

# UUTC UPDATE

## Twelve, Very Long, All Too Brief Years...

**George Jacobs – Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday**

Perspective, your view from where you are right now. As we grow older, hopefully our way of seeing things becomes wiser, kinder. Perspective makes all the difference in how we view and savor life. From these places . . . we can have an insatiable curiosity to explore the unknown.

George Jacobs has served in the parish ministry for 15 years focusing on community development. His academic interests include the intersection of literature and spirituality. George and his wife Gorgon have a grown son who is a forester in Virginia.



*Tune in Sunday to hear John wake up our piano!*

*“Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.” — C. G. Jung*

# NEW UUTC PHONE NUMBER

## Eloise Shepard

Phone service through the Internet? You bet! **You** don't need the internet or a computer to call us, but our new phone service will bring us into the 21st Century, as well as save money. Best of all, it will enable UUTC Staff to stay connected to the office while we are working remotely.



## Our new phone number to reach the office is 828-435-2781.

Please put this number into your phone contacts for "UUTC Office" or write it into your phone book. (The old phone number is gone.) Your call will be answered initially by a regular "Greeting," and then will transfer to ring on the office phone and to me remotely. There will be regular times when I will be monitoring the phone and answering in person. At other times I will check periodically for messages and will get back to you or pass along your message to the appropriate person. Times are subject to tweaking, but initially **the phone will be directly monitored Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 noon till 3 pm**. If your call is not answered, you will get a call back.

*Ed. Note: The office is only occupied on rare occasions these days, as it is safer for us all to work from home. But PLEASE FEEL FREE to reach us by phone (above) or email!*

# Call to Action for School Safety

## Eloise Shepherd

The Transylvania County Association of Educators, in conjunction with the NC Association of Educators, would like to invite you to sign their petition calling on the NC General Assembly to delay the in-person reopening of schools, until we can fund the implementation of the CDC guidelines, until educators have a seat at the table to discuss our levels of comfort and ideas, and until new cases of the virus have plateaued, if not dropped precipitously. Below is the gist of the text of the petition:



The NC General Assembly must:

1. Maintain at least 2019-20 levels of funding and staffing for the 2020-21 school year
2. Fully fund the requirements for reopening of schools determined by the State Department of Health and Human Services as specified in the Strong Schools Public Health Toolkit.
3. Direct appropriate decision-making bodies to meet with public school employees, convened by the North Carolina Association of Educators, for the purpose of co-creating conditions of re-entry

that respect the concerns of our students, families, and staff (i.e. safety, healthcare, teaching and learning, racial and economic justice, etc.)

The Association of Educators want our children and community to heal and to overcome. Difficult times call for sacrifices, and while educators sacrifice for our kids every single day, they are not willing to sacrifice their families and your families. The plan is to deliver the signed petition to the NC General Assembly. These educators plan on making sure they continue to do what they signed up to do: to teach civility, to teach the importance of listening, to teach the importance of helping others, along with their academics.

You can access the petition at <https://www.ncae.org/sos/> scroll to the bottom of the screen, and sign the petition. **For further information, call Josh Tinsley at 828-577-8256.**

## How Tech Will Enable Connection

### RK Young

Isn't it a pain to learn new things? But isn't it joyous once you've "got it?"

We have been working with Realm since November, but we are only now beginning to tap its potential for us. More on that, later. I know you're excited. ;)

Facing up to "Distance Religion" takes some doing. We had been getting —kind of — comfortable with the old webcam setup, but when it failed spectacularly on Rev. Shore's last Sunday, we had to reboot in a way that would build flexibility into the system. So new software was acquired that would let us switch to a different camera midstream if the first one failed, and cameras designed for live-streaming were acquired. We may not have all of that working this Sunday, but we'll have most of it working if I know Frank & Ian!



*What you'll see Sunday, in another way, in our music.*

The goal is to give you crisp video and sound so that you don't lose part of the message because of poor sound quality— or poor image quality. We are not after cinema-quality productions, just sharp and clear that lets you focus on the service... not on what's not working for you. I have greater confidence than ever that we are going to be able to deliver on that, even when we get back together.

For those who are dipping their toes into the UUTC water online, what we do on Facebook on Sunday really matters. We want our best selves out there. And we want the whole spectrum of who we are out there. So while we can't bring you the whole choir, we are working towards solutions that will allow more and more people to participate in services.

PLEASE let Alice Hardy know ([hardy542@gmail.com](mailto:hardy542@gmail.com)) if you would like to assist with a service with a Chalice Lighting, opening words, or other service element. We have a film crew ready to come to you, masked, to make you look and sound your best, and we miss your lovely face. If you would be interested in singing hymns or other music via cell phone as part of an online, distanced “choir,” let ME know. We are evaluating software now to plan the path forward. Be excited— I am!

## UUTC Readies for Outdoor Programming



These three areas of campus are the classroom spaces of this year’s Chalice Camp—and other activities!

The first image is our meditation garden space, which has 8 comfortable chairs, a “chalice” that can be lit (bring your matches!) and birdsong to soothe you. It’s a great place to meet a friend at a safe distance for coffee & conversation.



The second image is the in-progress natural play space. Logs to jump on, climb, sit on...and a fire pit for those evening marshmallow roastings.

The third image is the looking-better-than-ever Fellowship Green. Hangout of the **French Conversation Group** and others. An additional shade sail has been added above the original sails to provide more complete shade. This will also serve as additional support during Chalice Camp, when it will be covered by a waterproof blue tarp to give kids a weather shelter as needed. We’ve

kind of “started something” with our shade sails—we frequently get inquiries asking where we bought them and how they were installed!



This coming week, Facilities will be installing hooks on our corner posts of the sail area to hang the banners of the four Houses — WindHorse, WaveRider, StoneDragon and PhoenixFire. What fun it will be!

Speaking of which...

# Looking for some magic this summer?

Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County Presents

## “A Return to”

# Hogwarts School of Magic and Fun

“Harry Potter and the 7 Principles”

August 3-7th, 2020,

9:00am-12:00pm @ UUTC

This magical week will include: ★ A visit to Diagon Alley ★ Working together as a team with one of our four houses - Phoenix, Firewhorse, Waverider & Stonedragon) ★ Making magic supplies (like your own wand) ★ Exciting classes: Magical Creatures, Transfiguration, Defense Against the Dark Arts & Potions! ★ And More!

**THIS IS AN OUTDOOR CAMP IN THE FELLOWSHIP GREEN -**

For more info, to register as a camper or Junior Counselor (ages 12 and up) or to volunteer, contact Kevin Lausch, [kevin@uutc.org](mailto:kevin@uutc.org) or call 864-395-1208 Online registration available soon.

Cost of Camp: \$70 for UUTC members, \$75 for non-members. \$40 for each additional sibling. Scholarships available. This camp is geared towards rising 5-12 year olds.

## What's New on Vimeo?



Last Sunday's service! Which has been edited to improve the volume. If you had trouble hearing, and would like another chance at absorbing Alice Wellborn's message, click the sermon title above and you will be taken to the video.

## And Finally...

UUTC is your space. Even though entering the building is not in our immediate future, the grounds are here for you. They are both peaceful and welcoming. Ginny Rush & Jean Rowe made use of them Thursday morning for a little Tai Chi.

Bring a lunch. Come sit and listen to birds. They're here for you.

*(Thanks, Facilities!)*

