



**REVIVAL IS A LIFELONG FRIEND** by Christina Branum-Martin  
Sunday, January 3rd 9:30 & 11:00am *Coffee time between services.*

There is a Chinese Proverb that says “The remedy for dirt is soap and water; the remedy for dying is living.” We make New Year’s resolutions in hope of a better year, a better life. Yet, we soon break them. Why? Perhaps **resolution** is the wrong mindset for welcoming in the new. Instead, let us consider **revival** as a lifelong friend, to engage with, minute by minute, day by day. Let’s gather to rekindle the spirit on an ongoing basis – as we cross the New Year threshold together.

### BOARD MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER

Are on the Board’s Board and on our [website](#).  
Thank you for reading!

**OUR CALENDARS** — Below are events that are **not** Team or Committee meetings. Access the **complete** calendar of events [HERE](#).

### WHY UUTC IS HOME

UUTC is home because I immediately feel a warm, nurturing welcome every time I walk through the door. Our sanctuary is a place of special grace within the church and our church is a sanctuary of special grace within the community, where I am encouraged to replace the distractions and details of day to day life with a focus on my most fundamental and spiritual being, according to my own unique beliefs.

—John Dreier

### NEXT WEEK at UUTC

**SOUPer Sunday** — Sun 1/3 @ 12:00pm

**Mindfulness** – Mon 1/4 @ 7:00pm

**Morning Meditation** — Tues 1/5 @ 7:00am

**Men’s Group** – Tue 1/5 @ 9:00am

**Dream Group** – Tue 1/5 @ 2:30pm

**SMART Recovery** – Tue 1/5 @ 6:00pm

**Eclectics Jam** — Wed 1/6 @ 9:30am

**Morning Meditation**—Thurs 1/7 @ 7:00am

**Women’s Group** — Thurs 1/7 @ 12:30pm

**Drum Circle** — Thurs 1/7 @ 7:00pm

**Knitting Circle** — Fri 1/8 @ 10:30am

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SOUPER SUNDAY • JANUARY 3RD, NOON

SOUPER SUNDAY is a chance to connect with members, friends and visitors. We'll provide some yummy soup for a cold winter's day. Bring bread, fruit, veggies, crackers, chips, dip or other **finger foods** to share. BYOB. Be green and bring your own cup, bowl, napkin, and utensils. We appreciate donations to help offset the cost of the soup! This is an intergenerational event so there is no childcare. **PLEASE CALL ELIZABETH (384-0778)** so that we know to expect you on Sunday!



## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6TH • ON THE EIGHT-FOLD PATH • 5:30—8:30

Join us for a (mild) Mexican dinner, followed by a **Workshop on Right Livelihood and Legacy** led by Rev. Dr. Paula Gable. *Right Livelihood*, in Western parlance, includes discerning your “mission in life” as a way of giving your gifts to the world.

Appetizers will be served at 5:15, followed by dinner at about 5:30. The program will begin after dinner clean-up and will end by 8:30. The Amish say “Many hands make light work,” so feel free to pitch in with clean-up so we can start the program as early as possible. Also, please bring your change purse, since we hope to not only cover the cost of this meal, but also defray some of the costs of the Visioning Retreat on January 30.

The Buddha's first teaching after his Enlightenment was The Four Noble Truths. The first is that life involves suffering; second, that attachment is the cause of suffering; third, that there is an end to suffering; and fourth, that liberation is encompassed in the Eight-Fold Noble Path.

“Right Livelihood” is the Fifth Element of the Noble Path. It embodies the teaching that each person should engage in an honest occupation that fully respects all sentient beings and the natural world. This ethical teaching can be extended to include enduring gifts we continue to give - after we leave this earth. Come if you want to apply Buddhist Ethics to discern how your gifts can make a positive difference in other's lives.

**Menu:** Fresh salsa & organic tortilla chips; chili (w/wo ground turkey), flautas, guacamole, salad, chicken tacos, cookies & other desserts. NOT SPICY! – Although we should have some bottles of hot sauce on hand. Bring your own if you have a favorite to share.

## THE MITTEN TREE FINAL COUNT: TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY FOUR!

### SOCIAL OUTREACH FOR JANUARY—THE HAVEN

The Haven is a short-term emergency shelter for homeless families and individuals. The first goal of The Haven is to provide a safe, secure and warm place to rest. The second goal is to work with other local agencies to assist its residents in developing the skills and resources to move into independent living in affordable housing.

The Haven now has two units, an 18-bed building for adult men and women, and a five-bedroom, four-bath house which opened in 2014 to serve families with children. *The family house has been filled to capacity since its opening.*

The Haven has housed residents ranging in age from newborn to 82. It has consistently housed a greater number of families than its original projections. The Haven continues to be successful in assisting many of the families and individuals to move into suitable permanent housing.

Your gift this month will enable The Haven to continue to serve the poorest of the poor in Transylvania County - individuals and families with children who have no home or bed in which to sleep. If you would like to help in a more personal way, please consider being a volunteer or assisting with food and supply needs. More information is available at the display table for The Haven in our foyer.

UUTC Members and Friends were very active in the establishment of The Haven, and based on the State of the Young Child [report](#) from Transylvania County, the need is greater than ever. Please view the Summary Report at the link if you have not already done so.

### WOMEN'S GROUP • JANUARY 7TH, 12:30PM

The mid-day Women's Group will meet to enjoy a bag lunch and socialize on Thursday, January 7th at 12:30pm. Discussion begins at 1:00pm. The topic this month will center on what we may have learned this past year that will affect us as we look ahead to the New Year. All UU women, friends and especially newcomers are welcome.



## MEET KEVIN SMITH, OUR NEW AV TECH

Kevin Smith is currently employed full-time with Transylvania County Schools to coordinate community relations along with media and special events for all nine of the county's public schools. You may often catch him (as seen here at Brevard's recent Christmas parade) taking photographs or videos of students throughout the county. Kevin moved to Brevard in 2008 with his wife and four children.

He also currently chairs the county's Parks and Recreation Commission and sits on the board of VISION Transylvania and the Transylvania Choral Society. Known by several members of UUTC, Kevin

is "glad to be part of the team that will help keep Sunday mornings going smoothly for such a welcoming congregation."

## OUR NEWEST OLD MEMBER!

Many of you already know and love Lauren Agrella-Sevilla. For those who don't, Lauren recently returned to Brevard/Pisgah Forest from Vermont. Back in 2007-2008, she served as our Interim Religious Education Director. "It was very fun for me and a huge learning experience to work with families in our church community to define what we envision for our kids."

Lauren just re-signed the Membership Book and is on the slate to serve on our Search Task Force. Here is a statement of Lauren's that reflects on her values, and why she was selected to serve (though that was not the question she was addressing). "I often have tears during Sunday service. I find the music and people's words inspiring and helpful in navigating my own human journey. It's important to me to be able to have a sacred hour to think not just of myself and the daily logistics of life, but to consider how and why we believe and behave as we do, and how we can live more fully in support of one another with love and compassion." Welcome all the way back, Lauren!



# WE ARE OVERSTUFFED.



Did you know that almost 90% of our wealth is in stuff? We use over 78 square miles for extra storage space and spend \$22 billion storing it - that's enough space to fill Manhattan three times over.

*We have an opportunity to make a big impact almost effortlessly.*

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## MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

### NEW YEAR, NEW NEEDS

Ready to clean house? Ready to be done with something that is no longer useful or meaningful to you? **iDonate** is a service that UUTC has partnered with to help us all purge our stuff and also fund our mission. This service is not intended for items which you would normally donate to support other agencies in our community such as old furniture or clothing.

To get an idea of how the service works, go to this page on [our website](#). The VANCO link is still there, but this particular page has had a major makeover—for a short time. Please investigate this service and see if it might help you meet your needs or the needs of someone who would benefit from your old stuff—as well as the needs of our UUTC Community. UUTC pays nothing for this service. Have a friend who might want to support our mission in this way? Share the link with them!

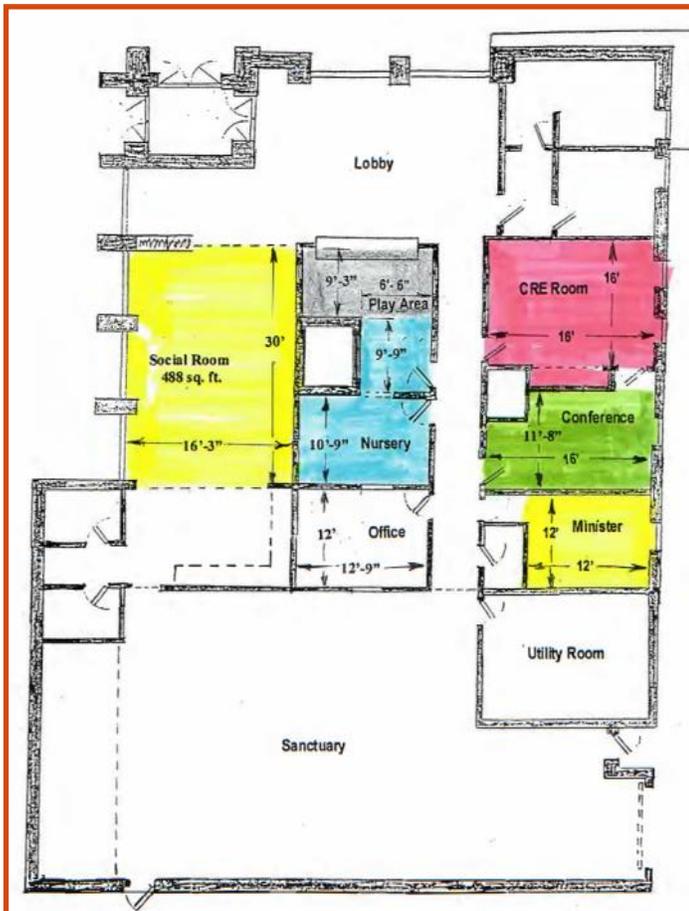
# TRANSITIONAL ACTIVITY

## GMAC—THE BRIDGE BETWEEN GOVERNANCE AND MINISTRY

I'm delighted to say that the first meeting of our Governance and Ministry Advisory Council occurred the week of Dec 14th. This is the group shown in the center of our Organizational Structure, with members chosen jointly by the Board and Ministry. The role of this group is to pay attention to the congregation and guide the Board and the Minister in the our life together. If you have concerns, conflicts, or questions about anything pertaining to our Beloved Community, let this Council know. They will either resolve things or will know how to funnel issues in the right direction. In this time of transition, GMAC is also filling the role of a transition team, keeping track of all the things that need to happen in a timely way to help us have a new settled ministry in the fall of 2017. I offer my gratitude for this capable, careful, and wise group of people:

**Brigid Fox • Dave Hunter • Leslie Keir • Jim Null • Jean Rowe • Bill Thomas**

Peg Hall, President of the Board



## ASSESSING OUR SPACE & NEEDS

In one week, Members & Friends will receive a link to a **short** survey from the Building Use Task Force about their opinions on various topics concerning our use of space and our anticipated needs for space. This information will be added to the quantitative data derived from our space use documentation to update previous data and clarify our needs.

The Board's Task for this Task Force is to **create a timeline of recommended and necessary changes to assist the Board in prioritizing needs and to assist the Finance Committee in budgeting for future expenditures.** Thank you for your participation!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING • JANUARY 17TH

As has been announced, we will be holding a Congregational meeting immediately following the second service on January 17th to elect the **Search Task Force for a settled minister**. Several weeks ago, the Board invited you to submit your own name or someone else's for this important work. We narrowed that list based on gender balance, an age range, UU experience, dedication to UUTC, computer skills, and a group we think will work well together—and selected the slate below. We will be inviting nominations from the floor.

**Lauren Agrella-Sevilla • Joanna Bliss • Ben Browning • Bruce Kirkman  
Earle Rabb • Betty Kendrick**

**A Quorum of Membership (at least 47 members) is required on the premises in order for a vote to be taken, per our bylaws. Please plan to attend!**

### ABSENTEE BALLOT • FOR UUTC MEMBERS ONLY UUTC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JANUARY 17TH

**Proposed Slate for Settled Ministerial Search Task Force:**

**Lauren Agrella-Sevilla**

**Joanna Bliss**

**Ben Browning**

**Bruce Kirkman**

**Earle Rabb**

**Betty Kendrick**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Vote FOR above slate**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Vote AGAINST above slate**

***Completed absentee ballots must be in the possession of the Board Secretary at the time this Congregational Meeting is called to order on January 17, 2016. This ballot may NOT be counted towards a quorum.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Member Name (print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Member Signature**

**Date Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_



*"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.**



Read the UUA Southern Region Newsletter [HERE!](#)



**SOUTHERN REGION**

### **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. 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](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).