



NEWSLETTER

How Are We a People of Healing?

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

After weeks of mud-slinging politics, will we empower ourselves to be part of the healing? Rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation. "Healing is an act of communion," bell hooks says.



Photo by [Helena Lopes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

"Shaming has been a central component of racial assault, yet it is also central to all other dehumanizing practices."

—bell hooks

"Upcoming Events *For All Ages!*

Kevin Lausch, Director of Children's Religious Education

Please remember masks and physical distancing at all events!



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 or 864-395-1208 with questions or to RSVP. Thanks!

Fellowship on the Green

Fellowship on the Green happens on Tuesdays of each week 11:30 to 1:30pm. Bring a lawn chair for the most flexible seating.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, the following Thursdays will be automatic. If no one is at the tables at 11:30... don't worry — Kay & RK always show up!



Joanna Bliss, Vicki Held, Susan Zelle, Marilyn Miller, Karla Maar, Heather Williams, Sue Null, Lisa McHenry +!

The Cold Is Here—Time 4 Operation Keep Warm!

Sharon Moya, Social Action Team

Operation Keep Warm started 3 years ago at UUTC to provide assistance to our neighbors in staying warm when the weather gets cold. Due to the pandemic, how we do this will look a bit different this year, but we are still collecting items that we will pass to the Sharing House and Bread of Life to distribute to those in need. Surprisingly, while both organizations have been experiencing increased numbers of clients, the Sharing House is working mainly with clients who have housing (though it may be unstable) while the Bread of Life is seeing many of the un-housed population (homeless). Because of this difference, each organization has a different set of needs this year, so we will be collecting very specific items and will divide them according to what each organization has requested.



Because not all items are being accepted, we request that only the items on these lists be donated this year.

Beginning on November 2nd and continuing on Mondays through Fridays until November 20th, boxes clearly marked for **Operation Keep Warm** will be available in the foyer for donations. The doors will be unlocked by 10:00am until 7:00pm. Don't worry about which box to place your items in as we will sort according to the different requests from each organization.

Thank you once again for your generosity! Your donations may possibly keep some of our neighbors alive this winter!

Items Requested by the **Sharing House** (new or gently used):

- Warm gloves for all age groups
- Men's Large (L) and Extra Large (XL) hoodies. These should have a zipper in the front and a hood. This is the most requested item at the Sharing House, and there are never enough to fulfill all requests.
- Warm winter blankets to use indoors

Items Requested by the **Bread of Life** (all new except gently used tarps):

- Tarps that the homeless can use as mats to sleep on, as covers for their bodies, and as shelter. These mats should be large enough to serve these purposes but small enough to cart around easily. 8x10 or 10x10 should work for what is needed. Waterproofed tarps are essential.
- Hand warmers (gel-filled and requiring nothing but body heat)

- Emergency blankets (the thin ones, usually silver, used in emergency situations and in packaging a bit larger than a wallet)
- Batteries for flashlights, radios, etc. Sizes AAA, C, and D.

Thanks for looking out for our neighbors!

“Love is an action—never simply a feeling.” —bell hooks

Calendars Have Arrived!



Your Stewardship Team

It was hard to choose from among the 30+ photo submissions we received that highlighted the beauty of Transylvania County, but we think we've come up with a great selection of photographs for the 2021 Wall Calendar! These calendars feature scenes from around the county by UUTC's own amateur (and not so amateur!) photographers. They would be a great gift to yourself and your family and special friends that Transylvania County is the place to be — or at least visit!



Photographers whose work was accepted are: Luanne Allgood, Mark Allison, Hilly Bernard, Dan Carter, Ian Cowie, Carter Heyward, Betty Kendrick, Don Lander, Peter Magistri, Kate Renner, Tom Stanwood, Susan Zelle and Royce Zia. *(Not all images shown here.)*



Calendars are priced at \$15.00, and the profits from these sales will go into UUTC's Operating Fund. The Stewardship Team will arrange a pickup schedule in late November in time for holiday shipping. You can drive by and pick up your calendars from a Stewardship Team member without even getting out of your car! If you are interested in purchasing, but unable to pick up the calendars, let [Phil Stewart](#) from the Stewardship Team know and the Team can arrange a delivery for special circumstances.



Celebrate the creativity and vision of your fellow UUTCers and get a beautiful calendar to keep track of 2021. [Click HERE TO ORDER!](#)



Through Rain, and Sleet, and Hail

Social Action Team

Thursday, October 29th was a very wet day, with high winds, fallen trees, flooded roads, power outages, and general fallout on Brevard from a distant hurricane. These obstacles didn't phase the dedicated group of volunteers that were supplying the fruit and veggie salads to the Bread of Life to feed a hungry group of 150+ individuals coming for lunch that day. The Social Action Team would like to thank all these brave individuals for their dedication.

Supplying the veggie salad for UUTC's 5th Thursdays contribution to the Bread of Life were: Betsy Culpepper, Linda Hauschild, Jane Hilliard, Krista Kaufman, Gail Meyers, Krista Moore, Kate Renner, and Kay Webb.

In addition to the 5th Thursday donors, there is an established group of volunteers that supply a fruit salad (or chopped tomatoes) for 150+ people every single Thursday (or Tuesday for tomatoes), and October 29th was not a holiday for them. This superstar group includes: Peggy Bogardus, Barbara Denton, Sharon Gublo, Bobby King, Lisa McHenry, Carol Moore, Nuria Moya-Lang, Quim Moya, Sue Null, Sarah Rogine, Barbi Smith, Tanne Traywick, Kay Webb, Alice Wellborn, and Monica Williams. This regular team group is supported by a small back-up team that includes: Carol Cartwright, Krista Kaufman, and Quim Moya, and Barbi Smith.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone for the generous giving of your resources and time to help others in our community. Your efforts are very much appreciated.



UUTC has been part of the Bread of Life's ministry for a long time. Earle Rabb is pictured here in an image from the Bread of Life [website](#).

Many spiritual teachers — in Buddhism, in Islam — have talked about first-hand experience of the world as an important part of the path to wisdom, to enlightenment.” — bell hooks

The Great Pumpkin Hunt

The Great Pumpkin Hunt began on a VERY sunny, delightful afternoon at 3:00pm. Eleven different homes participated in being part of the hunt: Lauren & Matthew Agrella-Sevilla, Dick & Susan Bir, Dick Tucker & Carol Moore, Lisa McHenry & Heather Williams, Keli (Rabbit) & Kitra Krueger, Sharon & Quim Moya, Heather Richardson, Cassie Smatana, Joyce & Tom Stanwood, Elizabeth & Kyle Williams, Kay Webb & RK Young.



The evening concluded with the showing of a movie.

Please Consider “Yes!”

RK Young

Part of keeping ourselves sane these days is keeping occupied ... and connected. Even though we must distance, we can let others hear our voice, and we can contribute to those most-visible parts of togetherness—Sunday Services.

The Worship Team will be reaching out to as many of you as possible to do one of two things — lead the opening of the service (as you have recently seen two members of staff do), or contribute some readings. These readings can be out of the hymnal (you will be provided with a list of things approved for broadcast use by the UUA), from the UUA's Worship Web, or just short stories or poems you have either written or read previously. An ideal length is between 90 seconds and 3 minutes. You might select something that takes 4 minutes to read, but please also select a couple of shorter things, as well.

If you tuned in on Wednesday, for instance, you would have heard Ian Cowie reading “Prayer Ballot,” a wonderfully timely piece... that he recorded with me probably two months ago. Just like the music which we are slowly building a library of, these readings will be pieces that will be shared on social media or used in Sunday Services. So these gifts of your participation will help us think of you and remember all that we love.

The flip side of this is the intentional work of selecting readings. I would call this a spiritual work. When we select things that both represent our own beliefs and can be healing or enriching to others, we are doing a work outside our usual (normal) selfishness. We are growing. “Does this really say what I want to say,” we might ask ourselves. We are critically analyzing the appropriateness of a work and whether it has the potential to resonate with others —at the same time that we express something important to us as individuals.

In the surveys that have so far been turned out, members and friends have shared self-identification with a broad spectrum of religious traditions — from atheism, to buddhist, to christian, to pagan. And more. Only a handful have shared a singular tradition in that history. What we present on Sunday, and in our social channels, should be as complete an expression of who we are as... who we are.

PS— You have completed [that survey](#), haven't you? ;)

Preparing for Winter

This very morning, President Elect Bart Renner was on campus reconfiguring the seating on the Fellowship Green. And Very Soon, the shade sails will come down and lights will go up to keep the space cheerful. In the event of snow, the posts could be damaged if we left the shade sails up.

Bart brought the chairs from the Meditation Garden over to the Fellowship Green, and circled them (six measured feet apart!) at the center of the Green. Then he moved the tables to maintain those same distances. We are tempted to draw together (me included!), and as rates of the virus rise in Transylvania County, if we are to have the comfort of each other's company, we must be vigilant and careful.

The dimensions of the post structure are roughly 26'x 26'. Informal conversations and survey results are indicating the desire to have “in person” small groups and possibly worship services, and while we would like to



be able to wave a magic wand, there is currently no safe way to pull off a worship service. In addition to the street noise, distancing makes the space we have inadequate for all but a small group. The eight chairs that are now circled under the shade sails take 60% of that “covered” space, roughly. The picnic tables now sit outside the basic footprint. In general, couples should be alone at picnic tables. Still, outdoors is THE safest venue.

Interest has also been expressed in online programming. Rev. Bob is planning a Zoom-based “Building Your Own Theology” for the coming calendar year, and more plans are being made.

We need more leaders of these activities. There is a CLEAR consensus that a “non-spiritual” book study would be well received, as would be a renewal of the Spiritual Explorers book study group. Leaders, unlike in the past, would need to have a helper to manage calling on people because the technology does make this all tricky. If you can lead, or if you can

be the techie nerd to help a leader, please reach out and let one of the staff know. We will assist in anyway that we can. Remember that online activities don’t have to happen before dark!

There also has been **very** strong interest in an Appreciative Inquiry group. Rev. Shore left us a set of about six books, with one leader book. If you would like to delve into that and maybe help others do the same—again, reach out to staff and we will get you what you need. We could even get more books!

Leaders and their techie co-hosts should both have a good, strong internet connection. Do think of how you can contribute a gift of your time and talent this coming season. And thanks!



Notice the tape measure in the bottom right strung between two chairs. The cable is being removed for safety.

*You, the one from whom on different paths
All of us have come,*

*To whom on different paths all of us are going,
Make strong in our hearts what unites us;*

*Build bridges across all that divides us; united make us rejoice in our diversity,
At one in our witness to your peace, a rainbow of your glory. Amen.*

David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B.
Mount Saviour Monastery, NY

