



wayfinding

Choose to Bless the World

Facebook or YouTube Livestream at 9:00am
In-Person Services at 9 & 11:00

We all must answer this question: What will you do with your gifts? Choose to bless the world.

Speaker: Rev. Christina Branum-Martin

Reverend Christina Branum-Martin is currently the Interim Minister at the UU Fellowship of Clemson, SC. She gained insight for parish ministry from her prior work in non-profit management, hospital chaplaincy, and as a Director of Religious Education. She is an alum of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Christina is a 7th generation Unitarian and was raised a UU in Houston, Texas. She and her husband live in Decatur, Georgia. They have two daughters, one who is in college and one who is in elementary school. At home, she finds joy in gardening, cooking, singing loudly in the car and creating art from recycled and found objects.



Photo by [Greg Rakozy](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This month's theme:

Renewing Faith

“

“The world is united in outrage at this act of aggression against the sovereign territory of an independent country. Putin’s invasion of Ukraine breaks international law and risks plunging Europe into the most deadly war the continent has seen in decades. As people concerned with the humanitarian impact of any aggression or militarism, we condemn this criminal act. For the same reason, we call on the U.S. and other Western powers to respect the rights and safety of people on all sides of the conflict. They must refrain from any actions in response to Putin’s aggression—whether military or economic—that would harm civilians or otherwise violate human rights.

[Read more from UUSC on what you can do...](#)

—UUSC’s president Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

February

Excerpts from the Minutes:

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



Minister's Report – “People often misread

Ella Baker’s declaration that “strong people don’t need strong leaders” as a statement against leadership. Instead, she was cautioning ... not grounded in or accountable to communities. She understood that transformative change requires the leadership of many people. The wisdom was shared in a time when individual Black men were seen—by media and national decision- makers—as the most essential leaders in the civil rights movement. Baker saw the failures of building around personalities and individual leaders instead of building around the needs of the people and developing many leaders to move the work forward.” *(This nugget taken from his report. You are encouraged to read Rev. Bob’s full report [HERE.](#))*

Treasurer’s Report – This month’s numbers look better than they are, due to an exceptionally generous gift in excess of \$24,000. Gail reported that the month would have shown a deficit without that gift. Gail’s full report and her comments on the IRS Private Letter Ruling are linked below.

Operations Report — RK commended Rev. Bob, Jim Hardy, David Alff, Krista Moore and Royce Zia, all of whom have stepped up to lead different adult programs. She discussed the upcoming Pi Day Pie Auction as a need to have some fun and get a little cash into the hands of Grow Getters to assist their work towards the May “Healing the Hellstrip” demonstration day, using native plants. She requested that the Board create a separate fund to house these monies separate from the Operating Fund since Grow Getter’s work is not covered under the operating budget and the funds should not commingle. The Board voted to create the fund to facilitate the work of the Grow Getters/Appalachian Preservation Project of Transylvania County.

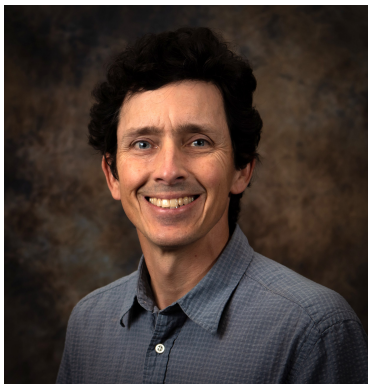
Old Business: Undesignated contribution— A motion to place an undesignated contribution of \$24,108.71 into the Operating Fund was made, seconded and passed by the Board. Betty cautioned that while the gift would be placed into that fund, she did not want the gift to make it appear that we have no financial difficulties. The Board was unanimous in the need for transparency.

New Business: Policy Manual Review — Kay Webb pointed out that the policy requiring all committees and teams to submit minutes of meetings to the Administrator for filing is not being followed by all groups. She shared that availability of records can be extremely important, as has been borne out by the Private Letter Ruling process with the IRS. Methods to encourage reporting were suggested.

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.

INTERGENERATION EVENT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH

Hiking and baby goats(!) at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, at 1800 Little River Rd, Flat Rock, NC.

Join us for a fun afternoon event. We will meet at the "Hikers Parking Area" which is 1/2 mile to the west of the Carl Sanburg Historic site on Little River Road. There is a short, relatively flat hike on a park road to the barn to visit the baby goats. Longer hikes are available. There is no charge to enter, and dogs are allowed but not in the goat pasture or barn area.

No need to RSVP, just show up!

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.



CONGREGATIONAL CLIMATE CONVERGENCE

WITH SIDE WITH LOVE
& GREEN SANCTUARY 2030

March 22

10am - 1:30 pm PT /
11am - 2:30 pm MT /
12 pm - 3:30 pm CT
1 pm - 4:30 pm ET

Community Nourishment
and Skill Building for
Green Teams,
Eco- & Social Justice
Lay Leaders & Religious
Professionals



Congregational Climate Convergence: March 22

Calling all congregational lay leaders and religious professionals passionate about climate justice! Join Side with Love, Green Sanctuary 2030, and UU Ministry for Earth for a day of community nourishment, resource sharing and skill-building to support your local eco ministries!

[Register today!](#)

A Well-Funded Solution?

Bart Renner

By the time I had joined Peace Corps El Salvador in 2004 I had pretty much lost my faith in... well... faith. At least, institutions of faith. Too many of my Catholic community members had shown me that their participation in the church was only for show. When it came to actually living out the values they claimed to support, they did not step up.

As I embarked on my journey in the Peace Corps, living and participating in impoverished communities, my value system was truly tested (along with my mind and body). I realized that the reason I may have been so upset with my fellow Catholics was because their shortcomings and deficiencies were also mine, and I did not want to admit it. I realized that we humans are programmed to fear that we will never have enough, and that fear can lead us to believe the best thing to do is take care of ourselves and ignore the needs of others. But the people of El Salvador taught me that an attitude of gratitude is way more enriching than an attitude of fear.

As a Peace Corps volunteer, I was making \$265 a month. This was my full stipend for room, board, food and whatever else I needed. Money had always been tight throughout my life, but this was the first time I didn't have mommy and daddy... or anyone else... to bail me out. I had never been so challenged with money, and I came to have a whole new respect for it. It was mind blowing to me to see that the people around me had so much less than me, but they were happy, enthusiastic, and grateful. So, while I was teaching them about soil fertility, they taught me about life and what is really important.

I remember thinking that if a cause is good and ethical, it will succeed because the good people of the world will support it. I thought that money should not be a factor in making the world a better place, because money leads to corruption. Perhaps many of you can remember when you were also this idealistic? We have a hard time accepting the power that money can have to make things happen in this world. Bad things, yes, but also good things. It took many failures for me to come to the hard conclusion:



money is a vital piece of the puzzle in community development. Ethics are at the foundation of hope, hope creates vision, vision creates goals, and a well-funded goal is way more likely to be successful.

And we set ambitious goals here at UUTC. Goals that we believe will make the world a better place. But we need your help. This fiscal year UUTC will likely end the year with a \$9000 deficit. We had a good pledge drive last year, but part of our planned revenue included fundraising efforts that COVID restrictions made impossible. We are wildly fortunate and blessed that one of our members anonymously gave over \$24,000 to this church with no strings attached. Your Board of Trustees worked with the Finance Committee and decided that the best decision was to put this money in our general fund to make sure we do not operate at a deficit this year. We hope not to be in a position like this again.

This year UUTC is hoping to get a 100% response rate for our pledge drive. We are boldly asking everyone to please commit to giving something this year. If you feel that you cannot give anything, then let us know, and we will help you. Your personal commitment to our church is way more important to us than the amount of money you give. Your Board of Trustees enthusiastically believes that our vision of empowerment and community action is an ethical goal and deserves to be well funded so that it can continue to resonate in this community.

Last week, my wife Kate and I received our (beautifully written) pledge letter for next fiscal year, and I immediately felt that old familiar fear that we would not have enough if we gave to UUTC. But Kate and I know that whether we're making a Peace Corps stipend or an adult salary, we can focus on our attitude of gratitude and commit to the important work being done by UUTC. Gratitude really does feel better than fear.



You CAN Help Build Community in Brevard!! Here's How:

Sarah Rogine

Are films that promote social, economic, and environmental justice important to you? Could the Co-Ed Cinema become a hub for films of all types as well as other art forms (theater, dance, poetry slams, etc.)?

The Co-Ed Cinema lease is up for renewal on Monday March 7. Should the City Council renew that lease "as is" or should we help envision something more, something bigger, something that could really build a more diverse and engaged community when we all need that more than ever? Let's generate more conversation about the possibilities!

*Help build the community Brevard and all of us need! **Send a short email** to the City Council members below. Voice your support for something more. Let's support a bigger, more community-serving vision for this city-owned entity! For example, films besides blockbusters...such as independent, animated, and documentaries. A venue which hosts other cultural events. Let's help build the community Brevard and all of us need today and tomorrow. **Act now!***

Maureen Copelof, Mayor: maureen.copelof@cityofbrevard.com
Gary Daniel, Mayor Pro Tempore: gary.daniel@cityofbrevard.com
Aaron Baker: aaron.baker@cityofbrevard.com
Geraldine Dinkins: geraldine.dinkins@cityofbrevard.com
Maurice Jones: maurice.jones@cityofbrevard.com
Mac Morrow: mac.morrow@cityofbrevard.com

There's one more important way you can become engaged in conversation regarding Co-Ed Cinema. Please consider attending the next Brevard City Council meeting. If you feel so moved, please sign up to express your opinion during the public comment period. Those who wish to sign up must do so before the meeting begins. Plan to arrive and sign up by 5:15 pm. Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

Monday, March 7
Meeting convenes at 5:30pm
Brevard City Council Meeting
95 West Main Street



Fellowship News

Heather S. Williams

I just wanted to let everyone know that UUTC fellowship opportunities are increasing as COVID numbers come down and the temperature goes up. In March, we have resumed Tuesday's Fellowship on the Green (*pictured below, right*); bring a lunch and chat outside. That is a fixed event. That means that it **always happens on Tuesdays from 11:30am to about 1:30pm**, weather permitting.

Right now, we're trying "pop-up" gatherings for Fellowship on Tap. Those are not fixed dates or times; they are relatively spontaneous when weather allows for it. If you want to be on the list for these, please contact RK and she will add you to the "Fellowship on Tap" group on Realm. That's where you will see a post for a pop-up. You'll receive an email and text if you have turned on that option in Realm. *[Ed. Note: another really great reason for setting up your profile carefully in Realm!]*

We are going to be working on a fixed, monthly Fellowship on Tap. I'm not sure what that will entail, yet. I'm thinking that we will want outdoor seating, so I am waiting for longer, warmer days. I know that it's really helpful for people to sign up so that I can give the venue a heads up. I'd like to consider fixed dates with one weekday evening and adding one Saturday day to include more people.

Please be in touch with me to provide your feedback— you can find me in Realm!



Image from fall, 2021

Charitable Giving for Justice

Lisa McHenry

In April the congregation will be voting for the organizations that will benefit from UUTC's monthly Charitable Giving for fiscal year 2022-2023. The following 9 organizations are this year's beneficiaries, based on last year's vote:



**El Centro ~ Meals on Wheels ~ Sharing House ~ The Haven ~ Bread of Life
SAFE ~ The Children's Center ~ Pisgah Legal ~ The Augustine Literacy Project**

In addition to these, there are three organizations we give to every year that are not chosen by vote. These are:

**UUTC's Dignity Project ~ The Minister's Discretionary Fund
& UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)**

Anyone who would like to see a particular organization added to the roster should send pertinent information to [Lisa McHenry](#) for consideration by the Social Action Team. Factors to be considered are:

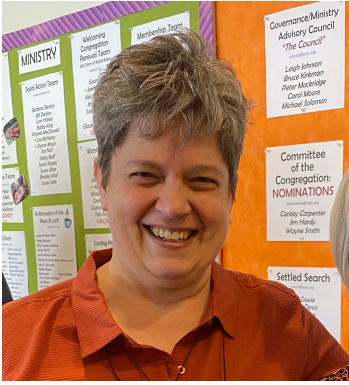
- Does the organization address unmet needs?
- Does it partner with others?
- Is it a well-run organization with a reach beyond Brevard?
- Does it serve new populations we haven't given to before?
- Does it involve new programs within an existing organization?
- How many clients does it serve?
- Does the organization really need us?
- What are the finances of the group, how do they generate money?

Your submitted ideas will become part of the process for the coming vote. Please send your suggestions this week—and thank you!

“

Compassion does not just happen. Pity does, but compassion is not pity. It's not a feeling. Compassion is a viewpoint, a way of life, a perspective, a habit that becomes a discipline - and more than anything else, compassion is a choice we make that love is more important than comfort or convenience.

—Glennon Doyle Melton



Team Meeting Night Returns

RK Young

Pre-pandemic, UUTC held Team Meeting Nights once a month so that our minister could have some “hands on” time with Ministry Teams without devoting an hour more of his/her time to each one. During Covid, membership in Teams has plummeted, making it very difficult to sustain these ministry functions. Most of those tasks have fallen to staff and a small, courageous, committed group of volunteers. But it’s time for us to get back together to take an active role in being the congregation we wish to be. This month, we won’t have pizza & salad for Team meeting night, because as you have read in Bart’s letter, we’re not exactly flush right now—and it’s probably best to keep our masks on for another month, anyway.

Our next Team Meeting night will be on March 16th, at 5:30pm. Worship and Loving Hearts, needing much more extended time with Rev. Bob, will continue to meet on their own schedules. And this night is for Ministry Teams only — not Board Committees. So Finance, Property, Personnel and Administration will still meet on their own schedules. That leaves the Membership, Facilities, Adult Religious Exploration (ARE), Social Action, and Stewardship Teams to meet on this monthly time. Kevin Lausch and Rev. Bob are pondering whether to keep CRE on its current schedule.

Wondering where you might fit in? Check out our Teams Page on our website... this is in the bottom navigation menu, under our calendar. Or click [here](#) to take a short cut. Most Teams have their Operating Guidelines linked on this page, which includes their Function Statement. The Function Statement is the Team’s alignment to UUTC’s Mission. Here’s an example: ***The Membership Team, a Ministry Team, welcomes visitors to all church functions and assists them in making appropriate contacts that will help them to serve, give, learn and grow.*** The Greeters you see each Sunday when you arrive at UUTC are volunteers assisting the Membership Team. The Worship Associates, Ushers and Flower Providers are all volunteers assisting the Worship Team.

Teams are a very big deal in our organizational structure, and **the decisions they make about essential roles and programming have an enormous impact on the “flavor” of UUTC.** In an organization this size, the minister provides guidance — but Teams drive the work that is done. Things you have a particular passion for get realized through Teams.

I am seeking folks to work with me on Stewardship and ARE. (Stewardship folks should like parties and ARE folks should like the intellectual/spiritual pursuit.) Eloise and Midge Hoover are looking for new members for the Membership Team (these would be the friendly folks who love people and like to learn things about others). If you’ve been on Membership previously, it no longer requires record keeping — Eloise does that part!

Final note — this coming week I will be on vacation... but you can still leave me an email. But please understand when I don’t answer those emails or calls this week. Big hugs to you!

Healing the Hellstrip

Grow Getter's first major project is to tackle the areas between sidewalk and parking on Broad Street (known in the trade as a "hellstrip" because it is a difficult spot for plants). To facilitate this work, which is going to require a number of plants and some soil amendment, we set up a crowd-sourced campaign using the UUA's "Faithify" program. After the event went live on Wednesday, an anonymous donor said "we'll match up to \$500 in donations," and immediately matched the first 2 days donations. The campaign, which has a goal of \$900, is an "all or nothing" campaign... if we don't reach the goal, all donations will be returned to donors.

You can check out the campaign (and donate) [HERE](#). Or, share the campaign on your social media! We have so far received two donations from outside UUTC (but inside Transylvania County). We hope you will read the campaign and give it a chance— we know it is hard to make the "ask" of friends. But with 25 acres of stormwater passing through, we cannot simply pull up plants and leave dirt until we have the cash to do the work. Thanks for passing it on!



Winter or Spring?

Rev. Bob Renjilian

March can be... interesting. One day it is sunny and in the 70's and great weather for a picnic. Then a cold front comes through and reminds us winter isn't done. Gentle rain that waters the daffodils, or torrents that wash out gullies. Some days I have my lightweight jacket with me, but the other evening I was sorry I hadn't brought another layer after the sun went down.

This March may be a bit all over the place in terms of COVID safety recommendations, too. We're still asking everyone in the building to wear a mask (unless you are speaking from the pulpit). But, we've got a time coming up (Pi Day) where we're going to control how many people are around for the event, because there will be food, which means moments when masks can't be worn.

Did you see the new CDC map? Transylvania County has been listed as "green" (that's good) for folks waiting for a sign that it is safe to come back to church services (or our activities). This is a really good sign. "Green light!" was the call during the children's game. Could it change? Sure! Just as it does in that game. Stop/Go... pay attention. Mother Nature is pushing up flowers (and making lawns look unevenly shaggy), and COVID seems to be in retreat (Again? For real?).

Yesterday it was raining,
Today the sun is shining.
Seize the moment's promise.

See you at church.



March 2022 at UUTC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
SAFE is this month's Social Justice Giving	See Wayfinding newsletter for event details! Also check your UUpdates!	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	1:30-3 Women of UUTC	3 pm French Conversation Grp	Wayfinding Newsletter	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 4-6 pm OWL 5:30 pm BYOB at the RING	4:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine 10 am Caregivers Support Group 2 pm Grief Support Group	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation 7 pm Climate Series- Conserving Carolina	4pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Poetry & Meditation Class (closed)	3 pm French Conversation Grp 5:30 pm Rainbow Alliance	Check email for UUPDATE	1 - 2:30 pm Youth Graphic Novel Club, The Girl from the Sea
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Choir Sings! 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 2 pm On Being (attendance limited)	Note time change for MM! 5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine Pi Day Auction—look for details!	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9:30 Grounds Work Day# 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation Note time for series! 6-8 pm Author Series- Carter Heyward	1:30-3 Women of UUTC 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Team Meeting Night	2 pm LHHH 3 pm French Conversation Grp	Check email for UUPDATE OWL Retreat at The Mountain	OWL Retreat at The Mountain
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Choir Sings! 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 12:30 Soul Matters Discussion** OWL Retreat at The Mountain	5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine 10 am Caregivers Support Group 2 pm Grief Support Group	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	6:30 pm Poetry & Meditation Class (closed)	3 pm French Conversation Grp 5:30 pm Board Meeting	Check email for UUPDATE	1 pm Hike and Goats at the Carl Sandburg House All are welcome! 8:30 pm EARTH HOUR!
27	28	29	30	31		2
9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service Between services: New Member Orientation 3:30 Book Club 4-6 pm OWL	5:00 pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse, Rain or Shine	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation		3 pm French Conversation Grp	April 1st Meals will be due for The Haven today! (No fooling!)	
		**To receive the monthly reading packet for Soul Matters, email RevBob@uutc.org . Discussion is 3/20	.	.	Current UUTC Office Hours RK Tues 10-2 Rev Bob and other staff are by appointment.	