

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, 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
 Men's Group — Tues @ 9:00
 Music Sorting — Tues @ 10:00
 Dream Group — Tues @ 2:30
 SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00
 Eclectics — Wed @ 10:00
 Dignity Sorting — Wed @ 2:00
 Choir Rehearsal — Wed @ 4:00
 Facilities Mtg — Wed @ 5:30
 Living Wage Coalition — Thurs @ 10:00
 Rainbow Alliance — Thurs @ 5:00



LOOKING BACK, LETTING GO, GOING FORWARD

Rev. Sally Beth Shore

Arbitrary though it may be, the New Year presents us with a reset opportunity, so why not? Today we look back, considering what we learned in 2019, what we want to let go of, and what we might work toward in 2020. We will utilize a “burning bowl” ritual to help clear our hearts and minds and make a fresh start for this year.

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

*“Letting go is an inside job,
 something only we can do
 for ourselves.”*

- Sharon Salzberg

Real Love: The Art of Mindful Connection

Social Justice Giving: UUSC



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates.

Our mission: UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Our work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity. [Learn more about our unique approach.](#)

Contributions to UUSC of \$125 or over are matched by the Shelter Rock Congregation (UU). Make out your check to UUTC with "UUSC" on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW Living As If Our Bodies Matter

Rev. Sally Beth Shore

It's a New Year, and as usual, many of us have made resolutions about how we will exercise more, go on a diet, start yoga classes, or generally take better care of ourselves, among other goals. But a week in, and some of us are already starting to wane. How come? Why did we make these resolutions in the first place, and what motivates us to follow through? What's possible when we live as if our bodies matter?

SOUPER SUNDAY — JANUARY 12TH!

It's time to warm our bellies! Can you bring a soup? Or crackers? Something gluten free? Something vegan? Something spicy? Somehow, all these options seem to show up. Maybe it was your own personal magic. Sign up at the front counter this Sunday—you will never have so many compliments on your cooking in one setting! Stay after the second service on the 12th and enjoy a lovely time with members, friends and visitors of UUTC. This event brought to you by the Membership Team.



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE & SUMMARY

INTENTIONAL PARENTS CIRCLE (IPC)—SUNDAY, JAN 12, 5:00PM

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

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. You can learn more about **Our Whole Lives** sexuality education at the [UUA Website](#).



For more information, email Kevin Lausch (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

CRE CLASSES REBOOT

CRE began the year with Danny Szemple and an inter-generational model of children in the service. He had a successful Chalice Camp for approximately 15 children. After his resignation, Kevin Lausch transitioned into the DCRE position and re-launched CRE classroom programming in September. Due to parental preference, the CRE classes moved to the 9:15 service. Two UUTC teens were hired as teaching assistants and 3 adults were hired as part-time teachers. Sadly, one of the teachers moved out of state in December. The largest obstacle faced by the program is the need for a temporary or full-time teacher for the younger class and more parent volunteers to assist CRE programming. Our younger children's class (ages 4-7) has between 8-12 children.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

A Family Fun Night launched in October and will be held occasionally. Time for All Ages now happens in both services once a month. A CRE food drive for Sharing House collected over 200lbs. of food. And Santa's Workshop hosted 22 happy kids for holiday gift making, thanks to 10 incredible volunteers. Finally, Kevin is hoping to send children to the Mountain for Youth Con in the spring. To learn more about the Youth Conference ("Con") experience at the Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, follow [THIS LINK](#).

Brigid Fox (member of the Board of Trustees and the CRE Team) **and Kevin Lausch**



FACILITIES TEAM 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Facilities Team provides a welcoming building and grounds environment where church members and visitors may experience beauty, serenity, and worship or quiet contemplation in surroundings created with respect for the integrity of our earth and its local ecosystems.

BUILDING

Maintenance:

Social hall and childcare carpets cleaned twice • Folding tables and chairs and children's furniture cleaned twice • All windows cleaned inside and outside

HVAC system inspected and serviced, filters replaced quarterly • Fire extinguishers certified, also inspected quarterly • Building inspected by Fire Marshal • EXIT sign at front doors repaired • HVAC room purged of unnecessary items

Minister's office and AV office painted • Nursery painted and decals applied • Table storage door replaced with lighter weight, smaller door • Tapestry piece relocated to front sanctuary wall • Plumbing pipes extending into sanctuary removed and capped

Improvements:

Single shelf installed above workstation in main office • TV monitors mounted in large classroom, in foyer, in social hall, and in sanctuary • Soundbars installed for TV monitors in foyer and social hall • Shelf stained and installed below TV monitor in social hall

Permanent hooks for CRE bags installed in hallway outside sanctuary • UUTC banners installed in small classroom and minister's office • Chalice painting installed in foyer • Lateral files relocated to facilitate multi-purpose use of classrooms • New arrangement of chairs in sanctuary • Choir relocated to west alcove of sanctuary

Florescent light fixtures replaced with new LED fixtures in social hall, foyer, classrooms, offices, hallway, bathrooms • Old sound system disassembled; new AV desk built and installed; AV office rearranged to accommodate replacement of sound system and multipurpose use of office • New sound system installed • Hooks for microphone cable storage installed in maintenance room

GROUNDS

Maintenance:

New memorial leaves placed on Tree of Life in Memorial Garden • Grounds cleared, weeded, pruned multiple times • 50 bales of pine straw spread • Wildflower meadow pruned and mulched • Shade sails removed and stored for winter

Improvements:

Live stakes of elderberry and silky dogwood planted along Jumping Branch Creek • Native species of



Facilities Team gremlins—Mary Bennett, in this case — repair building wounds like this.

Fothergilla and *Diervilla* shrubs and Hawthorn tree planted along drive beside Memorial Garden • Two large raised beds constructed as border between Olympia Brown House and new Fellowship Green

Fellowship Green design developed, approved, funded and implemented • Wildflower meadow established and planted • Peace Pole installed in meadow • Garden shed installed and outfitted on grounds beside Fellowship Green • Picnic tables painted • Shade sails installed over tables • Five pallet gardens constructed for CRE • Fellowship Green dedicated in July 2019



VARSITY HOUSES

Olympia Brown House: Landscaping improved with new large front bed and new plantings, Bedrooms and living room painted

Chalice House: River birch and oakleaf hydrangeas planted at edge of mulched bed to provide screening from Olympia Brown House

ADMINISTRATION

Building and grounds assessed monthly • Strategic plan for building maintenance monitored and updated periodically • Facilities Activity Tracker updated monthly • Facilities Budget monitored and updated as needed • Operating Guidelines reviewed, revised, and 2019 Edition adopted

VISIONING

- Replacement of all entry/exit doors in the building with appropriate egress doors
- Installation of insulated shades in all exterior windows
- Replacement of original wooden sign
- Installation of janitor's sink in maintenance room
- Development of CRE natural play area in greenspace behind Chalice House
- Expansion of Wildflower Meadow
- Development of Meditation Garden in greenspace beside back parking

SOMETIMES WE FORGET...

... how many hands it takes to run a church! Unitarian Universalist congregations are completely self-funded, in the sense that the UUA doesn't send money to the congregations. We have congregational polity and therefore choose our own ministers, our own missions, our own visions.

Being self-funded means that we have to make choices about what we pay to have done and what we do for ourselves with our own labor. What UUTC manages to do is, frankly, pretty amazing for such a young congregation. You have built an incredible thing... and you are doing incredible work! — RK

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

2020 UUTC CIRCLE DINNERS — BEGINNING FEBRUARY 8TH

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 Members and Friends. 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, in some cases the dinner can be attended by a smaller group. The main objective of these dinners is the human interaction, not necessarily a dining experience.

The following are the dates for the first round of 2020 UUTC Circle Dinners:

Saturday February 8, 2020 • Saturday March 14, 2020 • Saturday April 11, 2020

According to the results of this first round of dinners, we will decide if we want to schedule more Circle Dinners during the rest of the year. It is perfectly acceptable to participate in more than one of these dinners, or even in all of them. The more dinners attended, the more personal relationships that will be developed among the UUTC community.

You will find a sign-up sheet on the counter in the UUTC foyer for participation either as a host and/or as a guest. I will contact everyone to work out the details for the organization of the dinners.



Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the 2020 UUTC Circle Dinners.

Quim Moya 828-513-0657 quimmoya45@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP PRIORITIES FOR 2020

The Membership Team, a Ministry Team, welcomes visitors to all church functions and assists them in making appropriate contacts that will help them to serve, give, learn and grow. The Team will offer “Introducing UUTC “ sessions and other continuing education activities as requested, and will assist new members to make connections and commitments.

Priorities for the coming year include:

1. Completing the new Greeting Program.
2. Personalizing ongoing connections with new visitors, guests and members.
3. Organizing a multi-part “Introducing UUTC” Course to assist prospective members in better understanding our particular UU congregation.
4. Providing fellowship opportunities on Second Sunday, including “Souper Sunday” and Summer Socials.



In addition to these activities, the Team will promote the whole range of affiliated activities. For example, this Circle Dinners will be back. They will be coordinated this year by Quim Moya. Team Members for this include Victoria Kerr, Midge Hoover, Sue Null, Lauren Huffnagel, Peter Mockridge, and Tim McGann. If you would like to join the Membership Team or have any questions, please contact Tim McGann at brc2020tjm@outlook.com

WORK OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE IN 2019

Submitted by Administration Committee Secretary Kay Webb

During 2019 year, the Administration Committee reviewed, revised and submitted to the Board its Operating Guidelines for approval, as directed by policy and the UUTC Organizational Structure.

Members conducted an annual review of the Policy Manual and recommended to the Board a 2019 Edition of the Policy Manual, which was adopted. Over the course of the year, the committee responded to requests from the Board to recommend new policies on Gift Planning (Section V. FINANCE), Stewardship of UUTC Property (Section VI. PROPERTY), Disruptive Behavior (Section III. PEOPLE), and clarification of benefits for part-time employees (Section VII. EMPLOYMENT). These new policies were approved and are included in the current Policy Manual.

Finally, at the request of the Board, the committee undertook a complete review of the UUTC Bylaws. Committee members concluded the year with a December report to the Board recommending proposed revisions to the Bylaws for their consideration. Approvement of these revisions by the Board will create the **need for voting on these revisions at the Congregational Meeting on May 17th.**

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM YEAR IN REVIEW

FUNCTION: The function of the Social Action Team is to provide leadership within the congregation for spiritually nourishing and impactful engagement in social, economic, and environmental justice endeavors that are aligned with UUTC goals and UU values.

The Social Action Team has had a busy year reorganizing, revitalizing, and refocusing its activities in addition to continuing some of its traditional areas of focus.

There were two major changes for the Social Action Team early in the year, one involving our team leadership, with Susan Zelle stepping down as Team Leader to join the UUTC Board of Directors and Lisa McHenry and Sharon Moya agreeing to take on the role as co-leaders for a year. Having said that, it's also important to note that the Team now operates using shared leadership so that, fundamentally, all Team members perform leadership roles. In addition to now having an official Team secretary, others on the Team organize and lead many of the activities and programs that are a part of what we do. We are happy to report that we've had five new individuals join the Team this year.

The second major change that occurred early this year is that Sacred Fire combined with the Social Action Team with all combined membership agreeing to follow the Sacred Fire model of social action. This model focuses on whole congregation involvement in social action that seeks to (1) impact at a systemic level, (2) grow relationships with others and other organizations, (3) seek root causes of injustices, and (4) focus on changes to systems rather than simply giving (although we still do a fair amount of that while trying to bring about change within the system).

To help accomplish what the model seeks, the Team held two retreats in which it took a hard look at what we do as a Team and what we believe we should be doing. Sometimes those matched, and sometimes they didn't. We then set goals for July, 2019-June, 2020 and reorganized how the Team operates. The Team now conducts as much of its "business" as possible through email and rotates Team meeting nights with programs and field trips. The programs further our knowledge in the areas of the chosen goals, and the field trips seek to build relationships with our partner organizations and their clientele. For programs this year, we have heard from Emily Lowery (Director of the Haven), Beth Brannigan (social worker for Transylvania County Schools), Mark Burrows (related to housing issues), Eric Edwards (former homeless person who is now a leader in the County), and Jim Hardy (informing us about the Prisoner Re-entry Initiative). For field trips, we visited SAFE, had a barbecue with the Haven residents, and went bowling with residents of the Haven. Several members of the Social Action Team have also signed on as volunteers at the Haven, and the Team works together at the Bread of Life on 5th Thursdays.



Other highlights of the year include most members of the Team attending

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an all-day social justice training in Hendersonville (along with several other members of the UUTC congregation), adding three new organizations to the Dignity Project, a second successful year of Operation Keep Warm, a joint sponsoring of Power Up with St. Philips and the Jewish community, adoption of Davidson River School and the Haven for the Christmas Giving Tree, helping to furnish homes of Haven residents who receive housing, organization of charitable giving, and delivery of food to the Haven four times. At-will members have also helped to organize and/or implement some of our favorite social action activities: Lenten Service, Pack the Pantry, Sharing House 5th Sundays, Crop Walk, Undie Sunday, Christmas centerpieces, Back-to-School supplies, AAUW book collection, and the St. Mary's Christmas dinner.

We begin the new year with a retreat in January to re-evaluate our goals and redirect our actions and a program in February, where we will learn about an environmental justice initiative happening in Asheville and Hendersonville. The rest of the year's activities will depend on what we decide at our January retreat.

UUTC is all about social, economic, and environmental justice, and the Social Action Team is but a small group that strives to bring willing people together with people in need to help alleviate the injustices that are so prevalent in our society. We organize, and you respond...unfailingly...enthusiastically...generously. Without you, there would be no Social Action Team. Thank you for all you do!



2019-2020 WORSHIP TEAM: CHALLENGES & CREATIVITY

FUNCTION: Assist the Minister in providing spiritually nourishing worship services that are consistent with the values of our congregation.

When Rev. Ilene developed health problems and was forced to resign from UUTC, the Worship Team leapt into action and continued to provide outstanding programming on Sundays thanks to a very talented team. Joanna Bliss's efficient and decisive leadership, paired with the experience of John Austin (a choir director for DECADES), kept UUTC warm and connected during a critical time in the life of the Congregation.

New talent joined the Team, providing for strong leadership in the role of service coordination. Working with Rev. Shore, the Team has helped craft more inclusive services that empower more of membership to share their talents during Sunday services. Rev. Shore also led us through a transition to a new model of Joys & Sorrows that has increased participation while reducing the disruption of "flow" in the service. Finally, the choir continues to add new members and opportunities for musical ensembles which enrich Sunday Services. We continue to work towards "support for individual spiritual journeys."

Alice Hardy (Worship Team) & RK Young

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2019

Income: \$21,082.90 **Expenses:** \$27,830.32 **Net:** (\$6,747.42)

Unrestricted Cash on Hand: \$42,998.89

Restricted Reserve Fund: \$13,021.63

Total Available Cash on Hand: \$56,020.52

Endowment Fund balance: \$167,654.11

November Charitable Giving to The Haven: \$1108.00



Since you will be reading this in 2020, I send belated wishes for Generous and Happy Holidays. May your generosity continue and grow in this New Year, the second half of our fiscal year.

We have some catching up to do in some areas. Social Action giving, overall, is up. For the Operating Fund, pledges are coming in nicely at 55% of budget. Thank you! *Non-pledge checks, however, are at 23% of budget. Can you give this way? Sunday morning Anonymous Cash in the baskets is at 30%. Can you give this way?*

Our new software, Realm, will be a wonderful help once we are all up to speed, allowing you to track your gifts at any time convenient to you. Statements will be out by January 31 but let me know if you have any questions on your financial gifts now.

Susan Slocum

Treasurer@uutc.org

12/31/2019

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.