

The Gathering at Northern Hills, A Unitarian Universalist Community



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.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



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“In And Out Of Time”.. Maya Angelou



♥ The sun has come.
♥ The mist has gone.
♥ We see in the distance...
♥ our long way home.
♥ I was always yours to have.
♥ You were always mine.
♥ We have loved each other in and out of time.

♥ When the first stone looked up at the blazing sun
♥ and the first tree struggled up from the forest floor
♥ I had always loved you more.
♥ You freed your braids...
♥ gave your hair to the breeze.
♥ It hummed like a hive of honey bees.
♥ I reached in the mass for the sweet honey comb there....
♥ Mmmm...God how I love your hair.

♥ You saw me bludgeoned by circumstance.
♥ Lost, injured, hurt by chance.
♥ I screamed to the heavens....loudly screamed....
♥ Trying to change our nightmares into dreams...
♥ The sun has come.
♥ The mist has gone.
♥ We see in the distance our long way home.

♥ I was always yours to have.
♥ You were always mine.
♥ We have loved each other in and out
♥ in and out
♥ in and out
♥ of time.

Notes from Your Board

Absentee Voting Considered

GNH Bylaws require that members be present at congregational meetings in order to vote.¹ This requirement has proved problematic at several recent meetings. At two meetings the congregation voted for the temporary suspension of this mandate, and members unable to be present were eligible to vote by absentee ballot. At the most recent meeting, it was determined not to follow the practice of suspending our organization's Bylaws. The correct response is to change the Bylaw.

At its February 2 meeting, Board members considered several different ways of amending this Bylaw. A special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19 solely for the purpose of addressing this Bylaw change. Under our current Bylaws, a quorum of 40% is required and 75% of members present must affirm the proposal; all voters must be present. If a proposal to approve some form of voting even when absent is approved, that provision will go into effect immediately and be applicable for the Mid-year Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 7.

An information meeting to discuss options for the Bylaw revision will be held in the coming weeks. We urge you to attend and to make your thoughts known.

Also at the recent board meeting, board liaisons were named to several GNH committees and team. The purpose of the liaison is to provide a means of direct communication between the teams and the board and to facilitate board support of team mission and activities. In the coming month, liaisons will be contacting the chair of teams to gather information and to listen.

Building and Grounds: Sallie

Communication: Sian and Susanne

Greeters & Ushers: Sallie

Committee on Healthy Congregational Life: Ralph

Membership: Susanne

Ministerial Advisory Committee: Sue

Religious Education: Sian

Service Planning Team: Khoa and Sue Cline

Social Justice Action Team: Ralph W

Ways & Means: Sue

1. Article Five: Congregational Meetings. Eligibility for Voting.

"Members must be present in order to vote at a congregational meeting."

Thoughts From Rev. Doug



Most Unitarian Universalists are well-informed and intellectually curious. But UU's also want more than just information. Like anyone, we want to be inspired and moved to take action - within ourselves and in society at large.

My messages are often full of information and research I've gathered. I hope, as well, that they touch the heart in some way. Indeed, we can all read a non-fiction book or listen to a lecture on almost any subject. What we remember from a book, lecture or Sunday message, however, is not so much what we learned but what we felt. As a Minister who regularly speaks on Sunday mornings, that's not an easy task to achieve, but its one I take seriously - to inform and to inspire.

My three January messages used the theme of, "Lesser Known Inspirational Facts About Martin Luther King, Jr." They are examples of what I try to accomplish on Sunday mornings. I may not always be successful but I hope there are at least a few nuggets of information or ideas that are worth remembering.

A few people have asked that I publish some of the lesser known facts I shared in my last message series. Instead, I encourage you to read or listen to the messages, if you are interested, on our website: www.gnhuu.org.

During this month, my messages have a similar intention to enlighten and inspire. Their theme is, "Diversity Love Stories". My message this past Sunday looked at a beautiful black love story told in the book An American Marriage by Tayari Jones. It's won many awards and was featured in Oprah Winfrey's Book Club. I recommend the book to you. And you might read or listen to my message on our website.

This Sunday, I look at the love story of a same sex couple. And next Sunday I'll look at love stories of other-abled persons. My intent is not just to let you know about the lives of diverse people, but to instead examine ideas and lessons from their stories that are relevant to anyone. Indeed, we know that in this world filled with diverse cultures and people, we are nevertheless all much the same. We each have unique qualities but we all share many of the same feelings and emotions - like love.

I hope you not only celebrate a happy Valentine's Day on February 14th, but that you take the time to ponder what love means in your life. Additionally, I hope you might have reflected on the legacy of Dr. King during the month of January when we celebrated his national holiday. Again, I encourage you to read or listen to those messages if you did not hear them before.

I hope GNH's Sunday services, and my messages, help each of us to both learn and be inspired to change ourselves and the world!

Upcoming Events



Next Sunday, February 9 - Coffeehouse Family Service

Message: "Hadrian and Antinous. Love that dares not speak its name." Rev. Doug

Feb 7 - GNH Women's Book 1 pm Club Wyoming Comm Coffee

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

Feb 12 – Lunch Preparation – Lighthouse Youth Svcs, 11:00 am

Feb 16 - Soup Sunday - After Morning Service

Feb 18 - Auction Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Hosea Ballou Room

Feb 23 - Membership Team Meeting, 12:00 pm

Feb 25 - GNH Women's Group Meeting - 12:00 pm, Quimby Room

Mar 1 - Service Planning Meeting, 9:00 am,

Mar 1 - R.E. Team Meeting, 12:00 pm, Wm Ellery Channing Room

Mar 1 - Board of Trustees Meeting, 12:15 pm, Quimby Room

Mar 6 - GNH Women's Book Club, 1:00 pm, GNH Conference Room

Mar 6 - GNH Women's Book Club, 1:00 pm, Conference Room

February Message Series

"Diversity Love Stories"

In this February month of love, Rev. Doug will look at beautiful stories that show how love thrives across the wide dimension of human diversity.

Sunday, February 9: Coffeehouse Family Service

Hadrian and Antinous. Love that dares not speak its name.

Sunday, February 16: Other-Abled Love. Lessons of love that transcend the body.

Sunday, February 23 - Guest Speaker TBA



Hawaiian Luau: GNH's Spring Auction— April 4

Our annual spring auction—*Hawaiian Luau!*—is on **Saturday, April 4**. How can **YOU** help make it a big success? Here's how:

--Decide soon on what you would like to donate. Stop by the trifold auction display in the Quimby Room to check out last year's auction catalog for ideas. Pick up a donation contract there, fill it out, and put it in the auction donation box in front of the display.

--Take copies of Rev. Doug's business solicitation letter that you'll find in the display. Keep them in your car and drop them off at the businesses you patronize--restaurants, hair salons, dry cleaners, auto repair shops, florists, butcher shops, book stores, pet places, art studios, etc.

--If the business is willing to donate gift certificates, coupons, or items, ask if you can take the donation with you. If it isn't available yet, ask when you can pick it up. Or suggest they send it to GNH. Gift certificates are among our auction's most popular offerings, and a donation to our auction is good advertising for merchants.

--Many businesses are willing to match gift certificates you buy. You can donate them to the auction, or you can keep the one you purchase and donate the one the business gives you.

Auction Donations Needed! Proceeds from our annual auction meets approximately 10% of GNH's yearly budget. With a budget shortfall again projected for 2020, your auction donations and purchases will help a lot! Plan a creative and fun event to donate. Solicit or purchase a gift certificate to donate. Or, save up to purchase items to enjoy. Plan to invite family and friends.. If you will miss the auction, begin planning for proxy bidding. Contact Betsy Anderson!

St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church Partner Church Refresh Weekend

**Saturday, February 22nd
10am-6pm**

Rev. Roger Bertschausen
Executive Director of the UU Partner Church Council

Saturday's program will explore in-depth what it means to have a transformational partner church program, suitable for any Unitarian Universalist congregation. Lunch will be included. At four pm we will enjoy a presentation of traditional Hungarian folk dance, followed by dinner.

**Sunday, February 23rd
9:30-10:30am First Hour**

During First Hour we will have a special presentation for everyone, but especially focused on children and families, about visiting Transylvania as part of our planned family pilgrimage in 2021.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

UUA President



There are so many ways to engage with Unitarian Universalism right now, so many ways to connect to and deepen your faith—from celebrating 10 years of siding with love and liberation, to going all in for climate justice, to learning about sexuality in older years, and more. Developing programming for you is a source of great pride for UUA staff, and sharing it is an expression of our love for this faith and our commitment to its vitality today, and for generations to come.

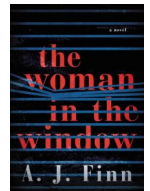
For more than a decade, Side With Love has been harnessing love's power to challenge identity-based oppression, and this powerful video shares some of that history. Watch and share it to inspire your congregation and community to recommit to seeking justice that is centered in courageous love.

GNH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Help Us Monitor Sink and Toilet Water Leaks: A recent running toilet in the Quimby lobby women's restroom resulted in a very high water bill for GNH. Please make sure all faucets and toilets are not running before you leave a restroom. And, if you see a repair or maintenance issue anywhere in our building, please let Rev. Doug, Adrienne Campbell, or Dave Hester know.

GNH Book Club –

February 7, 2020, 1:00 pm, Wyoming Comm Coffee,
The Woman In The Window by A.J. Finn



Lighthouse Youth Services Lunch Preparation.

GNH will next serve lunch at the Lighthouse Sheakley Center,
Wednesday, February 12, 11:00 am - 1:30 m.

At present we have plenty of volunteers, please consider
volunteering in March.

Do You Need a Tax Receipt for Your Auction 2019 Donations?

Changes in the tax code last year make it more difficult for many people to itemize deductions, so GNH is not sending out receipts for your Auction 2019 donations unless requested. If you would like a receipt, please contact Betsy Anderson at mbanderson1@zoomtown.com . Thank you!

GNH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Openings Available for Tenai/Barron Chinese New Year Party on February 8

The date for the popular Chinese New Year Party hosted by Kimberly Tenai and Brad Barron has been changed from Saturday, January 25, to **Saturday, February 8, 6:30 p.m.** at their Wyoming home. This is the year of the rat, and you will learn how to make jian bing, which are Chinese crepes. Your meal will include light appetizers, drinks, and dinner. The cost per person is \$25, and all proceeds will support GNH and its activities. If you are interested in attending, please contact Betsy Anderson at mbanderson1@zoomtown.com.

Scam E-Mail Alert!!!!

Unknown persons have been sending emails supposedly from Rev. Doug. They ask you to respond to the email but the email account is fake and does not belong to the church or to Rev. Doug. Do NOT respond to these emails. They will attempt to scam you or infect your computer with a digital virus. If you are suspicious about any email from church or Rev. Doug,

Shambhala Meditation Group

Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

The Shambhala Meditation Group welcomes newcomers and experienced meditators alike. Questions/RSVP: contact Alec Arnold .at akarnold@att.net

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Ginny Patterson is still recovering from surgery. She's experiencing continuing pain. Cards or emails of encouragement will be nice! Please contact Jack Brennan or Rev. Doug if you know of any member with care needs.

More Hospitality Volunteers Needed!!

Penny Shore has assembled a team of Hospitality volunteers.

**But we need more! Several upcoming weeks have no
volunteers willing to serve.**

**Please sign up at: [https:// www.signupgenius.com/
go/30e084ba8ad2fa1f58-gnhhospitality](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084ba8ad2fa1f58-gnhhospitality)**



HOSPITALITY

We love your generosity...but PLEASE label and food brought into the kitchen with name and event date. When the event is over, please remove all food that cannot be used for hospitality or that will spoil before Sunday. If you would like to donate food for use during Hospitality, please contact Penny Shore by 6pm on Saturday so that excess food is not purchased. Thank you very much for understanding. As we are striving to generate revenue from our building, we need to keep all areas of the church neat and clutter-free.

Echoes in the Quimby Room - No More Please!

After a relatively long process to find an effective but affordable solution to sound reverberation and echoes in the newly remodeled Quimby Room, new sound panels have gone up! Thanks to the leading efforts of Linda Gutowski, Ann Bobonick and Carolyn Boughton, affordable panels were found. Those attending the 2019 Annual Meeting in December selected one of two color schemes, the panels were ordered, and this past Saturday they went up!

Many, many thanks to Carolyn Boughton, Jeff Lachter, Sallie Ann Killian, Todd Wernicke, Keith Murrell, Sue Cline, Alan Garrison, and Rev. Doug - all who climbed ladders, measured carefully, drilled holes in the walls, and saved the congregation approximately \$700 in labor costs to put up the panels.

Please check out the Quimby Room for yourself to see if echoes are no more! Additional panels will go up soon and, if needed, more panels can be ordered.

We add very grateful thoughts of appreciation to the memory of former Northern Hills Fellowship member Fred Schroeder who gave the church a substantial bequest on his passing - a portion of which was used to purchase these panels. The majority of his bequest was otherwise invested in the GNH Endowment Fund.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Census Workers Needed

The Census Taker Positions provides the perfect opportunity to earn some extra income while helping your community. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine each state's representation in Congress, as well as how certain funds are spent for schools, hospitals, roads, and more. This is your chance to play a part in history and help ensure that everyone in your community is counted while earning full time pay!

To be eligible for a 2020 Census job, you must: be at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number, have a valid email address and complete an application and answer assessment questions.

The Census Takers work flexible hours (10-40 hours) in the community that you live and there are office positions available Monday thru Friday. Pay ranges from

\$15.00-\$23.50 an hour in Hamilton County Ohio.

Apply now at: <https://www.2020census.gov/en/jobs>

Questions call: **1-855-JOB-2020**

Submitted by
Officer Louis Arnold Sr.
Cincinnati Police Department
Clergy Liaison



GNH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Greeters

Need someone who enjoys meeting new people? Greeters are the first people to meet visitors and create a positive first impression of GNH. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Becky Wilson at rjda-vis019@gmail.com

Ways and Means (Fundraising)

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

“WE WELCOME NEW FUND RAISING IDEAS AND VOLUNTEERS”.

Contact Betsy Anderson at mbanderson1@zoomtown.com

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



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.

GNH Emergency Procedures

Be Vigilant and Aware!

On Sunday, Sept 15, Rev. Doug and Board President Sue Cline outlined procedures for the congregation to take in the rare event of the below emergencies. Please read these carefully...

- **Fire Emergency:** Pull Fire Alarm (Alarms located in Sanctuary, Front Lobby, Original Lobby, Quimby Room, Conference Room). Respond to alarm by evacuating building at nearest exit. Meet children and others in rear play area.
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- **Tornado Warning Siren:** Move to lower level hallway, closet, utility room, nursery restroom. Second best option: hallway and restrooms outside the church office. AVOID rooms with windows.
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- **Active Shooter:** Remember Flee, Hide, Fight. Respond to **Air Horn signal** that there is a dangerous and threatening person in the building. Call 911.
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- First option: **Flee** out nearest door or broken window (use hammer to break window near tech station). Run away from building.
 -
- Second option: **Hide** in Minister's office (door near tech station is usually unlocked during services. Lock it once inside.) **Hide** in classrooms, closets, etc.
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 - Last option: **Fight back** - throw chairs, etc. at perpetrator.
- Experts and Police advise not to try and talk to or negotiate with an active shooter.

Security Preventive Measures Implemented

- All outside entry / exit doors to remain locked at all times.
- Greeter opening of front entry doors on Sunday mornings.
- Upcoming installation of keypad entry system next to front doors. All members will be given the keypad code to enter front doors. Members of renting groups will be a given unique code.
- Doors will remain always locked.
- Changing of locks and limited key access to all other entry doors.
- Installation of locks on RE classroom doors.
- Sanctuary entry doors to be closed and locked during services. Usher will open door for latecomers.
- If you see anything suspicious, report to Minister, a Board member, Michael Tacy, Greeter, or Usher.
- Be especially aware when in building during non-Sunday meetings and events. Doors must be kept locked. Know who is attending a service or a meeting by introducing yourself to new visitors.
- All firearms are forbidden in the building. Signs posted. (recommended by police).
- New parking lot LED light fixture for nighttime.
- No Trespassing Signs around parking lot (recommended by police).
- Possible video surveillance cameras for front outside entry area.

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

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Email: gnhuu460@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm



NEXT Harbinger

**Our Next Harbinger will be
Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

Please have all articles to the office by 10 a.m. by the deadline, Monday, Feb 17, 2020 before the Harbinger is published. Space can be reserved on the rare occasion an article needs to be late.