



# NEWSLETTER

## Celebrating the Power of Women

### Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday

As living beings we continually evolve, and as Unitarian Universalists we continually unfold new aspects of truth. As women, maturing brings us into awareness and exercise of our sacred, transformative personal power—the kind of power that speaks truth and resists injustice. This week our sermon, by the Rev. Carter Heyward, is “The First Women Priests -- What We Did Not See.” Our music is by Voces Aged, and our dancing and celebrating is by the women of UUTC.



Photo by Samantha Sophia on Unsplash

*“A strong woman looks a challenge in the eye and gives it a wink.”  
— Gina Carey*

## From the President: EXTRA! EXTRA!



Susan Zelle

### THE SOCIAL HALL WILL BE OPEN TO SMALL GROUPS BY THE END OF APRIL

My thanks to those who shared your thoughts about what you're comfortable doing as we consider plans to safely restart various church activities. The Task Force met this week and we have decided to open the Social Hall to small groups (8-10) who are keen to gather in person once again. Mandatory social distancing and masks will help make this a safe step. We offer this space both to community groups who regularly met at UUTC such as the Living Wage Coalition and the Rainbow Alliance, and small UUTC groups or teams who would like to meet inside. Leaders of groups who want to use this space should contact RK to schedule a brief training, and contact Eloise to book a time. We ask group leaders to take responsibility for wiping down the arms of chairs, bathroom door handles and other surfaces, and ensure that all members are masked. Wipes and hand sanitizer will be provided, and disposable masks will be available for anyone who does not bring a mask. No sumptuous meals or tasty treats yet as we don't people taking their masks off so – don't bring food or drinks inside! And although we're also missing our musical opportunities, no singing or instruments for the time being.

Anyone with a fever or who is coughing should not enter the building as a courtesy to others. Our goal here is not just to reopen, but to reopen safely. Wiping down surfaces and allowing an hour between groups will also ensure that the new air exchange system will have time to replenish the room with fresh air. The proximity of our UU's star staff members will be tempting, but remember, they work in enclosed spaces and would prefer that you don't enter their offices. If they have time, they might be willing to join you outside, but please don't visit them in their offices.

Many of you asked about returning to in person worship, but sadly the answer is "Not yet." For the time being, the sanctuary will remain closed except for special events such as memorial services and weddings which must be planned months in advance and are weather sensitive. Now is the time to remain careful as we monitor our air exchange system and keep our ears open to what's going on in our community. Once again, I invite you to call or email me [swzelle@yahoo.com](mailto:swzelle@yahoo.com) with your ideas.

## Social Action – Time to Choose Who to Support

Lisa McHenry

The congregation will vote for 9 of the following 10 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.

**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.

**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.

When you vote, think first: who is NOT getting support from others? Who is ESSENTIAL to Transylvania County? **All members and friends will be emailed the survey on Monday.**

## Families & Youth



**Kevin Lausch, Director of CRE**

### **YOUTH BOOK CLUB - Saturday, April 24 at 2pm**

Our Youth Book Club will read the graphic novel "The Hidden Witch" by Molly Knox Ostertag, the second book in "The Witch Boy" trilogy. We meet monthly (outside and socially distanced) to eat snacks and have an interesting talk about the books and how they relate to UU principles. Next meeting is **Saturday, April 24 at 2pm at UUTC**. If the weather is not good, we will meet indoors. Contact Kevin at [kevin@uutc.org](mailto:kevin@uutc.org) or 864-395-1208 for more information. *(Continued next page)*

## INTERGENERATIONAL (ALL AGES!) MONTHLY GATHERINGS

Our UU families (and dogs) had a blast at the last hike on the Pink Beds loop in Pisgah Forest. EVERYONE is welcome to the next gathering on May 22 at 12:30 at the Holmes Educational Forest for a picnic and hike. This forest offers multiple trails with interpretive exhibits and picnic areas, and leashed dogs are welcome. We will meet in the parking area near the public restrooms but PLEASE NOTE the public restrooms are closed (porta-potties are available) and the covered picnic shelter is closed (scattered tables are available). The Holmes Educational Forest is located at 1299 Crab Creek Rd, Hendersonville. Stay tuned for the next gathering, which will be **Saturday, May 22**.

## New Member Orientation

Have you been visiting UUTC? Would you like to learn more about this congregation, during our COVID-safe online Zoom sessions? [Let Rev. Bob Renjilian know about your interest](#), so he can set up the sessions at the dates and times with the most compatibility with those who want to sign up. **This is great for folks who are curious**, and/or for those who want to later take the official step to become a voting member. *Especially since we're about to be voting!*

## Living the 7th Principle—What to Plant

A few years back, the Property Committee recommended (and the Board adopted) a new policy concerning our Property. *“When considering the stewardship of the UUTC property, those delegated the authority and responsibility by the Board to make decisions about the management and maintenance of buildings and grounds shall, whenever possible, minimize negative impacts on the environment through the use of natural and native materials, plants and products.”*

Your Facilities Team has been working under that policy for about three years, during which time a lot of planting has been done. Our newest [blog post](#), just in time for spring, includes a link to a spreadsheet of identified plants (both existing and recently planted) and the resources they provide to other living creatures in our area. Check it out!

**Side note— Saturday morning there is a planting day at the Tannery Skatepark. Your extra natives wanted! See more in the article below.**

## UUTC Enviro Stewards — More Work to Do

Two events are coming up which need more assistance. Both of these are 7th Principle initiatives.

The next litter pickup will be in conjunction with NCDOT on April 24th on Rosman Highway. Please [contact Sharon Moya](#) if you would like to participate. The more hands involved, the less ground we each have to cover! Litter is not only unsightly, it is a threat to wildlife and water quality.

This week's Transylvania Times highlighted another project — a workday at Tannery Skatepark to plant perennials. Maureen Copelof, who you will see participating in at least one of the music selections in

our third Sunday Service in April, has asked for donations of native plants for sun or part sun (listed were monarda, coneflower, native phlox, stokes asters, obedient plant, milkweed). And if you don't have any plants to donate (or, of course, if you \*do\*)... come help plant them on **Saturday, April 17th!** Contact Maureen for more information at [maureen.copelof@cityofbrevard.com](mailto:maureen.copelof@cityofbrevard.com).

To get notifications from the Environmental Stewards group, send an email to [Eloise@uutc.org](mailto:Eloise@uutc.org).

## The UUTC Library Re-Opens!

### Eloise Shepard

Have you already read all your books? Binge-watched old shows online? Well, UUTC comes through for you again! Here's the big news! The UUTC Library of Resources will be re-opening on April 20th!

The plan is to have the lobby open for masked and socially distanced interested Members and UUTC Friends to access the library materials on **Tuesdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm**, the doors that say USE THIS DOOR will be open so you can come in and find something to enrich your week.

In addition to the library you are familiar with, we have acquired additional books and DVDs and taken organization to a new level. Our Library now contains over 400 titles!

Need to heat up your life? Here's a tantalizing title: [Jesus and the Lost Goddess](#). We are winding up our pledge drive... how about [The Generosity Path: Finding the Richness in Giving](#)?

Why watch tired re-runs when you can check out a variety of Teaching Company courses on World Religions or individual DVDs on socially relevant topics?

We have new labels inside each book and DVD. Color-coded dots by topic help make your searching easy. No "card" required, but borrowing privileges are for UUTC Members and official Friends. Please be sure to sign out your materials in our check-out book so we can keep track of how the library is used and where the materials are. No re-shelving required when you return them, I am happy to take care of that for you—just drop them in the "Return Books Here" box!

So be sure to come by and "check it out" (pun intended!)

## UUTC Board of Trustees Agenda

For April 22nd @ 5:30pm

## Budget Forums! And Other Items of Business

Thursday night the Board finalized decisions for the Annual Meeting, which will again be remote. This time, however, we are taking advantage of new tools and spending less on printing, envelopes and stamps. The timeline of events is:





## Welcome & Check-in

**Opening Words:** Quim Moya

**Board Minutes:** The March 25, 2021 meeting minutes were approved via email vote on 03/29/21 and sent to the Administrator for filing and publishing.

### Email Votes Since Last Meeting:

Approval of March 25, 2021 minutes

### Standing Updates:

Minister's Report	Rev. Bob Renjilian
Treasurer's Report	Gail Meyers
Operations Report	RK Young
Administration Committee	Kay Webb (liaison)
Finance Committee	Gail Meyers (liaison)
Personnel Committee	Betty Kendrick (liaison)
Property Committee	Quim Moya (liaison)
Advisory Council	Susan Zelle (liaison)

### Old Business:

Board Operating Guidelines Revisions

### New Business:

Leveraging Assets - Gail  
Final Budget  
Annual Meeting Preparation  
Report from Task Force on Reopening - Susan Zelle

**Board Calendar:** May - Congregational Remote Vote

**Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting:** 05/27/21 at 5:30pm via Zoom

### Adjourn

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■April

16th: Announce the slate of nominees presented by the Nominations Committee via the newsletter and open the "floor" for other nominations by Members

- April 23rd: Deadline for submission of additional nominations
- April 30th: Send Annual Meeting documents (agenda with resolutions, 9/17/20 Congregational Meeting Minutes, final slate of nominees, budget & ballot) to UUTC Members and post on website
- May 6th: First Budget Q&A Forum via Zoom @ 7PM
- May 8th: Second Budget Q&A Forum via Zoom @ 4PM

- May 16th: Deadline for receiving ballots.

## SLATE OF NOMINEES FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: For Board of Trustees

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**Bart Renner** - President (1-year term)  
**Elizabeth Williams** - President-Elect (1-year term)  
**Kay Webb** - Secretary (2nd year)  
**Gail Meyers** - Treasurer (2nd year)  
**Betty Kendrick** - Member-at-Large (3rd year)  
**Quim Moya** - Member-at-Large (2nd year)  
**Glenn Cockerham** - Member-at-Large (1st year)

### For Nominations Committee

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**Cantey Carpenter** - 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
**Peter Mockridge** - 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
**Susan Zelle** - 1<sup>st</sup> year

### For Endowment Committee

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**Joanna Bliss** - final year  
**Roberta Miller** - 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
**Carter Heyward** - 1<sup>st</sup> year

If you plan to nominate someone else to serve, be sure you have their permission! Contact Board President Susan Zelle with your nominee's name.

*“We cannot be mere consumers of good governance, we must be participants; we must be co-creators.”*  
— Rohini Nilekani

## Gifts of Beauty

### RK Young

Why do we invest resources on making things beautiful? How much money do we spend decorating our homes, or planting our gardens, or choosing our wardrobes? Is this just frivolity? Or does it really matter?

As one who has served frozen dinners of great merit in their original packaging and also transferred into a more aesthetic container, it's very clear that beauty DOES matter. That stuff looks much more appetizing in local pottery than it does in the plastic dish. We know this is true. Why else would world class chefs bother with “presentation?”

Two things happened this week that spurred this article. The first was the draft article by Eloise on the UUTC Library, which 6 years ago was a pitiful collection hiding in what is now Kevin's office, in two broken-down particle board bookcases. No one ever went in there. And then some members of UUTC funded the cabinetry in our foyer. The books became objects of interest, housed in their new vessel. They became valued.

The second was, on our Moai walk this week at Brevard Music Center, Victoria Kerr mentioned a trip to Mexico when she and her companions stumbled across the monarch migration — which I have heard from others is stunning in its beauty. So stunning that lives change and people come home and plant milkweed. Which we all know is not what one would call a beautiful plant. But what it makes possible! Oh, my!

Every week, members of our Flower Team at UUTC spend the effort to find or create a bit of beauty to welcome us into the Sunday Service. This is a beautiful act of service, and these arrangements are sometimes joyful, or playful, or elegant, or flamboyant. But always a delight. Sometimes the vessel itself is a thing of beauty. Would we still tune in without the flowers? Mostly we would. So why bother?

Flowers on the altar table say that we give a damn. They say welcome. They say, we cared to make this moment beautiful for you. And this is the same reason our musicians work so hard for you to have music, and they continue to improve their craft. They love you and they want you to enjoy the worship service. They want you to be proud to be a member of UUTC. They want people who tune in to our service to get a good “first impression.” These are our gifts. Just as you gift those who come to share a meal at your table. Just as your pledges are gifts to not just hold this community together, but to empower the sharing of beautiful thoughts, words and deeds.



Beauty is not frivolous. It is inspirational, powerful, and soul-satisfying. Ponder: if we stripped away that which was not absolutely essential — would you feel welcome? Would you feel respected? Would you feel your worth and dignity in this space, virtual though it is?

So let me name those members of the Flower Team — Bonnie Arbuckle, Cantey Carpenter, Jane Carter, Carol Flake, Midge Hoover, Nancy Potter, Jean Rowe and Christine Schmidt. Give them a call and say thank you for making the world a little more beautiful, each Sunday.

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*“If the path be beautiful, let us not ask where it leads.” — Anatole France*