

Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills (“Sunnyhill”)

Sunnyhill’s Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

F.A.Q.

What are the dates and times? Our patch is open from October 14-31.

- Saturday, October 14: 5-8 p.m.
 - The truck arrives with our pumpkins at 4 p.m.! We will start selling at 5 p.m.
- Saturdays, October 21 and 28: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29: Noon-7 p.m.
- Mondays-Fridays, October 16-20, 23-27, and 30-31: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community Open House

On October 21, we hope everyone steps inside to visit our new space. Volunteers will be inside to show visitors our new sanctuary, administrative offices, choir room, nursery, and classrooms. Anyone who would like to learn more about our Sunday services; religious education programs for children, youth, and adults; and our music and social justice programs is encouraged to talk with a volunteer. Visitors can enjoy a cup of free cider in our fellowship hall and purchase Fair Trade coffee, teas, and chocolate.

Who supplies the pumpkins? Sunnyhill has partnered with Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers, Inc., a family-operated business that has since 1974 provided pumpkins to religious organizations and other non-profits throughout the continental United States for pumpkin patch fundraisers.

After being hit by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers moved their farming operations from their family farms in North Carolina to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM. In cooperation with the Navajo Nation, Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers grow 1,200 acres or approximately 2 square miles of pumpkins and employ over 700 Native Americans during their harvest months of September and October. They also have a full time, off-season New Mexico staff that is comprised of entirely Native Americans. This farming enterprise has a positive and lasting impact on a region with 42% unemployment. Read more about Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers at their website: <https://www.pumpkinsusa.com/>

How will the proceeds of the fundraiser be used? Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers reinvest fundraiser proceeds in their farms on the Navajo Indian Reservation. Sunnyhill will use proceeds to support the work of the church.

Why are the pumpkins special? Pumpkins are an exclusive crop of Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers, and we will sell as many as 25 varieties in all shapes, sizes, and colors. All are grown to have vibrant color, strong stems, and a long life—pumpkins purchased even in early October should remain firm and fresh through Halloween. The pumpkins are grown using sustainable agricultural practices, so we feel good that the pumpkins are a healthy and hearty crop grown in a way that nurtures and restores the earth.

- Crop rotation: varying crops from year to year limits pest problems, reducing the need for insecticides.
- Cover crops: prevent soil erosion and suppress weeds, limiting the need for herbicides.
- Soil-mapping technology: enables the use of the optimal amount of seed and fertilizer to maximize yields efficiently.
- Non-GMO: all Pumpkin Patch pumpkins are non-GMO.

National Pumpkin Carving Contest Sponsored by Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers

The rules are simple! Purchase a pumpkin, carve it, stick on an official sticker (which you will receive at checkout), and upload a photo of your masterpiece to the contest gallery at Facebook.com/carvingcontest. Don't forget the sticker! Without the sticker the entry will be disqualified. Once you have submitted your entry, you will receive a link to share with friends so they can vote! Voting is how a winner will be selected: the photo with the most votes, wins! There will be one \$10,000 winner selected. The organization that sold the winning pumpkin will receive a \$1,000 prize. Last day to enter is November 1 at 11:59 EST. The winner will be announced on November 2.

Will you sell food? We think food trucks are a Pittsburgh tradition (like cookie tables at weddings), and we're excited that on Saturdays and Sundays (except October 14) we will have food trucks on the Sunnyhill campus for our visitors to enjoy!

- Beatnik Sweet Eats & Desserts
- Anthony's Great Grilling Dogs
- Tango Authentic Argentinian Food
- Ash & Kris Kitchen Greek Food

Will there be photo ops? We're hoping for fair skies, but this is Pittsburgh, and October might bring sunshine or rain. We will have a tent set up with hay bales, corn husks, and pumpkins so if we do have rain, you can still get good shots!

What form of payment do you accept? Cash, check, or credit card.

Will there be help with heavy pumpkins? Whether the pumpkins you love are big or small, our volunteers are prepared to help you! Volunteers will help carry pumpkins or use wagons to transport your pumpkins to check out. If you have parked on the street, we will label your pumpkins and have them ready when you pull your car around.

Where are you located and where will visitors park? We are located at 1240 Washington Road in Mt. Lebanon, at the corner of Route 19 and Sunnyhill Drive.

- *Saturdays and Sundays:* There will be parking in our lot, and on the southbound side of Route 19, right in front of the church. There is parking on both sides of Sunnyhill Drive, St. Clair Drive, and Rocklynn Drive. *On Sundays only, you can also park on the northbound side of Route 19.*
- *Weekdays:* There should be plenty of parking in our lot on weekdays. If you arrive and the lot is full, we would suggest Sunnyhill Drive.

