



# wayfinding

## Flower Ceremony

**YouTube Livestream at 9:00am, In-Person Services at 9 & 11:00**

We gain so much from the blessings of diversity, each of our own lives coming together, and going home with something else to bless us. Bring a flower to give away in today's ceremony. This is also UUTC Founder's Sunday.

**Speaker: Rev. Bob Renjilian**

Photo by [Abigail Ducote](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**This month's theme:**

**Celebrating Blessings**



“

*I think being gay is a blessing, and it's something I am thankful for every single day.*

*Anderson Cooper*

*No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow.*

*Alice Walker*

*We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity.*

*George Takei*

*“I think it's important we're leading and getting the credit for leading because so often, we have been forgotten or marginalized in doing this work...Us continuing to be at the forefront—that is social justice.”*

*Layshia Clarendon*

# May

## Excerpts from the Minutes:

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

**Minister's Report** – At their request, Rev. Bob led the Pronouns Workshop with UUs at College Walk in May. He also attended the May 3rd protest at the Courthouse regarding the Supreme Court's draft opinion overturning Roe v Wade, and attended the Care Coalition presentation at the public library on Substance Misuse and efforts for prevention and treatment. In his report, Rev. Bob commended Kevin Lausch on his initiative with the Brevard community to help start an LGBTQ support group for teens and family to network with others.

*(You are encouraged to read Rev. Bob's full report [HERE](#).)*

**Treasurer's Report** – Based upon financial information available from the first ten months of the fiscal year, Gail generated a May Projection Estimate, which, at this time, projects a surplus at the end of the fiscal year. If the projected surplus at the end of the current fiscal year holds, Gail recommends that the Board consider moving forward with the outside lighting maintenance that is urgently needed.

**Operations Report** — In the area of safety, RK again mentioned the need to address the outdoor lighting fixtures under the soffits and in the parking lot. The current balance in the Capital Fund will not cover all the outdoor lighting needs, but, if there is a surplus at the end of the FY21-22, the Board should consider addressing these maintenance needs

**Old Business: Parcel Survey Modification and Filing** – Since the Brevard City Council approved our request to combine all UUTC's land parcels into one unified campus, we will need to have our current parcel survey modified and filed with the city. The Board chose to table this issue until the next fiscal year.

**New Business:** Prior to the meeting, Alice emailed Board members concerning the desire to establish a process and an instrument for evaluating the effectiveness of the Ministry/Minister; this process would guide the work of the appointed Annual Review Task Force each year. Alice reported that she has had discussions with current President Bart Renner, newly elected President-Elect Ian Cowie, Rev. Bob, and Sharon Moya about developing an evaluation process and instrument for the annual review. Sharon, who has expertise in evaluation of educational products, processes, and systems, has offered to assist in the development of the process and instrument.

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

For the Treasurer's Report and the Treasurer's additional Comments, please visit the [Board's Page](#) and select the reports you wish to view.



# Inherent Connection

## Bart Renner

I have always been a huge fan of our meditation bowl (or “Tibetan singing bowl”). The rich, consistent sound that it makes when we “invite” the bowl (we don’t “hit” or “strike” the bowl) almost always makes me feel at peace. I hear the sound waves being created from the energy reverberating around that bowl and I imagine those sound waves going out into the universe. Those sound waves carry our intention and some tiny amount of positive energy into the infinite universe around us. At the same time, I feel that wave of energy going into the infinity of my own soul. Over the years I’ve come to believe those waves of positivity are going out into the universe AND into us.... infinitely. They are on the same path because we are the universe, we are connected in a profound and endless way.



This belief becomes troubling and difficult for me to understand when I hear the news and see how terrible we can be to each other. I believe that those of us who can commit senseless acts of violence have lost connection with all that sustains them- physically, mentally, and spiritually. The results of this disconnection are bewildering, infuriating and dismaying.

One of my favorite teachings from Thich Nhat Hanh is his lesson about a wave on the ocean. When this wave could see the shore, she knew she was doomed to crash on the sand and cease to exist. She was afraid, anxious, angry, etc.. Then the wave realized, she is not just a wave, she is water. She is water, and she is connected to an infinite variety of possibilities. The wave was then at peace and no longer feared the sand. According to Thich Nhat Hanh, when we realize our true form is connected and infinite, we will be at peace.

If I’m being honest, I am not at peace. BUT! I am grateful to have UUTC to show me a path in that direction. The deeper purpose of our participation in any spiritual journey is to not just create connection, but to become deeply aware of the connection that already exists inherently among all of us. We are so blessed to have UUTC in our community to help remind us of the connection we all have with one another AND the web of life that sustains us. I am reminded that hope is a muscle we flex, hope is action that we take. I get so much strength from my connection to UUTC and I hope that you do too, so we can do the hard work of reminding everyone they are loved and connected to each other. We are not alone.

My time on the Board is a wave crashing on the shore, but I think your new Board members are going to create a new wave that’s big enough for everyone to surf on! I want to express my immense gratitude to all who keep this church going, and especially all our staff and volunteers who I have served with on the Board. Everyone reading this should know that we have amazing, brilliant, motivated people working so hard to make sure UUTC can be a place of peace and connection, which the world needs so much right now.

Thank you and stay connected!

# Our Retreat at The Mountain

## Bruce Kirkman

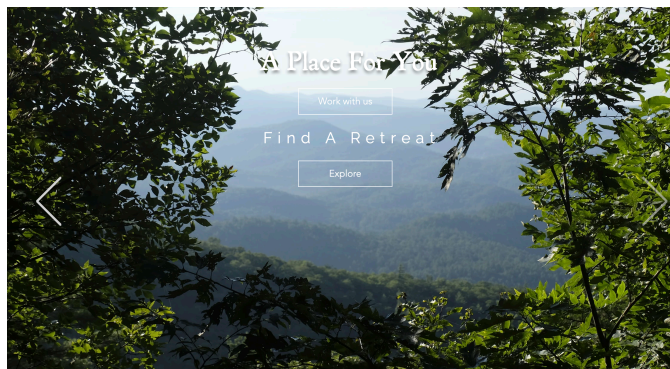
September is a great time to be at The Mountain! That's why Rev. Bob booked us a retreat date of September 9-11. We have a limited number of spaces available so be sure to register early if you plan to go.

One of The Mountains' great treasures is the Many Hands Peace farm and your meals will feature their products. Its highly recommended you take a tour of the Farm while we are there. Their products are sold regularly at the Highlands Farmers Market which has greatly enhanced The Mountain's reputation in the area. The Farm is a great summer camp experience for youth also.

Our retreat will feature personal time, discussion groups, learning, worship, good meals, hikes, Mountain tours and more including a campfire with s'mores!

The Mountain has a wonderful array of programs this summer including a John McCutcheon Songwriting Camp, the 6th annual Arron Shearer Summer Institute of classical guitar study and music making, an August 12 debut performance of "Tales from The Grove", and an August 11 Visual Arts Week, all in addition to the wonderful youth and intergenerational camps. Check it all out on The Mountain website - "[themountainrlc.net](http://themountainrlc.net)".

The retreat cost is \$210 for adults (double) or \$310 single. For youth aged 12-17 lodging with family, the cost is \$110, and youth 4-11 are \$80. You can [make a reservation online](#) or by calling 828-526-5838, We recommend carpooling to help preserve the eco-system of the area. The drive is about 42 miles from the UUTC parking lot and takes about 1 hour and 15 minutes. **RATES INCREASE after July 29th**, so register early!!



## Time to Speak Up, Write Letters & Lead



Members of UUTC were a large portion of those attending the Vigil this past Monday. Rising President of the Board Alice Wellborn and President-Elect Ian Cowie have stepped up to lead a **new Group in Realm: [Siding With Love & Justice](#)**.

Alice will be focusing on school board meetings to ensure that science-backed arguments are available to counteract those using rhetoric that fails to support the freedom of children and teachers to choose reading materials, among other current hot issues. Those joining her at meetings are encouraged to have

a statement prepared speaking for the values of a free and just society that you expect in our educational systems in Transylvania County. You must sign up to read your statement —Alice will guide you in how things go, procedurally. Alice joined the Transylvania County Schools as a school psychologist in 1978, and has been a strong advocate for children. She needs your “boots on the ground” to help protect our children and youth. Every voice counts!

Ian Cowie has volunteered to be the point person/leader for events like next Saturday’s [March For Our Lives](#) in Asheville. Plan to come to UUTC for carpooling at 9:30am Saturday, June 11th! If you are interested in receiving information shared with the Group “Side With Justice,” **please contact Ian Cowie** ([icowie13@gmail.com](mailto:icowie13@gmail.com)) and we will add your name to the list. If you attended the vigil on Monday, RK has tried to remember everyone who was there and so you may already be on the list. You would have received an email. If you have any requests either way, holler at Ian or RK.



Finally, Moral Mondays at the Courthouse happen each and every Monday. Wear your UUTC name tag and let people know you Side with Love!

## COVID & the Re-Opening Task Force



prepared by **Michael Solomon**

COVID will be with us for the foreseeable future. During the likely ebb and flow of the virus, UUTC will continue moving forward with our vision of spiritual growth and advancing social justice, and moving forward with a rich palette of programming and activities. We are in a good position to operate safely whatever the future months of this pandemic may bring. The vast majority of congregants are vaccinated, we have tools to mitigate risks (contract tracing in place, if needed, for Sunday services and group

activities, the upgraded air filtration system that is working well, rapid and inexpensive/free testing available, and leadership that is closely monitoring developments – both within our church and at community and state levels – and a congregation that has shown personal responsibility during these challenging times).

About personal responsibility; by following CDC recommendations, we can collectively help prevent the spread of the virus among our congregation and circles of friends and family.

- If you test positive, stay home for 5 days, and wear a mask and avoid travel for 10 days. If you come into close contact with someone who tests positive. avoid others and follow CDC advice on getting tested (and wear a mask).
- We're all hitting the road again, thankfully! After traveling, the CDC recommends wearing a mask around others and getting tested again after getting home. If cruising, then definitely consider getting tested. It is recommended that you mask, and test 3 to 5 days after your trip or large social event. Note: nearly all contact tracing at UUTC has been from breakthrough cases of congregants returning from travel or social events.
- Transylvania County's coronavirus transmission rate remains low ("green" level) as of the start of June, according to the CDC, which is good news, but this is expected to change in the coming weeks with plenty of travel and visitors coming to our beautiful area. As long as Transylvania County remains at a low or medium ("yellow") level, the tools and recommendations we've shared with you will allow us to continue with current programs and those planned for the future. There is the possibility that our area will move into the red zone (high transmission) sometime in the future, which will likely mean masks will once again be recommended inside the UUTC building for a while, coffee moved outside again, etc.; we'll confront that if it happens.

As we head into the summer months, UUTC's leadership is excited about the activities and events that are planned to connect members and friends and to be a vital part of the larger community. By working together to take precautions and help prevent the spread of the virus, we hope to see all of you at future services and events!

**Sources:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/cruise-travel-during-covid19.html>

[https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list\\_select\\_state=all\\_states&list\\_select\\_county=all\\_counties&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=CommunityLevels](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=CommunityLevels)

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*“That was how it was, sometimes. You put yourself in front of the thing and waited for whatever was going to happen and that was all. It scared you and it didn't matter. You stood and faced it. There was no outwitting anything. When Almondine had been playful, she had been playful in the face of that knowledge, as defiant as before the rabid thing. Sometimes you looked the thing in the eye and it turned away. Sometimes it didn't.”*

— *David Wroblewski, [The Story of Edgar Sawtelle](#)*

# ...Speaking of Coffee



## CLARIFICATIONS:

At Step 8, you REMOVE the spigot from the airport. After brewing, replace the spigot before closing the lid. At step 10, this pitcher has tape with a black fill

line indicated. If the tape gets lost, the brewer needs **9 cups of water**. When lifting the pump arm as you see in image 13, lodge the small tab behind the ridge shown in the image. We have 5 airports to accommodate 2 pots of regular, one decaf, one for hot water for tea or whatever else you might dream up. It takes 7 minutes to brew. Please discard the grounds after brewing and rinse the airports you use. They will be given a “descaling” cleaning monthly.

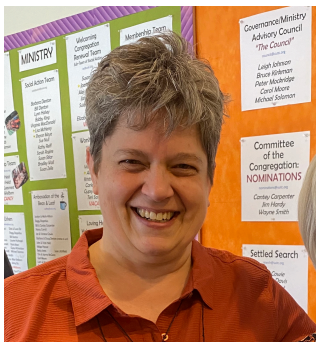
Enjoy your coffee!

# It's Pride Month. What Are You Proud of?

## RK Young

It can be hard to remember just exactly how long we've been dealing with the pandemic. To better frame this, let's reference the terms of three Board Presidents impacted by dealing with Covid: Joyce

Henneberry, Susan Zelle, and currently Bart Renner. Yup. It's been that long. Alice Wellborn, taking the top chair in July, will be governing during Covid, too. This may never really be "over."



I am *thankful* that we lost only one member to the disease. But I am **proud** that members of UUTC stepped up and helped financially and in other ways to ensure the safety of all... through the gifts that allowed us to install the \$17,000 heat/ventilation exchange system, to mask wearing, to initial and continuing vaccinations, to testing the choir to permit a return of choral music, to pledging to ensure we could budget for all our Covid-related business expenses, and to individual discretion about attendance based on personal activities and presumed susceptibility to the virus.

Providing for online delivery took (and continues to take) not only financial commitment, but the commitment of Worship Team volunteers (thank you Janice Canon and Vanessa Cowie!) to report the music we use to permit compensation to the artists whose music we perform— through the **two** licensing agencies we use. We are paying \$405 annually to One License, and \$297 to Christian Copyright Solutions. It takes both to cover all of the breadth of music we select for services.

In addition to these Covid-related costs, we have specific software fees that allow Doug and Kathryn the ability not only to live stream services, but to create a better experience for things like this week's Wonderful Wednesday. Those lyrics you saw over the live video? Pro Presenter (\$200) and Ecamm (\$192) make that possible. The multiple camera angles? Investment in cameras and in an HDMI switch to pop back and forth between them all. Actually putting events out over YouTube, Twitter and the like? That's Restream, at \$152 annually. Am a proud of what Doug and Kathryn have learned how to do and the contribution they make to UUTC? You bet I am.

Am I proud that we are selfless enough to invest in the spiritual health of those who aren't even members, yet? Or who are physically unable to be present? Or who are former members and friends who live too far away to come in on Sunday mornings? Or who have one home in Brevard and another elsewhere? Of course I am! Is the effort and expense worth it? Well, *our Mission is to support individual spiritual journeys and to promote social, economic and environmental justice.* We are doing what we have said we will do.

We don't always get to know the people impacted by our work, but what we do is essential to the mental/spiritual health and wellbeing of many folks outside our walls. Our YouTube analytics make it clear that our impact is growing. We are the strongest voice in Transylvania County for LGBTQI+ rights. Am I proud of you? You'd better believe it. Big hugs, y'all.



# How Much Should I Pay You?



## Rev. Bob Renjilian

I got a postcard, or maybe an email (probably both), begging me to come give blood. I can get a towel, a \$20 gift certificate, and maybe even an entry into a sweepstakes. This is not the first time I've been told my participation is worth money.

We haven't tried that at UUTC, but I'm wondering if we're missing out on participation because of it? How much should I pay you to come attend worship regularly? What bonus if you bring a friend? What special perks should I advertise, by mail or e-mail blasts, to encourage you to volunteer to be on a ministry team, or clean-up crew? What's it worth it to you to come to a picnic or campfire? [OK, so I don't really have a budget to do that, but feel free to let me know what you'd like from UUTC to help you get engaged, though perhaps you are fully involved already].

I figure we've got something good going without resorting to that approach. We had huge turnout for Wonderful Wednesday on June 1, for example, with far more people at dinner than had been on the RSVP list, and more who arrived later for the musical program with Rev. Ernie Mills and the Eclectics. Everyone I talked to felt good about the night. We got great donations in the baskets too. The volunteers I spoke with felt (deservedly!) that they had done a good job for a great purpose. There seemed to be a sense that showing up, helping out, and being part of this community had great intrinsic rewards.

I'm hoping this reminds folks that being a volunteer, even if it means volunteering to attend UUTC without being an usher, greeter, singer, speaker, coffee maker, etc. is nourishing! Going the extra bit to sign up to be a support person, now and then, brings even more good feeling.

And what about giving blood too? For a while I was not eligible, due to my heart medications - but I've made such great progress the Doctor removed those meds. I gave blood, and now am eligible to do so again. I don't care about the give-aways. The blood donation places don't have the Eclectics or Choir, no great food such as was provided at UUTC... (well, a free water after to replenish myself). If you are eligible, would you participate? I can guarantee that blood is needed - I have the postcards and e-mails to prove it.

Whatever it is that can help you be fully involved, let us know. We're always glad to see you at UUTC!

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*In this regard, pleasure is an event; happiness is a process. Pleasure is an end point; happiness is the journey. Pleasure is material; happiness is spiritual. Pleasure is self-involved; happiness is outer- and other-involved.*

*Laura Schlessinger*



# June 2022 at UUTC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Augustine Literacy Project is this month's Social Justice Giving</b>	See Wayfinding newsletter for event details! Also check your UUpdates!	We will be changing to one service at 10:00 am beginning June 19! Nursery care available.	1 1:30- Women of UUTC 4 Social Action 5:30 Wonderful Wednesday!	2 3:00 French Conversation Grp	3 Wayfinding Newsletter	4 Current UUTC Office Hours RK Tues 10-2 Rev Bob and other staff are by appointment.
5 FLOWER SUNDAY! 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 5:30 pm BYOB at the RING	6 5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse	7 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation 4pm NAACP Education	8 4pm Choir Rehearsal	9 3:00 French Conversation Grp 5:30 pm Rainbow Alliance	10 Check email for UUPDATE	11
12 Choir Sings! 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 10-11 am Soul Matters Discussion between services** 2 pm On Being (attendance limited)	13 5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse 10 am Caregivers Support Group	14 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	15 1:30-3 Women of UUTC 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Team Meeting Night	16 2:00 LHHH 3:00 French Conversation Grp	17 Check email for UUPDATE	18 **To receive the monthly reading packet for Soul Matters, email <a href="mailto:RevBob@uutc.org">RevBob@uutc.org</a> . Discussion is 6/12
19 Juneteenth CHANGE TO 1 SERVICE Choir Sings! 10:00 livestreamed 10:00 in-person service	20 5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse	21 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	22	23 3 pm French Conversation Grp 5:30 pm Board Meeting	24 Check email for UUPDATE Meals due for The Haven today!	25
26 10:00 livestreamed 10:00 in-person service	27 5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse 10 am Caregivers Support Group	28 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	29	30 3 pm French Conversation Grp		2

June 6<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday UUTC

We will celebrate on Sunday, June 5