



NEWSLETTER

Genders on the Spectrum

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

National Coming Out Day is October 11. It was originally started not only to debunk myths and stereotypes about the LGBTQIA+ community, but also to demonstrate that there are people on the spectrum everywhere. With the goal of making us better allies, UUTC's Diversity Inclusion Group is presenting a service of awareness, education and celebration of the diverse spectrum of gender. As a liberal faith, Unitarian Universalists work to create safe spaces not only within our congregations, but also in our communities so that one day there will be no need for a National Coming Out Day.



Thanks to [Robin Benzrihem](#) for sharing their work on Unsplash.

Upcoming Events *For All Ages!*

Kevin Lausch, Director of Children's Religious Education

Please remember masks and physical distancing at all events!

Saturday, Oct 17 at 1:00 pm - (NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS EVENT) –Pumpkin Painting and Food Drive for Sharing House

We changed the time so the weather that day will be warmer for the event. Be in costume and we'll provide the mini pumpkins for kids to paint and take home, snacks, and fun. This event is on the Fellowship Green. Please **RSVP** to kevin@uutc.org so we have enough pumpkins.



Remember what Bill Carpenter told us on Sunday: The Sharing House needs the following: stewed tomatoes, snacks (of all kinds), grits, cooking oil, dessert mixes, mayo, canned beans, canned veggies, rice mixes, toilet paper, and clean blankets/sleeping bags. More people than ever are using food banks, so let's help Sharing House help our neighbors as winter approaches.

Saturday, Nov 21 at 10:00 am - Pisgah Hike and Picnic

Meet at the Pisgah Ranger Station/Visitors Center on highway 276 (1600 Pisgah Highway, Pisgah Forest) for a hike on the Andy Cove Nature Trail and then a picnic at Sycamore Flats. **RSVP.**

Saturday, December 12 at 4 PM - Holiday Caroling and S'mores

Join us for singing holiday carols around a bonfire with s'mores on the Fellowship Green behind the church. Remember your masks/face shields and social distancing please. **RSVP.**

Please note, if an event is rained out, it is automatically scheduled for the next Sunday at 1 PM.

Please contact Kevin Lausch at kevin@uutc.org or 864-395-1208 with questions. Thanks!

Interlopers? Nah... Just Folks Enjoying a Meal

Howie & Alex, and also Doug Denton, helped out with a mic check this past Friday. They had picked up a meal at Blue Ridge Bakery (always a good idea!) and then come to UUTC to enjoy the sunshine.

You can do this, too! It's your religious home – come enjoy the space!



Fellowship on the Green

Fellowship on the Green happens on Tuesdays of each week 11:30 to 1:30pm. This is guaranteed through October... so don't miss these last couple of weeks! Bring a lawn chair for the most flexible seating.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, the following Thursdays will be automatic. If no one is at the tables at 11:30... don't worry — Kay & RK always show up!



Jean Rowe, Sarah & Chris Rogine, Victoria Kerr, Mary & Bob Bennett, Jane Carter, Rev. Bob

Making the Magic Happen

RK Young

Frank never knew the job would be *this,* and neither did I, frankly. Creating Sunday mornings has steadily been evolving. We've tried to build in "fail safes" to allow for quirky internet and individual schedules. Mostly, we try to do the actual filming on Fridays.

In this image, you see the sound board lit up to take the podium microphone sound into the Mac. The pulpit camera is already in position and hooked up to an HDMI "switch" that allows Frank (or me) to switch from one camera to another during recording. This switch would allow for a total of 4 video inputs. The screen behind the pulpit belongs to Mark Allison, and we are thrilled to have it — white walls are harder on the eyes!

We are using two video tripods— one purchased during Rev. Ilene's time with us, and one purchased in June of this year, after our original webcam failed and we had to rethink how to create services.



Frank loads a fresh battery in a camera.

Your Board bit down in June and used some budget surplus to purchase 2 cameras, one lens, a gadjillion cables, the HDMI switch... and those new pieces helped us give you the good quality imagery and sound you now get on our Facebook livestream each Sunday. Or from the Vimeo channel on Monday with The AfterWord.



Alice Hardy setting up for video.



Setting up the second camera for the candles.

Since that time, Frank figured out how to connect these cameras to our OLD, OLD sound mixer/PA system, so we can use them to capture video outside with “less truck noise” sound quality. What that will mean besides the ability to record live singing outside for use on a Sunday morning we don’t know, but it gives us potential.

Being able to watch the service at a time of your choosing has been a blessing to many — especially those who love watching with a cup of coffee at their side! And we know that we now have viewers of our services who are outside our immediate area altogether. So we know that when we *are* able to get together in person again, we will need to create a way to do both things at once. So we are continuing to develop our skills and assess the complete capabilities of what we have, in terms of equipment.

Once video clips are created, we drag them all into iMovie, which is a program that comes with any Mac or MacBook. We create “dissolve” transitions in between clips. We create title slides, add in copyright permissions, add in credits for both those who helped create the service and any other music information we need to include. We adjust the sound levels to create a consistent sound level throughout the entire video.

For music, depending on the way in which it was recorded, we add lyrics when we can. Some music is multi-track created by others (thanks Janice Canon, Elaine Shaver, Teri & Daniel Sandoval!), and some is created by staff with help from volunteer singers who happen to have iPhones (and therefore can use a common “app”).

During recording, whoever is in the booth stays masked, despite being over 35 feet away from the pulpit. Without a single window in the building that can be opened, we must be careful of each other. Thanks to ALL those who have contributed to making worship services as rich as possible: from flowers to speakers to music!

Partnering for the Dignity Project



A recent collaboration between Pisgah Labs and our Dignity Project is aimed at helping prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Transylvania County. The Dignity Project has been distributing products not covered by the Food Stamp (SNAP) program to area human service organizations for the past three years. These items include soap, condoms, shampoo, diapers, toothpaste, and other personal care items. Until recently, we also distributed feminine hygiene products. Since the UUTC Dignity Project budget has been stretched, we recently coordinated with Project Dignity of WNC, Inc. (funded by Pisgah Health Foundation) and arranged for them to take over the distribution of the feminine products beginning this Fall. This will help us continue to provide the maximum amount of products to the organizations we serve.

As the pandemic continued into the summer, the Social Action team felt that hand sanitizer would be an important item to add to the Dignity Project's distribution list. When Pisgah Labs was asked for a donation of hand sanitizer by UUTC, the company understood that there are many members of our community without access to sanitizers or the means to get sanitizers. "We recognized the need and have been very excited to give back to our community and help," said Pisgah Labs Site Manager, Dani Bailey. They agreed to donate over 1000 bottles of hand sanitizer for the Dignity Project to distribute!

The Dignity Project members are very grateful to add this crucial item to the project's participating organizations, which currently include Bread of Life, The Children's Center, Davidson River School, El Centro, The Haven, Rise and Shine, SAFE, and Sharing House. Dani Bailey at Pisgah Labs stressed "We hope our donation to the Dignity Project provides much needed protection and safety for our neighbors and in even a small way curbs the spread of COVID-19 in our area."

Thanks to our Social Action Team for making this happen, and to Amy for getting it in the T. Times!

Don't Get Frustrated, Get HELP!

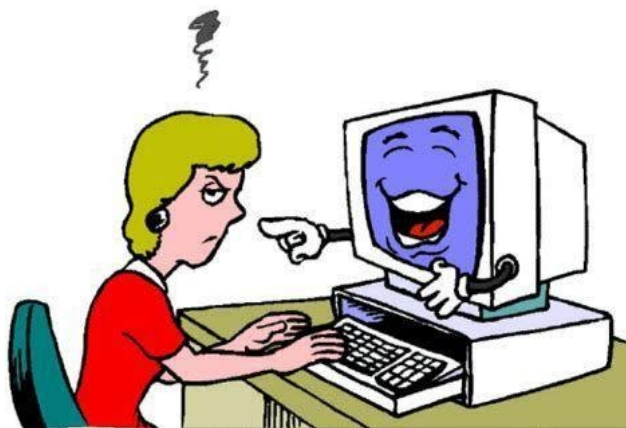
*In this time of limited church access, Realm is an increasingly essential way to keep connected with UUTC. **HELP is here!** Tuesday, October 13th, 10:30-11:30, UUTC Meditation Garden (Registration Required)*

Eloise Shepard

We have gotten lots of phone calls and emails asking for help for various issues with Realm, including simply setting up an account. But it's kind of difficult to walk you through a fix when we can't see what you are seeing on your screen. So, even in this time of social distancing, here's a chance to get

personal help using your *own* phone, laptop or tablet. (Desktops may have to be handled by phone, but you can attend and watch.)

Here's an opportunity for up to 8 people to bring their charged devices to the church to work with Eloise on untangling issues you may be having using Realm. The types of things we can tackle are: setting up a new account on Realm, accessing an account you already have, locating and editing your personal Profile, locating the UUTC Directory and finding how to contact the folks you are missing, navigating the Groups you belong to and sharing communications, getting your online giving up and working the way you intend or just getting more comfortable using Realm as a tool.



Face masks will be required and we'll use the seating at our outdoor Meditation Garden. A limit of 8 participants will allow us to be socially distanced as well as give time for us to handle each person's issues. It looks like the weather will be fine, but in the event of a change of forecast, we will re-schedule. ***Please note: I have scheduled this to end at 11:30 so bring your lunch if you would like to join in Fellowship on the Green afterward!***

If you need Realm assistance, email me at eloise@uutc.org by Monday 5 pm to sign up for this opportunity. Please include your name, the best phone number to reach you, and a description of what you would like to work on. Our goal is to get everyone comfortable using Realm!

Coming Up: How Do We Prepare for Inside Activities at UUTC?

RK Young

This is the topic for conversation/discussion at a special 4th Friday Happy Hour. While our building is beautiful, it has aspects that make it less optimal during a pandemic — the biggest of which is lack of fresh air. We also have upholstered chairs which are difficult to sterilize. While there are companies that serve large businesses with air exchange systems, we may not be able to find/afford such for UUTC. Do you care? What would you propose? You know the size of our spaces — how many bodies would be too many?

There's also the possibility of a new courthouse being built right beside us. So let's talk buildings and how you feel about these issues. Fall is currently beautiful, but we will no doubt reach a time when it is pretty darn chilly, and outside activities may not feel terribly appealing.

So join us on **Friday, October 23rd, for a special Zoom Happy Hour at 5:00pm**. Put this on your calendar — if it's on your phone, set an alert. We will record the meeting to capture all your ideas!