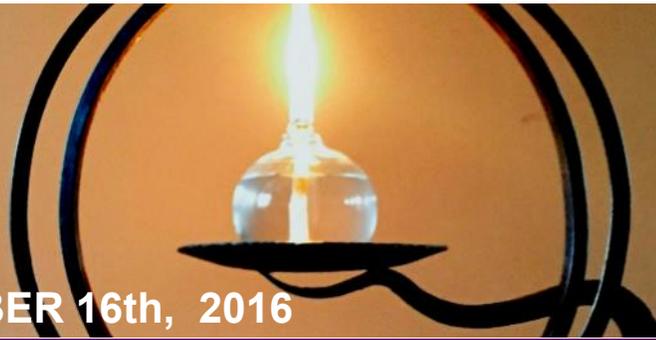


UUTC UPDATE

DECEMBER 16th, 2016



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

THE STILL POINT

by Rev. Ian White Maher

Sunday, December 18th at 9:30 and 11:00am

If we never slow down we can never achieve the stillness out of which all creative solutions come. The first step of every solution is actually sitting still, because it is there that we will see why the situation exists, why we are separated from our fellows, why we are separated from God.

Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am

COMING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH @ 5:30PM: SOLSTICE SERVICE

Join us for an Intergenerational service—childcare will be available in the nursery, and rumor has it that wassail will be in the house! Continue the month's theme of Stillness in this service.

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

Growing Younger — Mon 12/19 @ 11:00am

Men's Group — Tues 12/20 @ 9:00am

Board of Trustees — Tues 12/20 @ 6:00pm

Solstice Service — Tues 12/20 @ 5:30pm

Eclectics Jam — Wed 12/21 @ 9:30am

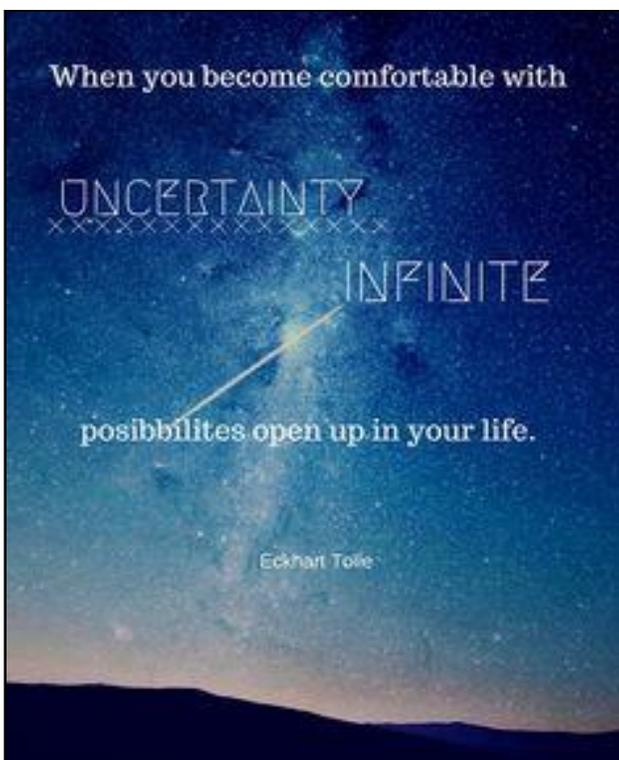
Choir Practice — Wed 12/21 @ 4:00pm

Fellowship on Tap — Wed 12/21 @ 6:45pm (Magpie)

Living the Tao — Fri 12/23 @ 10:30am

Christmas Eve Intergen — Sat 12/24 @ 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Contemplative — Sat 12/24 @ 6:00pm



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.



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. Sessions 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 at the UUTC front desk. Don't miss exploring this exciting look at the overlap of science, spirituality and feelings!



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, so that we can give Magpie a heads up and they can prepare to have enough staff on hand for an increased turnout!



The official “fellowship window” will begin at 6:45pm. If you prefer to arrive earlier to have a meal before the socializing, or choose to have a meal WHILE socializing, or just wish to come socialize—all options are open. Magpie Meat & Three has a plethora of brews to choose from and a limited wine selection. To review their menu, click [HERE](#).



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

WANT TO SPREAD THE LOVE?

[InSpirit, the UUA Bookstore and Gift shop](#), has a number of Standing on the Side of Love branded products (t-shirts, aprons, bumper stickers, socks, etc.) available for purchase. Check out their offerings! UUTC will be producing another branded shirt soon but certainly won't be moving into socks and the like. Check out what's available and stock up for your next courthouse protest!

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!

Support
Unitarian Universalists
of Transylvania County.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

amazon
smile

SANTA'S WORKSHOP RECAP

Saturday, December 10th, the CRE Team hosted a Santa's Workshop for our congregation's littlest and youngest "elves." This event was an opportunity for parents to drop off their children and take advantage of a child-free Saturday morning in exchange for donations to the Mitten Tree and/or Sharing House Christmas Blessings. Twenty-one youth participated in 5 craft stations, creating gifts for family members and friends. They also got to have snacks and fun in the Elves' Play Area and watch Frosty the Snowman on the big screen in the Sanctuary. Big thanks to the following volunteer elves who made this CRE event a success: Lynn Halsey, Susan Sklar, Lyn Edmonds, Ted Heimendinger, and Barbi and Wayne Smith who managed the very important Gift Wrapping station. A special thanks to Carol Moore for jumping in last minute to help in the Nursery. The morning was festive, fun, safe and intergenerational. Here are a couple of photos from the day— for all the wonderfulness, check the [Santa's Workshop](#) page on our website!



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.

The following Sunday, December 25th, we will have only one service, at 11:00am.

This service will be filled with carols.



THANKFULNESS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center's latest newsletter is out and includes many messages of thanks and a wonderful meditation on the oaks. Check it out [HERE!](#)



WHALECOAST ALASKA 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2017** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out! Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!



SCENES FROM YOUTH CON AT THE MOUNTAIN



TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION • NOVEMBER, 2016

The table below provides a snapshot of our fiscal standing as of the end of November. Our fiscal year begins July 1st and ends on June 30th. As of the end of November, our total assets were \$735,145.42 and our total liabilities were \$49,217.35. Our UUA Endowment Fund has a balance of \$40,653.90.

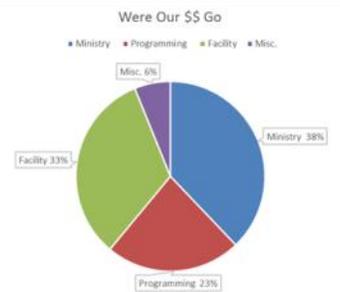
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Beginning Balance Cash-On-Hand	\$ 15,884.27	\$ 15,602.74
Income through Nov 30th, 2016	\$ 18,587.93	\$ 103,801.95
Sponsored Projects Fund	\$ 4,524.00	\$ 4,524.00
Reserve Funds balance	\$ 40,051.44	\$ 40,051.44
Endowment Funds received/(transferred)	-----	\$ (-----)
Total Funds available through Nov 30th	\$ 79,047.64	\$ 163,980.13
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Ministry	\$ 8,970.72	\$ 47,012.52
Programming	\$ 5,500.47	\$ 29,555.96
Facility	\$ 7,773.55	\$ 15,342.71
Misc.	\$ 1,455.35	\$ 16,721.39
Total Expenditures through Nov 30th	\$ 23,700.09	\$ 108,632.58

Miscellaneous expenditures are usually capital improvement items such as Sponsored Projects expenditures. A Sponsored Projects project is underway right now (flooring in the classrooms) and we have many more projects to complete than we can fund—the next project would be to install the cabinetry in the foyer which will hold our

Library and social necessities like tablecloths. Please consider a donation **of any size** to these projects. They are not funded through the normal budget process.

During the month of October, we received a sizable donation through the iDonate program. Please consider using this very easy program to make donations to UUTC of anything from electronics and jewelry to real property such as cars, boats and real estate. As always your donation of material goods and property remains tax-deductible and you will receive documentation of the value for tax purposes.

Our expenditures for the month of Nov. break out as shown: Facility 33%, Ministry 38%, Misc. 6%, Programming 23%.



I take this opportunity to remind everyone that fulfilling pledge obligations through Vanco is easy and convenient to setup by debiting your bank account or charging to a credit card [and collecting points!]. **Other donations, one-time or recurring, may be made through Vanco to the operating fund, the endowment fund, Sponsored Projects, the Property Acquisition / Renovation Fund or the Ministerial Discretionary Fund.** You may set up or change a pledge at [this link](#).

[Dave Roberts, Treasurer](#)

UUTC BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA

December 20, 2016 at 6:00pm, Classroom

Welcome & Check-In	Gary
Opening	Cantey
Approval of November Minutes	Kay
November Email Votes	Kay
Standing Updates	
Minister's Report	Ian
Treasurer's Report	Dave
Finance Committee	?
Administration Committee Report	?
Property Committee	No Report
Board Calendar Review	Kay
Old Business	
Property Purchase Update	Gary
New Business	
Acquired Property Task Force	Gary
New Property Fund Account	Dave
New Computer for Bookkeeper	Dave
Sharing of Governing Documents	Kay
Staff Recognition	Gary
Next Board Meeting: January 24th at 6pm	
Adjourn	



LIGHTING UPDATES

Our parking lot lights got a long-delayed and necessary upgrade this week. The old bulbs consumed 250 watts each and were driven by the 20lb ballasts you see in Jeremy's hands above. These have been replaced with 58 watt LED bulbs of 3000K. Replacement with LED bulbs saved us the cost of replacing expensive ballasts.

As before, the lights operate on a timer to avoid consuming energy when the building is not in use.

NEW FLOORING GOES IN THE CLASSROOMS

Our new flooring is an engineered vinyl plank product called COREtec Plus. The product features a structural lifetime warranty and is completely waterproof. It will not telegraph subfloor imperfections. It is a UL listed "GreenGuard" product for low emissions, and will allow us to more easily maintain sanitary conditions for children who play on it.

KUDOS!!

Thank you to the 100 Members who were present for the congregational meeting this past Sunday. For those who have not heard, the decision to purchase the three properties adjoining UUTC was UNANIMOUS! 100 votes for and 0 votes against. We owe a debt



of gratitude to the Board, the Finance Committee and over a dozen other members who inspected these properties. A special thanks is owed to our Treasurer, Dave Roberts, who worked feverishly acquiring pertinent financial data and loan information. Also, Board Secretary, Kay Webb, insured that the meeting was held in strict adherence to UUTC policy, Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order. It was rewarding to participate in such an exciting decision that will positively affect the future of UUTC.

Gary Kendrick, UUTC Board President

FROM THE UUA— WHY LIBERAL CHURCHES ARE GROWING

There is a basic assumption that growth is an indication that a congregation or church is effectively ministering to their community. Congregations do not grow because they need more pledging units. ***Growth occurs on a spiritual basis, not a practical one.*** "Congregations grow because they believe in the mission of their congregation and of Unitarian Universalism. Personal growth leads to congregational growth," said Rev. Cooley.

Congregations that establish a good balance between "I," "we," and a "larger vision" are the ones that grow. "I" honors the individual, "we" deals with how we stay connected in the face of challenges and conflicts, and the "larger vision" addresses the ministries that the congregation is dedicated to, issues that are larger than the congregation itself. Rev Cooley asked "How does each of the groups within the congregation serve the larger mission? Who are you in your community?" She continued "I have worked with congregations that spent enormous amounts of time and energy polling their congregation but they never once looked at the surrounding communities....What does that say? It says, 'it's all about us'."

How do UUs compare to other denominations? Over the same time period, Presbyterians have declined 50.1%, Methodists declined 52%, UCC declined 60% while Evangelicals have grown by 50% or more. The most conservative churches are growing and the most liberal churches are growing. "Churches that try to please everyone are losing membership," said Rev. Cooley.

*Read the full article [HERE](#).



"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.