

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 lhkh@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

SPRING FORWARD — set your clocks

SOUPER SUNDAY!! — Sun @ 12:00

Caregivers Group — Mon @ 10:00

Spiritual Explorers — Mon @ 3:30

CONCERT — Mon @ 7:00

Men's Group — Tues @ 9:00

Stewardship — Tues @ 10:15

SMART Recovery — Tues @ 6:00

Eclectics — Wed @ 10:00

Lenten Lunch — Wed @ Noon

Dignity Sorting — Wed @ 2:00

Choir Rehearsal — Wed @ 4:00

Living Wage Coalition — Thurs @ 10:00

Rainbow Alliance — Thurs @ 5:00

Saturday — Circle Dinners



BUILDING BRIDGES

Jim Hardy & Tommy Laws

At present, approximately 2.3 million Americans are locked up in US jails and prisons. On a per capita basis, America imprisons more people than any other nation on earth. Yet, close to 95% of those now serving time will be released and return to their communities at a rate of about 650,000 per year. Sadly, many return broke and homeless, lacking the skills, connections, and support they need to become successful citizens and avoid re-incarceration.

The Choir will sing John Rutter's "Distant Land."

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

*“Help thy brother’s boat across
and lo! Thine own has reached
the shore.”*

- Hindu Proverb

Social Justice Giving: SAFE



SAFE wants to ensure that all victims of domestic and sexual abuse can find safety, be treated with dignity and respect, and get access to the opportunities and services they need to create long-lasting changes that will result in a life free of domestic and sexual abuse.

Make out your check to UUTC with “SAFE” on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

This mockup tag is smaller than the design suggested by Membership, which will leave room for stickers!



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

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GROWING PAINS & THEIR REMEDIES

You may have noticed the breeding pile of nametags in the drawers under David Berger’s chalice painting in the foyer. At last count we had breached 800... (ok, maybe I exaggerate). Regardless, you are being presented with **Options**.

The Membership Team is encouraging visitors to complete Welcome Cards and to cut the bottom off of these cards for an instant name tag that will not have to be replaced by any other as long as the visitor chooses to visit or more formally affiliate. This will help our new minister to distinguish between visitors and members—with 250 members and friends, and dozens more visitors, it can get legitimately confusing. A minister should have the benefit of some visual clue to know with whom they speaketh.

To that end, beginning with this new member class, those who choose to affiliate will be given magnetic name tags — look to Victoria Kerr to see an example. This will be their gift from the congregation.

Members and Friends who have been around awhile can sign up to get this same type of name tag. Each magnetic tag costs a bit over \$10—we are asking for a \$10 donation to offset this cost for those who wish to “make the switch.”



HOW PREPARED IS UUTC FOR A PANDEMIC OR OTHER EMERGENCY?

“Preparation,” under UUA guidelines, is a many-faceted thing. We have been working on safety at UUTC for a number of years, and trying to prioritize projects based on the most statistically likely needs. We started this work in 2015, repairing our outdoor lighting, repairing our sidewalks (and making sure all entrances/exits have ramps), replacing carpets in the classrooms with flooring that could be bleached, and repairing our alarm system, which now allows us to notify medical professionals with the push of a button. The first priority was to prevent accidents and unsanitary conditions.

Other preparation has been more subtle. The installation of a changing station in the nursery meant that the room always has two sets of adult eyes, protecting child safety. And our fancy, “no touch” trashcans, now located in nearly every room, mean that no one has to touch a lid that might have been contaminated by a soggy Kleenex—reducing exposure hazards for everyone. Creating the table closet in the social hall reduced the chances of injury as compared to the previous storage in the HVAC room which was a potential booby trap for all who entered.

Part of institutional planning is ensuring that whatever systems keep the institution running have backups to preserve that functionality. Setting up critical staff with laptop computers that can be used from home to preserve the ability of staff to “do the work” meets part of this need. Cloud-based software systems allow staff to maintain connections with the congregation from home, as well. And we have moved nearly everyone into “messaging” via email or app, so that only a few people need to be contacted with a phone call, should we need, in good conscience, to cancel a service or other event. **Team and Committee Leaders**, out of an abundance of caution you might wish to conduct some of your business via email.

This week UUTC purchased immense quantities of disinfecting wipes, extra (unscented) hand soap, and charcoal air filters. The air filters are to help deal with the fragrance of Lysol and other disinfectants — there is no easy way to sanitize our sanctuary chairs aside from a fine-mist aerosol. But that work was done on Thursday, and the air filters should neutralize the odors by Sunday. Staff is wiping every conceivable handle and light switch daily— it is also flu season, not just COVID-19 season, and we would love to help keep you healthy. But if you feel unwell, please stay home—the sermon will be available for you in *The AfterWord* on Monday mornings!

We have all been inundated through various news sources with ways to protect ourselves: while you probably have had your fill of these, click [HERE](#) to access the CDC’s guide for households if you would like to compare your notes. While COVID-19 hasn’t yet made its way to our mountains, we cannot pretend there’s no way it will. Honor another’s desire to not shake hands or hug—use the Vulcan Salute, a nod, a wave or a Namaste to convey your fondness for each other. Eat things that will keep you healthy. Turn off the news for awhile. Do something that will make you smile or laugh. Sit or walk in the sunshine every time it shows up. And please adopt a religion of washing your hands — if you sing “Come, Come, Whoever You Are” twice while you wash, you will defeat the bugs!

NOTE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF CRE

Here's what's coming up:

March 29 at 5PM: Family Movie Night! Kids of all ages are invited to come to church to watch [Monsters, Inc.](#) in the sanctuary. Please sign up at the front desk so that we know how much pizza to order.

Easter Sunday, April 12 at 10:30am: Easter Egg Hunt! Our volunteers and Rainbow Kids (older kids) hide the eggs in the garden during the 9:15 service and the younger kids and nursery will hunt the eggs during the coffee time. Please contact Kevin if you would like to volunteer— your donation of plastic eggs is welcome!

April 19 - Intergenerational Service for Earth Day and the Our Whole Lives Graduation (with reception following). There are no children's classes on this day.

June 8 - 12: Get ready UUTC, Hogwarts Chalice Camp is coming! This Harry Potter themed day camp is for kids 5 to 10 and runs 9am to noon daily. More info and sign ups available soon. — Kevin



FIRE? REALLY? — A REFRESHER

At public schools, when an alarm rings, teachers and kids have to be out of the building and at a designated location within 2 minutes flat. This is true regardless of how large the school is, because in the event of an actual emergency, response must become “routine.”

If you are in the sanctuary:

Listen to the Minister/Service Coordinator and execute on the actions. Speed is important, but being willing to assist anyone next to you. EXIT OUT OF THE SANCTUARY DOORS TO THE OUTSIDE, NOT BACK INTO THE BUILDING.

Musicians should clear chairs and instruments away from exits. Parents, once out, will find their children as below...

If you are in charge of children:

Gather children into the hall, shut classroom doors and proceed to the front doors (assuming no fire present on that path)... move to the lower parking lot. Keep the children at the Varsity Street side of the parking lot so parents may come to them there.

ACTIVE DUTY = NEW FRIENDS!

Treasure, Talent — and Time! Service on a Team is a great way to get to know a small group of people instead of “knowing” all 250 of us at once. If you want to get to know a few people well, consider joining Membership, Worship or Adult Religious Exploration. All Teams benefit from the new ideas that new members bring. It's rewarding — and fun!

GETTING TO KNOW...

ROBERTA MILLER

I've been in Brevard for twenty-five years, first on the mountaintop in Whiskey Creek I, and now in town. My husband Bob is a retired social worker, and I spent my working life as a teacher and then as a public relations person for an educational non-profit. Soon after moving to Brevard, I became a volunteer for Rise & Shine Freedom School for a wonderful sixteen years filled with great children, generous volunteers and devoted staff. While I occasionally had attended UUTC services and events, it was not until late this past spring that I realized that I needed to make a more concerted effort to be a part of a positive force in the current negative swirl. So here I am, grateful for yet another warm and generous place that is always working for inclusiveness and fairness.



LESLIE KEIR

Leslie, like so many of us, has gotten around. She has lived in NY, KY, MO and NJ. She came to Brevard for the mountains and family — her parents retired here and her children, a son, a daughter and their children, live in Asheville.



Leslie spent 31 years as a reading specialist. Since retiring, she has volunteered in hospice, and Bread of Life and at UUTC in lots of different ways (Yay, Leslie!). She still loves reading and walking. Leslie thought that she would have to attend the Hendersonville UU, but found UUTC when she moved next door to UUTC Founders Paul & Susan Cox—and ended up becoming a Founding member herself!

KATHRYN BURLEIGH

Kathryn, formerly from Houston, TX, made a “concerted effort” not to retire in Houston (post hurricane Harvey, this seems really, really smart). Her parents met and married in the Air Force, so she and her siblings have been all around the world.

Asked about her interests, Kathryn replied, “Many—they come and go throughout life. Right now I want to try Fly Fishing.” She must be interested in gardening, because she planted a very large maple on the Fellowship Green last weekend with Bart Renner! Kathryn found out about UUTC’s community when Bill Zimzey dragged her to Fellowship on Tap at KTCHN. On joining, she said “it seems like a fit and I would like to belong to something more significant.”



THE YELLOW BOX RETURNS

AAUW is collecting your books for their annual book sale. The sale takes place at Brevard College in the Boshamer Gym. UUTC has always been very generous with their book contributions. You will find their 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 Gypsy Richardson at 828-884-3616** and she will arrange to have them picked up from your home. The American Association of University Women thanks you for your books and your generosity.

LENTEN LUNCH: MEDITATION & PRACTICE

Wednesdays during Lent UUTC is offering contemplative Lenten practice during lunchtime. The overall theme for the sessions is cultivating Appreciation, but each Wednesday will have a specific orientation. Sessions will take place in the sanctuary, and include some combination of music, readings, contemplation/meditation, experiential process, and/or story. You are invited to bring a friend and your lunch and eat together in the social hall afterward.

“How wonderful to take a mid-day break for reflection, to pause with others in my faith community and speak of those things we appreciate, those things we wish to create in greater abundance. I enjoyed visiting around the table afterward while we had lunch. No pressure. No should. Simply sharing.” — Peggy Bogardus



“The Lenten service today spoke to my heart. We listened to music, shared with one another, listened to a meaningful reading, meditated, sang Spirit of Life, and then ate lunch together in warmth and fellowship. It was a beautiful interlude in a busy day.” — Alice Wellborn



- March 11** Practice: Focus (Rev. Shore, TBD)
- March 18** Practice: Self Love (Don Lander)
- March 25** Practice: Trust (Kristin Leesment)
- April 1** Practice: Wonder (Rev. Carter Heyward)

Come to one or all, no sign up required. Noon to 12:30pm (lunch following)

COMMUNITY ID PROJECT — PHOTO IDS FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY RESIDENTS

A local group supported by individuals, churches, El Centro and other community agencies has initiated a project to provide every resident of Transylvania County with a secure photo ID which includes emergency contact information. While you might not have the need for additional identification, many other residents do – the homeless, undocumented immigrants, those living in shelters, and folks who, for other reasons, simply do not have adequate identification. By each of us obtaining an I.D., we are showing our solidarity with everyone in our community.

The Community ID is not a substitute for an official government issued ID and does not allow the holder to vote or operate a motor vehicle. The ID cards could be used for a variety of purposes including school registration, cashing checks, obtaining a library card or applying for a job. The emergency contact information on the card will be particularly useful.

Our local law enforcement, social service providers, and EMS agree that the I.D. card can be helpful in their work and will help to make our community a healthier and safer place for all.

Brevard and Transylvania County are ready to step forward and say, "We care about our neighbors. Residents of this county are valued and respected. We believe the ID card will help to increase public safety and assist in providing needed services for all."

If you would like to obtain a community I.D., you can receive one right here at UUTC on March 16 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. IMPORTANT: Because of the time it takes to process each applicant, we can only process 16 people during that 2 hour period. So, if you are interested in receiving an I.D., you must sign up in advance. If you would like to receive an I.D., please contact Bobby King at 678-592-4068 or at bobbyking48@yahoo.com. He will answer any of your questions and tell you what documents to bring to qualify you to sign up.

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.