



# wayfinding

## Opening to Joy

**Facebook or YouTube Livestream at 9:00am, Sunday— Services at 9:00 & 11:00**

I am told the Hebrew root for "joy," *ranan*, means "to shout, to cry out" and to "overcome." We open the joyous season remembering that it does not mean "frantic," "busy," or any other habits of the season.

Speaker: Rev. Bob Renjilian

## Tuning In Online

Find links to live-streamed programming on the home page of our [website](#). Beneath the banner, you will see links for both Facebook and YouTube. **These links work for ALL live-streamed events— at the time of the event.** To find events after the time of the live stream, subscribe to our YouTube channel. All programs are archived to this channel.



Photo by [MI PHAM](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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*“Sorrow prepares you for joy. It violently sweeps everything out of your house, so that new joy can find space to enter. It shakes the yellow leaves from the bough of your heart, so that fresh, green leaves can grow in their place. It pulls up the rotten roots, so that new roots hidden beneath have room to grow. Whatever sorrow shakes from your heart, far better things will take their place.”*

– Rumi

# October

## Excerpts from the Minutes:

Present: Glenn Cockerham, Betty Kendrick, Gail Meyers, Quim Moya, Rev. Bob Renjilian, Bart Renner, Kay Webb, Alice Wellborn, and RK Young.



### Minister's Report – Reflecting on the “next

normal,” Rev. Bob noted that there was good attendance on “Choir Sunday,” but he also shared that there is still a sense of caution and a reluctance to return to group gatherings among some congregants. He attended the Southern Region UU Ministers retreat at The Mountain and attended a Zoom meeting of the UUA Religious Education Credentialing Committee. ~ During this time of not “business as usual,” he expressed gratitude for all Staff members, for Board members, and for the people who show up for services, attend meetings, reach out to people in need, and hang out at UUTC social events.

**Treasurer's Report** – In the Drive Down the Debt campaign, Gail reported that over \$27,000 has been collected and paid toward mortgage principle, resulting in approximately \$22,500 of interest savings and the payoff date shortened by 1 year 7 months. Another \$5000 in donations will be paid toward principle next week. ~ Gail reported that she will begin doing monthly projection estimate analyses each month for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Operations Report** — RK reported that UUTC has joined the North Carolina Native Plant Society and will begin work on a grant application from the Society, due in September. This initiative will fit naturally into the multi-year schedule for renewing the Varsity Street property. It may well provide UUTC the opportunity to achieve Green Sanctuary status and to become a demonstration site for others.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Housing Allowance Resolution - A copy of the Minister's Housing Allowance Resolution was sent to Board members prior to the meeting. Kay made a motion to approve the resolution to reaffirm the Minister's housing allowance for 2022 (as stated below); Alice seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was approved.

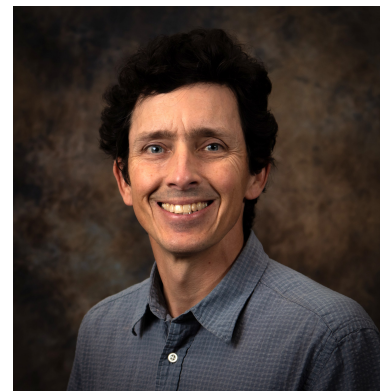
To read the full minutes, click [HERE](#).

For the Treasurer's Report, reflecting the month of October, click [HERE](#).

# Children's Religious Exploration

## Kevin Lausch, Director of CRE

The Children's Religious Exploration meets every Sunday morning during the **9:00 service only**. Two classes are offered, Chalice Children, aged 4 to 7, and Rainbow Kids, aged 8 to 11. The classes will be held outside on the Fellowship Green as long as weather permits, and once they return inside will follow the UUTC guidelines of masking indoors. We are thankful that children over the age of 5 can now be vaccinated.



Director of Children's Religious Exploration, Kevin Lausch

## MONTHLY INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CRE offers monthly intergenerational activities that provide a chance for all ages to fellowship together, meet others in the church, and enjoy the outdoors.

## TEEN/TWEEN BOOK CLUB

The UUTC Tween/Teen Book Club continues this fall. The club uses graphic novels (long form comic books) to teach UU values. Such books as John Lewis' "March" and "The Witchboy Trilogy" by Molly Knox Ostertag sparked discussions about civil rights, gender stereotypes and standing up for what you believe. In December, we will talk about the book *When Stars Are Scattered* (a true story of a boy named Omar living in a refugee camp) and go to a local ice cream shop. Please RSVP to get a book FOR FREE to [kevin@uutc.org](mailto:kevin@uutc.org). The meeting is this Saturday between 2 and 4 pm.

## OUR WHOLE LIVES

CRE will offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality and health program this winter and spring. The program is for 7th-9th graders and provides a comprehensive, scientifically based and LGBTQ+ positive sexuality education. The goal is to provide honest, accurate information that dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, and improves sexual and life decision making. The program includes weekly meetings and retreats and covers a professionally developed, age-appropriate curriculum.



# Quiet Group Meditation

## David Alff

Our Quiet Meditation Group meets on **Tuesdays, from 4 to 5 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Meetings will continue weekly, same day, same time—**except for Tuesday, December 21st**, the night of our Solstice Service. The Worship Team will need the space to prepare for the service. Please arrive promptly, so we can lock the doors and get under way. All are welcome. Contact David Alff, [david.alf@gmail.com](mailto:david.alf@gmail.com).

## Drive Down the Debt: Final Hours

This year's Giving Tuesday campaign is the kind of activity homeowners take when they make an extra principle payment. They are looking to make the rules of interest act in their own favor. In our case, with gifts of \$35,750 paid in early principal payment (as I write this), we are saving nearly \$29,000 just in *interest*. The Board's goal for this campaign is \$50,000. And we may not get there. But every gift is applied 80% — through the interest that has been erased from the loan. You're giving \$20? Great! That means we saved \$16 in interest! Giving \$100! Fantastic! UUTC will save \$80 in interest!

This year we are essentially planting trees for the shade of others. We cannot avoid removal of the current structures on the Varsity property. That's not an option. And the investment we make now means we are better able to realize your vision for serving this community as we dive into this ten-year window before those structures must be gone. So be dreaming! What do you want to do? Who do you want to be? Are we the congregation that always helps our agency partners? Are we the congregation that protects teens from bullying? Are we the congregation that shows it \*is\* possible to have gorgeous landscaping with native plants? Are we the congregation that offers space for freedom of expression — a shared pulpit — to all ages and voices?

*“Our Mission is to support individual spiritual journeys and to promote social, economic and environmental justice.”* What does that look like to you? Speak up so others can hear you!

How to make a donation: You can go [HERE](#) to make your contribution online. You can simply write a check and mail it in or drop it in the baskets at the church: Please put “Drive Down the Debt” on the memo line. You can also use our Give button on the website (or **Give** in your Realm Connect app, or at [onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org)). BE SURE that you replace “Pledge” (the default fund) with “Drive Down the Debt.” But do what works best for you. Any size contribution will be appreciated!

## Ever Wanted to Visit Alaska?

### WhaleCoast Alaska 2022

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2022** is for you! 4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program next summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info at: [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org). Proof of Covid-19 vaccinations required. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!

David Frey, WhaleCoast Alaska,  
675 Gold Vein Rd., Fairbanks, AK  
99712, 907-322-4966



# Letter from the President

## Bart Renner

Recently I sat down with my daughter, Cadence, and we took time to make photo albums out of a big box of disorganized photos that my parents had given me. I wanted my daughter to see these pictures and learn about people she's never met, but who share her DNA. Cadence tried her best, but her 6 year old mind eventually was done listening to stories about Papa Joe's crazy hunting dogs and Grannie Doss's ability to burn toast, and she went off to put glitter on her brother (I later found out).



Board President Bart Renner

I was now alone with a gigantic mess of old pictures and needed to get this project done. I was born in 1981, so I am old enough to remember when taking a picture was a pretty big deal (especially if mom had taken the time to write the date on the back of the picture). It struck me that, in my family's attempt to document the past 40 years of my life, most of our pictures were taken during the holidays.

That makes a lot of sense to me. My family is spread out all across the country, so when we finally are able to see everyone there has always been a sense of urgency to make the most out of that time. I was reminded of a simple statement that my mom always used to say, "The holidays are special, because we're together." I always thought that was just a guilt trip for partying with my friends instead of spending time with them, but now I see the wisdom in her words. Many of our traditions and stories are rooted in the connection that we have to the people and places that nurture us.

Now that I have kids of my own I want to replicate that magic of the season for them. I've come to understand the holidays are a time for making and telling stories. I laugh (nervously) when I see our kids blasting through the house with their cousins, just like I used to do. I love that they get to hear from "Mooma and Boompa" (Kate's parents) about where all the Christmas ornaments came from. And there's definitely not going to be any shortage of pictures these days... as long as the phone stays charged. I wonder what stories our kids will be retelling with their cousins years from now.

Close to the end of my new photo album is a picture from 2017 of Cadence in a really nice new dress at UUTC. She's holding a rose and trying to squirm out of the fuzzy hat that her Grandma had just given her. This picture was taken on the day of Cadence's dedication here at UUTC. It was a great day, and we'll never forget that everyone who was is the church that day said (basically) "we got your back girl!" This is now part of Cadence's story, and something we'll remind her of frequently.

If there's one thing that this pandemic has taught us (other than wash your hands!) it's that getting to be together is truly a blessing. Here at UUTC we know that your presence is the best present you could bless us with throughout the year, and we are doing everything we can to make it safe to be together and find meaningful connections. We want you to feel safe as we get to "make and tell stories" together again. If you don't feel safe returning, please let us know why! If you do feel ready, let your presence at UUTC be an opportunity for the connection that has been missing from many of our lives. Let UUTC be a place that continues to be an important part of your story.

# JUUST Breathe Live

## From the Southern Region

JUUST Breathe Live is a YouTube live stream where youth ministry has a say! Hosts Shannon Harper and Eric Bliss interview youth and adult guests who hold a vision of liberal religious youth ministry that is both lifesaving and spirit lifting.

[Come join us on December 12th](#), via the chat for real time conversations where your ideas matter and your questions get answered. Explore faith, spirituality, and life purpose as never before. And above all, bring your authentic self and... JUUST Breathe. (Be sure to click "Subscribe" on the [JUUST Breathe Live YouTube channel](#) for all the details on future JUUST Breathe Live episodes.)



Ed: Previous episodes include: [Mental Health First Aid](#), [Youth Spirituality](#), and [The Other Side of the Bridge: What Happens After Youth Group?](#)

## General Assembly 2022 — Portland, Oregon



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

**General Assembly 2022!** In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer a virtual experience with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who miss the in-person experience, GA 2022 offers opportunities to re-connect with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon. *Program Proposals are being accepted through January 14. In*

*Person Registration is now open. Find out about all the plans at the [UUA](#).*

## The Mountain RLC in Highlands, NC

Two great programs for the LGBTQI community are coming up at the Mountain in January. The first, from January 14-16, is a virtual event — [Gay Spirit Vision Winter Meditation](#). Join them for an opportunity to contemplate the last year and move forward into 2022 sustained and nurtured for your continuing journey.

The second program is [Winter Awakening](#) — an annual retreat where LGBTQIA+ and our allies in recovery can come together to examine and explore their recovery and spirituality in an atmosphere of mutual support. Workshops, activities, and fellowship are based on the Eleventh Step of traditional 12-Step Programs like AA or NA. This event begins January 28th. For the full schedule, visit their website!

# New Hope for the 2021 Holiday Season

**Rev. Bob Renjilian**

This has been quite a year of contrasts. Since vaccinations started in earnest this year, we've had many "next normal" incarnations of being back together (or together for the first time for all you visitors during online-only times). I'm hoping this holiday season feels a little more nourishing than the last for you and those you love (and everyone else too).

In my own life, I traveled for Thanksgiving with family, we're all vaccinated and each of us took at-home COVID-19 tests as we arrived together. Besides the holiday meal where it was just us, we went to restaurants and tipped well on some other days, and even went to a new blockbuster movie release (my son was savvy and bought tickets online, at a showing where we had the pick of any seat in the house). I'm looking forward to seeing the family here at UUTC for Christmas Eve services, something that was not possible last year.



We will have an indoor Solstice Service on the 21st.

I know (not just hope) that some holiday traditions at UUTC will feel much better this December. We'll again have the UUTC outdoor caroling event Dec. 11 (good weather please!), and the choir will be singing at the 6:30pm service on Christmas Eve (we'll buy more COVID-19 test kits for them, as we've done on recent Sunday performances). Last year we didn't even have people in the building for the service, it was all online and pre-recorded (Bah humbug says I, never again!). Maybe, if health projections for Transylvania County remain strong as they are projected to be, we can consider having the whole congregation hum or softly sing along - but [I want to hear from you](#) about that (some may

want to stay away from UUTC on Dec. 24 if we allowed that, others might not come if the congregation can't sing). I'd love to hear that you are committed to being here for either the 4:30 or 6:30 service.

Don't forget some UUTC holiday traditions continued during COVID restrictions, and will this year too, whether or not you'll be around. We've got the Giving Tree gift lists for students of Davidson River School set out in the foyer, and we wouldn't want a child to go without this Christmas. We'll have the special collection for the Ministers Discretionary Fund at both Christmas Eve services (or online) again too. And just like last year I am available for calls or visits if you are wanting some pastoral presence—just give me a call and we'll set that up.

Best wishes to you this (much better functioning) holiday season!





# December 2021 at UUTC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>The DIGNITY PROJECT is this month's Social Justice Giving</b></p>	<p><b>Solstice Service Dec. 21st at 5:30</b></p>	<p>Read your <b>Wayfinding</b> newsletter for event details! Also check your UUpdates!</p>	<p><b>1:30-3 Women of UUTC</b> <b>4-5:15 Choir</b> <b>6:30-8:30 pm Poetry &amp; Meditation Class</b></p>	<p><b>3 pm French Conversation</b></p>	<p><b>Wayfinding Newsletter</b></p>	<p><b>2 – 4 pm Youth Graphic Novel Club</b></p>
<p>9:00 am streamed 9 &amp; 11 in-person service <b>After services: if you ordered poinsettias, please pickup today 5:30-6:30 Somber Holidays vespers service</b></p>	<p><b>4:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine</b></p>	<p>9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 <b>Grow Getters</b> 11:30-1:30 <b>Fellowship on the Green</b> 3:45 <b>NAACP Education Meeting</b> 4-5 <b>Quiet Meditation Group</b></p>	<p><b>4-5:15 Choir</b></p>	<p><b>3 pm French Conversation</b> <b>5:30 Rainbow Alliance</b></p>	<p><b>Check email for UUPDATE</b></p>	<p><b>4 pm Intergenerational Caroling and Bonfire</b></p>
<p>9:00 am streamed 9 &amp; 11 in-person service</p>	<p><b>4:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine</b></p>	<p>9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 <b>Grow Getters</b> 11:30-1:30 <b>Fellowship on the Green</b> 4-5 <b>Quiet Meditation Group</b></p>	<p><b>1:30-3 Women of UUTC</b> <b>4-5:15 Choir</b></p>	<p><b>3 pm French Conversation</b></p>	<p><b>Check email for UUPDATE</b></p>	
<p>9:00 am streamed 9 &amp; 11 in-person service <b>12:30 Soul Matters Discussion**</b></p>	<p><b>4:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine</b></p>	<p>9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 <b>Grow Getters</b> 11:30-1:30 <b>Fellowship on the Green</b> <b>5:30 pm Solstice Service</b></p>	<p><b>4-5:15 Choir</b></p>	<p><b>3 pm French Conversation</b></p>	<p><b>Check email for UUPDATE</b> <b>Office Closed!</b> <b>4:30 pm Family Service</b> <b>6:30 Candlelight Service</b></p>	<p><b>A Day of Joy and Peace and Generosity to All</b></p>
<p>9:00 am streamed 9 &amp; 11 in-person service <b>3:30 Book Club discussion</b></p>	<p><b>4:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine</b></p>	<p>9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 <b>Grow Getters</b> 11:30-1:30 <b>Fellowship on the Green</b> 4-5 <b>Quiet Meditation Group</b></p>		<p><b>3 pm French Conversation</b></p>	<p><b>Check email for UUPDATE</b> <b>Office Closed!</b></p>	<p><b>This month's Youth Graphic Novel Club book is When Stars are Scattered</b></p>
<p><b>**To receive the monthly reading packet for Soul Matters, email <a href="mailto:RevBob@uutc.org">RevBob@uutc.org</a>. Discussion is 12/19</b></p>			<p><b>If you ordered poinsettias, pickup will be after services on Sun., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup></b></p>		<p><b>Current UUTC Office Hours:</b> Mondays 10-1 Tuesdays 10-1 Thursdays 10-12</p>	<p><i>Please Note: There will not be a Board Meeting in December.</i></p>