



# wayfinding

## The Paradox of Ancestry

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

While biology may be what we first think about "Ancestry," this sermon focuses more on the DNA of congregations and chosen groupings. We are both linked to past history, and creators of futures yet unseen.



Photo by [Anne Nygård](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Speaker: Rev. Bob Renjilian

### Got Access?

*We know of many who have struggled to tune in online. So we've streamlined the process by putting links directly 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.** If you dislike Facebook, try the YouTube link. If you like "seeing" others from Facebook, use that link. Either way, they will take you directly to **any** program that is being live-streamed.*

“Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity. True community requires commitment and openness. It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other.” – David Spangler

## October

### Excerpts from the Minutes:

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

**Minister's Report** – Rev. Bob shared that in November, certain elements will return to

Sunday service, such as in-person choir and passing the baskets. During October, he led the Soul Matters discussion on “Cultivating Relationship” with a very small group and led a hybrid Climate Series presentation on “Religious Grounding in Environmentalism”, with Rev. Fred Small, one of the top 15 religious leaders in environmentalism. *(And much more... Ed.)*

**Treasurer's Report** – Gail reported that the Private Letter Ruling had been filed with the IRS and that she received a call from the individual assigned to the case. While the associated Drive Down the Debt Campaign doesn't officially launch until November, early bird contributions of \$13,000 have already saved \$10,700 in interest. At this point in the loan, each contribution saves us 180% (100% principal and 80% interest), so she expressed hope that we will get a good response to the campaign. She also reported that the first payroll with our new payroll service was successful.

**Operations Report** – RK reported that the Glen Cannon Property Association's program (live and via Zoom) held in the sanctuary on October 27th was successful, with the exceptional help of UUTC's A/V Team. With the positive feedback received, she feels confident in rolling out a more carefully targeted space rental campaign, highlighting primarily the technology and staff we have in place to facilitate meetings safely. Paired with more reasonable rental fees, she believes UUTC has something others can't offer, which may be a help in funding our mission.

**Old Business:** Ministry/Minister Review Task Force completed its review in October. President Bart Renner will prepare an article on this process for a future newsletter.

**New Business:** Endowment Committee Report – Joanna Bliss, Chair of the Endowment Committee, shared the names of the recipients selected to receive awards from UUTC's Community Outreach Endowment Fund for 2021-2022. Three grants, totaling \$10,200, were awarded. At 4.6% of the Endowment Fund balance as of June 30, 2021, this falls within the 3-5% guidelines and satisfies the requirement to not reduce the Endowment Fund balance below 90% of the nominal value of the fund as of June 30, 2021. Grant recipients had not been notified at the time of the Board meeting.

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

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





# From Social Action

## Power Up!—What Is It? How Can You Help?

UUTC family, we have met our quota for UUTC **volunteers** and **brownies** for Power Up. So thank you for your great response!! **However, we are far short of the number of donations we need.** So please, please reserve your dinners by November 11 to Andrea Brass ([abb31650@gmail.com](mailto:abb31650@gmail.com)) and follow these instructions to donate:

There is no charge for the meal, but we are urging folks to donate generously at the event. Cash, checks made out to Sharing House with “Power Up” on the memo line, credit card or donations through PayPal will be accepted when you receive your meal. If you cannot attend the event, you can mail a check directly to **Sharing House, 164 Duckworth Ave, Brevard with "Power Up" on the memo line.**

The pandemic has taken a huge toll on many of our neighbor’s ability to meet even their most basic needs. And with winter around the corner, the high cost of home heating will be a major burden for many of them. UUTC is again partnering with St. Philip's and the Brevard Jewish Community, to sponsor a COVID-acceptable event to raise needed funds for Sharing House to assist local families with fuel assistance this winter.

On **Sunday, Nov. 14, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**, you will again be able to drive through the parking lot of St. Philip's and pick up a delicious, pre-ordered meal of chicken-and-rice casserole, bread and salad, plus dessert, thanks to the three contributing congregations. Food will be prepared by masked, gloved chefs, and delivered to your car by masked runners. And if you have questions, please call or email Bobby King at 678-592-4068 or [bobbyaking48@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbyaking48@yahoo.com).

## Forward Together UUA/North Carolina

Redistricting Draft Maps have been Released! [All on the Line NC](#) has created a simple document with regionally-specific information on the proposed congressional and legislative maps. These maps show that the current maps for North Carolina are manipulated to favor one political party over another while dividing communities of interest and diluting voting power. **Now** is the time to make public comments via the online portal. As always, please remember to contact your representatives to express your feelings about the current maps. Use the Forward Together link above to get to the document where you can comment. *[Ed. — There is never a bad time to raise a ruckus, when people are being disenfranchised. Use your privilege for good.]*

# Power Up!

## How we help

Many of our Transylvania County neighbors encounter immense crises during the winter months and are unable to pay their essential heating bills. We coordinate a grassroots fundraising program every year that benefits those in desperate circumstances. A voucher of up to \$200 is paid directly to vendors to help these individuals.

### ELECTRICITY

The electricity bill must be in disconnect status and the balance must be paid in full upon receipt of voucher.

### WOOD

Split and dried wood is provided to neighbors who use wood as their primary source for heat.

### PROPANE

The propane tank must be below 1/4 full.

### HEATING OIL

The heating oil tank must be below 1/4 full.

## In 2020 we served

**738**  
Households

**1,919**  
People

**674 Children**  
& Youth

**246 Seniors**

P.O. Box 958  
Brevard NC, 28712

<https://www.sharinghouse.org>  
(828) 884-2866

# 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.



## 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.

**Sunday, November 14, at 4PM - Family movie with snacks.** Come watch the award winning animated movie "Soul" (rated PG) and share some yummy snacks. This will be an outside movie using a projector and sound system. Please bring your camp chairs and blankets.

## TWEEN/TEEN 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. The club meets monthly at UUTC for a discussion of a book and (of course) ice cream. We will be soliciting donations of graphic novels so the books can be gifted to the students involved.

## 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 Begins

## David Alff

Our new Quiet Meditation Group will have its first meditation on **Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 4 to 5 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Meetings will continue weekly, same day, same time. 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: Giving Tuesday Starts Now

When we purchased the parcels on Varsity Street, they came with rental houses. These houses, per IRS code (Neighborhood Use Act) must be destroyed/removed by 2032. That may seem ridiculous, and it may seem like a long way away, but we will need to start sooner than that to accomplish the goal... along with all the loose ends. It is the law, designed to force non-profits to **not** use debt-financed property for non-missional uses.

Removing these two structures, however, reduces the value of our property and could put our mortgage at risk. So this fall, help us give UUTC the gift of debt reduction. All funds collected will become a payment of extra principal on our current mortgage. Our payments will go on as usual, but we will greatly increase the chances of a successful re-evaluation of the property as related to the unmet balance of our loan. Paying \$35,000 in an extra principal payment will save over \$23,600 in interest. \$50,000, however, is our goal for this campaign. Nothing is being built with these donations—this is just a necessary step to put us in the fiscal position of being able to meet the demands of the Neighborhood Use Act.

Some points to remember:

- ◆ When this property (land and 3 houses) became available in 2016, we saw it as an opportunity for our future.
- ◆ The congregational vote to purchase the property was unanimously approved. That rarely happens in a congregation of our size.
- ◆ We have benefitted financially by renting the houses, which has helped pay the mortgage.
- ◆ Removing one of the houses, which was in very poor shape, enabled us to have more space for outside activities. (Hello, Fellowship Green and Fire Ring!)
- ◆ If we do not remove/destroy the houses by 2032, then we can be assessed for all rental income from 2022 forward.

**Challenge Donations from your Board and others: \$26,300.** \$23,000 of this is already in the bank. \$17,000 has already been paid directly to Principal, saving us approximately **\$13,700** in interest.

Challenge gifts have, or are being made by: Rev. Bob & Christy Renjilian, Kay Webb & RK Young, Gerry Azzata, Gail & Bill Meyers, Alice Wellborn, Roberta Carver & Glenn Cockerham, Betty Kendrick, Bart & Kate Renner, Quim & Sharon Moya and Gypsy Richardson.

# GIVING TUESDAY

How to make a donation: you have options! 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 “Giving Tuesday” or “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](https://onrealm.org)). BE

SURE that you replace “Pledge” (the default fund) with “Drive Down the Debt.” You will have to scroll down to find it. Your administrator’s preferred method would be checks, as there are no fees for us to pay on those. But do what works best for you. Any size contribution will be appreciated!

This campaign ends on November 30th. Black Friday, Cyber Monday... and Giving Tuesday. Let’s get ourselves prepared for the challenges of the next ten years.

## Big Hairy Deal

### RK Young

Last Saturday, as a crew of us was working the tent at HalloweenFest, Eloise Shepard came up to us with an envelope in hand. She had been to the post office and figured this one might be important. She hadn’t opened it. I took a look at the address (IRS was in there) and started ripping the envelope open. I had not completely removed the letter inside before I grinned and handed it back to Eloise with directions



to give it to Gail Meyers, who was also working the booth as Little Red Riding Hood (pictured above). It was the determination letter from the IRS that said, **yes**, you get your own, official, **501(c)3 designation**.

This was an important step for us on its own merits, because it allows us to be monitored by GuideStar and other measurements of charitable integrity, and also allows for integrating donations into our social media platforms. This is especially important as we have built our online programming options, which are of value to an increasing audience— many of whom live nowhere near us. This gives them a simple way to acknowledge that value with a tax-deductible donation.

More critically at this time, however, was the need to complete this process to better secure the private letter ruling we’ve asked for as concerns the Varsity properties. The agent assigned to make the determination was already asking us had we applied, when did we apply — getting this letter in hand simplifies that process and makes it clear we are working to meet the letter of the law.

## Operations Update

### RK Young

October was a heck of a busy month. Many projects reached fruition, and more are coming up or in process. The Aventon Pace 350 is still on campus but due to be picked up very soon. The local winner, Harry Parrish, Jr., may show up for the BYOB at the RING so that we can all express our jealousy!

Payroll has now been outsourced to Gusto, a smaller payroll services company. With most employees working at least part-time off campus, we needed a timekeeping app that they could use to track their time no matter where they are working. (And \*I\* needed it to be the SAME app, no matter what device



they are using.) In addition, the legal and tax work involved in employees— from hiring to the production of W2s and payroll taxes— was not getting any easier, and Sue Gervais, in Florida, was getting more busy in her other job— making her less able to do this work on weekdays. We have now had two payroll cycles for salaried staff, and one for hourly staff, and I think we're good to go. Our first new employee, associated with Children's Religious Exploration, is currently in the onboarding process. Employees can review any paystub from within the app, track their time, request time off, review files required by our personnel policies and more. This allows the Personnel Committee to not be involved in daily operations and allows me to juggle less paper, as most of this is stored in the cloud.



Our offices are a mess right now. Responding to operational needs has left us little time to try to disassemble old structures and reconfigure new ones. (If you've got time to help with some disassembly/ reassembly, come see me Tuesday!) This week, with the big copier's lease up, we let that one go and installed a new, smaller profile version. While we lose the ability to create 11x17 copies, we have a smaller footprint (something we desperately need, right now), and it reduces our monthly cost by about \$35. In addition, since we have done away with a weekly order of service, we can reduce our printing output and save a few more trees.

**Office Hours:** Eloise has received a promotion at the County Library (no surprise, there!) and so can only be in the office on Mondays. She starts at 10:00am and works through until around 4, usually. I am in the office on Tuesdays starting at 10—I will be getting out of the way of the Meditation Group that meets from 4 to 5 (unless I can't resist joining them!). Amy is available on Thursdays from 10-noon. Any of these days is a great time to come in and check out a puzzle or book from the UUTC library and get re-acquainted with our space! Due to the time his cardiac rehab takes, it's best to make an appointment with Rev. Bob via email if you'd like to schedule time with him.

HalloweenFest was our first foray into modern Membership work. Meeting our mission requires us to let those who share our values find us. People need to meet people to know if they "click." A website can't really do that. Videos of services help some, but they really only tell folks about our minister, not about how they would feel in the space. Younger people who are also passionate about social justice, the environment, and seek a space to nurture their spiritual development are out there. How much more effective would we be in our work if the energy of youth became a more integrated part of our ministry? We plan to repeat this event annually, including the bike raffle, which allows us to share our values.

Kathryn & Doug continue to do conscientious, compassionate work. I could not be more proud of how they are handling every new challenge that gets thrown their way. Recently, Kathryn spent a pile of hours patching together a wedding video for Linda & Richard Packer, since microphone problems had made some portions of the "straight shoot" not easy to hear. Jean Rowe re-read portions to fix that, and Kathryn spliced in pieces of video of John Austin playing. This is the kind community that we aim to be— one that cares for each of you, as best we can.



# Pictures from HalloweenFest!



*Pictured: Trisha Powers w/our youth, Gail & Bill Meyers, Michael Solomon, Kay Webb, Ian Cowie, Jane Carter, Keli Krueger, River Freeman & Elizabeth Thompson, Victoria Kerr & Moon Pie, RK Young, Bob & Mary Bennett, Victoria Kerr and Rev. Bob Renjilian.*





# Grateful

## Rev. Bob Renjilian

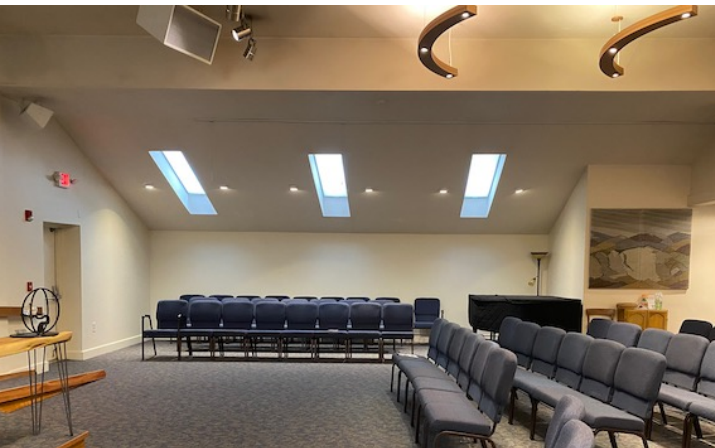
As we turn to the month of Thanksgiving I am feeling very grateful. I am grateful to be minister here in Transylvania County. I am grateful to be working with a wonderful staff. I am grateful for the beauty of the season.

I'm also grateful for the progress in public health in 2021. November is going to be so much better, according to all the experts I read online. The waning Delta variant wave is leading to a lull projected throughout November, maybe even marking the transition from pandemic to endemic COVID that we're told is coming. Compared to last Thanksgiving, we're much safer, with over 90% of the congregation vaccinated (and a large number, including me, who have had booster shots). Due to the vaccinations, we have in-person services, which is a personal joy, as I preach better in a room of people.

I am grateful to be your minister as we emerge from the long pandemic!

We're a trend-setting congregation, among Unitarian Universalists. Thank you, brave souls, for being responsive to each next normal in our emergence. Other UUs in the region are only just now taking our advice on re-opening themselves (and Kathryn Burleigh has been consulting, spreading our experience, many thanks!!). We're going a step further than other UUs in this region and nation in regards to live music - **I am energized by the reappearance of the UUTC Choir in November!** We're accepting

vaccinated individuals to the choir, with masks on, and we'll have instant COVID tests for the singers the morning of their first appearance (**Sunday, Nov. 14**) so that congregants are doubly assured that they can enjoy the music without worry. Please mark your calendars and be ready to jump in your cars to head to UUTC on Nov. 14 and future Sundays. I hope this brings even more folks back to the in-person experience, but of course we will also offer the 9:00 service online for those who need to watch from home. Thank you for being courageously re-engaging with UUTC! And for any who are reluctant still, please call me for a pep talk so you get back and enjoy the choir (1-828-572-9412).



*Choir seating back in position!*

At the holiday I lift up a prayer of thanksgiving, saying "Spirit of Love and life we are grateful for those who are here with us. May we all be thankful for the contributions of everyone, from those we see here who have brought us what sustains us, to those unseen whose work makes it possible for us to survive, thrive and grow from the bounty. May we be grateful as well for those things which are given to us without human intervention, such as the sun and rain and natural beauty of our setting. We are in an





# November 2021 at UUTC

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>THE HAVEN</b><br/>is this month's<br/>Social Justice Giving</p>  | 1<br>5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine                                   | 2<br>9 am Men's Group Zoom<br>10-12 Grow Getters<br>11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green<br>3:45 NAACP Education Zoom mtg                                | 3<br>1:30-3 Women of UUTC  | 4<br>3 pm French Conversation Grp   | 5<br>Wayfinding Newsletter   | 6<br>2-4 pm Youth Graphic Novel Club  |
| 7<br>9:00 am streamed<br>9 & 11 in-person service<br>5:30-7:30 BYOB at the RING  | 8<br>5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine                                   | 9<br>9 am Men's Group Zoom<br>10-12 Grow Getters<br>11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green<br>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group                                   | 10   | 11<br>3 pm French Conversation Grp<br>5:30 Rainbow Alliance                                       | 12<br>Check email for UUPDATE  | 13  |
| 14<br>9:00 am streamed<br>9 & 11 in-person service<br>12:30 Soul Matters Discussion**<br>3 pm Set up for Power Up. Contact Kevin Lausch.   | 15<br>5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine<br>7 pm Grief Group              | 16<br>9 am Men's Group Zoom<br>10-12 Grow Getters<br>11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green<br>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group<br>7 pm Author Series Earle Rabb | 17<br>1:30-3 Women of UUTC<br>6:30-8:30 pm Poetry & Meditation Class | 18<br>3 pm French Conversation Grp  | 19<br>Check email for UUPDATE  | 20  |
| 21<br>9:00 am streamed<br>9 & 11 in-person service   | 22<br>5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine                                  | 23<br>9 am Men's Group Zoom<br>10-12 Grow Getters<br>11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green<br>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group<br>7 pm Climate Series           | 24   | 25<br>Thanksgiving- Grateful for all we have, including UUTC<br>Office Closed!                    | 26<br>Check email for UUPDATE  | 27  |
| 28<br>9:00 am streamed<br>9 & 11 in-person service<br>3:30 Book Club discussion  | 29<br>5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine                                  | 30<br>DRIVE DOWN THE DEBT!!!<br>9 am Men's Group Zoom<br>10-12 Grow Getters<br>11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green<br>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group        | Look for information   | about this important  | Campaign!<br>Read your Wayfinding newsletter for event details! Also check your UUpdates                                   | This month's Youth Graphic Novel Club book is When Stars Are Scattered                            |
| **To receive the monthly reading packet for Soul Matters, email <a href="mailto:RevBob@uutc.org">RevBob@uutc.org</a> . Discussion is 11/14 | This month's Author Series features UUTC's Earle Rabb, The Jesus You Need to Know Nov 16 | Current UUTC Library Hours:<br>Mondays 10-1<br>Tuesdays 10-1<br>Thursdays 10-12<br>Fridays 3-5   |  | ARE Class:<br>Rev Bob is leading a new class in Poetry. Starts Wednesday, Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup> . | NEW<br>Finally, the Women of UUTC have a group of their own! 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 | GROUPS!<br>Also, unwind and rejuvenate! Join our new Quiet Meditation Group— starts Nov 9 at 4 pm |



interconnected web of all existence, and humbly we say “Thank you”.