

# 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, email [lhh@uutc.org](mailto:lhh@uutc.org), or let us know [online](#).

## 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

**Solstice Service — Sun @ 5:30**

Men's Group — CANCELLED

SMART Recovery — CANCELLED

Christmas Eve — Tues @ 4:30pm

Christmas Eve — Tues @ 6:00pm

**OFFICE CLOSED — Wed**

Eclectics — CANCELLED

Memorial Service — Thurs @ 2:00pm



## RING SOLSTICE BELLS

*Fourth Week of Advent —Love*

**Rev. Sally Beth Shore**

Now is the turning of the year, after today the daylight hours grow longer, and the darkness recedes. In celebrating the returning of the light, we connect with our human history. That human history includes cultivating an awareness of the Cosmos, a path to liberation and inspiration.

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

*“Something opens our wings.  
Something makes boredom  
and hurt disappear.  
Someone fills the cup in front of us:  
we taste only sacredness.*

*- Rumi*

## Social Justice Giving: The Dignity Project



You are invited to help stock Dignity Pantries for 8 organizations: El Centro, Sharing House, Bread of Life, The Haven, Rise & Shine, The Children's Center, Davidson River School and SAFE.

UUTC has taken on the task of stocking and 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 are non-negotiable purchases for our neighbors. We also supply razors, deodorant and soap to assist those trying to capture or retain employment.

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 generosity.



## SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW The Path of Contentment

*Luanne Allgood*

As 2020 quickly approaches, it's a good time to consider what we want in the coming year. Few of us are truly present and happy with our lives the way they are, so being content might be a worthy goal to have for the new year. Contented people are satisfied and accept their lives just the way they are. Acceptance, surrender and flow create a space for grace to enter. A contented life is not dependent on circumstance or our emotional highs and lows. A contented life requires courage because when our hearts are open, they can hold our brokenness and our joyfulness at the same time. Contented people embrace life with wonder and they are grateful for each experience that crosses their path.

## A GIFT TO THE CONGREGATION

Many of you have no doubt noticed the lovely pottery now holding our candles for use in the Joys and Concerns portion of the service. This shallow bowl was crafted and donated by Margaret Kimble, a member of UUTC. Thanks, Margaret!



## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - DEC 24 AT 4:30PM

This will be an early service for families and children are invited to join in singing two songs with the children's holiday choir. Practices will be Sundays in December between the two services. ***There will be no nursery staff on Christmas Eve—please plan on bringing all children into the service!***



### INTENTIONAL PARENTS CIRCLE—SUNDAY, JAN 12, 5:00PM

We are looking for a Food Creator and Discussion Leader for the next Parents Circle. Sign up [HERE!](#)

### OUR WHOLE LIVES RETURNS

The CRE program will again offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for 7th, 8th and 9th graders. This is a sexuality education program for youth that models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality. ***The facilitators are Heather Layton and Kevin Lausch.***

The program will launch in late January and runs for 10 weekly sessions on Sunday afternoons, including two retreats. All 7th-9th youth are invited to attend (whether UU or not), and a parent information session is included.

More information is available at [www.uua.org/re/owl](http://www.uua.org/re/owl) or see Kevin Lausch ([kevin@uutc.org](mailto:kevin@uutc.org)).

**Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for 7th, 8th and 9th graders**

**Length: approx 10 session from Late Jan through mid April plus 2 retreats**

**Location: UUTC**

**Time: most likely 3pm-5pm on Sunday afternoons**

## A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT — BE “AU NATURALE”

... And no, we don't mean come in your birthday suit!

During the holidays we tend to want to up our game, but please refrain from using fragrances. There are enough “scents” associated with our personal care products already, and perfumes and after shaves can create a burden on those who have sensitivities to these fragrances. Thank you for your consideration of others!

## INTIMACY IN SPITE OF GROWTH

UUTC has been wildly successful, from its inception. People with good hearts and great talents have continued to build this liberal religious community in rates higher than its losses. As we continue to grow, how do we stay connected to one another? What makes us “belong” to this campus, and this group of people?



When UUTC had a smaller active group of members, things naturally felt more intimate because everybody really *could* know everybody else. That is no longer possible. What IS possible is to learn the members of a smaller group and get to know them well. This is the basis of how our new software is organized — Groups.

Even within a social networking platform like Facebook, and even within that smaller, private Group that UUTC holds on that platform, we are mostly too big to build real connections. Realm Connect brings some advantages from social networking and pairs them with the power of a database in a way that allows for groups to grow organically and organize more efficiently, while removing some barriers of office inefficiency from group communications.

In plain English, Groups don’t have to ask the office to add people to their “redirect” emails in order to communicate with everyone in the Group. Groups can add whoever has expressed interest in their groups whenever they wish, without informing the office.

*The above statement comes with a caveat — all members of the Group (be it Team, Committee, or other) have to set up a profile in Realm.*

Realm can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smartphone. For a tablet or smartphone, you would download the Realm Connect app.

But how does this build intimacy?

In Realm, Groups are organized both by “Ministry Area” (think of Board + Committees or Ministry Teams) and by the types of things they do — Classes, Leadership, Network and Service are the most common here at UUTC. An example of a Class is Spiritual Explorations, which gets together for educational/spiritual development purposes. An example of a Network is the Men’s Group, which meets “based on affinity or activity.” Both of these fall under the Leadership of yet another Group, Adult Religious Exploration.

Some people enjoy creating opportunities for others (which is what good leaders do); others really want to dig into a subject for an extended period; and still others meet for the human desire to make sense of the world with people they value and connect with. Whoever you are, you can find other people who have similar interests through Groups.



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We have begun to configure these Groups within Realm. If you were to open the app today, you would be able to get a preview of a very large (I don't think I quite had a grasp on just how much you guys do!) number of Groups at UUTC. Some are Teams. Some are Committees. And some are the results of Team activity. For each Group, two or three "leader" names have been assigned— these have been set up rather randomly, as I attempted to select people I thought actively used smartphones. Group leaders can reset all of this when they are ready.



*Logo of Realm Connect*

Right now we are in "muck about" mode. Those of you who lean towards experimentation and/or geekiness, feel free to dive right in. Go to [onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org) and login using the email you gave to UUTC for newsletter delivery. Click on "Forgot Password" to reset that and play around. The real adventure will begin in January. Happy Holidays! — RK

## **MEMBER, FRIEND, VISITOR — WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

Long ago, in a file cabinet...ok, so it was here in this office...

ANYWAY. UUTC has different classifications of labels (don't you love that?) for the people who come through our doors, or *have* come through our doors. And when anyone wants to change that label, we have forms called "Status Change Request." But I get ahead of myself.

We all start as visitors. And, until we let somebody know we want a closer relationship than that by either sharing an email, a phone number, an intention... that's where we stay. But if we DO happen to mention in conversation that we want to be more involved in this community, then of course there is paper involved. And usually there is a class involved, for, you know, "full disclosure." We don't want you stepping into the deep end unaware, because there is this thing called a Covenant.

All Friends and Members are encouraged to give of Time, Talent and Treasure without impoverishing themselves of any of these particular assets. Bring your humor, your warm heart, your skills of whatever variety and let us find you a home, a small group, to join. Members have the privilege of voting. They are honored with brass leaves on the trees in our Memorial Garden. They may serve in elected office. Friends abstain from voting or serving in elected positions but can serve on Teams or Committees that suit their interests. There's more, but I don't want to bore you with minutia!

So how do you "change your status" from Visitor to Friend, from Friend to Member, from Visitor to Member? Or even from Member back to Visitor? Speak with a member of the Membership Team— Tim McGann, Victoria Kerr, Midge Hoover or the already-ready-with-paperwork Lauren Hufnagel (did I mention these folks are friendly?) and let them start the process for you.

We'd love to include you! — RK



## NOTE FROM REV. SHORE

Season's Greetings dear UUTCers!

Well the season is in high gear and I hope you are enjoying lights, friends, food, and fellowship. There are immediate opportunities at UUTC and I hope to see you at one of the Solstice and Christmas Eve services coming Sunday and Tuesday. It's a busy time for me, so I'll keep it short, but it's hard when there are so many making the holidays merry bright at UUTC

and for others in our wider community that I want to thank. Thank you to all who are playing and reading in the December services! Last Sunday's Santa's Workshop was a sight to behold as 22 children and their parents were gifted by an afternoon of fun at UUTC, thank you Kevin and CRE volunteers!

I was deeply moved to see how quickly all the angels flew off the tree in the foyer for the Davidson River school and The Haven—yesterday someone came looking for one but they were all gone. And thanks to all of you who are making music—singers in all 3 of our choirs (regular and special Solstice Choir, and Children's Christmas Eve), our Choir Directors (John, Teri, Edie, and Nancy) all the musicians. Finally, thanks to those of you who have helped with decorating with greenery, and trees, and to the staff who are getting the word out and organizing everything.

I know for some of you this Christmas is very different from ones gone by, as you are missing parent, partner, child, beloved relative, friend. My heart goes out to you. Remember you don't have to go it alone, come Sunday and Tuesday, come light a candle and sing with us. Contact me or [LHHH@uutc.org](mailto:LHHH@uutc.org) if a listening ear would do you good.

This Sunday we light the final advent candle, for Love. May you create love in this week of Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas. May it come to you from unexpected places.

Much love, Rev. Sally Beth



## NOTIFICATION OF COFFEE HOUR CHANGES

As coordinator for the UUTC Coffee Hour, it has been my pleasure to see that we have volunteers to serve every Sunday. Over time, many faithful volunteers have had to resign for various reasons. Even though we have had some new members get on board, it has become increasingly difficult to line up enough servers for each quarter.

Recently, I met with Rev. Sally Beth and other concerned members of the Coffee Hour Team to discuss ways of encouraging more folks to participate. It was decided that beginning in January we would make the following changes: *1. Only tea and coffee will be served during the coffee hour. No food. 2. There will be a sign-up sheet at the front desk for those willing to serve. All volunteer scheduling will be accomplished by way of the sign-up sheet.*

I will no longer be sending Emails to schedule volunteers. I am happy to meet with anyone interested in going over the procedures. Thank you to all that serve! — Tanne Traywick

## SOLSTICE SERVICE—DECEMBER 22nd, 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 Sunday, December 22, at 5:30 PM. Virginia Watkins 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.





**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER — HOW YOU CAN HELP****TEA DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER - SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Members and Friends of UUTC participate along with other local churches in assisting Sacred Heart with their Annual Community Christmas Dinner, feeding all who come through the doors. Come be part of this by volunteering, donating, and/or enjoying a wonderful dinner with others celebrating with our diverse community. The dinner is served 12pm-4pm on Christmas Day. There is no charge. All are welcome.



Our part in this wonderful event is to provide a total of **40 gallons of tea** (commercial ready-made, in plastic jugs or bottles), sweet or unsweet. **Donations of tea may be dropped off at Sacred Heart during office hours or Sunday mornings from now through the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.** Pickup at UUTC may be arranged by contacting Joan Lemire at 828-231-9259 (text or call). A signup sheet with amount of sweet or unsweet tea to be donated is on the counter of the UUTC foyer. **WE ONLY NEED A FEW MORE GALLONS!**

There is also a need for volunteers to help during serving hours. Currently the need is for Greeters, Beverage Servers and Cleanup Crew. Our volunteers from previous years were very much appreciated and enjoyed a great Christmas dinner in true community. If you are able to help in one of the time slots - usually 1 hour or so, you may sign up at the Gathering Table in the foyer at Sacred Heart or contact Sandi Rogers directly at [sandidougrogers@yahoo.com](mailto:sandidougrogers@yahoo.com).

## 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](mailto:admin@uutc.org).