

## The Gathering at Northern Hills, A Unitarian Universalist Community



***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**  
[gnhhuu460@gmail.com](mailto:gnhhuu460@gmail.com)  
**to receive additional  
Church information**

# The Harbinger



## The Bells Edgar Allan Poe

Hear the sledges with the bells bells!  
What a world of merriment their  
melody foretells!  
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,  
In the icy air of night!  
While the stars that over sprinkle  
The heavens, seem to twinkle  
With a crystalline delight;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the tintinnabulation that so  
musically wells  
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
Bells, bells, bells --  
From the jingling and the tinkling of  
the bells.



## Office Hours for Christmas Week

**Thursday, Christmas Day, 12/25/2025 “Office Closed”**

**Tuesday, 12/23/25 11:00am - 4:00pm**

**Friday, 11/26/2025 -10:00am - 2:00pm**



## Office Hours for New Year's Week

**Thursday, New Year's Day, 1/01/2026 “Office Closed”**

**Tuesday, 12/30/25 11:00am - 4:00pm**

**Friday, 01/02/2026 -10:00am - 2:00pm**

# MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

## SanctuarY Services

Join GNH Zoom Sunday Morning Service Meeting

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

### GNH Website

Be sure to check out GNH's updated web site—[gnhuu.org](http://gnhuu.org)—

*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.

## DECEMBER SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

**This Sunday, December 21, 2025**, Our message topic is: "Yule Love This Solstice Celebration". Speakers are Les Tacy and Michael Tacy.

This December 21st, our service connects the deep spiritual significance of the Winter Solstice and Pagan Yule with the cultural tapestry of Christmas. Led by Les Tacy and Ann McCracken, we will explore the shared themes of rebirth and light through familiar carols, and a symbolic Yule Log/Candle Lighting ritual. We invite all to find wonder in the turning of the year and our universal search for meaning.

### THIS SUNDAY !!!

**Annual Congregational Meeting—December 21, 2025**

**After Morning Service**

**Vote on 2026 Budget & New Board Members**

**Members attending the meeting on Zoom are eligible to vote.**

**"NO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE"**

**Next Sunday, December 28, 2025** Our message topic is: "Our Annual Service Wrap-Up" Speaker: Michael Tacy

Michael Tacy will offer his traditional gift to the congregation: a video reprise of wise words that have been shared from the GNH pulpit in 2025.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting—December 21, 2025**

### **Vote on 2026 Budget & New Board Members**

GNH's annual congregational meeting will follow Sunday's service on December 21. It's important for members to attend to vote on our 2026 budget and to elect two new Board officers to replace Ruth Kraus and John Suddarth, whose terms end at the end of 2025. **Marcia Venus and Allen Jerome** are up for election to replace them.

Please mark your calendars now so you're sure to attend.

We must have a quorum of at least 30% of the membership present to take a vote.

**Members attending the meeting on Zoom are eligible to vote.**

## **GNH Gives Generous Donations to Lighthouse and VICRC**

Our GNH congregation donated 10 \$50 gift cards to Lighthouse and 28 \$25 gift cards to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) for their Holiday Sharing Programs this year. In addition, we gave to VICRC 11 new children's toys donated by Dottie Tabor's daughter, Kristen Shroyer. This is quite amazing for such a small congregation.

## **Curtailment of SNAP Benefits Heightens Need for Donations to VICRC**

Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) is especially in need of our support since SNAP benefits have been curtailed as a result of the government shutdown. Food and toiletry donations are encouraged, including such items as **pasta, cereal, tuna, canned fruit, and paper products (particularly diapers and feminine hygiene products)**.

Please put your donations in the large basket or plastic tub at the base of the stairs in the Quimby Room foyer, and they will be delivered to VICRC.

## Found House IHN Requests Donations

Found House Interfaith Housing Network provides emergency shelter and housing programs for homeless families in Cincinnati and the surrounding areas. For 30 years, the Interfaith Hospitality Network worked with local churches, who each provided temporary housing and meals for a week at a time to four needy families. **The Gathering** and **GNH** partnered with several other churches, most recently Friendship UMC and Christ Church Glendale, to bring meals and evening recreation to the families that were temporarily housed in those churches.

Found House has now centralized its temporary housing program and no longer depends on churches to provide temporary bedrooms on a weekly basis, but they still need the support of churches and individuals to provide food, pet and human shelter expenses, education, and other help for supporting permanent solution to housing insecurity. Please consider responding to their request below. Your donations can be sent to Found House Interfaith Housing Network, 990 Nassau Street, Cincinnati, OH 45206. Please make checks payable to: Found House Interfaith Housing Network (or Found House IHN). Thank you!

Name:

Address:

City, State & Zip:

E-mail:

Affiliated with (congregation/organization):

My donation is designated for:

- Unrestricted (use as needed)
- Housing Families, Building Futures\*
- Emergency Shelter
- Pet Support
- Other (specify)

\* 10% of donation will go toward operating expenses

If you are interested in connecting, volunteering, or other forms of donating, contact [jgreen@foundhouse.org](mailto:jgreen@foundhouse.org) or call (513-471-1100 ext-118).

Have you heard about our vision for the future? The Housing Families, Building Futures Campaign is a plan for Found House IHN to expand its impact for families experiencing housing insecurity through emergency shelter, housing, and specialized supports. Contact us to learn more!

## Konscious Konscience

We are headed into the Season of Hope, as some have called it. We know this by the music on the radio, the lights on the houses, the dreaded bitter and wintry weather and, most importantly, the feelings in our hearts. Even for those of us who may have a spiritual path that journeys far from the origins of this holiday, this period of time has gained a place in our cultural zeitgeist that puts it very much in our awareness each year. One of the things we can do with this focused energy is to let ourselves understand hope. We speak of peace and joy and goodwill--and we hope this characterizes our world. In the present tumultuous time of transitions it can be hard to find that hope. Maybe that's because it's such an abstract, nebulous and overused term.

So what is hope? And if it truly is something we need, how to we find it or create it or maintain it? Sue Cline and Susanne Bjorner and myself have been diving deep into this question. We've scoured resources from the UUA, carried on conversations with each other and our kin and tried to pin down what it means to hope, or to have hope, or to breathe into existence from our actions this thing we need so much. In the service this Sunday, December 7, we will share some of our dialog with you; and we will invite you to join in that dialog as well. Let your questions about hope be present this week. Come Sunday with them in your hearts and on your minds.

Is hope granted to us by some etheric process, like prophecy from on high? Is hope something we DO rather than something we HAVE? Can hope be dangerous? Does it evolve? Does it have to be realized to persist? We \*hope\* you will be engaged by these questions and others. We \*hope\* you'll be ready to join in the conversation. We \*hope\* that this time of year, and this service, brings something to your walk in life right now that makes it just a little bit easier to bear.

Our team (the Service Planning Committee) meets at least twice a month. We strive to create worship services for our congregation that draw on the strengths of our UU faith and the diverse resources from our community that speak to our way of understanding the world. It is a challenging and rewarding endeavor. It is best done with a deep connection to what we all, as a congregation, share in our spiritual home at GNH. If you ever want to share with us responses to or ideas about services here, please feel free to write to my email address: [khoalewis@proton.me](mailto:khoalewis@proton.me).

Have a most wonderful holiday!

Namaste, peace and Mahalo!  
-Khoa Lewis

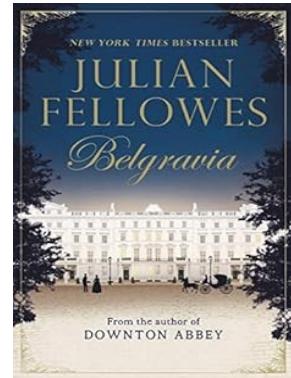
# Book Club

Will Meet on the 1st Friday each month

January 2, 2026

GNH Quimby Room at 1:00 PM

January 2, 2026 Belgravia by Julian Fellowes



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, 2026 The God of The Woods by Liz Moore

# GNH BOOK CLUB

## **TUESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP**

**Every Second Tuesday  
Discussion via Zoom**

**The next meeting will be on The Second Tuesday,  
January 6,2026  
from 3:00 to 4:00 pm via Zoom.**

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**

**January 19, 2026  
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.**

## **GNH Community Garden**

**See Everyone Next Spring!!**

## 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/phv85q>. 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**

**460 Fleming Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231**

**Phone: 513-931-6651  
Email: gnhuu460@gmail.com**

### **OFFICE HOURS**



## **NEXT Harbinger**

**Our Next Harbinger will be  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**Please have all articles to the  
office by  
10 a.m. by the deadline, Monday,  
January 5, 2026 before the  
Harbinger is published.  
Space can be  
reserved on the rare occasion an  
article needs to be late.**