



NEWSLETTER

Groundhog Day

Rev. Bob Renjilian — Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday

Can we force the arrival of spring?



Photo by [Johannes Plenio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want— oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"

Mark Twain

QUICK TAKES

Put Rev. Bob “in Your Phone”

As Transylvania County grows, not all phone numbers are “exactly” from Transylvania County. And most of them are “previously owned” numbers. To make sure you know when Rev. Bob is trying to reach you, please ADD HIM TO YOUR CONTACTS. Once upon a time, a woman named Ashley used to have his number, and that MIGHT be what you see when he calls. However, if you have added “**Rev. Bob Renjilian**” to your contacts with phone number **(828) 572-9412**, you not only will know it’s him when he calls you — you can call him! If he doesn’t answer, please leave a voicemail — he will always return your call.

Private Sharing Group on Facebook

Have you heard of our private Facebook group, Group for Members of UUTC? It is a private, interactive group that is different from Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County, which is a public page. If you have heard of our private group, or even been "invited" to it by a friend, you will be either "accepted" or "declined" by a staff member depending on your membership status with us.

This group was created for Members & Friends only. **If you are interested in becoming a Member or Friend but wonder HOW to do so during this time of Covid, please reach out to Rev. Bob at revbob@uutc.org.**



Read Us Something Special!

Alice Hardy

Join us! Add your voice and face to our ever-growing “Bank of Readers Project!”

- Choose up to four readings (poems, parables, Sunday service elements, short stories) which you would like to share with the congregation.

- Email Alice Hardy (hardy542@gmail.com) and she will put you on the schedule to be videoed.
- Go to UUTC on that date and time and our wonderful videographer (R.K.) will greet you with a (masked) smile and help you make a great video of your reading.
- Beginning Tuesday, February 16th at 10:00 and continuing through each following Tuesday readers will be scheduled. If Tuesday is not a convenient day for you call Alice (862-6969 for other arrangements). Only two or three readers will be scheduled on each filming day.
- Readings are often included in weekly newsletters or inserted into Sunday services. It is fun for everyone in the congregation to see you and so many others that have been and will be part of our “Bank of Readers Project”

It has been far too long since we have all been together. Share something you love with the rest of us and we will all feel better!

PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE, TIMING!

Howie Friedman

I've been asked to write up advice on How To Get Your Covid Vaccination by "She Who Must Be Obeyed!" (*Ed. Note: Guilty!*)

This is about my experience of this process. We ended up using the UNC Health system but the basic ideas expressed here apply to all the different providers. PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE, TIMING! Above all, don't give up! Take this advice for all the other venues available!

UNC Health is the non-profit health care system run by the University of North Carolina. They have hospitals and clinics throughout the state. Pardee hospital in Hendersonville as well as the Urgent Care Center in Brevard are examples.



Currently, UNC has been doing a massive vaccination program throughout the state. Locally it has used a center at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock. It has currently used up all its supply of shots but it will open up again as more vaccine arrives. I found that I had to monitor it's web site a number of times a day as availability at different state sites changed often. When monitoring it a few weeks ago, I saw many available appointments in the Raleigh, Chapel Hill area. No way I was driving 5 hours each way! Later that day, all the appointments were gone.

I logged on around ten that evening and TA-DA, many appointments in Flat Rock appeared. I made appointments for me and Alex. We went for our first shots and it was an excellent experience. I told a neighbor about it and he got on the next day and found available appointments a day before us. When we arrived at the building by following copious signs pointing the way, we found a large parking lot with lots of empty spaces. So far so good. We entered the building and came into a large open area with a few people waiting for their time slot. Our names were checked on a roster and we were sent downstairs to another large area to register and then to a nurses station to get the shots.

From there we were sent to a waiting area where nurses carefully monitored us for about 30 minutes to make sure we did not have any reactions to the vaccine. They then handed us our vaccination cards with date and time appointments set up for the second shot at the same location. We then left to go home. The whole experience was as good as it gets.

So by now, you must be wondering how you can do it also. Timing and persistence is everything. Calling is not a good option. You will spend your life on hold. Try logging onto the website continuously. Here's how to do it.

Go to this Link: <https://www.unhealthcare.org/coronavirus/vaccines/phase-1b-covid-19-vaccine/>
BOOKMARK THIS LINK!

The site will open and either say that the appointments are currently all full or give you a short series of Yes/No questions. After answering them, it will show a "Make Appt. Box". Click this box and current appointments sites will show. If they're not local, then you will have to keep trying. Use your Bookmarked Link to go back and try again a number of times during the day. When you find an appointment that works for you, click it. You have a choice to register through the UNC Portal or as a Guest. The Portal is only for people who have used UNC for health services such as an Urgent Care visit at one of their centers or used a doctor or had a procedure at Pardee Hospital and have registered previously for their Portal. If you use the Portal you will see the appointment and you need to press the Confirm button. If not using the Portal, use the Guest option and fill in the required info.

This is a constantly changing process so - DON'T GIVE UP!

Good Luck!

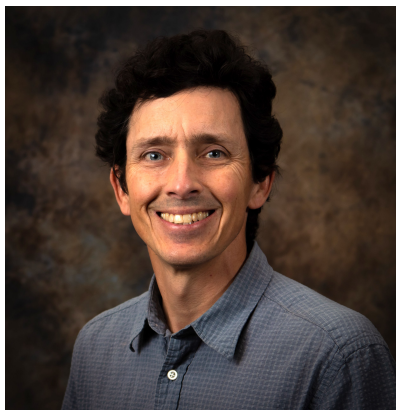
Upcoming RE for Younger People

Kevin Lausch, Director of CRE

Will You Be Mine?

Do you love homemade valentines day cards created by kids? So do we! That is why we are calling all families with children to make homemade valentine cards for UUTC members who live at College Walk or are homebound.

How to do it? Simple! Contact Kevin at kevin@uutc.org to participate. He will send you a few names and addresses and you and your kids have fun creating valentines to mail to some great people. The deadline to mail your creations is Feb 8 so ensure they arrive in time. Thank you!



TWEEN/TEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB

We are starting a graphic novel club for tweens and teens. What is a graphic novel? It is an illustrated book, like a comic book but with an involved plot and important subject matter. Our first book is "March: Book One" about the life of civil rights icon John Lewis. Books are distributed to the youth to be read on their own and we will meet once a month for snacks and to talk about the book. Contact [Kevin](#) for more info.

SOULFUL HOME

We are starting a new "care package" to be mailed to our families in February. Once a month, families with kids will receive "Soulful Home", a packet organized around eight distinct family "spaces" with ideas and resources to fill those spaces with UU theme-based exploration. It's about creating memorable and amazing moments, through a design that is manageable, faithful and fun!

Treasurer's Report for December, 2020

Operating Fund			
	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
Receipts	\$ 22,908.75	\$200,080.74	
Expenditures	<u>29,453.33</u>	<u>145,694.69</u>	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ (6,544.58)</u>	<u>\$ 54,386.05</u>	
Unrestricted Cash in Fund:	\$ 57,042.73		
Restricted Reserve Fund:	<u>32,172.27</u>		
Total Available Cash on Hand:	<u>\$ 89,215.00</u>		
Endowment Fund:	<u>\$ 217,388.47</u>		
<u>Other Funds:</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>Amount Restricted</u>	
Fund 3: Varsity Fund Checking	\$ 7,703.97	\$ 0.00	
Fund 7: Capital Expenditures	\$ 27,607.24	\$ 18,145.90	
Fund 8: Gifts and Memorials	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 0.00	
Fund 10: Charitable Giving	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,860.00	
This Month –Dignity			\$3,585.00
Fund 12: Dignity Project	\$ 9,708.90	\$ 9,708.90	
Fund 13: Sabbatical Fund:	\$ 5,367.99	\$ 0.00	
<u>Pledge Campaigns @ 1/21/21</u>	<u>Committed</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
2020/2021	\$ 274,758.00	\$ 180,020.00	\$ 94,738.00
Respectfully Submitted,			
Gail Meyers, Treasurer	1/21/21		

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

Coretta Scott King

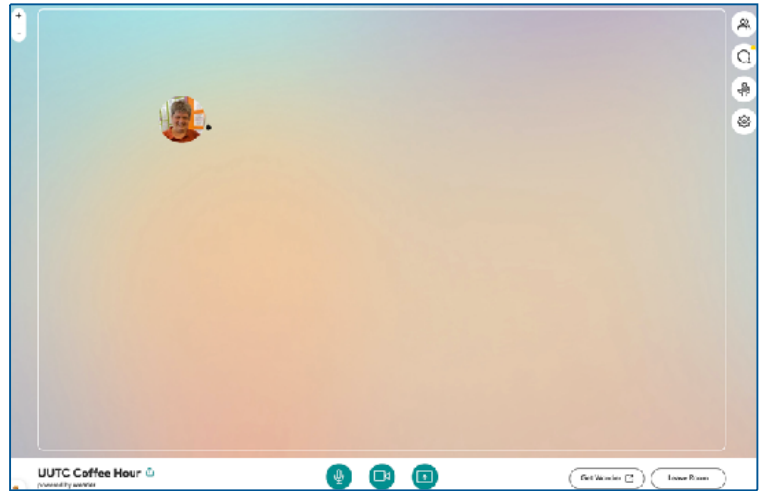
Virtual Coffee Hour Returns to Wonder

[THIS LINK](#) will take you to a “room” called UUTC Coffee Hour. **No password. No questions.**

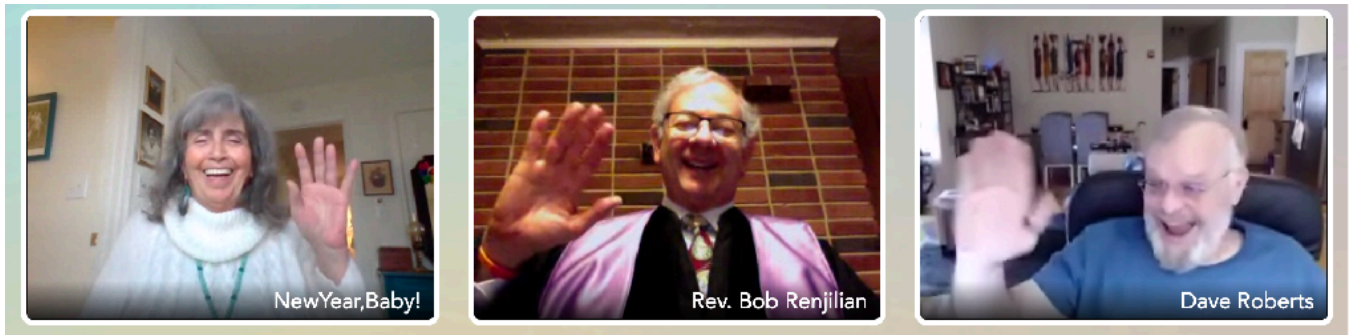
Get yourself in here! 11:00am Sunday!

Wonder can be used on a smartphone, but you will wish you hadn't. Your best experience is going to be on a laptop or computer and **you will need to be using the Chrome browser.**

What makes Wonder wonderful is that once you are there, you can drag yourself around... when you get close to someone you want to talk to, or to a group you want to talk to, Wonder automatically pops you into a private space with them. As Joanna Bliss said, “Poof!”



Once you are in, either Rev. Bob or RK will come check in with you. Come give it a try!



How Wonderful Is a Real Letter in Your Mailbox?

Janet Benway

Are you feeling grief over the loss of a loved one? With the help of RK and Rev. Bob, I am putting together a widow-to-widow program, whereby I write letters of comfort and support to those who have lost their significant others. This is a voluntary program, which I hope will benefit all who choose to participate. You will not be called— in signing up, all you would share would be your name and a mailing address... anything else you care to share is up to you.



To sign up, call or [email RK](#) at (828) 577-8164. If you have questions, call me (Janet) at 884-8830. I would love to write you a letter!

Doing Racial Justice in Brevard — Updated



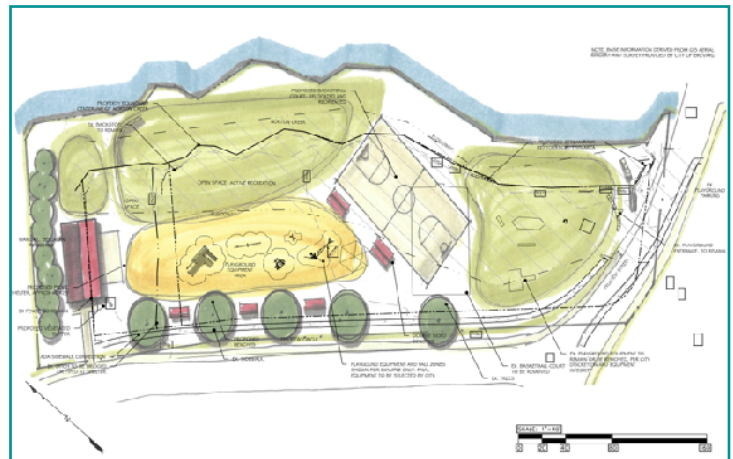
Artwork by Rosalie Alff

Rev. Bob and RK attended a meeting of the Mary C. Jenkins Task Force, held at the city Chambers, in which architectural drawings were receiving the final approvals, and the playground was discussed. Many donors have already come forward to help get this playground moving, including the [Brevard Blue Zones Project](#). In addition, the City of Brevard is funding the construction of the new Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. This project will help to make the neighborhood of Rosenwald feel as welcoming and child-friendly as the neighborhoods surrounding Franklin Park and Silvermont. Where the community needs help is in fully realizing the playground/park space.

The effort to renew Silverstein Park has been a long one, and you can read a lot more about it on the City's website [HERE](#). Five years ago, the students at Rise & Shine walked the new Tannery Park grounds and gave a lot of feedback to the city to use in its planning. The City, in preparing to renew the park, knew it had to replace the existing fixtures

first. But **what the kids really, really want is water. They want a [SplashPad](#).** ([link updated!](#))

The City of Brevard would much rather install a SplashPad than a pool. It is lower maintenance, lower risk, and less costly to install, to boot. Families from the Rosenwald Community have contributed to the efforts, but without our help, it will be a long time before either of these projects will reach full functionality. The City is doing things right — including restoring the creek banks and re-routing access to both Silverstein Park and the Community Center to make traffic flow more safely and predictably.



So how CAN you help? If you don't subscribe to the Times, [consider doing so](#). Local news is important to making sure we hear all the voices in our community, including the voices of our non-white neighbors. Did you receive a stimulus check but don't need all of it? Help make sure these children have the **dignity** of play opportunities in a space safe for them to walk to from home by **buying a brick**. If you no longer have that form from the city, copies will be at UUTC on TUESDAY in the vestibule, OR, you can download the image file [HERE](#).

Finally, if you are in the bracket that didn't receive a stimulus check because you are not in need, [consider a larger gift](#). We have many community projects that are deserving of our attention, but we are called to do Justice. Both our Second and Sixth Principles demand it. This project calls for our support.

****A soft "opening" of the first stage of the playground is planned tomorrow morning at 10:00am. From S. Broad street, take Oakdale until it dead ends into Carver/Cashier's Valley road—ease to the left and you will see the playground up ahead.***

ReCap: Making Sunday Happen

RK Young

At the last coffee hour, a discussion sprang up about how good the services looked, and how great the music was, and how in the world were we doing that. It was suggested I review that process (briefly!) to give all a sense of how many hours go into things.

For instance, the music — Teri & Daniel and Janice & Elaine usually get started A MONTH prior to the services for which they have assumed responsibility. They locate music covered by our licensing that they believe will fit with the message planned for that Sunday, send that to Rev. Bob for “fit,” and when songs are agreed upon they go to work. The usual first step is recording the pianist — either Carlene Ragan or John Austin, and laying down other sound/video tracks on top of that. If the Acapella singers are involved, they have to use an iPhone... I upload the piano track, and then the video is sent from one person to the next to add their vocals. When singers are singing, they must use headphones so that the previous tracks aren’t “re-recorded” in the background, which would put everything out of sync. A typical hymn takes about 4 hours, from start to finish, in Acapella.

Janice and Elaine purchased special equipment and can lay down up to 28 tracks, if I have that right. They add video after the fact, using a PC-based program. All other videos, music and the regular components of the service, are assembled and edited in iMovie, which is native to the Mac platform.

When all the separate videos are compiled, they get dropped into iMovie, have ends trimmed to get rid of odd sounds, and then “transitions” are added between each clip to keep it soft, and not too abrupt, as we move from one clip to the next. If we have audio files (such as the beginning and end of each service), we find the part we wish to use to keep those fairly short, apply a fade to the sound at the end (and sometimes the beginning), and then apply the images/videos over the top of each audio file. The Christmas Eve video of *just Silent Night* had around 29 individual images and videos compiled within it. In the photo at right, you see a portion of the service... green sound tracks which had images added to them are peppered throughout the service, with standard video clips in between.



I should say that none of this would have been possible without the sound system upgrades we made in early 2019. And it would still not look that great if not for the Board’s investment in good quality cameras (and endless cables) at the close of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, made possible by the small surplus coming out of that fiscal year. As we head into pledge season, let me thank all of you who have continued to support UUTC through this trying period—we would not have been able to do it without you. Thanks to your generosity, we had the flexibility to provide services while still keeping you safe at home. A few months more, and we will be able to greet one another, again!