

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 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

Souper Sunday!

UU History — Mon @ 1:00pm
 Men's Group — Tues @ 10:00am
 Stewardship — Tues @ 11:30am
 Dream Group — Tues @ 2:30pm
 Aging Wisely — Tues @ 3:00pm
 SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00pm
 Eclectics — Wed @ 9:30am
 Keys to Loving — Wed @ 11:00am
continued next page...



Sunday

Sunday, February 3rd

SACRIFICIAL FAITH

Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie

As we begin February's worship theme of "faith," we will reflect together in this service on the concept of a faith which calls us toward sacrificial giving. How can we serve the world and one another, living authentically into a covenantal community, without giving ANYTHING up? What might our liberal faith call us to sacrifice, and how might we answer that call— even in the face of consumerism and individualism that tell us we can, in fact, get everything we want?

Join us for coffee at 10:30am!

SOUPER SUNDAY AFTER THE 2ND SERVICE!

Action expresses priorities.

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

Choir Rehearsal — Wed @ 4:00pm
 Team Mtg Night — Wed @ 5:00pm
 Aesthetics — Thurs @ noon
 Property — Thurs @ 6:00pm

Muffins with the Minister

Our February “Muffins” date is **Tuesday, February 19th**. 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, and Rev. Ilene. Runs from 10 to noon.

Social Justice Giving

Bread of Life serves well-balanced meals to people in need every Monday through Friday and on Sunday night. In addition, it provides many emergency pantry boxes. Your donation will help Bread of Life in providing over 45,000 a year.

Upcoming Concerts

3/8: Jack Williams

3/31: Opal String Quartet: 1:30pm

Mark your calendar!



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

God Is Love— Rev. Ilene

As we continue to explore our monthly worship theme of “faith,” we will explore together the oft-used saying that God is love. What might it really mean to believe in God, then, if the word “God” is simply just another name for



love? Are love and God always easy? In this worship service, we will reflect together on these questions, and more— how fitting as Valentine’s Day approaches! We will also enjoy sacred music from the Sikh tradition, seated in the Indic concept of “bhakti” or loving devotion, performed by Joey Dukes and Rev. Ilene.

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY



Creating the space that holds us on Sundays is the work of many people—as it should be! No single person could do it all, every week, all year. And sometimes people have to leave their roles because of illness or other disruptions.

Which brings us to flowers! While our February flower roster is filled out, we have a few weeks in March that can’t be filled from our regulars. And we could use a few more “regulars!” If you could bring flowers (arranged yourself, picked up from the grocery store, or even a potted plant—there is no “wrong”) for March 3rd, 10th or 24th, please **call** (877-3070) or **email** Christine Schmidt. Thanks for contributing to the beauty of our space!

TO THE CONGREGATION, ON BEHALF OF YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued support of UUTC.

We have had a few challenging years, and perhaps it's difficult (or painful) to remember all that has happened here over the last four years. But let's review!



The Rev. Ernie Mills retired. He chose to retire! The horror! What shall we do? How will we continue? And some people left the congregation as a result – because, well, who could ever replace him? How could we maintain the essential nature of UUTC without him?

And yet, UUTC persisted. We hired, per UUA policy, an interim minister, the Rev. Dr. Paula Gable. And Rev. Paula shook things up; and a few more people left. After all, this was change, and we don't particularly care for change, do we? She and UUTC parted ways, and we searched for our second interim pastor.

We found one, the Rev. Cynthia Prescott. And she suffered a heart attack and passed away literally on the eve of her contract signing, *after the UUA interim pastor search period closed*. What were we to do??

The UUA stepped up to help and found us Rev. Ian White Maher. He raised our flagging spirits and breathed some welcome fresh air into our congregational life. With his tenure, we gained some people and lost some others, but we survived.

And folks, we thrived! Despite paying moving expenses for all these interim people, and financially supporting the changes they brought to UUTC, we met our obligations and paid our bills, on time, and we grew. Not a lot, but we grew. We did some physical growing also – we purchased those 3 properties next to us, ensuring our ability for future expansion. It was a big, scary decision – as big in spirit [and larger financially] as the original purchase of our lovely building.

Our wonderful Settled Search Task Force (Joanna Bliss, Bruce Kirkman, Ben Browning, Lauren Agrella-Sevilla, Betty Kendrick and Earle Rabb) found Rev. Ilene and brought her into our fold. And we paid more moving expenses and assumed the larger financial burden of a settled minister vs. an interim minister. We had completed the journey between settled ministers!

During these times some of our financial devotion to UUTC suffered. We had doubts; we weren't sure that we were going in the right direction; we didn't like the CHANGE. And donations suffered at a time when we needed that support the most. We managed, as noted before – but it wasn't without moments of significant anxiety!

...Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

I'd like to say that today, or rather as of December 31st, we reached a very important milestone in our financial life at UUTC. We have accomplished-- and you should all take some pride in this-- that as of the end of calendar 2018 we have received 50% of our expected income, and spending was at exactly 50% of anticipated expenses. **This has not happened in the past 5 years.** As your former Treasurer and a current member of the Finance Committee, thanks are due to each of you who has stepped up and devoted your time, your talents, and, most impressively, your treasures to the embodied mission which is UUTC. We are not yet out of certain constraints the property purchase placed on our finances, but the path ahead is clear. Thank you for your love, thank you for your devotion, and thank you for your support.

On Behalf of the Finance Committee,

Dave Roberts



UUTC FALL RETREAT @ THE MOUNTAIN: REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Its been a long time since UUTC has had a retreat at The Mountain (over 4 years) and finally we have an opportunity to do it again!

We are scheduled for the weekend of **October 4-6, 2019.** Unfortunately, there are only about 40 spaces available because The Mountain is so well scheduled with other UU congregations and other programs. We will be sharing the Retreat Center with a congregation from Columbia. If you want to have a great time with Rev. Ilene and your UUTC friends sign up early. We will have a program that will leave plenty of time to enjoy the wonders of the mountains and take a great hike.

The sign-up sheet that was placed on the front counter was pretty full—so make sure you go online to <https://themountainrlc.org/retreats/> and reserve space now! **UUTC cannot make these reservations on your behalf.**

FROM THE TREASURER:

End of Calendar (Tax) Year Statements for all 2018 financial gifts to UUTC are in the mail. Thank you to all our contributors! If you have any questions, please contact treasurer@uutc.org.

Thank you!

Treasurer Susan



THE YELLOW BOX IS BACK!

The American Association of University Women begin collecting your books this month, the 50th year of their annual book sale. The sale takes place at Brevard College (in the Boshamer Gym) from June 15-20. UUTC has always been very generous with their book contributions. (We are a community of readers). You will find our familiar yellow box under the coat rack and contributions can be placed here and will be picked up every Sunday morning.



The money made at the sale is distributed to deserving women in the form of scholarships to Brevard College and Blue Ridge Community College. If you have too many books to carry, call Penny Davies at 828-966-9393 and she will arrange to have them picked up from your home. The American Association of University Women thank you for your books and your generosity.

SOUND SYSTEM COGNITIVE DISORDER

Our current audio-video system uses two Windows-based computers, amplifiers, the ceiling-mounted projector in the sanctuary, a Blue-Ray DVD player and a controller that allows for input and output signals to be coordinated through the software interface seen on the left monitor in the picture at right. Output is directed to two subwoofers mounted in the ceiling, left and right channel “wing” speakers for the sides of the sanctuary, and the two main speakers which are directed to the main body of the sanctuary. Last Sunday the system misbehaved in a way that prohibited recording of the sermon. A work-around has been determined, so we expect to be functional this Sunday.



The intent of this investment was to ensure flexibility for Sunday mornings (first), with transmitters to receive signals from headset microphones, hand held microphones, and output directed to receivers that anyone having trouble hearing could plug into and amplify to their desired volume.

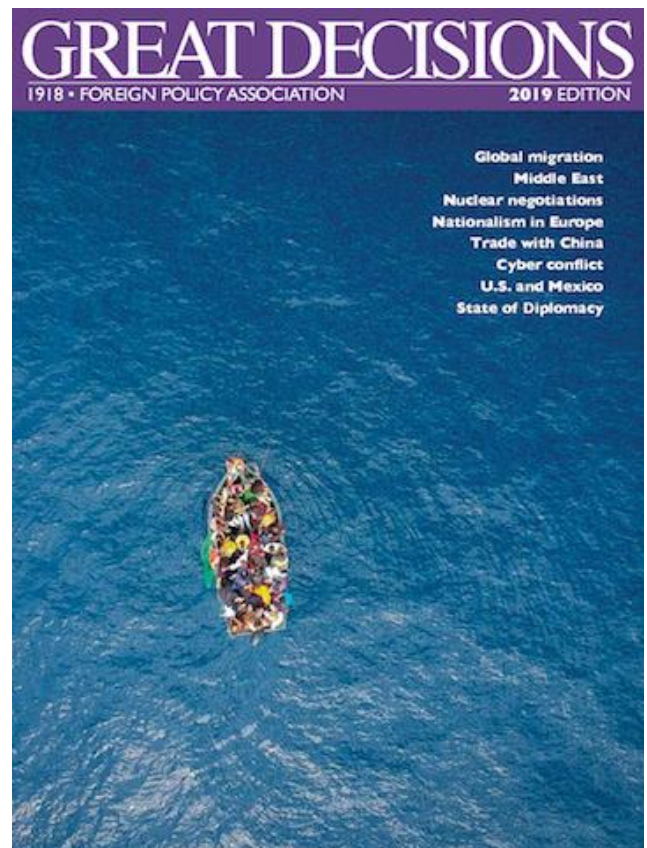
The system was also designed to create a high quality sound experience for concerts. It has done both of these things for a solid five years, but the nature of software (and system updates to basic operating systems) seems to have taken a toll. In combination with power outages, we have a software system that has developed anomalies that will require professional intervention.

We don't, yet, know whether the fix will be software based, a return to straight hardware, or a hybrid system— but we've got to address this before we lose all functionality. Thankfully, your Facilities Team has a regular PA System prepared as backup... the PA can't record, but it can, at least, amplify!

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL & LIBRARY TEAM UP ON NATIONAL TOPICS OF INTEREST

(Dates Corrected!)

Come join the national conversation hosted by The World Affairs Council of Western North Carolina and Transylvania County Library's Library Foundation. Each Wednesday from 3-5:00 the library will host a series of topics being discussed around the country. On February 6, Mark Gibney will discuss Refugees and Global Migration. Today, no countries have open borders. Every state in today's global system has its own laws and policies about who is permitted to cross its borders, and how they will do so. Who determines whether someone is a refugee or a migrant? How have different countries, including the United States, reacted to migration? How effective are the international laws, policies and organizations that have evolved to assist and protect refugees and migrants?



On February 13, Mike Duncan will discuss Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics. Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat, which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Russia has been accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and China is highly committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy. Dealing with cyber conflict will require new ways of looking at 21st century warfare. Is the United States prepared to respond to such threats. On February 20, John Plant will discuss *The Rise of Populism in Europe*. Mass migration, and the problems associated with it, have directly abetted the rise of populist parties in Europe. Opposition to immigration was the prime driver of support for Brexit, it brought a far-right party to the German Bundestag for the first time since the 1950s, and propelled Marine Le Pen to win a third of the vote in the French presidential election. In addition to calling for stronger borders, however, these parties are invariably illiberal, anti-American, anti-NATO and pro-Kremlin, making their rise a matter of serious concern for the national security interests of the United States.

On February 27, Tom Sanders will discuss *The Middle East: Regional Disorder*. As the presidency of Donald J. Trump passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which along with Israel have a common goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What will be the fallout from policy reversals such as withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear accord and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? Does the United States see a path forward in troubled states such as Syria,

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

Yemen, Libya and Iraq? Is the United States headed toward war with Iran? On March 6, Dot Sulock will discuss *Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?* Nuclear weapons have not gone away, and the Trump administration has brought a new urgency, if not a new approach, to dealing with them. The President has met with Vladimir Putin as the New Start Treaty with Russia comes up for renewal in 2021, the first presidential summit ever with Kim Jong-un occurred to discuss denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, and President Trump has decertified the Obama nuclear deal with Iran. To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future U.S. nuclear arms control negotiations? Can the art of the deal apply to stabilizing our nuclear future?

Finally, on March 13, Julie Snyder will discuss Decoding U.S.-China Trade. Though arguably the most advanced economy in the world, the United States still uses centuries-old numbers to measure trade. These antique numbers mangle understanding of the U.S.-China trade relationship, shrinking America's true economic size and competitiveness, while swelling China's. Bad numbers give rise to bad policies that ultimately kill U.S. jobs and cede market share to China. What other tools can the United States employ to counter China's unfair trade practices? There are several available, yet they remain mostly unused. The series is open to the public and free, and more information is provided [HERE](#).

TEAM MEETING NIGHT — NEXT WEEK & NEXT MONTH

Team Meeting Night is Wednesday, Feb. 6. **Let your Team Leader know if you desire pizza. If you do not have a team leader, PLEASE [email the office](#)** with your pizza count. Food waste is a horrible thing.

Next month will be a special Team Meeting Night. We will have a training session on how to access and use Team Documents through the website (all members) and through controlled access by designated team members. While not every team document ever created is accessible, we want to make sure that Teams have good, effective access to their **working** documents—the ones that help teams schedule activities, collect information, budget, and adhere to their selected Functions.

After the training, there will be some time for members to brainstorm about how we can use this system to simplify their work flow. The goal is to make the work easier and, therefore, more fun. Teams should designate their “full access” members and communicate that information to the Administrator so that appropriate permissions can be granted.

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.*

While not all Team Members usually attend Team Meeting nights, all Team Members and UUTC Leaders are encouraged to attend. How we access these documents and share information is critical to understanding how we can function more efficiently, and involve more people, in the service of our Mission. Hope to see you there!

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 "life 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](#) 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=Ek7SvIgoJTjiSvA4qCFICPwfB5pSS8nB>

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.