

## 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**



FB/Loving them Quotes 2013 Image Source: PD/Pixabay

Spring is multi-coloured,  
like the singing of the birds,  
the crunching of the leaves,  
and the pattern of the Butterfly  
wings.

Spring is **pink**,  
like the snorting of the pigs,  
the pink cherry blossoms on the  
trees

and the cold ice pop that are **pink**.

Spring is **yellow**,  
like the sun above us,  
the bee's buzzing by above us  
and the bright daffodils in the  
field.

Spring is a perfect time of the year

*By Daniel, Oona, Leanna, Glenn and Chantelle*

## Brief Thoughts from Rev. Doug

In my message this past Sunday entitled "Blessed to Be a Blessing", I mentioned something many experts encourage people do as a way to stay positive at any time - but especially during difficult times.

They recommend keeping a blessing journal, writing a letter to yourself listing all of your blessings, *or* writing a note of appreciation to someone who has blessed you.

I encourage one of these exercises. I've written a letter to myself and it keeps getting longer the more I contemplate ways that I am fortunate - particularly during this time.

For the sake of this column, I am tremendously blessed by all of you.

- I am very grateful to still be working and to have a job that I enjoy and that fulfills me.
  - I'm blessed by each of your donations of time, talent, and treasure to GNH - personally because I know a portion of that is given to me.
  - I am blessed to hear of the many acts of kindness done by GNH members including the below:
    - buying and delivering groceries to a member who is housebound,
    - making free face masks for members,
    - delivering food items to Valley InterFaith,
    - anonymously bringing bouquets of flowers to GNH members,
    - helping with our live online Church Services,
    - staying in touch with other members during this time,
    - mowing our lawn for the first time this season,
    - continuing to support and "attend" GNH services,
    - continuing to volunteer for the work we do,
- and many more...

I am blessed beyond measure and I thank each of you for being a blessing to me and to many others. I again encourage you to literally count your blessings and open your mind and heart to all the good we each have.

**This SUNDAY'S MESSAGE, APRIL 5, 2020, Rev. Doug,  
"Valuing Solitude and Silence"**

**A Zoom Video Conferencing link, ID# and password for a LIVE Sunday Service will be sent to you in an email this coming Thursday afternoon.**

**After each LIVE video conference service, we will hold a live internet coffee social time for those who wish to share or chat - you will stay connected to the Zoom video streaming.**

**A YouTube link to watch Rev. Doug's message will also be sent on Thursday afternoon. This is for those who are unable to connect to Zoom Video Live Service.**

**Links to videos of music performed by Michael Tacy will also be sent.**

**ALL FUTURE 10:45 AM SUNDAY SERVICES, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, WILL BE OFFERED LIVE VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCING.**

We will send the link and very easy instructions on Thursdays. You will need a computer with a camera so others can see you! Rev. Doug, Michael Tacy, and a Service Leader will conduct all elements of a regular service so you can see, hear and sing along live! All who sign-in to the video conference Sunday service will be seen!

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS ON THURSDAYS OR FRIDAYS FOR THE UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICE INTERNET LINKS!!!!**

**Please join our new Facebook private group page called "GNH Connections".**

Go to your personal Facebook page, search for "GNH Connections" and on the page, click the button asking to join. One of the page administrators will approve you as soon as possible. With this page you can stay current on what's going on with GNH and our members. Add your own posts or general interest articles, movies, books or other media you recommend. Lighthearted and funny posts are also welcome. Thank you to Michael Tacy and Anthony (Khoa) Lewis for putting together the page!!!

# Staying in Touch Online!

Strange and difficult times these are – I hope everyone is coping, and finding opportunities for growth.

There are a couple of small groups working to make community possible, and you will hear from them. Here are some suggestions for you, and assistance:

Zoom – this is a FREE app for teleconferencing and it is quite easy. If you receive an invitation to join in a “meeting” or conversation, you need simply to click on a link in the invitation and you will be connected. We will be using Zoom for many things during this time – please join in.

The invitation will look like this:

It will look something like this:

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://zoom.us/j/200308414?  
pwd=VHVSD0dscFIYNStxMzFFNnI3cG10dz09](https://zoom.us/j/200308414?pwd=VHVSD0dscFIYNStxMzFFNnI3cG10dz09)

Meeting ID: 200 308 414  
Password: 333821

One tap mobile  
+16465588656,,200308414# US (New York)  
+16699009128,,200308414# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 200 308 414  
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adbK13HRM2>

Or you can dial in for just an audio connection.

The link will take you to a video meeting (but you can turn video off on a bad-hair day). Or you can dial in for just an audio connection.

For the Sunday service on March 29, we will hold a live internet streaming Sunday service using Zoom. We will send out a link for that service next week. To connect to it on Sunday the 29th, you will need to enter the ID number and password as above. It will be mostly a normal service but including music and hymns on line.

If you would like to HOST a meeting, the <https://zoom.us> website will tell you how. You can host a 40-minute meeting without cost

If you would like to HOST a meeting that is longer than 40 minutes, I can host it for you with my paid account – please contact me.

If you would like some help in getting started, again please contact me and I will help you and we can practice. It does not take long.

Sue Cline, [scline0149@gmail.com](mailto:scline0149@gmail.com), 513-212-1988.

# Practicing Community Care In Our Congregations

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President, [info@uua.org](mailto:info@uua.org)>



Dear The Gathering at Northern Hills - A UU Community,

I am so grateful for your ministry. Each day brings more difficult news of the impacts of coronavirus on our communities, our health systems, our economy, and our congregations. I am heartbroken to share with you that a few Unitarian Universalists have died from COVID-19 and a number of congregations are experiencing multiple cases of the virus among their members. We at the UUA also have staff members in quarantine. Together, we are all learning how to best support and care for one another.

This pandemic is a powerful reminder of our fundamental interdependence – that we are all connected and mutually dependent on each other for our well-being. **As Unitarian Universalists, we know this truth – but in response to this pandemic, it is ever more important that we live the practices of interdependence and community care.** We are bound to one another - locally and globally - and each person's health and wholeness rests in keeping the web of community strong.

Alongside all of you, we at the UUA recognize the need to focus on relationship, connection, and support. As aspects of grief grow in this pandemic, remember you are not alone but held in love by your fellow Unitarian Universalists and by your larger Association.

Press control and click on link

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBUhn2ZQpSI>**

**ALL GNH volunteer charity activities are cancelled until further notice.** These include Lighthouse meals, Freestore Food Bank Saturdays, and Valley InterFaith Resource Center Meals.

**Please Continue Your Generous Pledges and Donations.** GNH continues to have expenses - water, minimal heat, electricity, and staff salaries. Adrienne, Michael Tacy and Rev. Doug continue to serve the congregation. They have their own expenses. **Please mail your pledge and donation checks to the church at 460 Fleming Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231. We hope to soon implement an online giving platform for credit card pledging and donations.**

**Please Register with Kroger as a Member of The Gathering at Northern Hills.** If you need instructions on how to do this, please contact Rev. Doug. The church recently received a dividend of **\$165.55** from **Kroger** for the quarter beginning November 1, 2019, through January 31, 2020. Your shopping at Kroger, once registered with them as a member of GNH, helps put “free” money into our account! Thank you to all who are

**GNH member Cheryl Leksan was interviewed and featured on Channel 19 10 PM News, March 24th,** for her outreach and charitable work for the elderly during this pandemic. You can watch the interview at: **<https://www.fox19.com/2020/03/25/retired-xu-nursing-professor-making-masks-elderly/>**

**Cheryl Leksan has also volunteered her knowledge and training as a triage nurse** to GNH members for Covid-19 illness concerns. If you have questions, she is very willing to speak with you and offer advice by phone.

**If you are sick...**please let Rev. Doug or our Care Team know how we can help. **Also, PLEASE isolate from all other persons if you are ill. Everyone should wash hands regularly and frequently disinfect your living areas.**

## **THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:**

**John Courter**, husband of member **Harriet Courter**, underwent non-elective surgery for a throat problem on today, March 31. He will be recovering from home beginning April 1. Cards or emails for John and Harriet will be appreciated.

**Mel Levrant** is recovering at home and is mostly better. **Carole, his wife**, is isolated in a skilled nursing center and cannot see Mel or hear him on the phone.

**Tom Lottman's daughter** was recently very sick, perhaps with the corona virus. She is recovering. Tom is, of course, very concerned.

**Andy Rotterman's daughter** is expecting a child due in May. Please keep Andy, Jerry and their daughter in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

**Mary Lou Aufman** has almost completely recovered from an illness.

**Ginny Patterson** is recovering at home and feeling much better.

**Phyllis Berenson** awaits a delayed surgery. She is courageously dealing with her challenges with an upbeat attitude.

**MJ Pierson** is healing at home with a foot wound - which improves daily. She is in good spirits.

**John MacLeod** is well but concerned about his wife Mary Ann who he cannot see since she is in a skilled nursing unit.

**Dottie Tabor, Sue Woodruff, Mary Lou Aufman, Marti Spiess, Arlene Thorwarth, Andrew Ketterer, Mel Levrant, Nada Huron, Keith Murrell, Bob Freer, Rev. Doug, Julie Rose, Alan Garrison, Marcia Friedhoff, Sallie Ann Killian, Shelley Nelson, Adrienne Campbell** and a few others (?) all live alone. Please remember them with their extra isolation during this time.

Thoughts of gratitude to all members who have helped and served other members this past week.

**ALL GNH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS** are likely feeling extra anxiety during this time. Please keep one another in mind and heart. Reach out to any member - not just your immediate church friends. May one and all stay safe, healthy and at peace.

Please communicate with Rev. Doug or members of the Care Team (Patti Wiers, Jack Brennan, Arlene Thorwarth, Phyllis Berenson) if you have a prayer concern or need.

**WE ARE NO LONGER LISTING UPCOMING MEETING OR EVENT DATES DUE TO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHEN GNH WILL REOPEN. THE BOARD AND REV. DOUG WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED**

**Adrienne Campbell is working alone while maintaining normal office hours at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM to 4 PM. BUT, PLEASE DO NOT VISIT HER AT THE OFFICE.** Like everyone else, she is isolating to prevent the virus spread. If you have a need, please call her at the office.

### **Ministry Transition Could be Postponed.**

Rev. Doug and Michael Tacy have agreed that if the temporary closure of our church building is extended, the planned June 1 Ministry Transition will be postponed to a time after operations are more normalized. This is to insure that during the closed time, operations are as “smooth” as possible. The Board and Rev. Doug will keep you informed!



## **GNH “Hawaiian Luau” Auction Postponed From April 4 to September 12**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the temporary closing of our church building, the Auction Team has postponed GNH’s “Hawaiian Luau” Auction from Saturday, April 4, to Saturday, September 12. We discussed the possibility of having a mini auction later in spring or summer, perhaps after a Sunday service, to accommodate gift certificates that expire before September and social events that are scheduled before then. However, since we cannot be sure when social distancing will no longer be in effect, it’s impossible at this time to plan for a mini auction. In the meantime, while you’re isolated at home, why not put your crafting skills to use and make some items you can donate to the auction. Be sure to check future Harbingers and your email for any updates on our auction plans. Thanks for your patience!

### **Auction Donations Needed Now More Than Ever!**

Proceeds from our annual auction meets approximately 10% of GNH’s yearly budget. With a tight budget and having closed for several weeks, your auction donations for the September auction 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!

## **Easy and Safe Way to Help Feed Persons in Need During This Time**

**Valley InterFaith Community Resource Center, 420 W. Wyoming Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45215, will be accepting NON-PERISHABLE food, cleaning supplies or personal hygiene items ONLY tomorrow - Wednesday, April 1, from 9 to 11 AM, at their site (please do not drop off items after this date & time period - VICRC is closed.)**

If you wish to donate, you should drop off above items outside their side door. Nobody will greet you - just drop the items off and they will then be brought inside for disinfecting. VICRC will deliver the donated items to senior citizens and veterans with disabilities who live in communities near GNH.

VICRC is currently closed so clients they serve have been unable to obtain needed items. This is one way we can help.

### ***UUCouncil of Greater Cincinnati May 9 meeting***

***FB, PR, SEO. How do we get UU into more people's alphabets? (that stands for Facebook, Public Relations, Search Engine Optimization)***

At the May 9 virtual UUCouncil of Greater Cincinnati meeting, we'll collaborate to improve how people find our churches. What are our messages? How do different generations seek a liberal church? We'll share communication outreaches, discuss our vision of what the UUCGC website could be, and share social media strategies.

Facilitator will be Claire Wagner, local UU, and recent Director of News and Communications Staff at Miami University.

Mark your calendar for May 9 from 9:30-11, and watch for specific details in mid-April on how to be included.

## Federal Dollars Possibly Available to GNH

Thanks to information provided by Carole Womeldorf and UU Justice Ohio, GNH will soon be applying for Federal assistance funds recently approved by Congress.

Small businesses and non-profit organizations may apply through the Small Business Administration for 1-3 months of operating expenses as a no-interest loan might be forgivable after one year.

Your Board will be working to apply. If you'd like to help in the application process, please contact Board President Sue Cline.

## We Need Lawn Mowers!! Soon!

GNH is in need of volunteer lawn mowers this season. The task is relatively easy: turn a key in the mower to start the engine, disengage the parking brake, drive the mower out of the storage shed, stop the mower, engage the grass cutting deck, begin driving forward and mowing!

Rev. Doug or someone from last year's lawn mowing team can walk you through the mower starting process in person, by phone or, if you have an Apple iPhone, by a video phone call.

If you volunteer, you will be scheduled to mow the lawn about once a month through September. You can mow anytime that is convenient for you during your scheduled week.

Having volunteers mow our grass saves the congregation approximately \$4000.00 annually. Your help is a valuable and a needed donation of time and heart to GNH!

This task is open to all able GNH members and responsible GNH teens.

Please contact Rev. Doug.

## **What We Must All Do During These Uncertain Times: **Isolate!!****

**The loving action we should all do now is to SELF-ISOLATE, or ISOLATE WITH JUST IMMEDIATE FAMILY. Isolating as much as possible must continue for as long as recommended by health authorities and experts. Isolation, no matter one's age, will limit or even stop the spread of the virus. This is the moral imperative of our time. We trust that all agree!**

## **The Ohio Legislature just passed provisions for the Ohio Primary election on June 2, 2020. That will NOT be an in-person election date.**

Instead, those who have not voted have until April 28th to request an absentee ballot. If you have already voted by absentee ballot or in an early election site, your votes WILL count. We encourage all registered voters who have not yet voted to get an absentee ballot and vote! Here are instructions for getting an absentee ballot (pass them on to family and friends):

You will have to request an Absentee Ballot from your respective counties' Boards of Elections.

The request form is available online. You can fill it out and print, then send it to your county Board of Elections. See the form and instructions at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballot/>

Or you can request an application form by phone and have it mailed to you. Once completed, you mail the application back to your county Board of Elections.

You can find contact, phone and mailing information for all 88 Ohio county Boards of Elections offices here. Or at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>

Once you are approved as an absentee voter, you will receive a blank Absentee Ballot in the mail.

Fill out your Ballot and then mail it back or drop it off at your Board of Elections office. Many counties have Drop Boxes for this. **If mailed, it must be postmarked by April 27 to count.**

## 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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### OFFICE HOURS

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



## NEXT Harbinger

**Our Next Harbinger will be  
Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

**Please** have all articles to the office by 10 a.m. by the deadline, Monday, Apr 13, 2020 before the Harbinger is published. Space can be reserved on the rare occasion an article needs to be late.