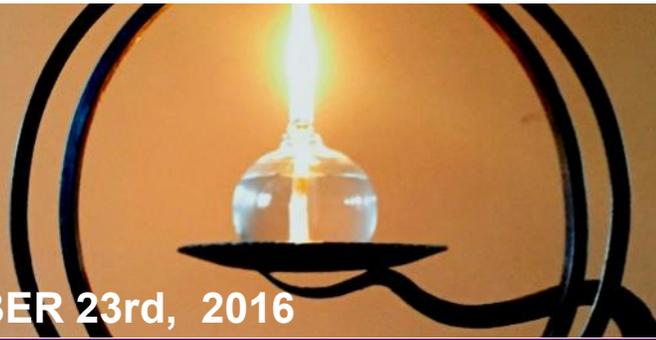


UUTC UPDATE

DECEMBER 23rd, 2016



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

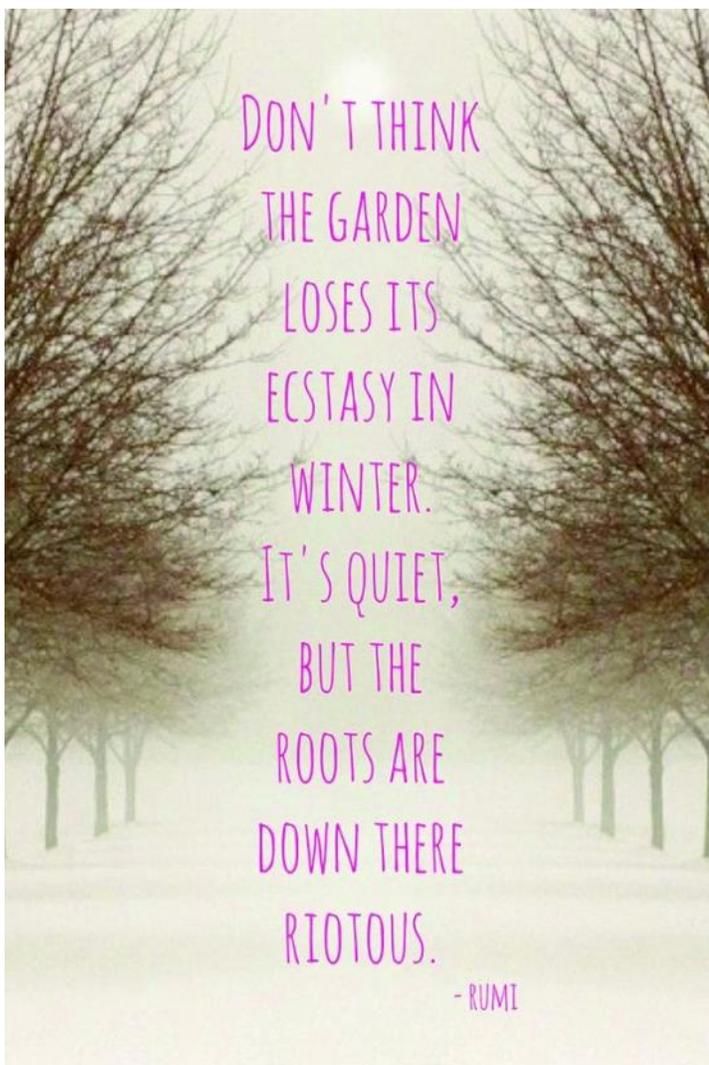
THE MEANING OF THE MANGER

by Rev. Ian White Maher

Sunday, December 25th at 11:00am

Very often we say “there is no room at the inn” to indicate that the Holy Family had been turned away. But did we misunderstand the meaning of the manger?

Join us for coffee before the service at 10:30am



THEY DID WHAT?!?

The Board's minutes from November are now posted on the Board's Board and on the [website](#). The Secretary will no longer be emailing copies to Leaders, so please follow the link. ☺



NEXT WEEK at UUTC

OFFICE CLOSED — Mon 12/26

Growing Younger — Mon 12/26 @ 11:00am

Men's Group — Tues 12/27 @ 9:00am

Eclectics Jam — Wed 12/28 @ 9:30am

Living the Tao — Fri 12/30 @ 10:30am



PIZZA WITH REV. IAN

Recently, some of our youth hung out with Rev. Ian White Maher on a Friday night to build personalized pizzas and comradery.

While we can't speak to the culinary sensations that were created, it is clear from this image that **Fun Was Had**.

In other news, did you know you can buy pizza dough from Jet's Pizza for a mere \$1.70? Ready to slap in a pan and embellish?

Bam! Your world just got filled with a whole new batch of possibilities!

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Work of Christmas, Reading #615 in *Singing the Living Tradition*

*When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman was a black professor of religion who spent his life engaged in the real work of Christmas as he explained in his poem above. He co-founded the first integrated, multi-cultural church in the USA. His 1949 book *Jesus and the Disinherited* inspired the nonviolent civil rights movement in the US and throughout the world. Dr. Thurmond died in 1981.

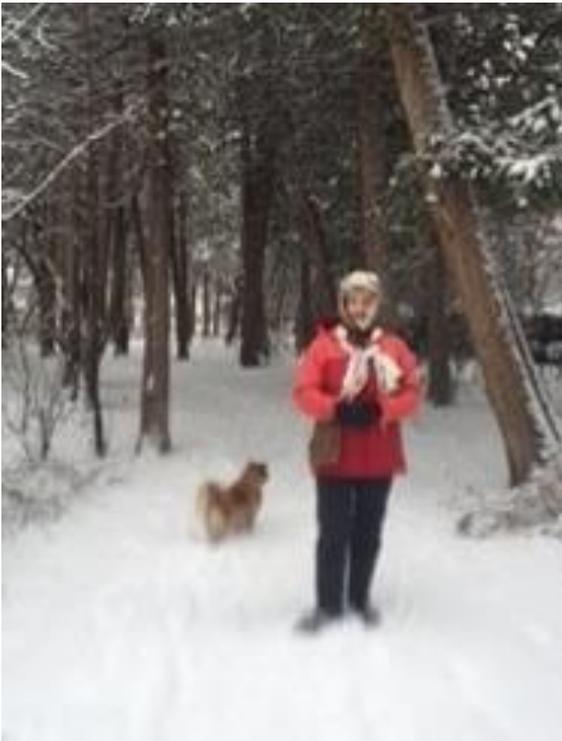
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS REV. DR. PAULA CANNON GABLE?

Paula is hard at that interim ministry job of turning a ship... in this case, a really large one that was built in the 1800s. The First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa (FUCO) has over 500 members and a large staff. Paula sent a note last week in response to a query and confirmed that Millie the dog is wearing booties, Mark is still walking several kilometers a day, and she is staying very busy meeting the needs of her new congregation.



Paula has been keeping up with us through the newsletter, and was very excited to read about the unanimous vote to purchase the property parcels beside us. She sends Kudos and good wishes to all.

Below, a picture of a frozen FUCO at night!



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!

I WAS A WATER BOTTLE, AND I WAS LOST

In an effort to restore the relationships between various and sundry items and their long-lost owners, a new Lost & Found receptacle has been identified and placed prominently in the foyer. At least 4 water bottles have made their mournful way into this blue basket. Please investigate and see if any book, glasses, bottle or other item might be yearning for you!



FIRST ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Seventy folks attended the first annual Winter Solstice celebration Tuesday night, and many told us how much they appreciated it! Naming it "first annual" was an act of faith that something meaningful to us would also appeal to others. It seems clear that there was enough positive response that we should keep it on the UUTC holiday calendar in future years. Thanks to all those who took the time to let us know you liked it. *Erika Maciula, Alix Berenzy, and Joanna Bliss*



END OF YEAR GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Social Action Team is not presenting UUTC with a specific December organization to support; instead, we are suggesting three agencies to which you might wish to contribute. The first is local; the others are national and international.

[Free Rein](#) - uses horses in therapeutic riding in Transylvania County for children and adults with autism, ADHD, physical limitations, and other disabilities. Local Contact: [Peg Hall](#) 828-553-7541

Oxford Picture Dictionary for Refugees. (\$20-25/dictionary, but contributions of any amount are welcome). The sponsoring organization is **Friends of Refugees**. **RFL - books** can be written in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: Bobby King , 235 Little Egypt Rd., Brevard, NC 28712

[Free Wheelchair Mission](#) - provides wheelchairs for the impoverished disabled in developing nations. Local Contact: [Jim Hardy](#) 828-862-6969

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.



SHARING HOUSE'S CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Thanks to the many UUTC donors who provided 30 Christmas toys and 4 checks and 43 varied adorable stuffed animals for children in our Transylvania County families who cannot afford to purchase Christmas gifts for their children.



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!



ON BECOMING AN ALLY

Thanks to the many who stayed after our Congregational Meeting on December 11 for a discussion about how UUTC can better be an ally for people at risk in our community. And a special thanks to the 32 people who shared their views, as well as to all for listening respectfully.

One of the issues discussed was whether to fly a Rainbow flag at UUTC. Three people spoke strongly in favor of doing so, and nine spoke against it. Concerns of the nine ranged from the fear that a flag would make us a target for extremists in the community to a belief that there are kinder, gentler ways to create the diverse, accepting world that we seek. Some believe that a Rainbow flag is an in-your-face symbol – consider how it feels to see the Confederate flag flying – which could impede conversation in the community and potentially increase the risk of LGBTQ people.

However, there was clear consensus that we need to become a more visible ally to marginalized people, especially the LGBTQ community. Two immediate recommended steps were: (1) to paint an easily-seen rainbow on (or affix one to) our sign, and (2) make our public communications explicit, since “welcoming” as UUs intend the word is not understood outside of our community. The Board heard these concerns and approved both those steps at its meeting on December 20.

Another strong thread was the desire to support young people. This effort could include offering a strong OWL (Our Whole Lives) program. (OWL is a comprehensive UU curricula for sexuality education. Heather Layton is a qualified OWL leader, but to offer the program we need to recruit and train a male leader as well.) Supporting young people also includes reaching out to students of all ages in the community, and becoming a known safe haven for them.

Some other ideas that came out of the forum were: to install a Wayside Pulpit (an electronic signboard with changing messages to reflect the diverse and life-affirming beliefs of our congregation), to develop UUTC literature to leave at the Chamber of Commerce and other locations, to start a “Church Across the Street” or “All Are Welcome” campaign, to act in concert with like-minded churches and community groups.

The forum discussion was a first step. It was recorded and you can find and listen to it by going to uutc.org, clicking on “Get to Know Us” at the top of the page, choosing “Our Leaders and Staff” from the drop-down menu, and selecting “Board” at the bottom of the page.

Carol Moore, President-Elect, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

FELLOWSHIP ON TAP BREAKS OUT OF ITS BOX



TWENTY of us showed up at Magpie Meat & Three for a voraciously good time Wednesday evening—stand out favorite was the fried green beans! Join us January 18th for the next installment!





"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.