
UUTC UPDATE

Heartfelt Reasons for This Religion

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

We've got so many reasons for existing, making a difference in our lives and the society around us. This is the second (and final) Candidating Week service with Rev. Bob Renjilian.



Happy Hour Zooming—NEW TIME OF 5:00PM

There will be NO HAPPY HOUR this week. Instead, mark your calendars for **Friday, May 22** at **5:00pm**, and join an informal zooming session with RK, **Rev. Bob and his wife Christy!** Click [HERE](#) to attend the meeting.

Other Teams are also Zooming — Social Action meets at noon on Wednesdays, and the Choir will be test driving a happy hour this coming Wednesday at 4:30pm. LHHH just completed their once-a-month zoom meeting with Rev. Shore. Links are shared through Realm email (which arrives in your inbox) and also in Realm Events for each team. Login to your account and find them in the app or in the browser of your choosing!

Note from Board President

I was so hopeful for a beautiful week so that Rev. Bob and Christy could experience Brevard at its best! When the rains came in, and kept coming in, I have to admit I was a little disappointed - and then I looked out my window one morning and saw all of the Mountain Laurel in full bloom and thought how beautiful it is right now! The rain just intensifies all of the beautiful colors! One more way Western North Carolina is magical!



The second wave of ballots were mailed yesterday so you should be receiving your Annual Congregational Meeting ballot within the next day or two. This ballot will only cover two of the topics that we were planning to cover in our Annual Meeting. Those topics are the 2020-21 UUTC Board of Trustees and Nominations Committee, and 2020-21 Annual Budget. 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. For the Nominations Committee, Cantey Carpenter, (2nd year), Jim Hardy (3rd Year) and Peter Mockridge (1st Year).

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. Once again, we need to have a "quorum" respond so please fill these ballots out and return to us in the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope by Monday, June 1. We will print the results of this vote in the newsletter on Friday, June 5. A reminder - 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 Meyers (Treasurer) will host yet another Zoom Budget Meeting on Thursday, May 28 at 7:00pm. Remember that you can dial in with just a phone to ask questions and be answered. Look for more information in this newsletter as to how to attend this meeting.

I want to let you know the Board will be having it's regular monthly meeting next Tuesday at 5:00 via Zoom, so if you have an issue you would like to bring to the Board just let me know and I will send you the link to join in the meeting, or, if you are not comfortable with Zoom meetings, you are welcome to send me an email and I will raise the issue for you.

I hope you all are staying healthy and dry! — Joyce

What if I told you that 10 years from now, your life would be exactly the same? I doubt you'd be happy. So, why are you so afraid of change?

--Karen Salmansohn

Note from Rev. Shore

Hello Flock!

Someone this week told me I was like a sheepdog—I think their analogy was that I was helping keep the flock together, which I thought was pretty funny. That’s because a friend who once had a sheepdog has related to me about the beloved dog’s overenthusiastic efforts to herd her and whomever she was with whenever they went to take a walk. So I pictured that dog--tongue hanging out, running along one side, then the other, getting entangled in the leash, nipping at people’s heels, panting, and being a general nuisance-- when I heard the sheepdog comment, LOL!



But I do know that since we shut our doors back in March, I and all of the staff have been reflecting a lot on what we are doing in this time—it can feel a bit like herding—come this way, try this, get on Zoom for that, where is the flock? Are they reading this? Is there anybody out there? Are we doing all we can to BE church in this time? How do we meet our mission to *support individual spiritual journeys and promote social, economic and environmental justice* in this time? We know that UUTC’s level of e-communication has necessarily increased in lieu of connecting in person, and we hope it is not a nuisance!

Fortunately, while we know that the pandemic will continue for a while, it is almost summer! Even though we must necessarily be planning for the long haul (as was suggested in last Friday’s [letter from national UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick Gray](#)) when it comes to gathering indoors, outdoors may offer some opportunities for some safe gatherings; we are discerning what’s possible and will let you know as soon as we feel we can solidify plans.

However, even outdoor opportunities will still have significant limits, and we must embrace what we have to work with. It is gratifying that so many of you are participating in our Sunday Facebook livestreams and are using Zoom for meetings, getting to know Ministerial Candidate Rev. Bob Renjilian, and connecting with others for book clubs and social gatherings. While we know that using the screen to connect is not nearly the same as being in-person, how wonderful that we do have that!

As people of faith, we are called to connect with each other and the world. In that light, what if we saw taking it upon ourselves to learn the technology as a spiritual quest? As UUTC administrator RK Young said this week, “Tech tools are familiar because we make them familiar.” So, if you’ve tried and failed, or not tried yet, to connect using Zoom (or other platform), let me encourage you to get back on that pony—you might surprise yourself. While you may not grow to love it, you can become more conversant, and that has its rewards.

This week, when I met with the LHHH team we had 7 people sharing on-screen and a couple of others who were part of the audio feed—up from just a few weeks ago, when only 2 people managed it! I can’t tell you how it fed my soul to get to be in the presence of these caring people at this time. Remember, we have a number of experts at UUTC who can help you—please reach out to

COVID@uutc.org if you want assistance with video connections. And check in with LHHH@uutc.org if you'd like a listening ear—zoom, phone, or email!

I hope you saw the piece last week in the Transylvania Times about the [Light to Connect Us](#) project— Thanks to all who have participated, we look forward to lighting the chalices on the Summer Solstice. What a beautiful way to share the light of Unitarian Universalism in this time! Another way to learn about and share our faith begins next week-- stay tuned for more information about “Long Strange Trip,”—one more reason to get your Zoom on! Zoom on, stay well, be as kind to yourselves and others as you can.

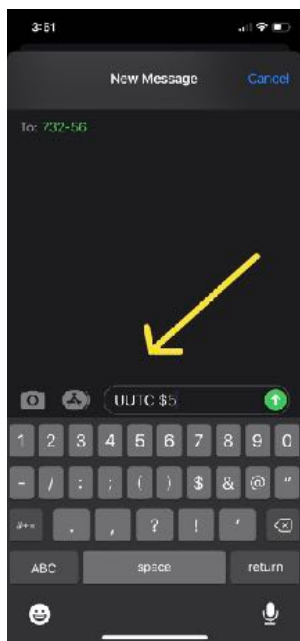
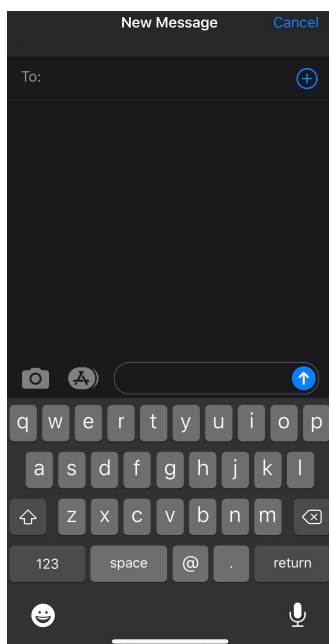
Love, Rev. Shore

Text Giving – Easier Than You Think

RK Young

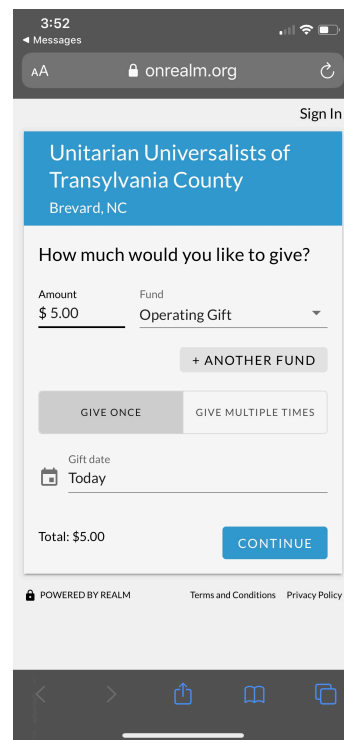
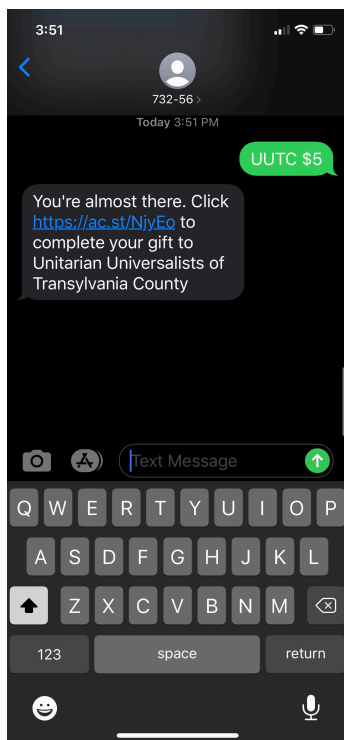
Giving via text message is a way of giving with a smart phone that doesn't even need a special app.

Start by opening/creating a new text message. For **To:** use **73256**.



Then type in **UUTC \$** and add whatever amount you would like to give beside the dollar sign.

When you hit send, a message pops up that takes you to the giving menu.



Once you've selected all the options you like, hit continue. At that point you'll be asked to put in your payment method.

And you're done! You are now an official Text Giving Wizard! The next time, you won't even have to fill out the payment method!