



THE DRUMMER

October 2017

A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone,
if it is to keep its edge.

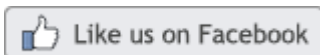
--George R. R. Martin

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Sunday Services in October

Oct. 1, 10:00 a.m. Love the Stranger. Rev. Jim Magaw.
What does it mean to "love the stranger"--a concept that is present in a number of different religious traditions? Do we really have to love people we don't even know or with whom we might not have anything in common? How do set about such a task? *Designated Offering: American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania serves Allegheny, Greene, and Washington counties and is part of the 28-county Western Pennsylvania Region. They also provide training and transportation for volunteers who travel to help with national disaster relief efforts, including relief for victims of the recent hurricanes in Texas and Florida.*

Oct. 8, 10:00 a.m. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice. Rev. Jim Magaw.
For decades, many institutions and organizations-including the church-have emphasized diversity and inclusion as important values. We often talk of celebrating diversity and striving to be more inclusive. But are diversity and inclusion enough? This sermon will explore how an emphasis on diversity and inclusion may sometimes keep us from working for real justice and equity.

Oct. 15, 10:00 a.m. Welcoming Congregation Celebration. Rev. Jim Magaw and Interweave.
Last year our congregation renewed our status as a "Welcoming Congregation" with the Unitarian Universalist Association. We are grateful for the work of many in our congregation who engaged in this process. How do we continue to live into our status as a welcoming congregation? *Designated Offering: Circle of Faith is a Pittsburgh interfaith organization dedicated to welcoming and inclusion for LGBTQ persons, their families and allies in varied faith communities. Circle of Faith sponsors and organizes public witness events and worship services for all who are welcoming, affirming and embracing.*

Oct. 22.10:00 a.m. Consecration Service. Rev. Lee Barker.
As part of our building dedication weekend, we will consecrate our new sanctuary and consider: What does it mean to make a space sacred? How will we choose to bless this place? And how will we bless the world through this space?

Oct. 29. 10:00 a.m. All Souls Day. Rev. Jim Magaw.
In the Christian tradition, All Souls Day has been a time to remember everyone who has died, everyone who has been part of the gathered community. The phrase "All Souls" has a particularly Unitarian connotation because of something that one of our own "saints," William Ellery Channing, "I am a living member of the great Family of All Souls; and I cannot improve or suffer myself without diffusing good or evil around me through an ever-enlarging sphere. What does it mean for us to be a community of All Souls in the 21st century?"

Oct. 29, 7:00 p.m. Samhain Ritual. Spirtways.

Samhain, meaning "Summer's End," is a Gaelic holiday, marking the third and final harvest festival of the year. By now, the last of the fields have been gathered. The leaves, bereft of gold and fire, lie brown and lifeless at our feet, and the earth begins to die around us as we watch the wheel of the year turn towards the dark and cold part of the year. It is also a time to honor our ancestors, those who came before us--our beloved dead--and celebrate their memory. On this night, the veil between the worlds is thinnest, and thusly, we look to reconnect with our loved ones, speak their names, remember their presence and hope to receive advice or guidance for the upcoming year. As this is a high holiday, attendees are asked to wear black. Food and drink contributions to cakes and ale are always welcome, especially seasonal items. Due to the powerful quality of rituals, children 12 and older only please, unless otherwise noted. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Suggested Items for Samhain:

- Mementos of your beloved dead/ancestors for the ancestor altar
- Food for sharing at cakes and ale
- Wear black

Minister's Notes

Rev. Jim Magaw

During the month of October, we will be celebrating the renewal of our status as a "Welcoming Congregation," and we will also celebrate our new building with our dedication weekend (don't forget to [RSVP!](#)).

We have much to celebrate at Sunnyhill! Not only are we getting settled into our beautiful facility, but our new church year is off to a great start, with several new programs and many ways to connect with one another and with the larger world.

In the wake of our time away from the building and our return, I am reminded of a story from Exodus:

After the Israelites have escaped Pharaoh's army and crossed the Red Sea, we are told that "Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women followed her with tambourines and dances. And Miriam called to them: Sing to God." And the people sang, and they danced.

The Israelites carried with them the many bodily wounds and indignities they had suffered in Egypt. And they began the process of transformation with singing and dancing. It was just the beginning of their journey, to be sure. But Miriam knew that, if they were to have any chance of healing, any chance of transforming their suffering, that the change had to start with their bodies and not just their minds.

Let us celebrate in the spirits of the ancient Israelites with our hearts and our minds. Let us be grateful to one another and to all who have made our journey possible. And let us welcome all who join us for the next steps in our life as a congregation renewed, refreshed, and re-energized.

--Rev. Jim Magaw

Religious Education

Jennifer McGlothlin, Director of Religious Education



2017-2018 Religious Education at Sunnyhill

Welcome back to Sunnyhill teachers, students, and everyone in between! We are going to have a great year growing, learning, sharing, and caring together as we study World Religions in our Religious Education Classes!

*All children should be picked up or signed in to Chalice Club by **11:15 am**.*

Still need to register for Religious Education Classes, Youth Group, or Nursery)?

[Registration Form](#)

Sunnyhill Youth Group- First session is **Sunday, September 24 at 11:15 am**.

Sunday, October 29: Harvest Festival Returns to Sunnyhill! All are invited to wear Halloween costumes and join us for fun and activities following the **10 am** service.

--Jennifer McGlothlin



Chips from the Board

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

- Peg Hart and Deny McCracken reported from the New Home Committee, discussing final items on builder's punch list and some changes that are needed.
- Peg also reviewed final details for the donor wall, which will recognize all gifts to the Capital Campaign, as well as individual plaques for key rooms and spaces.
- Janie Elliott reviewed the process for a small (250 households) postcard mailing to promote the September Meet & Greet events.
- The board is hosting a cluster-wide board training event at Sunnyhill on **Fri., Sept. 22**. Board members from area UU churches will be attending and getting their first look at our new space!
- Staff reports from Rev. Jim, Jen, and Bethany highlighted the high attendance at services since returning to Sunnyhill. We have had a number of visitors, including some former Sunnyhillers.
- Bethany asked that all board members volunteer as Sunday morning greeters, and, when she and Jim launch Sunnyhill 101 in October, she would like one board member at each session to discuss how Sunnyhill is governed.
- The board will have a combined retreat/meeting **Oct. 7**. One topic of discussion will be the organization and arrangement of committees into key functional groups.

Respectfully submitted,

--Janie Elliott, Board Secretary

*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, November 14, at 7pm, at Sunnyhill.***

News, Events, and Other Stuff

Spuyten Duyvil

Let's kick off the new concert series on **Friday, Oct. 6th at 8:00PM** (doors open at 7:30!) at Sunnyhill (1240 Washington Road Mt. Lebanon) with a performance by *Spuyten Duyvil*. Described as essential traditional music arranged for today's listeners, critics call the sound of *Spuyten Duyvil*

"High-octane Americana." Tickets are \$20.00 / \$10.00 kids (sold at door). Reservations: admin@sunnyhill.org

Sacred Chant at Sunnyhill

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. 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).

Butanese-Nepali Foundation Fundraiser

The Himalayan Foundation-USA is having a fundraiser. Money raised goes to help those who are here from refugee camps in Nepal. Monies raised help with programs that help them integrate into the USA, learning our culture while sharing theirs. Most of these programs are targeted for the parents and seniors who can, quite frankly, feel very isolated here. These fundraisers are a lot of fun, and much is learned and enjoyed by all! The fundraiser dinner will be on **Sunday October 15th, from 5pm to 8pm**. It will be at St Peter's Episcopal Church in Brentwood. There will be Nepali, Indian, and American food. There will also be a cultural program arranged by the Butanese community. The recommended minimum donation is \$10 each. Any questions, please direct to Beth, bbhedin@gmail.com.

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](#)

Sunnyhill Book Group

The Sunnyhill Book Group will meet at Sunnyhill on **Monday, October 16 at 7:30** to discuss *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah. Everyone is welcome. For further information, please contact Dean Hazelton, at dhazelton44@verizon.net.

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.

2017 Annual Assembly of the Unitarian Universalists of Greater Pittsburgh

Join fellow Unitarian Universalists for a day of camaraderie, connection, and collaboration! **Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 9am-3pm** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. The registration fee is \$20 and includes lunch. Registration opens **October 5**. Everyone welcome! Child care available. You do not need to be a Unitarian Universalist or a member of a Unitarian Universalist congregation to attend. More info: <http://uupittsburgh.org/assembly>.

News from the CER

Beth Casebolt, Region Administrator

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

[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 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.

CER Events at a Glance

The following events are upcoming in the region. For full details and a complete list visit the [CER Calendar Page](#). Also, please note, if you are mailing a check to pay for your event to us, ***you must write the name and date of the event in the memo line.*** Otherwise we may not get it properly credited.

- OMD Senior High Youth Conference ~ Sept 29-Oct 1, 2017 ~ Pittsburgh, PA
- Decoding Tapestry of Faith ~ October 5, 2017 ~ Shaker Heights, OH
- UNY Youth Leadership Con ~ October 6-8, 2017
- How to be a Strategic Board ~ October 14, 2017 ~ Silver Spring, MD
- Leadership as a Team Sport ~ October 14, 2017 ~ Buffalo, NY
- [National DRUUMM Annual Gathering](#) ~ October 21-22, 2017 ~ Murray Grove Retreat Center, NJ

CER Webinars at a Glance

The following webinars will take place in the region the next two months. For full details and a complete list visit the [CER Webinars Calendar](#).

- [New Religious Educator Webinar Series](#), August 29 & Sept 5, 7-9 pm ET - This two part webinar will orient new religious educators (new to the field as well as experienced educators in a new congregation) to the best ways to enter into a new position of religious leadership. Register now!

Congregation, Cluster and Affiliate Groups News and Events

Our congregations and clusters in the region have many exciting activities and announcements going on. For a complete listing of events visit the CER [Congregations and Clusters Calendar Page](#). For news and to see which congregations are hiring, please visit our [News Blog](#) for listings.

- Towson UUC Conference for Adults ~ Sept 29-30, 2017 ~ Towson UUC
- Spirit Play Training ~ September 30, 2017 ~ Canton, NY
- SLD UUMA Chapter Retreat ~ October 23-25, 2017

The Drummer is published monthly. Submit copy and photos to the editor, Michael Farb, via email to drummer@sunnyhill.org by the 15th of each month. If you don't have email, please call the office at 412-561-6277. We will be happy to have copies mailed to you. To be removed from the e-mail distribution list or to submit an e-mail address change, please send request to admin@sunnyhill.org.

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