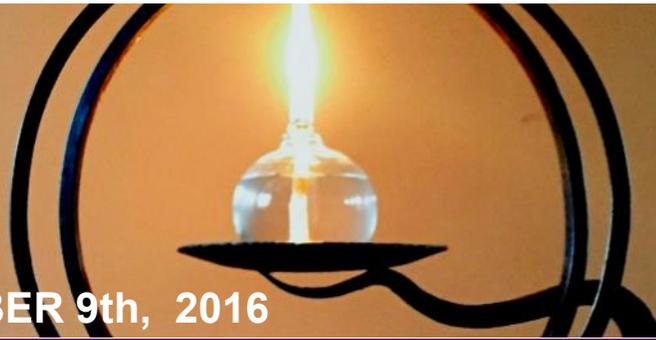


UUTC UPDATE

DECEMBER 9th, 2016



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

COURAGE INCARNATE

by the **SUULE CREW** (Gary Kendrick, Carol Moore, Susan Slocum, RK Young)

Sunday, December 11th at 9:30 and 11:00am

One of the tenants of liberal religion is the idea of Agency: good things don't just happen; people make them happen. As individuals, our "good" is only realized in relationship with others.

Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am

WORSHIP TEAM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As you know, there have been some changes to the worship services in the last few months, and we are continuing to evaluate and tweak the service elements to create a cohesive service that flows smoothly. We want to hear from you when you think something is working well, and when you think there is room for improvement.

Please send your comments to worshipteamuutc@googlegroups.com.



NEXT WEEK at UUTC

- WNC Refugee** — Mon 12/12 @ 10:30am
- Growing Younger** — Mon 12/12 @ 11:00am
- Christians in Exile** — Mon 12/12 @ 3:30pm
- Men's Group** — Tues 12/13 @ 9:00am
- Eclectics Jam** — Wed 12/14 @ 9:30am
- Choir Practice** — Wed 12/14 @ 4:00pm
- Living the Tao** — Fri 12/16 @ 10:30am
- Vitality Yoga** — Fri 12/16 @ 1:30pm

MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

During the fall season your Ministerial Search Team has been busy putting together a Congregational Record (CR) which describes the life and history of our congregation. We have submitted the CR where it has been placed on a secure website. About 60 other congregations that are in the Search Process have submitted their own CR. The purpose of the CR is to offer candid disclosure of our congregational strengths, challenges, and continuing issues, and to provide the opportunity for “marketing” our congregation to potential candidates for the position of settled minister of our congregation.



During the month of December prospective ministers will read this document to decide whether they are interested in the Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County.

As we worked on the CR we found ourselves wrestling with weighty questions about our church’s vision, the way we run this church, and the qualities we are looking for in our next settled minister. To do a thorough job we sought input from the Board, the Finance Committee, and other leadership groups in the congregation. We also included your responses to our survey, as well as the cottage meetings held over the summer. Our hope is that these necessary conversations about the future of our church will both enhance the Congregational Record and help us move forward toward calling the right candidate as our next minister.

On January 2nd 2017 we can begin discovering the candidates who have expressed an interest in our congregation. We can then look at their resumes and begin communication with those candidates. As you can understand, this will be an important and thorough process lasting at least through March.

We appreciate all the support and input you have given us. As always, please contact us with your questions or concerns.

Your Ministerial Search Team: Lauren Agrella-Sevilla, Bruce Kirkman, Joanna Bliss, Ben Browning, Betty Kendrick, Earle Rabb

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. Questions? Call Susan Bir at 884-9387.



Thank You

With the enormous help of many of the UUTC community and other caring local citizens, we were able to successfully move from our home on Saturday, Dec. 3 to a safer location. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who offered their loving support, as well as their time and awesome skills to help us pack up our entire house on short notice.

Also, we are grateful to those who stood vigil on the day of our move and provided protection from the neighbors who aggressively harassed us before and after the election. As witnesses, their presence sent the clear message that hatred and bullying aimed at fellow citizens is unacceptable.

In addition, on moving day many UUTC members also helped carry breakables and other items in their own cars to our new place, where they unloaded it and often went back for multiple trips. Their helpfulness meant the world to us.

Clearly, it would have been impossible to do this alone. With the help of the UUTC community, what felt like an overwhelming task became much more bearable to us. While our hearts are breaking over the events that caused us to leave the home we own and settle into a new one, we are also heartened by the support of many UUTC members. As "Friends" of UUTC for many years (and soon to be Members), we were truly awed, humbled and blessed by the profound experience of such a supportive and loving church community.

With gratitude,

Susan Gabriel & Anne Alexander

SECOND ANNUAL SANTA'S WORKSHOP & PARENTS MORNING OUT

Saturday, December 10th from 9:30-12:00pm, bring your children to be part of Santa's Workshop while you get other things on your list accomplished! To register your child, [please email Heather](#).

Things we could use for Santa's Workshop:

- wrapping paper, tissue paper, bows
- tape
- Christmas Gift Bags, different sizes
- Mason Jars, variety of sizes
- clothespins
- Holiday cards (we love to re-use old ones!)



SMILE! YOU CAN HELP UUTC!

Amazon Smile is one of the ways that supporters of UUTC can contribute painlessly to our operating funds. Prices do not change on Amazon when you make use of AmazonSmile—but a portion of your purchase is given to your selected charity. If you shop on Amazon, please consider signing up as an AmazonSmile user—**click the box to the right** and it will take you where you need to go!



NEW ADULT RE OFFERING: CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE QUANTUM SPIRIT

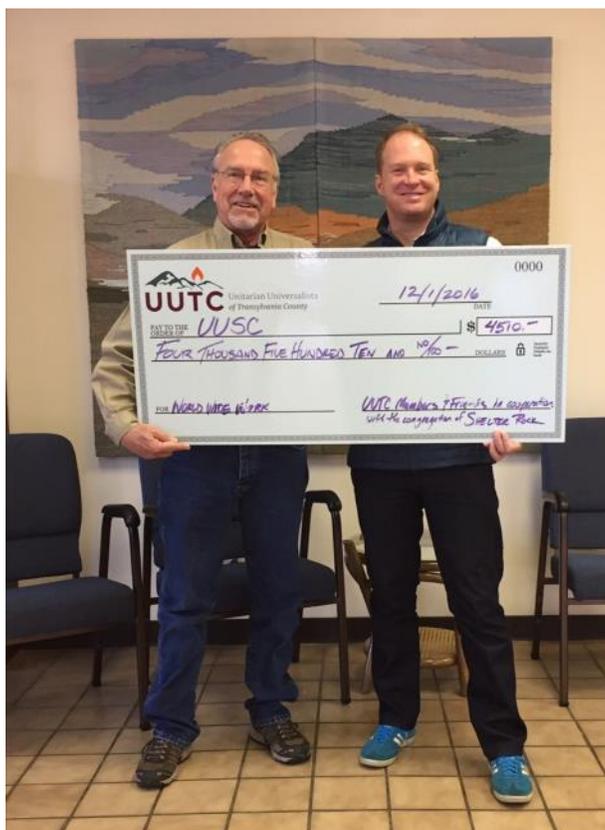
Conventional wisdom keeps quantum science, spirituality and feelings in very separate domains. Old spiritual wisdom and a modern interpretation of quantum science, spirituality and our much-maligned feelings are integral parts of the wholeness that underlies our universe. This course will explore all of the parts of that wholeness as they apply to our daily lives, and will be facilitated by Doug Bennett and Ward Johnson. Session will be held at UUTC every other Thursday evening from 7-9PM beginning January 12, 2017 and ending April 13, 2017. Registration is limited to 16 participants, and a sign-up sheet is available in the UUTC front desk. Don't miss exploring this exciting look at the overlap of science, spirituality and feelings!

UUSC BENEFITS FROM SHELTER ROCK MATCHING GIFTS

"UUSC works specifically with people and communities who are denied their rights because of who they are — women, people of color, refugees, religious minorities, LGBTI individuals in Africa, and others. We seek populations who are not served by mainstream human rights organizations."

UUTC donated a total of **\$3144.00** to the missions of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in November. Seventeen people gave gifts of \$125 or more, which were matched by the Shelter Rock congregation, making the total gift **\$4510**.

mic drop



PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

On December 24th, we will have two services, one at 4:30pm, and the other at 6:00pm. The first service is intergenerational; the second service will be more contemplative. More details will come out next week.

The following Sunday, December 25th, we will have only one service, at 11:00am. This service will be filled with carols.

GETTING ROWDY AT THE COURTHOUSE

Last Friday a group of UUTCers and others stood in solidarity with the protesters at Standing Rock. Clearly this protest made THE difference as the Army Corps denied the easement requested for the Dakota Access Pipeline later that afternoon. (Tongue in cheek, here!)



The group received a lot of friendly honks and "thumbs up" from those in town, indicating that this struggle has struck a nerve with many in this area.



MORE COMMENTS ON BEING AN ALLY

"I so regret that long-standing plans to be out of state will require that I miss the discussion and decisions by the Congregation concerning the idea of adding a flagpole and flags to our external presentation of our Congregation. While I embrace the goal by advocates of inclusiveness, I believe this strategy to be a wrongful one that will, actually, effect the opposite of what is intended.

As a native of the "Deep South", I have known flag-flying to be a defiant measure--to set apart and exclude, NOT to join and include. Especially now, with the Alt-Right-ers buying up and displaying Confederate flags, I think the timing is especially bad: We should not join "flag wars" to identify our tribe and exclude others.

I hope we would be especially mindful in our decisions to communicate who we are and who we "accept"...as well as what we protest. Physical images added to our external presentation and our public pronouncements need considered and thoughtful engagement over time, something we can better do with a settled minister in place. Meanwhile, I LOVE our simple statement to ALL that we are a "WELCOMING CONGREGATION." It couldn't be more clear than that!" —Katie Thompson

"Seems to me flying a pride flag at UUTC is unfinished business since becoming a Welcoming Congregation in 2009. The post-election timing is what gives both pause and urgency." —Susan Slocum

"There are two objectives here: One is to change society for the better. The other is to genuinely offer friendship and support to LGBTQ and other minorities, both religious and racial. We can do the second without a flag. A non-UU friend of mine suggested to me that flying the flag could be seen as a purposeful affront to the community in which we live, contrary to our desire to respect the inherent worth and dignity of all humans. It is the minorities themselves, and our personal treatment of them, that will ultimately bring about the change we seek.

Direct persecution must of course be called out and resisted, but I do not think a flag does that. Let's think of other ways to make our views known. I have never liked the euphemism "welcoming congregation," inside words for those in the know. We can be more direct than that. The flag itself is another sort of euphemism I think. We should resist the effort to make ourselves feel good without actually accomplishing anything." — Bill Thomas

"They say I am different—But AM I...I desire to be respected and loved for who I am, just like you. I have many faces...LGBTQ. Who has the courage to be my family? Will it be you? I hope so." — Lynne Michael

The Forum will begin immediately after the property issue is completed on Sunday.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

UUTC will be collecting items for Sharing House's Christmas Blessings. **This event is in place of the "Adopt a Family" program, and**

needy families will have the opportunity to choose the items most desired for children from birth to age 18. Baskets will be in the lobby for your donations from November 27 - December 11.

Suggestions for donations can be found at <http://www.sharinghouse.org/news-events/>

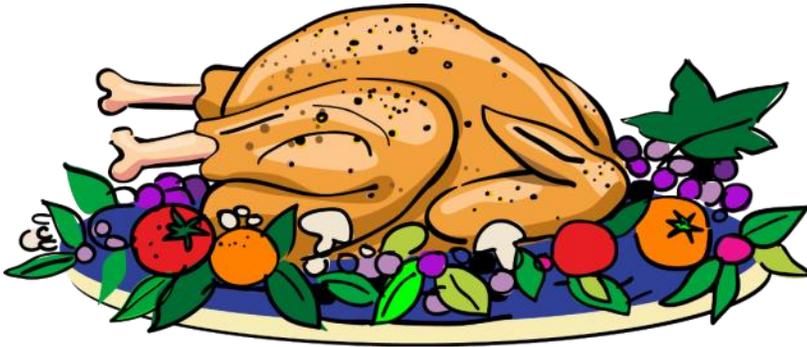
Sharing House will also happily accept checks!



Sharing House

TRANSYLVANIA CHRISTIAN MINISTRY, INC.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER • SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH



Members and Friends of UUTC participate each year in assisting Sacred Heart in their Community Christmas Dinner, which feeds all who come through the doors. This year is the 18th Annual Community Christmas Dinner. 500-600 people attend each year.

Can you help provide tea for the dinner? UUTC has agreed to help with this crucial beverage!

BEVERAGES: Sweet tea 10 gallons, unsweetened tea 10 gallons

Thanks for all your help—Call Joan Lemire (828-231-9259) if you can assist!

FELLOWSHIP ON TAP— NEW TIME, NEW LOCATION

Join us on **Wednesday, December 21st** at Magpie Meat & Three off King Street for a VARIETY of beverages and a great snack or meal, if you like! [Email the office](#) if you think you may come. TBD





"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 latest 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, click [HERE](#).

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

CONTACT US

Our Minister is Rev. Ian White Maher. Reach him at ian@uutc.org or by calling (877) 510-5603.

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.