

# 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 [lhh@uutc.org](mailto:lhh@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

- Facilities Work Day — Sat @ 9:30
  - Spiritual Explorations — Mon @ 3:30
  - Men’s Group — Tues @ 9:00
  - Muffins w/Minister — Tues @ 10:00
  - Finance — Tues @ 10:00
  - Dream Group — Tues @ 2:30
  - Aging Wisely — Tues @ 3:00
  - SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00pm
  - Eclectics — Wed @ 9:30am
- continued next page...***



Sunday

### Sunday, February 17th

#### WHAT IS FAITH?

**Pedro Sandin**

In this homily, I explore the meaning of faith, wondering if it is a form of knowing or rather something else. Spanish has two different verbs to convey the concept of knowing: saber and conocer. I take advantage of the distinction between these two verbs in my effort to answer the question "what is faith?"

Please see this month’s poem, on page 7.

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

“I see my path, but I don’t know where it leads. Not knowing where I’m going is what inspires me to travel it.”

— *Rosalia de Castro*

WNC Cluster — Wed @ 10:00am  
 Keys to Loving — Wed @ 11:00am  
 Fellowship on Tap — Wed @ 6:00  
 LHHH — Thurs @ 3:00pm  
 Council — Wed @ 4:00pm  
 Joy of Being — Thurs @ 11:00am  
 Shared Pulpit — Thurs @ 4:30

### Muffins with the Minister

Our February “Muffins” date is **Tuesday, March 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—

*Registration Now Open*

3/8: [Jack Williams](#): 7:00pm

3/31: [Opal String Quartet](#): 1:30pm

4/5: [Sam Pacetti](#): 7:00pm

Get registered ahead of time.  
 Preferential seating to early registrants.



## SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

### Faith & Fallibility — Rev. Ilene

In our last service focusing on the monthly theme of “faith,” we will reflect together on the dilemma faced by Unitarian Universalism, a faith grounded not in doctrine but in covenant— a faith without easy answers or convenient doctrinal commands. In what or in whom do we put our faith? How ought we live faithfully, if our faith is grounded not in an infallible dogma or deity but in our own human and fallible relationships?



### PHOTO DIRECTORIES!

Sign up at the front counter! Cost: \$10. New Members since the last printing: free! Coming soon!



### PHOTO SHOOT

Also, sign up to have your photo taken or updated ... our next glamor session is **March 16th!** Once you sign, the office will begin scheduling. Mark Allison and Barbi Smith do a smashing

job—just look at how well Dave Hunter cleaned up!\*

These photos are used in ChurchLife and in the Photo Directory—and, occasionally, here in the newsletter. And to be frank, our “church photos” are leagues above the images produced by some of the professional service groups that provide photos for other congregations. And you can thank Mark and Barbi for this — just don’t miss your opportunity to get signed up!

*\*used with permission*

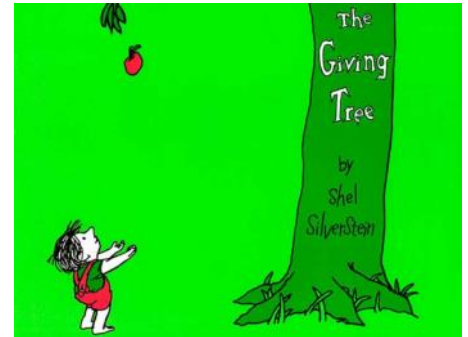
## THIS WEEK IN CRE...WE LEARNED ABOUT.....TREES!

*No shade tree? Blame not the sun but yourself.* — Chinese proverb

**IN THIS WEEK'S SESSION...** we learned about trees' vital role in our lives. We used our bodies to build a tree and then experienced a guided meditation in which we grew from acorns to mighty oak trees. We represented our interdependence with trees in the web of life by adding a white oak tree to our World of Wonder Mural.

**EXPLORE THE TOPIC TOGETHER. Talk about...** your family's interdependence with trees. In what way do trees care for you? In what ways do you care for trees? What actions can you take as a family to protect trees and help them thrive?

**EXTEND THE TOPIC TOGETHER. Try...**



**A Family Adventure.** Borrow or buy a book about identifying trees in your local area, such as *What Tree is That? A Guide to the More Common Trees Found in North America* by the Arbor Day Foundation. Go on a nature walk with your book and identify as many trees as you are able. Or choose a tree near your home and visit it at different times of day and during different seasons. Notice what animals and insects leave near or on the tree. Learn together what kind of tree it is and whether any parts of the tree are used for food or medicinal purposes. Create a tree journal to keep notes about the tree, draw pictures, create tree poems, make bark rubbings, etc. As you explore the tree, talk about the times when your heart fills with awe, wonder and amazement in response to the web of life.

**Family Discovery.** As a family, learn about the Green Belt Movement (GBM), founded in 1977 by Professor Wangari Maathai. GBM has planted over 47 million trees in Kenya. GBM works at the grassroots, national, and international levels to promote environmental conservation, build climate resilience, and empower communities, especially women and girls; to foster democratic space and sustainable livelihoods. Books for children about Maathai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, include:

- *Flight of the Hummingbird: A Parable for the Environment* by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas (Greystone, 2008)
- *Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya* by Donna Jo Napoli and Kadir Nelson (Simon & Schuster, 2010)
- *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai* by Claire A. Nivola (Farrar, Straus, 2008)
- *Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World* by Jen Cullerton Johnson and Sonia Lynn Sadler (Lee & Low, 2010)
- *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa* by Jeanette Winter (Harcourt, 2008)

...Continued on page 4

*This Week in CRE, Continued from page 3*

**A Family Game.** A card game based on the Dr. Seuss book, *The Lorax*, is available from Amazon and other vendors. Read *The Lorax* with your child and discuss the importance of trees and taking care of the environment. Then play the card game together or, better yet, create your own game!

**A Family Ritual.** Make time each day for a brief meditation. Join hands, close your eyes, and take a moment to become aware of your breathing. Talk with your child about the fact that you are breathing in oxygen made by the trees and that the trees are taking in the carbon dioxide that you exhale. Take a few minutes to repeat this ritual in an outdoor space that feels sacred or has special meaning to your family.

### KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)?

If you have been trained in OWL or would like to be trained please reach out to Danny at [danny@uutc.org](mailto:danny@uutc.org)

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INSECTS

*Stewardship of UUTC Campus.* When considering the stewardship of the UUTC property, those delegated the authority and responsibility by the Board to make decisions about the management and maintenance of buildings and grounds shall, whenever possible, minimize negative impacts on the environment through the use of natural and native materials, plants and products.



This statement, now part of UUTC Policy, is influencing the work of your Facilities Team as it does strategic planning for the Varsity property. This Saturday the Team meets to do some regular maintenance (washing tables and chairs) and some new maintenance — removal of invasive Chinese Privet and Japanese honeysuckle vine from the side of the creek and pounding in approximately 120 “live stakes” of silky dogwood and elderberry to improve stormwater treatment and wildlife habitat.

Facilities has drawn up some pretty exciting plans for the grounds, but their budget will not allow for much implementation without a little help. So Bradley Wall and RK Young are inviting you to a workshop (date not yet set) to create an Insect Hotel — and your donation to the cause will buy soil and plants to help establish raised garden beds for CRE and begin the work of a Fellowship space on that land.

The insect hotels will be boxes created by Bradley and RK that you can stuff with materials that provide safe shelter and incubation space for bees and other insects. Worldwide, we are experiencing devastating losses in all insects— UUTC is committed to avoiding the use of pesticides except for the safety of our members, and is now moving forward to actively promoting their survival on our grounds. Thanks in advance for your support!

## SUPPORTING KIDS SO THEY WILL THRIVE

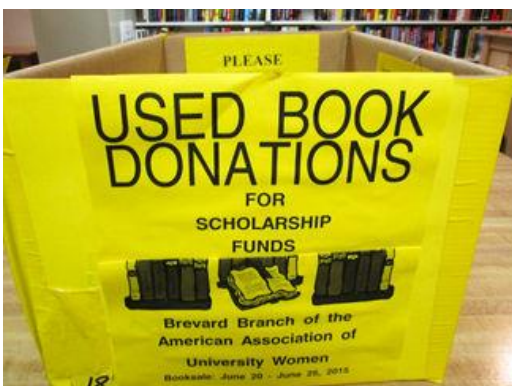
Are you interested in making some kid's **spring** REALLY special? We're trying to help kids **in our local** Hispanic community play spring soccer through the **Transylvania Youth Soccer Association**. Soccer helps kids gain confidence and learn the value of teamwork. Plus, it's great fun! We've got registration fees covered, but **need** assistance with shoes and uniforms. \$75 will cover those costs for one lucky kid. If you're interested, contact Bobby King from Social Action. (678-592-4068)

## ¿HABLA USTED ESPANOL?

Our community occasionally needs translators and interpreters, and YOU could help out. If you speak another language, please let us know. We are especially looking for Spanish speakers to help our local Hispanic community. Your assistance could help parents communicate with teachers or other needs. Contact Bobby King from Social Action to be put on a list. (678-592-4068)

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Finding your niche in any larger group is always a challenge. This is a shout out to John Austin, who actively works to find those for whom singing is a spiritual practice and bringing them into our music ministry. John has a way of bringing out the best in all of us, and making us feel at home. Thanks, John!



## 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.



**LGBTQ**  
Welcoming Congregation

## WHAT IS A "WELCOMING CONGREGATION" IN THE UUA?

—*Sue Null*

Religious spaces haven't always been welcoming places for all people, especially when it comes to gender and sexuality.

For 25 years, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has worked hard to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are full members of our faith communities. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences. The Welcoming Congregation Program helps us to learn how to undo homophobia, and transphobia (prejudice against transgender people).

Today, most Unitarian Universalist congregations are recognized Welcoming Congregations. UUTC was originally certified as a Welcoming Congregation in 2009. We, as well as other previously certified UUA congregations, are being asked to participate in a Five Pillars of Welcome Renewal.

1. The 300 congregations not yet "approved" are encouraged to fulfill the objectives of the Welcoming Congregation, which over 800 congregations have done. To remain "current," Welcoming Congregations must renew the Five Pillars of Welcome every year.
2. Congregations are urged to incorporate at least two Welcoming Worship Services that includes LGBTQ+ / TGQNB people into the worship calendar every year. [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, Genderqueer, Non-Binary). Transfolk and queer people of color may not feel at home in a UU congregation.
3. The third pillar is an annual recognition of the Welcoming Days of Observance.
4. The Welcoming Congregation Webinar and/or Seminar should take place at least once a year
5. Welcoming Congregations are encouraged to donate to an LGBTQ+ / TGQNB organization of their choice.

UUTC is preparing in 2019 for recertification as a Welcoming Congregation in 2020.

**FELLOWSHIP ON TAP  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 6:00PM  
MAYBERRY'S!**

### Threshold

R. S. THOMAS

*I emerge from the mind's  
cave into the worse darkness  
outside, where things pass and  
the Lord is in none of them.*

*I have heard the still, small voice  
and it was that of the bacteria  
demolishing my cosmos. I  
have lingered too long on*

*this threshold, but where can I go?  
To look back is to lose the soul  
I was leading upwards towards  
the light. To look forward? Ah,*

*what balance is needed at  
the edges of such an abyss.  
I am alone on the surface  
of a turning planet. What*

*to do but, like Michelangelo's  
Adam, put my hand  
out into unknown space,  
hoping for the reciprocating touch?*

### TEAM MEETING NIGHT — NEXT MONTH

Team Meeting Night next month is Wednesday, March 6.

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 team 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 still be some time for members to brainstorm about how to use this system to be more efficient in meeting Function. 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 set up.

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!



### WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT UUTC —ECLECTICS @ 9:30-11:00AM



This group just keeps sounding better. If you haven't dropped by, maybe it's time to enrich your Wednesday!

### GETTING CONNECTED



Contact Directories are really important for us all to stay connected. But did you know that the **ChurchLife** app is available to **Members AND Friends**? It is easy to use and is the most up-to-date resource for reaching other members of UUTC.

You can download and install the app from either Google Play or the Apple App Store. **Before you can use it, however, you will need a password from our ACS database.**

**To get that password, go to our Member page on the website:** <http://uutc.org/member/>, scroll down to the red "ACS" logo and click on it. It will direct you to the ACS login/get a password page. On that page, **look below the login** box for "Need a Login? Click Here," and enter your email there. This will connect you to ACS and they will email you with a way to select a password to use with the **ChurchLife** app.

**Sometimes this email ends up in your spam folder.** If you have any trouble getting your password, come in to see RK and we'll get you set up properly. Be sure to bring all your OTHER passwords with you (email, Apple Id, etc), so we can complete the installation process.

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**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SMARTPHONE:** Drop by the office and request a printed copy of the contact directory, available to Members and Friends. While it has no images, it will give you current information for all the lovely people in our UUTC family.

Finally, be sure to sign up for a copy of the Photo Directory. This calendar-style publication has a list of our group emails, and photos of nearly all our Members and Friends. It really helps when you get home, had a great conversation, but can't remember his/her name! Cost is \$10.

## 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).