#### **SPRING 2023**



# wayfinding



Photograph Resistance: For each day of one week, take 3-5 pictures of "resistance."

Don't overthink it. Don't predetermine what counts as "resistance." Just keep your eye out for whatever seems to be announcing itself to you as a form of resistance. So one minute you might find yourself taking a picture of the TV screen as the news reports on a protest against police brutality. But an hour later, it might be a flower pushing itself through a crack in the sidewalk. And then a day later you may find yourself taking a picture of your dog refusing to take a bath or of your wife's tattoo which she got to resist the stereotypes of what Grandmas should and shouldn't do.

Share your images in our UUTC Members & Friends Facebook Group. Look for themes & discuss! This is one of many activities available in the Soul Matters packets. To try one on for yourself or with your family, Email <u>Kevin Lausch</u> or <u>Rev. Bob</u> to get a packet!

#### Social Justice Giving for April: The Children's Center

The Children's Center has many programs designed to improve the lives of children of Transylvania County. We partner with parents and a variety of agencies that work with children to help accomplish our goals.

**Our Mission** is to create, maintain, and operate a center that shall coordinate a multidisciplinary approach for services for children who are at risk of, or victims of, neglect and abuse in Transylvania County.

The Children's Center grew out of concern of a group of local community members who felt that abused children should be represented by an organization whose sole function was to advocate for these children. So for over 25 years, The Children's Center has been advocating for abused and neglected children.



#### **Minutes & More**

For the full Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, the Operations Report and the Minister's report, please visit the **Board's Page** and select the reports you wish to view. This page provides links to the most recent meeting documents and previous. There's more going on than meets the eye — this page is where you can keep up!

# the Board's Business



#### **Resistance Is Futile**

#### **Rev. Bob Renjilian**

Some of you have learned I'm a Star Trek fan. In the "Next Generation" series viewers are introduced to the Borg. The Borg go around the Universe in their heavily armed spaceships declaring that they will assimilate all the various aliens. Assimilation, as I learned in early antiracism trainings back in the last century, means dropping your cultural diversity and being subsumed into the dominant culture. The Borg go around telling people this is an improvement, and that "resistance is futile!" Most episodes show that the main characters of the show are

able to combine their talents to resist assimilation, preserving their individuality in the process.

For those of you who didn't watch that show, perhaps the movie "Casablanca" comes close. Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid) from the French Resistance is told by the German officers he will not succeed, but escapes with his wife, Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman), with American Rick Blaine's help (Humphrey Bogart), with the implication that the resistance will continue (at the time this movie was made, WWII was years from being over).

Sometimes resistance looks like a protest march, even in the face of fire hoses. Sometimes it sounds like lighthearted banter defusing a situation that otherwise looked like it would escalate into violence. Sometimes it feels like a vacation taken in the middle of the most stressful moments of life, catching a breath and finding new perspectives.

Our monthly theme is about "The Path of Resistance." Those who have signed up for the electronic packet will be exploring exercises related to resisting, and asking deep questions about times of resistance in their lives. For instance, who modeled an example of resistance for you as you were growing up? If you aren't on the distribution list, let me know and I'll send the packet to you. I'm hoping between the sermons and the packet study we'll have a growing clarity in our community, and strength to help each other with whatever is too much burden for one person.



### **Letter from the President**

#### **Alice Wellborn**

It's been busy times at UUTC – hustle and bustle, inside and out, almost every day of the week. What a joy to see our community working together, playing together, and worshipping together. There's positive energy in the air!

Hector and Hector Jr. have finished repairing drywall and painting the sanctuary. New blinds for the social hall have been installed and choir chairs are about to be ordered. As I write this, the hearing loop is being installed in

the sanctuary and the new carpet is ready to go down. The new picnic tables for the Fellowship Green have been assembled. The Grow Getters are also go-getters when it comes to fighting invasive species and planting native species. We're busy!

And we're also having fun together, auctioning pies, setting up a spring auction, sharing soup, making art, talking about books, and looking forward to an Easter Hunt and family camping. Wow!

Maybe most importantly, we're all trying to take care of each other. We have been cursed to live in "interesting times," and that can be hard. We have a women's group, two men's groups, a caretaker support group, a grief support group, and our wonderful Loving Hearts and Helping Hands, who love and support us all.

As we come to the end of the Pledge Drive, I'd like to remind everyone that supporting a happy, active church requires many hands – staff, but mostly volunteers. Mostly, just those of us who have chosen to be members of UUTC. Our church is our responsibility. We provide all the money to fund the budget. We supply most of the labor to get things done. If you haven't pledged already, please support your church. If you don't have a volunteer role, ask around and find something that suits you.

UUTC is what we make it. Nothing more, nothing less.

In Covenant, Alice



# Souper Sunday!

Souper Sunday is a congregation driven shared meal. It relies on volunteers who cook or bake and on others to attend and enjoy their gifts! This monthly event is a wonderful time to reconnect or get to know others a bit better... and to share what is going on in your own life.

Our next Souper Sunday is **April 9th**. If you can bring chili or soup for that day, **please signup this Sunday at the front counter**—we'd like to have 7 crockpots of goodness to share!

# **Unmasking the Klansman: Dan Carter**

"Only Dan T. Carter could have unearthed a story so surreal, so essential to our understanding of modern American politics and culture. This book is a triumph." — *Elaina Plott, staff writer, The Atlantic* 

You are invited to a celebration of Dan Carter's latest book, *Unmasking the Klansman: The Double Life of Asa and Forest Carter.* But you must register! Dan tends to fill **ALL** the available seating, and 55 people are already registered for this event. If you are on Realm, you can register easily from the app. Otherwise, reach out to RK Young at <u>administrator@uutc.org</u> to make sure you have a seat, and not just space along the walls to stand. <text>

The celebration takes place at 4pm on Sunday, April 30th here at UUTC. If you'd like a copy of the book, you can purchase from Highland Books, or Dan will have some on hand that evening. He

will begin with a presentation in which he will provide insights into the book's characters and how the book came to be... **a process that spanned over 20 years.** 

Following Dan's talk, refreshments will be served and you will have the opportunity to speak with Dan personally and obtain your own autographed copy of the book. <u>Register HERE to claim a seat!</u> There is no cost to attend this celebration.

### Save the Date: Sunday, June 4th

A Special Guest Speaker at the 10am service. An afternoon of events including The Gay Men's Chorus. Why? Rev. Bob's Installation! Block out the day so you don't miss any of the joy!

#### In Which We Provide an Assist

Heather Layton, on behalf of Brevard Chapter of the Augustine Literacy Project (ALP), reached out for help on this year's adult spelling bee — The Bee. Before Covid, UUTC members formed a team called the Carpenter Bees — Carol Moore, Bobby King, Pedro Sandin and Dori Miller (from another congregation) to compete in this Bee. This year, we did what we could— and provided chairs. This saved ALP rental fees. The event was held in the Lumberyard... Heather rounded up chairs we did not have actively in use,

labeled them and brought them back. It was good to be able to help in some way.

# **Playful Tables for Kids of All Ages**

Bob and Mary Bennett spent about 4 hours this past Tuesday assembling our new poly-coated steel tables (no mushrooms will grow on these!). The teal/turquoise-colored table has space for a wheelchair to roll up to it, and the purple and orange tables seat 8 each — if you're friendly, or kid-sized.

These circular tables are easier to access than a standard picnic table. You do not have to lift a leg over the seat, but can just slide in from the side. Pretty soon, the shade sails will go back up, and Fellowship on the Green will be back in business!

Funds for these tables were donated during our annual Giving Tuesday campaign during November. Big thanks to all who donated to the cause—our wooden tables are just not standing up to the rain and moisture under their feet. Still, the Renner Family came by and moved three of the older tables around to the back of the Chalice House in order to facilitate activities on that side of structure. Chalice Camp will have better seating for all!



Photo by Judith Moore

# **Realm App— Support Sessions on Mondays**



#### **RK Young**

I'm still providing a weekly support session for anyone who would like to get more proficient on their mobile devices with our Realm Connect app. If you are able to edit your profile, you can make sure your mobile phone is listed as "mobile" and not "home," and that will mean you can receive text alerts for cancellation of services, pop up Fellowship on Tap, or other events. If you can't edit your profile, bring your device and come to a work session!

If Realm is completely new to you, by all means **drop in at 1:30** and let me introduce you to the features others are enjoying — one of which is being able to sign up for an event like the **WAC\*ky Women's Art Circle** with 3 clicks. Or to discuss where the next Fellowship on Tap may be. Or to keep up with what's happening in Spiritual Explorers. Or to find out when an event you attend changes time or location.

**Jim Null tells me that he finds Realm easy to use and very convenient.** "I use it two to three times a week just to look up phone numbers or addresses," he told me. And then he calls or gets directions... directly inside the app. No need to memorize and dial, or memorize and retype in Google Maps.

Give Realm a Try! Download "Realm Connect" to your mobile device and login with your email. And if you have trouble, come see me on Monday!

#### The Loop Is In...and Covered in New Carpet



**All Chairs Out** 

Assets Bundled

**Channels Created** 

1st Loop Stuck Down



DO NOT COT





**Doug Installs New Cable** 

**Assets Labeled** 

Testing

**More Testing** 



Sticky Gets Stickier

Thursday Afternoon

**Friday Afternoon** 

#### Those with telecoil-equipped hearing aids will immediately benefit.

For those without, who need the assistance, FM and Loop bodypacks tied to our sound system are provided. If you don't see the bodypacks when entering the sanctuary, ask an usher for help!

### We've Only Just Begun Auction Needs YOU SPRING AUCTION KICK OFF PARTY April 28th from 5-7 to preview items



For the next 3 Sundays stop by our table and pick up a flyer that contains everything you need to know about donations and registering to bid online.

We will begin accepting donations of items from 9:00-9:30 and 11:00 to 11:30 on April 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Everyone can participate in the UUTC Auction. Maybe your vacation house could be

offered for a weekend? Or you know an artist who would like their painting auctioned? How about a small dinner party hosted by you? Offer a skill or interest you want to share like gardening tips, guided hike, special meal to share? Think of a local business you want to let others know about. A gift card or gift basket would add much to the auction. We want you to be creative. The auction supports the UUTC programs.

We are looking for people to make gift baskets to auction off. We will provide the basket. Call Donna Reyburn if you can help with this. 843-801-2640.

Pick up a donation form at UUTC or from any auction committee member, or download one <u>HERE</u>. Check the bulletin board when you arrive Sunday to see some of the great stuff that's already been offered! Some items are "fixed price," most are to the highest bidder.

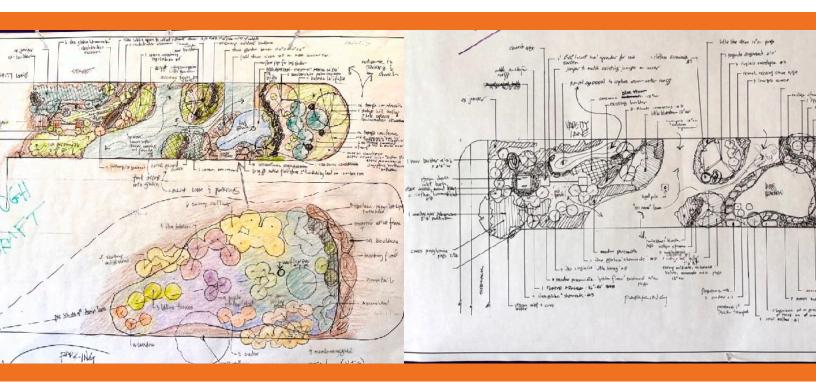
The auction kicks off with a party. You get to look over all the items and begin online bidding. Plus there will be special items auctioned live that night. Mark your calendar - Friday, April 28. Doors open at 5:00 pm. The online auction begins on April 28 at 5:00 PM and ends on May 5 at 5:00 PM.

The auction committee contact information: Ian Cowie (<u>icowie13@gmail.com</u>), Mike Griffith (<u>Grif3015@bellsouth.net</u>), Vicki Held (<u>vicki.held1@gmail.com</u>, and Donna Reyburn (<u>donnadives@bellsouth.net</u>).

#### **PLAN TO BE HERE!**

#### **Earthscapes Refines Our Plan**

Our Grow Getters Team was thrilled to win \$900 from the B. W. Wells Stewardship Grant of the NC Native Plant Society to install a bog garden in our main front bed. But what about the rest of that space? How could it all be tied together?



Earthscape's colored first draft on the left established a "no mow" pathway encouraging access and engagement with what will be our new landscape (over time). It preserves the main landscape structure —the stacked stone — at the east end of the bed, adding Mountain Laurel, a red bud, and a native rhododendron underneath the Deodar Cedars that are still anchoring that bed. Asters and other natives will eventually replace the asian yellow-blossomed barrenwort at the front edge, but that may not happen this year. The Team is working hard to budget the larger, more structural elements of the plan.

Vicki Held trimmed \$700 from the original grant budget by locating durable, but more economical, plant identification signs. For the no-mow portion of the design, the Team will likely use a seed mixture to cut costs. They will, however, have to re-engage a local contractor to do some earth moving and excavation —both for the bog and for the areas on the west end of the plot that are lean soils full of gravel. The contractor will also dig the trench for the overflow pipe that will protect the bog plants from our larger rain events. Since this bog will be lined with a rubber membrane, water can't drain naturally. Bog plants require moist soils, but will drown if the soil is too wet.

The break-out image on the first drawing shows some of the fabulous plants that will be in the bog sundews, pitcher plants, turtlehead, marsh ladies's tresses and more. The plan adds 4 trees and many shrubs. Existing garden stones will be used to shore up the elevation changes within the plan. Your Grow Getters worker bees include Bonnie Arbuckle, Bob and Mary Bennett, Ian Cowie, Vicki & John Held, Bill Meyers, Richard Mills, Carol Roberson, Tanne Traywick, and Kay Webb. Judith Moore serves as their documentarian for the grant reporting requirements.

The opening paragraph of the Team's grant application read this way: In Unitarian Universalism, affiliated congregations uphold 7 Principles. The Seventh of these reads: *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.* As habitat loss and climate change are decimating populations of other creatures around the world, we have been taking material steps to reduce our impact as a congregation and to foster safe environments to preserve biodiversity.

There will soon come a day when a call for "all hands on deck" will go out for planting. A list of the plants that are being acquired for this project will be available soon — you can research them at the North Carolina Native Plant Society website (<u>https://ncwildflower.org/</u>)--this site has become a truly fantastic resource on native plants for North Carolina. UUTC's work on our own, highly visible grounds, will serve as an educational tool for both students of our local schools and for other commercial and residential properties.



# Your UUTC Library — All Kinds of Resources!

For the quieter moments in our lives, some of us read books. Some of us work puzzles as a type of meditative process. Some of us are voracious readers, and others of us are highly selective.

Wherever you fit on this spectrum, take a moment on Sunday to investigate the rich offerings of UUTC's library. Puzzles have been shelved in the large classroom, as we ran out of space in the primary cabinetry.

If you take down a book and decide on a different one, the

small colored dot on the spine will remind you of which section the book belongs in. Bringing a book back? Just drop it into the carefully crafted wooden box on the counter built by Peter Mockridge.

Wisdom is everywhere - you just have to open the cover to find it!

"Reading is an act of civilization; it's one of the greatest acts of civilization because it takes the free raw material of the mind and builds castles of possibilities." — Ben Okri

# April 2023 at UUTC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Children's Center is this month's Social Justice Giving		Have a SOUPER Easter Sunday! Join us on April 9 <sup>th</sup> Bring along canned food to share 10 am Intergenerational Service 11 am Easter Egg & Canned Food Hunt Following the Hunt Our Souper Sunday lunch!		CRE and Nursery Care available during Sunday services (Easter Service is inter- generational)	Moral Mondays at the Courthouse, downtown Brevard 5-6 pm See Ian Cowie for more information	NEW TIME Quiet Meditation Now 5 pm Tuesdays
2 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 3:30 Book Group	3 10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Group 1:30 Realm Support 5:30 Week of Peace	4 9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 5 Quiet Meditation	5 1:30- Women of UUTC 4 Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Team Night	6 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	7 5 Emotional Centering	8
CHOIR SINGS 9 10:00 EASTER intergenerational service In- Person & livestreamed Souper Sunday 2:00 On Being	10 Family Camping 1:30 Realm Support 5:30 Week of Peace	11 Family Camping 9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 5 Quiet Meditation	12 Family Camping 1:15 Dream Group 4 Choir Rehearsal	13 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	14 1 WAC*ky Women's Art 5 Emotional Centering	15
CHOIR SINGS 16 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed	17 10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Group 1:30 Realm Support 3 LHHH 5:30 Week/Peace	18 9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship In the Hall 5 Quiet Meditation	19 1:30- Women of UUTC	20 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	21 5 Emotional Centering	22 EARTH DAY
23 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed	24 1:30 Realm Support 5:30 Week of Peace	25 9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 5 Quiet Meditation	26 1:15 Dream Group	27 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles 5:30 Board Mtg	28 5 Emotional Centering	29
30 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed						