

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 (828) 513-0513, email lhhh@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

CONCERT Sun @ 3:30

OWL Session — Sun @ 5:30

Caregivers Group — Mon @ 10:00

Spiritual Explorers — Mon @ 3:30

Men's Group — Tues @ 9:00

Worship Team — Tues @ 1:30

Board Mtg — Tues @ 5:30

SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00

Stewardship — Wed @ 8:45

Women's Creative Café — We @ 10:00

Eclectics — Wed @ 10:00

One Life—Thurs @ 11:00

Final Acts of Love — Thurs @ 3:00

Choir Rehearsal — Wed @ 4:00



REIMAGINING DEATH

Rev. Sally Beth Shore

Science writer Connie Barlow contends that “Death is natural and creative at every level of reality” [and that] Death is no less sacred than life.... And yet, absent another interpretation all too often death is regarded as the enemy." While we wish that there could be no end to those we love, there may be ways that we can view death that would help us to become more culturally and personally accepting of it, which would help us live better too.

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

“It is a secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die, but retire a little from sight and afterwards return again.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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.](#)

All contributions to UUSC are matched by the Shelter Rock Congregation (UU). Since we combine our gifts from the shared collection and send them all as one donation, this is an opportunity for donations of any size to be matched. Make out your check to UUTC with "UUSC" on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

Without Presents—Spiritual Gifts of Louisa May Alcott

Vanessa Cowie

One of our forebears, Louisa May Alcott was a Unitarian Transcendentalist, part of a vibrant group of American intellectuals living in and around Concord, Massachusetts in the mid-1800s. Through her published works, she has shaped the spiritual and ethical values of American women up to the present day. Her semi-autobiographical novel *Little Women*, adapted for film most recently by director Greta Gerwig in a movie released in December 2019, continues to influence both literary and popular culture.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

When you've been part of a community like UUTC for awhile, it's easy to feel so comfortable that something like a "membership status" seems pretty irrelevant. Until.

This May, we will have two very important meetings, with two very important votes. One is the regular congregational meeting, in which we will vote on a new slate of leaders, a budget, by-law revisions, etc. The second (which will actually happen first) is the vote to accept a new minister. Unlike many other denominations, UU's get to choose. But only official Members can make that choice.

If you are currently a Friend or a Visitor who would like an official voice in this process, speak to the Membership Team or Rev. Shore to talk about changing your "status" at UUTC.



THIS SUNDAY! JANUARY 26, 3:30-5:00PM

Jason DeCristofaro (piano) will perform a concert of his original Jazz music and some classic Jazz standards with **Cameron Austin** (bass, son of John Austin) at UUTC! This is a duo that you don't want to miss!!!! *Tickets will be available at the door for \$15.00 per person.* Doors will open at 3:00pm. Following is a bio on Jason. Check next weeks newsletter to get to know Cameron a little better!



Cameron Austin was a mainstay bassist and producer for both live and studio production during the thriving acoustic rock decade in Atlanta, GA. In addition to occasionally playing live music, he now serves as an Associate Professor in the Business and Organizational Leadership program at Brevard College. He also owns and operates Brevard Rock Gym with his wife Rachael.

NOTE FROM REV. SHORE

Hi UUTC—

I hope you will be able to join Council and other UUTC members and friends on February 8 for the continuation of the Vision 2025 project. I'll offer a quick review of Appreciative Inquiry, and then we'll move into developing dreams and goals for UUTC in the areas of Membership and Social Action. This is not just for current teams, but for all of us who want to help UUTC grow and fulfil its potential. Please check the counter for the sign-up sheet.



On Sunday, as part of the service, "Keeping Faith with Martin," I mentioned the organization [Better Angels](#), which creates workshops bringing people of opposing politics together for civil discourse. A few of you told me after the service you would be interested in learning more, and possibly helping to bring such a workshop to Brevard. Please [email me](#) if you'd like to be added to that list.

This coming Sunday we tackle Death, or rather, ponder how our views of death shape our living. Jim Null has created a 5-part class, Final Acts of Love, around helping to prepare for death practically and spiritually, that starts that afternoon. More information can be found in the foyer and elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sally Beth

NEW CLASS OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2020 — IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

***Final Acts of Love*, from Adult Religious Exploration Thursdays, beginning January 30th, 3:00-4:30**



Our opening speaker is Dr. Jackson P. Rainer, a renowned Doctor of psychology with extensive speaking experience on grief, caregiver fatigue, and spiritual responses to these end of life events. He is the author of ***Life After Loss: Contemporary Grief Counseling & Therapy***, and ***Isolated and Alone: Therapeutic Interventions for Loneliness*** and other titles. Dr. Rainer's chosen areas of research include grief and bereavement, end-of-life care, quality of life enhancement, rural mental health, and psychotherapy processes.

Dr. Morris Jenkins will speak on February 6th on hospice care and end of life decisions on medical care. Jim Null will speak on February 13th on end of life financial choices. Rev. shore and a panel will speak on February 20th on grief and memorial services. The program for the final session on February 27th is not yet confirmed, but in the works. Sign up at the front counter!

NEW IN YOUR UUTC LIBRARY

SIMON BLACKBURN

Think



This week three new books have been added to your UUTC Library. They are shelved alphabetically by author in the Philosophy section of our Library:

***THINK* by Simon Blackburn**

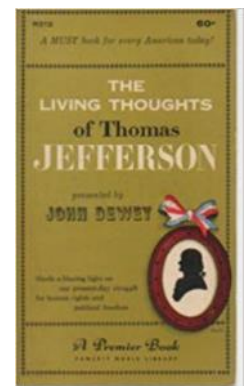
This is a book about the big questions of life: knowledge, consciousness, fate, God, truth, goodness, justice. It is for anyone who believes there are big questions out there, but does not know how to approach them.

***A TREATISE OF HUMAN NATURE* by David Hume**

In this book the great 18th century philosopher introduces the experimental method of reasoning into moral subjects. The book includes an introduction by D. G. C. Macnabb, Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford. The book is in the Philosophy section.

***THE LIVING THOUGHTS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON* edited by John Dewey**

In a period when the ideals of democracy were assailed as treason, Thomas Jefferson stood as a herald of the new freedoms that were stirring across the world. His words today are as alive with meaning and power as they were two centuries ago. This book is now in the Philosophy section.



It is easy to check out a book. Simply find the book on the shelf, then enter your name, the book title, and the check-out date in the ledger located on the counter of the Library. Return the book at your leisure.

HOW DO WE PICK OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE GIVING ORGANIZATIONS?

Social Action is busy looking at choices for our monthly social justice giving for the coming fiscal year (July 2020– June 2021). Our congregation votes on which organizations to designate as recipients for our monthly giving. Social Action does “Due Diligence” by researching the organizations, many of whom we’ve given to before. These are the factors that we look at when considering a program/organization:

- HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES IT SERVE?
- DOES IT FILL UNMET NEEDS OR SERVE NEW POPULATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY?
- IS IT PARTNERING WITH OTHERS?
- IS IT A WELL RUN ORGANIZATION WITH A REACH BEYOND BREVARD?
- DO WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ORGANIZATION, OR ARE WE TRYING TO BUILD ONE?
- WHAT ARE THEIR FINANCES AND HOW DO THEY GENERATE MONEY?
- DO THEY REALLY NEED US?

If you have a non-profit you’d like to suggest, email the details to Lisa McHenry (LISMCH7@GMAIL.COM) along with the answers to these questions. We will be looking at candidates soon, so your deadline is FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH.

Ballots will be included in the Order of Service on the Sundays of April 5th and 12th.

ADVANCING UUTC’S VISION

Workshop with the Membership & Social Action Teams, led by Rev. Shore

For UUTC Members, Friends & Visitors • Saturday, February 8th, 9:00am to Noon

UUTC has moved into the next phase of Vision 2025, developing goals and planning initiatives that will advance the Vision shared with you this past Fall. Using the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) tools for positive change, the upcoming workshop – like the “Taste of AI” session held in November – will be highly interactive with “roll-up-your-sleeves” activities. Everyone who attends will discuss ideas, priorities, and initiatives for the Membership and Social Action Teams to carry forward as they develop their plans and activities for 2020 and beyond.

You did not have to attend the AI workshop or even the Vision 2025 Launch to participate in what will be a creative, forward-looking, and fun time together! Coffee and breakfasty-snacks will be served.



Sign up at the front counter!

UPDATE FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Since the new year began, Search Committee members have been busy interviewing potential candidates. The whole search progress began when the committee submitted a congregational profile for candidates to review; this was done in December. On January 2, the Search Committee received the list of candidates who expressed interest in UUTC.

Within a short time, members read and discussed each minister's application then ranked our top candidates. We arranged for an hour-long video meeting with each, asking detailed questions and answering their questions. From those interviews, we selected the top three candidates. In February and March, the committee will meet with each one for personal interviews. The committee will also hear each candidate give a sermon at a neutral location.



When all the visits are done, we will rank these candidates on who we feel would fit best at UUTC. At the same time, candidates will rank their favored congregations. When we arrive at a match, UUTC will extend an offer to a candidate and invite this person to visit the church for Candidating Week (April 26-May 3). During this time, members and friends will hear the final candidate deliver two Sunday sermons and will have several opportunities to interact with our prospective new minister. On the final day of Candidating Week, Members of the congregation will vote to accept or reject this candidate to serve as our settled minister.

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](#).

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.