



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
THE NORTH HILLS

INTERCOM



DECEMBER 2016

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF THE NORTH HILLS**

DECEMBER 2016

**2350 W. INGOMAR ROAD
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412-366-0244**

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PRESIDENT@UUCNH.ORG**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
REV. SCOTT RUDOLPH, MINISTER
TUESDAY 12-4
WEDNESDAY 9-1
THURSDAY 9 -1
AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
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(ALL INTERCOM SUBMISSIONS
GO TO DAWN)**

**SUNDAY SERVICES START
AT 10:30 A.M.**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES RUN
CONCURRENTLY WITH THE SERVICE.
NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED.**

**COFFEE HOUR WITH COFFEE AND
CONVERSATION FOR ADULTS
AND CHILDREN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS.**

THOUGHTS SCOTT BEGOT:

“When I breathe in, I breathe in peace. When I breathe out, I breathe out love.” We sing this song Meditation on Breathing together in church, and I am always comforted by it. In the last two months, I feel like I have not always been breathing in “peace.” I feel like I have been breathing in a good deal of anxiety, fear, sadness, and anger. Through October we focused on Race as our church theme. I personally found this deeply challenging, and it pulled me toward a more complex and difficult understanding of race in America. Then in November we had the culmination of an incredibly divisive and ugly presidential campaign. We elected an administration linked with misogyny, xenophobia, ableism, income inequality, and homophobia. As religious people grounded in love, our voice will be needed in these coming years. Ours is a message of inclusion for all people.



In December, our theme is Wonder. To me, this feels like a needed exhale. I need to be reminded of some beauty and goodness. I need to cherish the connectedness of all things. I need to remember that life is a miraculous gift and full of incredible wonder that leaves me in awe. We will continue to be a church that responds to our world in real ways to promote justice and equity. That is a constant. In December, we will ground ourselves in the holy mystery. It is from this place that we move into the world seeking to help create a more loving world.

SO many things fill me with a sense of wonder. I only need to stop and look around to be filled with gratitude and astonishment. Look at anything closely enough and wonder starts to unwind. So many things. Anything. Everything...

Life, the stars above, the sun, the blue sky filled with clouds, children’s laughter, fingers, toes, pandas, river currents, ocean life (that is a big one!), gravity, life cycles, eyes, smart phones, empathy, water, recycling, choirs, hope, running, tomatoes, baking bread, evolution, colors on a duck, generosity, a flower rising from a sidewalk crack, skin to skin contact, feathers, veins, numbers, humility, glitter, warmth, showers, teeth, medical science, snowflakes, puppies, poetry, roots, seeds, wind, stories,

Thoughts Scott Begot (cont'd)

self-expression, muffins, soccer, toilets, balloons, horses, lighting and thunder, rope swings, bouncy balls, wheat, engines, musical instruments, beans, kites, tears, beaches, breath, dirt, pencils, a chalice, friends, bees, hoola-hoops, math, bicycles, art, penguins, vinyl records, clouds, dreams, smoothies, heart pumping, snails, magnets, jokes, mountains, creativity, eagles, weeping willows, robots, hollow logs, dancing, lamps, movie-making, optometry, caterpillars, bark on a tree... I could go on... What do you see or feel that creates a sense of wonder in you?

In Wonder,

Scott



WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

On January 21, 2017 thousands of people will unite in Washington, DC for the Women's March on Washington.

This will be an opportunity to speak out for rights, safety, health, diversity, and inclusivity. If you plan to attend and want to connect with like-minded others, we've added an organizing and discussion page to our UUs of Greater Pittsburgh Facebook group at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/331930870517123/>

UUCNH CHRISTMAS EVE POTLUCK SIGN-UP

ALL ARE WELCOME!



On December 24th, UUCNH will hold its annual UUCNH Christmas Eve potluck dinner. Everyone planning to come for the potluck can sign up in Friendship Hall through December 23rd, or by emailing or calling the contact number below.

Please plan on the dinner starting around 5:30pm and the Christmas Eve service starting at 7:30pm. You do not have to be a member to come! And last minute attendees are encouraged!

Please bring your feastware (that's plates & silverware) for you and your party to use at dinner and a tasty potluck dish to share that will serve all of the people in your group Plus eight more people.

Please sign up to bring a salad, a main dish, a side dish or a dessert. Warm mulled apple cider, a child-friendly, citrus fruit holiday punch, water for tea, and both decaf and regular coffee will be provided.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help, either for setting up for the dinner at 4:30pm or to clean up after the service, may do so by signing up, calling or emailing.

For more information, or if you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please call Dawn FitzGerald-Swidal at 412-366-2472 or contact her by email at rowan@octobermorning.com.

Potluck begins at 5:30pm; Christmas Eve service begins at 7:30pm



UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

MONTHLY THEME: WONDER

December 4

What a Wonder-full World

Rev. Scott Rudolph

Look around you. What a wonder! We live in a miraculous world. Sometimes we just need to slow down and remember just how strange and beautiful all this world wrapped around us really is.

December 11

One Universal Rhythm

Jim Donovan

Making music with others is transformative. Connecting to that group rhythm allows us to tap into something ancient, universal, and sacred. Join us as Jim Donovan - leader of the band Sun King Warriors, former drummer for Rusted Root, educator, and artist - leads us in making music that will connect, empower, and inspire us.

December 18

The Longest Night of the Year

RE Community
Children & Youth

To celebrate this Winter Solstice, our Children and Youth Faith Development classes will present a program that observes the longest night of the year and the return of the light. Join us for this multigenerational morning as we gather together and celebrate the turning of the seasons.

December 24

A Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Scott Rudolph

7:30pm-Carols and Candles

5:30pm-Annual UUCNH Christmas Potluck

Join us for our Christmas Eve candle light service after our annual church potluck. We will sing carols, celebrate the season, and enjoy the company we offer one another at this time of year.

December 25

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Rev. Scott Rudolph

Come as you are and join us for coffee, cocoa, cookies, and carols. We will gather in the warmth of Christmas morning to share stories and bask in the glow of holiday cheer. Bring some cookies or other goodies for our cookie sharing table. Merry Christmas!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been hard to talk with church members these days without bringing up the election. The concerns brought up by the election have been renewed by some of the selections to high positions by the President-elect. The implications can be frightening.

As a progressive, liberal church we are uniquely positioned to be a prophetic voice for our values. We can only be effective in standing up for and protecting those values if we stay engaged. We can't mentally, politically, or socially check out for the next two to four years. There are organizations out there that will be under attack that need support more than ever (not to the exclusion of supporting our church). Just as important, there are progressives in our communities that, now more than ever, would welcome the opportunity to find a church home where their values are cherished. Not only values on a single issue, but values that span the range of progressive concerns.

This is an opportunity to introduce our religion and our church to those people whose souls would be relieved and nourished to find us. This election gives us a chance to put a dent in homelessness, religious homelessness, in our communities. As I have said many times before, there are large numbers of people who are unchurched who would find a spiritual home here. Take this opportunity to share what we have here with like-minded individuals who would value a place where they could live and speak openly with a group that shares their values.

We just recently welcomed a dozen new members to the congregation. We are receiving an increased number of new visitors. Welcome them in. Our ability to be a voice of loyal opposition in these times increases with increasing membership. Share the light.

Ivan Baumwell
President UUCNH Board of Trustees

OUR SHARED COMMITMENT

This year our Stewardship Team has decided to center our annual Stewardship Drive around stewardship visits. Members will visit members and friends to talk about stewardship, our shared commitment and about our hopes and dreams.



Last year our congregation realized a dream important to our beliefs and mission. We provided health care coverage to our employees for the first time. This accomplishment came to us because members and friends committed to making it happen. We wish to continue health-care coverage for our minister and staff even as we realize that the cost of healthcare rises each year.

We wish to reach out to every member, every contributor, both small dollar and large dollar to talk about the importance of everyone's pledge and everyone's commitment. We wish to say that each pledge is important, each pledge helps us to live our beliefs.

We will schedule training classes for all visiting stewards, both veterans and new folks. In this way we will be able to use the knowledge about ourselves and about stewardship that we have learned in the last several years. We will also discuss our current operating budget and our projected budget for the new year. We will distribute stewardship visit materials that answer frequently asked questions and raise important considerations for us as a congregation.

If you will help by being a visiting steward, please email your offer to stewardship@uucnh.org or talk with me at coffee hour. Thank you so much.

Lou Bartolomucci, Chair
Stewardship Committee

IN THE INTERIM – JENNIFER HALPERIN

THE GIFT OF FAITH

Many parents find their way to UUCNH looking for a faith community for their child(ren), thinking that it is important for children to experience religion in a way that is compatible with their own views on theology. Many times parents come as a proactive effort to provide a frame of reference other than the less inclusive and judgmental views of their children's classmates or neighbors. These parents come for their children and they end up staying because they find a multigenerational community that nurtures them and deepens their faith.



Faith? What do we mean by Faith Development?

“Faith” can be thought of as a sense of hope, trust, or being at home in the universe. Unitarian Universalist faith is an informed sense of being at home in the universe shaped by the theology, traditions, values, and principles of Unitarian Universalism. Faith development involves an interplay of spiritual experience and a religious tradition, in our case Unitarian Universalism

In her wonderful book, *The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children*, Jeanne Nieuwejaar connects faith with spiritual moments, places and relationships. For me, thinking of individual spiritual moments brings memories of mountain tops, waterfalls, and beaches. Spiritual moments also happen in connection with others, and acting in accordance with one's sense of what is just and compassionate behavior. And just as children develop physically, cognitively, emotionally and morally, so do they (and we) develop in faith, and all of these developmental areas overlap and influence each other. Faith is part of holistic orientation which, naturally, would deepen as a person is affirmed and nurtured. And in this faith community, as a person gets older, growing in awareness of life's complexities and perhaps as a result of their own life experiences, they are free to question.

Here at UUCNH we offer many ways of growing and serving, and we find it is best when we do it together. Parents are their child(ren)'s primary religious educators, but we find that being together to explore matters of faith—whether it be in worship, classes, social justice challenges and actions, music making, celebrating or grieving, that it is the people who together can deepen and support faith development. And that is truly a gift.

*By building a loving religious community that
nourishes the spirit, celebrates life, and
cherishes the connectedness of all things,
we will transform ourselves and our world.*

In good and growing faith,
Jennifer Halperin

DECEMBER, 2016 LFD NEWS

CALENDAR

- December 4: OWL (5th - 6th grade) parents meeting 12:15 – 1:45pm OR Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 7 – 8:30pm
- December 11: Classes prepare for December 18 pageant
- December 18: Winter Solstice pageant – children participate in service
- December 25: Christmas intergenerational service – no classes
- January 1: Intergenerational service – no classes

SUNDAY MORNING CHALICE LIGHTERS

Each Sunday morning one or two children light the chalice in the service. This is an important part of our time together as a multi-generational community. We invite you to be a part of this by signing up for a Sunday via the link here....and there is information about the Flaming Chalice as a symbol of our faith to make the act more meaningful.



Chalice Lighters Sign-Up - <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e4ca-fa82aa1fe3-sunday>

OUR WHOLE LIVES

We are pleased to announce that OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) for children in 5th & 6th grades is scheduled to start in January (Sunday afternoons from 4:30 – 6pm) for eight weeks at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. Pam Weaver and Kip Ruefle will be the class leaders. Both are trained and experienced OWL teachers.

There is an optional parent meeting on either Dec. 4th or Dec. 7th to learn about the curriculum. There is a mandatory parent/child orientation on Sunday, January 8th for first time 7/8th grade OWL parents from 12 - 2pm.

Please join us Sunday, December 4th at noon for the parent information session. In order to attend the program your child will need a signed permission slip, which we will give you at that time or on January 8th.. If you would like your child to participate but you are unable to make the January 8th meeting, please contact Jennifer Halperin (uucnhldfd@gmail.com). There is no fee for the course, although we may ask you to occasionally provide food.

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITY



North Hills Community Outreach is sponsoring a toy drive for families in need throughout northern Allegheny County. Our church has committed to providing 50 gifts to children of different ages. If you are willing and able to help, there will be gift tags on a tree in the Sanctuary. Take one with the age group you are interested in buying for and return it by December 11th with the unwrapped gift you purchase.

Suggestions are:

Board games - Puzzles - Books and movies - Stuffed animals -Bath/body items -Craft kits and art supplies - Sports equipment - Hooded sweatshirts - Gift cards for itunes, clothing stores, etc.



**FINAL DAY OF CRAFT GROUP HOLIDAY
SALE ON DECEMBER 4TH**

Christmas
Crafts 

Come visit us in the East Room for the final day of the Craft Group's annual Holiday Sale which is on Sunday, December 4th. You will find wonderful handmade items for your holiday gift-giving or as a something special for yourself. Remember, we have hats and scarves that you can donate to the Mitten Tree. And don't forget our delicious homemade baked goods. They are always special. Look for us from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, an hour before and an hour after church services.

Remember that many of our items are one-of-a-kind. So shop early. You don't want be disappointed. All proceeds are used to fund "unbudgeted" church projects.

UU CLUSTER NEWS

Check out our local Cluster Website at www.uupittsburgh.org. See what is happening with other UU's in our area, and for UU events that are open to all.



**GATHER THE SPIRIT
WEDNESDAY EVENING
SERVICE & POTLUCK**



December 7, 2016
Potluck – 6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Every 1st Wednesday of the month in this worship service, we will create a space for “that transcending mystery and wonder which moves us to a renewal of the spirit.”

The services will be following a different format than our more traditional Sunday morning service.

There will be music, reflection, sharing, silence, and ritual. Children are welcome at the service. Childcare will be provided in the nursery for toddlers and younger ones. Come join us as we gather the spirit!



**LAY PASTORAL
CARE TEAM**



The Lay Pastoral Care Team members are available to provide support within an atmosphere of safety and compassion and are a visible reminder of UUCNH’s care, concern and connections.

You are encouraged to contact any Team member, at the addresses or numbers below, if they might be of help or comfort with your pastoral care needs or those of another in our UUCNH community:

Mark Swihart
mswihart@spang.com
412-369-9321

Susan Powers
susan-a-powers@comcast.net
412-427-7300

Marsha Albright
mkalbright@gmail.com
412-487-4565

Tom Brown
mrteb@comcast.net
412-915-9156

Kathy Cypher
alkate@consolidated.net
724-316-4694 c



FAITH & JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

The Adult Faith Development Team is sponsoring a Faith and Justice Book Discussion Series. This occasional series will provide a forum for the church community to read and discuss books that directly pertain to the development of our Unitarian Universalist faith, and which promote the social justice mission of the church. The first discussion in this series is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017.

We will be reading *The Third Reconstruction* by Rev. William Barber, this year's UUA Common Read. Rev. Barber is the leader of the Moral Mondays movement, which started in North Carolina and has since spread to state capitols all over the country. He was an inspiring speaker at this year's UUA General Assembly. In this book, Rev. Barber argues that this nation needs to undergo a third reconstruction, that lives up to the promise of the post-Civil War-era Reconstruction, and that of the Civil Rights era. For more information, please see the following link: <http://www.beacon.org/The-Third-Reconstruction-P1139.aspx>

Copies of this book will be available in the church library shortly. We encourage everyone who checks out a copy to return it promptly, so that others have an opportunity to read it. There are also limited copies available in the Carnegie system.



COMMUNICATION CORNER



Sunday, December 4, 12-1 p.m. Sanctuary

Newcomers -- Grab your coffee or tea, bring your questions, and join us for an introduction to our church! This informal session provides basic information about UU'ism and UUCNH. Childcare is provided.

You may contact Bernita Clover at connections@uucnh.org

ADMINISTRATIVE HELP NEEDED – CAN YOU SAVE US?

The Connections Team has devoted members already welcoming people into the church and leading our series of new member classes, but as of January 1, 2017 we will be in dire need of an administrative chair!

To run smoothly, our team needs a leader who will provide oversight, help split up and assign the team's duties, and work with the church's new database to brainstorm more efficient ways of keeping track of visitors and following them through the membership process. No previous experience required!

If you're willing to jump in and help steer a friendly and energetic committee (and be worshipped as our hero) please contact Bernita Clover! (jnc312@mail2world.com)

SYSTEMIC CHANGE TEAM FOR DECEMBER

Our regular meetings are the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the East Room. We will meet on December 6, please feel free to attend!

If you are reading this right away please notice that on Thursday, December 1st, PIIN and The Clean Rivers Campaign will co-host a presentation of the city of Pittsburgh's newly released "Clean and Green Plan" to solve flooding issues and stop the pollution of waterways every time it rains.

James Stitt of the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority will present the Plan and host a question and answer session following the presentation. The meeting is 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road, Pgh PA 15228.

As we adjust to the reality of the change in leadership many folks are expressing interest how to support our neighbors and each other. Movements are cropping up on social media. Demonstrations seem to be everywhere. The safety pin suggestion has caught my eye. I'm wearing one as I type. But, good intentions are not always enough. Have you thought about what this could really mean?

How much of your own physical safety are you willing to risk? Do you have a plan? Here are a few things to think about before you wear the pin:

- Does the person want your help?
- Are you willing to help any marginalized person? Follow their lead – they may not want your help or your call to the police
- If you are in a group, what are the roles? Who engages the aggressor, who films?
- Do you know how to de-escalate a situation?
- If the situation gets violent are you willing to see it through?

MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

This December we will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, December 6th and December 20th. This is a change from our usual meeting schedule on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of the month. Meetings are from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary.

We welcome anyone interested in mindful meditation, whether you have little or no experience in meditation, or you have practiced for years. Join us for one evening, or as many as you would like.

We practice silent meditation, guided meditation, and either walking meditation or another form of movement meditation. Usually there are short readings, often from Pema Chodron or Thich Nhat Hanh. The facilitator often leads the meeting, but anyone who has attended at least one meeting is welcome and encouraged to lead a meeting.

You are welcome to come early to have a cup of tea with us before the formal program starts - church is open and the urn of hot water is available by 6:40.

Questions or comments, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com, or (412) 366-9553.





ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

UU CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

Co-Facilitators: Joe Meier, Edie Swihart
Contact: meierke@msn.com
When: December 11, 2016 @ 9:15am
Where: Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room

Do you self-identify as Christian, but struggle with issues of doctrine? Or have you parted ways with the label, but still hold some aspects of the tradition dear? Come and share with us as we explore our feelings about the Christian faith and its role in shaping our spiritual lives. Longtime members and first-time UU visitors alike are welcome to drop in and join this ongoing, positive discussion!



Held the second Sunday of every month at 9:15am in the Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room. Co-Led by Joe Meier and Edie Swihart.

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Dick Myers
Contact: dmyers.rlm@gmail.com
When: January 22, 2017 @ Noon
Fourth Sunday of month
Where: East Room

In view of the 4th Sunday of December being Christmas Day, we will not be meeting that day. The group has been having some interesting discussions!

In November, we discussed the various branches of Humanism, and our own personal versions. Then, on January 22, we will work on an understanding of the negative perceptions that many persons have of Humanism, and our own ideas of how to best communicate our individual perspectives in constructive ways.

BARNRAISERS

Facilitator: Rachael Smart
Contact: hesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
When: December 19, 2016 @ 6:30 pm
Where: Friendship Hall

Barn Raisers has switched to an every other month format for our potluck gatherings.

Our last meeting of the year will be December 19th. Note the change to the third Monday this month, due to the timing of Christmas. We will be doing holiday gift wrapping at this meeting. Bring your unwrapped gifts and/or some wrapping paper, bows, tissue paper and we will help each other to wrap gifts.



There are so many ways in which we can help each other through timebanking and build community and friendships at the same time. For more information on the group, e-mail timebank.barnraisers@gmail.com or see our Facebook page.

JESUS DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: December 18, 2016

What do the apocryphal gospels say about the nature of the early Jesus people? We will sum up our discussions of the gospels of Peter, Thomas and Q, fold in a bit about Judas, Mary and others and come to some conclusions about diversity and Christianity.

See Tony Palermo for details, tpalermo@consolidated.net.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT



MEN'S GROUP

Facilitators: Hal Dixler
Contacts: halleyppgh@gmail.com
When: Facilitated topic: 2nd Sunday at noon
Open forum: 4th Tuesday at 6 PM
Where: Sundays in the East Room; Tuesdays in the Truth and Meaning Room (Youth)

The next meeting of the UUCNH Men's Group will convene around noon on Sunday, December 11, 2016, in the East Room. This is a facilitated meeting, one in which a member of the group leads a discussion of a topic of his choice.

Open Forum will meet on Tue. Dec. 27, 2016

The Men's Group is open to all men, including visitors, who enjoy exchanging ideas and opinions with others. The principal obligations are an open mind and a gentlemanly disposition. We meet the 2nd Sunday and the 4th Tuesday of every month. Sunday meetings are scheduled after the regular church service and are usually facilitated by a member.

Tuesday meetings are not facilitated: discussion is free-form, with no prior definition of a subject and are scheduled for 6 PM. There is also monthly movie night being discussed.

For more information on the Men's Group, please contact either Hal or David.



SISTERS IN SPIRIT

Facilitators: Rachael Smart
Michelle Broge-Connor
Contacts: thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
brogemm@gmail.com
When: December 14, 2016 @ 6:30pm
Where: East Room

Sisters in Spirit is an ongoing self-guided women's group (all women are welcome regardless of sex assigned at birth). We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month. The group is focused on spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth as well as creating ties with other women. Group members take turns leading the monthly sessions, resulting in a wide variety of topics and styles of presentation. The group welcomes new members twice a year, in January and July.

If you would like to learn more about the group, contact either Rachael Smart at thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com or Michelle Broge-Connor at brogemm@gmail.com .

PSI GROUP

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: December 4, 2016

Does the Universe contain enough savagery and chaos to suggest the Deity is not worth of worship? Theodicy, the defense of an all good, all powerful God in the face of so much misery, will occupy us this next session.

See Tony Palermo for details, tpalermo@consolidated.net.



ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

UUCNH QUILTING GROUP

Facilitator: Peggy Trevanion - 412-366-4348
or birdies4@comcast.net
When: Dec 13 @ 10:00am
Where: East Room

The second Tuesday of the month is when the UUCNH Quilters meet to work on projects and share interesting techniques. We meet in the East Room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch.

For more information, contact Peggy Trevanion at 412-366-4348 or birdies4@comcast.net.

THE CRAFT GROUP

Facilitator: Irene Dinning - 412-741-6463
dinning1@comcast.net
When: Every Thursday, 10:00am
Where: East Room

We are a long-time UUCNH group that welcomes other crafters: those who want to learn needlework (such as knitting, crocheting, and embroidery), perfect a craft, or just want to come and visit with interesting people.

Come when you can or every week, but try us out!

THE UKE GROUP

Facilitator: Sandy Faulkner
sfaulk50@aol.com, 412-366-5973
When: Dec 5 & 19 @ 7:30pm
Where: East Room

We meet the first and third Monday. Beginners are very welcome. Come have fun!

For more information, call Sandy Faulkner at 412-366-5973 or contact her by email: sfaulk50@aol.com.

BRASS & WOODWIND ENSEMBLE

Facilitator: David Miles - miles@ohiou.edu
When: Dec 11 @ 9:00 am
Dec 18, @ Noon
Where: Worth & Dignity Room

We play music various sources. The present group includes folks who have been playing a year to those who haven't played for 30 years.

For more information, please see David Miles or send a note to miles@ohiou.edu.



UUCNH FAMILIES GROUP



Facilitators: Carla Bickel
Contact: c.marie11@yahoo.com
When: December 3 at 3:30PM
Where: UUNCH

December 3: Holiday party at church/Ice cream social. Money from ice cream sales to benefit Foster Love Project, providing bags of necessities for children suddenly displaced from their home

And mark your calendars for these upcoming events in 2017 listed below:

- February 5 @ 3 pm: Bowling for all ages at Perry Park Lanes
- March 19: Games afternoon, right after church! Pizza provided
- April 8 @ 10 am: Fun Fore All
- June 17 @ 11:30 am: the 2nd annual Families Group Picnic at North Park. We had a lot of fun at the 1st picnic - this is one you do not want to miss! Additionally, our very own Carmen Thomson of CPTThomson Photography will be doing mini photoshoots at the picnic! The price will be \$75 for 10 edited photos. All proceeds will be donated to UUCNH
- October 1: Fall Carnival at UUCNH

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Facilitator: Jon Hamrahi
Contact: jhamrahi@yahoo.com
When: No meeting in December
Where: UUCNH, East Room

Hello Readers,
Thank you to everyone who attended last month's book When Breath Becomes. For those who wish to get a head start on January, the next book is A Fine Balance, by Rohinton Mistry.

Future Titles:

January 13, 2017: A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

February 10, 2017: Nickel and Dimed : On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich



EQUAL EXCHANGE GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

To Give a Fair Trade item for the holidays is way better than to receive!
Consider giving some:

Organic Coffee: French Roast, Breakfast Blend, Mind, Body & Soul, or Decaf, available in whole bean or drip grind (\$9/bag)



Organic Dark Chocolate bars: with Almonds, With Mint, Caramel Crunch, and Very Dark (up to 80%!) plus Organic Milk Chocolate with a hint of hazelnut (\$4 each, or 3 for \$10)

And we have a Chamomile, Rooibos and Chai Teas (\$4 each) to warm you up! (Note: we have some samples out with the tea if you want to try one during Coffee (sic) Hour!)

Take care of all your gift giving right here at UUCNH!



NHCO FOOD PANTRY DONATION CUPBOARD

For December: Rice, Pasta Packages

Please don't forget to contribute to the Donation Cupboard for the North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) Food Pantry located in Friendship Hall. The NHCO request for this month – Rice, Pasta Packages-- to be brought to church.

Also consider bringing laundry detergent, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, bar soaps or other toiletries as they are always needed. And thank you to all who have contributed recently!

Plastic bags are always needed by NHCO: If you bring your extras to the church, please drop them off at the NHCO Donation Station where they can be used to sort food at the food pantry.

GROCERY CARD FUNDRAISER



Did you know that Giant Eagle gift cards can be used to buy gas at GetGo stations or to purchase gift cards to a wide variety of stores and restaurants? But, more importantly, did you know that buying gift cards at UUCNH benefits our church AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU? In other words, you pay \$25 and you get a \$25 gift card, and UUCNH gets 5%!

A Giant Eagle gift card can be used at the grocery store to buy a gift card for Kohl's, Home Depot, Advance Auto Parts, Applebee's restaurants and many other businesses.

If, for example, you're remodeling a room and you need to spend \$1,000 at Home Depot, you can do that by buying \$1,000 in Giant Eagle gift cards at UUCNH and then using the gift cards at Giant Eagle to buy \$1,000 in Home Depot gift cards. You just raised \$50 for UUCNH at no extra cost to you! Giant Eagle pays the \$50.

When you use a gift card to buy gas at GetGo, you still will receive any discount on the posted price of the gas that is due you.

UUCNH uses the income from the sale of gift cards to help fund our budget.

We also sell gift cards for Kuhn's and Whole Foods. Look for us after the service each Sunday on the bench by the office window.

Gift cards: They're not just for groceries anymore!

Thank you.
The Gift Card Team



HELPING THROUGH NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO NHCO CAN BE MATCHED THROUGH DECEMBER

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the first \$25,000 in individual financial donations made to North Hills Community Outreach through December 31, 2016, will be matched dollar for dollar. Donations help local families in need in communities of northern Allegheny County by supporting NHCO's many programs that provide emergency help and self-sufficiency programs. Donations can be mailed to NHCO, 1975 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101.

SHOP THROUGH AMAZON SMILE THIS SEASON AND SUPPORT NHCO

If you shop through Amazon, or your business buys through Amazon, your purchases can support North Hills Community Outreach if you easily switch your login to AmazonSmile. Switching is free and easy, and shopping and prices are the same, but Amazon donates a portion of each purchase to NHCO, helping local families in need. To switch, please visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1553057>

GROUPS, CONGREGATIONS ARE NEEDED TO TAKE CITRUS ORDERS FOR NHCO IN JANUARY

North Hills Community Outreach's annual Citrus Sale raises thousands of dollars each year to help local families in need. We cannot do it alone...groups such as congregations, civic groups, schools and offices all help by taking group orders.

If you would like to help struggling families by collecting citrus orders through your organization during January, please contact Alyssa, NHCO's garden coordinator, at aacrawford@nhco.org or 412-307-0069 x 3311.

SHARING WINTER WARMTH WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED, THROUGH NHCO

Sharing – it's what North Hills Community Outreach is about. We are an organization of "People Helping People." Neighbors help neighbors, and kind strangers share so that others might not go without.

Because you wish to ease the suffering of families in hardship and are willing to share what you have, thousands of your neighbors can face the challenge of their poverty with dignity and courage.

In addition to multiple self-sufficiency programs, food pantries and sharing projects, NHCO has a special Sharing Winter Warmth program. Each winter, we accept financial donations so that senior citizens, disabled adults and families in hardship can receive from \$50 to \$75 in credits toward either a heat or light bill. Because they know they are receiving this one-time gift, families can budget for medicine, food, gas or other bills.

Your contribution to Sharing Winter Warmth means so much to a family struggling to heat their home during the cold winter season. A mom knows her children don't have to do homework while bundled in coats. An elderly man on a fixed income doesn't need to use his oven to heat his kitchen.

To donate to NHCO's Sharing Winter Warmth program, donate online at nhco.org/donate or send checks to NHCO (memo: Sharing Projects), 1975 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. Individual donations made through December 31, 2016, could be matched thanks to an anonymous donor. (Check with your HR department to learn if your employer matches your donation, too!)

For more information, visit nhco.org or call 412-487-6316. Thank you!

UUCSJ-BORDERLINKS ARIZONA BORDER LANDS JOURNEY SET FOR 2017

Over February 25 to March 2 2017 a group of UUs from Greater Pittsburgh and beyond will undertake a Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice journey to Tucson Arizona that will offer a unique opportunity for witness, learning, and growth.

Human rights are at stake on the border between the United States and Mexico. In partnership with BorderLinks, the UU College of Social Justice has designed a journey that explores the entwined issues of economic justice and immigration along the border. The experience will be grounded in theological reflection and contemplative practice, helping you deepen your understanding of the intersections between spirituality and justice activism. Staff from both organizations will plan and lead all of the activities. We'll stay with BorderLinks and they'll prepare all meals. There will be small group sessions beginning in early January to prepare and help make the most of the experience.

BorderLinks is a binational, nonprofit educational organization that focuses on cross-border relationship-building opportunities, immigration issues, community formation and development, and social justice in the borderlands between Mexico and the United States.

Registration is now open and ends on December 23, 2016. The cost is \$925 per person and does not include airfare. UUCSJ is committed to making programs accessible to all regardless of their financial situation. Financial aid is available for up to 50% of costs based on need and is awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Minimum age is 16. A limited number of participant slots will be available. No payment due until January 2017. More info and registration: uupittsburgh.org or <http://uucsj.org/journeys/borderlinks>.

INTERCOM SUBMISSIONS IN NOVEMBER FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE



The article submission Deadline for the January Intercom will be on December 21.

So please get your articles into me by December 21 to be included in the January Intercom issue. If you need an extension on the deadline, please call or email me and we'll work something out. Otherwise, if your material isn't in by the deadline, it will NOT be included.

If you email your submissions (preferred), please do it IN PLAIN TEXT ONLY; please, do not format the article in any way. If you have a formatting request, please contact me or include it with your submission. Please send your Intercom submissions to Rowan@OctoberMorning.com