



wayfinding

Those Who Nurture Beauty

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

Beauty comforts us in times of need, lifts us to great heights in times of adversity and helps us nurture the earth and our loved ones.

Speaker: Rev. Bob Renjilian

Photo by [Lina Trochez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This month's theme:

Nurturing Beauty



“

*I died for Beauty - but was scarce
Adjusted in the Tomb
When One who died for Truth, was lain
In an adjoining Room -*

*He questioned softly "Why I failed"?
"For Beauty", I replied -
"And I - for Truth - Themself are One -
We Brethren are", He said -*

*And so, as Kinsmen, met a Night —
We talked between the Rooms -
Until the Moss had reached our lips -
And covered up - Our names -*

Poem by Emily Dickinson

What do you consider beautiful? This month's services will explore many corners of this topic...

April

Excerpts from the Minutes:

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



Minister's Report – Rev. Bob had an extensive report with lots of changes, tweaks and activities to report. He expressed joy over the return of coffee hour, with the high energy and good socializing revealing the congregation he had been told about pre-pandemic. Rev. Bob also updated the Board on costs associated with testing the choir, and plans for the retreat in September.

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

Treasurer's Report – Gail reported that the Grow Getters fund is now open and ready for use. Revenues were much stronger in March, bumping us into possible surplus territory. Gail says that she does expect additional expenses in the next few months due to the double running of bookkeepers as Sue trains Kristin for a time on the inner workings of ACS.

Operations Report – RK commended the Facilities Team for their assistance in the space transitions for the Chalice House, the nursery, and the administrator/bookkeeper office. She reported that UUTC received approval from the Brevard City Council for Institutional Campus zoning.

Old Business: Bart made a motion to approve the FY 22-23 Proposed Budget as presented, to unanimous approval. Rev. Bob reported that UUA Leadership Development has moved online. Ian & Vanessa Cowie were approved as Delegates, along with Rev. Bob, to represent UUTC at General Assembly.

New Business: As described in her Operation Report, RK reported the need to reengage Carolina Mountain Surveying to update our survey plot to correctly indicate that we are zoned as an Institutional Campus. She requests Board and Finance Committee guidance on the timing of this work.

Our Safe Congregation Plan was reviewed, and two changes were made to the existing document. Gail made a motion to approve the proposed revisions and to adopt the Plan as amended; the motion was approved.

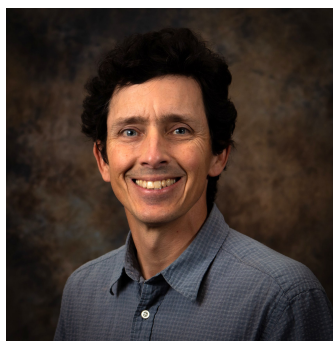
To read the full minutes, click [HERE](#).

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

Quiet Group Meditation

David Alff

Our Quiet Meditation Group meets on **Tuesdays, from 4 to 5 PM at the Chalice House**. Meetings will continue weekly, same day, same time. Please arrive promptly, so we can lock the doors and get under way. All are welcome. Contact David Alff, david.alff@gmail.com.



Kevin Lausch, Dir. of CRE

CRE News

Chalice House

The Chalice House is now fully functional (a big THANK YOU to the Facilities Team) and currently the Meditation Group, Grief Support Group and one other private group are meeting there. In the future, some CRE events will happen there, such as teen events, Graphic Novel Book Club, an older children's Sunday morning class, etc. The Chalice House has a meeting room (8-10 people), DCRE's office, small kitchen, bathroom and storage.

Children's Class takes a break during the Summer

The Sunday morning children's class, Chalice Children, will take a break during the summer months as usual. The last class will be held on Sunday, May 22. Children's classes will reconvene on Sunday, September 18.

Chalice Camp is coming August 8-12.

Once again UUTC will host Chalice Camp on August 8-12 from 9am to noon. Get your cape and mask ready because this year's theme is "Be a Super Hero"! Children ages 5 to 10 will have fun learning about and meeting local super heroes, such as police officers, fire fighters, and local community organizations. We will work hard to defeat evil villains like hunger by collecting food for The Sharing House. Youth aged 11 and up are needed to help make this camp a success. See you there!

Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 15th, 10AM

Kay Webb

The last in-person Congregational Meeting that convened at UUTC to conduct business was in 2019. On Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 10:00am, we will have our first in-person Congregational meeting in two years! Please plan to join congregation members in the sanctuary for the important business of electing the next Board of Trustees, Nominations Committee, and Endowment Committee and approving the FY2022-2023 Operating Budget.



Documents required for the annual meeting were emailed to UUTC members on May 2, 2022. These four documents can be found and printed from [THIS LINK](#).

There have been several requests for absentee ballots, which is commendable! However, absentee ballots **may not be used to establish a quorum**. We must have a quorum of 50 Members present on site to conduct business and have a vote. So, please plan to attend the Congregational Meeting at 10:00am, between the 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday services.

While the Nominations Committee has presented a slate of nominees for all elected positions, **UUTC Bylaws allow nominations to be made from the floor** during the Annual Meeting. Anyone nominated for a position during the meeting **must be present** and must be willing to serve in that position.

A Budget Forum was held Thursday, May 5th at UUTC to present the proposed FY22-23 Operating Budget and to allow members to ask questions regarding the proposal. **A second forum will be held Saturday, May 7th, at 10:30am in the sanctuary**; members representing the Board and the Finance Committee will be available to respond to questions.

Your presence on site to vote yes (or no!) for these slates and for the budget is essential to doing business. Without congregational approval of these leaders and the budget, the Board has no authority to authorize spending at the start of the next fiscal year, beginning July 1.

This is what Congregational Polity looks like!

Slate of Nominees for 2022-2023 Board of Trustees:

President	Alice Wellborn
President-Elect	Ian Cowie
Treasurer	Gail Meyers
Treasurer-Elect	Michael Griffith
Secretary	Kay Webb (3 rd term)
Member-at-Large	Quim Moya (2 nd term)
Member-at-Large	Glenn Cockerham (2 nd term)
Member-at-Large	Vicki Held (1 st term)

Slate of Nominees for 2022-2023 Nominations Committee:

Peter Mockridge (3rd term)
Susan Zelle (2nd term)
Midge Hoover (1st term)

Slate of Nominees for 2022-2023 Endowment Committee:

Roberta Miller (3rd term)
Carter Heyward (2nd term)
Richard Mills (1st term)

Meet Our New Bookkeeper!

Born in Nebraska and raised in southwest Iowa, Kristin Porter now calls WNC home. Her daughter, Justine, moved to this area four years ago and kept begging her to make the move because of how beautiful it is, and because of all the outdoor adventures to be had. Kristin loves being surrounded by the 360 degree view of nature and the mountains – it makes her feel as if she is on a permanent vacation.

Kristin loves animals – especially horses, dogs and birds of prey. She started changing her nutrition choices a year ago based to be healthier but it has evolved into wanting to advocate for animal welfare. She has a rescued dog, LuLu, who is five years young and two grandpups, Bane and Durga. She grew up in the country around horses, dogs, cats and all the wild critters she befriended.

Kristin grew up bouncing from one church to the next ... to the next ... to the next – because her father was searching for the “perfect” church. Her father became a RADICAL, fundamentalist pastor and Kristin was the child who verbally and behaviorally challenged his beliefs.

Kristin is proud to say he has grown into an advocate and speaker of love and acceptance of all.

Kristin’s spiritual beliefs are like the wind – forever growing, changing and adapting. She has a respect for the views of many and believes she can learn from them all.

She loves learning new things/ideas – researching, watching documentaries, reading nonfiction and an array of nonfiction audiobooks that challenge her to think and grow. She enjoys being creative but is not an artist ... (yet)... but enjoys dabbling in painting and pottery. Hiking and exploring waterfalls bring Kristin joy. Her passions include – nutrition, equality for ALL living beings – humans, animals, the Earth and environment. She would love to learn to kayak.



Kristin Porter ... aka “KP”

Siding With Women

Bart Renner

I’ve noticed a consensus among many of us who have chosen to become parents- the day our child was born is one of the most significant in our lives. I share that feeling. I will never forget the day that Cadence, our daughter, came into the world. I got to cheer Kate on through labor and was the first one to hold Cadence as she came into the world. It was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. Kate also described that experience as “beautiful,” which is amazing to me since she had just pushed that baby out with no pain meds. Kate’s strength and grace through this, and many other challenges of motherhood (like... having a second child) inspire me every day.



I realize I've been blessed to have many strong, motivated, gracious women in my life. The support of many such women has made me a better person both personally, professionally, and spiritually. This Mother's Day weekend, I join the nation in celebrating the contribution that amazing mother figures have had in my life and to our community.

However, I am also thinking about the extremely concerning news that additional restrictions are about to (once again) be placed on women's bodies. I cannot imagine what this must feel like to all who have been working for so long to ensure a woman's access to reproductive rights and health care. To allow women to become mothers when they decide they are ready. I share the frustration that many have expressed about how we seem to be going backwards and wonder where to focus my efforts in order to do the most good. I found that back in 2015 the UUA created a "Statement of Conscience" which eloquently outlines the UU [Church's stance on this issue](#). I am reassured to know that I have a community that shares my feelings and will help me focus my efforts toward making positive changes.

UUTC will always be a beacon of freedom for those whose voices are ignored and marginalized. Supporting UUTC, I know that I am adding my voice to the millions of others who want reproductive health care to be a human right. I also support this church because... this is really hard, and getting news like this makes me feel bad. BUT! when I hear Rev. Bob preach, hear the choir sing, get one of RK's hugs, or just see a fellow UU out in the town, I am strengthened.

I am also strengthened by all you who provide a strong motherly presence to all of us who need it. I hope you have a wonderful Mother's Day. Stay strong and keep up the great work!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: SPECIAL EVENT

Bruce Kirkman

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center is one of Unitarian Universalism's prime assets. Sited at 4125 feet atop Little Scaley Mountain outside Highlands, it sits among *one of the worlds last and largest dwarf oak tree forests*. The Mountain has hosted thousands of UU adults and youth in its stunning beauty during its 43 year history.

Rev Bob has reserved space there the weekend of September 9 – 11 for a UUTC retreat. Only a limited number can be accommodated so make your reservation soon!

Your weekend will be filled with fellowship, learning, worship, singing, good food and the surrounding beauty. In addition to our own programming The Mountain staff will offer a short Mountain history walk, a guided hike to Glen Falls and a Saturday night campfire with smores. Arrival for the weekend is Friday afternoon with departure after lunch on Sunday.

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!!

For more information go to [The Mountain website](#) where you can see all the amazing programs being held at The Mountain this year in addition to congregational retreats, Summer camps and Spring and Fall Youth Conferences (CONS). You can also call Bruce Kirkman at 828-507-1207 to get specific information about our retreat.



Strength in Numbers

Rev. Bob Renjilian

Martin Luther King once said “Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve.”

We rely on one another to make this world a better place. I’ve been in church and community settings and have watched what miracles happen when people pitch in. In many communities, school systems wrote volunteering requirements into their expectations for students, recognizing the principle that this builds better citizens and connection in our fractured communities.

When COVID-19 shut-downs occurred, many volunteer opportunities disappeared. Sadly, the face-to-face service opportunities were a casualty in the efforts for safer-distancing, and reduction of spread. I was heartened when UUTC folks continued to step up in other ways, behind-the-scenes ways, to support Bread of Life, for example, or thought of new things to do, such as roadside cleanups and delivering flowers alongside Meals on Wheels.

We also show strength in numbers when we show up to advocate for justice and equity in society. The ongoing “Moral Mondays” group at the courthouse was one such visible example, and the quick response of UUTC folks to respond to a call to show up at the Courthouse to protest for rights of women in the immediate aftermath of the leak of the Supreme Court draft is another reaffirmation that we’re here and engaged.

I’m noticing the steady progress of the Grow Getters on the clearing of non-native plants from the property, and that exemplifies the strength in numbers premise. I’ve watched LHHH do the care ministry throughout, with cards, calls and outreach, month after month, and seeing the thank you notes coming back to show that indeed we’re connecting.

But not everything is showing that strength in numbers. I’m concerned that we’re experiencing a lag in some areas. There are needs, but we’re not all awake, aware, and motivated to get out and engage. That’s true in the region, and true in our congregation itself. We have more people coming to Sunday services, but not enough volunteering to have a full contingent of Ushers, Greeters, and Coffee preparers. Then, when I get asked to find volunteers to help a congregant, I’m feeling a bit panicked that

we have folks ready to step up. Volunteering gaps are not new, but this month it feels a bit more of a chasm to me.

We're a good group of folks, with strong feelings of living our values. I know things will continue to give us opportunities to show up for each other, and for the organizations in community. We're busy people, and still somewhat distracted by COVID-19, but we're pulling ahead of the shut-down of volunteering of the past two years, and can live our lives as an anonymous quote on volunteermatch.org says "...when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

May you find what you can do to provide this strength in numbers by your own volunteer engagement. May you find greatness in serving. UUTC and the world could use someone like you. Blessings on all!

Extras from the Pronouns Workshop

Pronouns Workshop Further Resources

The between-service workshop on pronouns (and gender) was well received on April 24. I appreciate the feedback and also know that no matter how much was included, we could not cover everything. There are good online sources for deeper learning, and I share those here so that everyone can benefit, whether or not you could attend.

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

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

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia...

As a Welcoming Congregation we learn about and recognize the significant dates and observances of LGBTQ+. Recently Kevin Lausch and I attended a joint Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ webinar to help us be better prepared for responding against anti-LGBTQ+ initiatives. I don't think I'd heard about May 17 before this workshop, but it has been marked by world leaders, much in the way we look to the June memories of the Stonewall event in NYC. This year's international theme is "Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights". Abbreviated IDAHOTB and IDAHOBIT, this is recognized on May 17 each year, symbolically marking the World Health Organization's decision to remove homosexuality from the WHO International Classification of Diseases on May 17, 1990. —Rev. Bob

The Chalice House, Reborn!

Odds and ends make up the majority of fixtures in the Chalice House, but Kevin is delighted to have a more functional desk! RK's old desk is his new one... with about 3x the functional space of his old one. This was possible because of a generous gift to cover the cost of the new standing desk that RK will share with Kristin Porter in the administrative office. This gift also covered a good bulletin board for the Chalice House and two small bookcase, which you can see in the third image.

Bob & Mary Bennett and Howie Friedman have done the lion's share of the rehab in clean up and repair of the space. Mac Heating & Air rescued the 26-year old heating and AC... 4 parts were replaced...but we will have to schedule service for it very soon to get everything lubricated to preserve its functionality.

It's now Hector's turn — he will be installing a vapor barrier under the house, checking for "soft wood" at the eaves, power washing the structure, caulking the windows and scraping and painting all the trim. This will be above his regular compensation, and your gifts to help make this space truly welcoming would be greatly appreciated. The Facilities Team will come back after Hector completes his work and will repaint all the siding. Some day, we will purchase some matched, cheerful, stacking chairs specifically for this space so we can get our blue chairs back in the sanctuary!



Kevin's office

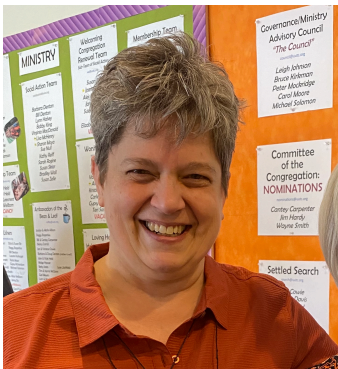


The Workroom



Meeting Space

Our Building is Reaching a Certain Age...



RK Young

To wrap up this issue, I'd like to call attention to a couple of Facilities issues that can't be covered with the budget. Actually, it's three issues, but they are all lighting. And the total bill is over \$5000, so it's a Capital, not Operating, expense.

The Board has already been given an estimate of over \$11,000 to cover replacement of our parking lot lights and the exterior soffit lighting. These fixtures, installed at the time of construction, have "aged out." The soffit fixtures have rusted so thoroughly that bulb are barely hanging in there, and they can't make enough of an electrical connection to "light." The parking lot lights have a similar problem ... if you check the two poles on the Broad street side of the property (and please don't stand directly beneath them!), you will see that the bulbs are hanging out of the sockets. One of these has ceased to work.

In addition to these two issues, the lighting in our HVAC room is about to go dark. The fixtures in this space are 8 foot florescent fixtures for which we can no longer get bulbs. Hector purchased the last remaining bulbs from Ace a couple of years back. Replacing these with new LED fixtures will add at least another \$500 to the job. To keep our building a safe space, we need to repair these. If you can, please make a Capital gift. Thanks!



Photo by Kay Webb



May 2022 at UUTC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pisgah Legal Services is this month's Social Justice Giving	See Wayfinding newsletter for event details! Also check your UUpdates!	Come and Vote Annual Meeting May 15 between	Make a Note: Wonderful Wednesday RETURNS June 1st!			Current UUTC Office Hours RK Tues 10-2 Rev Bob and other staff by appointment.
1 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 5:30 pm BYOB at the RING	2 5pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse 10 am Caregivers Support Group 2 pm Grief Support	3 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-am Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	4 1:30-pm Women of UUTC 4 pm Social Action Team 4 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 3 pm French Conversation Grp 6:30 pm Budget Forum	6 May Wayfinding Newsletter	7 10:30 am Budget Forum
8 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 2 pm On Being (attendance limited)	9 5pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse	10 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-am Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	11 4 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Poetry & Meditation Class (closed)	12 3 pm French Conversation Grp 5:30 pm Rainbow Alliance	13 Check email for UUPDATE	14
15 ANNUAL MEETING TODAY BETWEEN SERVICES! Be present to vote!! CHOIR SINGS 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service	16 5pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse 10 am Caregivers Support Group 2 pm Grief Support	17 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10 am Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	18 1:30 pm Women of UUTC 4 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Team Meeting Night	19 2 pm LHHH 3 pm French Conversation Grp	20 Check email for UUPDATE	21 10 am-3 pm Native Plant Sale—Perennials Come at 10 for best selection
22 CHOIR SINGS 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 10-11 am Soul Matters Discussion between services**	23 5pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse	24 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-am Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	25 6:30 pm Poetry & Meditation Class (closed)	26 3 pm French Conversation Grp 5:30 pm Board Meeting	27 Check email for UUPDATE	28 2 pm Graphic Novel Book Club, "Maus"
29	30 Memorial Day	31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4
9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service Last day of CRE 3:30 Book Club	5pm Moral Mondays @ Courthouse 10 am Caregivers Support Group 2 pm Grief Support	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-am Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	1:30-pm Women of UUTC 4 pm Social Act. Wonderful Wednesday—check for details	3 pm French Conversation Grp	June Wayfinding Newsletter	

Mark Your Calendars!
June 6th Happy Birthday UUTC
We will celebrate on Sunday, June 5