Volume 22 November 17, 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


Give Thanks


A Thanksgiving Blessing
For golden leaves and waters wide,
For autumn's beauty by our side,
For every gift, both great and small,
We give our thanks and cherish all.
Wishing you a season filled with gratitude.

. 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.

GNH's Annual Congregational Meeting December 13, 2026

The GNH Board of Trustees has scheduled our annual congregational meeting for Sunday, **December 13**, following the service. Votes will be taken at this meeting to replace Board members whose terms are up and for GNH's 2027 budget.
To vote, you must be a member for at least 60 days prior to the election.
To become a member, please see Betsy Anderson to sign the membership book.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

We are in search of 3 new members to serve on our Board! Commitment is a couple of hours a month, depending upon what activities and projects the board is undertaking. Please consider using your time and talents in a way to lead our congregation forward! If you are interested or have questions, please contact Cheryl Leksan.

SUNDAY MESSAGES

This Sunday, November 22, 2026

Member speaker Marcia Venus will deliver
Rev. Richard Venus' sermon,
"Healing in a Troubled World".

HAPPY THANKSGIVING – November 26, 2027

GNH Office Closed

Office will be closed on Tuesday, November 24
Office will be open on Friday, November 27

Next Sunday, Friday, November 29, 2026

Member and music director, **Michael Tacy**
speaks on ***"Music and Movement"*.**

After Morning Service

Please bring your Thanksgiving leftovers to share
during our coffee hour after the service.

Sunday, December 6, 2026

Guest speaker Mr. Nafeh Fananapazir
And will deliver the message
"Progressive Revelation: A Baha'i Approach to Universalism".

Sunday, December. 13, 2026

The Annual Congregational Meeting
led by members of the GNH Board of Trustees,
will follow a short worship service in the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 20, 2026

Members Sue Cline and Vicki Villavicencio present
"Lessons and Carols" to celebrate the Holiday Season.

Sunday, December. 27, 2026

In the last regular service of 2026, member
Michael Tacy offers this year's version of his popular series on
"GNH Wrapped".

GNH's Updated Directory Is Now Available

GNH's updated directory of contact information for our members and friends is now available. Please contact Betsy Anderson to get your copy. Thanks to Lindsey Johnson for arranging to have the directory printed and for the wonderful photos, and accompanying tribute, on the back cover from the dedication of our Community Garden to our beloved member

Mary Lou Aufmann.



Konscious Konscience

By the time you read this column, the formality of Election Day itself will be concluded. Presently, we are all hoping that the path we will take from here is a better one. Practically anything that lands as a measurable course correction from our present heading, as a country and a species, would qualify. We also hope that it actually IS the path that we know the majority want. Ensuring that the voices spoken this week are heard and heeded will be every bit as challenging as getting to the polls in the first place.

Here is an idea. Every one of us at some point this week sit down for 15 minutes and do this exercise. Take some deep breaths and do whatever you normally do to center and arrive at a meditative state. Now picture every person who you believe truly wants change and would stand up and speak "truth to power" for that change in a room of like minded people. Think about how easy it is to do that, when you know every one already agrees. Feel that confidence and sense of assuredness that "if only" (the changes you advocate) happened things would get better. It doesn't matter that you think of the specific changes--just focus on the *feeling* of certainty and confidence about their rightness--the conviction they carry.

Next picture people, who you DON'T think support that change, standing up for it, from family members with different viewpoints to the MAGA pundits on the news. In stages, getting further and further away from your safe, confident place, picture those people from increasingly further to the "other" side actually leaning toward the same changes you advocate (again not the details, the *feeling* of those changes being upheld). Allow yourself to feel some genuine surprise and even shock that those folks are joining you...but then fold that in to your new normal. Even THEY are on the side of the changes you advocate.

Hold that space and feel that unity for a minute or two. Then imagine feeling that way because in the days that follow the election a majority of Republicans stand up against the various efforts to undermine the clear winner of the votes--as we have heard is likely to be attempted. Take that surprise feeling of solidarity you cultivated and appy it to the idea of Republicans fighting against the stealing of the election. Imagine that along with surprise, you feel an odd camaraderie with them because they too stood up for the right thing.

Accessing the *feeling* of a world where a counterfactual to our world holds true is a great way to tune your own present reality toward that "other". Try it. We'll consider more exercises like this in later issues of this column.

Namaste, peace and Mahalo!

Holiday Gift Donations for VICRC and Lighthouse

This year for the holidays we are again collecting gift-card donations for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) and Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth. **Lighthouse** is requesting **$50 gift cards** from either Target, Walmart, Amazon, Kroger, Meijer, T J Maxx, or Burlington. **These are due at GNH by Sunday, November 29.** If you prefer to purchase a $25 gift card for Lighthouse, we can pair two given by two different donors to equal one gift. In 2025, we donated ten gift cards

and so far, we have received the equivalent of four.

VICRC is requesting **$25 gift cards** from either Walmart or Target and will also accept new children's toys and clothes for toddlers/babies (unwrapped).

These are due at GNH by Sunday, December 6.

In 2025, we donated 28 gift cards and 11 children's toys, and so far this year we have not collected any.

All donations can be given to Betsy Anderson, who will also accept money to use toward either gift cards or children's gifts, whichever you specify. Thank you for your generosity.

LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER FOR YOUTH

Monday, November 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, 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

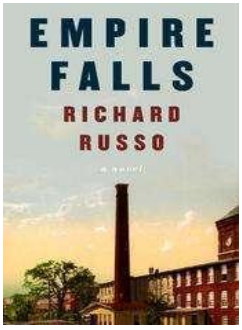
Our next meeting is Friday, December 4, 2026

Contact Susanne Bjourner at susanne.bojourner@gmail.com

for the zoom link

The Book of the Month is:

Empire Falls by Richard Russo



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 attending our discussions.

Books for 2027

January 8 **The Four Agreements** Don Miguel Ruiz

February 5 **The Henna Artist** Alka Joshi

March 5 **The Employees** Olga Ravn & Martin Aitkin

April 2 **How To Read A Book** Monica Wood

May 7 **The Measure** Nikki Erlick

June 4 **Homeschooled** Stefan Merrill Block

July 2 (or 9) **Tell Me Everything** Elizabeth Stout

August 6 **The Luminaries** Elenor Catton

September 3 **Partita** Barbara Kingsolver

October 1 **All That's Unseen** Emilee Hackney

November 5 **The Names** Florence Knapp

December 3 **Evicted** Matthew Desmond

SECOND TUESDAY
DISCUSSION GROUP

Every Second Tuesday

Discussion via Zoom

Every Second Tuesday Discussion is via Zoom
The next meeting will be on
Tuesday, December 8, 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.



Mary Lou Aufmann Community Garden

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

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

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, December 1, 2026 Please have all articles emailed by 12:00 pm. deadline on Tuesday, December 1, 2026 Before the Harbinger is published. Space can be reserved on the rare occasion and any article that will be late.