



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

by Rev. Dr. Paula Gable — Sunday, October 4th at 9:30 and 11:00am

Bring your well-behaved companion animal(s) on a leash or in a crate or tank, etc., for a special blessing in our sanctuary. This service for all ages coincides with the traditional feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a renowned lover of animals. You may also bring a framed picture of your pet, and we will have a special Time of Remembrance to mourn the loss of the “furry, feathered, and scaled family members” who have passed away. If you are allergic to animals, you may either want to take an allergy medicine ahead of time Or listen to the recorded version of the service once it is posted to our website.



The Loving Hearts and Helping Hands Team invites one and all to a fall luncheon on October 22nd at UUTC from 12:00 noon until 2:00pm. Please sign up on the clipboard at the front desk if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!

The UUFH Youth are hosting a **costume party** on Sunday October 25 and have invited the UUTC Youth to join them. We are excited about gathering with Hendersonville and widening our UU relationships. We hope to have them visit our UU very soon!

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. UUTC is a registered charity and participates in this program. For more info, talk to RK.

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

Mindfulness Community – Mon 10/5 @ 7:00pm • **Men's Group** – Tue 10/6 @ 9:00am • **Staff Mtg** — Tue 10/6 @ 10:30am • **Dream Group** – Tue 10/6 @ 2:30pm • **SMART Recovery** – Tue 10/6 @ 6:00pm • **Eclectics Jam** – Wed 10/7 @ 9:00am • **Being Group** – Wed 10/7 @ 1:00pm • **Worship Team** — Wed 10/7 @ 1:30pm • **Living Wage Coalition** — Thurs 10/8 @ 10:00am • **ARE Meeting** — Thurs 10/8 @ 10:00am • **Women's Group** – Thurs 10/8 @ 12:30pm • **End of Live Conversation**—Thurs 10/8 @ 2:00pm

RESULTS OF THE RETREAT ON SEPTEMBER 25TH

During our Interim Ministry Start-up Retreat this past weekend (September 25 and 26) UUTC leadership worked with UUA Southern Region Consultant Rev. Kathy McGowan to plan for the Interim Period and move toward developing a long-range strategic plan. Following a potluck dinner on Friday night, we looked at the history of the congregation from its founding, 16 years ago, to the present.

UUTC's History – Abbreviated

Those who participated remembered seminal events that we charted in a timeline that is still posted in the sanctuary. If our notetaking and memory serve correctly, we remembered or learned that UUTC was founded when a group of like-minded individuals **signed a charter on June 6, 1999**, and began to hold services in rented space at Brevard College. Some dubbed it the “church in a box” because everything had to be set up at the beginning of the service, and put back into a box at the end of the service.

Since that time, the congregation has had three professional ministers: Rev. Gary Hyndman, a consulting minister in the “early days; Rev. Ernie Mills, who began part-time in about 2001 and eventually became full-time, serving until his retirement in April of 2015; and Paula Gable, our current Interim Minister who has been here exactly two months.

In only 16 years, UUTC has grown from a small but mighty band of charter members gathering in a rental space to 156 Members and 98 Friends who nearly own the current building outright. (The mortgage balance is now at about \$38,000 and our annual budget is about \$195,000).

Growing in Size Requires Expanded Hours for our Administrator (Official Title to Be Determined)

Due to our Members’ vision and spirit of generosity, we now enjoy a strong financial position that has allowed us to increase our Administrative Assistant’s position to that of a full-time Administrator. RK Young has agreed to “phase in” to fulltime employment as she “phases out” of her other half-time position with Rise & Shine.

Hiring a full-time Administrator helps us to more smoothly make the transition from a Pastoral Sized congregation (150 members or less) to a fully functional Program Sized Congregation (151 – 350 members and pledging friends.) On Saturday of the Start-up Retreat, Rev. Kathy answered Lay Leaders’ questions about the differences between the two sizes of congregations. One of the main differences is that in a “Pastoral” sized congregation, everyone knows the ordained minister, who in many ways is the focus of the congregation. When a congregation grows beyond 150 Members and pledging Friends (which UUTC passed some time ago,) it is no longer possible for the minister to know everyone well and “run the show.” Instead, the organization moves from being minister-centered to program-centered. Additional staff must be hired to manage day-to-day operations, and programs (e.g.: more complex worship services; additional children’s and adults’ religious exploration programs; more social events; more involvement by members in social action and social justice.)

For these reasons, the Board agreed to expand the hours of the Office Manager (Official Title TBD) to manage event registrations; building usage and rental; data base management and correspondence; website maintenance, etc. We are still in the process of re-writing the job description for this newly expanded position, and expect to have that completed within the month.

Three Snap-shots: Where is the Energy? What Are the Blocks? What is the Vision for the Future?

Rev. McGowan asked us where the “energy” is at UUTC. In other words, what do we already do well? What is our vision for the future? And what is preventing us from realizing that vision? Participants met in break-out groups to discuss these questions and then reported back to the plenary. Responses were recorded on newsprint that is still posted on the sanctuary wall.

1) Where is the energy? What we do well?

Participants reported that there are many existing strengths at UUTC: Small groups. Music program. Intellectual programs (Unfettered By Dogma). Worship services. Children’s programming. A wealth of experience (of volunteers and staff). Caring for each other. New member integration. In summary: an incredible altruistic spirit of volunteerism and vast leadership and educational skills that are generously offered to enhance the life of those in our community and the wider world. We also agreed that a true gift at UUTC is the understanding that leadership is a privilege, and that by FUNDING THE VISION we can truly change the world with our love.

In summary, we strive to be: **INCLUSIVE. INTENTIONAL. INVOLVED.**

2) *Where are we blocked?*

We need to develop a strategic plan. We are already planning a process to address this critical issue. Within it, we will likely address the other “blockages” identified at the retreat:

As leaders, **we fear “pushback.”** Kathy McGowan coached us to lead boldly: to make decisions and move ahead. And to communicate and seek feedback and input at all times.

We need more **Space and Staff** to fully transition from a pastoral sized congregation to a program congregation. Rev. Kathy reminded us that a fish only grows as large as its fishbowl. Although the sanctuary is still large enough to accommodate growth, we are already “bursting at the seams” in the Social Hall and do not have enough space to expand our Religious Exploration Program and other programs held throughout the week.

An **“inconsistent” brand**; i.e. people outside of “UU World” don’t really know who we are and what we stand for. Even within UUTC, we need to become more intentional about presenting a consistent message and image to the public. This will be especially important in our “outreach,” which we would like to target, in part, to young adults.

To fully realize our unfolding vision, we need to increase our passion for an open and honest conversation about **Stewardship to fund the vision.**

3. *What are our Dreams for UUTC?*

Tap full financial potential and unbridled generosity within the congregation (in order to):

Develop Branding and effect PR to make UU a “household name” and a place where people are PROUD to tell the world that they are a member of our movement.

Become a Community Center where we can model covenantal relationships and conflict resolution skills. Additional programming could include: classes on new parenting, launching children, career counseling & networking, intentional community, social action/ social justice, arts & aesthetics, martial arts, etc.

Expand RE programs for faith development, personal and societal transformation; and to support individuals, families and group along the full spectrum of the life span.

Increase our Involvement in Social Action and Social Justice. One expressed area of interest was addressing Domestic Violence in Transylvania County

Train Leaders to change the world by partnering with other faith communities and beyond to help solve critical social and environmental challenges we face at this time.

Next Steps?

Of course, this is only the summary of some preliminary conversations among a relatively small group of UUTC leadership. We imagine that as we enter more fully into the visioning and strategic planning process, more people will step forward to offer their ideas and their commitment to the new course UUTC is charting for itself. This work is especially critical at this time, as UUTC begins the process of searching for and calling a new Settled Minister. The type of minister UUTC needs and attracts will be strongly influenced by the decisions we make together to shape our future as **beloved community.**

We’d love to see you become actively involved in this process. Let us know how you want to be involved.

In faith, with gratitude,

Peg & Paula



SOCIAL ACTION FOR OCTOBER: MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Minister's Discretionary Fund helps people in our community who are in need. Needs can be as serious and immediate as a co-payment for life-saving medicine, or as joyful as helping a young couple pay for a marriage license – and everything in between. Since most of us are embarrassed to ask for help, the Minister is the only one who knows who received what. The Board is notified only on the type of expenditure and cost, but not the individual(s) involved, without their explicit permission.

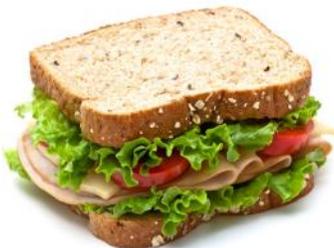


BAKE SALE BY OUR YOUTH, FOR OUR YOUTH THIS SUNDAY!

Mini apple pies, carrot cake, key lime pie, banana bread, lemon-blueberry scones, spanakopita, buttermilk-chocolate cake, cookies, gluten free treats, savory items...available at 10:30am. Support our Youth in their efforts to get to Youth CONs at The Mountain. Free coffee with your purchase! :)

THIS SUNDAY IS SANDWICH SUNDAY!

Get to know Members, Friends and visitors at **Sandwich Sunday on October 4th** 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. Due to projected weather, we will be in the Social Hall. 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. Contact Elizabeth Thompson at etville@gmail.com or **384-0778** for more information.



CAN YOU MAKE COFFEE? WITH FREE TRAINING PROVIDED?

Sunday morning coffee makers are needed for November, December and January. Providing coffee service is a great way to meet and greet Members, Friends and visitors between the Sunday services. Please contact Vicki Held at Vicki.held1@gmail.com or Jean Bullivant at wbullivant@gmail.com if you would like to serve our church family in this way.



END OF LIFE CONVERSATION • STARTING OCTOBER 8TH

Adult Religious Exploration is sponsoring a series of three sessions on end of life planning to be held on Thursday afternoons, from 2:00pm until 4:00pm, beginning October 8. The first session will deal with non-legal documents and information to collect, planning a memorial service, body disposition, costs, etc. The second session on October 12 will deal with legal issues: the Do Not Resuscitate form, the Health Care Power of Attorney, the Living Will, Five Wishes, etc. The third session on October 22 will deal with holding conversations with parents, children, siblings, etc. about your wishes for end of life care. A fourth session may be added to cover additional topics. Due to the attorney's schedule, the order of these sessions may change. If you have questions, contact Jim Null at 877-2550 or jnull69@citcom.net.

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! **You, Me, and UUTC** is a great way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, in particular. Contact [Elizabeth Thompson](#) or [Susan Slocum](#) or sign up at the front counter!



CANTARIA CONCERT AT UUFH • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

Doors open at 6:30pm, music begins at 7:00 pm

Organized in 1997, Cantaria is a community chorus of gay and gay-supportive men who come from a broad range of careers and musical experiences. The chorus has distinguished itself with outstanding performances in the area and beyond. They have been featured performers in Asheville's Blue Ridge Pride Festival; have given performances in Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston; and every four years sing in GALA's international choral festival, most recently in Denver, Colorado. Cantaria presents a broad range of music including classical, popular, and show tunes. Suggested donation \$15; delicious refreshments available. For information, see the October *Beacon* or contact the UUFH office at office@uufhnc.org or 828-693-3157.



Who Ya Gonna Call? Contacts of Committees and Teams

<u>Board Executive Committee</u> , Peg Hall	828-553-7541	peghall1@gmail.com
<u>Administration Committee</u> , Peter Mockridge	828-862-5485	peterb@peterbmockridge.com
<u>Finance Committee</u> , Ed Carroll	678-777-8021	edcarroll555@gmail.com
<u>Property Committee</u> , Betty Kendrick	828-577-0005	bettybkendrick@gmail.com
<u>Adult Religious Exploration Team</u> , Dave Hunter	828-884-6647	dwhunter53@aol.com
Being Group, Peg Hall	828-553-7541	peghall1@gmail.com
Christians in Exile, Jean Rowe	828-883-9538	uurevjeanr@aol.com
Covenant Circle Ministry, Susan Freeman		susanf442000@yahoo.com
Dream Group, Carol Flake	828-553-4910	cflake@comporium.net
Drum Circle, Joyce Pearsall	828-883-9879	jepearsall@comporium.net
Eclectics, John Austin	828-884-3466	jsa0416@gmail.com
Men's Group, Bill Thomas	828-885-8229	billthomas@comporium.net
Mindfulness Community, Don Lander	828-884-4844	donald.lander@gmail.com
Soup and Soul, Sandy Jones	828-884-4442	jonesbabyexpert@aol.com
Women's Group, JoAnn Crawford	828-877-5344	nccrawford@hotmail.com
Women's Potluck, Joan Lemire	828-231-9259	tjbindire@yahoo.com
<u>Building Team</u> , vacant	828-xxx-xxxx	
<u>Children's Religious Exploration Team</u> , Heather Layton	828-877-2174	creutc@gmail.com
<u>Technology Team</u> , Mark Allison	954-707-2895	mark@cmallison.com
<u>Grounds Team</u> , Bill Edmonds	828-884-2837	eliasstep@comporium.net
<u>Loving Hearts Helping Hands Team</u> , David Parker	828-885-2093	david_tricia@comporium.net
<u>Membership Team</u> , Susan Slocum	207-831-8976	suslocum@yahoo.com
<u>Music Team</u> , Carol MacAllister	828-551-0587	wisdomtreegal@gmail.com
<u>Nominating Committee</u> , Isabel Lynch	828-877-4170	isabelplynch@gmail.com
<u>Personnel Team</u> , Virginia MacDonald	828-862-6505	vrmacd@mtnwaves.net
<u>Social Action Team</u> , Sue Null	828-877-2550	suenull@rice.edu
<u>Social Activities Team</u> , vacant	828-xxx-xxxx	
<u>Stewardship Team</u> , vacant	828-xxx-xxxx	
Endowment, Barbara Wright	828-884-9166	wrightz@comporium.net
<u>Worship Team</u> , John Dreier/Alice Hardy	828-577-1868	albamar@mindspring.com

You can access this information on small groups and their members through our online database access, as described on the next page.

THE CONVENIENCE OF ONLINE ACCESS

Some of us are already walking around with smartphones which now hold the “Church Life” app. Dialing up a member of UUTC has never been easier! There is a bit of setup to do, first. To use the mobile app **Church Life**, you must first set up a login and password for Access ACS, the congregation-facing portion of our church management software. The same login and password are used for **Church Life**.



Access ACS is available to church Members and Friends only. *(Last week we included “regular visitors” in this article—the Update regrets the error.)* In order to log onto to Access ACS, you must use the same email address that is in our church database. If there is a question about what information we have and how you are listed, please contact [RK Young](#).

Within 24 business hours you will get a message indicating that we have successfully set up a member account for you. A user name and password will be e-mailed to the e-mail address on record.

You will need to remember your user name but don't worry about trying to memorize the obscure password ACS provides because you will be required to change it the first time you log in. Once you have received the user name and password, click the LOGIN tab at the top of the page to log in. You might find it useful to print a copy of this page for reference.

When you log in, you will be able to enter or select a phone number that is “preferred.” This becomes the phone number that other Members and Friends will be presented with as the “number to call” inside Church Life. The same can be said of your “preferred” email address.

Finally, there is the picture you present to the world— and on November 7th, we will have another Photo Directory Shoot. **This time, we will be taking pictures of not only families, but individual members of those families**, so that when a family or individual is looked up in either ACS or Church Life, an appropriate image is displayed. Individual listings are displayed in Church Life, unless only a family group image is available. However, the Family Directory will show primarily family group images in ACS itself. This is a really good reason to get your individual and family pictures updated, so please give Barbi Smith a call about scheduling an updated picture on November 7th.

Please be patient with membership and the office—information entered into our old software was done by different hands, and the importing of this data into ACS has created some weird listings. Sue N., for instance, was listed as a “child” after the import. We are working diligently to make records accurate. You can help by logging in and verifying your own information.



"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

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.

Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.

PHOTO SHOOT FOR THE DIRECTORY—NOVEMBER 7TH



You, too can look this great— but you must contact [Barbi Smith](#) and let her know that **you want to be scheduled for the Photo Shoot on Saturday, November 7th.** And don't forget—children grow. It may be time to update that photo!

Members and Friends may request the PDF of the most recent Members and Friends Photo Directory by email —click here! admin@uutc.org.

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.

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

CONTACT US

Our Minister is the Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable. To reach her out of the office, call **828-553-9410**.

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. Our church is located at 24 Varsity Street, at the corner of South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.