

UUTC UPDATE

Inclusive. Intentional. *Involved.*

Office Hours

The office is open Mon-Fri from 9 to noon and by appointment.

Pastoral Care

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

Nursery Care

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

Coming Up at UUTC

RK Out of Office 7/23-25

Chalice Camp — 9-noon, M-TH

Heartful Meditation — Sat @ 5:30
 Spiritual Explorations — Mon @ 3:30
 Men's Group — Tues @ 9:00
 Board Mtg — Tues @ 5:00
 SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00
 Eclectics — Wed @ 10:30
 Choir Rehearsal — Wed @ 4:00



MY JOURNEY

Brigid Fox

What is your path telling you? What signs are there for you to see, know, and understand? As Brigid relays her journey along her own life path, road, highway, she shares how she has come to understand the messages of the Universe. Her life pilgrimage has given her many opportunities to incorporate her unique experiences into messages of warning and wonder. Through her telling, you may find an opportunity to reflect on messages you have found or overlooked along your personal life path.

Services at 9:15am and 11:00am. Join us for coffee at 10:30am!

*“We shall not cease from exploration
 And the end of all our exploring
 Will be to arrive where we started
 And know the place for the first time.”*

— T. S. Eliot, Four Quartets



Social Justice Giving: Ministerial Discretionary Fund

Our area agencies do good work—but they all have limits for what they can provide in assistance to any individual family. In times of need, and especially for our Members and Friends in temporary crisis, the Ministerial Discretionary Fund is used by the Minister and the Board (in the minister's absence) to help meet these needs.

Your gifts help keep the lights on, meet health care needs, or send a child to camp at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center to be surrounded by UU values for a brief time. *The vast majority of requests, which are checked against Sharing House records, go to utility or rent costs to help keep families in their homes.*

One huge asset to families in Transylvania County Schools is social worker Beth Branigan. When other venues fail, she pairs up donations from multiple churches to help kids stay sheltered.

Your gifts this month fund needs for the entire year. *Please give generously, and thank you.*



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

“Say Yes to Life”

Speaker: Alice Wellborn



Our pilgrimage through life includes both joy & pain and cannot be successful without the love and support of others and the skill set and circumstances which allow a person to say "yes".

Alice moved to Transylvania County in 1978, when she was 26 years old, to become a school psychologist in Transylvania County Schools. Forty-one years later, Alice has been married and divorced, raised a family, volunteered in the community, and spent many happy years working with and for children and families. She is currently a member of the local School Board, an adjunct professor at Brevard College, an active community volunteer, and a grandmother. Alice has been called a "hippie do-gooder" and takes that as a compliment.

HELP US LOOK OUT FOR YOU

Stuff happens. And sometimes it happens while you are at church!

Stuff can also happen outside of church, and in the event of an emergency, we want to know who to contact on your behalf. Or it may not even be an “emergency,” but maybe you need a little help — Loving Hearts and the office would like to know who to call.

UUTC keeps an Emergency Contacts binder, and while we have made some efforts to track down all this information, we need your help to get it all in place. Please check the front desk for the list of those whose forms are still needed— and then take the form provided for you and fill it out!

Thanks for your assistance in collecting this information. We hope to never need it, but want to be ready to help—in the event that you should require it.

END OF YEAR BUDGET REVEALS...

Rising utility costs!

This should be a shock to precisely no one, of course, and adjustments to the 2019-2020 budget year were made prior to the Congregational Vote adopting this year's budget. The worst offender was because of increasing our internet bandwidth to enable better connections for Skype and other meetings — and increased use of “the cloud” for UUTC record keeping and document storage.

But nearly as bad has been our water usage. A large part of that was an increase in utility costs by the City of Brevard, but unlike our lighting, we have not made any serious upgrades in our plumbing infrastructure to reduce costs. Our older commercial toilets consume 3 gallons per flush (new ones using a 1.6 gallon flush are available), and our standard toilets in the newer bathrooms have been caught in “running” mode. You can help with that by “listening” for the sound of running water when you are in the building—this typically occurs at the bathrooms near the kitchen.

Another thing we should be mindful of is the need to keep all sanctuary doors closed. The door that goes into the HVAC/mechanical room has been left open frequently — meaning that air from outside is coming into the sanctuary space, since that room has air vents open to the outdoors (fresh air vents pictured right, outside of HVAC room).



Utilities are not a huge part of our budget, but that is a result of planning and investment — we have switched to LED lighting in much of the building, and added insulation. (Thanks in great part to those who have contributed to the Sponsored Projects fund!) Being mindful of the impact of a running toilet, or an open door, will help us stay in good shape in this portion of our budget.

UU ECOTOUR TO NICARAGUA

For the past 20 years, North Carolina UUs have traveled together to a small village and ecologically-sustainable lodge in the mountains of rural Nicaragua to learn about the culture, history, food, music, art, and people of Nicaragua, hike and watch birds in the rain forest, and visit coffee and cacao farms while supporting the local economy through eco-tourism.

Sister Communities of San Ramon, Nicaragua is planning its next UU & Friends Eco-Tour to San Ramon for Feb. 16 - 23, 2020 and we'd love for you to join us.

For More information: bit.ly/SanRamon20.

For Questions Contact: Rev. John L Saxon (johnlsaxon@gmail.com).

NEW WOMEN'S CREATIVITY CLASS FORMING

On any given day, a woman at UUTC is interested in exploring, developing and experiencing her creativity. Jeanie Bernard will again host a 12-week class, limited to 10 women, meeting each Wednesday from 10am-12pm. An **introductory session** will be held on **August 14 (10:00am—noon)** to discuss the components of the class. It is after this introduction that you can decide if this is for you, and if so, to order the book.

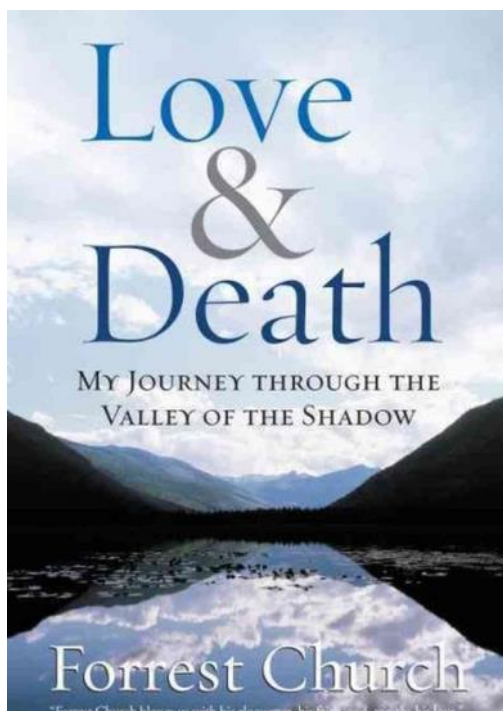
Class starts Wednesday, August 28 and runs each Wednesday until November 13, 2019. It is based on the book, *It's Never Too Late* by **Julia Cameron**. This supportive group will focus on daily journal writing, reflections, weekly walking and inspiration dates, and memoir gathering.



Please sign up at the front desk. If you have any questions, you can call Jeanie at 828-884-9179 (home) or 985-869-3323 (cell) or email her at jeaniebernard@gmail.com.

**Editor's note: The last group of women to take this class found it to be a joyful and enriching experience. If you have the inclination, the office highly recommends making the time to take this class.*

The circumstances and events that we see as setbacks are oftentimes the very things that launch us into periods of intense spiritual growth.
—Charles Stanley



NEW IN YOUR UUTC LIBRARY

Earle Rabb, ARE Team

Unitarian Universalist minister Forrest Church has written a memoir of his own personal journey through the valley of the shadow of death, entitled "Love & Death." Tom Brokaw has said, "Forrest Church, a deeply spiritual but always practical visionary, is a minister to us all with this moving and instructive book on the lessons of life and death."

This book is now available in your UUTC Library, located in the "Dealing with Death" section of the library, listed alphabetically by the author's last name.

Take new steps on your spiritual journey through the UUTC Library!

BOARD MEETING AGENDA, TUESDAY, JULY 23RD, 5:00PM

Welcome

Check-In

Opening Words

Approval of June 2019 Minutes

Receipt of Email Votes for the record

Standing Updates

Treasurer's Report

Susan Slocum

Administrative Report

Michael Solomon

Finance Committee Report

Susan Slocum (liason)

Property Committee Report

Council Report

Old/New Business

Vision Statement presentation

Children's Religious Exploration update

Transitional Ministry Task Force update

Adjourn — Next Meeting Tuesday, August 27, 5:00pm

NEW IN THE HALLWAY

Members of UUTC have been making contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) for years. This past November, however, was the first year those gifts were received by UUSC as a single check from UUTC. Which let them know that this congregation truly does support the work that they do.

We received this certificate recognizing your generosity, and it is now part of our hallway history display.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



In accordance with our by-laws, I am officially notifying you that we will call a **Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, August 11** following the second service - beginning at approximately 12:15. This meeting will not take long as there is only one piece of business to attend to - that is the election of the slate of members The Council has confirmed to comprise our Settled Minister Search Team. The members The Council has submitted is as follows, in alphabetical order:

Ian Cowie

Debra Davis

Vicki Held

Rabbit Krueger

Dave Roberts

Elizabeth Williams

The job this team takes on is not an easy one. They have committed to a schedule that can be quite daunting, but surely very rewarding as well. I am very grateful for their commitment. We will need a quorum at this meeting—57 people ought to do it! I hope that you can be present on August 11 at 12:15pm so they may begin their work!

The Transitional Ministers Task Force has been working on selecting a Minister to lead us through this next year. Thank you for your patience. I hope I can announce more details in the very near future.

HEART TO HEART — NEW COVENANT GROUP FORMING, SEPTEMBER 10

Sometimes a good heart to heart talk is hard to find. Likewise it may be rare to find someone who will simply listen to us. If you find this to be true, consider joining the **Heart to Heart** group which will meet on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. The group, facilitated by Don and Linda Lander, will use the books *Heart to Heart and Listening Hearts* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins and conclude in early May.

Designed to create supportive community, the group will adopt a covenant, an agreement as to how we will conduct ourselves in the group. Most importantly the covenant includes: Extending and presuming welcome. Listening actively without judgment. No interrupting, fixing or advice giving. Everyone will have the chance to share as deeply as they wish and it is not “share or die.” Confidentiality will be maintained. Members are asked to share their own truth and experience.

If you are interested please sign up on the sheet at the front desk. Group size will be limited. If you have questions, call 828-884-4844 to talk with Don or Linda. You can email donnald.lander@gmail.com (Don) or holnurse@comporium.net (Linda).

GUEST EDITORIAL FROM JEAN ROWE



Well, dear friends, as a UU minister (retired), I'll let you in on a truth of ministry and congregations. **When we ministers leave a ministry, we must leave it. Leave it. Be absent. Stop contact.** Why? Because someone else is or will be your minister, and we must get out of the way. And, when we serve a congregation, we are not your friend, no matter how much we love each other. We have responsibility for enhancing your well-being. You do not have responsibility for enhancing our well being, even if we are unwell.

Who says we must leave our beloved congregations? **We do. We ministers say so. Not a congregation's Board of Directors. Not the Unitarian Universalist Association.** It is the covenant we ministers make with one another in the UU Minister's Association that says so.

And so, when Rev. Ilene's sick leave ends on August 15, she will be absent from UUTC. Gone. We have already said our formal goodbyes. But we've continued a relationship with her while she's on sick leave, visiting, taking food. That ends August 15.

**Why will she be gone, separate and apart from us?
To make space for our new minister to build relationships with us.**

You can read more about this here: <https://www.uuma.org/mpage/BSE2000>, which was a major address by Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed on the topic of leaving a ministry. Here's a highlight:

My years as a congregant did not prepare me, however, for a cruel irony. Ministry, as most of you have discovered I am sure, is a source of unrequited grief. I regret having not read the fine print. If I had, perhaps I would have made another choice. But the print was very small, the phrasing paradoxical, while I was young and eager. This is what it said:

You will love your parishioners with all your heart but never befriend them. You will pour out your lifeblood for the community but never settle there. You shall die to the congregation so that the ministry might live.

*The relationship of minister and parishioner has the qualities of a friendship, but no matter how warm and deep, authentic and reciprocal the relationship is it is not a sustainable friendship. Why? Because it is built upon an unavoidable imbalance - the minister is always more responsible for the relationship. When necessary we must be prepared to forsake the role of friend for that of minister, and ready to choose the well being of the community over the needs of the friend. We are not as free to share all aspects of our lives and ourselves. Nor can we make friends with whom we please, for that would create two classes of parishioners — the chosen and the not. **Finally, when our ministries come to an end so must the relationships, lest we take up space the next ministry needs if it is to take root.***

Ilene will be writing her own guest editorial about this. It hurts, it is sad, but it is the truth.

UUTC FALL RETREAT @ THE MOUNTAIN: REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Why go to The Mountain?

There are a few good reasons to participate in a retreat. One reason is to have more than 20 minutes of coffee time to get acquainted with people you see regularly, but don't really know. Another is being able to spend thoughtful time with other UUs, with all the conversational opportunities that can offer. Still another is having the quiet space for reflection that we so often fail to give ourselves. And that will be the theme of this year's retreat: **"Finding Time."**



Minister Emeritus Ernie Mills will lead the retreat. A guide will be available on Saturday afternoon for the Glenville Falls hike for those who would like to take advantage of the gorgeousness that is The Mountain. A (very popular) tour of the Many Hands Peace Farm is also a possibility for you on Saturday, as is a time of "spiritual practices" with RK. The festivities will begin Friday evening with a social hour, dinner and then singing with Ernie — Saturday is full of programming options, wrapped up with a talk by Mark Twain followed by a campfire that evening. After breakfast on Sunday, we will have worship at 9:30 and then head back to the "real world."

We are scheduled for the weekend of **October 4-6, 2019**. We will be sharing the Retreat Center with a congregation from Columbia, so we encourage you to register early to get the lodging you desire. **UUTC cannot make these reservations on your behalf**, so make sure you go online to <https://themountainrlc.org/retreats/> and reserve space now!

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.