



# wayfinding

## Don't Cross the Street Before Holding Hands

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

This and other lessons learned (or unlearned) have helped and hindered us on our expanding perspectives.

**This month's theme:**

### Widening the Circle

**Speaker:** Rev. Bob Renjilian

### UUA on WtC

*"This report was completed ... prior to the global COVID-19 pandemic... This crisis has revealed the disparities that exist at all levels of well-being for Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of*

*color as well as for LGBTQ individuals, people living with limited economic means, and people living with disabilities. Addressing them within our faith becomes more important, not less. ..."* [Read more HERE.](#)



Photo by [Chinh Le Duc](#) on [Unsplash](#)

“

*"A human being is part of a whole, called by us the "Universe," a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest — a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."*

[Read more at The Marginalian](#)

—Albert Einstein

# January

## Excerpts from the Minutes:

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



### Minister's Report – Rev. Bob attended the

ASIST suicide prevention training held at the Election Center. He met with the Rainbow Alliance in January, where there was discussion of launching a Brevard Pride Event this year. He discussed "leadership in a CANDemic" with the board, and includes an excellent illustration from a leadership training his report, along with this observation: *"A part of the work of a congregation is to help people find the spiritual grounding that allows a better chance that personal growth and church growth will happen. Some of this means overcoming mindsets that might get in the way."* (You are encouraged to read Rev. Bob's full report [HERE](#).)

**Treasurer's Report** – Based upon financial information available from the first six months of the fiscal year, Gail generated a January Projection Estimate which indicated the possibility of a small deficit at the end of the budget year. She reported that the Pledge Campaign team has begun its work.

**Operations Report** — RK reported that two employees have (finally!) been hired to staff the nursery. Annual Certification has been filed with the UUA. RK is concerned about reduced activity among Ministry Teams (especially Membership, Stewardship and ARE). She recommended a reboot of "**The Shared Pulpit**" programming to revitalize our tradition of sharing stories in this way. RK noted that the requested zoning changes for the UUTC campus have been approved by the city Planning Committee, and will now move on to the City Council.

**Old Business:** Hybrid Work Policy—the Personnel Committee had sent a draft policy to the Administration Committee for review—this policy, as amended, was approved by the Board. Areas of the policy manual that needed revision to "agree" with the new policy were also amended and approved by the Board.

**New Business:** Grow Getters — 12 members have been involved in this group which has been removing Class I invasive species from the campus, working towards a goal of Certification, from the North Carolina Native Plant Society, as a Native Plant Habitat (*see article on page 5 for more info*).

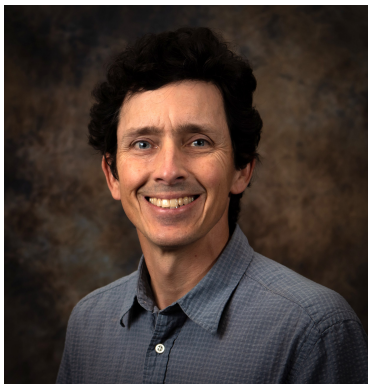
With the Congregational approval of By Law revisions to create the position of Treasurer-Elect, the Board has appointed Michael Griffith to fill the position.

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

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

For additional comments from the Treasurer, [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 follow the UUTC guidelines of masking indoors.

### GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB...

...Meets once a month to share and discuss a graphic novel (long form comic books) to teach UU values. Such books as John Lewis' "March" and "The Witchboy Trilogy" by Molly Knox Ostertag spark discussions about civil rights, gender stereotypes and standing up for what you believe.

### OUR WHOLE LIVES

CRE is offering 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.

## Mountain Retreat!

**Friday, September 9th, through Sunday, September 11th**, will be our next retreat at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center. Because of other groups meeting, we will be limited to about 30 attendees. Reservations are not yet open, but **Mark Your Calendar!** It will come soon, and we can't wait to spend time with you at this marvelous retreat center in Highlands.

## Quiet Group Meditation

### David Alff

Our Quiet Meditation Group meets on **Tuesdays, from 4 to 5 PM** 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. Air exchange systems will be running and we are masked.

Contact David Alff, [david.alf@gmail.com](mailto:david.alf@gmail.com).



# UUTC to Host Faces of Freedom: 2/12 @ 3PM

The African American Storyline Project was one of the selected projects funded by the 2022 gifts from UUTC's Community Outreach Endowment Fund. Coincidentally, Nicola Karesh, the applicant, had already spoken at UUTC for the Author Series last year, and she found our space to be a great venue, with a solid option of producing a "virtual-only" program with our help. We are pleased to co-host this event.

As with all our live-streamed events, you can go to [uutc.org](http://uutc.org) and select either Facebook or YouTube to be taken to the presentation.

Join us **SATURDAY, February 12th, at 3:00pm to experience this showcase!** If you've never experienced this celebration of talent, make this the year you make time! This is an online-only event.

## Children's Literature Builds Resilience: Social Justice & the Joy of Reading

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 15 at 7pm** for a presentation and discussion of kids, resilience, and BOOKS! We have four panelists: **Erika Brock** is the children's librarian at our local public library, **Betsy Burrows** runs the teacher education program at Brevard College and is a former high school English teacher, **Laura Leatherwood** is a retired special education teacher who now runs the educational component of Rise & Shine, and our own **Kevin Lausch** is the force behind our children's programs (and our excellent children's library) at UUTC. **Alice Wellborn**, a retired school psychologist (also UUTC Board President-Elect), will facilitate the discussion.

This program is our Author Series programming for February. You may attend in person, or via Facebook & YouTube. Questions from online will be given to Alice at the appropriate time in the program. We expect to have an interesting, thoughtful discussion and lots of time for questions. **For those of you who are committed to anti-racism, equity, and inclusion, this is where it starts. Join us!**



**Featured youth artist:**  
**Lauryn Mills-Bohannon**

**FACES OF FREEDOM  
2022**

*Our 8th annual  
showcase!*

**Co-sponsors:**

- \* Morning Glory Inspirations
- \* Rise & Shine Freedom School
- \* The African American Storyline Project
- \* Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County

## FACES OF FREEDOM 2/12/22 @ 3 PM

*Our 2022 theme is...  
"Bringing History and Community to Life"*  
You are invited to a virtual celebration featuring Film, Art, Afrocentric Fashion... all with a dynamic and diverse showcase of local youth and adult talent.

**JOIN us virtually via [this link](#), Faces Of Freedom 2022 FB event or UUTC's FB page.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Nicola Rickards Karesh  
[nicolakaresh@gmail.com](mailto:nicolakaresh@gmail.com)  
828-421-8615

# Grow Getters Pulling to Bring Nature Home

By Ian Cowie



My interest in saving the planet started many decades ago. It began by picking up trash along roads. Still today, I cannot resist bending down to remove that tossed away soda can from a vacant lot. This along with plastic bottles, various grades of paper, and glass jars are thrown into separate bins at the local transfer station. Yeah! I recycle. I also use low energy-use light bulbs, heating and cooling units scheduled to reduce energy use, combine trips to town to use less gasoline, apply composted kitchen scraps in our garden. Is there more I can do? Yes.

Every day scientific research is finding the millions of connections between plants, insects, and animals in how they work to maintain and improve the environment. When we encourage this type of activity, we can make an even bigger impact to save the environment.

This is what Grow Getters is about - changing our UUTC campus into a site that encourages plants, insects, and animals to improve our property naturally.

Back in October 2021 a small group of members began to identify and label native plants on the UUTC campus. They removed non-native plants, commonly known as weeds, along open water drainage areas and the outer property lines.

In time, conversations among the weed pullers focused on ways to improve the overall area. Could this campus become a place to get people familiar with methods that would impact our environment in a positive way? Could we plant more native plants, encourage more insects, treat the water draining through the property so that it left cleaner? Could UUTC become a place open for public use to better understand how environmentally-conscious landscaping is the best approach to saving the planet?

The church campus is unique. The location serves as drainage for 25 acres from downtown Brevard. Water leaving the campus flows into the Jumping Branch, which feeds directly into the French Broad River. If water could be naturally treated, by flowing through a rain garden or bog before leaving the campus this would improve the quality of the river.

The campus is on a main thoroughfare to the city. There is easy access to the campus inviting the community to explore. The church is developing plans for best use of the property. Part of that could be a multi-purpose structure that would enhance the campus but also serve the community as a learning center.

The project would enhance our mission to support individual spiritual journeys and our UU principles of respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

Ways to improve landscapes with minimal environmental impacts is a hot topic in gardening circles. Take for instance, the online seminar *Tending Nature: Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in Fostering Biodiversity* (<https://u.osu.edu/6plus/>). Thousands of people from across North America tune in to learn why it matters to know about beneficial insect biodiversity, the importance of native plants bringing nature home, selecting native plants to encourage a bumble bee banquet in your backyard.

At this point the Grow Getters interests are to reach out to the community and find additional support involving agencies for technical guidance and support.

Grow Getters first task is to tackle small areas to begin the change. One idea floating around is to replace the plantings across from the building's front entrance. By turning one portion into a bog area, native plants could capture and purify rainwater and provide support for endangered species.

Most Tuesday mornings at 10:00, you can join Grow Getters and pull weeds. Or share your ideas on how we can turn our dreams into reality. (Ed. —Learn more about **Keystone Species** with this [printable handout!](#))

## Climate Justice Workshop @ UUFH

Join the UU Fellowship of Hendersonville for a 4-session workshop designed by UU Ministry for Earth 'Our Place In the Web of Life'! Here is your chance to deepen your understanding and explore this issue; and develop a greater awareness of our congregation's impact on our local community and beyond.

Through videos, music, participatory research, visual mapping and ethical reflection, we will discuss who is "upstream" and "downstream" from us, the consequences of our actions on other people and ecosystems, and what it really takes to embrace interconnectedness.

Each session will be facilitated by a team of 2 facilitators.

To sign up, please contact Jan Partin at [janpartin@hotmail.com](mailto:janpartin@hotmail.com) 8286069191

|           |             |         |                       |
|-----------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Session 1 | February 26 | 9-12oon | UUFH Sanctuary        |
| Session 2 | March 12    | 10-12   | UUFH Sanctuary        |
| Session 3 | March 26    | 10-12   | UUFH Sanctuary        |
| Session 4 | April 2     | 10-12   | location outdoors TBD |

Masks and social distancing will be in effect for each of the sessions.

## Support for the Work You Choose

### RK Young

Can you do it in a CANdemic? Increasingly, YES!

Quiet Meditation is happening. Our Whole Lives, with 17 youth, is happening. A new Women's Group is happening. The Youth Graphic Novel





Book Club is happening. Weekly support for Bread of Life is happening. Online Men's Group, reaching members, former members and others in multiple states, is happening. The Author Series, Climate Series, On Being Discussion Group and Book Group are all happening monthly. Soul Matters, Grief Group, Poetry & Meditation are happening. B.Y.O.B. @ the R.I.N.G is happening— **This Saturday**. And worship services, twice each Sunday!

Where other congregations have staggered or failed completely, bold action by your Board (and Above & Beyond Gifts) these past two years has ensured that THIS congregation has safely maneuvered around Covid. The installation of the air exchange system and investment in the tools to take all programming we choose online has ensured that anyone who wishes to grow with us is able. Our two Zoom licenses ensure that those who might have had to forgo service on a Team or Committee can now stay included, as long as they have a smartphone and an internet connection.

Unlike many congregations, we didn't create a closed system with Zoom for worship services — we opened the doors wide on Facebook and YouTube, allowing others to take a peek at what goes on in these extraordinary waters. And guess what? There's more of us out there... ;)

Which brings us to now. And what you want to do with Now.

Grow Getters is learning what they want. And they're going to be building something special. While currently they are meeting on Tuesday mornings, who's to say that all the activities will happen during the work week? Is there demand for something else? We'll only know if you ask!

Maybe environment isn't your thing. Social Justice? How about meeting Social Action at 4:00pm this coming Wednesday (9th)? Need to get to know folks, again? Try conversations around the Fire Ring this Saturday at 5:30, or Fellowship on the Green that reboots on March 1st. And. There is literally nothing to stop you from creating a new group by talking with Rev. Bob or myself. Your Spiritual Journey is part of the Mission, and we have the tools to support you. Jigsaw Puzzle group? Yep, we could do that. Hiking Group? Come by on Sunday and let's get a sign up sheet ready. Reading Hour with the UUTC Library? You don't even have to have a *group* to do that!

One thing we can't do is read minds. Whatever is on yours, you'll need to share it with us. Talk about what you want to do, and what you would need to do it. Email [Rev. Bob](#) or [myself](#) and let's get something started that builds connections and love and hope that sustains **not just us**, but our community, as well.

## Letter from UUTC's President

### Bart Renner

If you've read any of the data about New Year's resolutions, you know that they almost always end in dismal failure. We are apparently just not hardwired correctly to stick with these goals we set for ourselves without the proper coaching and changes to our physical environment. We need "tools" in our "motivational toolbox" that help us push through the low points that come naturally to everyone. I

certainly am NOT an exception to this rule. I have never been very good at New Year's Resolutions. I start the year saying I'm going to write more thank you cards or go to the gym or stop hitting the snooze button or... whatever it might be that might get me to the "best" version of Bart. I always start off strong and then, usually by mid-February, I have completely forgotten that I made a resolution and I'm consuming shameful amounts of my children's Valentine's Day candy.



A few years ago, a friend told me about the idea of picking a NEW New Year's resolution every month. This resonated with me. Every month I pick a something new to remove from my life and observe how this change affects me. Examples include: "Dry January," "Facebook-Free February," "Sugar-Free March," and so on. I find that I'm able to stick with my little mini-resolution every month because it's something different and I can "see the finish line" just 30 days away. The small successes of completing my mini-resolutions make me feel good, and I'm motivated to tackle next months challenge.

Now, I'm not saying I was perfect, far from it. In December, I think the only thing I gave up was having a fourth dessert every day. BUT! I believe that I was successful in raising my awareness around how things I consume (food, water, coffee, alcohol, books, social media, TV, etc.) affect my mental and spiritual health. I discovered that the amount of mental energy I give to that temporary absence seriously impacts how much it affects me. I do not NEED any of the things that I give up on a monthly basis, but I seem to suffer if I allow myself to focus on what **isn't** there, instead of expressing gratitude for what I do have.

So I've begun to ask myself, what is missing in my life because of COVID, and how is that really affecting me? The stress from the pandemic certainly complicated things in ways I did not fully appreciate for a long time. For me, UUTC has been a vital "tool" in my mental/ spiritual health "toolbox".

Many of us are struggling right now because the pandemic has brought a challenging change into our lives, and we STILL can't see the finish line. It's like we're stuck with a terrible New Year's resolution that we wanted/ needed to quit years ago. There was no end of the month. Or year. Or second year. BUT! Let's look back, and let's look inward. This pandemic has forced us all to push ourselves in new directions outside of our comfort zones. You have adapted, you have thrived, you have been a source of comfort for others, you have grown as a person. You have risen to this challenge the best way you could, and you have permission to feel good and love yourself for your small successes.

Covid is going to be here, in some form, probably forever (even if we run out of Greek letters). We simply cannot keep postponing life and waiting for someday that probably won't be here. Now is the time to live your best life even though it's within the confines of this pandemic. So, when your resolutions seem too hard and you feel like your finish line is just too far away, open your "mental/ spiritual" health toolbox. Make sure UUTC is one of the tools in that toolbox and make good use of it. As always, please let us know how we can do a better job helping you keep your resolutions, whatever they may be!



# Imagination or Fantasy?

**Rev. Bob Renjilian**

I've been challenged to look at the difference between imagining or fantasizing. My concepts of the two were similar, until now. At the start of the month I attended the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Institute. A keynote presentation by Dr. Anthony Pinn, PhD., who in 2003 became the first African American to hold an endowed chair at Rice University, challenged us (as UU leaders) to be as radical and open to diversity in our worship forms as we are in our theologies. He pointed out that if we are going to break out of structural racist systems, we need more transformation. He didn't say it, but I was thinking that he's trying to tell us not only are we putting new wine in old wine skins, but (to mix examples) we're keeping the Berlin Wall in place while doing so (but with great UU graffiti?).

A central message was "Think the Fantastic!", not imagine. Why? Because, he explained, imagination is wishful thinking within the confines of the established system. It isn't going to change the system, because from its start it is already conforming to it. Whereas, he said, fantasy is a rupture and push-back against the established. Fantasy allows what has been relegated to absence to be brought to visibility. It's a way of thinking, and he pointed out we UU's "get it" when dealing with the theological and spiritual side (he has been a part of UU congregations and institutions, so he spoke from his heart) - we encourage the rupture and push when it comes to religious orthodoxies, but haven't done so in our forms.

So how might we fantasize instead of imagine? This pandemic has shown we're kinda doing some, and then again maybe not. We have amazing music videos that I could not have imagined, for example. The images in those videos show far more diversity than our directory photos - very important in "projecting" our mission and vision for something different than where we are now. And at the same time we have me standing at a pulpit trying to make things look familiar. I quote people who bring perspective outside of my own, which is good, but that's within confines (as is the pulpit - I tended to wander away more when I wasn't stuck on camera). We could imagine something different, or fantasize and bring something new (literally outside the box?). Other forms of what we do could be challenged, just as my efforts of porch visits brings "the church" to people - rupturing an attitude that people must come to the church. Or maybe that isn't radical, in which case I'm still pointing out that we (I) don't yet have a grasp of what is fantastic, yet.

What does fantastic look like to you? I'd love to hear from you. This month's Soul Matters Theme is "Widening the Circle", and I have a sense this challenge from Anthony Pinn is going to preach well.



“We begin to learn wisely when we're willing to see the world from other people's perspective.”

— Toba Beta, [Master of Stupidity](#)

# February 2022 at UUTC



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
|   |   | 1   | 2  | 3  | 4   | 5  |
| <b>BREAD OF LIFE is this month's Social Justice Giving</b>  | See <b>Wayfinding</b> newsletter for event details! Also check your UUpdates!       | <b>9 am</b> Men's Grp Zoom<br><b>10-12 Grow Getters</b><br><b>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group</b>  | <b>1:30-3 Women of UUTC</b>                          | <b>3 pm</b> French Conversation Grp                                    | <b>Wayfinding Newsletter</b>  | <b>5:30 pm BYOB at the RING</b>  |
| 6   | 7   | 8   | 9  | 10   | 11  | 12   |
| <b>9:00 am</b> streamed<br><b>9 &amp; 11</b> in-person service<br><b>3 pm</b> Pollinators, NC Native Plant Society<br><b>4-6 pm</b> OWL | <b>4:00 pm</b> Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine<br><b>5 pm</b> Grief Group | <b>9 am</b> Men's Grp Zoom<br><b>10-12 Grow Getters</b><br><b>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group</b>  | <b>6:30 pm</b> Poetry & Meditation Class (closed)    | <b>3 pm</b> French Conversation Grp<br><b>5:30 pm</b> Rainbow Alliance | <b>Check email for UUPDATE</b>  | <b>1 – 2:30 pm</b> Youth Graphic Novel Club, The Girl from the Sea<br><b>3 pm</b> Faces of Freedom |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16   | 17   | 18  | 19   |
| <b>9:00 am</b> streamed<br><b>9 &amp; 11</b> in-person service<br><b>2 pm</b> On Being (attendance limited)<br><b>4-6 pm</b> OWL        | <b>4:00 pm</b> Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine                            | <b>9 am</b> Men's Grp Zoom<br><b>10-12 Grow Getters</b><br><b>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group</b><br><b>7 pm</b> Author Series- Children's Literature Builds Resilience                                | <b>1:30-3 Women of UUTC</b>                          | <b>3 pm</b> French Conversation Grp                                    | <b>Check email for UUPDATE</b>  |  |
| 20  | 21  | 22  | 23   | 24   | 25  | 26   |
| <b>9:00 am</b> streamed<br><b>9 &amp; 11</b> in-person service<br><b>12:30</b> Soul Matters Discussion**<br><b>4-6 pm</b> OWL           | <b>Presidents Day</b><br><b>4:00 pm</b> Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine   | <b>9 am</b> Men's Grp Zoom<br><b>10-12 Grow Getters</b><br><b>4-5 Quiet Meditation Group</b><br><b>7 pm</b> Climate Series- Patching the Holes in the Ecosystem: What Everyone with a Yard Can Do | <b>6:30 pm</b> Poetry & Meditation Class (closed)    | <b>3 pm</b> French Conversation Grp<br><b>5:30 pm</b> Board Meeting    | <b>Check email for UUPDATE</b>  |  |
| 27  | 28  |   |  |  |   |  |
| <b>9:00 am</b> streamed<br><b>9 &amp; 11</b> in-person service<br><b>3:30</b> Book Club discussion<br><b>4-6 pm</b> OWL                 | <b>4:00 pm</b> Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine                            |   | <b>Current UUTC Office Hours are by appointment.</b> |  | <b>**To receive the monthly reading packet for Soul Matters, email <a href="mailto:RevBob@uutc.org">RevBob@uutc.org</a>. Discussion is 1/16</b> |  |
|   |   |   |  |  |   |  |