

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>

**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**



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**April Showers bring May flowers**  
By: Lynn Bleau

April Showers bring May flowers,  
So don't fret about the rain.  
Before you know,  
They'll be a glow,  
Of sun once again.

April showers bring May flowers,  
So snuggle in your bed.  
And know that today,  
May be full of gray,  
But sun is shortly ahead.

April showers bring May flowers,  
But April's once a year.  
So watch the rain,  
On your window pane,  
And wipe that silly fear.

Because April showers may bring  
May flowers,  
But don't waste the day.  
So dance around,  
On the muddy wet ground,  
And get outside and play!




# 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.

## SUNDAY MESSAGES

**This Sunday, April 26, 2026**, "The topic is "Gender Disparity: Why is it mostly men who get credit for advances in wisdom and spirituality?" Co-speakers and co-service leaders **Steph and Les Tacy** will honor the wisdom we have inherited from many spiritual traditions, and also name the patriarchal harm woven through them.

**This Sunday, April 26, 2026, 1:00 PM - 5:00PM, Rental of the Quimby Room**

**Next Sunday, May 3, 2026, Rebekah Trunnell** returns to continue speak about pagan practices and will lead us in the celebration of Beltane and the traditional UU Flower ceremony. *This is planned as an outdoor service.*

**Sunday, May 10, 2026**, We join the UUs of Cincinnati in the all-city service at First Unitarian Church, with a message introduced by **Tom Lottman**: "**Why My Congregation is My Spiritual Home: Reflections on Belonging, Becoming, Believing and Beloving.**" There will be no Zoom at GNH this Sunday; the service will be available on the First Church YouTube channel.

**Sunday, May 17, 2026**, Guest speaker **Tisa McGraw** will be with us to answer the question "Why Study Buddhism?". Practical, philosophical and personal teachings that help bring more peace, kindness and compassion into our lives.

Hygiene kits will be assembled after the service.

**Sunday, May 24, 2026, Michael Tacy** will bring us another stimulating message.

**Sunday, May 31, 2026**, Guest speaker **Diane Wright** will return with another thoughtful and educational message.

# All Cincinnati UU Church Service on May 10

## ATTENTION, ALL MEMBERS!!!

**GNH needs YOU in a pew** at First Unitarian Church on May 10 for a combined service that is a project of all six Cincinnati-area UU congregations. GNH not only has participated in the service planning, the service is a direct result of a GNH request to the UU Council. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. The theme is “Why My Congregation is My Spiritual Home”, with the subtitle “Reflections on Belonging, Becoming, Believing and Beloving”. The concept is based on a message previously given at GNH by our own Tom Lottman. Tom will be the lead-in speaker, presenting the framework of the “Four B’s”, and members of other congregations will reflect on the topics of Belonging, Becoming, Believing, and Beloving.

**And wonderful as our congregation is, in so many ways, our track record of attendance at services outside our building is lackluster at best. This service in particular is one for which we need all hands on deck, and we promise, it won’t be hard to get out of our Fleming Road comfort zones.**

Though First UU is in Cincinnati’s urban core, at 536 Linton Street, there is a most commodious parking lot directly across a mostly quiet street. And if you still prefer not to venture down on your own, no worries. A ride will be provided for you. Just contact any member of the GNH Service Planning Team (members listed below). Do it in person, or reach all members of the SPT by email at [gnhserviceplanningteam@gmail.com](mailto:gnhserviceplanningteam@gmail.com). There will be no Zoom service available at GNH that day.

A combined choir will present two selections at First UU, and GNHers are invited to join the ranks. The offering (100% of it) will go to MARCC, the most estimable Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (<https://marcconline.com/>).

So do plan to attend and experience this service with lots of other Unitarian Universalists! Stay for the Social Hour: First Church will supply beverages; people attending from other congregations are asked to bring finger snacks to share during the conversation.

## PREPARING FOR THE MAY 10 SERVICE

**SINGERS:** If you would like to sing in the combined choir, let Michael Tacy know immediately! He will rehearse the two songs with you. The only other thing you need to do is show up at First Church a little earlier on Sunday, May 10 for a run-through.

**ATTEND:** As noted above, if you want a ride, we’ll make it happen. Service Planning Team Members standing ready to assist are Jack Brennan, Sue Cline, Khoa Lewis, Tom Lottman, Vickie Villavicencio and Sera Morris. And if you are a **driver**, please let us know that you can take someone.

**PARKING:** The parking lot is on the other side of Linton Street across from First UU. It is large and hard to miss—visible as soon as one turns on Linton.

**HOSPITALITY:** Please take a plate of your favorite finger food to share at the Social Hour; First Church will provide drinks.

**IF YOU STILL JUST CAN’T MAKE IT:** Though our building will be closed on May 10, you will be able to watch the service on the First Church [YouTube](#) channel. Click the link now and you will see previous recorded services. Click it on May 10 and you will be led to that day’s service. (<https://marcconline.com/>).



**Unitarian Universalist  
Justice Ohio**  
Inform. Inspire. Impact

# UUJO Spring Assembly

## **“Faithful Defiance in Times of Democratic Trial”**



**Keynote: Pablo DeJesus**

**Executive Director of UUs for Social Justice**



Workshop topics include:

- Immigration
- Trauma and resilience
- Coalition/network building
- Statehouse advocacy
- And more!

Saturday, April 25  
9 am - 5 pm

First UU Church of  
Columbus  
93 W. Weisheimer  
Columbus, OH 43214

Registration: \$65  
(Includes lunch)



Scholarship  
support

Contact Rev. Dr.  
Alice Diebel @  
diebelalice@gmail  
.com

Register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/nsaq2a2>

## **Next Date to Assemble Hygiene Kits is May 17**

It's time to assemble hygiene kits for Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth. After the service on May 17, we will once again assemble kits with a target of 250 kits.

We look forward to an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Looking ahead, we plan to assemble kits around the middle of January, May, August and November with a goal of 1,000 kits for the year. We no longer receive any grant money, so we encourage member donations to support this valuable Go Team outreach activity. If you are aware of a possible source of grant funds, please notify Pete Patterson.

## **GNH Outreach Team (Go Team) Donations to Our Charities**

The GNH Outreach Team (Go Team) is pleased to report the following recent donations to our preferred charities. The donations include \$100 each to the Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth, Valley Interfaith CRC, UpSpring (homeless children) and Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank.

We will continue our program of quarterly donations from our GNH Outreach Fund that is supported by member donations and the Kroger Community Rewards program.

# Lighthouse Shelter for Youth:

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Tom Lottman and Allen Jerome will serve lunch at the Lighthouse on the fourth Monday of each month.

Tom and Allen are supported by members of the former Women's Action Network,

renames GNH Outreach Team (Go Team) chaired by Betsy Anderson.

If you have any questions or would like to offer food donations for a Lighthouse lunch, please contact Tom, Allen or Betsy.

Usually, a main dish is served as well as fruit and dessert.



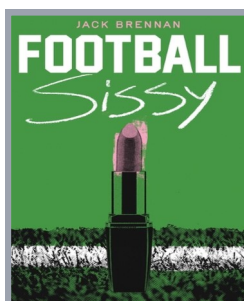
# Book Club

**Our next meeting is Friday, May 1, 2026**

The GNH Book Club meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month  
in the Quimby Room and also on Zoom at 1pm.

Contact [Susanne Bjourner at susanne.bjourner@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.bjourner@gmail.com) for the zoom link)

**5/1 Football Sissy by Jack Brennan**



We welcome anyone who would like to join our discussions. We usually try to read a wide variety of topics and genres. The book selections are suggested by members, and the club is always interested in hearing book recommendations from anyone interested in joining our discussions.

6/5 The God Of The Woods by Liz Moore

7/10 Why Fish Don't Exist by LuLu Miller

8/7 How To Say Babylon by Safiya Sinclair

9/4 Icy Sparks by Gwyn Hyman Rubio

10/2 Trials Of Nina McCall by Scott Stern

11/6 The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

12/4 Empire Falls by Richard Russo

# GNH BOOK CLUB

**SECOND TUESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**Every Second Tuesday**  
**Discussion via Zoom**

**The next meeting will be on The Second Tuesday,  
May 12, 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.**

**The May 12 Second Tuesday meeting will lead off with a discussion of the city-wide Sunday, May 10 joint service, with planning and participation by all six UU congregations in Cincinnati. We hope to share perspectives from those who were there in person and those who viewed on the First Church YouTube channel.**

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).





## ***Gardening is Good for The Mind and Soul***

Don't have a sunny space for a garden? The Gathering at Northern Hills has raised to meet your needs.

Grow vegetables and flowers, enjoy the outdoors and make new friends!

This year GNH has 4'x 8' raised beds available to rent for \$25.00 each.

Ready for planting by Mother's Day,  
May 10, 2026.

**Spaces are subject to availability and assigned on a first come first serve basis.**

Contact Anita Jerome or Linda Gutowski for the application and rule forms.

Familiarize yourself with the garden and compost rules,  
then complete and sign the application and email back  
before May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

When the completed application is approved the rent will  
be due in full.

***“To plant is to believe in tomorrow.”***

**Audrey Hepburn**

## 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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Phone: 513-931-6651  
Email: [gnhuu460@gmail.com](mailto:gnhuu460@gmail.com)

## OFFICE HOURS



## NEXT Harbinger

Our Next Harbinger will be  
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Please have all articles to the  
emailed by 12:00 pm.  
deadline on Tuesday  
May 4, 2026 before the  
Harbinger is published.  
Space can be  
reserved on the rare occasion an