



# NEWSLETTER

## Advent Through the Lens of Stillness

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

Lao-Tsu asked "do you have the patience to wait until your mud settles and the water is clear?" Our society ushers in this season with song, ads with sales, and anything to dispel the sense of waning sunlight and fill the moments of silence. This sermon will explore the preciousness of silence, the space to go deeper.



Photo by [Niklas Wersinger](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*"I went down in the afternoon to the sea...which held me, until I grew easy."  
—Mary Oliver, from "Swimming, One Day in August"*



# HARK, CAN YOU HEAR?

**Kevin Lausch, Director of Children's Religious Education**

**On Saturday, December 12 at 4 PM**, join us for **Holiday Caroling and S'mores** —We will be singing holiday carols around a bonfire with s'mores and warm beverages on the Fellowship Green. Our very own John Austin will lead the singing to spread holiday cheer.

This will be a fun and SAFE event, so help us by:

- Wearing a face mask (some plastic face shields will be available also)
- Social distancing - we will standing at socially distanced spots around the fire ring
- Sanitizing hands if you are partaking of snacks or warm beverages.

Please RSVP to [kevin@uutc.org](mailto:kevin@uutc.org) to attend so we know how many snacks to provide. This is an all ages event—all are welcome! Thank you!

*(Ed. Note: RK and Rev. Bob will be there, too!)*

## Budgeting for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

**RK Young**

If you serve on a Team, you will have received an invitation to a Zoom meeting with the Board for next **Friday, December 11, at 3:00pm**. Teams, aligned with Ministry and operating with guidance from the Minister, are the groups which plan and execute the activities of the congregation. They spend money. Committees, which provide policy and planning guidance to the Board, do not spend money. So if you are on a committee and didn't get invited, don't feel bad!



The purpose of the meeting is to help Teams better understand how budgeting works and to help them plan for the larger goals of UUTC set forward in our [Vision Statement](#). This vision is supposed to guide us through 2025, but its greater purpose is to make sure we are all pulling the cart in the direction that we have all collectively agreed to pull. This is how we

Since the last budget planning cycle, of course, we got hit with something rather significant that is changing how we reach our goals: Covid 19. The rapid changes that has caused in our operations deserve careful consideration moving forward.

For instance, “hybrid” services are likely now a gift that can not be withdrawn. We will have to figure out how to provide a livestream at the same time that we will have bodies in the space. That won't happen under the CURRENT budget year, but must be planned for in the 21-22 budget.

What else changes? This is what Teams must consider and decide and plan for, in terms of what financial needs they will have starting in July of 2021. See you at the meeting!

# What an Operation!

**Sharon Moya, Social Action Team**

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generous donations to **Operation Keep Warm.**



The following items were taken to the Sharing House and the Bread of Life on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving to make sure that there are supplies when the weather turns cold:

- 5 warm blankets for indoors
- 12 hoodies/fleece and 1 sweater
- 16 pairs of gloves
- 6 scarves
- 3 hats
- 6 winter coats
- 12 large tarps and one waterproof seat
- 35 emergency blankets
- 120 gel hand warmers
- 108 batteries

Because of you, many people will be warmer and happier this year during the winter; even during a pandemic, UUTC members can make a huge difference!

*“The best theology is probably no theology; just love one another.”  
-Charles Schulz, cartoonist*

## Giving Tree - Davidson River School

**Kathy Reiff, Social Action Team**

Although it seems that the past months have been a blur for many of us, the calendar moves on and it is now officially the holiday season.

As is our custom at UUTC, our thoughts go to those less fortunate at this time. For the second Christmas, the Social Action Team has 'adopted' the Davidson River School. The school social worker has identified students that are having a particularly difficult time this year and who could really benefit from some extra care this year.

Beginning on Monday, Dec 7th, there will be paper ornaments in the outer vestibule of UUTC. Each ornament will have a student's wishes (one article of clothing, personal need, and 'wish item'). Each student is identified by a number. Please identify the student number on each package when it is

wrapped. Gifts need to be delivered to Davidson River School. If you are unable to deliver gifts, you can e-mail or call Kathy Reiff ([jkreiff@yahoo.com](mailto:jkreiff@yahoo.com) 884-2102) and she will pick up and deliver.

Remember the adage that giving is really selfish because it makes you feel so good! Wishes for good health and good feelings to all of you.

## Calendars Are Being Dispersed!



### Your Stewardship Team

We've got 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 selected 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.

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!](#)



On Monday, lots of folks performed Drive By Pickup!

# Giving Tuesday and the Future of Programming

**RK Young**

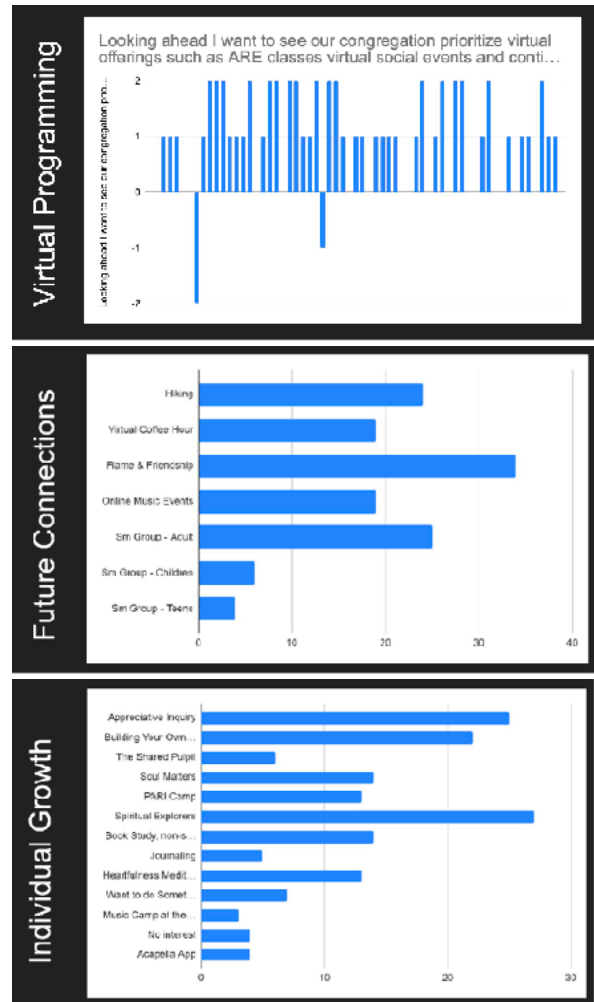
As of this writing (early afternoon on Friday), gifts given through our web-based Giving Tuesday platform have reached \$4,025. Another \$3,100 has been promised in old-fashioned delivery (check!). Support for adding some fresh air to the mix at UUTC is pretty strong. Matching funds have been delivered — \$5,000. Your generosity has been terrific... we are almost to our goal! If you can help— no gift is too small — please [click this link](#) to be taken to the Giving Tuesday portal.

What happens then? One HVAC company declined to bid, so we are still seeking the third bid... the second bid has been on site but paperwork is not yet in my hands. The Board hopes to be able to consider these bids by the end of December.

In the meantime, Nancy Thompson has agreed to help with Virtual Coffee Hour — we need a couple more people willing to learn how to “usher” a Zoom meeting to assist her. Please [email me!](#)

Kevin Lausch and Facilities Leader Bob Bennett have been plotting the installation of an appropriately large, but not too expensive fire pit. We hope to have that ready by the December 12th Caroling event. It will then be ready for adult and children’s programming. Are you a parent of children who can be responsible for FIRE? Are you an adult without children who would be happy to host a fire at UUTC? Can you donate some firewood? If you look at the second chart above, you will see that Flame & Friendship outstripped all other proposed activities. It will be most effective if we have several smaller groups rather than just a couple large ones. Please [email me](#) if you are willing to host! After all, groups need to be small enough that we can all get our hands warm while safely distanced. As always, masks will be required.

Last night, Kevin and I attended (Rev. Bob had a conflict) a regional meeting of congregations willing to share online programming with others. The hope is that we can pool resources — if each congregation can contribute at least one class/group/discussion that can be shared, we are all richer for the possibilities offered. SECUURES (South East Cooperative UUs Religious Education Shenanigans) — Ok, that last S might not really be a thing — will be archived by a volunteer from the Franklin, NC congregation using Moogle, and all congregations in the region who wish to participate will be given access to the site. This includes virtual book study groups, discussion groups — you name it. If you are willing to take an activity online and share it — let us know!



We're also looking for people who might lead a small group "personal or family" spirituality program. Due to our enforced isolation, we are being offered an opportunity to develop personal rituals that will serve us during the next few months. If you would be willing to lead an exploration on this topic, please be in touch.

The UUA provides a great deal of curriculum and curriculum resources through their Tapestry of Faith programming. There are discussion guides for certain books, and lots of other resources. If you're game to explore these, [click here](#)—and if something excites you, let us know!

Finally, we're looking for volunteers to lead hikes. These can be short, 30-minute hikes in various neighborhoods of Brevard, or longer ones in Pisgah or DuPont, or Holmes. Leaders get to choose! Outdoor activities are safer activities that still let us stay connected. Let's get some things rolling so we can see each other and retain our sanity — and if it's a Blue-Zones activity, so much the better!

## Fellowship on the Green

Fellowship on the Green happens on Tuesdays of each week 11:30 to 1:30pm. Consider bringing a lap blanket, or a towel to sit on, to keep warm as the temperatures drop. **IN THE EVENT OF RAIN**, the following Thursdays will be automatic. If no one is at the tables at 11:30... don't worry — someone always shows up! Usually, RK and Kay are there at 11:30. Rev. Bob arrives for the "second shift," at 12:30. So put on some warm clothes and come on over!

This Thursday, Sue Null brought their new dog Homer, who is a boxer/great dane mix rescue dog. Homer is extremely gentle, and he was happy to relieve us all of any leftovers. Can we be blamed if we "manufactured" leftovers?



Have a great week! "See" you Sunday!