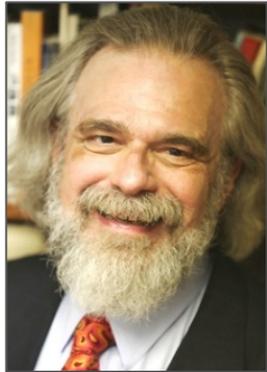




From the Minister

The Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson is serving as UCH Minister 2018-20.



August and September are going to be busy and exciting months at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg.

The Ingathering service will be August 25, coinciding with the start of the public school year. But the work of the church year has already begun. One small example: I am writing this column while still on vacation. It will be brief.

Beginning August 1, I will be back on duty full time and working with the staff and lay leadership to make the 2019-2020 church year a year of growth in membership, in spirit, and in ministry. One example: On Tuesday, August 6, the urban working group that has developed out of the ministry at Market Street will meet (details below), and all UCH members are welcome to attend. The following day, August 7, the worship team will meet. I will generally be available to meet members in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoon. Beginning in September, there will open conversations with the minister scheduled for one evening each month.

Throughout the summer, staff and lay leadership have been busy with the work of the church. The 2018-2019 fiscal year ended on June 30—and it ended with a surplus. None of the surplus came from the proceeds of the sale of the Market Street building. The surplus is the product of your generosity—total giving by members and friends was higher than projected—and the care exercised by the Board of Trustees and the staff in managing the church’s resources. An excellent series of lay-led services on the Summer of Love have filled your hearts and minds through the summer.

In September, you, the members, will be asked to vote on the Vision developed over the past year and then to begin work on a Mission. Missioning, I can assure you, will move at a faster speed than did visioning. The calendar for these actions will be finalized in August.

Please enjoy the rest of the time off you may have this summer. I am planning to enjoy my final days of vacation. Then we can dive into the future of the UCH, a future built on your vision, your passion, your commitment.

I look forward to seeing you in Harrisburg in August.

The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson

| Worship Services | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Sundays at 10:30 a.m. | | |
| Date | In the Pulpit | Title |
| 4-Aug | Mary Henninger-Voss | Love in the Post-Truth World |
| 11-Aug | Pete Trufahnestock | Love of Laughter |
| 18-Aug | Robin Stillwater | When Love is Not Enough |
| 25-Aug | Rev. Tony Johnson | Ingathering Service |

Urban Ministry Working Group

A group of UCH members met on Saturday, June 15, to solidify an urban ministry working group. The eight members at the meeting (plus at least four others) constitute the core of the working group. Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, in the Clover Lane sanctuary.

The working group has many good ideas under discussion that include ministry in which UCH is already engaged (mostly on Allison Hill) and for ministry elsewhere in the city. All UCH members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.

– Submitted by Rev. Johnson

Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood Keystone

Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with Planned Parenthood Keystone.

Planned Parenthood Keystone has been serving Central and Eastern Pennsylvania since 1926 and sees over 22,000 patients in its 9 health centers each year. Its mission is to provide and promote access to the essential reproductive health care services and comprehensive sexuality education that people need to live healthy lives and build strong communities.



President's Message



By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

The news could not be better as we move into our next church year. We ended the 2018-19 fiscal year with a surplus of approximately \$40,000. We did not need to pull any money from an endowment or other sources. Note that this surplus is separate from the small profit that we made by selling our Market Street property. It has truly been

a good year for our finances.

How did we do this? Part of it was careful budgeting, a close watch on expenses, and the successful sale of one property. But mostly, it was because of your continued financial support of our congregation. You have remained dedicated and generous through our many years of transition. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Most of the \$40,000 will be set aside for future use. Some may be used to replenish the endowment and capital funds. The Finance Committee is preparing specific recommendations.

But we have approved funding to repair the elevator! We recently had a new evaluation done of its status, and since there is now funding available, we can afford the \$4,000 to make it function again. We know this has been important to our congregation, and it will greatly improve our accessibility. We hope to have it back in operation later in August.

Our Sunday lay-led services have been wonderful, as they always are. I've enjoyed hearing the perspectives and insights of our talented church members. I admire their wisdom and creativity.

It also reminds me how little I know about the people in my own church community. I will endeavor to get to know each of you better. In fact, I hope that all of us can deepen our bonds with each other over the coming months and years. Whether through Covenant groups, lay-led ministries, volunteer efforts, or coffee hour, let us strengthen our community by spending time with each other, and especially with those whom we don't know as well.

Table with 2 columns: Date, Trustee. Rows: 4-Aug Joe Melillo, 11-Aug Patti Hazell, 18-Aug Keva Brown, 25-Aug Dennis Hursh.

Rev. Johnson returns to Harrisburg on August 1. (His yearly contract starts one month after the fiscal year begins.) He will continue his work with the staff, the board, and the various teams and committees. He will also continue the important visioning process to help us clarify who we are as a congregation and what we want our future to be. His first sermon will be on In-Gathering Sunday, August 25.

It was a genuine pleasure to serve as your president for my first year. It required a lot of time and energy, but it was also deeply enjoyable and very educational. I now feel better seasoned, as I move into my second term.

I continue to believe that our best days are ahead of us, now more than ever. With our finances stabilized, we can begin to act on the goals and visions that we have for our church community.

David Spear

Join the Gift Card Program Family!!

If you shop at Giant, Weis, or Karns, you can also support the church by buying their gift cards through UCH. There is no surcharge or markup. Giant pays 10% of the face value to the church; Weis and Karns pay 5%. The \$500 a month you spend at Giant would mean \$50 to UCH, an annual contribution of \$600! The grocery gift card forms are available online or on the hallway bulletin board (near the restrooms) in the Common Room. If you have any questions about the gift card program, please email Tavia Flanagan or call the church office. Thank you for your support!



Market Street Renovations

Work continues on the former UCH building at 1508 Market Street, as reported by The Burg and WGAL TV. Shalom House, which owns the building, has partnered with Capital Area Head Start to initiate a Head Start program there and recoup space lost in 2018-19 for the children's program. Among other things, Shalom House has purchased the four lots behind the building for use as a children's playground.

- Compiled from media reports

Religious Exploration Corner with DRE Sara Palmer



By Sara Palmer, Director of Religious Exploration

Unitarian Universalists practice a non-creedal faith. "Non-creedal" means we don't have a set of ideas you must agree to in order to join our church or fellowship. That makes us kinda unique in America, where most mainline popular religions do have a list of beliefs to become a member.

But can we believe and do whatever we want, then? Ah, there's perhaps the biggest myth in UU circles! I tell visitors and members, "Oh, you can believe whatever you want and attend a UU church, but you probably won't be super comfortable with what you hear and see here... Someone who says men are the natural heads of their households, that children should be seen and not heard, or who thinks that their way

is the only way to a better afterlife, they're certainly welcome in our church. However, they may not find much support or agreement with their opinions."

We use the UU Seven Principles as a shorthand "Yeah, these are the broad things we agree to" and the Six Sources as "And this is where we get those ideas." And it's wonderful that we can look at our wide range of beliefs and see where they fit on the spectrum of the Seven Principles. There's a joke that says if you gather nine UUs in a room, you'll have at least 10 points of view; it's a joy to watch how we fit all of those on the platform of the Seven Principles.

The Seven Principles are great! Who doesn't love to promote, for instance, the Sixth Principle, "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all"?

But... how do we actually do that? Do we have operating instructions on how to put that in practice? What does it look like?

And that's where our UCH Covenant comes into place. You may have seen it, framed, on the table by the kitchen at Clover Lane or written out in wide laminated yellow bookmarks on the hymn shelves. If you've attended the UCH Visioning or RE Planning workshops, you've had a chance to look at them a little more closely.

In RE, we remind the children and youth that a covenant isn't a list of rules that we have to follow or else. A covenant is an agreement we've made as a group of the ways we want to BE together. It includes ground-level practical ideas like "I will speak to someone if I'm having a conflict with them, rather than to others" and "I will ask clarifying questions to understand someone better."

If the Seven Principles and Six Sources are the foundation of Unitarian Universalism, covenants (between congregants, groups, staff, and leadership) are the walls, windows, doors, and roof. When we aren't sure about our covenants, or neglect to understand and abide by them, BOOM! Down goes that retaining wall, making the whole structure less safe.

The Covenant isn't a "gotcha" document, where we just look side-eyed at each other, waiting for them to mess up so we can call them out. Our covenant can ask that we "call them IN", meaning - "I care enough about you, our relationship, and the health of our church community to bring this up. If I didn't care, I'd just shrug and walk away." Calling us IN is usually uncomfortable, because many of us avoid conflict as a way of keeping the peace on the surface, but using the Covenant means we have a way to frame it and a way to ask us to show up again and try. We're human. We're going to mess up and anger people and disappoint people and be perfectly imperfectly. And as Rumi stated and our hymn "Come, Come Whoever You Are" rephrases:

Come, come, whoever you are,
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving,
it doesn't matter.
Ours is not a caravan of despair.
Come, even if you have broken your vow a hundred times.
Come, come again, come.
— Rumi

In the next few weeks, take a look at our UCH Covenant. Read it over, maybe with a fellow UCH friend or two, and ask yourself two questions:

- 🍌 What one or two of these covenant agreements are easy for me to do or think? Why? Is there anyone I can help who may have a harder time with them?
- 🍌 What one or two of these covenant agreements are REALLY HARD for me to do or think? What can I do to work on them? Who can I ask for help?

We don't do any of this alone. Thank goodness.

PrideFest 2019

UCH teamed with the Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice (RCRJ) to sponsor a booth at PrideFest on July 27. Among others, the following UCH members helped staff the booth throughout the day: Bill, Lileigh and Rhyan Brown (photo); Katie and Justin Sciamanna; Lori Lee Reed; Suzie Smith; and Suzanne von Leuschner. Many thanks also to Rachel and Michael Mark for loaning the pavilion tent.

Having multiple people on duty was especially helpful in the peak afternoon period. Other UCH people were at the Bail Reform table and the Fair Districts table, or just circulating wearing shirts advertising "free Mom hug" to PrideFest attendees who weren't getting love from their birth family.

Help with the RCRJ side of the table also made a big difference. The team asked people to send postcards to Sen. Bob Casey and Sen. Pat Toomey and their congressman in support of the federal Each Woman Act. By the end of the day, the team had collected about 50 post cards, plus donations to cover the cost of the postcard stamps.

And a special "Thank you" to the Silent Witness Peacekeepers, started at UCH many years ago, who interposed their rainbow umbrellas between us (the closest table to the religious protesters) and the festival attendees, many of whom wanted to shout back at them or worse. Silent Witnesses successfully kept physical confrontation to zero - not a small accomplishment, considering the hate speech from the protesters.

The weather was hot and dry and generally breezy, and the venue was accessible to all, and it was a good day.

– Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

Clover Lane Landscape

The Clover Lane campus covers several acres in front and back of the church, including 17 individual garden areas ranging in size from a few flowerpots to 1,400 square feet. Dedicated UCH members are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of their assigned plots. In addition, Queen Spirit maintains a secluded area on the lower level behind the Common Room.

Many of you have noticed the new plantings in the raised planters on each side of the front entrance. Many thanks to Kathleen Gorak for this lovely improvement. And thanks also to Justin and Katie Sciamanna for taking charge of the garden along the eastern side of the church.

Some of you may have noticed that many our garden areas are running unfavorably wild. If anyone can give an hour or two to help tame them, please contact Ron Skrabut directly (Ronskrabut@hotmail.com or 717-236-1876).

– Submitted by Ron Skrabut

Become a Coffee Hour Hero

Have you ever wondered just how the yummy drinks and treats appear for coffee hour and conversation each week? Shockingly, there are no coffee fairies or elves living in our lower level; a few amazing volunteers make this happen. One of those amazing volunteers could be you!! No need to sign up or commit to a date, just head downstairs and ask the person setting up or cleaning up how you can help. Supplies are provided; make yourself at home and lend a hand. The more people that learn how to help out, the less of a burden the task is on a few.

Please contact [Tavia Flanagan](#) for additional informational.

– Submitted by Tavia Flanagan



Helping People in Prison and Their Families: Re-Entry Breakfast Sept. 21

This year will be the 12th time UCH has hosted the Community Connections Breakfast, hosted each month by a different church. The guests are brought by vans or volunteer cars from work release and halfway houses in the Harrisburg area to enjoy a hot meal, an inspiring speaker, and our appreciation of their 'inherent worth and dignity.'

Each September, the breakfast succeeds because UCH members and friends pitch in. Here is what you can do:

- 🍳 Help bake breakfast casseroles on Friday afternoon at Clover Lane. Margaret Carrow has the recipe and will lead the effort.
- 🍳 Help set up the tables and chairs Friday afternoon for the 40 or so guests we expect, plus 10-15 drivers and other volunteers
- 🍳 Help Margaret and the other cooks Saturday morning starting at 7:00 a.m. to prepare the food, brew coffee, pour juice, set out condiments and set the tables to make the guests feel welcome
- 🍳 As the guests arrive starting about 8:30 a.m., make sure they have coffee/tea/juice and snacks
- 🍳 Beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the invocation, be ready for the buffet line, staffed by volunteer servers. We expect many good appetites!
- 🍳 As the breakfast winds down and guests leave about 10:20, begin the clean-up to restore the room for Sunday's coffee hour

THANKS!

– Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh for the HPPTF steering committee: Margaret Carrow, Jim Cavanaugh, Chris Dutton, and John Hargreaves.

Gather the Spirit

Gather the Spirit for Justice (GTS) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that brings together Allison Hill residents, area organizations, businesses and churches to address issues of social justice and economic equity. It was jointly founded by UCH and the Shared Ministry. It now operates out of Christ Lutheran Church 124 South 13th Street. The following message is from GTS President Clay Lambert.

A Message from GTS' President

Gather the Spirit for Justice's board members have met internally and been in discussion with professional contractors to identify next steps for using our space at Christ Lutheran Church (CLC). As you may be aware, the space contains asbestos flooring material and select locations of asbestos insulation. To make any space modifications for best use for our programs and to allow accessibility to all of our guests, the asbestos will be professionally abated, and we will install a wheelchair lift leading to the community space.



After researching bids and much deliberation, we have obtained the following information regarding potential costs:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Asbestos abatement: | \$8,500 |
| Kitchen fixture removal: | \$1,500 |
| ADA wheelchair lift (installed) | \$22,000 |
| Dedicated electrical circuit for lift and ramps for building access | \$15,000 (est.) |

These renovations are an effort to help GTS' programs complement the existing outreach and programs currently offered at CLC. We are working to make GTS' function part of the greater whole that is a vibrant space and open to welcoming guests daily. The board has authorized GTS Vice President John Abbott to enter into contracts for asbestos abatement and fixture removal to accommodate the abatement process.

GTS will be on site at CLC on Saturday, August 3, to demolish select fixtures and remove excess debris to allow contractors to begin their work. The following weekend, GTS invites volunteers, donors, and friends to join us at 10 a.m. on August 10 at an Open House. We anticipate contract work will begin sometime mid-month, and we plan to host another Open House in the fall.

We are incredibly grateful that an anonymous donor has already come forward to sponsor the flooring replacement. GTS will hold another fundraising campaign this fall to secure resources for this and additional work in the future.

I personally want to thank John Abbott for leading our renovation efforts. John has invested countless hours in the task, and we are incredibly grateful for him and all of his work to help us move forward. I also want to thank program director Jacquie Rucker for her consistent leadership and flexibility, and the board for their dedication and commitment.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you August 10.

Peace, *Clay Lambert*

Membership News

We celebrate, we mourn.



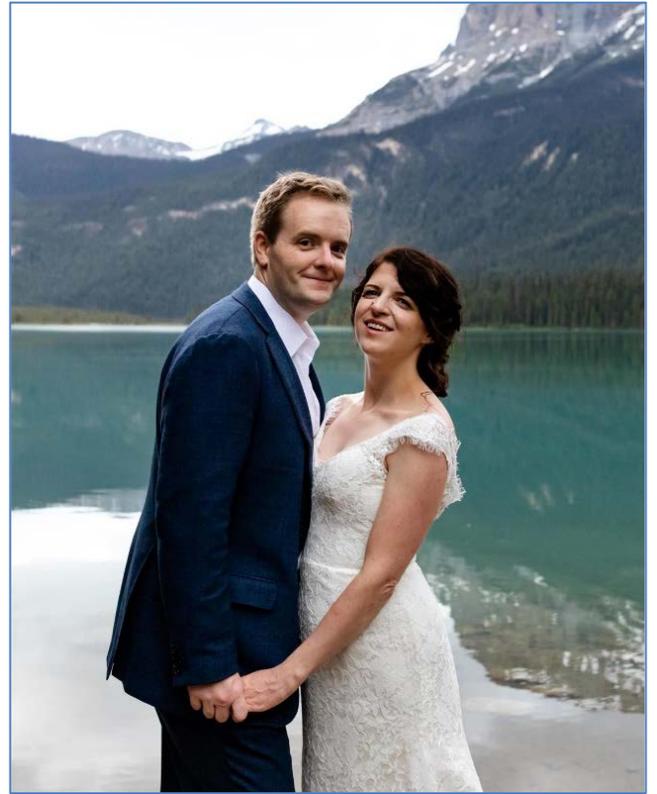
Fabio/Emily Lessa Family

Madison Louise Lessa

Madison Louise Lessa was born July 23 at Overlook Medical Center in Summit New Jersey. She is the daughter of Emily (Dourte) Lessa and Fabio Lessa, and the granddaughter of UCH members Dale and Joyce Dourte. Madison joins a brother, Lucas, 2.5, at home.

Mel Dourte 1932-2019

Mel Dourte, 87, of Lebanon died July 25. He is the father of UCH member Dale Dourte. Services will be Aug. 2 in Lebanon. In addition to Dale and Joyce, he is survived by his wife; two other children and their spouses; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two brothers.



Back-Cox Nuptials

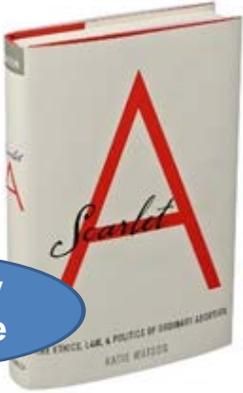
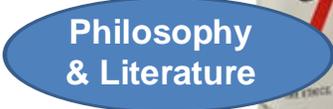
Abigail Back, daughter of Andy Back and Kevin Geist, was married June 13 to Sean Cox, son of Greg and Martha Cox of Atlanta, GA. They were married at Banff National Park, Alberta, in a private elopement ceremony overlooking Moraine Lake.

The ceremony was followed a few weeks later by receptions in Atlanta and Hershey for both families. The happy couple live in Atlanta, where Abby is working as a hospital administrator in the Piedmont Health system and Sean is a partner in a law firm.

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG
presents
FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
with an evening of
CELEBRATING WOODSTOCK, AN ALL-CHURCH AUCTION

Sat, Nov 2nd,
5:30 PM
\$10/person
\$20/family

**PEACE
LOVE
& MUUSIC**

| Date | Time | Group | Location |
|--|------|---|--|
| Mon 5 | 6:30 | Amrit Yoga (Weekly) | Clover Lane |
| <p>Amrit yoga is a form of hatha yoga developed by Yogi Amrit Desai. The entire process moves and stretches every part of your body for an energetic workout and includes a calming, meditative relaxation at the end.</p> <p>No experience necessary! Contact Ed Sykes. Repeats every Monday.</p> | | |  |
| Tue 6 | 6:45 | Mindfulness Meditation Group (Weekly) | Clover Lane |
| <p>Mindfulness is an acquired skill, practiced while meditating but vital in our everyday lives. Mindfulness is helpful in reducing stress, managing pain, focusing attention, and overcoming habitual negative behavior. Mindfulness can also point the way to spiritual practice, calming the mind and developing awareness and insight.</p> <p>The ability to be mindful is strengthened through consistent practice. Mindfulness Meditation Group provides a space for us to practice together in support of one another. Contact Chuck Daley. Repeats every Tuesday.</p> | | |  |
| Wed 7 | 6:00 | QueenSpirit (Monthly) | Clover Lane |
| <p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that normally meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month Donna Hoover will be leading our circle on the topic of self care.</p> <p>Please bring a favorite snack or beverage to share. All women, and those who gender-identify as women, are welcome. Please bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share. Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Circle starts at 7:00 p.m., ending at 8:30 pm. Contact Rebecca Waldemar for further information.</p> | | |  |
| Sun 11 | 7:00 | Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly) | Clover Lane |
| <p>The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. at Clover Lane. This month, the group meets to discuss <i>Scarlet A: The Ethics, Law, and Politics of Ordinary Abortion</i> by Katie Watson. From one online reviewer:</p> <p>Although Roe v. Wade identified abortion as a constitutional right in 1973, it still bears stigma--a proverbial scarlet A. Millions of Americans have participated in or benefited from an abortion, but few want to reveal that they have done so. Approximately one in five pregnancies in the US ends in abortion. Why is something so common, which has been legal so long, still a source of shame and secrecy? Why is it so regularly debated by politicians, and so seldom divulged from friend to friend? This book explores the personal stigma that prevents many from sharing their abortion experiences with friends and family in private conversation, and the structural stigma that keeps it that way.</p> <p>Please contact Don Brown for information.</p> | | |   |
| Tue 13 | 6:30 | Women's Night Out (Monthly) | Off-site |
| <p>Women's Night Out is a lay-led ministry that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at a local restaurant, alternating locations between the East and West Shores. Each month at dinner, participants take a collection. Proceeds are divided between the Ecumenical Food Pantry and UCH.</p> <p>Our group meets Tuesday, August 13, at 6:30 p.m. Rock Bass Grill, 461 S. Front Street, in Wormleysburg. Please RSVP to Chris Dutton or Diane Stables by the Sunday beforehand.</p> | | |  |
| Sun 18 | 9:30 | Sunday Morning Forum (Weekly) | Clover Lane |
| <p>Facilitated by Fred Binkley, Barb Pearce, and others, the group meets for an hour of discussion on Sunday mornings at Clover Lane, with varying topics. During the summer, the group meets on an occasional basis – this month on August 18. Our topic is "What's News?" led by Fred Binkley and Barb Pearce.</p> <p>Please contact Barb Pearce for additional information.</p> | | |  |

| Date | Time | Group | Location |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Tue 20 | 10:00 | CroneSpirit (Monthly) | Clover Lane |
| <p>The lay-led ministry CroneSpirit meets from 10 a.m. - noon in Fuller Chapel at the Clover Lane campus on the third Tuesday of the month. Our topic this month is "The Decline of Western Liberalism." We are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion group for women over 65, both UCH members and non-members • Honoring a crone tradition of conscious female aging and self-power • For personal enrichment, such as through intellect, knowledge, comfort or companionship, anticipating a maximum of 10 women • Sharing, listening and learning, without gossip to or about each other <p>We look forward to seeing you. For information, please contact Joan Hellmann.</p> | | | |
|  | | | |
| Wed 21 | 6:00 | Clover Grove (Monthly) | Clover Lane |
| <p>Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists that meets on the third Wednesday, with a program that varies based on the cycle of seasons and forces of nature. Join Clover Grove for a Woodstock Festival with potluck. Wear your favorite tie-dye T-shirts and groovy shorts. We are gonna jam like it's still the 60s!!! All are welcome. Please contact Wayne Minich for further information.</p> | | | |
|  | | | |
| Tue 27 | 6:30 | Auction Planning Committee | Clover Lane |
| <p>Yep, the weather outside may be frightfully. . . hot, but really, we are soooo cool. Come join us for peace, love and music at our Woodstock-themed All Church Auction. More information will be coming soon, but for now think about what you can donate to make the auction and our church community even more fab. Auction donation info must be submitted by September 22 to guarantee inclusion in the auction booklet. Save the date: Be there or be square Saturday, Nov. 2 2019</p> <p>The Auction Planning Committee meets the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Priestley Room, Clover Lane location. Come brainstorm ideas, themes, and be a part of the fun, food, & fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2019 All-Church Auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success,</p> <p>Please contact Patti Hazell to volunteer or for additional information.</p> | | | |
|  | | | |

Covenant Group Sign Ups!

Covenant Groups will meet the second Monday and Tuesday evenings and the second Wednesday morning starting in September. Members are asked to commit to the entire season of meetings.

SIGN UP Now for Covenant Groups using any of these options:

- 1. Send an email to Covenant@harrisburguu.org including your name, phone number, and desired meeting date.
- 2. Call Joyce Stoltzfus @ 717-519-9322 or Sandy Hamstra @717-309-5357.
- 3. Go to [our website](#) and click on the link on the page for registration.
- 4. Sign up in person during coffee hour through August 4th.
- Please sign up early to ensure placement in a specific group. To facilitate group process and individual growth, couples are encouraged, but not required, to sign up for different groups.

– Submitted by Sandy Hamstra

Examining Whiteness: Segregated Knowledge

Since 2017, a lay-led group of UCH members and friends has been exploring [Examining Whiteness: An Anti-Racism Curriculum](#) and developing thought-provoking synopses. This month's focus: Segregated Knowledge.

The dominant group doesn't need to "see" the minority, or acknowledge their experience, whether the role is defined by gender, class, age, or color.

- "Racism is Real" (3:04 min.) [YouTube](#)

– Submitted by Cordell Affeldt and Chris Dutton