



# NEWSLETTER

## A Miracle Story from 250 Years Ago

**Rev. Bob Renjilian— Saturday, 9:00am-1:00pm & Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday**

To my knowledge there is only one specifically Unitarian Universalist miracle story, and it happened exactly 250 years ago. What if you were to leave behind a tragic life, with the intent to go hide from the world, and instead were called to start life over? What if the voice of the divine said to prepare for new wisdom and hope, with your very own property repurposed for the arrival of a stranger, would you follow that calling even as your neighbors looked askance? See you online on Sunday!



Photo made available on UnSplash by Frans Ruiters

# Connecting Thoughts

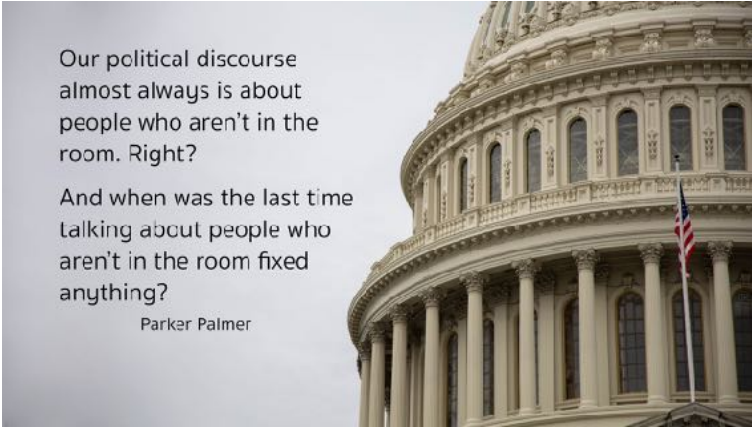
## Rev. Bob Renjilian

This month I had the opportunity to join with a couple other UUTC folks in an online training to “Bridge the Divide” with folks of differing political viewpoints. The “Braver Angels” organization hosted this for folks who are “red or blue” with the hopes that the divisiveness of our election cycle could instead become an exercise in democracy were we listen to each other and better understand the people around us. We practiced speaking the position that wasn’t our own. It was interesting to see folks become surprised that the words coming out of their mouths were not just a stereotyped one-dimensional monologue, but became the expressions of a whole, rounded human being. We were not out to come to compromise on issues, but to realize there were points where we could understand and agree on some points, and how we could listen to the person in front of us.

This is so much different from the “click bait” headlines online, or the partisan mailers I got on my doorstep. I do not like the “us vs. them” language.

If my previous experience in Unitarian Universalist congregations transfers to Transylvania County folks on our viewership and membership rolls, I’m confident that we don’t all agree on viewpoints, nor do we all vote the same way. I’m guessing we vote with regularity though, and think about what we’re doing. Participation in the democratic process is something we uphold for our own congregational decision making, and in our local and national environment. We have varied religious principles speaking to a mix of Democrat, Republican, and “other” congregants - including those in public office in our midst.

However we go about our conversations in the coming days, let us remember that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. We may find viewpoints to be right or wrong, and speak (and listen!) in order to change minds - but we are not likely to understand or make progress without respecting and gaining the respect of those we encounter.



Our political discourse almost always is about people who aren't in the room. Right?

And when was the last time talking about people who aren't in the room fixed anything?

Parker Palmer

Yes the issues matter. Do not give up your voice or vote. But I hope you will be counter-cultural in bridging across differences, staying in relationship with all (not retreating to an echo chamber). If this election season is wearing your best intentions and energy to the bone, please reach out to me for spiritual nourishment so that you might be restored to your best self.

- Rev. Bob Renjilian

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[RevBob@UUTC.org](mailto:RevBob@UUTC.org)    Pronouns: he, him, his



## Future Family Events

Kevin Lausch, Director of Children's Religious Education

Thank you to everyone who made it out to Jeter Mountain Farm for our family apple picking event last Saturday. Rev Bob and 5 families experienced a great place.

**Saturday, Oct 17 at 10:00 am - Pumpkin Painting and Food Drive for Sharing House** — Costumes are encouraged and we will provide the mini pumpkins for kids to paint and take home, along with some snacks. Shelf stable food will be collected for Sharing House. [RSVP.](#)

**Saturday, Nov 21 at 10:00 am - Pisgah Hike and Picnic** — Meet at the Pisgah Ranger Station/Visitors Center on highway 276 (1600 Pisgah Highway, Pisgah Forest) for a hike on the Andy Cove Nature Trail and then a picnic at Sycamore Flats. [RSVP.](#)

**Saturday, December 12 at 4 PM - Holiday Caroling and S'mores** — Join us for singing holiday carols around a bonfire with s'mores on the Fellowship Green behind the church. Remember your masks/face shields and social distancing please. [RSVP.](#)

*If an event is rained out, it is automatically scheduled for the next Sunday at 1 PM.*

Please contact Kevin Lausch at [kevin@uutc.org](mailto:kevin@uutc.org) or 864-395-1208 with questions. Thanks!





# Changes to Fellowship on the Green

## How about EVERY Tuesday?

Join the fun every Tuesday from 11:30 to 1:30pm. State rules under Covid mean we must limit the gathering to 50 people... obviously 50 people will not fit under the shade sails, especially while we are physically distanced, but the Meditation space is also available.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, the following Thursdays are available.

Feel free to bring a lawn chair, and join the fun! Heather Williams will greet you around 11:30.



Chairs in the Meditation Garden are the most comfortable seating, so if the picnic tables are uncomfortable for you, plan on our OTHER Fellowship space! Bring a meal — or not — we just want to make sure you have the opportunity to avoid isolation and can converse with friends. As Covid grinds on, it is more and more necessary to support our mental health by being in (safe) community with others. Fresh air, properly distanced, provides the very best way for us to care for each other in this way. Your presence is a gift to others — Hope to see you there!

## Outdoor Vespers Service: Oct. 4, 6:30-7:30pm

### Teri Sandoval

You're invited to attend an outdoors vespers service on Sunday, October, 4th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at UUTC. Hear the centering sounds of Joey Duke on handpan with vocals by Teri Sandoval and Sharon Gublo. Readings, some additional vocals and sound by Daniel Sandoval.

We'll be singing mostly UU music - pieces you know (and maybe some new ones) from the gray and teal hymnals such as "I Know This Rose Will Open," "Loving Kindness" and "Now Let Us Sing." We'll be presenting some pieces in a "call and response" (Kirtan) style and a few will be sung straight through with some repeats for those who are learning.

This event will take place on the east side of the UUTC building - our musicians will be setting up in the driveway with those attending assembling in the parking lot and the meditation circle. (We'll have a PA but not sure that the sound will carry fully back to the Fellowship Green as we don't want to blast out our neighbors). Social distancing will be observed so bring your mask, bring a chair, and look for the chalk marks on the pavement in the parking lot where all can be safely distanced.

This service will be recorded and posted afterwards for those unable to attend.

Come and usher in the Fall by sharing this special time with us. Donations collected to benefit UUTC.

## Soul Matters

Each month Rev. Bob will lead a discussion on the packet of materials related to the monthly theme from the Soul Matters group nationally. His first discussion will be held “hybrid” (outside in person, weather permitting, plus a Zoom option) after church on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 11:30 a.m.

Mark Allison has re-established our wifi extender to cover internet access on UUTC’s open channel out to the Meditation Garden, so you will see the Zoom with sky, and building, and Rev. Bob! Face to face is still better, but he is making it possible for as many wish to participate as would like.

If you’d like to receive the packet (and the Zoom link) please contact [RevBob@uutc.org](mailto:RevBob@uutc.org).



## Never Let a Good Thing Go to Waste



**RK Young**

Alice Hardy had conceived of the idea of recording members of UUTC doing readings that could be “banked” in our Google Drive to be used during services — especially at times when a service coordinator might not be available.

In recording these readings, which have been selected by the readers— well, they are too darn good. Each reading has been a wonder to hear, and I can’t help but think others in our local and larger community would also be enriched by taking a moment out of the day to enjoy one or more of these readings—even outside of a worship service. So I am proposing they gain a second life on YouTube.

Two things are necessary for this to happen: the first is permission from our readers to be featured on this channel, and I will need to get that in writing. The second is to open the door for even more of you to participate in this activity— how many of us have read something and just been temporarily struck dumb by its wisdom or reach into our hearts?

Interested in sharing a poem or other reading? [Email RK!](#)

# Treasurer's Report

## Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2020

### Operating Fund

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Receipts	\$ 14,035.11	\$95,348.56
Expenditures	<u>31,899.16</u>	<u>49,762.55</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ (17,864.05)</u>	<u>\$ 45,586.01</u>
Amount still available from PPP	<u>\$ 10,617.37</u>	
Unrestricted Cash in Fund:	\$ 46,915.93	
Restricted Reserve Fund:	<u>40,627.77</u>	
<b>Total Available Cash on Hand:</b>	<u>\$ 87,543.70</u>	
<b>Endowment Fund:</b>	<u>\$ 182,809.65</u>	

<u>Other Funds:</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>Amount Restricted</u>	
Fund 3: Varsity Fund Checking	\$ 5,785.16	\$ 0.00	
Fund 7: Capital Expenditures	\$ 19,123.59	\$ 9,495.90	
Fund 8: Gifts and Memorials	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 0.00	
Fund 10: Charitable Giving	\$ 2,745.00	\$ 2,745.00	
This Month –El Centro			\$ 785.00
Fund 12: Dignity Project	\$ 8,087.86	\$ 8,087.86	
Fund 13: Sabbatical Fund:	\$ 3,367.29	\$ 0.00	
<u>Pledge Campaigns @ 9/20/20</u>	<u>Committed</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
2020/2021	\$ 274,758.00	\$ 106,804.68	\$ 167,953.32

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Gail Meyers  
 Treasurer