

UUTC UPDATE

DECEMBER 29th, 2017

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

LIGHTEN UP!

by Rev. Earle Rabb

Sunday, December 31st at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

As we begin this new year, many of us will try to "lighten up" by going on a diet, no matter how briefly it may last. Are there other ways we can lighten up our lives in order to have a happy and meaningful new year in 2018? On the last day of 2017, we will explore this issue together during the Sunday worship.

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

OPAL STRING QUARTET

Just what happened to that December concert, anyway? It has been rescheduled for April 29th! Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon! Photo by Stephen Houseworth Photography.



I WONDER HOW
MUCH OF WHAT
WEIGHS ME
DOWN IS NOT
MINE TO CARRY

COMING UP at UUTC

Growing Younger — Mon 1/1 @ 11:00am

Men's Group — Tues 1/2 @ 9:00am

SMART Recovery — Tues 1/2 @ 6:00pm

Eclectics — Wed 1/3 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 1/3 @ 4:00pm

Team Mtg Night — Wed 1/3 @ 5:00pm

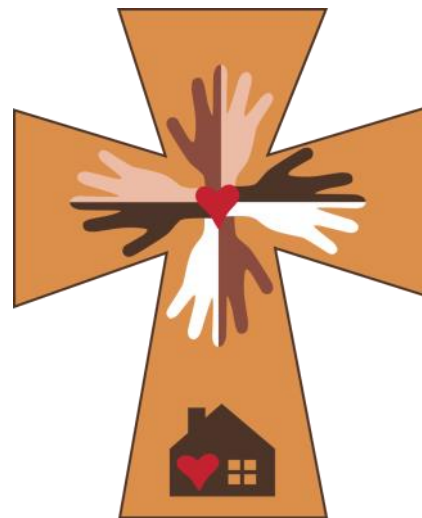
Women's Group — Thurs 1/4 @ 12:30pm

Property Committee — Thurs 1/4 @ 6:00pm

FIFTH SUNDAY FOR SHARING HOUSE

December is a month with FIVE Sundays, so UUTC will be collecting food for Sharing House at the end of the month. Baskets will be available in the lobby for your donations December 24 and 31. Please take with you a list of most needed items from the basket on the counter.

The non-food items most needed by Sharing House are diapers, (sizes 5 and 6), laundry detergent, tampons (super), toilet paper, and paper towels. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.



WOMEN'S GROUP • THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 12:30PM

“Who Are You?” is the topic for the Women's Group bag lunch meeting this first Thursday of the month. Where were you born? Where were your parents born? Do some research and tell us where your ancestors had their roots. Come to the meeting and find out interesting information about others in the Women's Group. All women are welcome!

WORSHIP TEAM IN 2017

Joanna Bliss, Worship Team Co-Leader

The Worship Team assists the Minister in providing spiritually nourishing worship services that are consistent with the values of our congregation. We do this by assisting with services led by our minister, by recruiting and engaging both in-house and outside speakers for Sundays when the minister is not in the pulpit, by providing and training Service Coordinators for those services, and by recruiting and training ushers for all services. For the past few years, we have been responsible for filling large blocks of Sundays while we were between ministers.

In 2017, we expanded our service to the congregation by offering the Shared Pulpit class, designed to discover what we each have to share from the pulpit. We will be hearing from some class members over the summer, and we hope to continue this offering. We also took on responsibility for the Winter Solstice Celebration, begun last year as the effort of a few individuals.

Your Worship Team Members: Co-Leader Carol Flake, Kristin Leesment, Gypsy Richardson

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

The Board's "Name that House, Spread our Heritage" contest has concluded. Members and friends elected to name the yellow house **Chalice House** and the gray house **The Olympia Brown House**.

Nine house names were proposed to the Board, and four of those went out to the congregation for vote. There were 33 votes submitted. Chalice House received 24 of 33 votes for the yellow house. The race between Beacon House and Olympia Brown House was neck and neck, first one name in the lead, then the other. In the final tally, Olympia Brown house received 17 votes. Because one person failed to record a vote for the gray house, that left Beacon House with 15 votes, a very close second.

Member Linda Young submitted the name Chalice House. To her, it means a house of love, hope and dreams, which make up the spirit of our church. From her research, she gleaned the symbol of the chalice includes the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope. Thank you, Linda!

Member Susan Slocum submitted the name Olympia Brown House. Brown, a Universalist, lived from 1835-1926. She was the first American woman to graduate from a theological school, and the first female full-time ordained minister of any denomination. When her thin voice was ridiculed by divinity school classmates, she built her lung capacity and became a powerful public speaker. Brown worked for women's suffrage and was one of the few first-generation suffragists alive to vote after the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Susan felt strongly that her nomination should be a female who pioneered "firsts" because we are conducting our first ministry for women in the gray house, and because this naming took place during the ministry of our first female settled minister. Further, Susan notes that honoring a woman matters because women today are again fighting for their lives and their basic rights, in this country and around the world.

THANK YOU to all who participated. We will have a sign made to affix to the outside of each house.



Olympia Brown

THE DIGNITY PROJECT — SORTING NEXT WEEK



Curious to learn what the Social Justice Task Force has been up to? Plan to join us on **January 3rd** at the UUTC monthly Team Night. In keeping with the Hogwarts' tradition of "sorting," you are invited to help sort products to stock Dignity Pantries for six organizations: El Centro, Sharing House, The Haven, Bread of Life, The Family Place, and SAFE. You'll recall we have taken on the task of stocking and delivering items which are NOT eligible for purchase through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – most notably, menstrual hygiene products, diapers, and condoms—items which our neighbors desperately need in order to fully feel their inherent worth and dignity. January will be our first delivery, and what better way to show our commitment to the first principle of "the inherent worth and dignity of every person" than to help others? Lend a hand and the work will go quickly. **Be sure to let the office know if you want to be included for the pizza count!**

TEAM MEETING NIGHT — WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD

Part of every Team's annual responsibilities is to review their own Operating Guidelines. This gives Teams the chance to ditch what is no longer their responsibility, or, more likely, to revamp their procedures to increase their efficiency and to spread the tasks around. Rev. Ilene will have her copies of the last approved version of Operating Guidelines for each Team on hand in preparation to discuss how these Guidelines are working for each Team. If revisions are made, they must be approved by the Minister, instead of the Board, now that we have a settled minister!

January

TIME	TEAMS	LOCATION	MODERATOR
No visit with Rev. Ilene	Social Justice Task Force* Dignity Project Assembly station	Social Hall	Susan Zelle
5:30-5:50	Facilities	Sanctuary	Kay/Lynn
5:50-6:10	Worship	Sanctuary	Joanna
6:10-6:30	Membership	large classroom	Karla
6:30-6:50	CRE	small classroom	Heather/ Kimberley
6:50-7:10	ARE	Foyer	Jeannie

The chart at left shows where each Team will meet—because of the work for the Dignity Project, two Teams will meet in the sanctuary. **Team Leaders, be sure to let the Administrator know how many of your Team will be on hand for dinner: pizza & Salad from Jet's!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR — SHORT COURSE ON SIKHISM

Are you interested in learning more about world religions and continuing the development of your own religious literacy? Would you welcome the opportunity to participate in a 4-session adult Religious Education course this spring? Do you want to know why your minister has such long hair? Then we have the opportunity for you! **Beginning on March 5**, Rev. Ilene will lead a 4-session course on the Sikh religion, which originated 500 years ago in North India. Sikhism is the world's fifth-largest religion, and is practiced by over 30 million people worldwide.

Please sign up for the course and commit to attending all sessions if possible. **Class will meet in the sanctuary, from 1:00-2:30 beginning March 5th, for four Mondays.** The course will repeat later in the year for those who prefer an evening meeting time. Hope to see you there!



WHAT DOES INTENTIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK LOOK LIKE?

In early 2018, a new Social Justice Team will be forming. Rev. Ilene has already tapped Susan Zelle to lead this Team (thank you, Susan!), and she will be joined by Virginia Watkins and Lisa McHenry from the Social Justice Task Force. Rev. Ilene and these individuals will be looking for others to join the Team (especially at the January 3rd Team Meeting Night Dignity Project sorting).

The Task Force will be meeting at least two more times in January in order to finalize their Operating Guidelines and will then be ready for the first official TEAM meeting on February 7th's Team Meeting Night. The new Team will have a much more complex picture to look at—maintaining our Varsity Oxford House, maintaining the new Dignity Project, support for those groups who use our building to further the work we wish to see done in our community (Sierra Club, Rainbow Alliance, Living Wage Coalition), selecting and partnering with other agencies to receive financial and “hands on” gifts, and support for our Endowment Fund, which will eventually allow us greater fiscal power in meeting our Social Justice goals.

If this sounds like just the complex, meaningful work you'd like to be involved in at UUTC, be sure to join the Task Force on January 3rd in sorting items for the Dignity Project, or email [Susan Zelle](#).

FACILITIES TEAM IN 2017

Kay Webb, Co-Leader (with Lynn Halsey) of the Facilities Team

In January of 2017, the former Building Team and Grounds Team, along with the Aesthetics Task Force, merged to become the Facilities Team, bringing together twenty plus members ready to focus on the mission of UUTC. After adopting the Team function, members hit the ground running! During monthly meetings, members assessed, evaluated, discussed, and made recommendations that focused on the Team function.

The function of the Facilities Team is to provide a welcoming building and grounds environment where church members and visitors may experience beauty, serenity, and worship or quiet contemplation in surroundings created with respect for the integrity of our earth and its local ecosystems.

clean-up of Varsity Extension grounds • rainbow flag affixed to UUTC signage • restoration/improvements to #46 Varsity • upgraded parking lot lights • new flooring installed in classrooms and new cabinetry in large classroom • installed infant changing station in nursery • sanctuary wall painted • approved Team's Operating Guidelines • hazardous trees removed from grounds • proposed signage display policy • new cabinetry installed in foyer • developed strategic plan for building maintenance • picnic table for grounds • illuminated UUTC front signage • clean-up & improvements to #74 Varsity • signage & concrete curb to designate bike parking • private drive sign installed for #46 Varsity • sanctuary HVAC system repaired • choir area speakers repaired • water fountain off foyer repaired • remodeled and furnished #74 Varsity to become an Oxford House • cleaned and supplemented landscaping at #46 and #74 Varsity • vestibule ceiling, lighting, and flooring replaced & walnut shelf installed • exterior doors to #52 Varsity secured • sidewalks and soffits pressure washed • main building interior hallway door locks replaced/new keys made • fire extinguishers checked/replaced • painted main building hallway • installed key lockbox for emergency responders • obtained mobile coat rack • built-in shelving and new flooring installed in nursery • stained vestibule ceiling • annual inspection and service of HVAC system • table storage closet in social hall • TV relocated from office to foyer • time clock installed in office • "Minister's Parking" sign installed • fall & spring grounds maintenance.

The Facilities Team was assisted by many other Members and Friends in the completion of some of these items, and professional contractors were used for others. The Facilities Team also made recommendations to the Board for sequencing of items that were covered by donations to the Sponsored Projects Fund rather than their Building Maintenance budget. Many thanks to all who contributed time, talent and/or treasure!

JOYOUS CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight created a visually warm glow at the conclusion of both the 4:00 and 6:00 services this past Sunday, but it was warmth of community that really lit up these services.

At 4:00pm, families were treated to a delightful telling of the Christian nativity story, spontaneously performed by a passel of youngsters who donned costumes in record time. At 6:00, a traditional lessons and carols format was followed. Terrific music, from a recorder quartet and a vocal quartet, highlighted both services. Recordings of both musical groups are available on the [UUTC Facebook Group](#). Thanks for taking part!



MEET LINDA YOUNG

Linda Young has been a Member of UUTC since 2011. She found a UU church while church shopping in Illinois over 40 years ago and was a member there until 1995 when she moved to Cedar Mountain, NC with her husband. Linda had not felt a spiritual kinship with *any* church she had gone to which included Presbyterian, RLDS, and Lutheran. She decided to visit churches of every domination until she found the UU church in Rockford, IL.

It was then, as she says, she “discovered I was a UU all my life and didn’t know it.”

Linda is a former Paramedic and office manager, who has, since moving to Transylvania County, been the writer of the Cedar Mountain News for the Transylvania Times for many years. She raised two children with her husband Chuck (deceased 2010), a daughter, Danielle (two grandchildren) and a son, Gregory, who died at age 27.

Linda enjoys photography and the communicative arts of writing (journalistic and poetry). She also enjoys refinishing, recycling and building furniture. She sings in the Tenor section of our choir!





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!



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.