

UUTC UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

A LIVING SACRIFICE

by Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie

Sunday, September 3rd at 9:15am and 11:00am

There are two major holidays celebrated in Islam each year, Eid-al-Fitr (celebrating the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, occurring in early- to mid-summer) and Eid-al-Adha, a day celebrating the prophet Abraham's obedience to God's command to offer his son as a sacrifice. While the Christian narrative names this son Isaac, the Muslim narrative identifies him as Ishmael. Celebrated from August 31 to September 1, Eid-al-Adha, considered the greater of the two main Muslim holidays, is a time for reflection on the sacrifices that we might make in our own lives. And, while we will certainly not be sacrificing any humans or animals as part of our service this week, we will be reflecting on our monthly worship theme of "Growth," and what it is that we might be called to sacrifice in order that we might grow. What might we, as a community and as individuals, need to give up in order to live into who we are called to be?

Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am!

SACRIFICE
GIVING UP
SOMETHING THAT
MATTERS
FOR SOMETHING THAT
MATTERS MORE

COMING UP at UUTC

Heartfulness Meditation — Sun @ 4:30pm

Office Closed — Mon 9/4 (Labor Day)

Men's Group — Tues 9/5 @ 9:00am

SMART Recovery — Tues 9/5 @ 6:00

Eclectics — Wed 9/6 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 9/6 @ 4:00pm

Team Mtg Night — Wed 9/6 @ 5:00pm

Women's Luncheon—Thurs 9/7 @ 11:30

Office Opens @ 11:30am on Fri 9/8

WOMEN'S GROUP KICKOFF— BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!



Photo from the 2015 Women's Group Luncheon at the Kirkman's

On **September 7th at 11:30**, a fall lunch to welcome Rev. Ilene and **ALL UUTC women** will take place at Sandy Kirkman's home at 141 Lake House Trail, Brevard. You can reach Sandy for more information at 828-507-4968.

Directions are available at the front counter of the church.

The Women's Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 12:30pm under normal circumstances. These lunches happen in the social hall and are open to all women of UUTC. They take summers off, with September being the kick-off month to get back "into the groove." Lunches at UUTC are bring your own, with a topic provided for discussion.

THE SHARED PULPIT

You might not consider yourself a preacher, but everyone has stories to share. In a new Adult Religious Exploration course being facilitated by Carol Flake, you can explore Homiletics — the art of preaching or writing sermons.

If you would like to learn to craft thoughtful sermons anchored in your own experience, sign up for the one-hour informational meeting to be held on **Sunday, October 8th at 9:15am**.

The course will be based on the book *The Shared Pulpit*, by Rev. Erika Hewitt. Hewitt provides a road map to creating meaningful worship in the book, which will be provided by the Worship Team for the use of those who sign up. The maximum number of participants is eight.

This class will meet once or twice a month for eight sessions, each lasting three hours. Dates of these sessions will be determined at the organizational meeting, so bring your calendars!

Participants will NOT be required to give a sermon upon completion of the course, but growing this ability to express ourselves is one way to support our own spiritual journeys. If you have questions, please call Carol at 828-553-4910. Sign up at the front desk!



Rev. Ilene, before she was a minister, at age 20, sharing a pulpit!

THE HAUNTING CHURCH • REV. JEAN ROWE

A study group of 20-25 UUs has been meeting for 5 or 6 years using the name "Christians in Exile," a term coined by progressive Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong-- who said many of us are followers of Jesus but dissatisfied with the institutional Christian churches. We've read and discussed many books, some on progressive Christianity, and some on a study of compassion from a Buddhist and secular viewpoint. We've had wide-ranging topics loosely related to following Jesus' teachings.



*Does your past hold the key to
a richer spiritual future?*

The group was founded and led by Revs. Earle Rabb and Jean Rowe, originally to help the many new members who had joined UUTC but were disoriented because they had always been mainline Christians. We began the group with a 5 week UUA program called *The Haunting Church*...meaning a look back at the church of your earlier years that continues to shape or haunt your ideas of church. It helped us to look back and then compare and contrast aspects of being UU and one's past affiliation (or no affiliation).

It's been so long, and so many new people have joined, we are revisiting *The Haunting Church* for five sessions. ***Even if you don't plan to continue with this study group***, the five sessions stand on their own and are ***open to everyone***.

The Christians In Exile group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:30 to 5:00, Sept. through June, in the sanctuary. ***The Haunting Church* program meets Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, and Nov. 13**. Please [email Jean Rowe](#) if you want to be put on our mailing list for reminders and so we'll know how many to expect!

AFTER & BEFORE

The Facilities Team is still on task— earlier this month they had the Fire Marshall in to approve our fire extinguishers and their locations. (One replaced, one more added.) This week, long-awaited pressure washing of our sidewalks, soffits and retaining wall were accomplished. How badly was this needed? You can take a look here—after, and before!



HOW DO TEAMS DECIDE WHAT TO DO? TEAM MEETING NIGHT IS WEDNESDAY!

Once upon a time, there was a Mission Statement. It was a very nice Mission Statement, and it hung around on the walls, and sometimes people read it, and sometimes it just felt lonely. And then along came an Interim Minister who said, “we really ought to do something with that Mission Statement,” and demanded that the Ministry Teams, the hands and feet of UUTC, create Function Statements that described how each Team would meet the Mission. And it was good.

However, each Team has to keep working with their Function (as opposed to publishing it and then ignoring it), and so this Interim said to the Teams, “evaluate your work each month and report to me what you have accomplished in meeting your goals—your Function.”

And the Teams gnashed their teeth and fussed and spit, but began evaluating the impact of the work they were doing. And UUTC got better and better.

Summer came and the Teams were short of people, but still much work got done. Finally, the Teams were blessed with a SETTLED minister, who began to meet with them monthly.

This is your reminder that it is time, Teams, to review your Operating Guidelines (this would be an agenda item for Wednesday’s meeting), fill out your evaluation form for the month to identify your progress towards your goals, and decide what you most want to spend your twenty minutes with Rev. Ilene covering.

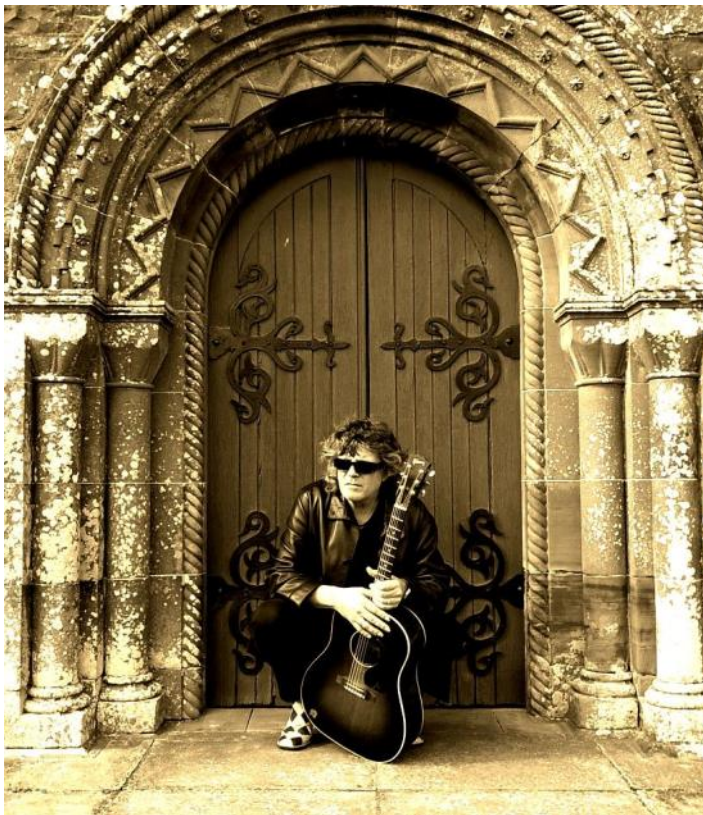
Team Leaders, please email the office with a head count for pizza! Child care is booked. We will order salad this month—your contributions will be gratefully received!

Celebration of Life

Join Jill Roberts on September 22nd at 2:00pm in a Celebration of the Life of our dear friend and long-time Member, Robert (Bob) Thompson.

At right, Bob poses with the bookcases he had just finished anchoring to the wall in the minister’s office.





**Coming October 13th:
Medieval & Spanish Blues with
Claude Bourbon
*Mark your calendar!***

THEY DID WHAT?!

Board Minutes from July are posted!



SEEING STARS?

The Membership Team has been adding stars to visitors' laminated nametags since March. Please continue to recognize and extend a special welcome to these still new visitors. Any other visitor that would like a star is invited to contact Sue Null at membership@uutc.org. Visitors, Members and Friends wishing to add a rainbow sticker in support of our LBGTQ Welcoming Congregation will find them near the nametag storage boxes.

TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE MAIN COURSE • OCTOBER 7TH

The name for our prospective member class is **The Main Course: UUTC Connections Class**. If you are thinking of becoming a Member or Friend of UUTC this fall, or if you're an old Friend thinking of changing your status, attend and share this day with Rev. Ilene, staff and congregational leaders. Even folks who've been here awhile will learn things!

The class meets on Saturday, October 7th. Childcare is available by request. Other details, including lunch break details and your preparations for the class, will follow.

A Welcoming Ceremony for those who choose to become Members will be held Sunday, October 15th, and on the 28th, we will have a photo shoot where Barbi Smith and Mark Allison will make you look 5 years younger and authentically charming! (Photo Shoot open to all Members and Friends who need an updated image.) Sign up for the class at the front counter!

MEET LINDA DARNELL!

Linda started off life in North Carolina and has now returned! She grew up in Kannapolis, NC and graduated from East Carolina University. In 1967 she moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL where she was a high school librarian until she retired.

While still in Florida, Linda began making pottery, though still considers herself a beginner. She has not yet chosen to seek out a new pottery studio because of the time she is spending in fixing up the house she bought here in Pisgah Forest in July of 2016. (It needs work. Are any of us shocked?) Linda enjoys hiking, gardening, decorating, reading, yoga... and making pottery! She was fortunate to be able to watch the eclipse from the back deck of her new home.

Linda is a bold one—she moved to Transylvania County without knowing a soul here. While she had never attended a UU church, she was interested in learning more about it and meeting new people. The rest is history!



Growth and comfort never co-exist. —Ginni Rometty

HAVE A YARD? LOVE FLOWERS?

Our Flower Team has their hands full with the sanctuary, but they are not alone in thinking that our made-over vestibule deserves “arranging!”

If you have a yard to pull “supplies” from and enjoy making arrangements, consider membership with our Flower Team. With a larger team, they could help to provide some beauty in our vestibule.

Ideally, the responsibilities would be scheduled and rotated as they are now for the sanctuary, so that no one has to provide an arrangement more than once a month. Please [email Christine Schmidt](#) if you would like to serve in this way!



CHARITABLE GIVING FOR SEPTEMBER: 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 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.

Bruce and Jacquelyn Rogow have been defenders of justice and supporters of Pisgah Legal for many years. They were both Legal Services lawyers in the 1960s and 1970s and remain passionate about helping disadvantaged people. The Rogows have generously funded several gift challenges that raised funds to help low-income families in Transylvania County. When thinking about the role of legal aid in WNC, Bruce said, "Poverty and Justice are, like oil and water, immiscible. Pisgah Legal Services changes the chemistry in our mountain communities." [2016 Annual Report](#)

If you read the Annual Report, you will see that UUTC is listed low in the list of giving. This is because of the manner in which your contributions were collected last year. This year, all of your gifts will go through UUTC and, therefore, be more accurately reflected in Pisgah Legal's annual report for 2017.

This is an opportunity to give, not an obligation.

FALL PICNIC JUST AROUND THE CORNER • SEPTEMBER 10TH



Mark your calendar so you don't miss this chance to hang out with your UUTC friends. Everyone loves Atagahi Park, where you can play, swim, converse and chow down on each other's cooking! This year's picnic will be full-on potluck. Sign up at the front counter or email the office so we can give the gate your name! Those who wish to carpool from the church are encouraged to do so.

I'VE SEEN THE SPONSORED PROJECTS LIST — WHAT'S A TABLE CLOSET?

Funny you should ask...

One of the most tedious and dangerous things we do around here is drag tables and chairs out of the maintenance room and into the classrooms, foyer and social hall. The maintenance room is a bit of a catch all for those many items we have that we don't have in constant use but need to be available. Like tables. Unlike chairs, we can't leave them all stacked up in the social hall, and, when we drag them out, we bump the walls, marring our paint job and bashing our fingers.

Never was the need more apparent than when Hogwarts moved on campus, and we had to stash all our chairs and nearly all our tables in order to accommodate our young people's work stations. It was not pretty. In fact, it was nearly impossible to get into the maintenance room at all.



The solution, proposed long before this summer, was to create some type of table-specific storage off of the social hall, stealing space from the front office. The footprint of the closet would need to be roughly 3 feet square, since tables can be stored on their short ends, and then slid out into the social hall. A sliding “barn-style” door that would be large enough to support our *Fall* tapestry would cover the opening without creating the need for a swinging door footprint into the space.

This solution would have the added benefit of being appropriately close to the action—rarely do we use tables in the sanctuary, where they live now. This would make the work of setting up and taking down much easier on those that regularly do it, with less chance for bodily harm.

Currently, we are collecting bids for this work so that we have an idea of what implementing this solution would cost. While this closet would be no help at all for chairs, it would free up 18 square feet of floor space in the maintenance room, making it safer for everyone who needs to access that space.

Sponsored Projects must be approved by the Board and are funded with donations that are separate from pledges.

A NEIGHBORHOOD REQUEST/DEMAND

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

**RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Option 1: "We Are"

IN THIS HOME, WE BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD

WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Option 2: "We Believe"

**WE LOVE OUR
NEIGHBORS**

IMMIGRANT LGBTQ

OF COLOR WITH DISABILITIES

OF ALL AND ANY FAITHS

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Option 3: "We Love"

Following the week of Charlottesville, vandalism of signs was reported in the Maple Street area here in Brevard. On Facebook, this was met with indignation and a desire to post MORE signs!



So how do we support this desire of our community to love their neighbors?

The images to the left are UUA developed signage, available for printing as yard signs. Four-color process signs are not inexpensive, so the most economical way to acquire these will not be locally (we checked), but through the UUA-partnered printshop in Maryland.

We must order 50 of these to make the price affordable, but if we do, signs are only \$10 each. If we have more than 50 orders, we will increase our order to meet demand. **Sign up sheets for the three styles are on the front counter.** No payment is required up front. Please inquire of your neighbors!



Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.

Our Mission, as a welcoming, inclusive community acting from love, compassion and respect is:

To support individual spiritual journeys and To promote social, economic and environmental justice.

KEEP UP WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Like us on Facebook and keep up with events during the week—get early notification on sermons! Great posts from our Children's Religious Exploration program and more. Click the logo to be taken to the page!



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



SOUTHERN REGION

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

VIEW our "insider" [church calendar](#). For previous issues of the UUTC Update, click [HERE](#).

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

CONTACT US

Need Pastoral Care? Call Rev. Ilene at (877) 510-5603.

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. Our church is located at the corner of Varsity Street and South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.