



wayfinding

And forget not that
the earth delights
to feel your bare feet
and the winds long
to play with your hair.

Khalil Gibran

Welcome to the Path of Delight!

“Because the road turns long and lonely sometimes, I built this box of delight. I picked up the lid and into it I put...My children laughing, together.

The look of giddy disbelief on my mother’s face when that black-capped chickadee swooped in and landed next to her knee, waking her up from her Alzheimered daze.

The bitter bite of rhubarb pie smothered by a spoonful of half-melted vanilla ice cream. That field of fireflies at the bottom of the West Virginia hills.”

Thus begins our Soul Matters packet for June. To learn more about this family and small group resource, Email [Kevin Lausch](#) or [Rev. Bob](#) to get a packet!

Social Justice Giving for June: Augustine Literacy Project

It is the mission of [Augustine Literacy Project-Brevard](#) to help improve the reading, writing, and spelling abilities of low-income students who struggle with literacy skills. The project trains and supports volunteer tutors who provide free, long-term, 1:1 instruction using the Orton-Gillingham approach and Wilson Reading System® materials.

“The work that the Augustine Literacy Project does to partner with our local public schools to provide Orton-Gillingham lessons is a radical act of social justice and illustrates a deep commitment to equity. As my former principal once said, if students can’t read by the time they leave 3rd grade they will either be destined to drop out or die an early death. I am honored to serve on the board and find ways to build community partnerships to support the work of ALP.” — Megan Keiser, Professor, Brevard College



Carol Moore & Bobby King learning to tutor for ALP, pre-covid.

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.

Present: Ian Cowie, Vicki Held, Victoria Kerr, Gail Meyers, Quim Moya, Kay Webb, Alice Wellborn, Rev. Bob Renjilian (via zoom) and RK Young.



Minister's Report – Due to illness, Rev. Bob's attended the meeting from home via Zoom. He updated Board members on the status of the Membership Team and the challenge of finding volunteers to staff the Team.

Treasurer's Report – The May Treasurer's Report was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. In Mike's absence, consultant Gail Meyers shared her Consultant Comments, Consultant's Report, and Projections Estimates for the end of FY 22-23. The financial outlook for the end of the year continues to be a concern, with the likelihood that there will be a deficit. Gail recommended that the Board move \$10,000 from the Reserve Fund into the Operating Fund to handle upcoming bills. The Board so moved.

Operations Report – RK provided an update on the progress of the new bookkeeper, Chelsea Caldwell, who is working in cooperation with off-site bookkeeper, Sue Gervais, and consultant, Gail Meyers. Chelsea is very thankful to have Gail's expertise a phone call away. RK reported on FY 22-23 pledge fulfillment and other budget observations related to the current financial concerns. Over \$15,000 is still due on pledges for this fiscal year. While keeping our operating expenses below budget, our revenues are less than what was budgeted for the year, so she encourages attendance at the June concerts to increase revenues.

Old Business: Annual Meeting Update— A copy of the DRAFT May 21, 2023, Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes was shared with Board members prior to the meeting. Kay reported that the quorum of 43 Members was exceeded; the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved; the slate of nominees for elected positions was approved by acclamation; the 23-24 Budget was approved unanimously; the Board Secretary position for 23-24 is vacant, so the new Board will need to appoint a Member to the position in July.

Old Business: Compensation Update— Issues remain with Rev. Bob's compensation. Additional income, represented in the budget as SECA, was not included in retirement contributions calculations beginning with his hiring. In coming weeks, we will work with UUA to get accurate calculations to reimburse these deficits.

New Business: Board Appreciation Party – Gail Meyers offered to host a potluck appreciation garden party at her home for the outgoing Board members and the newly elected Board, date and time TBD.

Board Retreat – The Board President and Rev. Bob will collaborate to schedule and plan a retreat for the new Board, time and place TBD.



The Valley of Love & Delight

Rev. Bob Renjilian

I love the Shaker song “simple gifts” which has been around since about 1848, at least. There is a line in there which says:

“And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.”

The theme for this month’s Soul Matters packet is “Delight” so the song, recently sung by the UUTC Choir, sprang to mind. The packet asks (in one optional exercise) that we take time to jot down what we experience as delightful. Maybe something simple, a daily treat, or something rare and exceptional. The idea is by focusing on those things we are paying attention to what feeds our souls, our spirituality.

I’ve thought of some recent delights. I love officiating at weddings, whatever genders or orientation represented. The whole planning process with the couple is special, and then the day of the ceremony is lovely. A most recent ceremony in Brevard last month was no exception, and the photographer caught the smiles on my face and the faces of the couple right at the moment I pronounced them husband and wife. That one snapshot of the moment showed the delight, and I cherish it.

This first weekend of June will bring delights too. We’ve got a moment to recognize the anniversary of the congregation, an upbeat guest preacher, food, discussion of the vision of the congregation (social action and future of our buildings and property, in particular), my installation service with a favorite Choir piece, and then a mini-concert of the Asheville Gay Men’s Chorus (and after a week of laryngitis it seems I’m back to being able to sing)! I delight in singing, delighted in praising the bold initiatives of UUs, and the excitement of leaning into visions of the future. Three years ago we could not have done this together, but now we are. Oh yes, I’m delighted that at this Welcoming Congregation it was enthusiastically agreed that we could offer a place for such a concert during Pride Month.

Oh, and I convinced a custom confections company to pull out their molds from decades ago so we could have chocolate coins with the image of a UU chalice on them. Chocolate is a delight (I can’t eat them anymore, but I remember how great they were, and it is a delight to give them away).

Then the next weekend we get to honor one of our own who is graduating from high school and will be transitioning into adulthood. Celebrating the coming of age of our youth is a delight, and it doesn’t happen that we get to do this every year so this year is special.

I’ve heard that the congregation loves music - and June will have a few concerts at UUTC. I’ve heard that the congregation delights in events with food (this Sunday’s sandwich lunch, and Wonderful Wednesday a few days later help with that)! Outdoor beauty, come for the dedication of the native plant gardens. Besides all that, what are your delights? I’d love to hear, and more importantly I hope you focus on those in between all the UUTC events as food for your spirit. See you at church.



Letter from the President

Alice Wellborn

It's a bittersweet time as I enter the final month of my tenure as your President-Elect and then President. Board leadership is stressful and time-consuming; board leadership is an opportunity for meaningful service; board leadership is a time for personal growth and learning; board leadership is full of opportunities for warm and wonderful relationships. It's been hard work, but it's been a joy to serve this congregation and to be part of something important.

Every year we all have another chance to find our place at UUTC and to share our time and talents with others. Our church will not grow and thrive unless we all play a role. I challenge everyone to consider where your interests and skills can be used in service to our church and to our community. There's something for everyone to do, whether you sing in the choir, volunteer at Chalice Camp, make soup for Souper Sunday, work on a team, or accept a position on the board. Choose something and do it!

Isn't there an old curse, attributed to the Chinese, that says, "May you live in interesting times"? That sums up my time on the UUTC Board – we have experienced some interesting times! It's been a struggle, a worry, and a joy as we have traveled through these interesting times together. Thank you to everyone for your constant love and support as we all did our best to navigate the circumstances we found ourselves in and to emerge in one piece, holding hands with smiles on our faces.

Thank you! Love you all.

Alice

VISION SUNDAY—Plug Into the Future of UUTC

After Sunday's service, we have lunch and cake to load you with enough carbohydrates to really get cooking on your ideas for UUTC's future. Michael Solomon will lead us in an interactive, "roll-up-your-sleeves" Vision Workshop. We will be sharing ideas for projects to move forward on meaningful Social Justice work. We will be sharing ideas on how best to develop our Staff, Infrastructure and Campus, as aligned with UUTC's Vision from 2023-2027.

Let's work together to create a handful of ideas for each of these categories that are exciting and aspirational; a stretch to inspire people to act, but achievable.

Since all of us come from different backgrounds, from different locations, our brains work differently. What happens when we stir the pot? What comes up? What will grab the most imagination?

If you love Justice and possibility — BE HERE.

Fellowship Opportunities...More Than Soup!



Wonderful Wednesdays are “Dinner and a Program,” with a more relaxed meal, prepared by volunteers. Dinner starts at 5:30pm, and the program starts at 6:30, leaving folks time to chat more than they typically have on a Sunday after church. Our next Wonderful Wednesday is **June 7th**. Programs are always stimulating, but this month we will enjoy a concert provided by Jon Arterton and James Mack, and their exquisite harmonies. Don't miss this! Sign up at the front counter Sunday!



Souper Sunday is a congregational shared meal. It relies on volunteers who cook or bake and on others to attend and enjoy their gifts. This event happens every 'Second Sunday' of the month. Our next Souper Sunday is **June 11th**. If you can bring soup or some other simple item to share for that day, please signup this Sunday at the front counter—and thank you!



Fellowship On Tap is more of a “pop up” event. The requirement is that beer on tap be available. But the other requirement is food, and beverage options without alcohol. This event used to be held in restaurants, prior to Covid. Now we hunt for venues that are open air, sometimes in Transylvania County, sometimes not. **To be aware of these, you will want to join the Fellowship on Tap group in Realm**, where text and email messages are sent from. We shoot for at least monthly events. **Not yet on Realm? Drop by the office with your device and let's get you set up!**



Finally, weekly on Tuesdays, we have **Fellowship on the Green**. If it's raining, we have this event in the social hall, but otherwise, we meet outside in the fresh air, sunshine, and zooming songbirds. Starts at 11:30am and runs until 1:00pm. Folks come and go as their schedules permit. Rev. Bob and RK anchor the tables and look forward to enjoying your company and conversation!

June Events... a Long List

In addition to the events of Vision Sunday (**Don't forget to stay for the Asheville Gay Men's Chorus at 4:00!**), we have a number of events this month in which you may want to participate. First, we have **Wonderful Wednesday** with **Jon & James** on **June 7th**, mentioned above. Then on **Friday, June 9th**, we have an artist returning to UUTC with a new component to his work... **Matt Venuti** will add video from his work out west and in the Everglades and Shenandoah Valley for a truly multi-sensory concert experience. The doors open at 6:30; the concert begins at 7:00. [Register HERE](#) to get the lower ticket price of \$20!

The next day, Saturday the 10th, we are participating with the UU Fellowship of Hendersonville (separate booths) in the **Pride Picnic** event at Jackson Park in Hendersonville. We could use a few more folks, so sign up at the front counter!

Sunday the 11th, of course, we have **Souper Sunday**. Meals two weeks in a row! Starting Monday ... ALL WEEK— is **Chalice Camp**, our signature summer camp for kids. STEM projects, meeting Service (superhero) dogs, and much, much more. Please note that Chalice Camp uses the parking lot and all of the main building during this week. Despite that, on Wednesday, June 14th, **TEAM MEETING NIGHT** will take place, at 5:30pm. Facilities will meet in the Chalice House and Social Action will meet in the foyer. Boy, will those two teams be interested in what you dream up on Vision Sunday!

Saturday the 17th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm (yes, there will be an intermission) **Rod MacDonald**, folk singer-songwriter, will perform. \$20 at the door. (Cash appreciated!)

General Assembly begins on June 19th — so Rev. Bob and others will not be at Fellowship on the Green or other regular gatherings that week.

The following **Monday, June 19th**, we are terrifically fortunate to have Poet **Dick Westheimer** reading from his new book of poetry, “A Sword in Both Hands.” Read more about this event [here](#) — proceeds from book sales or donations will go to the Ukraine Trust Chain, which supports small groups providing humanitarian assistance to people in Ukraine.

Finally, on **Summer Solstice, June 21st** we will celebrate the progress on the Bog Project with a **Solstice Garden Party**, starting at 6:30pm. **Mark your calendar** to come enjoy this happy time!

“We must risk delight. We can do without pleasure, but not delight. Not enjoyment. We must have the stubbornness to accept our gladness in the ruthless furnace of this world. To make injustice the only measure of our attention is to praise the Devil.” — Jack Gilbert



In Praise of Worker Bees

UUTC has seen a lot of hustle and bustle over the last year, as we rebuild what “normal” looks like. Staff has worked hard... but they have been supported by a lot of different folks standing up to build this community into that which they seek. And it is a delight to watch.

I don't get to take time to take “all the pictures” of everything awesome that you folks do. But I do see you... leading classes, rehearsing on piano, cooking and baking, tending the grounds, working in the AV booth, cleaning carpets, touching up paint, watching for the welfare of others with cards, calls and texts, attempting to clean wax stains from drippy Christmas Eve candles off the chairs in the sanctuary. It



takes more than a village — it takes a village with tools, workers, and resources to realize its dreams.

I was delighted at Pi Day this year, with the variety of things baked... and the vigor of the bidding. And stumbling upon Ian & Vanessa Cowie cleaning up wax prior to this Sunday's big event did my heart a bunch of good. But it's been the continued labor of Facilities and the Grow Getters that I'd like to hold up at this moment.

This has been every week labor. Watering. Planting. Weeding. Moving the dirt first to one place and then another. Mixing bone dry peat moss with granite fines to create something akin to a "natural" bog from these mountains. More weeding. More planting. And there's still more to do.

Last year, the Grow Getters wreaked havoc on a number of invasive species that were, by definition, "in cultivation" on our campus. This is something that would prohibit the acquisition of their 7th

Principle goal: attaining official native habitat status. The "hellstrip" on the Broad Street side of the campus had volumes of liriopse that they removed. Then they planted, using funds raised by the first Pi Day auction and a Faithify campaign. Everything, shockingly, has survived. Native plants for the win!

Only now are they getting the plant labels placed for *that* project, at the same time as they are installing signage for the *new* project, which probably ought to have a name other than "the bog project." They have artfully arranged (and some not so artfully) stone around the bog, to create the "storm drain" from the bog to run off on the Varsity side of the sign. They have spent some of their own money on some of this, in addition to what they have raised.

They are still not finished — some plants specified in the design have been more difficult to acquire this year, with some nursery stock damaged by the 5 degree December event after so much warmer weather. But we will soon celebrate their accomplishments, and will continue in the fall when new plantings can be more successful. Come to the party — summer solstice is just around the corner—and why should you not take delight in what they have done? Come and celebrate with them.



June 2023 at UUTC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Augustine Literacy Project- Brevard</p> <p>is this month's Social Justice Giving</p>		<p>Don't miss these Special Events!</p> <p>June 4th Rev. Bob Installation June 7th Wonderful Wednesday Concert w/Jon & James June 9th Matt Venuti in Concert June 17th Rod MacDonald in Concert June 19th Author Poetry Reading to Benefit Ukraine June 21st Solstice Garden Party</p>			<p>Nursery Care available during Sunday services</p>	<p>Souper Sunday after service on June 11th</p>
<p>Happy Birthday, UUTC! June 6th</p>				1 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	2	3 3:30 Book Grp
4 CHOIR SINGS 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed Rev Bob Installation! 4 AVL Gay Mens Chorus	5 5:30 Week of Peace	6 UUTC ANNIVERSARY 9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall or Green 5 Quiet Meditation	7 1:30- Women of UUTC 4 Choir Rehearsal Wonderful Wednesday-- John & James Concert	8 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	9 7 pm Matt Venuti in Concert	10 PRIDE fest in Hendersonville
11 CHOIR SINGS 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed 11:30 Souper Sunday 12:30 On Being	12 9 Chalice Camp 10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Group 2 LHHH @ Leslie's 5:30 Week/Peace	13 9 Chalice Camp 9 Men's Grp Zoom 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall or Green 5 Quiet Meditation	14 9 Chalice Camp 1:15 Dream Group 5:30 Team Night	15 9 Chalice Camp 4 A Course in Miracles	16 9 Chalice Camp	17 5 pm Rod MacDonald in Concert
18 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed	19 Juneteenth 5:30 Week of Peace 7 Poetry Reading by author to benefit Ukraine	20 9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall or Green 5 Quiet Meditation	21 Solstice 1:30 Women of UUTC 6:30 Solstice Garden Party	22 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles 5:30 Board Mtg	23	24
25 10:00 service In-Person & livestreamed	26 10 Caregivers Support Group 11:30 Grief Support Group 5:30 Week/Peace	27 9 Men's Grp Zoom 9 Grow Getters 11:30-1:00 Fellowship in the Hall or Green 5 Quiet Meditation	28 1:15 Dream Group	29 9 Men's Grp Meeting Live 2 Spiritual Explorers 4 A Course in Miracles	30	