Volume 18 September 15, 2026
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/95703829636

email gnhuu460@gmail.com to receive additional Church information

Phone: 513-931-6651



September Elves

by Lenore Hetrick

Each little elf took a paint pot.
Oh, but the paint was bright!
They painted the leaves fine colors.
They painted all day and night.
September smiled when she saw them.
"What a help you are!" she said.
Each little elf was so pleased
Their faces turned bright red!



. Sanctuary Services

Join GNH Zoom Sunday Morning Service Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/91833287637

GNH Website

Be sure to check out GNH's updated website—**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
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 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 Morning Services

This Sunday, September 20, 2026

Guest speaker **Ramona Beck**, member of First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, will be at GNH to share her persona spiritual journey.

Next Sunday, September 27, 2026

As we move into a new church year, Member **Jack Brennan** will deliver the message, titled "Lay-Led and Loving It!"

VOLUNTEER GREETERS NEEDED

Volunteers wanted to GREET members and visitors on Sunday morning.
Being a Greeter involves smiling, welcoming and signing in visitors at the podium in the lobby. Nada and I thank you for your support.
Becky Davis Wilson

The Gathering at Northern Hills

Report to UU Council

September 2026

We UUs emphasize our spiritual search is informed by various religious traditions, science, philosophy, art, nature, and personal experience. This summer and through the rest of the year our services explore the fact that ancient religious traditions, especially earth-based religions as well as the latest scientific findings from the neuroscience of consciousness and quantum theory arrive at the same hypotheses. We are connecting the dots by pointing out throughlines in our services.

The throughlines in a number of our services in both religious traditions and science (Paganism, Ojibway spirituality, Buddhism, neuroscience of consciousness, quantum theory) include:

1. Reality is layered and these layers are accessible by expanding consciousness
2. Our Western brain as evolved limits our access to a number of these layers
3. All of existence is in relationship with all its forms (interdependence).
4. All of these throughlines are consistent with UU values.
5. All of these throughlines evoke our human experience of humility and love.

Also through a couple of services and vigorous congregational discussion we examined our answers to the question, “Do I matter?” We particularly focused on how our answers evolved as we age and our “external” world of family, friends, work, and physical activities might shrink, but our “internal” world of spiritual development might expand.

Later this month GNH will hold a fellowship engagement service with the theme, *All of us need all of us.* It will be followed up by personal phone calls from a member of the board or member of the service planning team to explore ways each active member can become involved in a ministry or governance team regardless of time, physical, or other challenges.

In June we celebrated the life of a long-standing friend and member, John General Gettys. As General requested this celebration of life was a party at GNH with Haywain shirts and Star Wars attire.

Also recently the board developed a new investment plan for GNH that was approved by the congregation.

Hopedale UU Community Report

Sunday Services are held at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at 3870 Millville-Oxford Road (US 27) south of Oxford, Ohio, and are available via Zoom. September service include:

- **September 6** – Special Service: Child Dedication. Join Diane Wright and four Hopedale families as we celebrate eight children, honor the people who love and care for them, and renew our promise that no child should have to grow alone. Intergenerational Service.
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- **September 13** – Stepping off the Path. We'll discuss growing up steeped in conservative evangelical culture, share our journey of deconstructing those beliefs, and offer advice on how to approach those still trapped in that worldview. with empathy and compassion. The Second-Sunday Collection benefits the Talawanda-Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPSS).
- Membership book signing.
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- **September 20** – Hopedale is full of creative cooks, so while we may not have rituals like communion or seders, but we have potlucks. We will think together about the ways food nourishes both body and spirit. Monthly potluck follows the service.
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- **September 27** – Opposing ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) in Butler Co. Anne Jantzen is a life-long educator serving most of her career as a principal in the Edgewood and Lakota School districts as well as teaching in Miami's Department of Educational Leadership. She will share with us how Butler County Immigrant Justice came to be, its mission and goals, and about how and why the group has persisted over a year to push back against the Butler County Commissioners, the sheriff, and the Butler County prosecutor.

We're refreshing the **Hopedale website** and revising page contents. We hope to collect more current photos. For privacy and safety reasons, we will not publish photos of children that show a child's face.

This year's yard sale involved well over 200 volunteer hours and, despite bad weather, generated about $3,000 for our treasury.

Gardening News. A “Garden Goodies” whiteboard has been newly added to the HUUC Lobby on Sunday mornings. On it is a list of veggies available that day and upcoming opportunities to pick and help in the garden. We continue to take extras to TOPSS to this summer. Many thanks to Peggy and John, Marsha and her daughter Faith, and Tomiko Brown and her son.

The Social Justice Committee is concentrating on Reproductive Justice, LGBTQI+ Justice, Environmental Justice, Immigration Justice and Food/Housing insecurity They partner and support several organizations including:
Sheltering Oxford/Winter House - follow winter house social media for updates on when volunteer opportunities are available or when donation needs arise. This year is the same house as last year, that can support 14 adults per night.

- TOPSS - Increased demand for social services while donations have declined significantly. Hopedale continues to donate produce from the garden through the summer.
- Oxford Citizens For Peace and Justice organizes Justice Stakeholders for Justice Quarterly Meetings at Hopedale.

-Liz Woedl, Hopedale Delegate to UUCGC

LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER FOR YOUTH.

Monday, September 28, 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, 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.

Light House

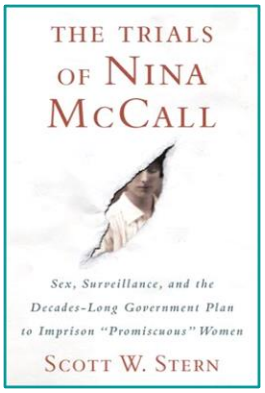
A HOMELESS PREVENTION SUPPORT CENTER

Book Club

Our next meeting is Friday, October 2, 2026

Contact Susanne Bjourner at susanne.bjourner@gmail.com for the zoom link)

10/2 Trials Of Nina McCall by Scott Stern



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.

11/6 The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

12/4 Empire Falls by Richard Russo

SECOND TUESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Second Tuesday

Discussion via Zoom

Every Second Tuesday Discussion is via Zoom

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 13, 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 or Sue Cline 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!

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

“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 and 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) 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 if you would like to receive birthday greetings. If you have a birthday list you are willing to share we would surely appreciate it.



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
To our dear and loved member, Sue Cline

For all our members' and friends' peace and wisdom

Please contact Adrienne at ghnuu460@gmail.com
If you know of any member or friend with care needs.

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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 other than those specifically relating to church events.

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460 Fleming Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
Phone: 513-931-6651
Email: gnhuu460@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

NEXT HARBINGER



Our Next Harbinger will be Tuesday, October6, 2026 Please have all articles to the emailed by 12:00 pm. deadline on Tuesday October 6, 2026. Before the Harbinger is published. Space can be reserved on the rare occasion and article needs to be late.