

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

Officed Close for Holiday — Mon

Men's Group — Tues @ 10:00am

Worship Team— Tues @ 2:00pm

Aging Wisely — Tues @ 3:00pm

Board Mtg — Tues @ 5:00pm

SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00pm


Eclectics — Wed @ 9:30am

Nominations— Wed @ 4:30pm

Sacred Fire — Wed @ 6:00pm

Joy of Being — Thurs @ 11:00am

Teen Night — Sun 27th @ 5:00pm



Sunday

Sunday, January 20

ON BETRAYAL

Darlene O' Dell

Darlene O'Dell will speak to us on the unworthy worship of Confederate monuments and how this is a betrayal of faith. Her message will be based on a reading of John 18: 12-27 (Peter's denial of Jesus) and the song "The Streets of Philadelphia," by Bruce Springsteen.

Join us for coffee at 10:30am!

“The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them.”

— *Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island*

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



The Haven is Transylvania County's two-building shelter for homeless families and individuals of all ages. The Haven

works with other community agencies to prevent long-term homelessness and to promote sustainable outcomes for its residents. Your donation will support our fellow citizens as they work toward reaching self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

Upcoming Concerts

March 8th: Jack Williams!

If you are not familiar with Jack, check his website [here](#). A real showman!

March 31st: Opal String Quartet!

The Opal String Quartet is going to perform some Mozart and a few other things yet to be determined! [Facebook page](#)

Mark your calendar!



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

A Spoonful of Justice — Rev. Ilene


One often-forgotten facet of our commitment to justice in its many forms is disability justice— making space for people of many different ability levels in every part of our life together in beloved community. Spoon theory is a recently-developed lens through which we can view illness and disability, both in our own health journeys and those of others. In this worship service, we will reflect together on the ways we each travel through the world of ability and disability. What do we each gain, separately and together, when we reflect on our spiritual lives through the lens of spoon theory? What does our grieving and our living look like as we journey through periods of ability and disability? Come worship with us on our last Sunday of this justice-focused month of worship. Remember that, at our 11am service, there will be special programming for our youngest worshippers!

BEING HANDS FOR HELPING HANDS



Our Loving Hearts, Helping Hands (LHHH) Team is being faced with increased demands, naturally, as our congregation grows. This means that the Team, a mere 10 members strong, may need to draw extra help from time to time.

Can you be a chef, on occasion? Please [email](#) or call David Parker (828-885-2093). New LHHH guidelines recommend a meal a week, when requested. With, sometimes, multiple households needing this support, our Loving Hearts crew would love to have some Extra Helping Hands to call on when the needs are deep and wide.

Thank you in advance for taking the time — RIGHT NOW—to email or call David and letting him know you will help support our congregation's members in their time of need. 

CLIMATE STORIES & OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In February, the Transylvania Natural Resource Council is co-sponsoring two events. The first, designed for local decision-makers and co-sponsored with the Chamber of Commerce and the Transylvania Economic Alliance, is on the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry in Transylvania County. This event will be held in the classroom of the Election Center on **Friday, February 8th at 9:00am**.



The second event, co-sponsored with the library, is open to the public. **Climate Stories NC** will be held in the Rogow Room **from 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday, February 14th**. This event will be led by David Salvesen, Institute for the Environment, UNC at Chapel Hill. Stories shown are personal stories

from people all over the state of North Carolina whose lives and work have been impacted by climate change.

It is easy, based on the scale of this problem, to believe that we are helpless to protect what we love—maybe too easy. You are encouraged to attend one or both (especially if you are considering running for office or are otherwise engaged in influencing local decision-making) so that you are equipped with good data for the analysis of our reliance on our natural resources in this county and the responsibilities that reliance brings on us.

GREEN PRODUCTS — CAN UUTC LIVE THE VALUES?

Once upon a time, in congregations across the land, great grumblings and discussions went forth as to which did more damage: running the dishwasher or using disposable products at coffee time. Many congregations, with fewer resources, opted for disposable products.



The battle about water use has long since passed, since manufacturing uses more water than modern dishwashers. UUTC has used china coffee cups for quite a long time. However, we also use plastic, single-use cups. We use (mostly) virgin-plastic trash bags. And frequently, when goods are purchased, we accept plastic bags to carry the purchases.

Your Social Action Team's work with the Better World Shopping Guide is enabling some changes. Joan Lemire, doing the shopping for the Coffee Team, is avoiding any of the companies who score lower than a "C" on their company practices, for instance. But to fully commit to the change, it takes congregational commitment. While "green" products have gotten consistently more competitive on price and quality, it still costs a bit more to choose high post-consumer waste products. As we move into pledge season, keep your vision of UUTC's values in mind. It is your commitment that powers our choices. Thanks!

MAKE PEOPLE FEEL ALL WARM INSIDE...

Join the Coffee Crew! This group of lovely people commits to serve coffee once per quarter—which is only possible if we have enough people. It takes 26 lovemongers to make sure that each serves only once in a quarter. Due to illness, we’ve had a couple pairs that need to retire from the team. Can you join? If so, email [Tanne Traywick](mailto:Tanne.Traywick), and she will get you scheduled! Training provided. Individuals happily paired with other singles. Thanks for your commitment to this community!



BRIEF UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER (& HER BACKUP!)

Most know that Treasurer Susan Slocum has been home with Lloyd recently and unable to fulfill all of her duties as Treasurer—she has called on the able and generous Dave Roberts to help in getting reports to you. So we are skipping November and going straight to the December summary of activity! Big thanks to Dave for compiling the data!

Dec-18	This month	Fiscal YTD 18-19
Total Income	\$ 22,388.47	\$ 136,622.73
Expenses	\$ 22,022.58	\$ 135,921.28
NET	\$ 365.89	\$ 701.45
Unrestricted Cash on Hand	\$ 44,835.34	
Total Cash (avail.)		\$ 55,415.06

In addition, our other Funds held these balances at the end of December (at right):

Current work on the budget by Finance does not include any Team’s “stretch goals,” which reflected many of our Sponsored Projects. Some of these are AV for the Social Hall, a large magnetic whiteboard for the small classroom, and new requests for raised garden beds, children’s play areas (outside) and picnic tables. If you wish to support any of these projects, make your check out to UUTC with Sponsored Projects on the memo line.

Endowment Fund #2	Balance \$164,170.20
Unencumbered Balances of Ancillary Funds:	
Varsity Fund #3	\$ 8,980.23
Capital Expenditures Fund #7	\$ 1,000.00
Sponsored Projects	
Building Expansion	
Gifts and Memorials Fund #8	\$10,000.00
Ministerial Internship	
Charitable Giving Fund #10:	\$ 109.14
Dignity Project Fund #12	\$ 8,654.11
Sabbatical Fund #13	\$ 665.31
Endowment Holding Fund #14	\$ 200.15

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT • JANUARY 2019

Dear Friends and Members,

The holidays have passed, leaving us time to catch our collective breaths and contemplate the next legs in our collective journey together as a part of this marvelous congregation.



While the Board did not meet in December, rest assured that plenty of activities focused on UUTC's future were progressing quite nicely.

The Council, as I've noted earlier, is making grand progress as it develops a Vision Statement for UUTC. Lead ably by Michael Solomon, this group, including Bruce Kirkman, Leigh Johnson, Carol Moore, Joyce Henneberry, Rev. Ilene and me, used the Mission Statement developed several years earlier as a springboard. A Vision Statement is an expression of what the church might look like in a period of three to five years, while the Mission Statement is a description of who we are – our values and aims. Expect to hear from the Board as we receive and then present this statement in the not too distant future.

The Finance Committee, a Board Committee, is hard at work on the budget for next year. This budget will be developed based on the needs described by the various Teams and Committees that provide the process backbone for UUTC.

The Nominations Committee, a Committee of the Congregation, is seeking to fill various leadership positions for UUTC for the budget year 2019 – 2020. At the risk of being redundant (you were forewarned!), I cannot emphasize how critical to the organizational success of UUTC its cadre of volunteers is. If you have gotten tired of seeing the same names and faces in the various leadership roles in the congregation, now is the time to speak up. Look at each Committee's and each Team's work and decide which best suits your interest and skill set. Let a member of the Team or Committee know of your interest. So many would welcome you with open arms!

Finally, accompanying this note, is the agenda for the Board meeting next Tuesday, January 22. Like virtually all meetings at UUTC (the exception is meetings in Executive Session, a rare occurrence), this meeting is open to Friends and Members. While you cannot vote on any motion that is put forward, you are welcome to voice your opinion.

In covenant, Peter B

“No experience in this world has ever been cathartic without the willing participation of the individual. Life does not automatically bestow wisdom or growth upon anyone just for showing up.”

—Elizabeth Gilbert

WHEN DEATH COMESby **Mary Oliver**

*When death comes
like the hungry bear in autumn;
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse*

*to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;
when death comes
like the measles-pox*

*when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,*

*I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?*

*And therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,*

*and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,*

*and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,
tending, as all music does, toward silence,*

*and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.*

*When it's over, I want to say all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.*

*When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.*

*I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.*

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

NEED TO STAY HOME?

One of the resources available to us as Unitarian Universalists is the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). "A Unitarian Universalist Congregation Without Walls," this online community has multiple ministries. They have a weekly newsletter, prison ministry, an online talk show, online small groups, and an outstanding monthly publication called **Quest**. **Quest** goes deep into a particular spiritual theme each month.

Go [HERE](#) to visit CLF and explore what might interest you further.



Finance Committee members Lelia Graham and Christine Schmidt plotting mayhem. Caught by Jayma McGann—thanks, Jayma!

LOOKING TO ESCAPE THE COLD? WANT TO SEE SAN DIEGO? ARE MARCH 2ND THROUGH 7TH GOOD DATES FOR YOU?

Consider visiting San Diego with the First Unitarian Universalists of San Diego! San Diego has so much to offer: beautiful beaches, hip urban areas, a World-Famous Zoo, inspiring universities, and a park filled with fascinating museums. And we have even left most of a day for you to tell us where you want to go!

Please go to www.firstuusandiego.org/sdvisit to see the details of this exclusive and all-inclusive tour. Funds raised will be used to support a number of social justice projects near the border.

Hope to see you in San Diego!



ENJOY EVERYTHING SAN DIEGO HAS TO OFFER from its enclaves of untouched nature, to its history as the earliest Spanish settlement in California, to its sparkling sea, World Famous Zoo, and thriving ethnic food scene!

San Diego

Experience The World Famous San Diego Zoo

Discover Powerful Images in Chicago Park

Encounter Community Village Life in the Balboa Park Hotel and Conservatory

Visit Balboa Park & its fascinating museums

Explore Art and architecture of UCSD and La Jolla

Spread Relax at the beach and other places of natural beauty

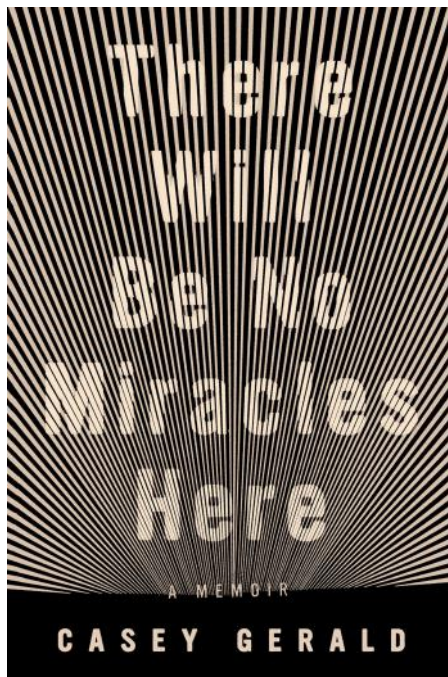
Offered by First UU Church of San Diego

Packages start \$999 at just

INCLUDES:
5 nights accommodation
5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
All admission fees + transportation during your stay

For a detailed itinerary and an application, go to www.firstuusandiego.org/sdvisit
For further questions email: info@firstuusandiego.org

Group limited to 20 people. A \$200 deposit reserves your spot, and is refundable up to 30 days ahead (less a \$25 administrative fee). Balance due 45 days before the visit. Participants must be able to walk up to our site, handle stairs and some heat, and attend meetings all day.



READY FOR THE UUTC COMMON READ?

We are what we read.

In discussions of this congregation on how to be a Welcoming Congregation—conversations that have sometimes been awkward, or anxious, or even angry—there have been honest questions about how we even talk to “those people,” what words are ok, etc. This is OK. This is how we sound when we don’t know the answers. Asking the questions is the first step. Understanding is the second.

To get understanding takes some study. We can’t always find out what it’s like living other people’s lives through direct questioning. This is when a good book is invaluable: it allows us inside someone else’s head, without being the least bit offensive.

“*There Will Be No Miracles Here*” was chosen in support of the 10th Anniversary of UUTC’s becoming a Welcoming Congregation and the necessary steps for renewal of that designation, which is no longer automatic. We must renew the process because the congregation is renewed constantly. How can those who have joined in the last 2 years know what we went through 10 years ago?

Thursday, January 31st at 4:00pm, is our first meeting to discuss this book. You will want to have finished at least half of the story in order to be ready to participate. It may be helpful to have selected some pieces of the text that had an emotional or visceral impact on you—those reactions indicate truth bombs.

If you have not already picked up this book at Highland Books, now would be the time!

FEBRUARY 9 MARCH IN RALEIGH: MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER UUs

Join UUs from across North Carolina and Washington, D.C. in the 13th annual HKonJ Moral March and Peoples Assembly in Raleigh on February 9. HKonJ – **The Historic Thousands on Jones Street** – is made up of more than 125 NC NAACP branches, youth councils, college chapters and other social justice organizations. The group will demand that state lawmakers in North Carolina to "live the shape of justice" by protecting voting rights, expanding health care, supporting public education, respecting women's rights, preventing gun violence, protecting the environment, and caring for immigrants, the poor, people with disabilities, and senior citizens.



Unitarian Universalists (along with UU friends and allies) will gather between 8:00 and 9:30 am near the corner of South Street and Salisbury Street (look for the North Carolina Association of Educators sign) wearing yellow "Side With Love" or blue "UU Forward Together" t-shirts. After the pre-march rally (9:00 - 10:00), the group will march down Fayetteville Street to the old State Capitol building. Following the march, all are invited for lunch at the Christ the King Presbyterian Church (117 S. West Street, just a 5 1/2 block walk away) between 12:30 pm and 2:30 p.m. It's a great way to meet UUs from Washington and learn about upcoming social justice workshops and activities by the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina. Find information on preregistration (if you are staying for the lunch/gathering) and more at the links below. **Please [email your Social Action Team](mailto:your-social-action-team@uuuc.org) if you intend to take part!**

<http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=70Ez5a5CySAu37rSQDwf4vwfB5pSS8nB>

<http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=Ek7SvlgoJTjiSvA4qCFICPwfB5pSS8nB>

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.