

UUTC UPDATE

Inclusive. Intentional. *Involved.*

Office Hours

The office is open Mon-Fri from 9 to noon and by appointment. Time with the Minister can be scheduled on Tuesdays from 9:30am-2:00pm & Wednesday from 12-4:30pm.

Pastoral Care

Going through a rough spot? Have surgery coming up? Call (877) 510-5603 or email lhjh@uutc.org.

Nursery Care

Our Nursery is open Sunday mornings from 9:00am to noon for children ages 0-3. Take advantage of either service at your convenience—our childcare staff would love to welcome your child.

Coming Up at UUTC— maybe

Muffins w/the Minister — Mon @ 10-12
 Men's Group — Tues 12/18 @ 9:00am
 Finance — Tues 12/18 @ 10:00am
 Dream Group — Tues 12/18 @ 2:30pm
 Aging Wisely — Tues 12/18 @ 3:00pm
 SMART Recovery — Tues 12/18 @ 6pm
 Eclectics — Wed 12/19 @ 9:30am
 Choir — Wed 12/19 @ 4:00pm
 Shared Pulpit — Wed 12/19 @ 4:30pm
 Stewardship — Thurs 12/20 @ 5:30pm
 Solstice Rehearsal — Thurs @ 7:00pm
 Solstice Service — Fri 12/21 @ 5:30pm



Sunday, December 16th

ON SOLSTICE, NATURE & THE WHEEL OF THE YEAR

John Falter

John Falter is a graduate student at WCU studying rhetoric. He has called the Blue Ridge home for over 6 years and moved to the area for its unique spiritual culture: a whimsical milieu of pagan ideas, eastern thought, and American metaphysics we might call “New Age.” In the mix of all this, he’s styled himself a “wizard” and, from this vocation, engages a semi-active pagan ministry, mostly as a communicator.

This sermon centers on the manner in which ritual can unite various religious traditions by their mutual engagement with the same set of natural symbols. When it’s hot, we’re all sweating. And when it’s cold, we all decide, for some reason, to decorate our homes and give gifts. In his sermon, John will dance with the ambiguities of nature and nurture in our rituals, and argue ultimately on the function they have to create meaning where people may have their sense of progress.

Join us for coffee at 10:30am!

“Fall in love with a dog, and in many ways you enter a new orbit, a universe that features not just new colors but new rituals, new rules, and a new way of experiencing attachment.”

— *Caroline Knapp*

Muffins with the Minister

Our January “Muffins” date is **January 28th**. Come have coffee, talk with Rev. Ilene and others who join the fun! This is a laid back, easy way to learn something new about others in the congregation, including Rev. Ilene. Runs from 10:00am to noon.

Social Justice Giving



You are invited to help stock Dignity Pantries for 4 organizations: El

Centro, Sharing House, The Haven, Bread of Life, and SAFE. You'll recall we have taken on the task of 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. We also provide razors and deodorant and other similar items that help in getting and retaining employment. Remember to make out your check to UUTC with “Dignity” on the memo line. What better way to show our commitment to the first principle of “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” than to help others? Thank you for your generous contributions.



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

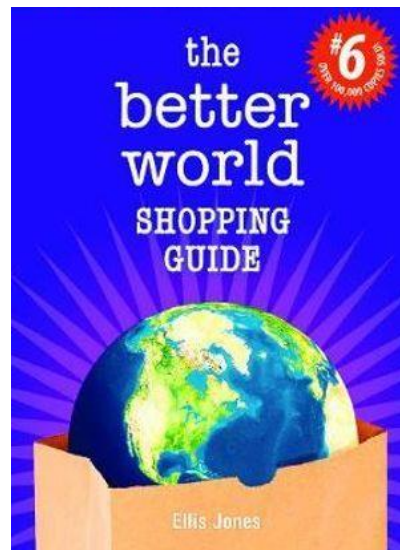
“Why We Ring Bells at Christmas”

Rev. Jean Rowe brings the message on Sunday, December 23rd in what promises to be a joyful cacophony (at least at times!). Remember to bring bells with you so you can fully participate!

Jean is a graduate of Tufts University and Andover Newton Theological School, and was a Merrill Fellow at Harvard Divinity School. She is a retired UU minister and a member of our congregation and serves in many roles, one of which is as a facilitator for the group known as Christians In Exile.

THE BETTER WORLD SHOPPING GUIDE IS HERE!!

Pick up one of the few remaining copies this Sunday!



Fewer than a dozen copies remain of the Better World Shopping Guides ordered by the Social Action Team. A few people have not yet picked up their copies — come and get 'em! Checks, cash **and credit cards** are accepted. These are great for stocking stuffers for your environmentally and progressive-minded friends and family.

A member or two of the Social Action Team will be on hand on Sunday to deliver reserved copies and negotiate ownership of the remainders. Proceeds from the sale of these books will be used by the Team to improve their capacity to meet our Mission in the community.

Cost—only \$10. Amazon's price is \$12—take advantage of this great resource!

DEAR UUTC FAMILIES!

Your Worship Team is excited that UUTC is making changes to Children's Religious Exploration (CRE) in order to more fully address the spiritual needs of children and families. These changes will move us forward in our quest to build intergenerational connections, and to respond to the changing needs of our culture and community as we shape worship .

From January to June of 2019, as most of you are aware, UUTC will be engaged in an exciting experiment that many congregations, UU and otherwise, have found transformative: all-ages worship. We will be implementing a hybrid approach in response to a survey of parents' hopes and dreams for children's and families' programming at UUTC. Each Sunday that Rev. Ilene is in the pulpit, she will lead, along with our new Director of CRE, an 11AM intergenerational worship service with elements geared toward meeting the spiritual needs of people of different ages and with different learning styles.

On Sundays where Rev. Ilene is out of the pulpit, children will be "sung out" to their classes after the Time For All Ages at the 11am service, just as they have been in the past. This hybrid approach allows many needs to be met and dreams to be pursued—more time for children to spend with their minister, families spending time together in worship, parents-only time away from children, children's-only time away from parents...the list goes on. Our hope is to continue this hybrid approach indefinitely if our time of experimentation goes well.



Our children and youth have already proved to us that they have big questions, important contributions, and the innate ability to be engaged in worship. We are excited to offer this worship opportunity that truly makes known UUTC's commitment to nurturing the spiritual needs of our youngest members, who are not only the future of our faith but also the present.

KIDS & FAMILIES AS SERVANT LEADERS: USHERS

With this exciting upcoming change to Children's Religious Education, a new opportunity emerges for families, children and youth to "give back" to UUTC by volunteering as Ushers! The Worship Team met recently and decided to issue a special invitation to parents and children to volunteer as ushers during the 11AM service. It's fun, gives you an important job during the service, and truly helps UUTC's Worship Team in offering creative, relevant, and well-planned worship services each Sunday.

Here's what's involved:

- Each 11AM Service is staffed by two Lead Ushers who are seated at the back of the Sanctuary, one near each of the two rear doors. Parents/Guardians sign up as Lead Ushers and may usher together with their children **

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Continued from page 3

- Children under 12 will be “Assistant Ushers” and will be asked to accompany their Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle or Grandparent (i.e. the Lead Usher). The Lead Usher may delegate tasks to their Assistant (as they see fit), such as greeting congregants and handing out the order of service, passing the microphone during Joys & Sorrows, passing the collection basket, and setting out/ putting away the hymnals at set-up or break down – tasks carried out under the supervision of the Lead Usher.
- Youth, ages 12 – 18 may serve as Lead Usher themselves (that is, they can work one side of the sanctuary on their own) so long as they are paired with another adult Lead Usher who is a parent or guardian (who works the other side).
- All Lead Ushers (youth and adults) must receive training prior to volunteering as Ushers. Training is offered by Worship Team Members Gypsy Richardson and Kristin Leesment, is scheduled at a time convenient to you - and most frequently immediately before or immediately after the 11 AM service. It takes only 15 minutes or so. You are asked to read the training hand-out (which is emailed to you) before you arrive for your training. Your first time out as usher, an experienced usher will either work with you or be available to you.
- Need to know: UUTC's financial auditing rules prohibit members of the same family and any individual under the age of 18 from counting the collection, a responsibility assigned to lead ushers at the conclusion of the service. If you are a youth Lead Usher or an adult Lead Usher ushering with a family partner, you will be asked to find one un-related UUTC Board Member or Worship Team member to count the collection in your place. This has never been difficult and takes very little time.
- UUTC’s Worship Team deeply believes that our young people have important contributions to make to worship, by their presence, their questions, their participation, and their service. We invite you and your children to be part of the team that makes worship possible at UUTC! Sign up and find out what goes on behind the scenes each Sunday to make worship happen!



Please feel free to reach out to Kristin Leesment or Gypsy Richardson with questions or to express interest in ushering. Rev. Ilene is also always available to answer questions about all-ages worship. We are excited to more fully integrate children and youth into all aspects of our life together at UUTC.

In faith and gratitude,

Your UUTC Worship Team & Rev. Ilene

NEW A.R.E. OFFERINGS IN JANUARY

A UUTC “COMMON READ”

In support of the 10th Anniversary of UUTC’s becoming a Welcoming Congregation and the necessary steps for renewal of that designation, the Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Team approved a Common Read for UUTC of Casey Gerald’s [There Will Be No Miracles Here](#).



[Link to review.] His memoir was named a Best Book of 2018 by NPR and the New York Times.

There will be two “touchpoints” of this common read— the first will be Thursday, January 31st at 4:00pm, at which point those participating should be close to the middle of the book. **Be prepared to share a few lines from the text within the first half of the book that resonated with you, or drew a visceral response. Bring something you can use for notes, should you choose to take them. Select more than one thing to share, in the event that another person covers the same territory—or you can stick with your primary selection. You are not required to share, if you do not wish to do so.**

A sign up sheet is at the front counter—Highland Books will be notified of the number of people who have signed up so that they can have books on hand. Call to be added! If you would like to purchase an extra book so others may read, contact the Admin. Meetings facilitated by RK Young.

LOOKING FOR A FRESH START IN 2019? CHECK OUT THIS COURSE!

**THE KEYS TO LOVING YOURSELF, CREATING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS
& FINDING REAL HAPPINESS**

**Course lasts 9 weeks,
beginning Monday, Jan 9th
11am – 12:30pm.**

A life-changing course by Paul Ferrini. These Eight Spiritual Practices will help you to transform your experience. Watch, over the course of the class, as fear drops away and unconditional love shines through. As you awaken to who you are, so will the people around you. A fearful world cannot exist for a loving heart.

Call [\(828\) 877-6121](tel:828-877-6121) to register today or sign up at the front counter. Free to members/friends of UUTC • \$50 for non-members • Book \$15

SOLSTICE SERVICE—DECEMBER 21ST, 5:30PM

This year our Winter Solstice Celebration will be A Winter Solstice Singing Ritual created by Julie Forest Middleton and Stasa Morgan-Appel. It will be held on Friday, December 21st at 5:30 PM. Charles Wicker will narrate and Teri Sandoval will lead the music. This ritual, lasting about an hour, is composed of stories and music. Those in attendance are led on an inner journey that explores the nature and benefits of the dark. The ritual helps to renew us and leads us back to resume our outward journey through the darkest time of the year.



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 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

Our mailing address is UUTC, PO Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712. Our church is located at the corner of Varsity Street and South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.