



wayfinding

Welcome
to the path of
Change



“

*Let difficulty transform you.
And it will. In my experience,
we just need help learning how
not to run away.*

*—Pema Chodron, from November's Soul
Matters Packet*

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

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

Social Justice Giving for November: **The Haven**

[The Haven](#) celebrated its 11th birthday on Tuesday, thanks in large part to the efforts of members of UUTC, who helped to both fund and staff it. Now, our gifts help to support the missional efforts of this organization as they work to find safe space for those in deepest need.

On average, there are 150 students in Transylvania County each year who are homeless or “precariously housed” at some time during the school year.

If time is what you can give, you can find the Volunteers of The Haven Facebook group or call 828-877-2040. Your gifts this month through UUTC’s shared plate initiative will help provide services to this large at-risk group.



THE HAVEN
Safety and rest for those in need



September

Excerpts from the Minutes:

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



Minister's Report – Rev. Bob shared his excitement to be working with the newly re-established Council, which will be re-visiting the 202-2025 Vision Statement. He officiated the wedding of Carrie Branum & Seth Batchelder. He commended CRE Director Kevin Lausch for the family campout and his work with the community group “TC Strong.”

Treasurer's Report – Michael reported that our revenues are still low, but that September expenses were lower than average, as well. Gail commended Michael for picking up the reins while she was traveling, reiterating that the budget is very tight this fiscal year and that planned fundraisers need to be successful.

Operations Report – RK reported that we are still short-handed for CRE needs and that volunteers would be helpful to ensure that backup is available. She also reported a change in the WayFinding delivery – Trisha will do an UUpdate every Friday, and the WayFinding will be sent separately via email through Realm.

Old Business: Ministry/Minister Annual Review Update— Alice reported on the work of the Annual Review Task Force. In mid-November, some members of the Task Force will meet in a special closed session with the Board to share the results of the annual review. Sometime after this meeting, the Task Force will share the evaluation results with the Congregation.

New Business: Church Insurance Policy – The current UUTC insurance policy will be renewed with a new plan at twice the cost. The Administrator recommended a task force be appointed to research insurance companies and determine what coverage is needed. Members Dave Roberts, Carol Moore and John Dreier have agreed to serve on this task force.

New Business: SUULE (Leadership Training)— Kay shared that the UU leadership training has moved from an in-person weekend event to an online nine-month program; a discussion of how and when to involve congregants in leadership training is needed. After some discussion, it was suggested that we contact our regional UUA representatives to see what might be provided onsite at the local level. Ian Cowie volunteered to investigate what the Southern Region could provide and to report back.

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



Gratitude

Rev. Bob Renjilian

I'm very thankful as this month begins. In my personal life my health is good, my family is doing well, Christy and I get to be together more often than not, and some home projects have come to completion or are getting closer to being done. Here at UUTC I'm loving the fact that so many congregants have been diving into projects and events in the past months, which is such a contrast from quarantine times. I'm grateful that those in the UUTC family who've caught COVID have recovered. In the community I'm thankful of the chance to exercise my democratic right to vote this week (I chose the early voting option - so smooth and easy), free of intimidation that I hear about elsewhere.

At the October Board meeting, RK Young said she felt that the number of groups using our campus seems to be higher than any other time since she started working here. That's a testament to the resilience of our UUTC community, and our ability to be an attractive location for community groups too. One of the meetings I attended last week was the LGBTQ+ teen support group, organized by Kevin Lausch in conjunction with TC Strong. The social hall became a place for pizza, good vibes, and clear planning for future gatherings of the group. This gives me hope for the health of Transylvania County teens, and I'm very grateful we have Kevin's vision and direction to thank for that.

I also attended Wonderful Wednesday each month, and joined the table conversations and meal (and the informative presentation). The revival of this tradition could not have happened without the Adult Religious Exploration Team, which hadn't even existed when I arrived during the pandemic and included newcomers who jumped at the chance to imagine programs and speakers (Thank You!). It also would not have happened with out Ann Rabb, who is someone I'm always grateful for - her ability to build a new team of meal preparers and guide us back to connection with one another has been amazing, as is her connection and outreach through the LHHH care team. Many thanks!

We had almost 20 folks helping with the "UUTheVote" project in North Carolina, the get out the vote postcard project. Almost 500 postcards were swiftly handwritten and addressed to go to various voters who might not have been regularly making it to the polls. Thank you to all who took part, and thanks to Lisa Garcia-Sampson of the UU Justice Ministry of NC who prepared those postcard kit packets for UUTC and so many other UU congregations, making it easy for us to promote the democratic process.

RK Young gets a lion's share of thanks from me, for all that ends up happening around here (understatement). I miss Eloise being around, but thankful she is still keeping me on track with messages and calendaring, which makes a big difference. Also Trisha has jumped into her new staff role with skill and focus, and I'm so glad she is in on our weekly staff meetings. Our Sunday Morning crew is a joy - the Nursery and coffee crew, RE Teachers, musicians, ushers, greeters, worship associates and AV Tech wizards. Did you see we had a brand new elementary-age greeter on a recent Sunday?! Thanks all for making our Sunday experience so enriching.



Letter from the President

Alice Wellborn

I've been thinking a lot about Courage this month. We all know the stories about those who have risked their lives and reputations to bend that arc of the moral universe just a little bit further on its path towards justice. And we need those examples to help inspire us to meaningful action in our own lives.

But you know, there is also the small "c" courage – the courage that I see all around me in our community. People participating in social action, even when it's exhausting and difficult. People working for positive change, even when it sometimes feels futile. People supporting each other as we all try to do our part to build a local community that values peace, liberty, and justice for all.

I missed our Halloween service this past Sunday because I attended the service at Bethel A Baptist Church. Tami Forte-Logan (some of you will remember her as Tami Moss at Rise & Shine) preached a powerful sermon about structural racism, oppression, and white supremacy, both nationally and locally. Tami preached about the need to remember our history, but also to remember that we cannot go back to what is comfortable and predictable. Courage!

None of us could do this work without the support and encouragement of those around us. This is a time in the world when we need to hold hands with each other and keep on walking as we speak truth to power. Let's be intentional about that as we move into 2023.

Please take care of yourselves. I am so grateful to those among you who have reminded me to take care of myself. We need to be intentional about watching out for each other.

The mission of UUTC is to support individual spiritual journeys and to promote social, economic and environmental justice. That takes courage! Let's get going.

In covenant, Alice



PowerUp for Sharing House

Kathy Reiff, Social Action Team

It's the beginning of November and the weather is beginning its journey to the coldest part of our year. We think of turning up our heat so that we can stay warm and cozy as the weather challenges us. Although we begrudge paying the higher costs that haunt us all, most of us are able to absorb the costs to keep ourselves comfortable.

For many, however, staying warm is much more difficult. To help those in need in our community, UUTC is once again partnering with St. Phillips Episcopal Church and the Jewish community to hold a drive-up

dinner known as **PowerUp**. The proceeds of this event will go to Sharing House to aid those struggling with heating costs. On November 20th, from 4:00 - 5:30, pre-ordered meals can be picked up at the rear parking lot of St. Phillips. While there is no charge for the meal, donations are encouraged and gratefully accepted. Last year's event raised \$30,000 and helped over 200 families. The goal this year is to exceed this.

Two types of meals can be ordered: the regular dinner is chicken casserole, salad, roll and desert. The vegetarian meal is black beans, sweet potatoes, brown rice, salad, roll and desert. There is no set price for meals — please give according to your ability to fund more Power for more People!

How can the UUTC community help in this project? First of all, meals can be ordered on-line by e-mailing: abb31650@gmail.com. **Meals must be ordered by 5pm on Nov. 17.** Secondly, **UUTC is responsible for providing the brownies for desert.** Needed are brownies, WITHOUT NUTS, cut in 2 x 2" squares and *individually wrapped*. We need 325 brownies, so many bakers are needed! If you are able to provide 2 or 3 dozen brownies, please e-mail Kathy Reiff at jkreiff@yahoo.com or call 884-2102.

There will also be opportunities for people to be involved in this event on that evening. It is always a fun and inspiring event. Thanks for your generosity.

WACky: Women's Art Circle

November Edition — Gratitude!

Join Jeanie Bernard —always a treat! —who will lead a circle of women to explore how playing with art can become a spiritual practice. No need to call yourself, or even see yourself as an “artist,” just be open to possibilities and bring your willing self.

The Circle will be limited to six women, but you are encouraged to put your name down after #6 anyway, because Jeanie will likely be offering another class, and you certainly don't want to miss an opportunity! This current offering will be on **Friday, November 11th from 1:00-4:00** in the social hall in the main building.

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



Blessing Bowl group had a great time!

Giving Tree for Davidson River School

As early as it seems, the needs of the holiday season are quickly creeping up on us. As in the past few years, UUTC is once again sponsoring a Giving Tree for the Davidson River School students. These students are in need of essentials as well as perhaps a wish or tow being granted. Even more importantly, however, is the knowledge that someone cares for them. The school is so grateful for our contributions to the welfare of their students and it is a connection that the Social Action Team would like to continue.

Beginning in the second week of November there will be cards hanging up with a students # on it. This card will like some things that the students need as well as a few things they would like to have that relate to their interests. It is hoped that you will take a card and provide w needs and one wish.

Each gift should be wrapped with the student # on the name tag. The gifts can then be put in a larger bag/box with the student # on it. The gifts should be delivered to UUTC by Dec. 14 to be delivered to Davidson River before the students leave for holiday break.

Thanks so much for your kindness and generosity in this matter.

The Social Action Team

Fully Trained: CRE Leaders Complete ASIST



Kevin Lausch and Trisha Wesley have now completed the same suicide-prevention training already held by Rev. Bob Renjilian.

This training makes them more prepared to meet the needs of at risk youth and serve as trusted adults in their lives. The Chalice House window (shown at left) is now marked with the same sticker as Rev. Bob's office window. The small print at the bottom reads "suicide first aid," so teens don't have to guess what it means.



Feed Me Foam: UUTC Volunteers Learn & Serve

Heather Richardson, daughter Birdie Rock, Tara McDonald and son Griffin Tiner were on hand with other volunteers to learn about Styrofoam™ recycling on October 15. Griffin provided a very thorough description of what happens inside the machine as it creates ropes of solidified foam that can be turned into insulation. The event was such a success (80 cubic feet of foam recycled!) that the county is very excited about what could be kept out of the landfill. Start saving your rigid packing foam!



NC Native Plant Society Grant? **Yes!**

(Now We Make a Mess...)

Your Grow Getters Team made successful application to the NC Native Plant Society for help in funding their next project on the UUTC grounds. [Read the full grant [here](#).] Since then, gas lines were again marked to guide our contractor in removal of the invasive species and, unfortunately, some mature natives (the winterberry hollies) whose roots were too damaged to save.

One of the trio of trees in that bed had experienced die-back at the top and was failing—we opted to have that removed as a portion of the work. Through error, the remaining two trees were limbed up, making things a bit sunnier than planned. The current state of the bed is a bit shocking, but please have faith — the ground is being prepared for successful new plantings!

Grow Getters members seeded and raked a combination of the two seeds that have a prayer of sprouting at this stage — rye & red clover — and, thankfully, these were watered in with a gentle rain. In the spring, these will be turned under to help the soil. In the meantime, they will help with the erosion that happens from winter storms. Should growth be unsuccessful, the Team will move to Plan B.



North Carolina Native Plant Society
Promoting the enjoyment and conservation of North Carolina's native plants and their habitats through education, protection, propagation, and advocacy since 1951

Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County
RK Young
PO Box 918 24 Varsity Street
Brevard, NC 28712

Oct 11 2022

Dear RK,

I am pleased to inform you that UUTC has been awarded a grant from the North Carolina Native Plant Society's B. W. Wells Stewardship Fund. Due to limited funds, we are only able to fund \$900 towards the installation of a native bog garden on your campus grounds. Congratulations! Your award check of \$900 will be mailed soon.



Above, trimmed branches are chipped and transported to the Fellowship Green, where Grow Getters Team members can use it to protect the work they have done on campus. At right, the Class 1 Invasive Nandina, which had defeated shovels, meets its match.

“ UUTC will leverage its campus visibility to create local homeowner support for conserving WNC biodiversity through demonstration gardens, educational programming and partnerships with other conservation initiatives.



Come spring, a bog will be dug, lined, and filled with peat and other appropriate soil mixture. And the plants will go in. While there are likely to be some changes before all is said and done, Richard (Dick) Mill's bog design is the heart of this new project. This is a high profile, easy to see location which will let us showcase plants that aren't always easy to find—many are threatened or endangered in North Carolina. The “Ladies Tresses” featured in the bog, for instance, are one of our native orchids and occur in most of the South East, but it is rare or vulnerable throughout much of its range. Those with part shade, moist spots in their yards could easily add this late-season bloomer.

Local members of the NCNPS are very excited at the work we are doing. It's worth a little mess!

Help for the Hard of Hearing

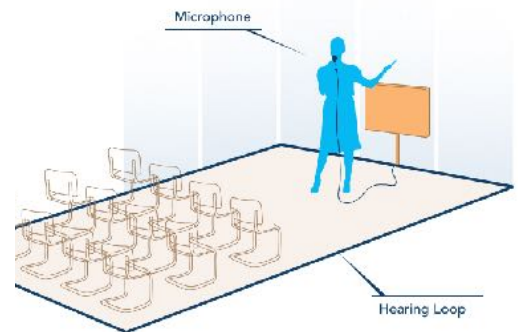
The Aesthetics Team, currently staffed by Roberta Carver, Victoria Kerr, Lyn Mabry, Lisa Sheffield and Christina Schmidt, is researching and juggling a very happy challenge: a hearing loop grant for UUTC.

A hearing loop is an “induction loop system that transmits magnetic energy to tele coil-equipped hearing aids through a wire that surrounds an audience.” Or in our case, many wires, looping to all portions of the sanctuary. Installation of the loop will require ripping up all the carpet in the sanctuary. Our current carpet is of an age that this is no great tragedy, especially since new carpet will be covered by the grant. Aesthetics is guiding the design decisions.

A hearing loop is superior to hearing aids alone, because it amplifies only the sounds coming into the broadcast system. So, for instance, in the sanctuary, the choir and speakers using microphones will be amplified, but kitchen noises will not.

Our existing hearing assistance relies on “body pack” receivers that collect the signal from a transmitter connected to the sound system. These packs can use headphones (provided) or smaller earphones that you might bring from home. You plug in the phones, and then turn on the switch of the receiver to the level you require. They work well for folks with basic hearing aids or for folks who have yet to bite that bullet, but do need help hearing. We are keeping this system in place.

Included in our grant application will be a secondary system that we can use with small groups. It will include a second transmitter, so that the one attached to our sanctuary sound system does not have to be purloined from that space. And it will include a couple new chargers, as our old one is having trouble



<https://hearingloop.org/>

maintaining good contact with the packs for proper charging. This system is extremely easy to use, so all small groups can take advantage of it. A “conference” mic is connected to the transmitter, the transmitter is plugged in, and bingo! Ready to go!

Philip Belcher, our contact at the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, contacted us directly about installation of a loop. He mentioned that our “open door policy” to programming made us a good site for a loop. It will certainly be a blessing to many.



The Work We Do Not See

RK Young

UUTC is becoming more of the beehive some of us remember. And a goodly portion of the success of the institution is due to the people who show up and work — in many ways. As I write this, the aforementioned Richard Mills is digging holes for plants in the newly naked bed. On Sunday, volunteer greeters will welcome us. The nursery staff is doing double-duty as coffee prep. The Facilities Team is fixing sticky doors and making light switches work again (Thanks, Howie!). The ushers will facilitate in the sanctuary, passing baskets, checking carbon dioxide levels, and making sure folks have a hymnal if they wish one. John Austin and Carlene Ragan, without compensation, continue to gift their massive musical talents to us to enrich the worship experience. UUTC needs volunteers to make everything “flow.” We have a dedicated staff, but there are limits to what they can do. The knowledge that volunteers bring to their tasks is varied and a great wealth to this congregation.

An incident this morning deserves a shout out. You know what an aggravation it can be to update operating systems on all our electronic devices. And usually, that’s all we’re updating. But the AV crew deals with not only the operating system of the Mac, but several other pieces of software to meet all the needs of Sunday Mornings or presentations for Wonderful Wednesday and other events. ALL of these have to be kept updated, and there are regular prayers that “everything will work.” And don’t even get me started on the various “scenes” on the sound board that Doug Wilks handles. He has learned to slap my hands away from the board. ;)

This morning I witnessed a text message exchange about the most recent update for the Mac OS. That update went swimmingly. And then came the ProPresenter update. Remember that Kathryn Burleigh has a background in computer programming. I’m sharing this with you verbatim, because it’s such a delight.

“We are not upgrading ProPresenter. Segmentation fault causes the application to consistently die. [It] crapped out on me so many times it led me to play with the error (for fun). The error is in ProPresenter and [we] can work around it, but it is so bad that the application locks, times out and segfaults. ProPresenter will have a fix in a week. Score one for team old.”

Please thank a volunteer on Sunday — or better yet, sign up to be one!

November 2022 at UUTC



Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SAC BY-SA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Haven is this month's Social Justice Giving		Fellowship on the Green is now Fellowship in the (Social) Hall! Join us!		CRE and Nursery Care available during Sunday services.		
		1	2	3	4	5
		9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4:00 NAACP Education Comm 4-5 Quiet Meditation	1:30- Women of UUTC 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	2:00 Spiritual Explorers 3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles	5:00 Emotional Centering	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 3:30 Book Grp	4 Moral Mon. @Courthouse 5:30 Week of Peace	ELECTION DAY 9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation	12 Post-Election Gathering 1:15 Dream Grp 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Wonderful Wednesday	2:00 Spiritual Explorers 3:00 French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles 5:30 Rainbow Alliance	1-4 WAC*ky Women's Art Circle 5:00 Emotional Centering	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CHOIR SINGS 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 11:30 SOUPer Sunday 2:00 On Being	10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Grp 2 pm LHHH 4 Moral Mon. 5:30 Week/Peace	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation	1:30- Women of UUTC 4:00 Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Team Meeting Night	10 Boardwalk 2:00 Spiritual Explorers 3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles	5:00 Emotional Centering	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
CHOIR SINGS 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed Communion 11:15 Pronoun Workshop	2 pm LHHH 4 Moral Mon. @Courthouse 5:30 Week of Peace	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation	1:15 Dream Grp	THANKSGIVING The office will be closed.	5:00 Emotional Centering	
27	28	29	30	December 1	2	3
10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed	10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Grp 4 Moral Mon. 5:30 Week of Peace	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 9-11 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 4-5 Quiet Meditation		3 pm French Conversation 4:00 A Course in Miracles 5:30 Board Mtg on Zoom	5:00 Emotional Centering	CAROL SING @ THE FIRE RING! 