

UUTC UPDATE

Inclusive. Intentional. *Involved.*

Office Hours

The office is open Mon-Fri from 9:30 to 12:30 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

Heartfulness Meditation — Sat @ 5:30

Caregiver Group — Mon @ 10:00

Spiritual Explorations — Mon @ 3:30

NO Men's Group — Tues @ 9:00

SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00

NO Eclectics — Wed @ 10:00

Office Closed — Thursday & Friday



AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Rev. Sally Beth Shore

It's easy to be grateful when things are going well, but when faced with calamity, loss, and the host of adversities that life can offer us, not so much. Then should we even try—what's the point? As Thanksgiving approaches, let's consider the Attitude of Gratitude, and then close with a ceremony of sharing cornbread and apple juice together.

Since this is an intergenerational service, (no classes), children are happily welcomed at both services!

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

*“Let us remember that,
as much has been given us,
much will be expected from us, and that
true homage comes from the heart
as well as from the lips,
and shows itself in deeds.”*

— Theodore Roosevelt

Social Justice Giving: The Haven



The mission of The Haven of Transylvania County is to assist homeless families and individuals in crisis in Transylvania County by providing safe, temporary refuge in a clean comfortable shelter.

The Haven is an 18 bed homeless shelter. We provide our residents with more than shelter, we help them find long term solutions to their problems. Residents may stay up to 90 days. A goal plan is put in place within a week of their entry and progress is monitored.

The Haven Family House is a 5 bedroom house renovated into a temporary shelter for families. Families can stay here a longer period of time and are expected to achieve goals set per individual family.

Both shelters offer laundry facilities, mail and message services, zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol.

UUTC was one of the founders of The Haven of Transylvania County.



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW Faith, Hope, Joy & Love: UU Advent

Rev. Sally Beth Shore

Well, we've arrived, almost; the end of the year, and it's the season of winter Holydays. Universalist Advent celebrates Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love. Today we consider what Faith means to us. Unitarian Universalists can be nervous talking about faith, perhaps worried that it implies blind obedience or irrationality. Faith might also imply working toward a vision of the future, as well as a lens for making meaning.

What is your faith? During this season of Advent, how will you express it?

Children will begin in the Sanctuary with a Time for All Ages before going to their classes.

MORE SQUARE FOOTAGE!

RK Young

This is a thank you to the Membership Team for their inspiration in creating a smaller "Welcoming" station. And to Gerry Azzata for finding the perfect piece of furniture to accomplish the goal. And then to Bob & Mary Bennett of the Facilities Team for making it perfect by re-habbing the finish and adding casters!

Tim McGann finished the task by opting to use a wall-mounted literature display so that the loss of six square feet of table top would be less onerous. More space for people—well done, ya'll!



“WHEN?...”

Hello, All! There is so much to be grateful for around UUTC right now! I continue to be amazed at the number of volunteers that support UUTC. Thank you to all who keep us moving forward!



As I look around at the growing number of members/friends and see how well attended functions like the Appreciative Inquiry Seminar and the Vision Program are, it is no wonder that there is a murmur of “When are we going to expand?” Well - the answer is: “I don’t know!” But, it does appear that the time is moving nearer. Recently, many people have asked if they could contribute to a fund to insure that this was something that we were thinking about for the future. At the board meeting this past Tuesday we discussed this and voted to direct the bookkeeper to establish a new designation within Capital Expenditures to accept donations towards Building Expansion. So, the answer is now YES! If you would like to contribute money to be used solely for the expansion of our facilities, you may write a check to UUTC and put in the memo line “Building Expansion” and it will be used only for this purpose, when the time should come.

I am very thankful to be a part of a community where there is such excitement and encouragement to move forward. With much appreciation for you all - I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you! [Joyce Henneberry](#)

**UUTC CIRCLE DINNERS**

During 2018 Elizabeth Thompson organized and coordinated the UUTC Circle Dinners. Circle Dinners are an opportunity for UUTC members and friends to get together to share a meal and establish a more personal and deeper relationship with other UUTC folks. I would like to thank Elizabeth for all her efforts advocating for and championing these dinners.

We are planning to again organize the UUTC Circle Dinners in 2020. As a first approach, I will take the responsibility of organizing these dinners for the second Saturdays of February, March and April, 2020.

The first step needed is to have UUTC members/friends that want to volunteer as hosts. The host can decide the style of the dinner, i.e. formal, informal, indoor, outdoor, picnic at a park, etc. Normally, the dinners are attended by 8-10 people and all attendees bring a dish. The main objective of these dinners is the human interaction, not necessarily a dining experience.

In the near future, I will provide more concrete information for the organization of the 2020 UUTC Circle Dinners, please keep your eyes open. Also, if you have any special ideas for these dinners, be sure to let me know. [Quim Moya](#) 828-513-0657

NOTE FROM REV. SHORE

This past week's service highlighted the Charter For Compassion, a manifesto put together by religious leaders from many faiths and parts of the world 10 years ago this month. The statement closes with these words:

"We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community."



The vision is that these words can underpin real actions for creating a better world. In the 10 years since its unveiling, the Charter's non-profit has developed a number of ideas to do this, one being a roadmap to create "compassionate communities." If you are interested in learning more, check it out at <https://www.charterforcompassion.org/communities/overview> . And then drop me an email—I'm intrigued by the idea of Brevard as a compassionate community—and would like to hear your ideas and thoughts.

I hope you will be able to make it to our Sharing Thanksgiving communion service. Come either 1st or 2nd, children are invited welcome at both services, with Readers Theater and Poetry. And beautiful music from our choir. Please remember to bring something for the CRE Sharing House Thanksgiving Food Drive!

Love, Rev. Shore

CALL FOR SINGERS FOR THE 2019 WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Come sing— even if you aren't a choir member!

Our solstice celebration, lasting about an hour, is composed of stories and music. Those in attendance are lead on an inner journey that explores the nature and benefits of the dark. Last year about 100 people attended this ritual at UUTC.

The songs are mostly rounds and chants and should be accessible to anyone who can carry a tune. Those for whom their spiritual path is an Earth Based religion and don't usually sing in the choir are especially encouraged to participate.

Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons, December 1st, 8th and 15th @ 12:30. The dress rehearsal will be before the ritual on Sunday the 22nd @ 2:30 PM.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please email solstice@uutc.org.

NEED A PROGRESS REPORT ON YOUR PLEDGE OR OTHER GIFTS?



We have not been able to email our usual 1st Quarter statements for July, August, and September. If you would like one now which could include October, please contact Treasurer Susan Slocum via treasurer@uutc.org or call the office, 828-877-6121 and leave a message.

End of the 2019 calendar year statements will be printed and mailed in January. Third and fourth quarter statements should be back to email, as the database software update will be completed.

Thank you for your understanding!

TIS THE SEASON: RMD'S AND AMAZON SMILE

For those of us over 70.5, Required Minimum Distributions are a way to fulfill pledges, identifiable contributions and additional gifts tax free. Check with your retirement fund manager. Separate checks are best for different funds or different charitable agencies. Ask Treasurer Susan or Administrator RK Young about that.

For holiday shopping and year round, Amazon Prime members may generate donations to UUTC through Amazon Smile. Go to smile.amazon.com and select Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County as your selected charity—your purchase prices will not increase, but a fraction of each purchase will benefit UUTC from then on out, and it does add up!

BEQUEST TO ENDOWMENT FUND: WE REMEMBER

UUTC recently received a bequest to our Endowment Fund from the estate of Barbara Wright. Barbara was a beloved member who served on the original Endowment Fund Team, Stewardship Teams and the Finance Committee. We are filled with gratitude and fond memories.

We are also in the process of receiving funds from the UUA Legacy Challenge thanks to members and friends who documented new bequests to UUTC during the Challenge period. More gratitude for now — and the future.



Treasurer Susan Slocum

treasurer@uutc.org



AS THING EVOLVE ...

Susan Bir for Loving Hearts, Helping Hands

Our new email version of Joys & Concerns has had mixed reviews, but the vast majority of these have been positive. Replacing a beloved part of our Sunday Services is not taken lightly, but it was becoming ever more evident that many were being left “out of the loop,” forcing some of us unintentionally either into an “insider” or “outsider” category.

Complicating this dynamic, it seems that we have not been as clear in our explanation of the Member to Members Joys & Concerns as we might have been. It is important to know that even though our UUTC newsletter is emailed to many more people than Members and Friends, the “*Member to Member Joys & Concerns*” email is sent ONLY to formally affiliated Members and Friends, not to visitors.

Most importantly, these published items are self-reported. I personally contacted the people who were listed in our first mailing and clarified intentions from reporting in the second. Some folks didn’t want to be part of our first try. Others were happy to start off the new communication with us. They had a chance to write or rewrite what was reported about them. Any editing that I did was sent back for approval, and only then was it published.

Who sees this information, anyway? If a member or friend uses the link to report a milestone or a health situation, that person will see a checklist which clearly indicates to Loving Hearts & Rev. Shore how they want their information to be treated. As the designated “collector” of this information, I will see all submissions, as will Rev. Shore. Other boxes let the two of us know whether we should share information with just our care team (Loving Hearts & Helping Hand... aka LHHH), or whether they wish to share with all Members and Friends of the UUTC community. ***Nothing will be published unless you give us permission and after you approve the edited version.***

An example of the reactions we have had is this statement: *“I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate, and prefer, this means of sharing concerns. With us in FL for 1/2 the year, we don't get to reach out to UUTC friends in need because we aren't there on Sundays to hear what is shared. And unless you attended both services, it was rather hit or miss whether you heard about all those who were in need of loving support. This is a much better way of assuring that EVERYONE hears about and can reach out to, those who have a concern in their lives. Thank you!”*

To reiterate some of what we heard last week on Compassion from Rev. Shore: *“We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. ... Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.”*

Thank you for your compassion in action through our *Member to Member* sharing!



WE HELPED PACK THE PANTRY!

Your Social Action Team

Thanks to all the hearty UU Souls who stood in the cold to collect donations for Sharing House's "Pack the Pantry" this month. Our volunteers were touched by the generosity of county residents, most of whom contributed something on the way out of our Food Lion collection station. Pantry Manager Pam Schou said the drive was a resounding success: roughly \$7,000 in cash donations and 5,800 pounds of food were collected.

The food will be used immediately to provide for our neighbors during the holiday season, and the cash donations will allow Sharing House to purchase more of what they need in the coming months.

NOW OUR YOUTH ARE ASKING US TO STEP UP!

UUTC Youth who have been attending CRE programming are asking us to help them help others. During the Sunday Intergeneration Service, in which we will also have a cornbread (gluten free and vegan) and apple juice communion, are inviting us to bring non-perishable food and household items to donate to Sharing House. Besides staples like canned goods, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce and pasta, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry and dish soap are very welcome, especially during the holidays.

Make generosity part of your growth strategy.

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.