



## TRANSITIONS & TRANSFORMATION

by Rev. Dr. Paula Gable — Sunday, August 30th

### Sunday Message

I'm really looking forward to "Interim Ministry Boot Camp" in Minneapolis from August 24-28. During this rigorous, mandatory training, I'll learn new "best practices" and strengthen ties with colleagues throughout the UUA – one of the five main tasks of the Interim Period. I plan on sharing highlights and insights, with a focus on accomplishing the interim goals we set for ourselves. I will keep the homily short so we have time to engage in conversation about upcoming transitions and transformation. In the "ancient past," this dialogue was called a "Talk Back." I prefer the words Q&A. Please bring your curiosity, your questions, and your highest aspirations.

*Please join us for worship on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m., and for coffee and fellowship at 10:30.*

#### NEXT WEEK at UUTC

**Mindfulness Community** – Mon 8/31 @ 7:00pm

**Men's Group** – Tue 9/1 @ 9:00am

**Staff Mtg** – Tue 9/1 @ 12:00pm

**Dream Group** – Tue 9/1 @ 2:30pm

**SMART Recovery** – Tue 9/1 @ 6:00pm

**Eclectics Jam** – Wed 9/2 @ 9:00am

**Being Group** – Wed 9/2 @ 1:00pm

**ARE Meeting** – Thurs 9/3 @ 10:00am

**Women's Group** – Thurs 9/3 @ 12:30pm

**Drum Circle** – Thurs 9/3 @ 7:00pm

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*"Transitions themselves are not the issue, but how well you respond to their challenges!" —J.George*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I remember something our new, interim minister, Paula, suggested to us sometime during her first days here: "Try to look at ourselves as if through a stranger's eyes."

I have been doing that. I hope you have as well. I noticed a small, beautiful, print of a calm, misty landscape in the front ladies' room. Wow. It gave me such pleasure! It turns out that Paula put it there and I was impressed with what a difference it made. Maybe we could benefit from more touches like that. Please think about this with us and let us know your thoughts.

Paula and I meet every week to keep up with each other and to better stay in touch with all things UUTC. What I heard loud and clear from her last week was: "We need to prepare for growth. Growth won't happen if we haven't prepared the way."

My first question to myself was: "Does this congregation WANT to grow?"

And my first answer to myself was that I think we DO want to grow our younger population. In what other ways do we want to grow? Again, we want to know your thoughts and feelings. We will be providing ways to gather your input.

If we do want to grow, these are some of Paula's observations:

- The classroom space for young people is WAY too small as it is and, if we want to grow, something must be done.
- The social hall is WAY too small for our wonderful potlucks and finger food events.
- Some settled ministers who might want to work here would find the minister's study WAY too small.

I began to see dollar signs. Paula offered some very possible changes in the way we use our space that wouldn't be so very costly, especially if we provide the labor.

Virginia MacDonald has agreed to serve as our chair for the Personnel Team. This team advises the minister in the hiring of staff, and Virginia's first tasks will be to advertise and interview someone for the Nursery. Thank you, Virginia!

At our Board meeting last Wednesday, the Board made these decisions:

- To change our policy of having two adults in the nursery, to one adult and one teen.
- Donations to the Minister's Discretionary Fund will no longer require Board approval. The minister will update the Board as to income and expenditures in that account without names of donors and recipients.
- The Board increased the non-Board approval spending limit for administration from \$100 to \$300 at Paula's request.
- We agreed to purchase the Accounts Payable module of our new ACS software for \$149 for the initial setup and a \$36 monthly fee thereafter. This will streamline the time of our bookkeeper, Sue Gervais, each week in issuing checks to all our vendors and contract workers.

- The Board approved work to enhance the security of the building thus: changing the locks on the sanctuary outside exit doors to "always locked" status and installing an electronic lock on the inside foyer door with a remote release at the front desk and keypad entry. This work has been suggested and investigated for some time. Two estimates were received by the Building Team, one at \$3,100 and one at \$1,886. The Board went with the lower estimate; the firm has been notified and the work is being scheduled.
- We agreed to the minister's request to prepare to accept credit/debit cards. Ministry is accomplishing this by making use of a service called Square which has partnered with VANCO. The service is accessed by use of a small device which plugs into a smartphone or tablet—a card can then be "swiped" through the device, and the transaction is handled through VANCO and its superior security. Since it is handled through VANCO, the transactions are compatible with our new database management system and will simplify bookkeeping. This will allow UUTC to accept credit/debit cards for events such as the upcoming Day of Mindfulness—or even standard donations. The device is an industry standard and will make it easier for attendees who are accustomed to "paying with plastic."

We know that this is a lot to absorb. Please feel free to discuss this and any other thing with Paula and any on the Board.

—Peg Hall

## WOMEN'S GROUP RESUMES

The **UUTC Women's Group will resume** their monthly meetings with a luncheon at the Connestee home of Jean Bullivant, Thursday September 3rd at noon. Her address is 212 Nunv Court. Maps will be available in the church lobby. Carpooling is strongly recommended—meet at UUTC at 11:40. Bring your favorite luncheon dish to share. All newcomers are welcome!

## NEXT WEEK IS SANDWICH SUNDAY!

Get to know Members, Friends and visitors at **Sandwich Sunday on September 6th** after the 11:00 service. Bring a sandwich (and maybe one to share?) and a piece of fruit or chips. The Membership Team will provide lemonade. We'll gather at the park across the street--so bring blankets, chairs and maybe some frisbees or yard toys. Coffee time is never long enough—come join us in expanded social time! In the practice of being green, bring your own napkins and cups. In the event of rain, we'll set up in the UUTC Social Hall. Contact Elizabeth Thompson at [etville@gmail.com](mailto:etville@gmail.com) or **384-0778** for more information.



# SOCIAL ACTION TEAM NEWS

## SOCIAL ACTION FOR AUGUST: BACKPACK BUDDIES

For the eighth year, Transylvania County Schools will be sponsoring the **Backpack Buddies** program. On Fridays, children in extreme need will be provided with food to take home in their backpacks for the weekend.

Last year, Backpack Buddies averaged over 300 backpacks per week distributed. Many weeks saw 325

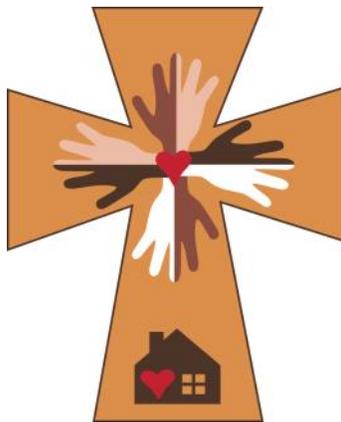
-330 backpacks distributed. At Christmas, the number reached 350. Backpack Buddies has done three summer distributions this year. This food is not governmentally funded, but is paid for by churches, many individuals, civic organizations, Manna Food Bank and you.



Please make your tax-deductible checks out to **Change the World Foundation**.

## SHARING HOUSE

August is a month with FIVE Sundays, so we will be collecting food for Sharing House at the end of the month. Baskets will be available in the lobby for your much needed donations on this last Sunday. Please take with you a list of most needed items from the basket on the counter.



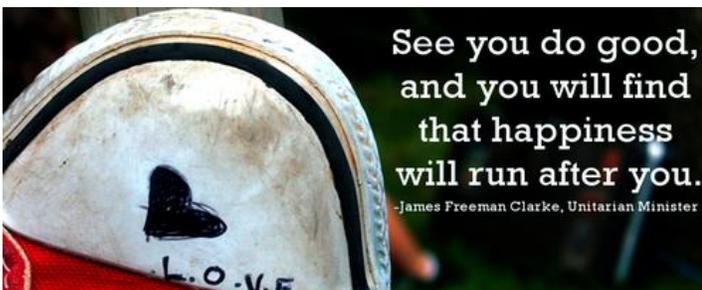
## HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT



At a recent Koinonia meeting, Social Action learned that several churches in the area are asking their parishioners to write letters to their congresspeople to urge the **renewal of the Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which expires Sept 30**. This act funds WIC, the National School Lunch Program, the Summer Foodservice Program and other food for hungry children.

For the next few Sundays, we will sit at a table and ask our congregants to consider signing a pre-written letter on this urgent topic.

For more information, visit the [USDA website](#).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DAY OF MINDFULNESS • SEPT 19TH

The second annual Day of Mindfulness will be an all day event, from 9:00 AM to 4:00ish PM. The day will include talks on mindfulness in everyday living, sitting meditation, walking meditation and a vegetarian lunch.

The cost for the day is \$15 for Members and Friends of UUTC and \$20 for all others. Scholarships are available for all who request one. To register, call or email [UUTC](http://UUTC) (877-6121), providing your name and contact information. **Checks should be made payable to UUTC with “Day of Mindfulness” on the memo line.**



## BIG DAY: ANNUAL PICNIC & CRE KICKOFF! • SEPTEMBER 20TH



After the second service on September 20th, all are invited to Connestee's Atagahi Park for our annual picnic AND for our Children's Religious Exploration KickOff! In addition to our regular picnic food, a special child-friendly menu will be on hand (mac & cheese, hotdogs), along with child-specific activities. So mark your calendars for some family-friendly frolicking and food!



## CHAMPIAN FULTON IN CONCERT SEPTEMBER 22ND

Anticipate a packed house for this one—jazz singer and pianist Champion Fulton is a hit with *The New Yorker* and many others. The concert will start at 7:00pm and run to 8:30pm. See the calendar entry [HERE](#)—you can listen to a sample of “If I Had You.”

# QUICK BITS

Don't receive the UUA Southern Region newsletter? View it [HERE!](#)



SOUTHERN REGION

## WELCOME! WITH COFFEE!



We value being a Welcoming Community. In addition to greeting our visitors as they arrive and asking them to introduce themselves in our services, we now have **beautiful, colorful mugs**, (thanks, Paula!) **for our visitors** to use during coffee time. Each Sunday they will be on the counter between the coffee pots. **If you see someone with one of these mugs please take time to introduce yourself and say welcome!**

## WHICH CALENDAR WHERE?

All this modern marketing can be confusing! When using UUTC's website, it would seem natural to look under **CALENDAR** (under What's Up?) to find all our events. However, THAT calendar is the public face of UUTC, and *does not include all of the meetings that we conduct.*

So where do you find the calendar with **EVERYTHING**? Well, we hid that one, but not very well. First, you can click the link on the last page of our newsletter. On our website, you can find it on the **LATEST NEWS** page, in the first paragraph, where it refers to our Google Calendar. So if you are trying to verify a meeting, or available space in the schedule, try the **LATEST NEWS** page and get your data straight from the horse's mouth!



## PRIVATE MOVIE NIGHT? REALLY?

A private movie night here at UUTC with 100 of your closest friends could be yours!

Join Emily Atkinson, Ben Browning and others in learning the ins and outs of our sound and projection system! An increasingly busy schedule and Mark Allison's sanity dictate that more people be skilled at operating our audio-visual equipment.

In our new rental agreement for the use of UUTC's space, anyone wishing to use our sound or projection equipment will be required to compensate these techies at a rate of \$30 per hour—even if the techie is a teenager!

For more information about training and your free movie night, contact the [office](#).

## STARTUP RETREAT • SEPT 25TH

**Who are we? Where have we been?** Friday, September 25th, the congregation is invited to attend a potluck, followed by activities led by Kathy McGowan, from UUA Southern Region. Activities are likely to include the generation of UUTC-specific timeline of how we came to be and what has been meaningful to each of us. The evening promises to be truly engaging for all—hope you can attend!



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING UPDATE

If you haven't seen the new paint job in the Nursery, you should peek in and check it out. The walls look fresh and new! You will also be able to gaze on a lovely rainbow, symbolizing our Rainbow Promises (7 Principles). You will also meet, if you have not already done so, two of our new nursery staff, Luci Eddins and Hannah Fox. They have proven themselves to be very trustworthy and consistent. We have worked this summer to declutter and simplify our nursery, but we are in need of a few items. If you would like to make a donation to help us out, please call or email Heather, [creuutc@gmail.com](mailto:creuutc@gmail.com) or 553-3810. We do not want to re-clutter our area and need to be selective about what to add to the space. We must avoid small pieces, among other things. Here is what we are looking for:

- Small doll house or imaginative play structure ("Little People" toys are great)
- New dolls, no cloth or handmade dolls. We need dolls that can be easily cleaned.
- Infant bouncy seat or Bumbo floor seat for our children under the age of 1.
- Toys that make noise when played with, like songs, or they sing the alphabet, etc, and can be easily cleaned and wiped off.

Thanks for your support!

—Heather Layton



*"We are the certain and the seeking, the lifers and the newcomers, the beloved and the brokenhearted, the insiders and the rejected, all of whom have found a home in the extraordinary, yet intimate, communities of Unitarian Universalism."*

Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC Host

### UUTC Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a community that encourages free spiritual discovery and growth, celebrates personal and religious diversity, and promotes active, responsible involvement in the larger community.

### Join Us!

Discover what it means to have a personal faith which is anchored by diversity and acceptance. Join in Sunday services with the Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County. Contact information is below.

### YOU, ME, AND UUTC SATURDAY, OCT 17TH 9:30-3:30

Call it a Membership class, a refresher course, or a curiosity forum—or just call it essential! Information, fellowship and fun! Contact [Elizabeth Thompson](#) or [Susan Slocum](#) or sign up at the front counter!



### KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

VIEW our [church calendar](#). This is the calendar which has ALL events.

For previous issues of the UU Update, contact the office at [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).

SEND news for this newsletter by 10:00am on Wednesdays.

### CONTACT US

Our Minister is the Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The church telephone number is **828-877-6121**. Our mailing address is UUTC, PO Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712. Our website is [www.uutc.org](http://www.uutc.org). Our church is located at 24 Varsity Street, at the corner of South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).