

The Gathering at Northern Hills, A Unitarian Universalist Community



The Harbinger

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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.gnhuu.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



A Dream Can Come True

Martin Luther King had a dream

For people everywhere.

He wanted them to get along

And show how much they care

By helping one another

And by always being fair.

So remember Martin Luther King

And help his dream come true

By always treating others

As you'd want them to treat you.

Upcoming Events

This Sunday's Message, January 27: **Growing up in Nazi Occupied Denmark** Johannes Bjorner

This Sunday, Membership Team Meeting, 12:00 pm

Jan 1 - Jan 31 - Cincinnati Meditation Group, 5:30 pm

Wednesday and 8:30 am Saturday - Trapezoid Room

Jan 1 - Jan 31 Shambhala Meditation Group, Every Tuesday,
7:00 pm, Quimby Room

Jan 29 - Auction Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Quimby Room

Feb 1 – Women's Book Club, 1:00 pm, Conference Room

Feb 3 – Service Planning Team, 9:30 am

Feb 3 – Children's RE Team Meeting, 12 pm – 1:30 pm. Wm Ellery Channing Rm

Feb 3 – Jr. High O.W.L. Meeting, 12:30 – 6:00 pm

Feb 6 – SJAT Book Club, 6 pm – 8 pm, Conference Room

Feb 10 – Social Justice Action Team Meeting, 9:15 am, Sanctuary

Feb 13 – Lunch at the Lighthouse, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Feb 15 – Board of Trustees Annual Work Retreat, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Feb 16 – Board of Trustees Annual Work Retreat, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Feb 16 – Freestore Volunteer, 9:00 am – 11:30 am

February Message Series

February is forever linked with the enjoyable but also most confounding of human emotions: love. Celebrating February 14th as Valentine's Day is traced to England in the middle ages when it was decided to tie the feast of St. Valentine to the ideal of romantic love. St. Valentinus was supposedly executed by the ancient Roman emperor Claudius for officiating at the marriages of Christians - something forbidden by Roman law.

Over the centuries, love has been the subject of countless essays, poems and songs. Several have captured the essence of love in unique and profound ways. Join Rev. Doug in February as he explores three types of media and how they describe and define love.

February 3: Love's Truth

We will examine well known Bible verses on love from 1 Corinthians, chapter thirteen, verses one through seven. (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)

February 10: Love Thyself...Too!

Rev. Doug will look at Kahlil Gibran's poem "Love One Another."

February 17: The Power of Love

The message will look at a popular contemporary song by John Legend, "All of Me."

Martin Luther King Jr

Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1954 until his assassination in 1968. Born in Atlanta, King is best known for advancing civil-rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, tactics his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi helped inspire.

King led the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and in 1957 became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). With the SCLC, he led an unsuccessful 1962 struggle against segregation in Albany, Georgia, and helped organize the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. He also helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

On October 14, 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance. In 1965, he helped organize the Selma to Montgomery marches. The following year, he and the SCLC took the movement north to Chicago to work on segregated housing. In his final years, he expanded his focus to include opposition towards poverty and the Vietnam War. He alienated many of his liberal allies with a 1967 speech titled "Beyond Vietnam". J. Edgar Hoover considered him a radical and made him an object of the FBI's COINTELPRO from 1963 on. FBI agents investigated him for possible communist ties, recorded his extramarital liaisons and reported on them to government officials, and on one occasion mailed King a threatening anonymous letter, which he interpreted as an attempt to make him commit suicide.

In 1968, King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the Poor People's Campaign, when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was followed by riots in many U.S. cities. Allegations that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of killing King, and imprisoned, had been framed or acted in concert with government agents, persisted for decades after the shooting. Sentenced to 99 years in prison for King's murder, effectively a life sentence as Ray was 41 at the time of conviction, Ray served 29 years of his sentence and died from hepatitis in 1998 while in prison.

King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established as a holiday in numerous cities and states beginning in 1971; the holiday was enacted at the federal level by legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1986. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor, and a county in Washington State was also rededicated for him. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 2011.



Notes from Your Board

Rev. Doug and Treasurer **Mark Mueller** have completed the analysis and paperwork necessary for annual Certification by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Gathering at Northern Hills is now officially certified for 2019. After having been a UUA "Honor" congregation for donating full dues to the UUA up through 2016, we have not met that threshold the last two years due to budget shortfalls. We are currently paying partial dues. This hopefully temporary situation does not impact our ability to receive advice and services from the UUA.

Board President **Sue Cline** and Vice President **Ralph Whaley** are identified as GNH Leaders and thus are official contacts from the UUA; they have online access to congregational data. **MJ Pierson** and **Mel Lev-rant** continue as our delegates to the General Assembly.

The annual Board Retreat is now scheduled for February 15-16.

(Submitted by Susanne Bjorner)





Thoughts from Rev. Doug

I don't know about you, but it felt odd not holding a Sunday service two weeks in a row. Even though we missed our weekly opportunity to come together as a community, canceling church was the right thing to do. The safety of members and volunteers is always of paramount importance.

I planned my January messages to highlight why people should be more positive about the state of our nation and world. And my January 6th message on the paradox of Humanism examined that idea (<http://gnhuu.org/index.php/2019/01/07/sunday-january-6-2019-the-humanism-paradox/>). Even though it seems that everything is not so great in America, or with humanity in general, the fact is that we live in the best of times.

Psychologist and author Steven Pinker makes that case in two of his recent bestselling books, "Enlightenment Now" and "The Better Angels of Our Nature." By almost any metric, the human condition is better than ever before - even though many problems, challenges and inequalities still exist.

The point Pinker makes is not to deny that ongoing work needs to be done to improve life for everyone, but to reframe our thinking. If we are pessimistic about the state of the nation and world, we help feed overall negativity. And that pessimism can be self-fulfilling. As Pinker notes, pessimism about the state of the world leads many people to not vote or donate and volunteer to charities. It also has caused many young people, including my own daughters, to consider not having children. The rationale is that a single vote, or an afternoon spent helping the homeless, or a life of raising and loving children won't change anything.

Imagine how the 2016 election might have had a very different outcome if all of those who didn't think their vote mattered had instead actually voted? Think of how much food insecurity, poverty and homelessness might be reduced in the world if people donated and volunteered more? Even further, how many fewer teachers, doctors, scientists and social activists will there be in the world thirty years from now - all because today's young generation pessimistically choose not to have kids?

Added to these potential consequences is the ironic fact that liberal negativity helps makes the right-wing case that we should abandon Humanist ideals because they haven't helped - and have instead made things worse. The slogan "Make America Great Again" is a right-wing response to many people, including liberals, thinking our nation is so terrible. Mr. Trump manipulated irrational fears about life to say that he has the answer: we should abandon Humanist, reasonable and science based approaches we have today and return to a supposedly better past.

Facts are often hard things to accept but they can't be ignored. Progressive and liberal ideals over the past three hundred years have dramatically improved life for all people. Over 1 billion people have been lifted out of poverty during the last hundred years. Incomes for the poor, middle class and wealthy have significantly increased. Average worldwide life expectancy has more than doubled. Democracy and basic human rights are more prevalent around the world than ever before.

President Barack Obama once said, *"If you had to choose a moment in history to be born, and you did not know ahead of time who you would be - you didn't know whether you were going to be born into a wealthy family or a poor family, what country you'd be born in, whether you were going to be a man or a woman - if you had to choose blindly what moment you'd want to be born, you'd choose now."*

Obama's words speak to our need to be much more optimistic about the current state of life. Every living person should be thankful they live now - as opposed to a century ago. All people live healthier, happier and more equal lives than did their great-grandparents.

And so my intended January message series was to remind us of that truth. Yes, there exist many challenges to human well-being - climate change, the rise of populist authoritarianism, and human inequality to name a few. But we can and should be optimistic that humanity will address and find solutions to them. As Pinker notes in his book, there has never been a major challenge to human well-being that has not been confronted and made better.

Science, reason, Humanism and progressivism have all been the keys to human betterment. As Humanists, we should be optimistic and confident that will continue in 2019 and onward into the future.

GNH ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Class: February 17 and March 17

We will be offering our next New UU/New Member information classes on these two Sundays: February 17, and March 17.. The class will follow the hospitality hour in the Quimby Room or Sanctuary. The class covers UU history, the history of NHF and The Gathering, church structure, ministry and social justice. Members, prospective members and friends simply wanting to know more are encouraged to attend. You do not need to have plans to join as a member of this congregation to take the class. Typically the class lasts about an hour.

Contact MJ Pierson at MJPier0410@aol.com for more information.

Building Security:

PLEASE KEEP OUR GNH DOORS LOCKED AT ALL TIMES

Recently, Friendship United Methodist Church at Fleming Road and Springfield Pike was robbed during a Sunday service. An individual entered their building and stole a backpack with a computer and other digital equipment inside.

GNH security is all of our responsibility. Please keep our doors locked at all times. We have arranged for greeters on Sunday mornings to open the front door to members and guests.

Thank you for your help!



FreeStore Foodbank

Freestore Volunteers Needed - Saturday, February 16, 2019., 9:00 am to 11:30 am, 1250 Tennessee Avenue. Children 10 and over may volunteer with their parents. We assemble weekend food bags for young children who experience food insecurity. Please RSVP to Rev. Doug.

Volunteers Needed

Lighthouse Youth Services Lunch Preparation

GNH will serve lunch at the Lighthouse Sheakley Center on Wednesday, **December 12** at 11:00am - 1:30 pm
Please contact Ginny Patterson if you can help.

No GNH Rummage Sale in 2019

The Ways & Means team has decided not to have a rummage sale in 2019, so please do not bring in any rummage items this year. We will still be having our annual auction on April 13 and our Goodies and Gifts Boutique on December 15. We welcome donations for both. Thank you for your support.

Jr. High OWL Meeting - 12:30 - 6:00 PM

We will be hosting the City-wide O.W.L. Jr. High program on : Feb 3, Feb 24, and March 24. We will utilize the GNH R.E. Wing, Quimby Room and Sanctuary, Contact Penny Shore, GNH OWL Coordinator at pennysshore@gmail.com for additional information. **On the above date, all members are asked to please vacate the building by 12:30 pm**



What a Wonderful World!

GNH's Spring Auction—April 13

GNH's biggest social event of the year--our annual spring auction on **Saturday, April 13**—will celebrate the richness of our world's diversity with the theme "What a Wonderful World!" Mark your calendar now and plan to have fun with your friends while enjoying beer and wine (for a small donation) and a smorgasbord of hearty snacks. Items, services, gift certificates, and social events donated by members and community businesses will be up for bid, but there is no cost to attend and no obligation to bid. Having fun is the name of the game! **Start thinking now about what you would like to donate and watch for more information in the next Harbinger.**

Children's Religious Education News

The 2018-2019 religious education year has begun. Teachers Jennifer Schmahl, Amy Bryce, Vanessa Wernicke, Angie Kozak, Mary Lou Aufmann, and Marti Spiess are looking forward to their time with the children and youth of The Gathering.

Children from infants to kindergarten twill have child care with Chloe Constantinides in the nursery on the lower level of the RE wing. Grades 1-3 will also meet on the lower level in the W. H. G. Carter Room.

Grades 4-6 and 7 + will both meet on the second level. Teachers for these classes will be communicating with the students and parents regarding schedule.

We are excited to be utilizing the theme-based curriculum from Soul Matters, a UU resource.

The themes are: **What Does It Mean to be a People of...**

January: Possibility

Aprill: Wholeness

February: Trust

May: Curiosity

Hospitality Schedule

Reminders to upcoming hosts will be sent every Tuesday. *If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please switch dates with another member and notify the office.*

Thank you for your continued commitment

Social Justice Action Team Book Club

Will read & discuss the book **"So You Want to Talk About Race"** by Ijeoma Oluo. Meeting scheduled for **February 6** and February 20 @ 6 pm in the GNH Conference Room. Contact Jack Brennan or Carole Womeldorf.

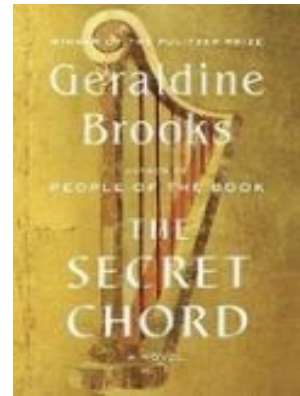


Thoughts and Prayers

Carol Levrant is struggling with her health. Please hold her and her husband, Mel in your thoughts, especially as Mel considers various options for her care. Please notify Jack Brennen if you know of any GNH members or friends facing significant life challenges.

**Women's Book Club –
February 1, 2019, 1:00 pm,
GNH Conference Room
*The Book of the Month***

February Book is: **The Secret Chord**
by Geraldine Brooks



IHN DATES for 2019

Mark your calendar for the weeks of March 3-March 10 and September 29-October 6, 2019! We will be joining Friendship United Methodist Church (Wyoming) in **Interfaith Hospitality Network** service those two weeks to feed and house homeless families. Friendship is planning an information session some night in January to give more information about the opportunity. More details forthcoming. Please inform Susanne Bjorner of your interest.

A New Resource for Families

Soulful Home is a monthly guide organized around seven distinct family "spaces" and filled with ideas and resources to fill those spaces with UU theme-based exploration. Family life is very full, so this guide offers manageable activities and adventures that can be woven into the regular routines and spaces that families already share. Hopefully your family received a sample packet recently. The RE teams encourages you to check out the website below for more details and information about how your family can subscribe are at this website: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html>

Please Help Take Care of our Church Home!

All able members are asked to volunteer, in some way, to take care of our building and grounds. **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS WORK!** If you are willing to donate an hour or two to mow grass, do yard work, organize, clean, or do light repairs and maintenance - PLEASE contact Rev. Doug or David Hester.

OWL: Our Whole Lives Lifespan Sexuality Education



Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. Have you ever thought about participating in this program as either a Facilitator (teacher) or a Coordinator (program manager).

While we recently heard from MJ Pierson about the successful completion of this year's Senior High OWL program, the City-Wide OWL team is already planning for our next offering of Junior High OWL beginning in January 2019. Part of this planning is to assess how many Facilitators and Coordinators we have available for the program. Since this program has had 23 and 38 students register for the last two offerings of the program, having a full contingent of Facilitators available for teaching is critical. Additionally, each congregation needs to have a Coordinator help manage and administer the program.

While GNH has several members of our congregation trained to teach OWL, there is always a need for male Facilitators. Penny Shore has been our Coordinator since late 2014; she will be retiring from this role at the end of the 2019 program.

If you might be interested in becoming a Facilitator or Coordinator, please talk to or email Penny Shore (penny.shore@gmail.com). She can give you some information on what would be involved with either role.

Donations Needed by Valley Interfaith

VICRC in Lockland is dependent on donated items. Many needed items are difficult for Valley to purchase due to either high cost or limited availability. Consider picking up a few of their most needed items and dropping them off at GNH. Place them in the large basket by the stairs in the foyer outside the Quimby Room.

Most needed pantry items include empty plastic containers to distribute laundry soap, all kinds of cereal, peanut butter, and canned meat.

Most needed personal hygiene items include toothbrushes, toothpaste, men's and women's deodorant, body wash, shampoo, cleaning products, garbage bags, unscented hypoallergenic power laundry soap, feminine hygiene products, size 4-6 diapers and any size pull-ups, and toilet paper. Drug stores, like CVS and Walgreens, often have special deals on these items.

Most needed clothing and house wares items include men's jeans (especially small sizes), men's gym shoes and boots (new or gently used), gently used pots and pans, new or gently used queen and king sheet sets, bath towels, new or gently used window box fans, and new or gently used space heaters.

Valley **cannot accept** any furniture, TVs, infant/child car seats or cribs/playpens as well as many household items and baby items due to legal or space restrictions. Thanks so much for your generosity!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Heritage UU to Host Rev. Damon Lynch III

The Anderson Churches for Racial Unity organization is privileged to present the Rev. Damon Lynch III, speaking on "What's Needed Now?" The presentation will take place on Tuesday, January 29, at 7:00 PM at Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church. Wishing each of you a peaceful New Year.



GNH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Caring and Support Team

Provides nurture and support for members in the congregation in time of need or crisis. Contact Phyllis Berenson at pberenson@yahoo.com or Patti Wiers at pjwiers@fuse.net



**WE PUT THE
FUN
IN FUNDRAISING**

Ways and Means (Fundraising)

Conducts fundraising through the annual auction, rummage sale, and other event.

"WE WELCOME NEW FUND RAISING IDEAS AND VOLUNTEERS".

Ushers

Ushers prepare and distribute the order of service, warmly greet all attendees, assist in directing members and guests in seating, assist in the offering, assist in counting of cash offerings after the service. Phyllis Berenson at pberenson@yahoo.com or Mel Levrant at ocarmel@fuse.net



Service Leader

Serves on Sunday mornings to guide worship and assist the minister and/or guest speakers. Contact Rev. Doug Slagle at revdoug@gnhuu.org



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

The Gathering at Northern Hills, A Unitarian Universalist Community

**460 Fleming Road
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Office Hours

**Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am -4:00 pm,
Wednesday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**



NEXT Harbinger

**Our Next Harbinger will be
Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

Please have all articles to the office by 10 a.m. by the deadline, Monday, February 4, 2019 before the Harbinger is published. Space can be reserved on the rare occasion an article needs to be late.