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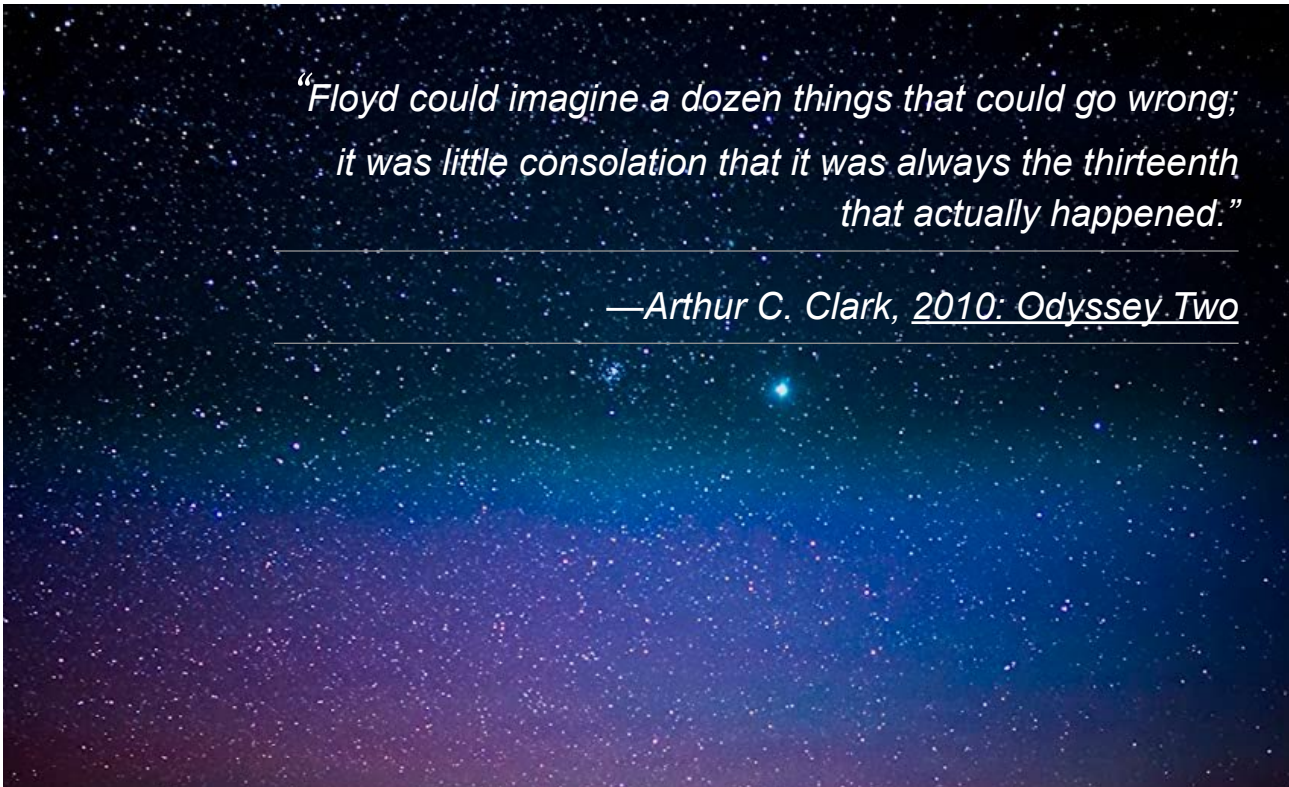
# UUTC UPDATE

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## Murphy's Laws of Spiritual Success

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

The famous axiom, "whatever can go wrong, will go wrong" has seemed somehow related to April Fool's pranks... so let's take this first Sunday in April to examine that prophecy, as well as some of its corollaries. Are such "laws" as Murphy's really in control of our fate, and if not, what is? Does it matter when we make and hear these pronouncements? Today we will seek to become more conscious consumers of such conventional wisdom, and perhaps develop some new wisdom laws of our own, or at least, have a good laugh!



*"Floyd could imagine a dozen things that could go wrong;  
it was little consolation that it was always the thirteenth  
that actually happened."*

—Arthur C. Clark, 2010: Odyssey Two

## How Are You Doing?

Betty Kendrick

How are you doing? Got the stay-at-home blues? We are a beloved community at UUTC and want to stay connected even though we may not be able to be together physically at this time. At the direction of Rev. Sally Beth and the UUTC board, the Covid Response Team was created to help

organize outreach to our congregation during this crisis. The members of the team are Lane Maier, Michael Solomon, Elizabeth Williams and me. Loving Hearts and Helping Hands is essential to UUTC's ministry when a member or friend is going through a challenging time and needs support. Personally I can tell you how much their love and support has meant to me. The COVID Response Team was created to supplement their ministry and to reach out to the entire congregation during this special time.

Thanks to volunteers from our congregation, you should be receiving a "check in phone call" to see how things are going. The phone callers may ask you questions like "What's the best thing you're doing that is helping you manage your time?" or "Are you doing OK getting food?" It's another opportunity to connect, and I'm sure you'll appreciate those phone calls.



Betty, Lane, Michael & Elizabeth (L-R, top to bottom)

On Thursday, you were emailed a Google survey asking for your input as to how you may help others in our congregation in need of assistance. **You are also asked about your interest in potential online connections, such as a virtual book club, etc.** Please take time to complete the survey so your input is included.

There are also opportunities via Facebook to view Lenten Lunch, Sunday services and communicate with others. Let's stay connected and support each other at this special time. Be safe, stay-at-home, and care for each other. We got this!

*In addition to her service on the COVID Response Team, Betty is a Member At Large on your Board of Trustees.*

## Pledge Drive Update

From Susan Zelle, President-Elect

When our Stewardship Team set out in early February to conduct the fiscal year 2020-2021 Pledge Drive, no one could have foreseen how much our lives would change by the end of our 10 week campaign. Nevertheless, as I have observed many times, our congregation is remarkably resilient and committed, even more so in uncertain times. I am heartened by the generous responses we have received and your faith in our community here at UUTC.



Thanks to the exceptional generosity of 99 individuals and families who either increased their current pledges or joined the fund drive with a significant first time or renewal pledge, we have now passed the 80% mark of the drive's goal. It's inspirational to witness the level of financial support so many of you have shown. Thank you for your commitment to UUTC!

*Now, I am appealing to the 51 Members and 25 Friends who've not yet responded to help us reach our goal!* We need to hear from all of you! Please, if you have not returned your pledge form, take a moment do so now. We are extending the pledge deadline to **April 7** to make this possible.

If your pledge form does not reach us by April 7, we will be phoning you between April 8 and April 12. We will call for the simple reason that the Board needs to know what our budget will be before conducting discussions with a ministerial candidate. Those discussions will take place in early April. With that deadline upon us, it is with some urgency that I ask you to please respond to the pledge drive now if you have not already done so. And next week, when the Stewardship Team begins their calls, please welcome the call. Use the opportunity of the call to ask questions or discuss any concerns you may have about pledging. Please know that every pledge, no matter the size, is important! *Thank you!*

## Note from Board President

Hello, All!

When my oldest daughter's dog has been cooped up too long and gets set free he takes off like a wild maniac and runs in circles not able to stop himself! My daughter refers to him as "Having the Zoomies." I feel I can start to relate! Besides the urge to go out and hike or walk every day at least once, I also am having multiple meetings each week held through Zoom (Zoomies)! I have found that these meetings are not only productive in keeping business moving forward, but it also fulfills that need to be around other people and see their cats or dogs run by, or just see them sitting in their favorite chair and a tiny glimpse into their life at home. This is a great thing! I have been so impressed on the ease of joining these Zoom meetings - and how so far EVERY meeting that I have been a part of had 100% of the groups' members participating successfully. If you haven't tried Zoom yet - please do - it is a wonderful outlet for socialization. Last night we had a meeting with my daughter in Raleigh and her dog. He sat on a chair at the table and joined for the whole time! It was absolutely wonderful.



As always, I thank you all who are keeping everything moving - whether through Zoom meetings, email meetings or phone meetings. However you are doing it, it is working! We are a healthy organization and we are continuing to move forward.

So grateful for UUTC and all of you! Joyce

## Home Alone – But Still Connecting



Calls are going out from volunteers to check on everyone, but it's always good to see each other's faces! Here are some pictures sent in with what we're up to in our various spaces. Tara and Gerry are geared up, Anastasia is holed up, and Kay is leveling up her grooming of the yard.

Send in yours to [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org) and let us see you! Masked, unmasked... show us how you are dealing with the Stay At Home order.

## And then there's the Zooming!

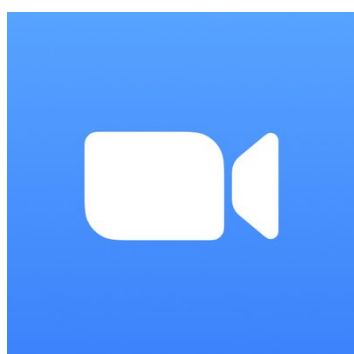


These pictures illustrate what Zoom looks like on a computer equipped with a webcam, but using a smartphone is the easiest way to join a zoom meeting. The photos above are from the March Board of Trustees meeting and an early COVID response group meeting. In the second image, you can see the phone icon in the upper right corner for someone who has joined as “audio only.”

In preparing to join a Zoom meeting, get a bit of light on your face, find a way to prop up your smartphone so you don't have to hold it steady the whole time, and position it so it is as level with your face as you can get it. This will let others see you clearly and increase your comfort for this online conversation.

You do not need to download an app for Zoom when you are invited to a meeting. Just click on the link at the scheduled time and the magic will start to happen.

The Men's Group, thanks to Mark Allison, Jim Hardy and Dave Roberts, will have their first "Face-to-face" via Zoom this coming Tuesday! Gus Napier and others had asked if there was anyway to make this happen, and a Way Was Made. Men's Group members will receive an email (thanks to Realm) with a link or a phone number for the guys to use for joining the meeting.



## Happy Hour Zooming

Today (Friday, April 3rd) between 4 and 5:00pm, drop in to an informal zooming session — (BYOB, and pajamas are acceptable attire) — with Rev. Shore and RK. Joyce Henneberry has already accepted the invitation! We will be online to chat, answer questions, or just help you troubleshoot. You can join the Zooming Happy Hour using your computer or smart phone — or even your "dumb" phone—so many ways to be a part!

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>. 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 your partner!

We are limited to 100 "screens" during a Zoom session. So if you share your home with another UUTC member, have them join you!

## *The Wonder of This Time*

*This week's Lenten Lunch meditation was about wonder, and when I'm not feeling discombobulated by the surreal global health crisis, I find that I am in a state of awe and wonder at the time we are living in.*

For the rest of this article from Rev. Shore, see her newest [Blog Post](#).

***Stay Home. Be Well. See you soon...***