

## 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 agree-  
ment with our purposes and  
principles.*

**Website:**

<http://www.gnhuu.org>

**Join GNH Sunday  
Morning Services  
at 10:45**

**or Join GNH on Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/91833287637>

**Please email  
gnh460@gmail.com  
to receive additional  
Church information**



BY ALL THESE  
*lovely tokens*  
SEPTEMBER  
*days are here,*  
WITH SUMMER'S BEST  
*of weather*  
AND AUTUMN'S  
*best of cheer.*



helen hunt jackson

# Sanctuary Services

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
11:am - 4:00 PM

Join GNH Zoom Sunday Morning Service Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91833287637>

*GNH currently offers hybrid services.*

You may attend in our sanctuary or online via our Zoom Link:

**All past service videos can be found on the church webpage:**  
[gnhuu.org](http://gnhuu.org)

Click where it says "**View the latest service videos here**" and the most recent service video will appear. At the top right of the video you will see a three line icon, click this to access other service videos.

**Masks Consideration**  
[COVIDACTNOW.org](http://COVIDACTNOW.org) states that our area is at a **MEDIUM** level of community risk for COVID,  
Please consider your personal situation and make the choice that is right for you.

## **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES** **Month of September**

**Sunday, September 21, 2025, "Right Ways & Words"** concludes with Part Two: **"A Place at Our Table"** Here **Khoa Lewis** offers some thoughts on how awareness and compassion can guide us in transforming those in our society who would oppress with force and violence...without resorting to violence ourselves.

**Sunday, September 28, 2025,** We will hear the wisdom of our late member **Rev. Richard Venus** in a sermon presented by his wife **Marcia Venus**. **"The Gift of Years"** was Richard's last sermon, given when he retired from UU ministry. It is not included in his book **"Every Place is Holy Ground"**, so this is a premier for most of us.

## Konsious Konsense

Hello GNH members and friends,

This is Khoa writing the first article for a new semi-regular Harbinger column. I had wanted a recurring space for sharing ideas arising in my various spiritual endeavors--a "cognitive staging area" for messages and discussions amongst us. The Service Planning Team will use the space to solicit ideas and keep you abreast of efforts. Michael is known for his skill to reach into his mind and pull out "what's been on there", making for great discussion material. So without any specific promised pattern of recurrence, we offer this space for articles such as these.

This can also include writings by any of our members and friends. Perhaps you have profound ideas to share but feel more comfortable publishing in written form rather than delivering by speaking. Here's the venue! It's an experiment in mindful creativity for generating good worship space. Even the title is experimental (do YOU understand what the current one means?) and will likely change from issue to issue. What will be constant is the hope that it inspires and uplifts and grounds our community in its shared worship space. I will be covering "editor" duties, so if you have something for us, feel free to send it along in email to [khoalewis@proton.me](mailto:khoalewis@proton.me) with the subject "For the Harbinger Column".

And now on to some musings. In the Lakota tradition of the sweat lodge there are tiny sacred pouches of tobacco strung around the interior of the lodge. The tobacco plant invokes the union of Father Sky and Mother Earth and the prayers that come through us native creatures inhabiting that space. The tobacco holds these prayers as they form during the lodge. Through tobacco-soaked sweat running into the soil and through the smoke of its combustion wafting into the air, the prayers are presented back to the Mother and Father as a sacred offering. It is instructive to imagine ourselves exhibiting that degree of deliberate care and reflective tending with all of the words we speak and all of the ways we engage. Indeed one of the prayer ties always strung before a lodge are the white and black pouches, fifteen each, for Right Ways and Words.

This is what we do in a Sunday Worship Service with the songs, gongs, quotes and quips: we are setting the stage, establishing an intention and raising resonant energy to support the capacity of the message we receive to transform us. The entire service we do to hold up the proper intention and energy for our lives throughout the week. These implicit rituals in our lives, like the words in our messages, all serve to keep us strong in our beliefs so that we may live well and love.

A matter of right ways and words has been on my mind concerning ideation about the "end of things" and apocalyptic fixations: what do they mean? how do we survive them? Coming up in September (14th & 21st ) I'm delivering a two-part message series. Right Ways & Words **Part One: "Ontocalypse Now"** will consider significant revelations that life sometimes brings us that so completely undermine our usual basic assumptions and beliefs that it throws us for a loop. We will discover what might be the most shocking revelation to end all such revelations. **Part Two: "A Place at Our Table"** offers some thoughts on how that ultimate revelation can guide us in transforming those in our

## Donations Needed by VICRC

While Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) is undergoing extensive building renovations, it is still welcoming food and toiletry donations to distribute to those in need. Besides the items we've been collecting—**pasta, cereal and paper products**—other highly desirable donations include **tuna, canned fruit, diapers and feminine hygiene products**. Your donations can be put in the large basket or plastic tub at the base of the stairs in the Quimby Room foyer. Thanks for your generosity!

## CONGRADULATIONS TO JACK BRENNAN “Football Sissy”

The release of his book was on September 9, 2025.  
It is in book stores and Amazon





## **TUESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP**

**Every Second Tuesday  
Discussion via Zoom**

**The next meeting will be on The Second Tuesday,  
October 14, 2025  
from 3:00 to 4:00 pm via Zoom.**

**The discussion may range freely, but we will start by  
giving thoughts on “Abundance.”**

This is an informal meeting of a casual group of GNH members and friends.  
**ALL are welcome and encouraged to join this session.**

If you are not already on the mailing list to receive the Zoom link and  
preparation email, contact Susanne Bjorner [susanne.bjorner@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.bjorner@gmail.com)  
or Sue Cline [scline0149@gmail.com](mailto:scline0149@gmail.com).

## **Lighthouse Shelter for Youth**

**October 20, 2025,  
Third Monday of the Month, at 12:00 PM.**

**All drop off food is welcome.  
Cook and/or Serve Lunch for homeless youth**

***We arrive at the Lighthouse at 11:30 and serve at noon.  
Contact Cheryl if anyone wants to donate food.***

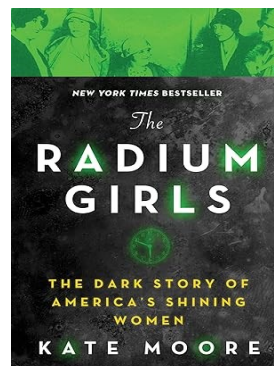
# Book Club,

Will Meet on the 1st Friday each month

*October 3, 2025*

GNH Quimby Room at 1:00 PM

October 3, 2025 The Radium Girls  
by Kate Moore



November 7 The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

December 5 James by Percival Everett

January 2, 2026 Belgravia by Julian Fellows

February 6, 2026 Becoming Madame Secretary  
by Stephanie Dray

March 6, 2026 Why Fish Don't Exist by Lulu Miller

April 3, 2026 Life And Art by Richard Russo

May 1, 2026 Football Sissy by Jack Brennan

June 5, 2025 The God of The Woods by Liz Moore

# GNH BOOK CLUB

# GNH Community Garden

**A special thank you from the Community Garden Team  
to NADA HURON and ALAN GARRISON f**  
or their donations of lawn mowers for  
inside the community garden space.

The problem we faced was that the large mower  
from the service could not fit through the gates.

But if we left the fence open,  
the deer would eat everything else we planted!!

We really appreciate the gift!!

Thank You,  
Lindsey

**GNH COMMUNITY GARDEN ... Calling all Gardeners!**

It's time to start working on our Community Garden!

More information to come in the next Harbinger



## GNH CARE TEAM

### For Emergency Contact Information

We would like to keep basic emergency contact information for any member who lives alone or anyone who feels they would like the Care Team to have the information. This would include a family member or friend who could be contacted if there is some concern when someone has not been seen at services & has had no contact with anyone for a while. Participation is purely voluntary. If you are interested please contact your Care Team members through our designated email ([gnhcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:gnhcareteam@gmail.com)) or speak to one of us at services.

Anita, Becky, Betsy, Linda, Marti, Sue Woodruff, Susanne Bjorner, Ruth

### CARE TEAM BIRTH DATES REQUEST

The Care Team would like to get birthdates for as many members as we can who would like to receive greetings on their birthday. We ask that you email the Care Team with your birth date. Including the year would be optional. "The Care Team would like to celebrate you on your birthday.

Please send your birth date (year is optional) in an email to the Care Team at [gnhcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:gnhcareteam@gmail.com) if you would like to receive birthday greetings. If you have a birthday list you are willing to share we would surely appreciate it. "Please contact Ruth Kraus at [ruth.kraus@yahoo.com](mailto:ruth.kraus@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



***There is a basket at the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to donate cards for the Care Team's use. All donations will be appreciated.***



## THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**Please offer prayers and good thoughts  
For all our members' and friends' peace and wisdom**

**Please contact Adrienne at [ghnuu460@gmail.com](mailto:ghnuu460@gmail.com)  
If you know of any member or friend with care needs.**

## Ways to give to GNH

GNH is grateful for all those who have kept up with their pledges during the pandemic and days of virtual services.

As you know, there are several ways to give of your financial resources to GNH:

- Mail a check to GNH.
- Ask your bank or credit union to mail a monthly check automatically. Many banks do not charge fees for this service. Check with your bank.
- Set up monthly or quarterly automatic payments from your investment accounts. Talk to your financial adviser.
- ◊ Use our online giving app, Givelify. Set up your personal confidential account at <https://giv.li/phv85g>. Download the Givelify app to your smartphone using the Apple Store or Google Play. Once you have the app, donating to GNH is as easy as Tap. Give. Done. (Note that Givelify charges GNH a transaction fee of 2.9% on each transaction, so you may want to increase your online donation by a small percentage to compensate.)

## 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



## NEXT Harbinger

**Our Next Harbinger will be  
Tuesday, October 7, 2025**

Please have all articles to the  
office by

**10 a.m. by the deadline, Monday,  
October 6, 2025 before the  
Harbinger is published.**

Space can be  
reserved on the rare occasion an  
article needs to be late.