

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 lhhh@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

Heartful Meditation — Sat @ 5:30

Parent Circle — Sun @ 5:00

Men's Group — Tues @ 9:00

Finance Comm — Tues @ 10:00

Dream Group — Tues @ 2:30

SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00

Eclectics — Wed @ 10:30

LHHH — Wed @ 2:00

Fellowship on Tap — Wed @ 6:00

Sierra Club — Thurs @ 7:00



MORAL POLITICS IN AN IMMORAL WORLD: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War

Dan Carter

A strict code of morality seems incompatible with a democratic society since governance inevitably requires compromise. The conflict between morality and political expediency is never more starkly seen than during times of war when political leaders—given enormous power—can easily conclude that the ends justify any means in order to achieve victory over a hated and malignant enemy. More than any other President, Abraham Lincoln resisted this path as he searched for a moral foundation for his actions, a foundation that he variously described as “the Divine,” “Providence,” “the Creator,” God, or “God of the Universe.” His effort to balance what one theologian has called a “prophetic sense of ethical mission with a tragic sense of the uncertainties of political choices” is as relevant today as it was 160 years ago.

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

“The first step in the evolution of ethics is a sense of solidarity with other human beings.”

— Albert Schweitzer

Social Justice Giving: El Centro



El Centro helps immigrant families with language tutoring, after-school assistance, and documentation guidance. They run the "Homework Club", an after-school tutoring program for children in grades 1-5. They need help funding summer enrichment activities such as camp and field trips, and funding the training of additional volunteer tutors. Their most immediate need is for donations to help register and buy uniforms for low income elementary school age Brevard Hispanic kids who want to play soccer this fall. Anyone interested in helping with the soccer program can call Bobby King at 678-592-4068.



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW Our Better Angels Find Their Voice

Speaker: Rev. Carter Heyward

This message will be in some sense "part two" of the talk on Lincoln and the Civil War that Dan Carter will present at UUTC the week before. Carter will be wrestling with who and what our "better angels" are (from Lincoln's First Inaugural) and how on earth we can imagine practicing "malice toward none and charity for all" (from Lincoln's Second Inaugural). With a little help from Lincoln, Dan Carter, the late great womanist poet and essayist Audre Lorde, the late esteemed novelist Toni Morrison, and Jesus of Nazareth, Carter will be talking about how we might free our better angels to help liberate us both as persons and as a society.

Carter is a retired professor of theology at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge MA, an Episcopal priest, and author of a number of books and essays mainly in the realm of Christian feminist liberation theology. She retired full time to the Brevard area in 2005, where she helped found Free Rein Center for Therapeutic Riding. She currently serves as VP and Religious Affairs Chair of our local NAACP. Carter became a Member of UUTC in June of this year.

COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR FRIDAY HIKING FRIENDS

This hiking group was organized informally by a member of UUTC in 2006. I am a member and have participated and coordinated since 2016.

I now need to hand this off and would love to see it continued by someone associated with UU. A new coordinator would handle the emails and lead some hikes. We have two volunteers who would help with the leading.

Please consider this and send me questions or volunteer by next Thursday, the 22nd of August.

Thank you,

Susan Slocum suslocum@yahoo.com

828-708-0322 (text, please!)



Path from the cabins to the Dining Hall

MARK TWAIN AND THE LAW OF PERIODICAL REPETITION

Rev. Ernie Mills

Notes from Mark Twain's diary read: "...the bureaucracy that grew up was the triumph of the demagogues, and corruption of the judiciary...." He went on to sum up a typical incident as follows: "poor foreign devils lost and starving in the desert. Republican government of Meth (Methuselah) can't relieve or rescue them. Somebody observes that if you can pretend they are robbers or other criminals government will hunt them up with alacrity- which is done. Disgust of government to find they are honest and harmless".

Sound familiar? Or maybe uncanny?

Mark Twain believed in the "Law of Periodical Repetition". He believed that great civilizations will

always reach a point when the destructive forces they contain would dominate. While he appreciated their greatness; he also appreciated the inevitability of their collapse. He loved and hated the era he was living in but never felt quite a home. This era, he believed, was doomed and spinning toward the abyss.

Twain will be at the Mountain retreat this October. We can question him about this Law of Periodical Repetition. — *Ernie*

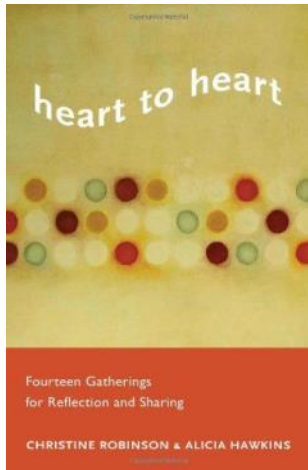
.... Intrigued? What to hear more? Then you'd better get registered for the Fall Retreat at The Mountain! We are scheduled for the weekend of **October 4-6, 2019**. **UUTC cannot make these reservations on your behalf**, so make sure you go online to <https://themountainrlc.org/retreats/> and reserve space now!



ANNUAL PICNIC, SEPTEMBER 15TH

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for **September 15th**, when we will have our **Annual Picnic HERE, on the FELLOWSHIP GREEN!**

Besides food and conversation, there will be games to be played for those who like such things. Corn hole, rumored badminton... plan to come and have fun!



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 Robynson 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 donald.lander@gmail.com (Don) or holnurse@comporium.net (Linda).

THE TRUTH ABOUT COFFEE

On any given Sunday morning, UUTC has a volunteer pool of one pianist, 4 ushers, 2 greeters, assorted other musicians or singers—and 2 or 3 people who prepare and clean up after the coffee hour. Coffee, frankly, is the most labor of any of the Sunday morning tasks. And it requires a level of hospitality that some other roles here at UUTC do not.

That being said, it is possible that only the speaker outranks coffee time as a sacred part of Sunday mornings!

Filling these volunteer slots is the work of Tanne Traywick, and it is becoming more difficult to accomplish this task. So we have some requests. If you are on the coffee@uutc.org email list (your name would appear on the bulletin board in the social hall) and no longer want to serve in this way, PLEASE ask to have your name removed. Just call the office and it will be so. It is really frustrating for schedulers when no one replies to emails. If you would like to become an **Ambassador of the Bean & Leaf** (a job this important needs a good name!) but need training, let us pair you up with someone! Couples are great, since you already have patterns of working together, but we have plenty of singles doing this work, too.

If you are already an *Ambassador*, and have ideas about how to simplify or improve the hospitality, speak up! The Welcoming Team and the office would both be delighted to hear from you. Thanks!



SUPPORT OUR SPANISH-SPEAKING NEIGHBORS!

The UUTC Social Action Team is actively supporting our Hispanic community through coordinating donations to El Centro and promoting soccer for Hispanic youth. There are three immediate ways in which you can help:

(1) Youth Soccer: We soon need folks to serve as transport volunteers and liaisons between TYSA (Transylvania Youth Soccer Association) coaches and parents. Volunteer duties run for approximately two months in the fall and include making sure that children get to practice and games at the correct times and informing parents of TYSA rules and regulations. Knowledge of Spanish is helpful, but is not required as translators are available. For many Hispanic children, soccer is their only non-school activity.

(2) Donations for Youth Soccer: Financial contributions for the purchase of soccer equipment are also welcomed for children in need.

(3) Spanish Interpretation: There is occasional need for Spanish speakers to support the Hispanic community throughout the year in a variety of other ways. If you speak Spanish, your skills are very much needed, so please consider this volunteering opportunity as well.

Please contact Bobby King at 678-592-4068 or bobbyaking48@yahoo.com if you can help in any way. Thank you.

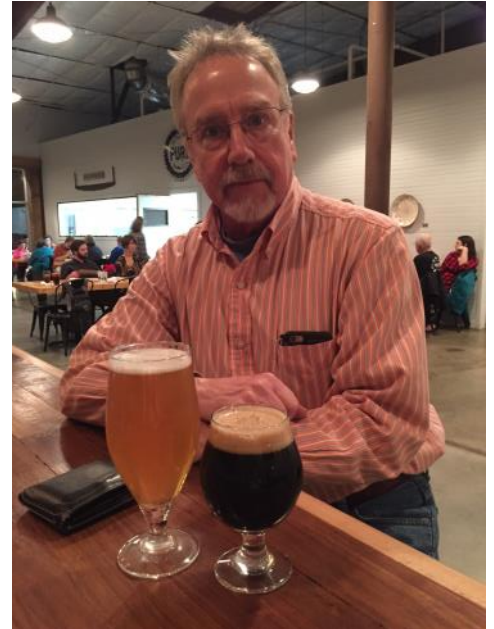
FELLOWSHIP ON TAP! MAYBERRY'S!

This coming Wednesday is Fellowship on Tap at Living Wage Employer Mayberry's. Twenty-six people are already signed up!

An advantage of Mayberry's is that you can walk right up to the register and order, then find your seat—the staff will bring your dinner to you once it is prepared. With such a large number of us descending on the venue this week, a staggered arrival time might be wise—if 5:45 suits you, head on over!

Heather Williams is the one who schedules with our local restaurants to “spread the wealth” and to meet individual needs. Some restaurants are more handicapped-accessible than others, and some are more accessible because of price. Mayberry's wins big in this category.

Fellowship on Tap is about the Fellowship... but since we needed a catchy name for the monthly event, Heather makes sure that beer is on tap at any selected venue. Let's really make a crowd this month and let Mayberry's know we appreciate them being a Living Wage Employer!



It's not about the beer. Really. :)

THE BEGINNING OF A MINISTRY OF ABSENCE

...and other Board-Related Business!

Thank you for everyone who came to the Congregational Meeting last Sunday. It is exciting to have our Search team in place and moving forward. They are working out their responsibilities and will receive guidance from Bruce Kirkman next week (Council Member and former Search Team Member).



We are entering a new chapter at UUTC. Rev. Sally Beth Shore will be attending our August 25th early church service and staying for the coffee hour to meet all in attendance. She will also be introduced in the beginning of the second service for those unable to attend coffee hour.

We are now in the time period of Rev. Ilene's Ministry of Absence. While I know this is difficult, it is crucial to the healthy spiritual growth of our community. Please see her letter in this edition and keep her in your thoughts.

SUNDAY MORNING WITHOUT MICROPHONES? OR WORDS ON THE SCREEN?

Our AV system for the sanctuary has been working hard and has served us well since 2014. (Which may not seem like a long time to some!) We thought we had more time, but repairs and upgrades are urgent now, so the Board has approved this emergency capital expenditure of at least \$18,000. This is an appeal for donations large and small to offset much of this expense. Please make checks out to UUTC with AV Repairs in the memo line. —*Treasurer Susan*

To be more clear about this issue, much of the system is just fine. The speakers, amplifiers, DVD player — all of those pieces are working just fine. Both of the computers are suffering from inconsistent performance—PC 1 has a tendency to not want to boot. Last Sunday it took Mae 5 tries. The other is suffering under the weight of complex programs that have “embiggened” since their birth (as these things do) without similar upgrades in memory or processing speed to keep up with the load. And our podium microphone croaked on Monday. Three bids were secured; the top bid was \$10,000 higher. The bottom two bids were a couple thousand apart— we selected the bid with service closest to us, from Asheville.

The portion of this work which could be considered an upgrade involves wiring and installation to amplify the choir (making them more accessible to those with hearing deficits) without running cables in front of our emergency exit by the piano— and replacement of the controller for sound which limits our ability to add microphones, which also ties us to using a second computer. This controller will be a digital mixing board which will also simplify the recording of sermons. In addition, we are adding a confidence monitor so that those in the pulpit do not have to turn around to see whether the right slide is in place. The Worship Team has long desired a second headset mic — they will get it with this upgrade. —*RK*

THE BEGINNING OF A MINISTRY OF ABSENCE

Dear ones,

I hope this message finds you well. You all are so often on my mind and in my heart.

During the days since my surgery in early June, I have been constantly touched by the incredible support and generosity of UUTC's community.

Thank you for the ways that so many of you have showed up for me during this challenging time.

I am very grateful to Rev. Jean Rowe for her insightful newsletter article a few weeks ago about why ministers observe a "ministry of absence" when departing from congregations. I wish to reiterate her words, and to remind folks that this is not a UUTC board decision, nor does this requirement come from the UUA. Ordained and credentialed UU ministers observe a ministry of absence when departing congregations in order to nurture the health of congregations, colleagues, and ourselves, and we do this by mutual agreement with one another as colleagues. This time apart (2 years or more, ultimately discerned by your new settled minister) allows you all to form a bond with your new minister. It allows your new minister to step into a system in which folks have room in their hearts and minds to fully receive said new minister. And, it allows departing ministers to make clean breaks and to fully put their past work down. This is something that, whether we want it or not, we do all need. However hard it is to say this firm goodbye for now, please know it is done in a spirit of faithfulness to our larger UU movement, as well as in a spirit of love for the amazing congregation you are and for the amazing ministers who will serve you.

To those folks who have reached out asking if exceptions can be made due to their status as non-members etc., please know that I am attempting to honor this ministry of absence to its fullest extent, particularly since we live in such a small community. If I have been your minister, whether you still live in Brevard or not, whether you're officially a member or not, I will be observing this time of absence in respect for my colleagues and for the holistic health of UUTC.

Thank you for working to cultivate a healthy congregation, and for bringing the light of liberal faith to a community in need of what you hold. I know that UUTC is poised to continue growing into health and wholeness. I am grateful for the opportunity to have played a small part in the deepening development of this exceptionally special congregation. I cannot wait to see how UUTC grows and blooms in the days to come. Know that you will always have a deeply important place in my heart, for you (both as individuals and as a congregation) have played a deeply important role in my journey.

With love and faith in you all,

Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie



SHARING HOUSE AND EL CENTRO* SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

UUTC is partnering with the Sharing House and El Centro to help provide school supplies for children in our community. If you would like to donate supplies, please place new articles in the box at UUTC marked “Sharing House and El Centro School Supplies” by August 18th so that children can have the supplies prior to their first day of school. For any questions, please contact Bobby King.

The following supplies are needed at various grade levels:

backpacks
 colored pencils in boxes
 crayons (16 or 24 count)
 Elmer’s glue sticks
 erasers (pink)
 folders (two-pocket with no design)
 marble composition books
 markers
 notebook paper (wide-ruled)
 pencil boxes
 pencil cases with zippers
 school glue (white, in bottles)
 scissors (for little hands)
 spiral notebooks
 three-ring binders
 tissues (boxes)
 towels for rest time (K)
 wooden pencils (good quality, American made)

**El Centro Comunitario Hispano Americano (El Centro, for short) seeks to enhance the well-being and integration of the Hispanic community through promoting education, enhancing multicultural understanding, fighting for social justice, developing Latino leadership, and encouraging civic participation. Some of their activities include an after-school tutoring program, conversational English practice for adults, and information sessions on topics of interest to the Hispanic community.*

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.