



October 2021  
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HIGH PLAINS CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

NURTURE | INSPIRE | ACT

# HIP HAPPENINGS

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



Rev. Julia McKay  
HiPChurchUU  
Minister

One of my favorite poems of all time is one that I credit with partially saving my life during the grief period after my divorce:

*You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves...*

To me, this poem is all about authenticity. It opens with such a surprising statement (“You do not have to be good”), followed by a dramatic image: you crawling a hundred miles through the desert in repentance. This image depicts the idea of grandiose martyrdom that so many of us were raised within our religions of origin. But this line of thinking, really tells us what is not authentic – that effort to look good, to be good, above all else.

### **We are left wondering about “being good.”**

Mary Oliver seems to be saying being authentic is more important than being good, but it isn’t always that easy. It is true. I have seen many a congregant leave their beloved community because they think their lives are too difficult to share with others or be witnessed by others.

## CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS

It’s really the last sentence of the poem that grabs me:

*Whoever you are,  
no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese. . .  
announcing your place in the family of things.*

I think she is talking about how the experience of brokenness often becomes the place of meaning, revelation, and connection. That by being real with one another we might come to find ourselves in “a family of choice,” creating a kinship, a beloved community, sharing joys and sorrows, trusting the bonds that we create, and unlocking the power of covenanted relating.

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Yet, earlier her words invite us to not get stuck in our troubles.

*Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.*

*Meanwhile, the world goes on...*

In this time of so much loss, confusion, and chaos that we are living, it is probable that we might be coming from good intentions when we find ourselves saying things to try to stop the pain; we work to highlight the joy or beauty in life, focus on the future, invent “a reason” for the suffering, stay positive, or any number of things. We try to talk about anything other than the pain so that we don’t additionally burden the hearts that are already broken. But this “cult of positivity and strength” in our culture can quickly and easily teeter over into toxic positivity.

Rather, others need our capacity. They need our capacity to hold the story -- the whole story. To stay present to what is occurring, just as it is. It might be a story of the tremendous bravery that it took to continue loving, continue striving, and doing all things possible in the face of what ultimately might not be fixed or healed – sad, but true.

Grief specialist, Megan Devine writes:

*“There is nothing wrong with grief.*

*It is a natural extension of love.*

*It’s a healthy and sane response to loss.*

*And what you are living, painful as it is – is love...*

*Grief is a mystery to be honored.*

*It is not a problem to be solved.*

*And grief’s challenge is best answered with companionship.”*

Nothing greater is needed in these times than cultivating such a community of life. So, in this month of Dia de los Muertos and All Souls Day, find a way to honor what you are carrying in this tough time. Create a special place where you leave everyday reality for a while. Take the light of a candle with you and wash yourself in it. Chant a little song of comfort. And then, most importantly, take the hand of someone who also needs their story heard and bear witness wholeheartedly. Then you might find the slightest smile spreading across your face at the wondrous discovery of what’s possible when kindness and beauty are present, and all is not lost.

*In resilience and respect,*

*Rev J*



“Mother-Tounge” Soul Collage by Julia McKay

# October Worship Theme: Cultivating Relationships

## **OCT 3 – UUA General Assembly – Ware Lecture**

The UUA President invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the Ware Lecturer. For 2021, Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade were selected to share the honor. Stacey Abrams is the New York Times bestselling author of *Our Time Is Now* and *Lead from the Outside*, an entrepreneur, and a political leader. She served as Democratic Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives for 7 years prior to running for Governor of Georgia, where she won more votes than any other Democrat in the state's history. Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually become the President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC), Chair of Floridians for a Fair Democracy, a graduate of Florida International University College of Law, and a Ford Global Fellow. He is the author of *Let My People Vote: My Battle to Restore the Rights of Returning Citizens*.



## **OCT 10 – Indigenous People’s Day (formerly Columbus Day) Meets Coming Out Day**

Who understands what it means to be part of a community that is marginalized by mainstream culture? Come explore the essence of “coming out” that we all must do in life --- the costs and the benefits. Rev J speaks. *Note: This service will be followed by “AUCTION 101: Bidding Refresher” for those of you who would like to know how to participate in the upcoming Auction!*

## **OCT 17 – Currents of Strength: Grief Lessons for Our Times**

The energy of grief is so present in our lives these days because of all that is happening. And it is true that the time we are living in requires an emotional

depth and connection to ourselves and to others that may be previously unbeknownst to us. Why are we so challenged in our culture around tragedy, death, and grief? Come explore how taking a risk to speak about and embody our grief is one of the most significant points of connection that we can have with others. Rev J speaks.

## **OCT 24 – Cultivating a Community of Life: to Carry and to Relate**

The roots of both words, “cultivate” and “relate,” carry a quality of “tending to” and “taking care of.” The roots of relate come through Latin *relatus*: re back, again + *lātus borne*: carried. In other words, “to carry again and again and again.” Cultivate comes from the Latin, *cultivus*: tilled, and *colere*: to cultivate, till; inhabit; frequent; respect; tend, guard. One can glean the sense that cultivating a relationship involves breaking up clumps found traveling the ground, making a conscious effort to keep the heart space of the relationship respected, tended, and guarded. It is an ever-repeating process of carrying and caring for. Rev J speaks. Please note: Care Team will do its annual update of the “Helping Hands” database for those of you who would like to extend a hand when it is needed. Please be thinking about what kind of help you like to give: from a computer and IT help, to mowing a lawn, to driving someone to the doctor.

## **OCT 31 – Dia De Los Muertos (All Saints/Souls Day)**

Let us take this time to honor the relationships that have passed into another realm. At the end of October, when the veil between this world and the other world is thought to be the thinnest, we are offered a particular opportunity. Join Alcira, Heather, and the youth as we celebrate this traditional time of honoring our dead. Please bring a photo of anyone in your family that has passed this year or in the past. Speakers: Alcira Estevez and Heather Southard w/youth.

All services are on Zoom at 3:30 pm unless otherwise noted.  
[HPCUU Zoom Link](#)



**Heather Southard**  
Faith Formation  
Coordinator

October and autumn seemed to have snuck up on me way too fast. I see pumpkins and autumn leaf decorations everywhere. But here in Colorado, it is still way too hot. I hope we have a full three months of true autumn before winter tries to take over. October is one of my favorite months and includes one of my favorite

holidays - Halloween.

With many fun things going on this month in our church, I am sure we will have an exciting time. **First, we have our once-a-month social gathering on October 16th, including a corn maze.** In addition, I am excited about our church auction because, our kids will be hosting an auction event item for your bidding pleasure.

Finally, we will end this month with some autumn holiday fun. **Alcira Estevez and I will be leading worship on October 31st to honor Halloween and Dia de Los Muertos.** Join us that day for worship while we honor our ancestors and teach you about our holiday traditions. We will have some kids helping us with the service that day, and then

they will be attending our Halloween and Dia de Los Muertos party afterward. Join us to learn more about these two traditions.

The Soul Matters theme for this month is about Cultivating Relationships.

This theme goes hand-in-hand with the 7th Principle, our connection to the interconnected web of life. As we interact with one another in this community, we see that it is nearly impossible to be human without touching the life or lives of others. This time of year reminds us how important love and relationships here on earth are important as we celebrate our ancestors and friends.

*In loving support,  
Heather Southard  
Faith Formation Coordinator*



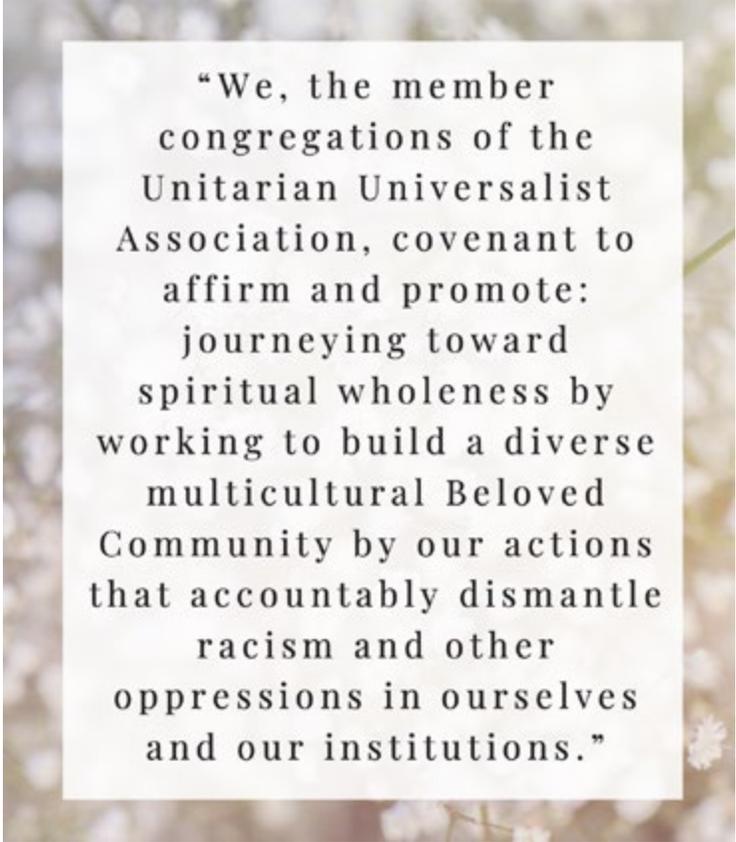
In July, the HPCUU Multicultural Action Team (MCAT) hosted two Sunday services to introduce the congregation to the proposed 8th Principle: “We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

These services were just the beginning of the conversation; if you missed them, they are available on the website: <https://www.hpcuu.org/services/what-is-the-8th-principle/>  
<https://www.hpcuu.org/services/digging-deeper-into-the-8th-principle/>

In the first service we discussed the “what” and “why now” to introduce the 8th Principle. We talked about the history of the 8th Principle, including the grassroots movement and where the UUA is in the process. We also began the discussion about why we should consider adopting the 8th Principle as a congregation. In the 2nd service we went deeper into the principle, with personal reflections from MCAT members about its 3 elements: spiritual wholeness, beloved community, and accountability. Below are a few points from the first service; in future articles, we will highlight our personal reflections from the 2nd service.

### **The “what” and where we are in the process:**

- Proposed 8th Principle was written by Paula Cole Jones and Bruce Pollack-Johnson following Paula’s realization after many years of antiracism work that UUs often believe they are following the 7 Principles and being “good UUs” without ever thinking about or addressing the systemic nature of racism or other oppressions
- 8th Principle formally recommended to UUA for adoption in 2017; Article II Study Commission is in process but is complicated and final adoption can’t happen until 2023



“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

- Many in the UU community believe that the 8th Principle is something we need now in our efforts to center building the Beloved Community in our congregations and our denomination has led to a grassroots movement for adoption by individual UU congregations and organizations 117 adoptions to date
- At the June UUA General Assembly a resolution was passed asking the Article II Study Commission & the UUA Board to “ensure proposed changes to Article II include in the Principles a clear and direct statement that accountable systemic anti-racist and anti-oppressive actions to build Beloved Community are part of what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.”

### **Why now?**

- Since committing to becoming an Anti-Racist Anti-Oppressive Multi-Cultural (ARAOMC) institution in 1997, the UUA has had its own successes and pitfalls around this issue; the recent COIC Widening the Circle of Concern Report and

the 8th Principle grassroots movement are a response to this history.

- Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and the Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) have endorsed this principle and are encouraging all UUs to advocate for its formal adoption.
- We have seen disturbing trends in our country in recent years concerning many of us that we are moving in the wrong direction with respect to issues of equity and racial justice; one of the best ways for us to meaningfully support racial justice is to rid ourselves and our institutions of the culture and exclusive practices of white supremacy.
- Dismantling racism, white supremacy, and other oppressions cannot be done solely at the institutional level; it requires work at the personal and congregational level as well.
- UU Principles were designed to be dynamic, not a fixed creed which allows us to revise them and/or add to them as we gain a new level of understanding, and new truths are revealed to us.
- Adopting the 8th Principle would help us spread support and the necessary action as we strive to move closer to the desired goal of collective liberation.

Stay tuned for more information and conversations about this important proposed addition to our UU Principles. For more information about the 8th Principle Movement check out this website:

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>

*Julie Feuerbach,  
Co-lead HPCUU Multicultural Action Team*

## Adult Faith Formation



### Covenant Groups Your Soul Matters!

It has been said that human beings become human by making commitments. A covenant is a mutual promise between individuals or groups -- to stay in relationship, care about each other, and work together in good faith. It is a way to seek the good of the whole right along with your personal good. As one of the flagship ministries of our church our Covenant Groups are spaces in which we practice loving each other and willingly staying at the table again and again (even in difficulty). Our small group ministry is most probably one of the reasons HiPChurchUU fared so well through this time of pandemic and cultural strife. Fall is the best season to join a covenant group for the first time, or shift to a new group to deepen friendships with other folks if you so choose. So please consider what you would like to do for our upcoming

church year. Contact [sgm-steering@hpcuu.org](mailto:sgm-steering@hpcuu.org) or [Rev Julia](#) for more information or to sign up with a group.



## Love to Write? Join us October 9th, 9:30 am

This is a time for personal reflection and thoughtful conversations. Journaling helps us to see and know ourselves. It is a way to expand on half-formed thoughts — bringing to light parts of ourselves that reside only in our unconscious mind. Once acknowledged we can start to work with those once hidden emotions and beliefs in a new way. In this workshop we will talk about the value and the practice of journaling. We will have several short writing sessions (that won't require sharing). You will need to have a

journal or writing paper and a pen. Please register in advance by contacting [Sonya Bergeron](mailto:Sonya.Bergeron@hpcuu.org).



## Last Starting Point Class October 13

Have you been a recent visitor and want to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and High Plains Church? Would you like to get to know our minister more personally, and get to know others in the church? Or have you been attending High Plains Church for a while and want information about becoming a member?

Our Hospitality/Membership team is offering a 3-4 session series called Starting Point on the following Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 pm. **October 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

These classes are informational and there is no obligation to join the church. Please send an email to [membership@hpcuu.org](mailto:membership@hpcuu.org) if you are interested in attending or have further questions.

Gloria Carpenter/Lynn Whitacre, Your Hospitality/Membership co-chairs!

## Fun with Fellowship

### In-Person Coffee Morning

Every 2nd Friday, 10:00 am

Pikes Perk Coffee & Tea House, 5965 N Academy Blvd.

Join your HiP friends for coffee and a visit. This is a time to catch up and be in community for a bit over a cup of coffee – ALL WELCOME! Pikes Perk is a BI-POC-owned business. Hope to see you there! Questions, contact: [fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org](mailto:fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org)



### In-Person Happy Hour

Every 3rd Friday, 5:00 pm

Oct. 15th will be at the Lost Friend Brewing Company, 2458 Montebello Square Dr.

Questions, contact [fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org](mailto:fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org)



### Friday Night Happy Hour with your HiP Friends!

Grab your favorite adult beverage and join us for Happy Hour every Friday evening from 5 – 6 pm. This is a lively, fun, and purely social time to get together over Zoom. See you then! Join us in our Zoom Room. Email [office@hpcuu.org](mailto:office@hpcuu.org) for ID and Password.





## Your Need-to-Know Guide to the 2021 HARVEST HOEDOWN Auction!

HPCUU auction events are THE BEST way to get to know the people in our church community AND fill your social calendar with loads of fun things to do throughout the next year... you may even get a head start on some holiday shopping! Your generous support of our Annual Auction helps Rev Julia and your church action teams provide the quality programming we all love so much!

- **The HPCUU 2021 Auction web address is:** [www.auctria.com/auction/hpcuu2021auction](http://www.auctria.com/auction/hpcuu2021auction). Everything you'll need for the HPCUU 2021 Auction, including your Donate Items form and the Auction Catalog, is on this website. Check it out!



- If you forget to bookmark the Auctria web address you can always get to our auction website from [hpcuu.org](http://hpcuu.org). Just click on Auction from the header:
- **Online bidding will be open from October 17-23.** Bid early and often.
- **You must be REGISTERED in order to bid!** If you participated in our 2020 auction, you don't need to register again = your information is still in the system! If you didn't participate in last year's auction, click "Registration" in the website header, complete the form and hit "Submit". You'll receive a registration confirmation by email. Once registered you're all set to get into the auction action!
- **All items available for online bidding are listed in the CATALOG.** The catalog will be finalized the second week of October and will open for bidding on October 17th. You can star your favorites for quick access to all the items you wish to bid on.
- **All BIDDING is done directly from the CATALOG.** Opening bids, raise amounts and quantities are specified in each catalog entry, along with a description of the item or auction event.
- **Bids can be entered from your computer or on your mobile phone/tablet.** To bid from your mobile phone or tablet, download the FREE Auctria Mobile Bidding App wherever you access applications for your device. With the mobile bidding app you will get notices when you are outbid and can bid any time, any place!
- **If you want two seats at an auction event, you must enter two bids.**
- **You can set proxy bids on single buyer items.** With proxy bidding you can specify how high you are willing to go and the system will automatically increase your bids up to that amount. An email notification will let you know if bidding has gone above your proxy amount so you can then decide whether to drop out, keep bidding, or set a higher proxy bid amount.
- **Bidding Extension:** Online bidding is scheduled to end at 10 pm on Saturday, October 23rd. However, if there is still bidding on items within 5 minutes of closing, bidding on those items will be extended in 10-minute increments for as long as active bidding continues. So don't give up! If you want to win something special you can continue to bid beyond the official 10 pm auction closing time!
- **The HPCUU COUNTRY STORE is now OPEN!** New and gently used goods are available for sale at fixed prices in the [COUNTRY STORE](#). To donate household goods, your handmade crafts, sports equipment, plants, toys, etc, complete one "Donate Item" form for each item you are donating; be sure to provide a description, photo, and your donor information. To make a purchase simply hit the "Buy Now" button. 100% of proceeds from the COUNTRY STORE support High Plains Church.
- **AUCTION NIGHT: DINNER, DANCING & LIVE AUCTION, October 23, 5:30 – 10 pm at Black Forest Community Center. MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for a party you won't want to miss! Watch your eblasts and email for details!



## DONATE, DONATE, DONATE!!!

To have a successful auction we will need LOTS & LOTS of your dinners, parties, tastings, and quality handcrafted goods to bid on! Be sure to get your donations in ASAP by filling in one “Donate Items” form for each item you are contributing.

Additionally, you may support the 2021 church auction by making CASH DONATIONS or a contribution to HPCUU’s Technology Fund.

Find everything you’ll need for the 2021 HARVEST HOEDOWN Auction here: [www.auctria.com/auction/hpcuu-2021auction](http://www.auctria.com/auction/hpcuu-2021auction). If you have any questions, please reach out to [Heather or Ann](#).



## AUCTION 101: Bidding Refresher

Your Auction Team will be offering two Bidding Refresher sessions - whether you are brand new to online bidding or just need a quick refresher, we are here to help! We’ll answer all your questions and walk you through:

How to enter bids on both online and live auction items: the Auctria Mobile Bidding App, Payment options, how to register as a bidder and submit items to the auction and country Store, proxy bidding, bid extension, and a mock bidding experience.

DATES: Sunday, October 10th immediately following the church service OR Monday, October 11th @ 7pm

PLACE: HPCUU Zoom Room, Meeting ID: 719-260-1080, Password: 25Years!

This webinar will be led by your 2020 Auction Co-Chairs, Ann Harris and Heather Ashbee. We hope you will join us!

Questions? Contact: [fundraisers@hpcuu.org](mailto:fundraisers@hpcuu.org).



## The Country Store

The Country Store is now open and ready to accept your previously-loved treasures and unique hand-crafted gift items! The Country Store is an adjunct to this year’s 2021 HARVEST HOEDOWN Auction and is a virtual shop where you can donate and buy new and gently-used goods such as:

Small handcrafted gift items, indoor & outdoor plants, home goods, sports equipment, toys & games, gently used furniture & home décor...and so much more!

All items in The Country Store are sold at fixed prices on a first-come, first served basis (no need to wait for the online auction to open) and ALL proceeds support High Plains Church UU!

We are now accepting goods to sell. To donate items to The Country Store complete one DONATE ITEM form for each item you are donating; be sure to provide a description, photo and your donor information. To see what’s available or to make a purchase, click here: [THE COUNTRY STORE](#). Do you have questions or need some help?? Contact [Heather or Ann](#).

## Join Us On Zoom

### Sundays at 3:30pm join our live Online Service!

#### [HPCUU Zoom Room](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/7192601080>,  
Meeting ID: 719 260 1080, Pass-  
word: 25Years!  
(Password is case sensitive)

Or by phone: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 719 260 1080

Once you are in our Zoom personal meeting room there will be a message about waiting to enter. Our admin will let you out of the waiting room when the service starts. We will record services for later play on YOUTUBE with the link sent by email distribution.



## Join the Conversation!



[Facebook.com/HighPlainsCUU](https://www.facebook.com/HighPlainsCUU)



[Instagram.com/hpchurchuu/](https://www.instagram.com/hpchurchuu/)



[Soul Matters](#)



HPCUU GROUP

[Facebook.com/HipDiscussionGroup](https://www.facebook.com/HipDiscussionGroup)

## Rev. Julia's Schedule

New 3/4 time schedule! Rev. J will generally be working the first three weeks of the month, and taking the last week of the month as a non-working week. This will vary a bit during holiday season.

Please watch the weekly eblast for current schedules and information.

Please feel free to contact Rev. Julia via cell phone 720-975-6235, or email [minister@hpcuu.org](mailto:minister@hpcuu.org) anytime. She will get back to you as soon as possible!

## Office Hours

Our office admin can be contacted by email or voicemail left on the church phone (719-260-1080).



**HPCUU**  
 1945 Mesa Road  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Member of Unitarian Universalist Association  
 Sunday Services at 3:30 pm

***Come Join us!***

## HiP Board

**Rick Carpenter, President**

[President@hpcuu.org](mailto:President@hpcuu.org)

**Gretchen Hein, Past President**

[PastPresident@hpcuu.org](mailto:PastPresident@hpcuu.org)

**Vacant, President-Elect**

[PresidentElect@hpcuu.org](mailto:PresidentElect@hpcuu.org)

**Danielle Jernigan, Secretary**

[Secretary@hpcuu.org](mailto:Secretary@hpcuu.org)

**Sam Waller,**

**Church Financial Officer**

[CFO@hpcuu.org](mailto:CFO@hpcuu.org)

**Office: 719.260.1080**

[www.hpcuu.org](http://www.hpcuu.org)



[Facebook.com/highplainscuu](https://www.facebook.com/highplainscuu)



[Instagram.com/hpchurchuu](https://www.instagram.com/hpchurchuu)

All submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 23rd of each month. Please send to [communications@hpcuu.org](mailto:communications@hpcuu.org).

### Office Hours:

Sunday: 3pm–5pm

Phone calls and emails answered during week day hours.

### Bookkeeper's Hours

Mondays, 10 am – 2 pm

### Rev. Julia's Hours

Tuesdays – Thursdays, Noon – 9pm

In an effort to live more deeply into the reality of beloved community, we will be offering a small space in the newsletter each month for members and friends to share important milestones in their lives. If you have something important happening personally that you would like the congregation to know about, please submit a small 2– 3 sentence note about it by the 23th of each month to [communications@hpcuu.org](mailto:communications@hpcuu.org).

Interested in placing an ad in next month's newsletter? Email: [communications@hpcuu.org](mailto:communications@hpcuu.org)

## ReVISIONS by Jonathan

**Specializing in Creative Home Improvements – Where ideas Become Reality**

Do you need something in your world — fixed, added, or removed?

Projects include: Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, Plastering, Dry walling, Tiling, and many more... Decks, Kitchens, Basements, Bathrooms, Windows, etc.

Licensed & Insured Jonathan Herdt 719-338-1209 cell  
[jgherd@yahoo.com](mailto:jgherd@yahoo.com)

