



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

INVITING JOY

by Rev. Dr. Paula Gable — Sunday, November 15th

Joy is our true nature, but so many things prevent us from experiencing this directly. Can you dare to invite joy into your own life? What's required, and what might change if you were to realize this truth?

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.

USHERS NEEDED, 11:00. TWO, PLEASE!

WHY UUTC IS HOME

I can be completely open and honest about my non-belief/skepticism here and be embraced without hesitation by all members. I can engage in deep discussions about my views with lots of people that have extensive religious backgrounds that will support, but also challenge, my beliefs or lack thereof.

—Mark Allison

OUR CALENDARS — At right are our events that are **not** Team or Committee meetings. To access the **complete** calendar of internal events, please click [HERE](#).

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

Four Agreements — Sun 11/15 @ 5:30pm

Mindfulness – Mon 11/16 @ 7:00pm

Morning Meditation — Tues 11/17 @ 7:00am

Men's Group – Tue 11/17 @ 9:00am

Dream Group – Tue 11/17 @ 2:30pm

SMART Recovery – Tue 11/17 @ 6:00pm

Eclectics Jam – Wed 11/18 @ 9:00am

Being Group – Wed 11/18 @ 1:00pm

Morning Meditation — Thurs 11/19 @ 7:00am

Digital Community — Thurs 11/19 @ 10:00am

Women's Sharing — Thurs 11/19 @ 6:25pm

Knitting Circle — Fri 11/20 @ 10:30am

LISTEN ONCE, LISTEN TWICE?

An excellent message on Sunday sometimes requires a second hearing. On the “Sermons” page of our website, you can enjoy a second listen (or first, if you had to miss a Sunday). You can click the play button to start the recording, pause the recording, back it up to catch something you missed—even download the file to your portable device for later playback in your car. An archive has been kept for years—contact technology@uutc.org to access a file no longer posted on the website.



Please enjoy browsing our archive of sermons.

You can listen right here or download an MP3 file to your computer or mobile device.



WORSHIP TEAM NEWS—JOYS & SORROWS

We now have a journal that is available before each service and throughout the week in which you may write a specific joy and/or sorrow. Members and Friends will have the option to sign their entry or have their listing be anonymous. During the service, the minister will read these entries to the congregation. While this is a change in our service, it has proven successful in other Unitarian Universalists congregations. **Many congregations have 50 years of recorded history (or more) in their journals—and what a treasure!** Help us make our oral history recorded history by trying out our new Joys & Sorrows Journal. You can find the Journal on the front counter, with a pen, on Sunday mornings.

FIFTH SUNDAY COLLECTION

November 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 donations on November 22 and 29. A list of most-needed items is available in the basket on the counter.

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”

—*Charles Dickens*

BUILDING USE DATA COLLECTION

Building Use forms on every door ask for date & time of occupation of the space, along with the hours occupied **and the number of people in attendance for the meeting.**

Your help in collecting this data is very important. Please look to see that someone is adding this information every time you are in attendance at any meeting. Having better “use” data will help us to make more appropriate decisions for future use. Thanks for your help!

SANTA'S WORKSHOP—ELVES & SUPPLIES NEEDED!



Crafty? Good with children? Holiday enthusiast? Then I have the volunteer job for you! Saturday, December 12, from 9:30am-12pm, CRE at UUTC is presenting our first annual Santa's Workshop for children 3 and older. Children will be invited to join us in creating homemade gifts for loved ones of their choice, complete with wrapping.

Some items we could use for our creations include:

Used frames (at least letter size) • old holiday cards for making new, recycled, personalized holiday cards • colorful buttons or beads • wrapping paper or tissue paper that we can re-use • ribbon • glue or glue sticks, even hot glue • pine cones • tree “cookies” (2” to 3” slices of tree branch, about 1/2” thick • clothes pins

This event will also serve as a morning out for parents to do as they please child-free. I have a few volunteers already signed-up, but I need more volunteers in order to make this a safe and fun morning for our children. Please contact Heather at creuutc@gmail.com or 553-3810, to lend a hand. Thanks!

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I have found these definitions helpful in thinking about “Mission.” They are from a document on uua.org called “Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Creating a Future Together.” These definitions may be helpful to us as we prepare to renew our Vision in 2016.



Vision: The vision is not a creed, nor is it a substitute for individual or collective theological reflection. It speaks of the institution and what it wants to be. For example, the vision of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is to become an antiracist, anti-oppression, multicultural institution.

Mission: The mission is a carefully defined, concise, and focused statement of what the congregation wants to mean to the community, and for what it wishes to be known. It is a statement of who you are and what you value, and it should be the measuring stick for all the congregation does. Every congregation has a mission—a way it lives out its life—but too often the mission is hidden in the fabric of the congregation and the “way we do things here.”

Covenant: Covenants describe the way people interact with one another. The promises and commitments people make to one another in the context of a religious community help them understand what their tradition calls them to be.

Although vision, mission, and covenant are parts of a whole and serve separate aims, they are still interrelated. The mission grows directly out of the vision, and the vision is built upon the shared values, concerns, and principles that are articulated in the covenant. All three of them call the congregation to be aware of itself as a corporate citizen and to honor the individuals within it.

MEMBERS NEEDED — NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATION

[Isabel Lynch](#) is the Chair of our Nominations Committee. This Committee is the only committee “of the congregation,” as opposed to “of the Board.” The role of the Nominations Committee is to **identify leaders to serve on our Board**—they submit the slate of candidates (due in April) which Members vote on annually to guide and lead the Congregation. **One more member is needed** to serve on this Committee. Members may not hold any other elected office in the Congregation. Call 877-4170.

The Board also needs a Member to serve on the Administration Committee. The Administration Committee is a great place for “wordsmiths” to serve, as it guides the Board in the crafting of the policies which govern our congregation. This Committee is “convened” by Peter Mockridge, who says it is impossible to claim to be the Leader of this strong (and devoted) group. 😊 To assist with this Committee, please email Peter Mockridge.

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION FOR NOVEMBER: UUSC

UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, is Social Action's outreach for November and is the only agency UUTC sponsors that supports people outside Transylvania County. UUSC is a leading voice for human rights and social justice in the United States and in 21 countries around the world. **Read more about the vital ministries of the UUSC by clicking the graphic below.**

Individual or family contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, N.Y.--**doubling the impact of your gift.** *Social Action Outreach campaigns are an opportunity to give, not an obligation.*



WARM & FUZZY CHRISTMAS?

As always, early in December our UUTC Mitten Tree will be set up in the lobby. For many years, new or gently used hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves have decorated our tree. Warm socks are needed as well.

A week before Christmas we take our donations to Bread of Life, El Centro, and The Haven. Let's top last year's total of well over **115** items and really warm up our community! Questions?

Call Susan Bir at 884-9387.



SEND SOME HOLIDAY JOY!

This is the season when folks really miss friends and family. **Consider amplifying the good work of our Loving Hearts, Helping Hands Team** by sending a card or note to one of the people listed on the LHHH bulletin board or to others they might recommend.

One of those people is Janet Benway, who is doing well but will remain at Tore's Home for awhile longer. Her address is: Janet Benway, Tore's Home, 43 Tore's Drive, East Flat Rock, NC 28726.



UU CHURCH FIRE—MODEST RESTORATION FUNDS NEEDED

The Unitarian Fellowship of Huntington, WV suffered an electrical fire on September 5. While insurance will cover most losses, they still need a bit more...and they need it by December 2nd. For more information, or to make a donation, go [HERE](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 29TH — BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

RESCHEDULED! Both services, for all ages—Bring your well-behaved companions on leashes, in baskets, crates, tanks or whatever they call home, for a special blessing in our sanctuary.



You might choose to bring a framed photo of your pet, as we will have a special ***Time of Remembrance*** to mourn the loss of “furry, feathered and scaled family members.” Mark your pet’s calendar for this service!

SAVE THE DATE!

DECEMBER 2ND FORUM

Ministry & the Board are hosting a Congregational Forum the evening of December 2nd as a way of receiving more feedback related to Mission, Vision and Planning prior to an actual retreat with one of our UUA guides.

Please mark your calendar for an evening devoted to our Beloved Community.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH HOLIDAY CHEER, DINNER & A PAGEANT!

Wednesday, December 16th, plan on attending an event hosted by Ann Rabb and Vicki Held—dinner and some theater! The evening will start with some holiday cheer at 5:00 and dinner at 5:30, followed by the performance at 7:00pm.

You will need to sign up early—this is bound to be a popular event, and we will only be able to seat 75. Check the front counter for the sign up sheet, and look for the separate sign up to bring a dessert.

Following dinner, we will have our first performance of ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***. The second performance will take place the following Sunday, December 20th, at 10:30am. There will be only one service that morning.



GOT GAME? TONIGHT!

Sandwiches and childcare provided—bring some chips or a side or a beverage & your favorite games — it's GAME NIGHT!



CREATING A LAP OF LOVE — WOMEN KNIT FOR OTHERS

While this starts off sounding like a pet adoption headline, it is really a HUMAN service opportunity—in the context of a women's circle. The group's first project is knitting or crocheting small blankets that will be donated to Hospice. To get started, all you have to do is bring your "knitting for others" (needles, yarn) and your loving kindness. Jeanie Bernard is facilitating this group. Please consider participating even if you don't knit or crochet but wish to learn. In addition to Jeanie, Isabel Lynch will be on hand to get you started. (By all accounts, she's a whiz!) Also on the 20th, a schedule of dates will be selected for December and January.

The group meets at 10:30 until noon on Friday mornings. The group operates in Covenant, which you can read on the UUTC website.



CENTERPIECES FOR SENIORS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 10:30AM

Have some fun creating three centerpieces — two to keep, one to share with our less mobile senior Members & Friends. Select from boxwood, fresh flowers, candles, bows and other assorted decorations such as pine cones or berries. Cost is \$15—space is limited to 12. The workshop will take place in the foyer.



EARLY 2016 GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Many charitable organizations request donations at the end of the calendar year. Social Action wants you to know of the local organizations that are scheduled for the first half of next year so that you can plan your charitable giving: January is **The Haven**; February is **Bread of Life**; March is **S.A.F.E.**; April is **The Children's Center**; May is **Rise and Shine**, and June is **Sharing House**.

YOUTH CONS!

Our youth are off and away to The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. This weekend marks the first of three Youth CON's. Our 3rd-5th graders will be having lots of fun with youth from all over the southeast! Four girls and 2 boys are attending the Elementary CON, four for the first time. Reed and Elijah Ibarqueon are heading there with their maternal grandfather, James Spicer, who will be the male supervisor. James attends a UU congregation in Florida and has heard great things about the programs at The Mountain and is looking forward to experiencing his first Youth CON with his grandsons.

What is a Youth CON? A Youth CONference is a gathering of Unitarian Universalist youth and advisors from congregations all over the southeast for a weekend program filled with a variety of workshops, activities, good food, a safe environment and warm, cozy cabins. Youth participate in all the activities, share with new friends in small get-to-know-you groups, bond during free time, contribute to times of fun and reflection and grow spiritually through worship. (*from The Mountain website*)



OUT OF SORROW, ONE BUILDS JOY...

MountainCamp is the premier program of our wonderful Mountain Retreat and Learning Center near Highlands (just ask anyone who has ever attended). Even though it is among the lowest-priced summer camps in the state, The Mountain strives to have a scholarship fund to assist those who might otherwise not be able to attend. A wonderful opportunity to help this cause has just occurred.

A long-time, generous member of The Mountain had planned to have 15 of her extended family and friends to The Mountain Thanksgiving Weekend. Due to an unfortunate, serious accident to her husband, that can not happen. *Instead of asking for a refund*, she has created a Matching Gift Challenge benefiting the Camper Scholarship Program. We can all help children and youth attend this great experience and have our dollars doubled. Simply send your check, noted for Camper Scholarship Challenge, to The Mountain, P. O, Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741.

For any questions, or more information, either speak with Bruce Kirkman at UUTC Sunday or contact him at 828 507-1207.

Incidentally, this unfortunate accident also created Thanksgiving Weekend openings at The Mountain. You can join a number of your fellow UUTCers who go to this wonderful event if you call soon.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER • SACRED HEART



The 17th annual **Community Christmas Dinner** will be held at **Sacred Heart Catholic Church** on Asheville Highway on December 25 from noon until 4:00 p.m. (at no charge). 500-600 people attend each year, and Sacred Heart is asking for your help with this event.

1. You can donate **FOOD**, which is cooked at your home and brought to Sacred Heart on Christmas Day morning between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Pans and covers are provided, and can be picked up Dec. 12-20 at the church.
2. The menu includes turkey, ham, dressing, sweet and mashed potatoes. Please sign up at the UUTC counter by **December 1** if you can help with these items or **VOLUNTEER** to serve on Christmas Day.
3. You can donate **MONEY** for turkey, ham, or paper products. Checks should be made out to Sacred Heart Catholic Church; in the memo, put Christmas Dinner.

For additional information, call Sandi Rogers at 883-2990.



"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.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please save your BOX TOPS for Education and bring them to UUTC. Emily and Heather will split up the collection and donate to our county schools. Schools earn cash rewards for educational programs. See this website for more information:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

A collection box is on the left side of the front counter. Thanks!



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 and by appointment. 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.