

## 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**

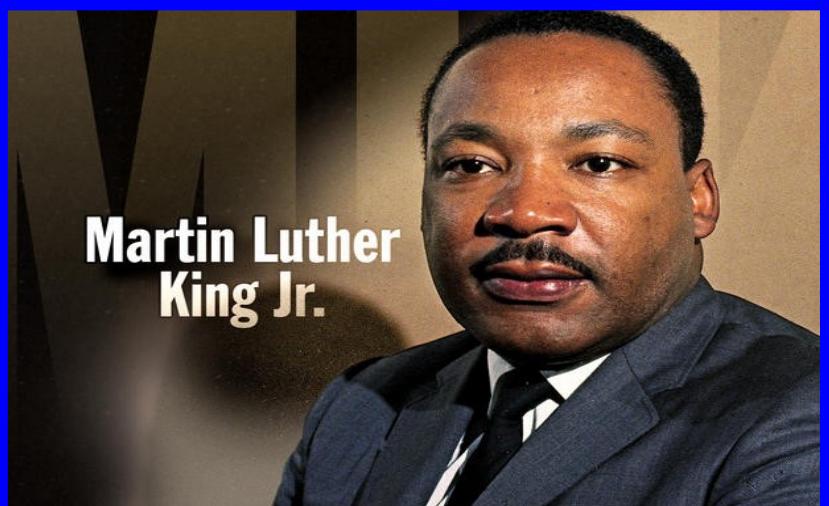
<https://zoom.us/j/91833287637>

Please email  
[gnhuu460@gmail.com](mailto:gnhuu460@gmail.com)  
to receive additional  
Church information

# The Harbinger



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**Federal Holiday, January 19, 2026**

**Darkness cannot drive out darkness:  
only light can do that. Hate cannot drive  
out hate: only love can do that.” — Mar-  
tin Luther King Jr., A Testament of  
Hope: The Essential Writings and**

# Happy New Year!!

## 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](https://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 MESSAGES

**This Sunday, January 11, 2026**, Member **Ann McCracken** will offer her thoughts about "When Eve Ate the Apple."

**Next Sunday, January 18, 2026**, On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend observance, our church administrator and guest speaker **Adrienne Campbell** will address us on "**The Color of Segregation.(??)**"

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**, Member and usher **Andrew Ketterer** will share with us his spiritual journey.

**Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026**, Guest speaker **Christine MacConnell** will share her story of "**Recovering Wildly**" with a spiritual practice.

**Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026**, **Sabura Rashad** will speak on "**Building a BLUU Boat Home to a Beloved Community.**"

## Amy Acton Appearance at GNH

Hi folks,

I just got word from Beth at the Mill Creek Democracy Network that Amy Acton will be at GNH in person a week from tomorrow night,

Tuesday January 13 at 7:30.

She will take questions from the audience.

If you're interested, I suggest you get there early!

Thanks Tom

## 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!

## Meeting the New Year

*A story by Tim Atkins\* and an invitation...*

New Year's is my favorite winter holiday. Since 2015, I've engaged in a ritual of reflection and intention that's dear to me: **choosing a word to serve as my grounding for the upcoming year.**

I begin this practice by reflecting on my words of prior years: *Joy. Embrace. Explore. Delight. Authenticity. Roots. Blossom.* Over time, my memories become infused with the spirit and the vibe of the word I chose for that year. For example, last year I chose *blossom* as my word for 2022—and over the past year I can recall thinking of how I was blossoming into a more fully realized version of myself.

The next part of my ritual involves taking stock of different threads happening in my life, and thinking about my hopes for the upcoming year. I narrow them down into one feeling, and try to put a word to that feeling.

One of the things most on my mind—and something I love most about Unitarian Universalism—is our denominational commitment to periodically assessing our beliefs and discerning whether they should evolve....I'm proud to belong to a living religious tradition that embraces evolution, both scientifically and spiritually.

But deeply personal elements inform my ritual, too. In December, my sole surviving grandparent passed away. She was the last member of that generation in my family, and with her passing I've matured—no, *evolved*—to a new stage of life. It feels right for me to meditate on evolution this upcoming year.

*Evolve* is clearly my word for 2023. Change can be scary. But evolution is exciting. How am I going to evolve to meet the challenges of this new era we live in?

What's the word you want to reflect on during the upcoming year? What's the one word you want to remember your next year by?

*\* Tim Atkins is a religious educator for the First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma City.*

The **Second Tuesday discussion group** will begin the new year by contemplating this spiritual practice. Participants are invited to think about a word they choose to reflect on and use to ground themselves this year. All are welcome, especially newcomers and those we have not seen in awhile.

We meet from **3:00-4:00 PM** on **Tuesday, January 13**, on **Zoom**. Contact ([Susanne.bjorner@gmail.com](mailto:Susanne.bjorner@gmail.com)) or Sue Coine ([scline0149@gmail.com](mailto:scline0149@gmail.com)) for the link.

## 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!!



# Book Club

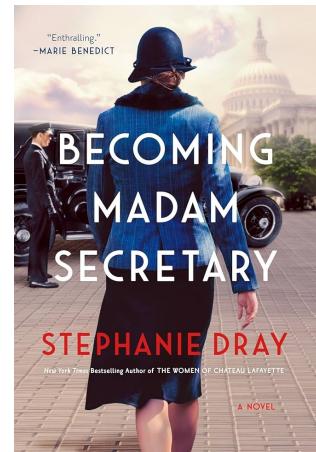
Will Meet on the 1st Friday each month

February 6, 2026

GNH Quimby Room at 1:00 PM

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

## **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

### Mary Lou Aufmann

*We are sad to report that Mary Lou Aufmann passed away on December 30, 2025, at Wellspring.*

*She was a long-time member of our congregation and for many years took care of our church's gardens and prepared lovely flower arrangements for our Sunday services. Our community garden is named after her.*

*Mary Lou's son and daughter are planning a memorial service, but do not have a firm date in mind yet.*

## 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

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45231**

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

## OFFICE HOURS



# NEXT Harbinger

# Our Next Harbinger will be Tuesday, January 20, 2026

**Please have all articles to the office by 10 a.m. by the deadline, Monday, January 19, 2026 before the Harbinger is published.**

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