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# UUTC UPDATE

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## **Easter 2020: We Shall Be Changed!**

Rev. Sally Beth Shore, Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday

Every year, Easter, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from death to resurrection, grafted onto the pagan festival of Ostara, invites us into transformation. This Easter, in the time of COVID19, how Shall we Be Changed?



# Plan A, Plan B

Joyce Henneberry

Hello All!

I hope everybody is safe and healthy at home. I am so grateful for this beautiful weather! I hope that you are all able to enjoy the sunshine, too!



First - THANK YOU to Rev. Shore, RK, and all of those who are showing up on Sunday mornings to keep our souls fed! Also, many thanks to the Search Team — they are working diligently to figure out how we can continue to move forward with a Candidate for Settled Minister. We GREATLY appreciate you all!

I wanted to let you know that the Board is moving forward with a lot of our usual work, and a lot of unusual work as well! Huge thank you's to Susan Zelle, Gail Myers, Gypsy Richardson, Betty Kendrick, Brigid Fox and Cantey Carpenter for all of the extra time they are putting in to all of the last minute Zoom meetings! Right now we should be planning for our Annual Meeting, which was to be held on May 17. This has been cancelled. Even if we were able to be back in the building by that date, I know that a lot of us will not feel comfortable coming back into groups of people yet at that time. Therefore, we have moved the Annual Meeting to June 7. We recognize that this may still be too early, especially to have a quorum, but our By-Laws state that we will have our Annual Meeting in May or early June in order to approve our budget and leadership for the next fiscal year. So - in the event that we cannot meet in person on that date we have come up with a "Plan B". We feel that we should know by May 1 whether or not we will be able to be physically present on June 7. In the extraordinary event that we need to go ahead with Plan B, let me explain in detail how this is set to work.

**PLAN A:** Annual Congregational Meeting at 12:15 at UUTC as normal, but on June 7th.

**PLAN B:** Annual Congregational Vote By Mail-In Ballot - We will send out a mailing to all members mid-May with a self addressed stamped envelope and a ballot. This ballot will only cover two of the topics that we were planning to cover in our Annual Meeting. Those topics are 1. Budget Approval and 2. New Board/ Nominating Committee members. The other issues relating to the By-Laws and Endowment Fund have been postponed until we can



**Your Board of Trustees Slate:**  
Susan Zelle, Bart Renner, Betty Kendrick, Kay Webb, Gail Meyers, Tom Stanwood, Elizabeth Williams



all be back and meeting together comfortably this fall. The reason for moving forward with the Budget and Board/Nominating members is that they are more urgent with July 1 being the beginning of the new fiscal year for UUTC.

The Nominating Committee has brought the following names to the Board for the 2020-2021 year: President - Susan Zelle, President-Elect - Bart Renner, Secretary - Kay Webb, Treasurer - Gail Meyers, Board Member At Large - Betty Kendrick (2nd Year), Tom Stanwood (1st Year) and Elizabeth Williams (replacing Linda Young). For service on the Nominating Committee, the slate is:

Cantey Carpenter (2nd Year), Jim Hardy (3rd Year) and Peter Mockridge (1st Year). If you have any person(s) you would like to nominate for any of these positions (and that person's approval to do so), please send those names to me via email ([joyce.henneberry@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.henneberry@gmail.com)) by May 5. On May 5, we will begin putting together ballots and mailers to be mailed in the middle of May. You will need to fill out the anonymous ballot and return in the postage paid envelope provided by June 1. We will count all votes and notify the congregation through the newsletter of the outcome of the vote.

Now - I realize this is not how our By-Laws state we run our business. I realize this does not provide for a quorum that our By-Laws require. But, our By-Laws do not provide for how to continue moving forward in the situation of a Pandemic. These are extraordinary circumstances and after exhausting many possibilities of how we can hold a vote to assure we have a budget and leadership in place July 1, and opportunity for involvement from all of our members so everyone's voice is heard, this is the best answer we could come up with. The Board hopes you will all understand and support us by filling out your ballot and returning by June 1. Please remember - THIS IS ONLY FOR THE 2020-21 BUDGET AND LEADERSHIP VOTE.

Remember - Plan B is a "just in case" plan. I am so hopeful that we will all be able to meet on June 7 in person. However, we are not willing to put anybody in harm's way by requesting a quorum if it is too soon to safely do so. Even if we are allowed to gather again by the end of May, June 7 may be too soon to request a quorum to be together in one space. Your safety and health are more important to us than anything else.

Also - For the past couple of years, we have offered meetings at UUTC for you to attend to see the proposed budget and ask any questions you may have. We want to continue to give you that option so Dave Roberts (Finance Committee) and Gail Myers (Treasurer) will host a Zoom Budget Meeting. You will be receiving information within the next couple of weeks as to when that meeting will happen and how to join that meeting to learn more about the 2020-21 budget. This way, no matter which direction we go with our meeting you can be informed.



**Nominating  
Committee Slate:**  
*Cantey Carpenter, Jim  
Hardy & Peter  
Mockridge.*



I realize this is a little different than we all planned, and I ask for your patience as we try to move forward as best we can. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [joyce.henneberry@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.henneberry@gmail.com). We will get through this all!

## Update from the Search Team

We're almost there!

The UUTC Search Committee is excited to announce that it was matched with its top pick to fill our ministerial position. Right now we are waiting for final contract negotiations and completion of other paperwork. Look for a formal announcement soon!

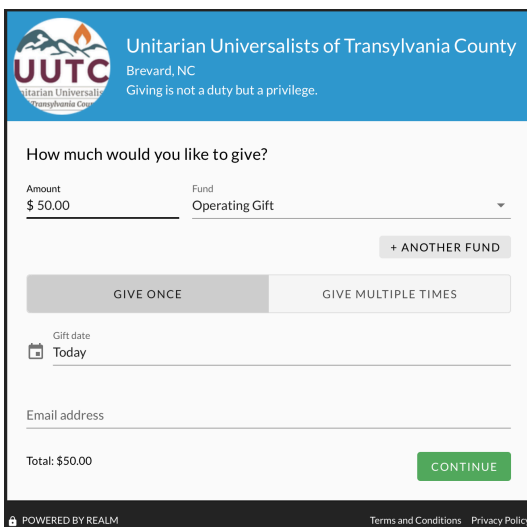


Chair, Ian Cowie

## Giving During a Time of Pandemic

RK Young

Yes, that “Giving” is underlined for a reason — it’s a link to support UUTC, the Dignity Project, and the agencies we assist with our common gifts! The link takes you directly to the Giving page on our website, on which you will find a dark button that says GIVE NOW.

A screenshot of the UUTC Giving page. The header shows the UUTC logo and the text "Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County, Brevard, NC, Giving is not a duty but a privilege." The main content area asks "How much would you like to give?" with a form for "Amount" (set to \$50.00) and "Fund" (set to Operating Gift). There are buttons for "GIVE ONCE" and "GIVE MULTIPLE TIMES", and a "+ ANOTHER FUND" button. Below that is a "Gift date" field set to "Today" and an "Email address" field. At the bottom, it shows "Total: \$50.00" and a "CONTINUE" button. The footer includes "POWERED BY REALM" and links for "Terms and Conditions" and "Privacy Policy".

Once you click this button, you are taken to the Realm sign in. If you are on your phone, and have already set up your Realm account, this will open automatically. If you have not yet created an account, you can do so.

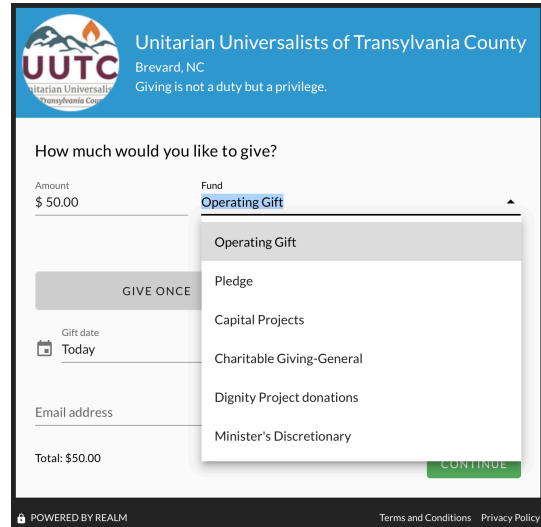
Once you are in, this menu appears (top, left). You decide how much you want to give, when you want it to be given, and where you want your gift to go. You also choose if this will be a one-time gift, or if you want it to recur “multiple times.” Many options are available—weekly and monthly are the two most common. Selecting the option of “Every Month” for a gift to Charitable Giving would mean that every month, a gift of the amount you specified would automatically go to whichever agency was selected to be

supported in that month— for April, it is The Children’s Center.

Beside where you see “Operating Fund” is a small “pointy end down” gray triangle. Clicking this arrow allows you to select whatever fund you wish your gift to go to. If you normally give your

pledge through the passed baskets on Sundays, you would want to use that triangle to open the menu and select “Pledge.” You can see that you can also specify the Minister’s Discretionary Fund, a Capital gift, or the Dignity Project, as well. If you do not have a current pledge, but want to give to the general fund, use the “Operating Gift” option.

What if you want to give towards your pledge and also to Charitable Giving? Referring back to the first image, you can see a gray box that says **+ ANOTHER FUND**. Clicking that box will allow you to create a second entry, specifying, amount, how often, etc., for that second fund. Once you’ve selected all these options, you click on **Continue** to be taken to payment information.



If you’ve previously set up a credit card or other payment method, you won’t have to enter it again, you will just give your final approval of the gift review, and be done. Afterwards (at least this is how it worked when I used my smartphone), you will immediately be taken to your Giving page in Realm and be able to see your gift appear in your giving record. Which is really pretty darn cool. :)

## Charitable Giving for April: The Children’s Center



**Alice Hardy**

Hopefully, out of sight is not out of mind. Please continue to support our designated monthly organizations through your gifts.

April’s charitable donations are dedicated to The Children’s Center. Alice Hardy had agreed to present about the Center during the monthly announcements during services but has sent in this article instead. April is *Prevent Child Abuse* month.

The Children’s Center of Transylvania County is a non- residential house located on S. Johnson St. where children in foster care can meet with parents, grandparents, or future adoptive parents under the safe supervision of Social Service caseworkers. The Center supplies not only emotional support but works to meet the needs of each child and because the Center’s finances are not restricted by Federal, State or Local rules many needs can be met when other agencies are unable to help.

Two paid staff and a multitude of volunteers operate a variety of programs aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect.

**THE NURTURING PROGRAM** – young mothers are guided through weekly classes on safe and effective ways to raise a happy, healthy child.

**BABY THINK IT OVER PROGRAM** – all ninth grade students in Transylvania County attend an in depth class run by Center volunteers aimed at reducing teenage pregnancies. Ninth grade boys and girls have the opportunity to “adopt” a computerized baby for a weekend. The baby is programmed to cry frequently and demand to be feed, changed, burped and rocked. This experience along with class discussions helps to emphasize the reality of what it would be like to be a teen parent.

**MEETING EXTRAORDINARY NEEDS OF CHILDREN** – The Center has raised money to provide children from low income families with needed dental work for children, special braces or other needed equipment, and has helped pay for medical procedures for children.

There are other programs that are run by the Center. Please check our website for further information. UUTC has been a strong supporter of The Children’s Center for many years and for that we are grateful. For information you may email Alice Hardy at [Hardy42@gmail.com](mailto:Hardy42@gmail.com)

## Love in the Time of Covid-19

(Thank you, Gabriel Garcia Marquez....)

The Social Action Team has been asking itself how we might show compassion and love for people not as fortunate as ourselves in a time when uncertainty and fear are part of everyday life. We haven’t found the perfect plan, but here are 10 ideas for how you can make a difference even now:

(1) **Continue with charitable giving** for the organizations of the month. Our partner groups need this support now more than ever. Please don’t forget the Dignity Project, either, as it continues to function.

(2) Take travel size toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc. to the Sharing House and drop them off. These trial sizes are being distributed to clients in small baggies. There is a drop off door at the back of the building, so there is no need to enter. These and food are the only products being collected at the Sharing House now for health reasons.

(3) Donate and drop food at the back door of the Sharing House. Their clientele has increased recently by almost 400 people. A list of needed products can be found in the *Transylvania Times* every week.

(4) **Donate** to the Bread of Life. They are feeding on average 120 people per day. With joblessness rising, that number is certain to rise.

(5) Send a check to any of our partner organizations even if it’s not “their turn.” They need help now more than ever.

(6) Bake or cook something for the 12 residents of the Haven even though it may not be our UUTC weekend to provide food. Call the Haven first to let them know you are coming and then drop the food on the porch for the residents to pick up after you leave.

(7) Help virtually tutor a Latino child in the school system. Contact us at [socialjustice@uutc.org](mailto:socialjustice@uutc.org) if you need information on how to do this.

(8) If you don't need the stimulus check that will be arriving, consider donating it to those who need it most.

(9) Provide remote assistance in Spanish (especially) or English for El Refugio. Contact Bobby King if you can help.

In Peace (and Solitude, but Zooming),

### UUTC Social Action Team

## Note from Rev. Shore

Dear UUTC family-

I hope you are doing okay as we continue our journey through the COVID crisis. This morning I spent some time on a Zoom meeting led by **Joan McArthur-Blair** and **Jeanie Cockell, authors of Building Resilience with Appreciative Inquiry: A Leadership Journey through Hope, Despair, and Forgiveness**. 10 years ago, Jeannie nearly died in a car accident. She woke up after being in a coma and had to learn how to do everything again, including how to walk and eat. She credits her recovery to learning focusing on what was possible, rather than all the things that were not -- "I can move this foot," "I can walk 4 steps," "I can make it to the mailbox."



I've thought about the inquiry into, "what is possible now?" many times over these past few weeks, as the time of "stay at home" lengthens and the numbers of the sick increase. The worries mount, personally and globally, and it is an act of will to put my focus elsewhere, but most of the time I'm managing it. Some of us have much more time on our hands these days than before March, and lack of fulfilling activities to engage in is a breeding ground for ruminating in unhealthy ways, so it behooves us to be very intentional about where our focus goes.

So, Lent is coming to a close, and Easter is upon us. If you can participate in our Drive-by Easter Egg hunt, I hope you will! Not what we would have planned, but perhaps it will bring its own joys if we are willing to see them. Passover has begun, the Jewish holiday celebrating freedom. Tonight my husband's family will have a virtual Seder of sorts via zoom, recalling the symbols of the seder plate.

Although far flung, many of us would be together were it not for the pandemic. But, this is what we CAN do-- and so we do so, with joyful hearts.

Hope you will join me on Sunday for the Easter Service. Each week we are making progress in how we share together from a distance. This week, who knows what will be in store...

Much love, Rev. Shore

In this time of isolating, Kevin Lausch wondered how UUTC might provide the traditional Easter Egg hunt for our youngest and their families and we are calling on some of you for help.

Do you live within the City of Brevard (or very close?) Do you have a door visible from the street? If so, we'd love for you to participate in UUTC's Drive/Walk/Ride-by Easter Egg Hunt! Here's what we need you to do:

- [Register your door by Friday at 6:00 pm by clicking here.](#)
- Create a LARGE Easter Egg (should be at least 20" tall) --with poster board, paint, markers, tape, whatever medium you like, in 2-D or 3-D.
- Attach it to your front door or somewhere obvious from the street in front of your house by Sunday at 11:00 a.m., and leave it up until 3:00 p.m.

Children will be looking for eggs between those times, and may approach the front door for a photograph (staying 10 feet away); no need to come out. For your added enjoyment, staff (which includes one retired art teacher) will judge the best eggs and award honors next week.

RE Parents, Kevin is sending you more information and a sign-up for you (although if you live in town you are also welcome to decorate and hang an egg.) You'll get instructions about how to pick up prizes when you respond.

Again, let us know by Friday at 6 pm you're participating, that will give us time to generate a list of streets where the children should be hunting for the eggs. Again, here's the link you need to do that: [Click here to register.](#)

## Happy Hour Zooming

Today (Friday, April 10th) between 4 and 5:00pm, Members & Friends can drop in to an informal zooming session with Rev. Shore. Join us online to chat, or just to "see" other UUs! You can join the Zooming Happy Hour using your computer or smart phone — or even your "dumb" phone. :)

From a landline (or if you just prefer voice only), dial **312-626-6799**. From a smartphone or an internet browser on your computer, go to <https://zoom.us/j/679700288>. The Password is being sent to Members and Friends via Realm. Follow the instructions on your screen, and go! Smartphone is the easiest route if you are new to this. Turn it sideways if you are Zooming with a partner or child!

***Stay Home. Be Well. Look forward to time back together!***