

# UUTC UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2016

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## UBUNTU—I AM BECAUSE WE ARE by Christine Fritz

Sunday, September 4th at 9:30 and 11:00am *Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am*

Ubuntu is an African term meaning "I am, because we are". It's the deepest acknowledgement of our shared humanity. In Mayan culture, this same notion is conveyed in their greeting, En Lak'Ech, or "you are my other me." This seems so Unitarian Universalist! As UU's we have a strong sense that we are all connected. But do we truly live that value? What forces in society set us apart? What are the impacts of separateness? And how can we overcome them, together?

### THIS SUNDAY, WE MEET REV. IAN WHITE MAHER.

After a good look at our Organizational Structure, Ian is very much looking forward to Team Meeting Night— our next one will be Wednesday, October 5th, at 5:30pm. Pizza, salad and childcare all provided! Ian will schedule time with each Team. Food will be ready at 5:15pm, for a timely start.

In Africa there is a concept known as 'ubuntu' - the profound sense that we are human only through the humanity of others; that if we are to accomplish anything in this world it will in equal measure be due to the work and achievement of others.

Nelson Mandela

### NEXT WEEK at UUTC

**LABOR DAY**— Mon 9/5 **OFFICE CLOSED**

**Chair Yoga** — CANCELLED—makeup 9/23

**Men's Group** – Tues 9/6 @ 9:00am

**Dream Group** — Tues 9/6 (call if interested)

**Eclectics Jam** — Wed 9/7 @ 9:30am

**Being Group** — Wed 9/7 @ 1:00pm

**Ageless Grace** — Wed 9/7 @ 2:00pm

**Choir Rehearsal** — Wed 9/7 @ 4:00pm

**Wisdom of Faith** — Wed 9/7 @ 7:00pm

**Living the Tao** — Fri 9/9 @ 10:30am

**Vitality Yoga** — Fri 9/9 @ 1:30pm

## FIRST SUNDAY SANDWICH SUNDAY — SEPTEMBER 4TH BRING AN EXTRA SANDWICH AND INVITE A VISITOR TO STAY!

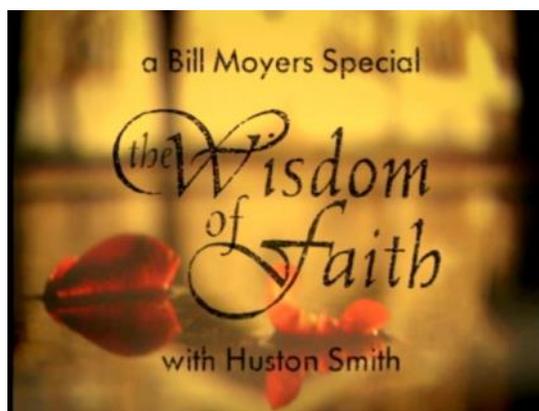


The Membership Team offers a monthly opportunity to break bread, connect more with friends and welcome newcomers. Join us **this Sunday, September 4th, after our 11:00am service.**

Please bring a **sandwich** for yourself, a finger food **munchie** to share (such as fruit, pretzels, raw veggies, popcorn, cheese cubes) a folding **chair** or blanket for seating, and a ball, Frisbee or other simple toy if activity is desired.

The Membership Team will set up tables in the park (weather permitting) and provide lemonade (and some extra sandwich makings for those who forget or were not informed). Come prepared to picnic rain or shine! We will remain indoors if necessary.

## “WISDOM OF FAITH” FINAL INSTALLMENT: WEDNESDAY @ 7:00PM



UUTC Adult Religious Exploration is offering a 5-session viewing and discussion of “Bill Moyers: The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith.” In this program, Moyers discusses the world’s great faith traditions with Huston Smith, viewed as the world’s foremost scholar on that subject. Smith is also the author of “The World’s Religions”, an introductory study that has sold over 2 million copies worldwide. **The remaining session is September 7 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.**

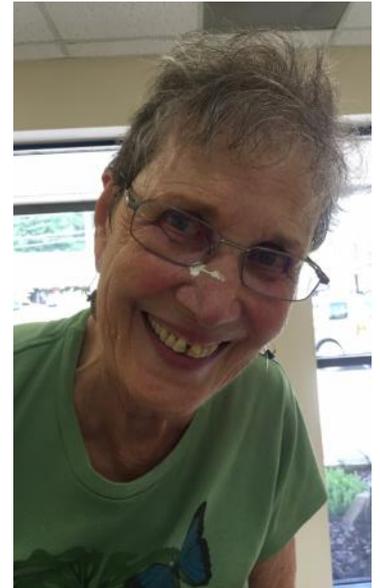
## ONE STEP CLOSER...

Our kitchen appliance makeover got a step closer to fruition with the help of Anthony Dill on Wednesday with his efficient and expert removal of parts we needed out of the way. They also reinforced the countertop to ensure all holds steady!



## CAMPUS CLEAN-UP: 13 POWERFUL EXAMPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talent, Treasure—and elbow grease! A big shout-out to those who showed up for our Campus Cleanup Day! Joanna Bliss, Lyn Halsey, Betty & Gary Kendrick, Carol Moore, Ben & Nancy Potter, Susan & Lloyd Slocum, Bob Thompson, Katie Thompson, Kay Webb & RK Young all put the pedal to the metal on Saturday morning. Every folding chair and table was washed. The small classroom got a fresh coat of paint (it was missed last year because of bookcases), and the social hall and kitchen are mostly painted, as well. Special thanks to Kay, Joanna and Nancy, who could not leave large walls without a second coat of paint and stayed waaaay past time to see the work through.



## MYSTERY ORGANIZATION: WHAT IS GMAC?

SO, You've seen the new organizational diagram, but: What *IS* GMAC and what does it do?

In our new organizing structure there are two organizational spheres: **Governance** and **Ministry**. **GMAC** (Governance/Ministry Advisory Council) is designed to bridge the functions of Governance and Ministry. Members are chosen by the Board President and the Minister. We are "listeners" helping to solve problems expressed by members of the congregation and providing information to the Board President and Minister.



We are also serving as the transition team; supporting the visioning process; identifying leaders and training needs and setting goals. We are available for conflict management as needed.

In the future, an annual Governance/Ministry planning retreat will be the responsibility of GMAC to take stock of the needs and health of UUTC and to set goals for the coming year.

To contact GMAC, email [gmac@uutc.org](mailto:gmac@uutc.org) and the Council will get in touch!



## YES, WE HAVE A DELAY

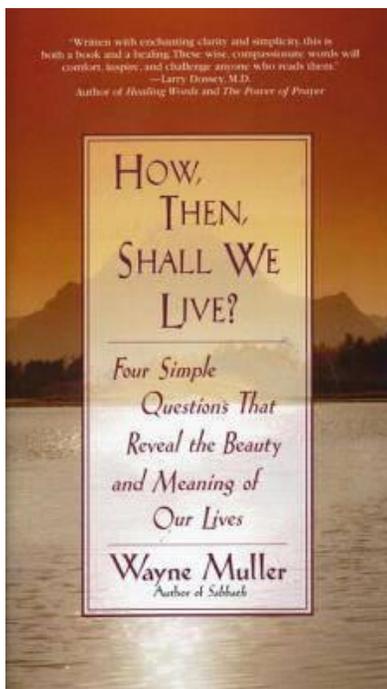
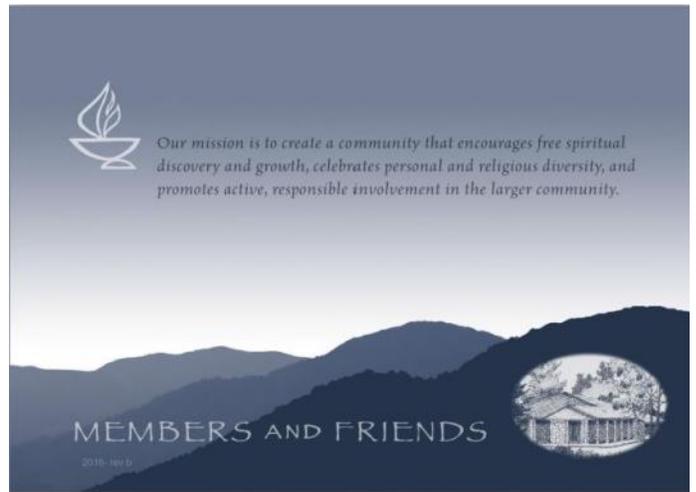
Simpson Concrete has had to push our concrete work back about a month. Nicky (Simpson) will, however, try to get our bike rack installed very soon. He is aware that currently, that rack is "new décor" in our sanctuary!

*Note: Somehow, I don't think this will pass muster with the Aesthetics Team...*

## MISSING PHOTO DIRECTORIES

Two labeled Members and Friends Photo Directories are missing. If you have taken one by mistake, please return to Office or Welcome Table. Thank you!

The Membership Team



## HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE? — DON LANDER

Waah! We come into this world kicking and screaming, forcibly evicted from our uterine sanctuary, and we are left to deal with an existence which is at best a mystery. ANY QUESTIONS?? Well, Wayne Muller, in his book *How Then Shall We Live?*, asks four questions, namely: Who am I?; What do I love?; How shall I live, knowing I will die? and What is my gift to the family of the Earth? These are the age old questions of philosophy whose answers shape our lives. To quote Socrates, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Answering these questions allows us to examine our lives and to put into practice the UU principles regarding “spiritual growth” and “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning”. In my life I have found such a task is best accomplished in a small group setting where I can listen to others

share their journey and to speak from my heart without fear.

So I invite you to join me and my wife, Linda, in a journey of self-examination as we read Muller’s book and answer the four questions. This will be done in a group of, at most, twelve members. We will meet weekly at the church each Sunday from 4:30 to 6:30 PM starting on September 25. Each week we will read a portion of the book, and each group member will have the opportunity to express how the reading relates to their life. In addition to this round of sharing, meetings will include an opening, a check-in, a closing and perhaps a meditation or music.

If you have questions regarding the group please call Linda Lander or Don Lander at 884-4844 or email Linda ([holnurse@comporium.net](mailto:holnurse@comporium.net)) or Don ([donald.lander@gmail.com](mailto:donald.lander@gmail.com)). You can sign up for the group either by email or the sign-up sheet on the counter at the church.

## 2016 YOUTH CONS AT THE MOUNTAIN!

I received an email Thursday from The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC, announcing the dates for the 2016 Youth CON's, yeah! Not familiar with a Youth Con? Well, the [WEBSITE](#) says it much better than we can, but a Youth CON is an overnight camp in one weekend, with Unitarian Universalist flair! This will be our fifth year in a row attending Youth CON's at The Mountain. If you talk to any past campers they will tell you how awesome it is—always popular with our UUTC youth.

If you are interested in attending, here are the dates:

- **Elementary CON, for 3rd-5th graders- November 18-20th**
- **Intermediate CON, for 6th-8th graders- December 2nd-3rd**
- **Senior High CON, for 9th-12th graders- December 9th-11th**

In the past, we have hosted youth-led fundraisers such as Bake Sale, Car Wash or Parents Night Out here at UUTC in order to raise funds for the cost of the CON's. The cost is \$100 per child for two nights accommodation, food and activities, \$25 for each advisor. **There must be an adult advisor** for every four participants of each gender—traditionally these are parent volunteers. We have never had a problem raising money and covering all costs of Youth CON registration, but we do need to come up with some dates and ideas for fundraising and get started so it is not a problem this year.



I'm trying to get the conversation going and get the dates on your calendar. Please email or call me with any questions and ideas for fundraising. I'm excited for some of our new 3rd graders to be able to attend for the first time, especially after watching their older siblings attend year after year (Nora, Patience:), and I know Ian is looking forward to his first High School CON! (who will join him?)

Peace!

Heather Layton, Director of CRE @ UUTC

[cre@uutc.org](mailto:cre@uutc.org) 553-3810

P.S. Youth, ages 16 and 17, can apply to be Peer Advocate Leaders and those 18 and up, PAL Mentors. Check out the application on the website <http://themountainrlc.org/youth-conference/>.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LINDA!

Last week at the concert, the Austin Clan (including Cameron), surprised Linda with a jazz version of Happy Birthday on the vibraphone (Thank you, Jason DeCristofaro!) and bass along with this lovely cake from Blue Ridge Bakery. End result: everyone at the concert got to enjoy some extra-delicious birthday cake along with their wine at intermission!

Wouldn't it be nice if EVERY concert had a birthday?



## NOT YOUR AVERAGE DAY AT THE OFFICE



You would be forgiven for a double-take, walking past the door to the AV room last week. This bodiless set of legs, belonging to Mark Allison, was finding a way to uninstall the cpu for our main system computer that facilitates sound and other audio/visual for the sanctuary.

All tech ages, some at very predictable rates (hard drives are usually only good for about 5 or 6 years, for instance), and some not

so predictable. Your AV Tech Team will be creating an inventory of all our “parts” and creating a projection for better budget planning in terms of equipment failure. We can expect something to croak just about every year.

Which brings us back to what Mark is doing on his belly in the AV room. The power supply of that main cpu was found to have failed and Mark was able to do the diagnosis and get a new one installed before Wisdom of Faith on Wednesday. This was with the failure manifesting on the previous Friday and AV Tech authorizing the expenditure on Saturday...the power supply arrived Tuesday.

Anyone who thinks this man deserves a round of applause—we happen to know he likes beer....

## SOCIAL ACTION FOR SEPTEMBER— PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES



**PISGAH**  
LEGAL SERVICES

Pisgah Legal Services is a community-based non-profit law firm providing free civil legal help to our communities' most vulnerable: the working poor, the elderly, the disabled, and victims of abuse. Roughly 1/3 of their work involves helping families and children escape domestic violence, 1/3 involves preventing homelessness, foreclosures, evictions, and helping those living in substandard housing conditions, and 1/3 involves helping people obtain affordable healthcare, helping people with disabilities get their benefits, and protecting our seniors from scams and fraud. They are the only free legal resource for these folks in Western North Carolina. In 2015, Pisgah Legal Services helped nearly 600 Transylvania County residents, including 74 cases to secure safety from domestic violence and 69 cases to address housing and consumer problems.

## FILLING THE BLANK

Muddy Sneakers is most grateful to UUTC for its donations in August totaling \$1173.00. Rachel Broadbent showed up on Thursday to help Sue Null lift the monster check. "I am so proud to share a community and mission with each of you," she said.

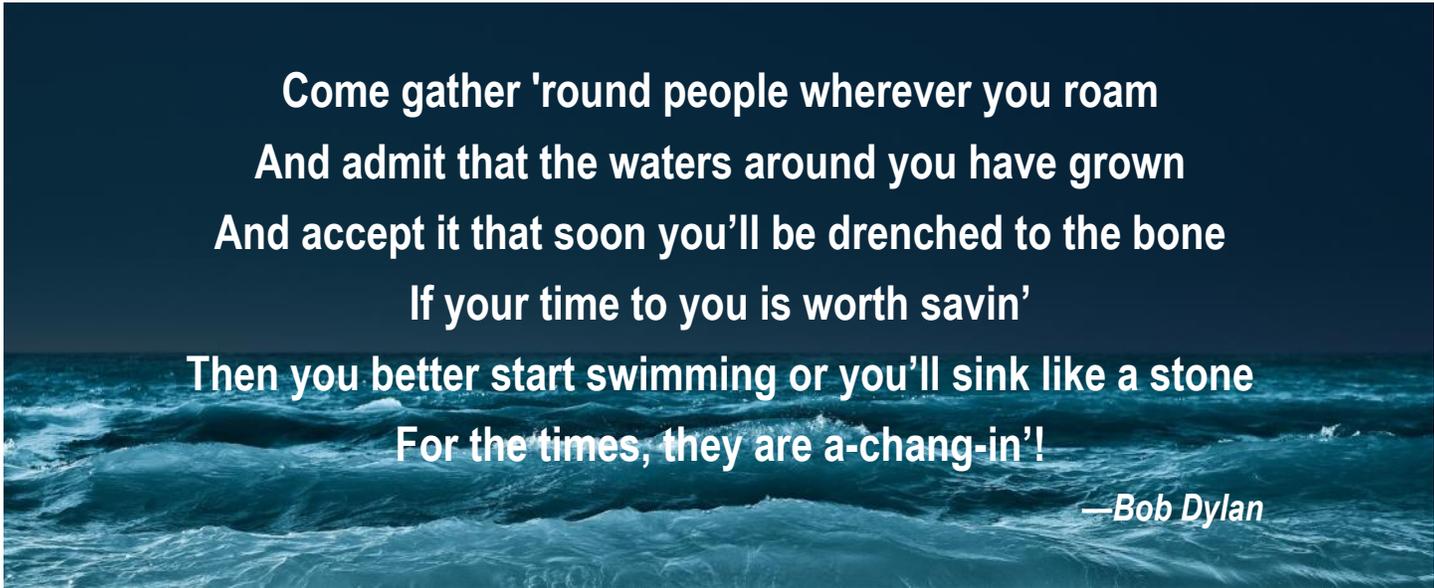


## MOST IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL PRACTICE — EMPATHY

... "I believe the freedom from suffering is an engaged practice of relationship. I don't need a lot of money, I don't need a lot of power or fame. These, on their own, won't bring me happiness and contentment. What I want is to know, what I want to feel is that I have been seen, that I have been heard, that I have been listened to, that I have been respected. The most important spiritual practice is to find empathy. It is not to worship a god out there who will transform our lives if only we behave right. It is not to worship ourselves as the masters of our own destinies. It is to look into the eyes of another human being and love them. It doesn't necessarily mean like them, but to love them.

Martin Buber wrote, "The concentration and fusion into a whole being can never be accomplished by me, can never be accomplished without me. I require a You to become; becoming I, I say You. All actual life is encounter." "

—Rev. Ian White Maher



Come gather 'round people wherever you roam  
And admit that the waters around you have grown  
And accept it that soon you'll be drenched to the bone  
If your time to you is worth savin'  
Then you better start swimming or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times, they are a-chang-in'!

—Bob Dylan

## **SPONSORED PROJECTS: PROGRESS CONTINUES, DESPITE SETBACKS**

As of August 31st, \$24,839.00 has been received to our capital improvements (Sponsored Projects) fund. The first project truly completed was the installation of the new kitchen faucet (\$350.00). After this, we purchased (at a great discount!) a desk and chair for the minister's office—this was on site on July 14th (\$500.00). Installation of the new alarm system was completed by July 21st (\$3000.00), though it took us a bit longer to find the ground fault in the system and replace the bad wiring.

In August, our first “must do” was the installation of two new, larger backup drives that protect the contents of the front desk, bookkeeper and AV computers (\$250.00). Additional insulation for the front half of the building (everything but the sanctuary) was completed August 22nd (\$2500.00). The new bike rack is on campus, though not yet installed (\$550.00). And shortly, the kitchen is getting a major appliance makeover—giving us greater energy efficiency, greater capacity to wash dishes after Wonderful Wednesday (and other events), and an improved work environment for those hosting these events. Total costs plus installation will fall around \$3400.00, some of which will be recovered from the sale of existing appliances.

Coming soon are the (delayed) sidewalk//foundation repairs (\$5000.00), and the installation of new cabinetry in the classroom for better storage/access to Religious Exploration materials (bid needs updating to Aesthetics Palette).

Each of these investments in our Building and Grounds is an investment in who we are becoming. The bicycle rack will welcome the alternative transportation of up to eleven riders. And CRE is about to unveil TWO new curriculums for fall, with the implementation of a pre-school class in the smaller classroom. Your gifts to both our Operating Budget and to our Capital Budget are working hard.



*"We are the certain and the seeking, the lifers and the newcomers, the beloved and the brokenhearted, the insiders and the rejected, all of whom have found a home in the extraordinary, yet intimate, communities of Unitarian Universalism."*

Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC Host

*Our mission is to create a community that encourages free spiritual discovery and growth, celebrates personal and religious diversity, and promotes active, responsible involvement in the larger community.*

**Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.**



Read the latest UUA Southern Region Newsletter [HERE!](#)



**SOUTHERN REGION**

### **KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!**

VIEW our [church calendar](#). This is the calendar which has ALL events.

For previous issues of the UU Update, click [HERE](#).

SEND news for this newsletter by 10:00am on Wednesdays.

### **CONTACT US**

For Pastoral Care, call **828-553-9410**.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon and by appointment. The church telephone number is **828-877-6121**. Our mailing address is UUTC, PO Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712. Our website is [www.uutc.org](http://www.uutc.org). Our church is located at 24 Varsity Street, at the corner of South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).