

The Harbinger

The Gathering at Northern Hills is a congregation of free people

As such, we celebrate diversity and welcome to our services all persons, irrespective of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or faith.

We invite and welcome to our membership those in agreement with our purposes and principles.

Website:

<http://www.uunhf.org>

For current calendar information, visit the website and click on the calendar link at the bottom of the webpage.

Rev. Doug Slagle, Minister
Sunday Services & Religious
Education:

Sunday at 10:45

Nursery Care Provided



December Message Series

Using themes from Charles Dickens' many novels, and particularly "A Christmas Carol," Rev. Doug will consider insights for the Holidays in three separate messages (December 11, 18, & 24). Dickens was a Unitarian and he had very specific beliefs about Christmas and our calling to heed the real meaning of the celebration. Join friends and guests for a meaningful and festive Holiday with the Gathering at Northern Hills!

Sunday, December 11: "A Very Dickens Holiday: Light Conquers Dark"

Sunday, December 18: "A Very Dickens Holiday: The Power of Change"

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Saturday, December 24, 4:30 PM: "A Very Dickens Holiday: The Wisdom of Children". A family friendly service with special music, carols, a shorter than normal message and a few fun surprises!

Upcoming Events



- Dec. 7 – Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – Minister’s Office
- Dec. 7 - Yoga – 6:45 p.m. – Quimby Room
- Dec. 9 - Service Planning Meeting—1:30—Minister’s Office
- Dec. 11 – Annual Meeting – 11:45 - Sanctuary
- Dec. 12 - Yoga – 6:45 p.m. – Quimby Room
- Dec. 14 – Lunch at Lighthouse Youth Services – 11 a.m. – 2522 Highland Avenue
- Dec. 14 - Yoga – 6:45 p.m. – Quimby Room
- Dec. 16—Annual Holiday Party—7 p.m.—Malloy’s on the Green
- Dec. 18 - Cookie Exchange - 11:45 - Quimby Room
- Dec. 19 - Yoga – 6:45 p.m. – Quimby Room
- Dec. 21 - Yoga – 6:45 p.m. – Quimby Room
- Dec. 23 – Pagan Circle: Yule – 6:30 p.m. – Quimby Room
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve/Hanukah Candlelight Service - 4:30 -
- Dec. 25 - No service—meet for a potluck with host M.J. Pierson for anyone who wishes to gather in the Quimby Room.

Cookie exchange

2016 GNH Annual Cookie Exchange

Place: Quimby Room

When: December 18th following services

Rules: *Simply* bake your fav holiday cookies & bring them to church. Bake 24, take 24. The more you bring the more you take home! Cookie plates will be provided.

I know that there will be some *really great* tasting cookies but please try to resist taking all of one kind.

Donation\$ welcome proceeds to fund hospitality.



You Are Invited

To the 3rd Annual Holiday Party, Friday, December 16th, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at "Molloy's on the Green" (10 Enfield Place, in Greenhills). Light snacks, cash bar, a dinner buffet, coffee, dessert, and FUN are included. The cost to GNH will be \$23.00 per person and you are asked to pay what you can afford. All adult members and friends are encouraged to attend! Avoid being called a Scrooge and be sure to attend this congregation tradition!

Please make a check payable for an amount per person you can afford, mark it "GNH Holiday Party" and send it or bring it to church by Monday, December 12, Attention: Debbie Allen.



The Gathering at Northern Hills Annual Meeting



All members of GNH are encouraged to attend our congregation annual meeting this Sunday, December 11, when vital decisions for 2017 are made. According to UUA principles, we operate as a full democracy - members determine and approve the annual direction of our community as recommended by the elected Board of Trustees.

This Sunday, Members will review and then vote on the 2017 Budget. Members will also review and vote on a slate of three candidates for the GNH Board of Trustees. Other miscellaneous matters will be discussed and, where appropriate, voted on.

The GNH Nominating team has put forward a slate of three member nominees for the 2017 Board. These individuals will serve two years. If elected, they will replace outgoing Board members Sue Cline, David Hester and Jennifer Schmahl. If elected, they will join Board members elected last year: Bob Freer, Cheryl Leksan and Kim Roots. The nominees for the 2017 Board are: **Ann Bobonick, Keith Israel and Ralph Whaley.**

Make sure your vote and voice are heard by attending the Annual Meeting! It will immediately follow a shorter than normal Sunday Service. If you have not already submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so as soon as possible by contacting the office or Debbie Allen (our Budget depends on knowing your pledge!)

Kroger Report

Supporters who signed up for the **Kroger Community Rewards Program** through the former Northern Hills Fellowship (22 households) and shopped at Kroger between August 1 and October 31 (Cycle 5, Quarter 2)



have contributed \$175.30 to our latest donation from Kroger. About 11 supporting households from the former Gathering will most likely contribute an additional \$30 for the second quarter. If you haven't signed up yet for this effortless way to support GNH, go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards and follow the links. Please sign up for the former Northern Hills Fellowship and use the NPO# 80061. We will continue to use that number, but the name will eventually change to The Gathering at Northern Hills. If you need help, please contact [Betsy Anderson](#), [Pete Patterson](#), [Barry Young](#) or call Kroger's tech team at 1-866-221-4141.



The mitten tree is hanging in the Quimby Room and awaiting donations of children's hats, mittens, gloves, and scarfs. These items will be donated to UpSpring, which serves the needs of homeless children in the area. Please bring the gift of warmth to a child in need.

GNH Book Club Reading List

Friday, January 6: *Nine Parts Of Desire* by Geraldine Brooks - Noon, at Tella

Friday, February 3: *The Pearl That Broke It's Shell* by Nadia Hashimi - Noon, TBA

Friday, March 3: *A Fighting Chance* by Elizabeth Warren - Noon, TBA



Refugee Support Update

Sheryl Rajbhandari spoke to a group of 15 at the December 4 forum on refugees and immigration. She described the hands-on, personal approach that the independent agency **Heartfelt Tidbits** takes with refugees. Most frequently Heartfelt Tidbits does not meet new refugees until 45-90 days after their arrival through the official refugee resettlement agency (Catholic Charities), when the agency's official responsibility ends. Most clients come by word of mouth. An increasing number are "secondary immigrants," – refugees who were initially resettled elsewhere in the U.S. but who have since moved to the Cincinnati area. In many cases, Heartfelt Tidbits continues to provide services for several years.



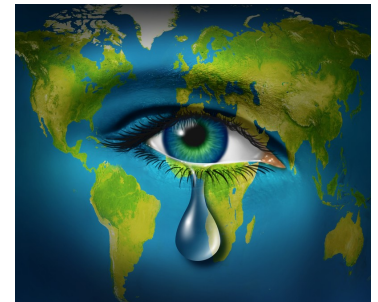
Current programs, and help needed:

- Mural painting
- Sewing program every Tuesday morning (might need new space)
- English language and citizenship prep classes every Friday morning at Northminster Presbyterian
- Tutoring, mentoring, coaching
- Transportation: Teaching driving, helping figure out public transportation, taxiing for activities, medical appointments, events
- "Adopt a family" – Make a refugee family part of your family. Include them in game night, church events, hike in the woods, etc.
- \$\$ are always needed, as well as extra "stuff" that accumulates so easily in households here (Furniture, furnishings, bedding, linens, etc.) but is always left behind when fleeing.
- Help is also provided with college tours, FAFSA for college financing, teen summer camp, career paths, stress, yoga, employment, Community gardening (a new location in Price Hill next year).

Sheryl pointed out that faith-based refugee resettlement agencies do not always serve special populations well: women concerned with reproductive rights and domestic violence, disabled persons, and LGBTQ individuals.

There is a need for non-religious refugee/immigration helping organizations that can offer:

- Support for birth control (changing the practice of abortion as a birth control method)
- Help without attempts at conversion
- Support for immigrants of all faiths and none
- Programs, counseling, and support for LGBTQ youth
- Services to support immigrants (Refugee Connect only supports refugees)
- Cultural training to counteract some home-country cultural acceptance of racism, prejudice, and abuse
- Teen empowerment



Refugee Update, Continued

Ideas for GNH as a congregation and as individuals:



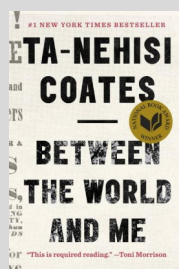
- Do we have space to offer for regular programs?
- Can we put together small groups of our members to form intergenerational families to “adopt” a refugee or immigrant family?
- Can you donate time and talent in teaching, tutoring, driving, sewing, art?
- Can you give money to “fill in the gaps” for families?

If you would like to volunteer with Heartfelt Tidbits, download and fill out the volunteer form at the bottom of the page at [https://](https://heartfelttidbits.com/programs/)

heartfelttidbits.com/programs/

Reading Together for January Messages

Rev. Doug and the Sunday Service Planning Team ask you to join them in jointly reading in the weeks and months ahead the book *Between the*



World and Me by Ta Nehisi Coates. Messages on January 8, 15 and 22 will examine themes in the book as our congregation continues its year-long effort to examine racism and white privilege in our nation and ourselves. The book is available free from the Cincinnati Public Library where it can be checked out

or downloaded free into a tablet or smartphone. Copies are also available from the website Amazon for as low as \$7.

The Giving Tree



Twenty gifts for the youth served by Lighthouse Youth Services and 20 gifts for the homeless youth served by Valley Interfaith Food Pantry are being collected by GNH. **This is a reminder that your gift**

needs to arrive at the church by Sunday, December 11. Lighthouse gifts should be unwrapped while Valley gifts can be wrapped. If you would rather donate money, we will give all cash donations to Up Spring, the agency assisting homeless children's educational needs. Thank you for making this holiday a little brighter for Cincinnati area families in need.

New Member Class



We will be offering our a New UU / New Member information classe on Sunday Dec. 18 following the hospitality hour in the Quimby Room. The class covers UU history, the history of NHF and The Gather-

ing, church structure, ministry and social justice. Members, prospective members and friends simply wanting to know more are encouraged to attend. Contact MJ Pierson at [MJ Pier0410@aol.com](mailto:MJPier0410@aol.com) for more information.

A Giving Opportunity

Valley Interfaith Food and Clothing Center has asked GNH to donate **200 cans of peaches** for their Christmas food baskets. The deadline is quickly approaching, but you can still make a difference.

Canned peaches are available at Big Lots of \$1 each, and at Aldi for 89 cents each. Please put your donations in the large basket by the stairs in the foyer outside the Quimby Room by Dec. 11. If you would rather give a cash donation, contact Betsy Anderson at 513.825.2061 or mbanderson1@zoomtown.com.



NEWSLETTER POLICY (September 2008)

All items that appear in the Harbinger should be of general interest to the members and friends of GNH and be consistent with GNH's mission, purposes, and policies.

Newsletter submission should be as brief as possible, with a 500 word maximum. The editor has the right and responsibility to edit as needed to ensure conciseness and readability. The editor also has the right to delay publishing non-time-critical articles as available space may require.

The newsletter editor may refuse publication if a submission is considered inappropriate.

The editor shall consult with the minister and the Trustee who holds the communication portfolio for guidance in what shall be published.

Members of GNH shall have the choice to receive the Harbinger electronically or via paper mail. The newsletter shall be posted on the website. Do not submit names or contact information without the consent of other persons.

The Harbinger mailing list shall not be used for business purposes or for any type of mailings other than those specifically relating to church events.

The Gathering at Northern Hills, A Unitarian Universalist Community

460 Fleming Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Phone: 513-931-6651

Email: northernhillsfellowship6824@gmail.com

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday (Closed one hour for lunch)

Worship Attendance

Nov. 20: 73

Nov. 27: 82

Dec. 4: 78



Newsletter Information

Future deadlines: December 15 for Dec. 20

December 29 for Jan. 3

January 12 for January 17

Please have all articles to Susan West by 10 a.m. on the Thursday before the Harbinger is published. Space can be reserved on the rare occasion an article needs to be late.

DECEMBER Birthdays

Jeff Chambers - Dec. 6

Sean Mc Bride - Dec. 10

Henry Wernicke—Dec. 12

Cassandra Mueller—Dec. 29

David Hester - Dec. 30