue pushing forward. ~ Elandria Williams

This is the perfect month to talk about change! The Earth is making its turn to Spring. We are celebrating Easter with its promise of renewal. And we are launching our *Make It So! Next Year, Next Generation* combined pledge and capital campaign (page 3).

As UUs, we seek to adapt to change and to continue pushing forward in ways that are ethical and healing. Our commitment to “living the changes with every fabric of our being” is so foundational to UU that it is named as one of the values in the Proposed Revisions to Article II of the UUA. Here is the proposed language:

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Change is inevitable. But that’s not the only reason we embrace it. We also believe we have a part to play and a responsibility to collectively transform, co-creating an inclusive, equitable place for ourselves and future generations. We can co-create communities of growth, learning, healing, worship, forgiveness, and love. Together, may we make it so!

Yours on the journey to transformation.

Rev. Sandra

Worship 10:30 a.m. Sundays

March Theme: The Gift of Transformation

March 3: Make It So! Rev. Dr. Fees

Join in the transformative journey of building our future—next year and next generation. There will be singing, reflection, sharing, and even a special cheer.

March 10: Resilience and Transformation: *The Color Purple*, Rev. Dr. Ellis

The book and the recent movie, *The Color Purple*, are our text for this service. It is an inspiring story of both resilience and transformation. Members are encouraged to [see the movie](#) prior to the service.

March 17: Step Up, Join, Share, Rev. Joan Sabatino

In 2024, UUJusticePA will continue to pay attention to legislative realities in our Commonwealth. Rev. Joan will share reflections on the important work of UUJusticePA and the upcoming work of UUtheVotePA. Our elections are no longer about a particular election, elected individual, or particular justice issue, it is all about “saving our democracy.”

March 24: Prayer and Transformation: Spirituality and Science, Rev. Dr. Ellis

No matter what your beliefs are, prayer and meditation can change your brain and your life. Some thoughts on neurotheology and some meditation and prayer.

March 31: The Twelve Eggs of Easter and Egg Hunt, Rev. Dr. Fees

Sharing in a participatory tale of the “Twelve Eggs of Easter,” we explore Easter, UU-style. There will also be an egg mandala activity and Easter bag decorating during worship. After church, join in our Easter egg (canned goods) hunt. Multi-generational service.

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

March Share the Plate: UUJusticePA Education Fund

Each month, we share the Sunday plate with a local non-profit. This month, we share with UUJusticePA Education Fund.

[UUJusticePA](#) is an advocacy group that promotes UU values across the state. The Education Fund is a separate 501(c)3 entity that promotes related educational initiatives around the state. The organization was nominated by UCH member Anita Mentzer, former director of UUJusticePA.

– Submitted by UCH Finance Committee



UUJusticePA
Unitarian Universalist Justice Pennsylvania

Note from the Board

Ed. Note: This year, the Board of Trustees is rotating responsibilities for the monthly column.

By Arly Henninger-Voss



A priest recently came to my grandmother's house to administer last rites. My mom, who has been staying with my grandmother, gave us a debrief afterward: "The priest came over, he took out his oils and his book, he said 'I'm here to give the blessing over the sick,' he did the thing, he said goodbye, and that was it." As the priest was leaving, my mom mentioned that my grandmother

would likely appreciate visits from the church. He informed her that priests were often called upon again in "last extremity" and could give another last rites over an unconscious person.

My mom found herself surprised by how impersonal the whole experience was. The priest did not engage my grandmother at all during his visit. He was there to read out prayers, and she was there to be in the room while he did it. There was no talking to her or her family about how they were processing the impending death, there wasn't even an offer to hear her confession (although I pointed out that there was probably not a lot of sinning Grammie could get up to while bed-bound and sick). When my mom asked my grandmother what she thought of the last rites she was given, she said "It was nice of Father to come by."

I have often admired the Catholic rituals and prayers that both my parents (and to a limited extent, my brother and I) were raised on. Through the time-honored words and rituals, I can feel a connection through history to the wisdom of those who have gone before me. I even enjoy the pageantry of the oils and incense and beaded white gowns, which when put together help me feel like I am in the presence of something much grander than myself or anyone else in the room.

That said, the downside of having time-honored rituals is that the prayers and rituals that are meant to spiritually sustain practitioners can become more like boxes to be checked off,

and the next thing you know you're on your deathbed listening to a spiritual leader read off a couple of prayers like he's just there to do a job and pay the incense bill.

On the other side of the spectrum, Unitarian Universalists are always switching up the way that we worship. Whether it's because we amended wordings to be more inclusive, or we got sued for using the melody for "Doe, a Deer," or somebody just got a new idea, our prayers and rituals are ever-changing. A criticism that I have often heard from those both outside and inside our faith is that Unitarian Universalism doesn't always feel like a "true religion" because worship can be so different from church to church, or even month to month.

I will admit that I myself have often been turned off by the constantly changing nature of UU worship. It can feel to me like I'm standing on shifting sand when what I'm looking for in a religion is solid ground. Some of the changes that are made are things that I don't like or agree with, and I am a big enough person to admit that I sometimes get a little too hung up when this happens (while deciding what to write about I considered doing a piece entitled "In Defense of Metaphors.")

However, after reflecting on what I see as a disappointing showing from my grandmother's church in a time of personal tragedy, I am taking a break from rolling my eyes or resisting new ideas for UU worship or bylaws that I find silly. The UU practice of constantly re-evaluating what is done or said as a part of worship means that every UU practice is heartfelt, crafted through the culmination of the efforts of many people to manifest our values into the world. That doesn't mean that I will always agree with changes that are being made, or even that I'll never get back to exchanging cynical comments over brunch with my fellow UUs about whatever newest modifications are being rolled out. In this moment, however, I have never been more appreciative of being in a faith, and in a community that is vigilantly intentional about our prayer and worship.

With warm regards, *Arly*

Board Notes

The Board of Trustees met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 20th. The Board's agenda included the following:

- 🕒 **Ministerial Search** – The task force has conducted or scheduled eight interviews with applicants. The team will schedule follow-up interviews, check references, and make a recommendation to the Board by mid-to-late-March. That plan may change if more applications are received.
- 🕒 **Capital Campaign Task Force (CCTF)** – Board trustees, CCTF members and other volunteers from the congregation attended training on Feb. 3 to prepare for canvassing each pledge unit during our combined annual stewardship and capital campaigns. Brochures, FAQs, and other materials will inform congregants about the two campaigns, which will formally kick off March 3.
- 🕒 **Task Force & Teams** – The status of various task forces and teams was discussed. Currently, Safer Congregations, Conflict-of-Interest, Building Rental Use and Rates, and Northern Property Usage teams and task forces are active. The Finance

Committee is in the final stages of approving a Gift Policy for Board approval. A Board member has been assigned to work with staff to develop signage for our restrooms that will address usage by all genders pending renovations that are expected to include bathroom remodeling.

- **Financial** – The church’s financial health continues to be good. Expenses and income are in line with budget projections. A proposal to work on the church’s foundation, one of the priority needs included in the capital campaign budget, was approved and funding allocated. A Finance Committee Charter and a Treasurer Job Description, as recommended by the Finance Committee, were each approved.
- **Nominating Committee** – Every year, three trustee positions on the Board open up for election. The Nominating Committee is charged in the bylaws to propose members who have agreed to run for election at the Annual Meeting in May. Board members may not serve on the Nominating Committee. The President is looking for members to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- **General Assembly** – GA will be held virtually in June. There is a cost to attending, which is reduced for those who register before March 15. UCH is eligible to designate five delegates who will represent the congregation at the meeting and vote on behalf of the congregation. If interested, please let a board member or staff know.
- **Governance** - The Board continued working on revised governance policies. The goal is to define Board responsibilities consistent with church bylaws, which will include the Board’s role in administering church operations and in developing and advancing strategic plans and goals to accomplish the mission and vision of the congregation.
- **GTSFJ support** – Gather the Spirit for Justice (GTSFJ) is in the process of applying for grants to support its work on Allison Hill. GTSFJ requested a letter from UCH in support of their grant applications. The Board authorized the President to sign and submit a letter on behalf of the UCH Board.

— Submitted by Chris Dutton, President

Capital Campaign ~ Annual Stewardship

As most of you know, we are combining the Capital Campaign with the Annual Stewardship Drive. Our theme is *Make It So! Next Year: Next Generation*. The good news is that you will only be contacted by one of our highly trained, illustrious canvassers.

The Annual Canvass is how we fund our budget for the next fiscal year. That goal is \$345,000.

The Capital Campaign has a 3-year goal of \$690,000. Major planned improvements include

- Ensure the safety of the building
- Design an integrated interior with mid-century modern beauty
- Revitalize the foyer
- Beautify the sanctuary
- Refurbish the Common Room
- Update the exterior signs

The two of us are happy to report that early returns are very encouraging. We will make our first report during services March 3.

If you have not already grabbed one of our informative, colorful brochures packed with details, pick up one in the lobby. Many thanks to this year’s canvassers:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • Arly Henninger-Voss | • Karen Baker | • Mary Henninger-Voss | • David Spear |
| • Laura Trimble | • Guy Dannelley | • Kyle Petris | • Sharon Vaughn |
| • Peter Adams | • Chris Dutton | • David Powell | • Lois Voigt |
| • Andy Back | • Rev. Dr. Ellis | • Ed Sykes | |
| • Brad Byers | • Rev. Dr. Fees | • Justin Sciamanna | |

— Submitted by Anita Mentzer and John Hargreaves, co-chairs



Opportunities for Lifespan Faith Development

By Cory Ness, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

We have many opportunities this month for children, youth, and adults! All are welcome.

Children and Youth March Calendar

Our classes are learning from our Soul Matters themes in age-appropriate experiences. This year's overarching frame is *The Gifts of Our Faith*, where we will focus on ten beloved UU values and explore their potential to shape us and in turn shape the world.

Please also see the [Children & Youth Faith](#)

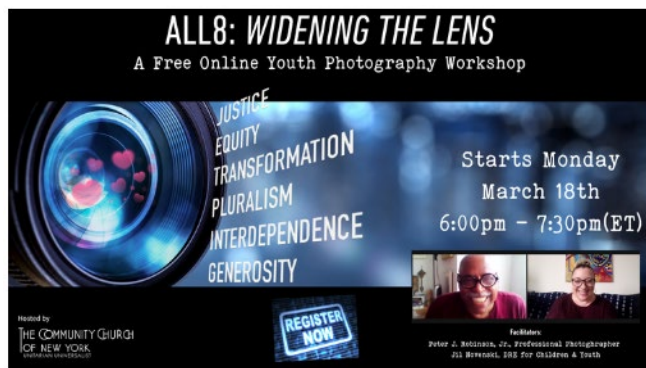
[Development Newsletter](#) for information, including stories about our March theme, Transformation. Childcare is available in the nursery downstairs with Patti Hazell. Childcare is available for anyone in kindergarten and younger. Faith Development classes are available for our kiddos in grades 1-12 as shown in the accompanying table.

Date	Teacher	
	Grades 1-5	Grades 6-12
Mar 3	Amy & Karen	Brittanie & Sharon
Mar 10	Jessica & Amy	EvAnn & Brittanie
Mar 17	Bridgette & Amy	Sharon & Jane
Mar 24	Laura & Jessica	EvAnn & Jane
Mar 31	All Ages Easter Service	

All8: Widening the Lens

The [Community \(UU\) Church of New York](#) is sponsoring a 10-week online photography workshop for youths age 14-17. It meets on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. beginning Monday, March 18.

Contact [Jil Novenski](#), Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth to register



Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
Summer Day Camp 2024

**WHAT UU
MEANS TO YOU!**
JUNE 24-28, 2024
9am - 5pm
ages 5-15

Summer Day Camp

UCH will sponsor a summer day camp this year from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. June 24-28 at Clover Lane.

Family Camp July 7-13

It isn't too early to plan your summer vacation! Consider Summer Institute as a perfect vacation for the whole family, held each year in California, PA. Spend a week with a few hundred UUs and make some life-long friends. This year's theme is *Unlikely Superheroes: Skills for Practicing Faith and Ethics in Tough Times*. Check out this [video](#) to see what the week is like. Lots of detail on the [website](#) including the list of available jobs to help with costs.



Depression Support Group (Zoom)

Facilitators: Cory Ness, DLFD, and Jim Handshaw **When:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Topic: A support group for people living with depression continues to meet at UCH. We hold twice-monthly meetings for a period of three months. 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 their condition and its impact on their lives. The group provides positive role models and encouragement that it is possible to get better. If you are interested in learning more about the group or would like to join the group, please contact [Cory](#) or [Jim](#). Maximum group size is 12.

Banned Book Club: March 28 at 6:30 (Zoom)

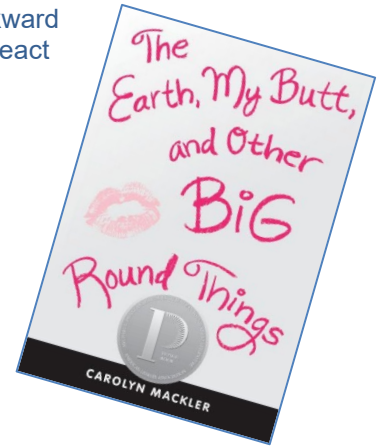
The discussion group meets via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month on alternate months. Our next meeting is March 28, when we will discuss *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*, by Carolyn Mackler. Summary:

Fifteen-year-old Virginia feels like a plus-sized black sheep in her family, especially next to her perfect big brother Byron. Not to mention her best friend has moved, leaving Virginia to navigate an awkward relationship with a boy alone. He might like her now . . . but she has her doubts about how he'll react if he ever looks under all her layers of clothes.

In order to survive, Virginia decides to follow a "Fat Girl Code of Conduct," which works, until the unthinkable causes her family's façade to crumble. As her world spins out of orbit, she realizes that being true to herself might be the only way back.

Told in a perfect blend of humor and heart, this acclaimed Printz Honor winner resonates as much today as it did when it first published, and now features a new author foreword, text updates, and other bonus content."

BANNED FOR: offensive language, being anti-family, being sexually explicit and unsuited to age group.



All are welcome! Please [sign up](#) for email reminders and the Zoom link.

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 March is "The Gift of Transformation."



Welcome to the Gift of Transformation

Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination, but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God. -Henri-Frederic Ariel

Make a bit of room. Leave a little space. That may not sound like anything radical or revolutionary. But it turns out that it is one of Life's favorite ways to make us into something new.

Be cautious with those cultural messages about aggressively tilling and turning up your whole soil. Watch out for all the heroic talk about striving and perfecting, struggle and control. Much of the time, transformation is a much subtler art. It's about stillness, listening and waiting to be led, not fighting with yourself and others to make sure you are in the lead.

In short, when it comes to transformation, the message of spirituality is "Be careful with what you've been taught and told about transformation because much of it takes us in exactly the wrong direction." Our challenge as communities of transformation is to remind each other to take those different tacks, such as:

It's about breathing, rather than becoming better.

It's about patience, not perfection.

It's about depth, not dominance.

It's about attention, not improvement.

That part about attention instead of improvement is especially important. It's so easy to get transformation mixed up with fixing. And fixing is transformation's biggest foe. Trying to purify or perfect ourselves is the surest way to stay stuck. The pursuit of purity and perfection focuses us on our inadequacy and inferiority, causing us to overlook those unexpected guests that Henri-Frederic speaks of.

~Rev. Scott Taylor, Soul Matters Team Lead

Our Families are Exploring the Gift of Transformation from Soul Matters

I remember sitting in a history class years and years ago and hearing a term that instantly struck a chord in my heart. The term was Velvet Revolution. The lecture was about the peaceful transition of power from a communist government to a democratic one in Czechoslovakia in 1989, but the potential of that idea took residence in my heart as a possibility I had never formerly considered. A massive transfer of power, the cessation of nearly 50 years of status quo, a move of faith in what may lie ahead, certainties entirely absent, done nonviolently?!

When I pray for us, this is what I pray for: a velvet revolution of our society, a velvet revolution in our communities, a velvet revolution in our homes, even small, quiet velvet revolutions in our own psyches, changes that are durable and beautiful and yet, soft to the touch.

The Soul Matters team

Finding the Sacred in Music: The Gift of Transformation

Soul Matters has created two different playlists for each of our monthly themes: one in Spotify and another in YouTube. Each is organized as a journey of sorts, so consider listening from beginning to end and using the playlists as musical meditations.

	Justice and Equity	Soul Matters (General)
	Spotify playlist here YouTube playlist here	Spotify playlist here YouTube playlist here

Committee and Team Reports

Aesthetic Integrity Team: The Power of Place: Mid-Century Modern (MCM) Outside

The MCM vision, with sustainable conservation features and native plants, applied to the 21st century [landscape](#).

— Submitted by Carol Buskirk

Helping People in Prison and Their Families: Re-Entry Breakfast March 30

Once a year, UCH hosts the monthly breakfast coordinated by the [Prison Action Committee](#) of [Christian Churches United](#). The breakfast is hosted by a different church each month, featuring a hot breakfast for residents of area work release centers and halfway houses, an inspirational speaker who is a successful re-entrant, and some praying and singing. This will be our 13th time to host the event. Please mark your calendar to help us host the event on **Saturday, March 30**. Tasks include:

- 🍳 Prepare food on Friday (11:00 a.m.)
- 🍳 Set up on Friday (1:00 p.m.)
- 🍳 Help cook early Saturday morning (7:15 a.m.)
- 🍳 Help serve coffee, juice and the hot breakfast after guests arrive around 9:00 a.m.
- 🍳 Help clear and clean up after our guests leave (10:00 a.m.)
- 🍳 Many other tasks that are part of a successful breakfast.

Please contact [Jim Cavanaugh](#), [Margaret Carrow](#), [Chris Dutton](#), [John Hargreaves](#), or [Darlene Kvaternik](#) to sign up.

— Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

Calendar of Recurring Events

March 2024

Date	Time	Group	Location
Fri 1	Various	Heart Rhythm Meditation	Zoom
<p>Heart Rhythm Meditation 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 Jim Handshaw in twice-weekly sessions, via Zoom.</p> <div><div><p>🕒 Monday afternoons from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom</p><p>🕒 Friday mornings from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. via Zoom</p><p>People can drop in or out as they want. Please contact Jim Handshaw for the Zoom link.</p></div><div>Heart Rhythm Meditation</div></div>			
Mon 4	6:30 p.m.	Amrit Yoga (Weekly)	Clover Lane
<p>Amrit yoga is a form of hatha yoga developed by Yogi Amrit Desai. The entire process moves and stretches every part of your body for an energetic workout and includes a calming, meditative relaxation at the end. No experience necessary! Contact John Hargreaves. Repeats every Monday.</p> <div>Amrit Yoga</div>			
Tue 5	6:00 p.m.	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG)	Clover Lane
<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.</p> <p>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> <div>Mindfulness Meditation</div>			
Wed 6	5:30 p.m.	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of each month. This month, we’re doing Women’s Hidden History.</p> <p>Our gathering begins at 5:30 p.m. with a potluck in the Common Room. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. The circle begins at 6:30 and ends no later than 8:30. All who identify as women are welcome in a co-creating sacred space. Future topics:</p> <div><div><p>🕒 April: Manifestation Boxes</p><p>🕒 May: Maypole</p><p>🕒 June: Sacred Sexuality</p><p>🕒 July: Labyrinth Walk</p></div><div><p>🕒 August: Forest Bathing</p><p>🕒 September: Meditation Beads</p><p>🕒 October: Singing Bowls</p><p>🕒 November: Inanna: Descent into the Underworld</p><p>🕒 December: Gifts of the Goddesses</p></div></div> <p>Contact Robin Broderick for further information.</p> <div>QueenSpirit Women’s History</div>			
Sun 10	7:00 p.m.	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month. This month, the group meets to discuss <i>War On Peace, The End of Diplomacy and the Decline Of American Influence</i>, by Ronan Farrow. The book was recommended by May Dooley. From Amazon:</p> <p>In an astonishing journey from the corridors of power in Washington, D.C., to some of the most remote and dangerous places on earth—Afghanistan, Somalia, and North Korea among them—acclaimed investigative journalist Ronan Farrow illuminates one of the most consequential and poorly understood changes in American history. His firsthand experience as a former State Department official affords a personal look at some of the last standard bearers of traditional statecraft, including Richard Holbrooke, who made peace in Bosnia and died while trying to do so in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Each December, members of the group propose selections for the new year. The group then meets to collaboratively decide on</p> <div>Philosophy & Literature</div>			

Heart Rhythm
Meditation

Amrit Yoga

Mindfulness
Meditation

QueenSpirit
Women's History

Philosophy
& Literature

Calendar of Recurring Events

March 2024

Date	Time	Group	Location
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readings for the year. The bullets below show the remaining books for 2024 and each book's proponent:

- 📖 **April:** *Apologies to the Grandchildren: Reflections on our Ecological Predicament, Its Deeper Causes, and Its Political Consequences*, by William Ophuls (Rachel Mark)
- 📖 **May:** *Poverty, by America*, by Matt Desmond (Ed Taylor, Guy Dannelley)
- 📖 **June:** *Armageddon: What the Bible Really Says about the End*, by Bart D. Ehrman (May Dooley)
- 📖 **July:** *Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism*, by Rachel Maddow (Rachel Mark)
- 📖 **August:** *Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning*, by Liz Cheney (Rachel Mark)
- 📖 **September:** *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*, by Heather Cox Richardson (Marilyn McHenry)
- 📖 **October:** *Brown is the New White: How the Demographic Revolution Has Created a New Majority*, by Steve Phillips (Jim Cavanaugh)
- 📖 **November:** *How We Can Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good*, by Steve Phillips (Jim Cavanaugh)

The session is also accessible via Zoom. Please contact [Don Brown](#) for further information.

Tue 12	5:30 p.m.	Women's Night Out	Off site
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Women's Night Out is a lay-led ministry that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at a local restaurant, alternating locations between the East and West Shores. Each month at dinner, participants take a collection. Proceeds are divided between the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry and UCH. This month, we meet at [Snapper's Bar & Grill](#), 120 E. Allen St. Mechanicsburg.

Please contact [Ann Sitrin](#) (717-766-4767 or text 717-439-6090) for additional information. RSVP by March. 8.

Women's Night Out
Snappers Bar & Grill

Tue 19	6:30	Auction Committee	Zoom
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Auction Date: November 9, 2024
Place: UCH Clove Lane
Theme: Think Globally, Act Locally

The Auction Planning Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. This month, the meeting is via Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday. Start thinking now about auction ideas and donations for 2024! Come brainstorm ideas, themes, and be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2024 church auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success. Please contact [Patti Hazell](#) for additional information. A Zoom link will be sent to committee members a few days prior to the meeting.



Wed 20	6:00 p.m.	Clover Grove	Clover Lane
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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 meet to celebrate Ostara: Bring in Spring! As the days get longer, we realize the vernal equinox is upon us. To celebrate, we are engaging in an Ostara ceremony. If you're thinking colorful eggs and chocolate bunnies, then you aren't too far off the idea. Join us for an evening of paganism filled with potluck, celebration and pastels. Let's bring in the Spring!!

Please contact [Wayne Minich](#) for further information and/or join the Clover Grover [Facebook Group](#).

Clover Grove
Ostara

L'Huillier Zapata Family

Ed. Note: please welcome these new members to our congregation.

André L'Huillier and Sonia Zapata are natives of Chile who moved to Harrisburg in 2019. He is an assistant professor at Harrisburg University, and she is an astrologer/counselor. They were attracted to the church by its lack of dogma, the friendly congregation, and our hands-on attitude toward social issues. They have an 18-month-old son, Renard.



Joan Hellman (1942-2024)

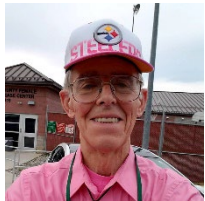
UCH member [Joan Hellman](#) died Feb. 13 at her home; she was in hospice care at the time of her death. She is survived by her husband, George; sons Thomas Remaley and Michael Remaley (John deBary), and two grandchildren. Services will be at 11:00 a.m. March 16 at UCH, the Rev. Dr. Fees officiating.



Joan signed the Membership Book in 1982. Over the subsequent four decades, she participated in multiple leadership roles, including service on the Board of Trustees and as President. She was active in multiple social justice initiatives and was an advocate for gender, racial and LGBTQ+ equity throughout her life. She was instrumental in setting up the small group ministry, Connecting Our UCH (COUCH); the Hellmann COUCH group continues to meet to this day. She was named a Life Member in 2008.

Lay Community Minister's Report

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



When I am with a Dauphin County Work Release Center (WRC) resident, I need to NOT do what I have sometimes in the past, blurt out the first words that come to mind. Yes, friends, one who is impulsive can change. So when a resident with the same first name as one of our cats came to talk last Monday, she never learned that fact. Instead, we talked about her names, and when I asked if she felt like she was at some kind of crossroads or decision point (always a good question to start a conversation), she had a lot to say. She has decision points every day, and now has learned to stop and think before she responds. Knowing the breath prayer that I teach all new arrivals, "God with me / Me with God," will help her a lot. I was there on President's Day, and so met residents who had the day off from their jobs. And it was easy to park since office staff were absent – but like hospitals and prison, the WRC never closes.

My reproductive justice ministry has a few news items:

- Our efforts to Get Out The Vote will continue with our bumper stickers, coming soon to a coffee hour near you. As usual, they will not be for sale but as part of our fundraising/friend-raising campaign will be handed out in return for any donation.
- The new RoeRoeRoe bumper stickers are in production, being made by a Black-owned business here in Harrisburg. See them soon at a coffee hour near you, and because we are not selling them but rather giving them as a 'thank you' for any donation, you can get your own. Or visit Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice (RCRJ) [website](#) and make any donation you like. Leave your mailing address so we can send you the last bumper sticker we expect to offer.

Why no more RoeRoeRoe bumper stickers? They may not be needed, because a monumental Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision on January 29 both strengthened the PA Equal Rights Amendment and moved toward upholding reproductive freedom under the PA ERA, described at the Women's Law Project [website](#). Want to learn more? The lead attorney, Sue Frietsche, will be interviewed on Zoom this spring, co-sponsored by the Reproductive Justice team of UUJusticePA and the PA RCRJ. Sue spoke in the UCH service Jan 29, 2022, and was well received. We're working on the date, likely April or May, and will provide plenty of advance notice.

