

UUTC UPDATE

The Poet's Eye

Rev. Sally Beth Shore, Alice Hardy & UUTC Contributors – Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday

The Neil Diamond song, “Be” has a line that goes: “on a painted sky, where the clouds are hung for the poet’s eye.” I think that means that the clouds are such that normal words cannot describe them. This week we take a break from services as usual and try something different—hearing a collection of poetry contributions from several of UUTC’s poets, as well as a few popular favorites.

Using our poet’s eyes (and ears,) we are invited to grasp something about our current reality that we might otherwise miss.

The Service begins with a special children's poem reading, (it is the first Sunday of the month!)



Social Action—Voting Ends May 4

Lisa McHenry



And here (drumroll) is our **BALLOT** for the 2020-2021 Charitable Giving. The Social Action Team had hoped to incorporate a more complete introduction to each organization in one of this spring's worship services, but that is not to be. There are two organizations this year that were not on last year's ballot, although we may have given to them in previous years. One is **Meals On Wheels**. They currently have drivers who deliver coolers to doorsteps of folks in need of meals, so they are able to continue this valuable service while maintaining social distancing. The second is **Free Rein Center for Therapeutic Riding**. A look at their facebook page will give a glimpse of some of the ways they are staying actively engaged with clients until riding lessons can resume.

We can vote for only 9 of these 12 agencies, and each one is deserving. Please read the descriptions of each, and vote for the 9 you would most like to see as beneficiaries of our Sharing of the Plate. Thank you for being a part of the process!

Social Action Team Charitable Giving Selections, Fiscal year 2020-2021

The congregation will vote for 9 of the following 12 organizations:

Meals on Wheels helps clients maintain their independence in their own homes by providing noontime home delivery of nutritious meals, the only provider of this service in the area. Sometimes this is the only social contact a client has all day.

Free Rein Center for Therapeutic Riding uses horses to provide benefits to children, teens, and adults with developmental, cognitive, emotional, and physical challenges.

The Augustine Literacy Project provides professionally trained tutors for those who cannot afford to pay. Improving reading skills develops children's curiosity and equips them to live in our modern world. Being literate can mean the difference between prison and productivity for an at-risk student.

Backpack Buddies provides food on Friday afternoons to children who are in extreme need situations and are likely to have inadequate food at home over the weekends. They also provide larger packs for holiday and spring breaks.

Bread of Life provides hot lunches every weekday both at their center in Brevard and via home delivery for those unable to come in.

The Children's Center provides emergency and educational assistance to families of young children plus new mother support and children's advocacy.

El Centro helps immigrant families with language tutoring, after-school assistance, and documentation guidance. They run the “Homework Club”, an after-school tutoring program for children in grades 1-5. They need help funding summer enrichment activities such as camp and field trips, and funding the training of additional volunteer tutors.

Forward Together: The UU Justice Ministry of North Carolina is a progressive, faith-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to “give life the shape of justice” by coordinating and supporting the social justice work of individual UUs and UU congregations in North Carolina and building relationships with other groups who are working for social justice.

The Haven provides shelter, counseling, and help with rehousing for the homeless of Transylvania County. This includes safe and secure shelter, shower and laundry facilities, 2 light meals a day, case management, and a mail and telephone message service.

Pisgah Legal Services provides free civil legal aid to the most vulnerable people in WNC – disadvantaged children, senior citizens, families at risk of homelessness, and victims of violence. There is an office in Brevard.

SAFE helps victims of domestic violence or sexual assault through prevention and education.

Sharing House provides emergency assistance to the poor including food, clothing, household goods, and assistance in paying utility and rent bills.

Again, here is your **BALLOT** to select your preferences for giving beginning in July. **The deadline for voting is May 4th, so please vote early!**



Charitable Giving for May

Carol J. Moore

Pisgah Legal Services is the recipient of our charitable giving for May. Pisgah Legal seeks justice for those whom no other agency can help.

Pisgah Legal operates thirteen legal aid programs. They cover children’s law, consumer law, health justice, elder law, homelessness prevention, veterans law, domestic and sexual violence prevention, medical-legal partnerships, income security, justice for immigrants, community economic development, expunction, and a mountain area legal hotline.

Seventy-one percent of low-income households in the U.S. experience a civil legal problem in a year. Covid-19 is increasing the need for Pisgah Legal services this year.

In 2019 Pisgah Legal staff was assisted by more than 14,000 volunteer hours. With a budget of \$5.2 million, it secured client benefits quantifiable at \$24.6 million. That’s a four-to-one return on investment.

Foundations provided 29% of Pisgah Legal’s 2019 revenue and donations provided another 28%. Continued support is crucial for Pisgah Legal to meet the needs of the community in 2020.

Editors Note: Without Sunday Services, this is where our giving has really fallen. April’s Charitable Giving was roughly only 40% of the previous year’s giving for the Children’s Center.

An Almost Whoops— Realm to the Rescue



Joanna Bliss

When I saw the article in last week’s newsletter about Giving through Realm, I realized I had not thought about the donations to the Charity of the Month since we last had a church service. Many of us have automatic payments for our pledges, but write checks for the monthly charity. Others pay pledges by dropping a check in the collection basket. It is easy to overlook doing that when we are not in church.

I thought I would take a look at donating through the Realm app. It was much easier than I expected, and I was happy to see that donations to the Dignity Project, which many of you know is close to my heart, were also an option. I set up a monthly donation to the Charity of the Month, and also for my regular donation to the Dignity Project. (My pledge was already an automatic payment.)

The process was fully explained in the last newsletter, and doing it was just as clear. I recommend this way of keeping up with our pledges and our community outreach, not only during this time when we are not in our church building, but also going forward. It truly is “set and forget,” done once and taken care of—one less thing for me to worry about!

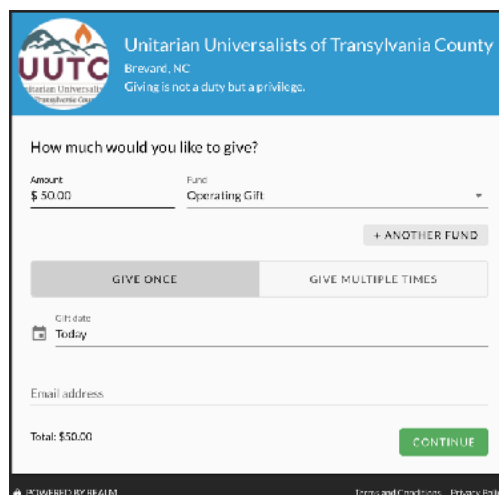
Giving During a Time of Pandemic

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.

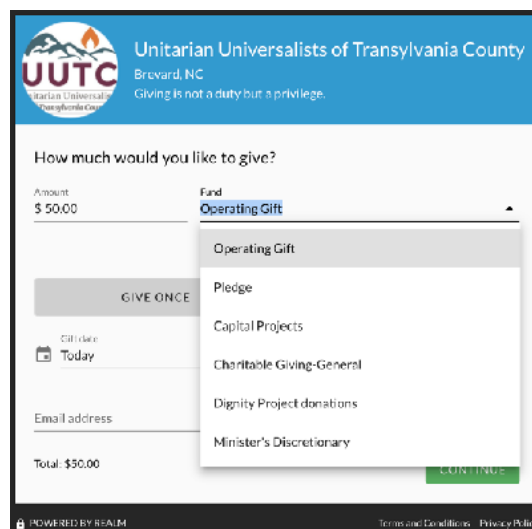
Once you click this button, you are taken to the Realm sign in. If you are on your phone, and have already set up your Realm account, this will open automatically. If you have not yet created an account, you can do so.

Once you are in, this menu appears (at right). 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 May, it is Pisgah Legal.

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. :)

Note from Board President

Hello, All!

I continue to hope everybody is staying healthy and safe at home! And continue to be grateful for all of you who are working to keep UUTC moving forward!!

I want to thank Rev. Shore, RK, Kevin, Frank, Amy and all of the volunteers who are putting in extra time to make sure we all get to watch a service on Facebook Live every Sunday morning. This is an incredible amount of work each week! At our Board meeting this past Tuesday RK brought graphs to show us how this is impacting our website. We have data to see that we have new people tuning in to our services and have had a very high increase in people checking out our website recently. This time of being at home has given people that might not have normally walked into our doors the ability to





“try us out” online in the comfort of their home. I am so excited about how many new people are learning about us. All good things, happening because of all of the people continuing to work for UUTC and keep us in the public for all to see! MANY, MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL!!!!

With UUTC currently being closed it was the perfect time to have our new doors installed! These new doors bring us up to code on safety for egress and comply with ADA requirements. We are very excited to have these in place. If you had a key to the old doors, it will not work in these new ones. Once UUTC is open again, those who need to have a key to the building will be issued a new one.

I had told you that by May 1 we would have a better idea of how we would be handling our Annual Congregational Meeting. The Board is currently working on a “re-opening schedule” but we do know that we will not be able to ask a quorum to meet as early as we need for planning purposes, so we are going with “Plan B!” Following is a re-cap of how Plan B is going to work:

PLAN B: Annual Congregational Vote By Mail-In Ballot - On May 21 we will be mailing to all members 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 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 Members At Large - Betty Kendrick, Tom Stanwood and Elizabeth Williams. (Pictured above in the order listed.) The Nominating Committee Slate is: Cantey Carpenter, Jim Hardy and Peter Mockridge. 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 the Board via email (board@uutc.org) by May 5. May 5 we will begin putting together

ballots and mailers. 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 on 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.



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

The Board hopes you will all understand and support us by **filling out your ballot and returning by June 1st**. Please remember - THIS IS ONLY FOR THE 2020-21 BUDGET AND LEADERSHIP VOTE.

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 two Zoom Budget Meetings. These are scheduled to be on Wednesday, May 20 at 10:00am and Thursday, May 28 at 7:00pm. You will be receiving more information in the near future as to how to sign up to attend these Zoom meetings if you should want.

As I stated last week, 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.

We will get through this all! —Joyce



Note from President Elect

Susan Zelle

Thank you to every member and friend who answered the call to pledge this year during these months of uncertainty. The commitment of new members and those who have been with UUTC for some time was inspiring. We are a self-funded church and your support enables us to welcome a new settled minister, operate in innovative ways during the pandemic, and continue to move forward on programming for adults and children of all ages. Thank you!

A heartfelt thanks to the awesome Kristin Leesment and her hardworking and successful stewardship team composed of Alice Wellborn, John Held, Alison Marlett and Jim Null. I have a newfound respect

for the work they do and hope that although we are not meeting in person, you might reach out and



Stewardship Team: John Held, Kristin Leesment, Alison Marlett, Jim Null & Alice Wellborn

thank the team members for their many hours of work, and a job well done.

Note from Rev. Shore

Dear Friends—

I hope this finds you well. I miss being with you on Sundays, and throughout the week at events other than Sunday Services. I do see some of you via Zoom and talk with you over the phone, and of course we connect via email; but know that you are missed by all of the staff, and we miss each other even as we keep up working while distancing. If you could use some minister time, please know I'm still here! Next week, I have created a number of 20 minute online appointments if people would like to have a short zoom or phone call with any reason, even just to connect—just email me, revshore@uutc.org.



While many churches have gone to totally recorded service, we have chosen to record some elements but keep a “live” core. Even if you don't get around to watching it until later, there's the sense that our community has gathered. This Sunday, we will have a special poetry-based service—no sermon. Keeping our tradition of children's time in the beginning of the service, we will open with a special reading for children at the beginning.

Friends, I cannot predict when we will be together in person again, and as the weeks go on, that reality is a little more difficult to bear. Even as NC looks toward relaxing some of our restrictions, we know that we do not want to make your beloved UUTC building be a place of virus transmission, so we will be conservative in how things are “reopened.” This week, the board and staff will be meeting to think more about what this could look like, and will be communicating with you as we try to plot a course.

Thank you for your patience, your love and care for one another, and for taking care of yourselves.

Love, Rev. Shore

Light to Connect Us

RK Young

It's Spring. Want to play in the Mud?

We are partnering with Mud Dabbers to execute a multi-generational, do at home (up to a point) project in which we can almost all participate. Mud Dabbers is our source for clay and will provide kiln space and firing expertise to bring our project to a successful completion.

We will make ceramic chalices, of a very simple but occasionally elegant variety. They will be unglazed, fired to cone 6, and will be stoneware as opposed to earthenware. They will not be large. Any child and nearly any adult will be able to create a successful form for the cradling of a tea light. Once fired, a twilight lighting will be staged and filmed so that we can all enjoy the glow. When we are able to attend UUTC “normally,” we can treat this as we would a flower communion — and select a chalice other than the one we created to take home.



To begin, you must follow the link at the end of this article and let us know if you a) want to participate, b) can pick up clay from the church sidewalk, and c) have more than one person in your household who wants to play. This link will collect the necessary information we need to prepare adequate clay for pickup. Clay can be picked up as early as MONDAY, MAY 4... but you have the option to pick up your clay any day next week. But we must be notified in the form at the link.

Two days after you complete your chalice, it must be delivered back to UUTC, before it gets too dry and fragile. One day after you complete it is even better. Again, the sidewalk will be our transfer station. Place your work carefully in front of the windows on the Varsity Street side of the church— we will ready them for delivery to Mud Dabbers. The pieces will be fired after all are collected— please complete and deliver your chalice by **Wednesday, May 13th**.

Due to the nature of this project, the work will not be glazed (though it could be in the future if you wished to make an arrangement with Mud Dabbers or Brevard Clay). Since it is stoneware, it will be impervious to water, and will not absorb wax—protecting us all from conflagration. When the pieces are completely fired, we will pick them up, load them with tea lights, and have a livestream ceremony that will be made available as a video on our website for those who cannot attend the Facebook livestream. **Fear Not**. Margaret Kimble’s video instruction is superb and is included in the link below!

Ready to get started? [CLICK HERE.](#)

Happy Hour Zooming

Today (Friday, May 1st) between 4 and 5:00pm, drop in to an informal zooming session with RK and other scalawags.

If you have a pet, you are encouraged to try to get them to attend with you. Dog owners, prepare to preen. Cat owners... well, my apologies.

Topic: In the work of remaining sane during the “Covid Shift” as Elizabeth W. calls it, what gifts has UUTC brought to you? How has being part of our UUTC community helped you get by? OR: What local “innovation” during this time has most delighted you? Which local businesses have become new favorites?

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 [THIS LINK](#). Follow the instructions on your screen, and go! Smartphone is the easiest route if you are new to this. Prop it on an easel or in your open laptop to keep it steady. Set it at eye level. Turn it sideways if you are Zooming with your partner!

Learning new technologies is a pain. Happy Hour is designed to let you have some social time and learn a new “thing,” without feeling too burdened by it. Thanks for making the attempt!

