

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**



**Miracles happen everyday, change your perception of what a miracle is and you'll see them all around you.**

JON BON 10VI

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**There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”  
— Albert Einstein**

# 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.

## TODAY IS PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

If you have not yet voted the polls are open until 7:30PM

This Coming Sunday, MAY 10, 2026 is MOTHER'S DAY

## SUNDAY MESSAGES

**This Sunday, May 10, 2026, THERE IS NO SERVICE AT GNH THIS SUNDAY.**

There will be no Zoom at GNH this Sunday; the service will be available on the First Church YouTube channel. First UU Sunday Program will be emailed out to members and friends on this Friday. **Additional information on next page!!!**

**Next 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.

**THIS Sunday, May 10**  
**is the**  
**All Cincinnati UU Church Service**  
**Note: It starts at 10:30 AM!**

**“Why My Congregation is My Spiritual Home: Reflections on Belonging, Becoming, Believing and Beloving”** is the message to be presented at the joint service to be held at First Unitarian Church (536 Linton St., Cincinnati). Rides to this location are available to GNH members and friends: Contact any member of the GNH Service Planning Team ([gnhserviceplanningteam@gmail.com](mailto:gnhserviceplanningteam@gmail.com)) by Friday.

The Gathering at Northern Hills has participated in the planning of the service, and even suggested the theme that was adopted by all six congregations for this occasion. The theme will be introduced by Tom Lottman, and a member of each of the other congregations will share their thoughts on the “Four B’s” and a summary.

A choir of 40 voices will be assembled; if you want to join the choir, you are welcome; plan to arrive at First Church by 9:30. Children will also be present for the first part of the service and “sung out” to their RE classes. An offering will be taken, with 100% of it going to MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (<https://marcconline.com/>)).

**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.

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

**ZOOM CROWD:** We will not be able to meet on Zoom on May 10, but **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. We suggest you sign on to YouTube several minutes ahead of the 10:30 start time, to hear gathering music and the hubbub of people entering the sanctuary.

**AFTER THE SERVICE:**

**THE SECOND TUESDAY DISCUSSION** for May will be held on May 12, the Tuesday following this service, and lead off with a discussion of the event. We hope to hear perspectives from people who were there in person and those who listened on YouTube.

## Konscious Konsense

In the last column our attention focused briefly on some exciting developments for our congregation and its relationship to the other UU congregations in the greater Cincinnati area. We have an entire collective of fellow UUs with whom to spark our creativity. Growth and the attraction of younger members was one of the specific items we noted could find some additional gusto through the activities in which we might engage together with other churches in that group. We've been using the term UU Council to refer to the collective, although it is technically the name of the administrative body of the collection of area churches. It is exciting that after our leadership reached out to the Council asking for our inclusion we have been welcomed heartily. It really is important that our members give due presence in their thinking and participation to this new relationship, so that it can indeed give back and foster these exciting new possibilities. Toward that end I want to remind each of you please to consider making your way to the joint service this coming Sunday at First Church.

I also want to share some information regarding the participation of the area churches in Pride this year. We have involvement in both the Northern Kentucky Pride event, which takes place Saturday 6/7, and the Cincinnati Pride event on 6/27. There will be a table at the joint service on 5/10 for folks to sign up for volunteering or to donate to help cover the costs of our contribution. Please check that out when you are there and support our community within our community!

The goals of our area churches' involvement include letting people know that the communities that comprise the UU denomination are supportive communities in our area. It is an opportunity for us as UUs to join in celebration with the LGBTQIA+ community, to stand in solidarity together, which is especially important in the current cultural and political climate. It is also an opportunity to celebrate church and that the sharing of like values across many different churches and communities is an important piece of the strength we need to show in times like these.

If you have ideas or want to learn of ideas that pertain to these events, aside from that table on 5/10 you can get in touch with me, Khoa, directly either by emailing [khoalewis@proton.me](mailto:khoalewis@proton.me) or texting (I cannot hear on a live phone call) 859-443-8232. Of the helpful things planned at the booths we populate at the Pride events is a forum for developing your "elevator speech" about what you and WE believe. I hope to see many of you there!!

Namaste, peace and Mahalo!  
-Khoa Lewis

## **May 17 Is Hygiene Kit Day**

Sunday, May 17, 2026 is our quarterly  
Hygiene Kit Assembly Day.

We plan to prepare 250 kits for the  
Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth after the service.

We hope you can pitch in to make this ongoing  
GO Team project a success.

So, mark it on your calendar and we'll see you there.

## **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:

**Monday, May 25, 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.



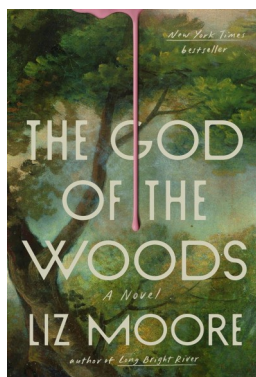
# Book Club

**Our next meeting is Friday, June 5, 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)

The God Of The Woods by Liz Moore



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.

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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## OFFICE HOURS



## NEXT Harbinger

Our Next Harbinger will be  
Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Please have all articles to the  
emailed by 12:00 pm.  
deadline on Tuesday  
May 19, 2026 before the  
Harbinger is published.  
Space can be  
reserved on the rare occasion an