

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**



## April Rainbows

by Lenore Hetrick

"I come," said April, "with a basket of rainbows.  
I don't think there's anything prettier to see.  
Perhaps that explains why the children love April.  
You know they are really devoted to me."

"I have a rainbow for each little child,  
And if they will come to see me today,  
Down in the meadow where the crocuses grow,"  
Said April, "I'll give every rainbow away."



# 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 12, 2026**, We welcome **Rev. Gary Anderson**, pastor of Word of Hope Temple, and his congregants, for a message entitled "Faith that Leaned to Breathe."

**Next Sunday, April 19, 2026**, We are pleased to welcome a new GNH voice to the pulpit. **Rebekah Trunnell** shares from her personal and academic journey, elucidating pagan practices, anticipating the May 3 Beltane ceremony, which also will be our Flower Communion.

**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.

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**, We are pleased to welcome again a new GNH voice to the pulpit. **Rebekah Trunnell** who will share from her personal and academic journey, elucidating pagan practices, anticipating the May 3 Beltane ceremony, which also will be our Flower Communion.

**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."

**April 7, 2026**

## **Konscious Konscience**

Easter has come and gone. Spring breezes blow and garden dreams begin, wanting only for our careful cultivation and attention. Last year I planted my first garden in almost twenty years. I spent a little time every day and a lot of time some days working the soil, watering and realizing all my landscaping ideas. It grounded me, provided exercise and allowed me to watch as the tiny little seeds sprouted. They grew into vines and spread so thoroughly over our courtyard that by the end of the season I had literally carried off at least twenty yard waste bags of trimmings. I marveled that this tiny little nugget held within it the capacity to keep on converting water, sunshine and soil into pounds and pounds of plant matter. I imagined what an effective way this could be to introduce the notion of intention. Identifying a need--and a plan to meet it--that fits one's values and then just being present with the process--in short, giving it attention--is really all it takes to manifest it. Our community home at GNH has similar potential to bear fruit, given proper attention. The SPT (Service Planning Team) has already seen some changes in our capabilities, guided by the worship forum in January. We fill our schedule further ahead than ever before and with increased attention to merit, integrity, diversity and creativity in our services. Last year GNH asked the joint group of UU communities in Cincinnati if we could be invited message in this Harbinger calling our members to attend First UU Church for that service. **YOUR INNER UU WANTS YOU TO GO!** See the announcement in this Harbinger for details. The congregations that I have had worked with along my journey have all had very active connections with fellow UUs in their city. Many exciting things, from joint services and holiday events to youth camping trips and art fairs happened because of those collaborations. There ensued lot of cross-fertilization of ideas and community growth (as in new members!) from those events. As GNH begins to gain momentum we can lean into this opportunity to develop connection, support and possibly grow in size--something we need and have intended for some time. Now, with our home as with the garden, we have to give it the attention it needs to flourish. Please consider the importance of this and attend that service! Quick PSA: There is an phone app that uses proprietary technology (think FBI, NSA, CIA) for high-quality captioning of live phone calls available for download if you have a hearing impairment. It's the real deal. If you'd like to check it out, the name of the app is Nagish



**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>

## **New Planning Committee Group Email**

Susan Bjorner  
Jack Brennan  
Sue Cline  
Khoa Lewis  
Thomas Lottman  
Sera Morris  
Vickie Villavicencio

When you need to correspond with the entire committee, please use the following email: [gnhserviceplanningteam@gmail.com](mailto:gnhserviceplanningteam@gmail.com)

Please Note: If you need your information to include Michael Tacy or Alan Garrison, you will need to add their address separately.

## **UUJO Spring Assembly April 25, 2026**

, April 25, 2026  
First UU Church, 93 Weisheimer Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43214

Sign-ins and light refreshments begin at 9:00 AM.

Keynote Speaker at 10:30 AM:  
Pablo DeJesus, Executive Director,  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice  
“Faithful Defiance in Times of Democratic Trial”

Catered lunch with vegan and gluten-free options.

Afternoon workshops related to the theme.

Close at 5:00 PM.

<https://uujo.org/> Online registration will be available.  
Fee is \$65.00

Also, Pablo DeJesus will be the main speaker  
at First UU Columbus at their 11:00 AM service on  
Sunday, April 26.

## 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/>).

## NATURE'S ALTAR ON DISPLAY SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2026



This beautiful Nature's Altar was on display during Michael Tacy's message about Mother Earth and the Interconnected Web.

For those who couldn't see it in person, nor hear about its' meaning, this is what Rebeckah submitted for further understanding.

A nature altar is a sacred space constructed primarily with natural objects with the intention to draw the mind and spirit towards an appreciation for the bounty and beauty of Mother Earth. Our altar was constructed without any harm caused, everything collected as it was and never plucked away out of the earth. Each of the elements is represented in different ways; earth in the rocks and plants, fire in the sage burning in the cauldron, air in the chimes placed in the wooden offering dish, and water in the shell and small pot of melted snow that had been collected at Imbolc (a holiday on February 1 that marks the beginning of the transition from winter towards spring; snow on Imbolc is considered holy and sacred in many pagan traditions). There are symbols of life and death in the hare and the skull, and the wooden hand-carved statues of goddess and horned god are reflective of the personal human connection to the natural world, and perhaps allude to Michael's message concerning the dangers of dominion theology, proposing instead a more harmonious approach to how we relate to our world. Michael and Julia chose cards for the altar as well, each with meanings that tied back to Michael's message. The items I brought to supplement Michael and Julia's beautiful space have been collected over the course of the past decade, most of them gifts and many of them handmade by myself or my loved ones.

## ROSE BIANCHI

Ann and I went to Meadville Pennsylvania to visit Rose Bianchi. We had a chance to take her to dinner Saturday night and engage in much reminiscing and catching up on events in both Cincinnati and Meadville. Rose was very interested in hearing updates on folks at GNH. Sunday morning, we went with Rose for her first visit to the Meadville UU church for a very meaningful service at a very historic church. The Meadville UU is a 250-year-old church who was a home to Rev. William Henry Channing, a famous UU minister and philosopher.

The sermon was given by a Zen Buddhism chaplain who teaches meditation to incarcerated women. It was a powerful message in which she described her chaplaincy work from the Buddhist perspective of three minds: Magnanimous Mind (*Daishin*), Nurturing Mind (*Roshin*), and Joyful Mind (*Kishin*). Needless to say, for Rose who practices Zen meditation, this was a truly special service. During coffee time after the service, members were extremely friendly and welcoming; and Rose met a woman who offered to pick her up for services.

We ended the visit with a long, delicious lunch at the Firehouse pub. Meadville is a wonderful little town home to Allegheny College just down the street from Rose's housing community. It was wonderful to spend some time with Rose, and she repeated several times that she missed Cincinnati and the people at GNH. But it seems clear that Meadville can be a very pleasant home for Rose.

Let us know if you'd like to have contact information for Rose.

## SECOND TUESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

**Every Second Tuesday**

**Discussion via Zoom**

**The next meeting will be on The Second Tuesday,**

**April 14, 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 suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it.

There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be.

We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed.

Still, life has some possibility left.”

*Mary Oliver*

This quote from Mary Oliver came into my life and my consciousness recently, and it has stayed—drifting slightly above a couple discomforts, a persistent busyness accompanied by worry, and two downright disasters—to ease my mind for awhile and help me look beyond the current state.

Do you have a poem or quote that helps you get out of the current moment of despair or aggravation? Bring it to our **Second Tuesday discussion**, and maybe it will be just the thing to help a friend—as well as you, the giver.y

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:

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, renamed 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.

**The Next date is April 23, 2026**



# GNH Community Garden

## See You Soon !!!



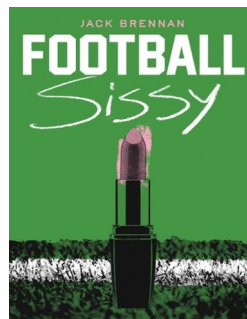
# Book Club

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)

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

**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

## 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

460 Fleming Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

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

## OFFICE HOURS



## NEXT Harbinger

**Our Next Harbinger will be  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

Please have all articles to the  
emailed by 12:00 pm.

deadline on Tuesday  
April 21, 2026 before the  
Harbinger is published.

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