



# wayfinding

## Welcome to the Path of Wonder



This month's Soul Matters packet emphasizes spiritual exercises to help you re-establish a connection to Wonder. Make an Ode to an Ordinary Moment, Take an Awe Walk, Collect Awe Stories, Connect with the Wonder of the Stars, a Daily Dose of Online Wonder — these exercises, with terrific supporting text and media, provide opportunities to reawaken delight.

Our Soul Matters packets provide for individual and family study on the theme of the month, which you will also see reflected in Sunday services.

Poetry, activities, music — with plenty of individual choice about what you pursue. Interested? Email [Kevin Lausch](mailto:Kevin.Lausch@uunitarian.org) or [Rev. Bob](mailto:Rev.Bob@uunitarian.org) to get a packet!

## Social Justice Giving for December: 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.

UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Their work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity. **This is the only UU agency that UUTC supports with a gift each year.** December gifts are matched by the Shelter Rock congregation.

On Christmas Eve, a special collection will be taken to support others in our congregation by means of the Ministerial Discretionary Fund.



# October/November

**Excerpts from the Minutes:** *(These are unofficial minutes due to the Board meeting taking place on December 1st.)*

Present: Glenn Cockerham, Ian Cowie, Michael Griffith, Gail Meyers, Quim Moya, Kay Webb, Rev. Bob, and RK Young.



**Minister's Report** – Rev. Bob reported offering assistance to two households from the Minister's Discretionary Fund. He reported new interest in membership, with three new members signing in the last month. In Adult RE, plans to begin the Common Read have been disrupted by the book selling out(!). (More detail is available on the website.)

**Treasurer's Report** – Gail reported that October's expenditures were slightly higher than revenues. For the year, we currently have a surplus of \$45,439.88. Our gifts to Sharing House totaled \$2,075.

**Operations Report** – RK reported that the new parking lot lights will be installed next week. She also reported that the bid for the hearing loop is nearly complete and will be submitted with application in the month of December. In spending, she reported that Staff and Teams will need to provide greater clarity about their needs to the Finance Committee when the budget process begins for FY 2023-2024.

**Advisory Council** – The Council activities are currently centered around a Vision "refresh" for 2023-2027, given pandemic interruptions to the original Vision.

**Old Business: Ministry/Minister Annual Review Update**— A summary of the Annual Review has been mailed to members and friends who submitted a survey.

**Old Business: SUULE Update**— Ian provided a summary of the Leadership Experience training offered through the Southern Region as online courses, suggesting that UUTC work with a neighboring congregation to meet and participate together. A motion was made in support of this suggestion and to have the Council identify participants.

**New Business: Cancellation Notification Plan Revision** – A revised version of the Cancellation Notification Plan was shared with Board Members. The recommendations were adopted for the Board Operating Guidelines.

**New Business: Compensation Policy/Procedure**— Kay shared existing references to staff compensation in UUTC Governing documents, noting that guidance on ministerial compensation is lacking. The Board is referring the issue to AdCom for further guidance.

For the full Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, the Operations Report and the Minister's full report, please visit the [Board's Page](#) and select the reports you wish to view.



## Gratitude

### Rev. Bob Renjilian

In this holiday season we look for generosity of spirit. Thank you to all who catch up on your pledges, give to good causes, and help out so that others might have an easier time through the cold dark days of winter!

And I'm also concerned that we pay attention to those scams that are out there. Charities who don't give most of their money away, for example. Or politicians exploiting a crisis. In particular I noticed in my news feed a story titled "The Unexpected Way GOP Fundraisers Are Pimping Herschel Walker's Senate Campaign" (Nov. 15, TheRoot.com, which describes itself as "Black News and Black Views with a Whole Lotta Attitude" and reported by other more mainstream sources as well). It seems the runoff in Georgia was being used by politicians (including at least one NC elected official) as an excuse to grow their own war chests. In short they asked folks to give money for Herschel Walker's runoff, but they set the distribution to 10% for Walker, and 90% for themselves to decide to keep or use. I wrote a letter to our elected official, saying it sounded like racism to me, and I will await a response. I'd like us all to be aware and hold people accountable for bad actions. ***If you see something, say something.***

When we at UUTC have a special collection, such as this month for The Haven, it goes there. When we collect your donations for the Minister's Discretionary Fund on Christmas Eve, it goes to that account to be used for charitable purposes - not me or church salaries or purchases. If we have an overhead cost during a fundraiser (such as e-bike purchase), we declare that the profits beyond the base cost will go to the fund designation, and are clear about it up front.

Again, thanks for being generous people, and careful too. May you have a wonderful holiday season.



## Letter from the President

### Alice Wellborn

Several months ago, the Facilities Team came up with a list of projects that are not in the budget this year, but would improve our ability to safely use and enjoy our church buildings and grounds. The Board decided to bring back an idea used in the past – sponsored projects. We are calling it Together We Give to express our commitment to non-transactional generosity on behalf of our church family during this time of year.

Here's how it works: You can make a gift to any of these projects at whatever dollar level is comfortable for you. Each project has a line item in the Capital Fund, so you know your contribution will be used for the project/s you selected. And just to make it interesting, an anonymous donor has offered to match

contributions: Up to \$1,000 for repairs and painting in our Sanctuary, \$750 for outside security cameras, \$1,000 for blinds in the Social Hall, \$500 for choir chairs, and \$1600 for durable outdoor tables. Wow!

I couldn't make up my mind, so I ended up giving to all five projects. Together, the projects enhance the worship experience, provide a safer environment, save on utility bills, and provide comfortable, durable seating for fellowship and the choir. What a great way to celebrate the holiday season with my UUTC family.

Happy Holidays!

## UUTC Needs VolUUnteers Like U!



### **Peter B. Mockridge, Nominations Committee**

UUTC has a remarkable paid staff in place: Minister, Congregational Administrator, Director of Children's Religious Exploration, and Communications Coordinator, to name just a few positions.

FUUndamentally though, UUTC is an organization fueled by the work of many volUUnteers!

Each year, the Nominations Committee is tasked with identifying Members who are willing to serve and to have their names placed on a slate of nominees to be considered by the Congregation in its annual meeting in May. The Nominations Committee this year is comprised of Midge Hoover, Peter Mockridge, and Susan Zelle.

The Nominations Committee will identify candidates for the following positions on the Board of Trustees: President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Secretary, and a Member at Large,

In addition, the Nominations Committee is charged with identifying a Member willing to serve on the Nominations Committee and two members for the Endowment Committee, in each case to replace Members rolling off the Committees in accord with our governance plan.

If you are personally interested in serving in any of the roles identified above, or know of someone whose skill set would make them a valuable addition to the leadership of UUTC, please contact Midge, Peter or Susan with your suggestions. We can be reached through Realm. Thank you!

## Ministry Review Survey

The data has been analyzed and the results have been mailed. Ninety-two household participated in this year's survey, and each of those households will be receiving a letter of results within the next few days. If you did not submit a survey but would like to read the results, email [RK Young](mailto:RK.Young).

# WACky: Women's Art Circle

## January Edition — Imagination!

“Turn common things into the uncommon”—your way!

The Circle is limited to six women. This new offering will be on **Friday, January 13th from 1:00-4:00** in the social hall in the main building.

Imagination allows us to explore the past and to imagine the future. It plays an important role in our mental health, and, thanks to imagination, we can envision a positive approach to our experiences. It is a great tool for recreating and remodeling our world and our life. [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

January's Circle includes paint. Be prepared with sacrificial clothing (just in case!). You can sign up on the front counter at UUTC. Get to church early and get to that front counter!



## Souper Sunday! Now on 2nd Sundays!



On our first “post-pandemic” Souper Sunday, we served 51 bowls of soup! A big thanks go to all the makers of soup, and for our coffee/nursery staff for keeping things tidy and getting stuff cleaned up after the meal. Those of you who helped—gold stars!

Our next Souper Sunday is December 11th. If you can bring chili or soup for that day, please email or call RK Young—we'd like to have 7 crockpots of goodness for that Sunday!

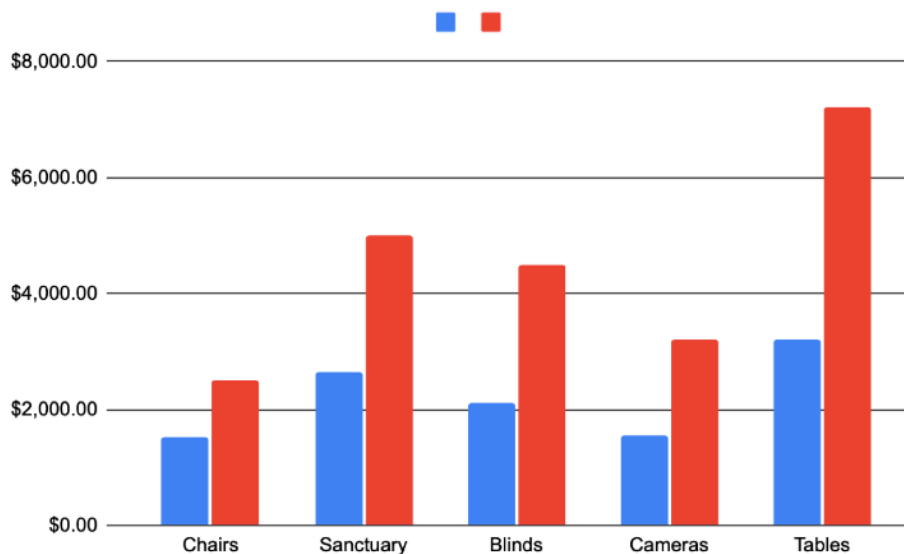
## Progress on Sponsored Projects

Since the Board's “Together We Give” campaign was announced, contributions have been steadily coming in. It appears we are ready to spruce up the place!

One challenge has been the outdoor tables, which admittedly came with a high price tag. Reviewing our sources, the company has now elevated that price out of reach, so we will stick with a 5-year warranty product... and reduce our goal to \$7200 for six tables. Current gifts bring us very close to being able to purchase 3 tables! One of these will be an ADA-compliant table that allows a wheelchair to pull up. New color samples will be requested for Aesthetics to review.

So how are we doing? Delighted you asked!

You remember that an anonymous donor provided a matching seed for each of the five projects. **As of this morning, the match has been met for all five projects.** In the graph at right, the red “Goal” line has been adjusted down for the outdoor tables. The blue progress bars indicate funds promised and received. We are getting very close!



The tables have been the project to receive the greatest **number** of contributions. The progress bar of this project beats out the sanctuary, however, only because of the larger starting “seed.”

Unlike the outdoor tables, other projects can’t be solved piecemeal. The price is what it is. Our choir chair goal is merely to meet the minimum order of chairs—12. Remember that these fund lines stay open until completely funded...even if that happens next year. **These projects were determined by the ministry teams doing the work of meeting our Mission**—they keep looking with fresh eyes for things that would help—such as brighter lights in the choir wing so they, and their director, can read the music without struggle. Or more easily-accessed tables that meet the needs of both kids and adults.

Thank you for your support!

## Pronouns Workshop: December 18th

### Rev. Bob Renjilian

You’ve seen me wear and mention my he/him/his pronouns button, and may know that we’re trying to get better about addressing folks as they wish to be known. I will again offer an after-service workshop on pronouns (and gender) on Dec. 18, with hopes that it is of use as you gather with family over the holidays, and as we continue to welcome folks of all genders at UUTC. On Sunday the 18th we’ll wait to start the discussion in order to allow folks to get coffee (and for the children’s class to clear) before heading to the large classroom. Whether or not you can make it, there are good online sources for deeper learning, and I share two here so that everyone can benefit.

<https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why>

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/guide/a-guide-to-being-an-ally-to-transgender-and-nonbinary-youth/>

Hope to see you on the 18th!

# Books, Wine... Don't Miss This Meeting!

## Krista Moore

Now is a great time to join the UUTC Book Group. On Sunday we are meeting to decide on the books for the next 6 months. There will be wine and munchies and everyone should bring books to present to the group (but you can come if you don't have any book suggestions, too). We will meet at 3:30 in the Chalice House. The book group meets the first Sunday of the month from 3:30 - 5:00. We read fiction and nonfiction books of all kinds - they just need to have components that are "discussable." You can email Krista at [moorek@mtmary.edu](mailto:moorek@mtmary.edu) if you have questions.



## Realm — Making It Work for You

### RK Young

Beginning on Monday, January 9th, I'll be providing a weekly work session for anyone who would like to get more proficient on their mobile devices with our Realm Connect app. If you are able to edit your profile, you can make sure your mobile phone is listed as "mobile" and not "home," and that will mean you can receive text alerts for cancellation of services, pop up Fellowship on Tap, or other events. If you can't edit your profile, bring your device and come to a work session!

All software packages are in flux, all the time. So if things seem "different" from the last time you used it, they probably are! Realm is (from my perspective) continuing to improve... reducing rabbit holes, tightening security, and reducing conflicts within the software. But it is a very deep relational database, and so that makes it more complex. I want to make it easier for you to do the things that will enrich your life. Such as signing up for things like the WAC\*ky Women's Art Circle, where there are only so many seats available. Or looking up a new friend's phone number. Or figuring out when the group you just joined meets.

So mark your January calendar now if you'd like to get more comfortable with this software. Realistically, I can only provide one-on-one instruction for about 4 people per session. Let me know if you want to be one of those four!

“ *Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless.*

- Thomas Edison

# December 2022 at UUTC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>UU Service Committee</b> is this month's <b>Social Justice Giving</b>	<b>Special Collection on Christmas Eve for Minister's Discretionary Fund</b>	<b>CRE and Nursery Care available during Sunday services.</b>		<b>1</b> 2:00 Spiritual Explorers 3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles 5:30 Board Mtg	<b>2</b> 5:00 Emotional Centering	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 3:30 Book Grp 4:00 Holiday Vespers	<b>5</b> 4 Moral Mon. @Courthouse 5:30 Week of Peace	<b>6</b> 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation	<b>7</b> 1:30- Women of UUTC 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 2:00 Spiritual Explorers 3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles	<b>9</b> MEALS DUE for the Haven 5:00 Emotional Centering	<b>10</b> 4-5 Carol Sing at the Fire Ring (indoors if inclement)
<b>CHOIR SINGS 11</b> 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 11:30 Souper Sunday! 2:00 On Being 4:00 Teen Support Grp	<b>12</b> 10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Grp 4 Moral Mon. 5:30 Week/Peace 7 Moms for Action	<b>13</b> 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation	<b>14</b> 1:15 Dream Grp 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles	<b>16</b> 5:00 Emotional Centering	<b>17</b>
<b>CHOIR SINGS 18</b> 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 11:15 Pronoun Workshop	<b>19</b> 5:30 Week of Peace	<b>20</b> 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation	<b>SOLSTICE 21</b> 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 5:30 SOLSTICE SERVICE	<b>22</b> 3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles	<b>23</b> 5:00 Emotional Centering	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE 24</b> 4 Inter-generational service 6 Christmas Eve service (choir sings)
<b>CHRISTMAS 25</b> 10:00 service In-Person ONLY	<b>26</b> 10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Grp 5:30 Week/Peace	<b>27</b> 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation	<b>28</b> 1:15 Dream Grp	<b>29</b> 3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles	<b>30</b> 5:00 Emotional Centering	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE 31</b>