



THE DRUMMER

September 2017

It matters not how strait the gate, / How charged with punishments
the scroll, / I am the master of my fate: / I am the captain of my
soul.

--William Ernest Henley

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Sunday Services in September

Sep. 3, 10:00 a.m. Words and Music of Labor. Rev. Jim Magaw and the Worship Team.

On this Labor Day weekend, we will reflect on the history and the current state of labor in the United States. How did we get to our current situation, and what, if anything, can be done to revive the labor movement.

Sep. 10, 10:00 a.m. In the Beginnings. Rev. Jim Magaw.

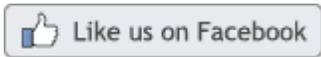
Using the two creation stories from Genesis, this service will focus on how most beginnings are ambiguous. Where did this new thing come from? What, if anything, is its purpose? What do our own institutional creation myths say about us? *After today's service, we will have an Ice Cream Social and Involvement Fair, featuring the many ways people can become more involved in Sunnyhill's various activities and groups.*

Sep. 17, 10:00 a.m. Start Where You Are. Rev. Jim Magaw.

Any time we start a new undertaking--or even a new cycle or phase of our life--it is good to start by considering why. Why are we doing this? What larger purpose, if any, do our actions serve? Is there an underlying reason what we are doing or are we just going through motions? *This Sunday's designated offering is for Casa San Jose.*

Sep. 17, 7:00 p.m. Mabon Ritual. Spiritways CUUPS.

You are invited to celebrate Mabon/Autumnal Equinox with Spiritways CUUPS at Sunnyhill on Sunday, September 17th at 7:00pm. The ritual will acknowledge Balance and Gratitude, and celebrate with a Dionysian feast. At the Fall Equinox, we experience a balance of Light and Dark, and from the moment of the September Equinox, the Sun's strength diminishes, until the moment of Winter Solstice in December (when the Sun begins to grow stronger and the days once again become longer than the nights). Mabon, the Second Harvest, is a time of Thanksgiving. It is a time to appreciate and give thanks to the Goddess for her bounty and to share in the joys of the harvest with grapes and other fall fruits, squash, gourds, pumpkins, grains, nut breads, vegetables, apple cider and wine. For the ritual, everyone is encouraged to wear shades of purple, green, or brown or other earthy tones reminiscent of the season. Please feel free to bring a snack or beverage to share during our feast for Cakes & Ale. They are always appreciated. This Ritual takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills. *Due to the powerful quality of rituals, children 12 and older only, please. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*



You shop. Amazon gives.



Sep. 24, 10:00 a.m. First Ask Why. Rev. Jim Magaw.

Each day or even each moment can represent a new beginning if we think of it that way. But, no matter what undertaking we start, we must begin where we are. It doesn't mean that we're happy about where we are, but it does imply some measure of acceptance and readiness to begin again.

Minister's Notes

Rev. Jim Magaw

Whew! We finally made it back into our new and newly refurbished building, and it is so beautiful-it is a wonderful testament to this congregation's vision and dedication. Well done, all!

There are still some rough edges here and there, and a few kinks that still need to be worked out, but the new space is already beginning to feel like home.

In addition to changes in our space, we are also trying some new changes in our worship services. Last spring, members of our worship team attended a workshop led by Marcia McFee, a nationally recognized innovator in worship design.

McFee reminded us that only some of us are auditory learners (who learn primarily from listening). There are also visual learners and kinesthetic learners, and any given worship service should ideally include elements that appeal to each of these learning styles.

She also warned us of the dangers of getting stuck in a rut-with an order of service that never varies from week to week or month to month or year to year. Without some kind of variation, people inevitably "tune out" portions of the service.

So, this year, starting in September, you will notice some changes in our Sunday morning services. As our monthly themes change, so will our order of service. We will also be bringing in more visual and kinesthetic elements to our services.

You will not like all of these changes. That's right, you will not like all of these changes. But you will like some of them. Many of them, I hope. Please keep in mind that something that may not appeal to you will in fact appeal very much to someone else.

We ask that you remain open to our changing orders of service and our new service elements. We are not trying to confuse you! We are trying to create worship services that are sensory-rich, memorable and transformative.

Our new sanctuary lends itself well to creative worship services, and we will do what we can to make the most of this space.

Thanks for your patience and your ongoing support.

--Rev. Jim Magaw

Religious Education

Jennifer McGlothlin, Director of Religious Education



Religious Education Sign Up

Classes Return on **September 10!** All children and youth must be registered in our program to attend Religious Education Classes! Register here: [RE Registration](#)

Volunteers still needed!

Now is the chance to get involved with RE at Sunnyside! We are looking for volunteers to assist with RE Classes, Serving on the Religious Education Committee, and being a Youth Group/Coming of Age Adviser. Click [here](#) to sign up!

This year's theme: World Religions

- **Preschool & Kindergarten:** [Picture Book World Religions](#)
- **1st-3rd Grade:** [Picture Book World Religions](#)
- **4th & 5th Grade:** *Passport to Spirituality*
- **6th-8th Grade:** *Neighboring Faiths*
- **Youth Group:** [Building Bridges](#)

To snack? Or not to snack?

There have been many conversations about whether or not treats will be included during Coffee and Conversation. While that decision is as of yet undecided, I need your help with the RE Snack conversation! [Please fill out this VERY short survey letting me know what you think!](#)

Sunnyhill is Hiring!

We are looking to add one adult nursery caregiver to our Sunday morning team! Please share this [job description](#) with family and friends that you think might be interested in spending their Sunday mornings with the youngest Sunnyhillers! We are looking for a professional that is not a current member/friend of the church to fill this important position.

--Jennifer McGlothlin



Chips from the Board

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

- Guest Harold Behar and board member Janie Elliott followed up on their plan for a promotional direct mail piece in the form of a seasonal calendar to inform the larger community of Sunnyhill events and programming. The board reviewed the proposed pricing against the available budgets and anticipated funds from the pumpkin patch fundraiser and green lighted the first phase of this campaign.
- Guest Chetan Chotani brought forth a proposal to update the current pledging system. The proposed system will be a simplified one-click form that allows the members to see their prior year pledge and pledge for the upcoming year with just one click of a button. The board approved this concept.
- Guest Denny McCracken provided an update and review of costs and final line items in the church renovation project, now underway. Lighting, HVAX, AV systems are all in place and ready to be tested at the Charlie Cook anniversary celebration on the 19th of Aug, before the first service on the 20th.
- Rev. Jim is working with Roy to finalize a rental document. Requests are already coming into the church for use of the facility.
- The board finalized dates for the August retreat and a one-evening program in September at Sunnyhill to learn about board basics.
- Vice President Jay Thornton discussed plans for a "committee fair" now being planned for **Sun., Sept. 10**, to introduce Sunnyhill, and especially to newer members, to opportunities available through committees and key programs. Board liaising for the committees is under further review and discussion.
- Janie Elliott provided an update on the Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser (pumpkins delivered at **4 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 14**) and the Sunnyhill Dedication Weekend.
- The board discussed various strategies and programs to integrate new members into the congregation such as 8@8, canvas dinners and other events on the calendar.

--Kavita Iyengar

Members are welcome to attend UUCSH board meetings. If you have an issue you want to bring to the board's attention at the monthly meeting, please contact Sibyl McNulty at president@sunnyhill.org to be added to the agenda. Request the board agenda and minutes from the church administrator at admin@sunnyhill.org or contact Janie Elliott, Secretary at board@sunnyhill.org. Board meetings for the 2017-18 church year will be the second Tuesday of the month. The next board meeting will be on **Tuesday September 12, at 7pm, at Sunnyhill.**

Chalice Circles

Sign ups for fall 2017 Chalice Circles are in progress. Contact Nanette if interested. Indicated a day or evening preference for meeting time.

Nanette Miller, Coordinator (nanoo52@gmail.com)

Small Group Ministry at Sunnyhill: Sign up now for a 2017-18 Chalice Circle

The UU Small Group Ministry program known at Sunnyhill as Chalice Circles will re-commence in September. On Sunday, August 20, Rev. Jim's sermon was about the value of participating in a religious community: "Why Going to Church is Good for You." Small group programs like Chalice Circles are a vital part of the church experience. They help meet a need for community and connection that is a key reason people are drawn to a religious community like Sunnyhill.

Why join a Chalice Circle? Chalice Circles can provide all members with a depth of connection that is difficult to reach during coffee hour or at larger church events. Joining a Circle is a wonderful way for newer members to develop relationships that strengthen ties to the Sunnyhill community.

Are you a Chalice Circle newbie? Here's more info: Chalice Circles are small groups that meet throughout the church year to discuss a topic of personal or spiritual importance with a trained facilitator. The groups provide an open and supportive environment that promotes making connections and developing friendships within our congregation. Joining a Circle is an excellent way for members and friends old and new to develop relationships that strengthen ties to the Sunnyhill community. Chalice Circles are not therapy or support groups. A Chalice Circle is also not a book or political discussion group. You will be encouraged to share personal experiences with each other, rather than opinions and advice.

Sign-ups for Chalice Circles will continue through early September. Groups will begin meeting as soon as possible after sign ups close. If you have questions or would like to sign up, email or call Nanette Miller () or see Directory for Nanette's phone number) and indicate your availability for days or evenings. Note that Circles generally do not meet on Friday evenings, or on Saturday or Sunday. Please put the words "Chalice Circle" in the subject line of your email.

Sunnyhill Spotlight

Capital Campaign

With construction on our beautiful new building now complete, it is essential that all unpaid commitments to the Capital Campaign (including the "Final \$50K") be submitted prior to the end of August. This will allow for finalization of our overall financing plan including the term loan with Huntington Bank. If you have any questions regarding the status of your pledge commitments, please contact Denny McCracken at dennymccracken@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone for your overwhelming support of the building expansion project !

Memories From Maureen

Jerry and I have recently moved to Ohio to live near our daughter Meagen, son-in-law Evan, and our grandson's Sean & Seamus. We can walk to their home, and live in a very nice town- the Village of Jefferson. Although saddened to leave Pittsburgh, after 28 years, we are excited for this new chapter of our lives. Even though our presence at Sunnyhill has decreased, you all remain in our hearts & we take with us the many wonderful memories, and friendships we have enjoyed. We thank and congratulate you all on the expansion and beautiful new sanctuary -- the dedication dates are on our calendar!! Our new address is: 45 West Cedar St. Jefferson, Ohio 44047. Other contact info. remains unchanged.

Love,
Maureen Huelsenbeck

Third Thursdays at Sunnyhill: Religious Education for All Ages

The Adult RE Team* is excited to announce that, beginning on **September 21**, we will hold Religious Education classes for all ages on the third Thursday of each month. Each evening will proceed as follows:



Third Thursdays
at Sunnyhill:
Religious Education
for All Ages

- **5:30 p.m.:** Gather
- **5:45 p.m.:** Potluck supper
- **6:30 p.m.:** Vespers service
- **6:45-8:15 p.m.:** Classes for adults and children

We will offer two different tracks for adults to choose from:

- **A House For Hope:** A discussion of the book "A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the 21st Century" (Rebecca Parker and John Buehrens), facilitated by Rev. Jim Magaw. Each session, we will discuss one chapter from the book, with reflections from Rev. Magaw and questions from a discussion guide from the UUA.
- **Spirit in Practice:** Each session we will explore a different spiritual practice, from sitting meditation to yoga and tai chi and much more. Each session will include a general overview of a particular practice, actual practice, and time for reflection and questions. Session leaders will include both Sunnyhill members and friends and practitioners from the larger community.

We will provide separate activities for children-on many nights related to the activities for adults.

There will also be a social justice component of each session, during which participants will have the opportunity to act on particular issues.

Participants need not attend each session, although regular attendance is certainly encouraged (especially for the book discussion). Participants also need not come to all parts of each session. If you can attend only the class portion of the evening or only the potluck dinner, that's fine!

Sessions will take place **September 2017** through **May 2018** (except for December).

**Adult RE team members are: Josh Broaded, Lauren Hartz, Dean Hazelton, Carl Johnson, Nanette Miller, Dawn Moeller, and Rev. Jim Magaw.*

News, Events, and Other Stuff

Sacred Chant at Sunnyhill: Chanting Begins Again in September

Sacred Chant at Sunnyhill" takes once a month on a Friday at 7:00 p.m. and lasts about one hour. We sing chants from a number of different languages and religious traditions, including Hindu, Hebrew, Pagan, Christian, Buddhist and others. This is a relaxed and informal event, and all who are interested are invited to attend--no background in music or chanting is required, only an interest and a willingness to try something new. Our September Sacred Chant session will take place **Friday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.**; October's session will take place **Friday, October 13**. After that we'll go back to our usual schedule of meeting on the first Friday of each month. Please join us! For more information, contact Rev. Jim (minister@sunnyhill.org).

Second Saturday at Sunnyhill

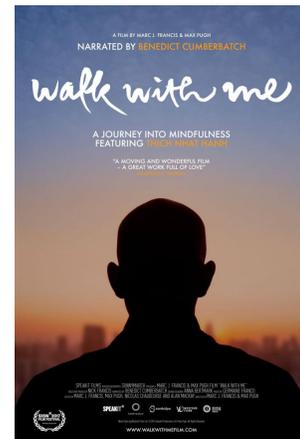
Second Saturday at Sunnyhill" is a family-friendly small-group program that takes place on the second Saturday of each month. This program is designed as a way to build closer relationships with other members and friends while doing some deep sharing and listening around a particular topic each month. These events are both fun and engaging. At each of these events, we begin with a story and some singing and then split into small groups (with separate related activities for children) to do some chalice circle-style sharing based on our monthly topic. Afterward, we share a potluck supper and more informal conversation. Our next Second Saturday at Sunnyhill program will take place **September 9, 4:00 p.m.** All are welcome! For more information, please contact Rev. Jim (minister@sunnyhill.org) or Bethany Thornton (membership@sunnyhill.org).

SHIM Paper Products Collection

There will be a collection at the church for SHIM on **Sept. 10th and 17th**. Food, paper products, cleaning products and personal items.

Walk With Me, Featuring Thich Nhat Hanh

Galleria Cinemas; 1500 Washington Rd; Pittsburgh, PA on **Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:30p** Tickets must be reserved at <http://bit.ly/2eLb310> by **9/1/2017**, with a credit or debit card, but you will not be charged until we reach our reservation quota of 76 tickets. With unprecedented access, *Walk With Me* goes deep inside a Zen Buddhist community who have given up all their possessions and signed up to a life of chastity for one common purpose - to transform their suffering, and practice the art of mindfulness with the world-famous teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Filmed over three years, in their monastery in rural France and on the road in the USA, this visceral film is a meditation on a community grappling with existential questions and the everyday routine of monastic life. As the seasons come and go, the monastics' pursuit for a deeper connection to themselves and the world around them is amplified by insights from Thich Nhat Hanh's early journals, narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch. View the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/179167579>.



Sunnyhill Book Group

The Sunnyhill Book Group will meet at Sunnyhill on **Monday, Sept. 18 at 7:30** to decide on our reading list for the coming year. Everyone is welcome. Please bring suggestions! For further information, please contact Dean Hazelton, at dhazelton44@verizon.net.

World Gratitude Day Pittsburgh

First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh cordially invites you to this special event from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on **Thursday, September 21, 2017** in the Undercroft Art Gallery. Cultivate peace and happiness through gratitude! Be uplifted through a program of music, poetry, readings, reflection and sharing in a coffeehouse setting. A reception and Thank-You-Note-athon will follow the formal program. Free will offering to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council. Co-sponsored by First Unitarian Church and Litzinger Career Consulting. For information and to register: www.WorldGratitudeDayPittsburgh.com.

Board Training for Your Incoming and Continuing Board Members

Why train your Board of Trustees about core leadership principles in house, or do without training at all? Send them to this evening event where they'll learn the basics of what they need to be healthy and effective leaders in a congregation. Facilitated by Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, Central East Region There will be snacks. **Friday, September 22, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**. Sponsor: [Central East Region of the UUA](#). We plan to discuss: Governance Overview, Role of the Board Member, How to Manage Conflict, Attributes of Good Board Leaders, Connecting with Area Leaders. There is no fee for this event. This event will be held at: UU Church of the South Hills. Please contact ivanbecelaere@uua.org - if you have any questions.

Circle of Faith: "Welcoming, Affirming, Embracing... Together We Can!"

Celebrating openness and welcome as part of October Gay History Month. A public interfaith witness of welcome and inclusion for LGBTQIA persons, their families and allies by varied faith communities. **Sunday, October 15 2017 at 2 pm** in Schenley Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA. A public witness to welcome and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ persons, their families and allies by varied faith communities. For all who believe the Divine's love is inclusive and that all are welcome into the "family circle" that their faith communities offer. [Circle of Faith on Facebook](#)

India Pilgrimage through Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council

There are several Pilgrimages sponsored by the UUPCC, and First Unitarian Church would like to call your attention to the one in the Khasi Hills of India where they have been sponsoring a school since 2003. This is an adventure of a lifetime and an opportunity to bring Pittsburgh good wishes and encouragement to Unitarians on the other side of the world. The deadline is **October 31** and it is over half full. For details: www.uupcc.org. For questions of a past pilgrim, contact Karen Litzinger, 412-242-7045.

News from the CER

Beth Casebolt, Region Administrator

Details about upcoming events are available at the [CER website](#).

Missed something at GA? Most of the events in the main hall area available online at the [UUA website](#). You can also check the [UUA YouTube Channel](#).

Skinner House Books announces a search for an author or authors to write a book about the blessings of participating in a liberal religious faith community. The book would be fairly short, written in an informal, non-academic way. It could be thought of as an alternative to the increasing number of calls to be "spiritual but not religious." Instead, this book holds up what is good about religiosity-such as community, ritual, pastoral support, mutual caring, exposure to new ideas, and participating in social justice works while part of a faith community. It would use real-life stories and examples to show rather than tell about why Unitarian Universalists and other religious liberals find congregational life so sustaining. Learn more at [Skinner House](#).

Courage for Racial Justice, Courage for Collective Liberation Training, February 17, 2018 sponsored by the Southern and MidAmerica Regions in Louisville, KY. Unitarian Universalist and Social Justice Facilitator, Chris Crass will offer a one day workshop entitled "Courage for Racial Justice, Courage for Collective Liberation." Workshop will begin with brief worship and include small and large group discussions, storytelling from preselected congregations, theological reflection, and participatory exercise. Concluding segment will focus on "What are you bringing back to your congregation?" and "How will you be accountable for your plan?" Workshop will close with "Revival for Racial Justice" testimonials. The purpose of this workshop is to help build SJ communities and cultures rooted in UU values with the courage to do racial justice work. Focus will be on encouraging activism and leaders, building capacity, and putting UU congregations in touch with one another.

The **Breakthrough Congregations Program** has been reimagined and re-invented. This program celebrates and shares innovative ways congregations are adapting to the challenges faced in an evolving religious landscape. We are looking for bold one time initiatives as well as on-going sustainable efforts. This is not based on numerical growth or whole congregation health, though we will consider other benchmarks of health in your congregation. For more information and application materials, [go to the Breakthrough Congregations webpage](#). Congregations and covenanting communities can apply and the application deadline is September 1, 2017.

The Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee are excited to launch [Love Resists](#), a joint campaign to protect both the values of our democracy and the humanity and rights of individuals and communities most at risk. Since the election of President Trump, more than 860 clergy members, 40% of UU congregations, and nearly 15,000 individuals have endorsed a [Declaration of Conscience](#), pledging to stand on the side of love to protect the most vulnerable, defend core values under attack, and commit themselves to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights. Love Resists is the next phase in translating this declaration of values into action. Get involved by signing the Declaration of Conscience, exploring our resources, and taking action to support sanctuary and solidarity in your community. Visit www.loveresists.org to learn more, and share your stories of justice and solidarity with us using #LoveResists.

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