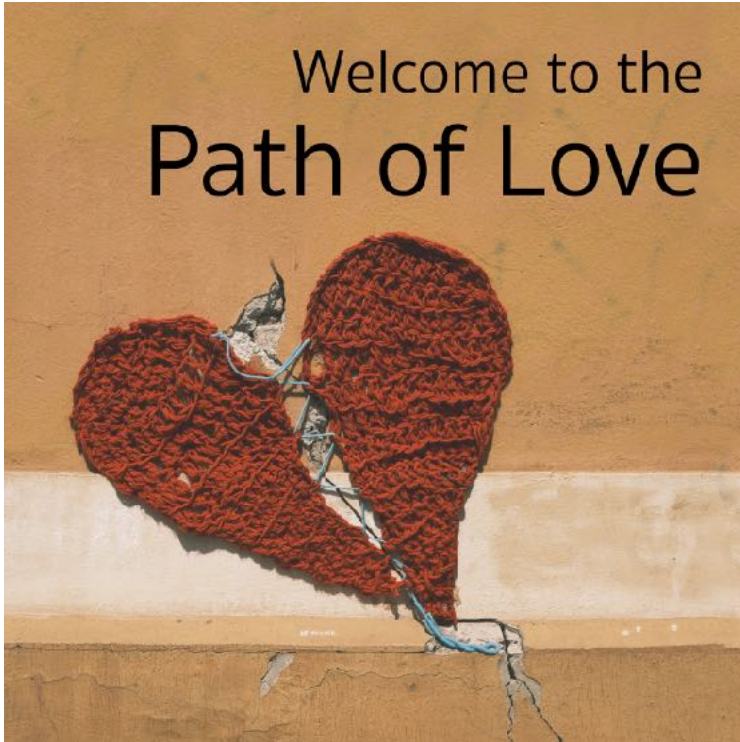




wayfinding

Welcome to the Path of Love



From the packet: **Write Love Letters...to Strangers**

It was an effort born from empathy and loneliness. Hannah Brencher, new to New York City, found herself led to writing letters to strangers. At first, she secretly wrote them to people in her mind and left them tucked away for strangers to find. Then, using the internet, she invited anyone to ask her for a love letter. Requests flooded in. It's now an organization called [More Love Letters](#). ... (read more in the 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 January: **Bread of Life**



Bread of Life Free Community Kitchen's mission is to provide nutritious meals in a safe and secure environment and to share our food with those in need in Transylvania County.

This soup kitchen serves lunch Monday through Friday to all who come through its doors, free of charge. They also operate a food truck that takes these meals to those in need in the City of Rosman. Bread of Life is frequently a first stop for those who will require additional services — Our own Dignity Project supplies them with basics like deodorant or other personal care, so your dollars go to keep the kitchen humming along and putting more food on the table.

Thank you for your generosity in this cold month of the year!

January

Excerpts from the Minutes:

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



Minister's Report – The Minister's report has a new format that focuses on goals developed from the Minister/Ministry survey; it was shared with Board members prior to the meeting and highlighted Rev. Bob's activities related to these focus areas and target goals. In addition, he is planning, with the Membership Team, a new-member welcoming ceremony for March.

Treasurer's Report – Mike reported that halfway through the fiscal year, Revenues and Expenses are running about on target. 52.5% of the budgeted revenues have been collected, while 44.5% of the budgeted expenses have been spent. Michael noted that utilities costs are rising and will likely continue to rise into the next fiscal year.

Operations Report – RK reported that UUTC has made a successful transition to a new payroll company that provides better communication and support. More information on the successful Giving Tuesday projects can be found in this newsletter.

Administration Comm. – AdCom is discussing possible policy and procedural recommendations for the Employee Annual Performance Reviews and Compensations Reviews, as directed by the Board. This is the beginning of a process to establish policies that are not currently in place.

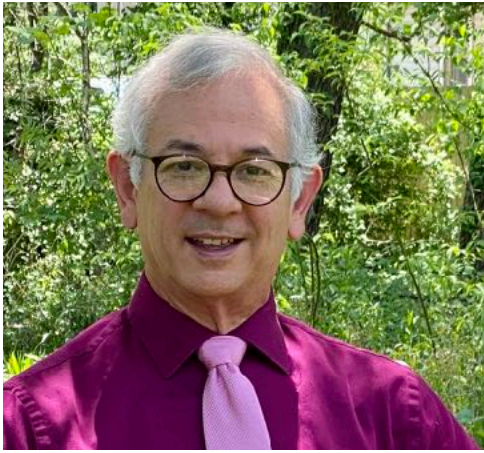
Old Business: Connecting with UUFH— Alice shared that the Hendersonville UU has expressed interest in meeting with UUTC Board members to share and collaborate.

New Business: Budget Requests— Michael shared that he would prepare a budget process timetable and send budget requests to Ministry Teams soon.

New Business: UUA General Assembly – This summer's GA will be held in Pittsburgh from June 21-25. Planning to attend include Michael Solomon, Ian Cowie, and Vanessa Cowie.

Additional Business— Alice recognized the January 8, 2023, resignation of Gail Meyers as Board member and Treasurer, for personal reasons.

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.



How Can I Keep from Singing?

Rev. Bob Renjilian

I love music, and singing gives me great joy. There are days I'm tired from busy schedules, but then I rehearse with the UUTC Choir, or go to rehearsals in Asheville for the Gay Men's Chorus or the Barbershop Harmony Society chorus. I'm recharged each time, and feel better grounded. I used to be able to sing to my children every evening at bed time, before they got too old for that, and that was always a lovely moment of connection.

This month, February, brings us reflections on love, relationship, and Valentines. I'll be singing a few songs with the Barbershop Quartet in adult care centers on the 14th, which brings a smile to everyone's faces. Recently the manager of an adult day care said one of their clients shared that, for them, music therapy was better than morphine, so I'm especially glad.

I've read results of research that said about 2/3rds of the popular hit songs of the past 60+ years have been love songs.

A member of UUTC asked me if I'd ever bring my Barbershop quartet to a Sunday service. I've arranged for more than that, a "super quartet", to be here on Sunday, February 12 at 10:00am. We'll sing a few of the old time favorites, and I'll mix in the other elements of the service to fit this month's theme on "Love". I hope you'll make it that Sunday! I'm so glad some of my Barbershopper friends can get off from their own church choirs to do this favor for me - my Valentine's gift to UUTC.

The Gay Men's Chorus will come to UUTC later - maybe not a Sunday morning (Sundays there are choir conflicts for the Director, pianist and most members) but we'll have them here as part of a special weekend. Our love at UUTC includes inclusion of LGBTQ+ families and I'd like to find a way that all of Transylvania County see that, and be invited broadly. So... that will be a message of love that can be patiently awaited for a future month (maybe June pride month?).

May you find your favorite songs to sing... in the shower, in the car, with your loved ones, in the choir, or wherever you find the chance. May it be a chance to recharge, and help you ease some troubles, and connect with others.

See you at church.

Letter from the President

Alice Wellborn

Most of us at UUTC are dedicated to social, environmental, and economic justice as bedrock issues in our lives. That's what our principles are all



about. We want to help “build a land where justice shall roll down like waters” right here in Transylvania County. But you know what? It’s really hard, and we often feel alone or burned out or overwhelmed.

We saw this after the 2022 election, when so many of us worked so hard for progressive state and local candidates, only to see every one of them come up short. Every one! How do we keep walking down a path that never ends?

Honestly, we all need some support. How have you navigated this rocky path and made healthy decisions for a balanced life? How have you continued to work for justice without feeling like you need to save the world?

One of the things I’ve done recently is to be very clear about my sphere of influence and expertise, and to stay in that sphere as much as possible. I know about public education in general and Transylvania County Schools in particular, and I know a lot about how children grow, develop, and learn. Climate change, health care access, affordable housing, and immigration are all issues that I care about, but they aren’t in my wheelhouse. I commit my interest and money to many of those issues, but I am trying to save my time and effort for issues in the sphere in which I can be most effective.

Since 2016, I’ve also come to understand the importance working for justice in a trusted, supportive group, not as a Lone Ranger. A group of us from the NAACP is attending as many meetings of the school board and the county commissioners as is possible. We sit up front, take notes, make public comment, and work behind the scenes to try to make good things happen in our local community. I’ve done it alone and I’ve done it with others – and being with others is SO much easier.

We all work in different ways and in different spheres in our attempts to make a difference for our community. I would be really interested in hearing about what other UUTC members are doing and how they are handling the stress.

I also have a vision – a vision in which UUTC chooses a couple of projects to do as a church community in service to the larger community. Social action as a group rather than as individuals. Projects that are accessible to families as well as to older adults. People bond and thrive when they work together on meaningful tasks.

If any of you are interested in sharing your coping mechanisms and talking about our spheres of influence and expertise, let me know. I’d love to have a time to talk. And if any of you have some ideas about social action projects we could do as a church community, I’d love to hear those.

We all want more focus on social justice issues. The truth is that we are the solution to the problem.
In covenant, Alice

“We are all implicated when we allow other people to be mistreated. An absence of compassion can corrupt the decency of a community, a state, a nation.”

— Bryan Stevenson, [Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#)



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 **February 12th**. We will be serenaded by Barbershop tunes that day! If you can bring chili or soup for that day, **please sign up this Sunday at the front counter**—we'd like to have 7 crockpots of goodness to share!

What's That Thing Do?

UUTC has a new feature. It's a button. This button has magical powers that can turn off the motion-activated door release at the front door. Why would we want such a thing?

We have become pressed for meeting space, and since we typically leave some comfy chairs in the foyer, this has become one of those spaces. However, the "think-thunk" of the magnet engaging and disengaging is distracting, particularly for people trying to listen to one another intently. A gesture sets the door to "thinking," and the mood can be broken.

Hence the button. Pressing this button at the beginning of a class will de-activate motion sensing for one hour. Go into the main office and look for the calendar... and the arrows!



Progress on Sanctuary & More

Thanks to Hector and his son, work has begun! What you see in this image is where a cosmetic beam has been removed in the sanctuary, and the holes left by its vacancy patched and mudded, prior to the painting. After this image was taken, Hector continued moving around the sanctuary, pulling old drywall tape that was cracked, re-taping and mudding, to get things into a new, crack-free condition. This process will take place over more time than if he had hired a larger firm, but at considerably less cost.

The beam, designed to make the sanctuary look less like its service garage origins, was one of the reasons the choir moved from one side of the sanctuary to the other. The west side, which is where the choir sits now, has

a slanted ceiling which helps to direct sound into the sanctuary space. The beam on the east side, by contrast, was a sound blocker — inhibiting song from both the choir and the congregation.

New blinds for the west side of the Fellowship Hall have also been ordered. These are custom fit from Carolina Blinds, and will be installed by their professionals. Outdoor tables (3), also funded by your gifts, will be ordered this month. One of these will be ADA compliant. The Facilities Team gets the task of assembling these — big thanks to this essential team of volunteers!

Facilities also installed new curtains in the nursery and the classroom, out of necessity for working curtains. Cords on the old ones had met their maker, and privacy was a thing of the past. (We realized this when Emma’s Revolution was here and we had to nail a towel over the nursery window to provide a private space to change clothes.) These curtains are light-blocking, permitting nursery staff to close them for sleeping infants, and for groups using the classroom to control light in that space.



Community Foundation of Western NC Funds UUTC Hearing Loop

UUTC’s grant request from the CFW of WNC has been fully funded. These funds come specifically from the Gibbs Charitable Fund, which is used exclusively to purchase equipment to assist in hearing, for medical treatment, or for other forms of treatment or therapy to assist the deaf or hearing-impaired in Transylvania County. The vision of this founding grantor was generous, indeed.

We have long had an FM-based transmitter to collect sound directly from our microphones and deliver that sound to corresponding bodypacks. These bodypacks have outputs for headphones, and that’s what we’ve been using. This new package of hearing assistance will provide a new FM transmitter and bodypacks, specifically for use for small groups in the social hall. Our old transmitter will be stored in the Chalice House for those who need that assistance to better participate in groups meeting in that space.



Carpet, paint, choir chair fabric

In the sanctuary, we will convert (once the carpet has been pulled) to a magnetic induction loop, which will be covered by new carpet selected by the Aesthetics Team. **Those with telecoil-equipped hearing aids will immediately benefit.** For those without, who need the assistance, new bodypacks tied to this loop will be provided. Note to all — we must not confuse the (nearly identical) FM bodypacks — ushers may be called on to assist in handing out and collecting the telecoil bodypacks and headsets.

Realm — Support Sessions on Mondays



RK Young

I'm 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 — messaging inside groups (teams or class groups), managing your giving, and the NewsFeed. The newsfeed is where you will see upcoming events for groups to which you belong, and church-wide events.

I'll host this support group every Monday the office is open — National Holidays excluded — through March. We've had a good response so far, and Realm really does help you be connected to UUTC activities — so come see me!

Coming on 3.14 — the Pie Auction Returns!

Last year we kicked off this new fundraiser for Grow Getters, whose mission is *to leverage the UUTC campus visibility to create local homeowner support for conserving WNC biodiversity through demonstration gardens, educational programming, and partnerships with other conservation initiatives*. We raised \$1286.00 — with only 17 pies! TWO pies auctioned for over \$100 each! Frankly, it was the most fun we'd had since the pandemic started. But this year will be even better! We have new tricks up our collective sleeves!



An anonymous donor who had an awful lot of fun at last year's auction is taking care of the wine for this year's event. (THANK YOU!) Jim Null is bringing BROWNIES. (This is to keep all of us from drooling on the pies.) Sharon & Quim Moya are bringing a **blueberry cobbler** for us all to enjoy **after** the bidding. We will also have some other things to nibble on to keep that wine from going to our heads.

If you'd like to be part of this party— either by baking, attending, or both, please fill out [THIS FORM](#). We need your response by Sunday, February 19th to plan and make appropriate preparations. And remember— this doesn't have to be dessert — **if it comes in a crust or a circle, it counts as PIE.**



Article II Study Commission, UUA

This year's General Assembly (GA) will be taking a simple majority vote to move forward for a final vote on a new [Article II](#) of the UUA bylaws, which is a very big deal. Article II has been the portion of the bylaws which encompass our Principles. At the 2024 General Assembly, a 2/3rd majority vote will be required to adopt this article. This year's GA is in Pennsylvania.

So this year and next are important years for us to be present to the responsibilities of representing UUTC in these leadership decisions. In addition to Rev. Bob, Michael Solomon, Ian Cowie, and Vanessa Cowie plan to attend. Based on our membership, we

qualify to send four delegates to General Assembly. Ian and Vanessa have served for the last two years, but would be willing to take a break (but still go to GA). **The more, the merrier!** If you wish to take part in this leadership role, or even just to attend GA, please reach out to Alice Wellborn or [Rev. Bob Renjilian](#).

WAC*ky for March: How Women Take Care of Themselves

Next week, 9 lucky women are attending the February meeting of the Women's Art Circle, led by Jeanie Bernard. To be prepared to sign up for the March class, we strongly recommend that you have Realm on your device so that you can pounce when registration goes live.



You will know that when all's said and done "to become an Artist" means nothing: whereas to become alive, or one's self, means everything."

– E.E. Cummings

March's Women's Art Circle (WAC*ky) will focus on ways we women take care of ourselves. While exploring possibilities, we will be making a container of creative expression to hold your memories.

Making creative containers historically is considered a spiritual practice; it is like a "prayer in a bag"!

No art experience necessary. All material provided. Donations for supplies is accepted, but not necessary. Just come with an open mind and willing heart. WAC*ky is becoming a community of creatives. This class will be on March 3rd, from 1 - 4:00pm.

Spring Auction: Putting the FUN in Fundraising!



Put Ian Cowie, Donna Reyburn, Vicki Held and Mike Griffith into a room to plot and scheme and what do you get? Great fun, opportunities to connect, and opportunities to acquire some great items. This year we begin a new spring fundraiser for the General Fund to help us meet programming needs for all areas of our Mission, but especially Worship, Adult & Children's Religious Exploration, and Membership.

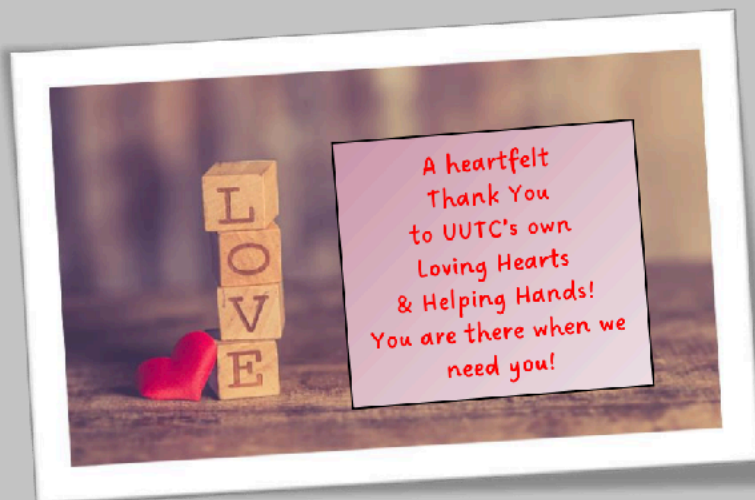
The Auction will kick off on Friday, April 28th with a wine and cheese preview of all online auction items and some LIVE auction items. The online auction will begin that night and continue through May 1st.

How can you help? How about hosting a dinner? Donna is auctioning seats at the table for TWO wonderful events! Can you write a custom poem on demand? Donate a piece of good art in good condition? Pull weeds in someone's garden? Maybe you have sports equipment with little wear that you are no longer using? Can you debug someone's computer? Provide fresh-baked bread once a quarter? Make a vat of soup and share it among 4 people who bid on it?

Get inventive! What would bring YOU delight? How can you bring that to others? What talents do you have? What beautiful piece of art that you've had for three decades have you now tired of? Let's make this an auction of delights that we share with one another, helping us know each other's experiences and talents at the same time.

Think on these things... and next week, you'll be able to download a donor form to take action!

February 2023 at UUTC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bread of Life this month's Social Justice Giving	NEW CLASS Mindfulness Tuesdays @2:30	CRE and Nursery Care available during Sunday services	Family Soup Dinner and Board Games Feb 5th	UUTC's CHOIR SINGS Feb 26th	Men's Group Meeting live on Thursdays @ 9am (Tues Zoom continues)	Don't miss it! SOUPER SUNDAY Feb 12th after service!
			1	2	3	4
			1:30- Women of UUTC 4 Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Team Night	9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	5 Emotional Centering	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 3:30 Book Grp 5 Family Soup Dinner and Board Games	10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Group 1:30 Realm Support 5:30 Week of	9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 2:30 Mindfulness 4 Quiet Meditation	1:15 Dream Group	9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	1 WAC*ky Women's Art 5 Emotional Centering	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 11:30 Souper Sunday 2:00 On Being	1:30 Realm Support 5:30 Week of Peace	9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 2:30 Mindfulness 4 Quiet Meditation	1:30- Women of UUTC 4 Choir Rehearsal	9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	5 Emotional Centering	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed	10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Group 3 LHHH 5:30 Week/Peace	9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 2:30 Mindfulness 4 Quiet Meditation	1:15 Dream Group 4 Choir Rehearsal	9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles 5:30 Board Mtg	5 Emotional Centering	
CHOIR SINGS 26	27	28	March 1	2	3	4
10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed	1:30 Realm Support 5:30 Week of Peace	9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall 2:30 Mindfulness 4 Quiet Meditation	1:30- Women of UUTC	9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	5 Emotional Centering	