



# NEWSLETTER

## We Play With the “Next Normal”

Facebook or YouTube Livestream at 9:00am, Sunday

COVID situations have changed. Our move ahead means having a playful spirit, even a dance back and forth. There are religious foundations for this.



Photo by [Brian McMahon](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*“Those who play rarely become brittle in the face of stress  
or lose the healing capacity of humor.”*

*— Stuart Brown, MD*

## Children's Religious Exploration



Kevin Lausch, Director of CRE

### Chalice Camp - Monday to Friday, Aug 9 to Aug 13 from 9am to noon

Chalice Camp will "Return to Hogwarts" again with this fun, magical camp for kids aged 5 to 10. Camp activities will include a trip to Diagon Alley, making yummy treats, care of magical creatures, and of course potion making! Youth aged 11+ can be a House Prefect (camp helper) and youth aged 13+ can lead a "house" of kids. More information and registration will be available soon.

### CRE Classes

CRE classes will return for kids ages 4 to 7 and 8 to 11 after Labor Day. Currently we are planning for kids outdoor meetings on the Fellowship Green during the 9am service. We are watching vaccinations and Covid cases in our area and talking with other regional UU churches as we plan for the fall. More info will be available soon.

## B.Y.O.B. at the R-I-N-G

This is a no-curriculum event. Our next fire circle will be **Sunday, June 6th, between 5:30 and 7:30**. And, we have a SECOND Master of Fire to maintain order of the orange flamey-thingee! HUZZAH! (BIG THANKS TO KRISTIN & MICHAEL!) If attendance exceeds the RING capacity, we encourage you to move about the campus to be comfortable while still having fun. Seating around the fire is limited to un-burnt logs unless you B.Y.O.Chair as well as your beverage.



The Administrator has been informed that THERE WILL BE MARSHMALLOWS. Whether you manage the golden brown perfection or just pile straight into the flaming charcoal marshmallow is entirely up to you.

All activity is at your own risk. The ground is not level and there are bumpy things called "nature."



## Interested in Membership?

[Let Rev. Bob Renjilian know about your interest](#), or even [RK](#), so we can get you started on formal affiliation. Neither one of us bites (usually) and we would love to get to know you!

Come hang out with this guy!

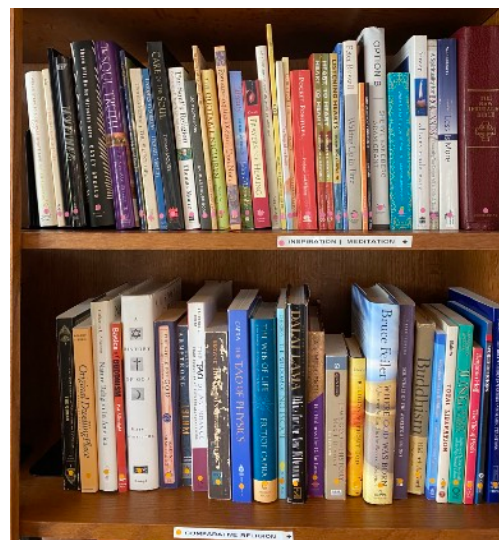


## UUTC Library Hours!

Library hours coincide with times when staff are scheduled to be in the building. We would love to see you!

### The Schedule:

- **Mondays: 10-12:00**
- **Tuesdays: 10-2:00**
- **Thursdays 10-12:00**
- **Fridays 3-5:30**



## Virtual Coffee Hour— Replaced by in Person?



On Sunday, June 20th, we open the doors to whoever can find a seat! Remember that regardless of vaccination status, masks are required in the building. **HOWEVER...**

**AFTER** the service(s), there will be coffee, purchased in “boxes of Joe” from Dunkin’ Donuts. It won’t be as glamorous as the stuff in the picture at left, but it will be there for you to share in the company of fun people. And you can take off your mask.

Coffee will be available in the drive that runs along the east side of the church. It will be available after **EACH** service (both the 9:00 and the 11:00) so that everybody isn’t forced to try to cram into the space at one time.

This solution comes at least in part because we do not have volunteers for preparing coffee of our own. It takes a minimum of 8 volunteers for a month of coffee service, but carrying all that outside is also a real barrier to serving of coffee. A jar will be set on the tables so that you can contribute (each cup will cost us about \$2). If donations cover most of the cost, we can continue to offer coffee like this on non-precipitating days.

## The Next Normal - Sunday Worship & COVID

### The Rev. Bob Renjilian

June 20 is coming soon. Thanks to so many of you for letting me know that you are, or are not, vaccinated. Initial results from a small sample suggested at least 90% of UUTC congregants over the age of 18 are vaccinated. This is significantly higher than Transylvania County adults, generally. It gives me confidence that our invitation to everyone to the opening of Sunday services (June 20, at 9:00 and 11:00) is not a death sentence.

**Wear a mask!** Remember we have congregants who can not have the vaccine for medical reasons, and some adults who have not yet chosen to do so. Imagine too that there may be immune-compromised folks who got the vaccine but are pretty sure it isn't working for them. We also have our youngest ones, who may not be age-eligible to get a vaccine yet. So, again, regardless of vaccination status we require mask wearing of everyone (except babies and the youngest children exempted by CDC) in the building. We're going to clear the building of people quickly after worship, and get folks outside for conversations - that should be safer than indoors.



**W**e're being more restrictive than others, and that's because the pandemic is still raging. I've read the new study (in the Washington Post) showing that the peak pandemic hospitalizations and deaths from months ago are still with us, but hidden. *When you see new cases, hospitalizations and death these are of non-vaccinated folks.* Yes, you got that right: We still have a stressful pandemic among those who haven't been vaccinated, just as bad as months ago, in this country. **But our news sources just give us everyone averaged together, diluting the seriousness of the problem.** We want to be extra safe at UUTC.

Now that you've heard my COVID ramblings I remind you our worship times are changing as we prepare to open on June 20. Times are going to be 9:00 and 11:00 on Sundays. The 9:00 will be online, too. This Sunday (June 6) the online service will be 9:00, as will the next Sunday. This gets us ready for the big opening!

We don't have Nursery staff... yet. So if you are coming with an infant or toddler on June 20 please know you can be in worship in the sanctuary, or via closed-circuit TV in the social hall or lobby. We are working to arrange groups (outside) for other ages of children (who are also welcome at worship) - plans to be announced at their own pace. This "Next Normal" will morph into a more complete set of options for children as we proceed in future weeks.

See you on June 20, 9:00 or 11:00 a.m.! (Or you can watch online at 9:00am if you prefer, or catch it later if you missed it.)

## Volunteering! A Great Way to (Re)Learn Names!

Email [RK](#) or [Eloise](#) if you would like to serve as a Greeter, an Usher, a Worship Assistant (yes, in the pulpit helping Rev. Bob), a Flower Provider, a Repairer of the Building, or a Gardener of the Grounds. Other opportunities for Social Justice work will be set up soon.

Service in small groups is a great way to get reacquainted, or to meet someone new. We are asking that Greeters do NOT also serve as ushers, as the scheduling then gets complicated. Lend a hand and help us bring on the New Normal!