

UUTC UPDATE

JANUARY 6th, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

IN DEFENSE OF SIN

by Pedro Sandin

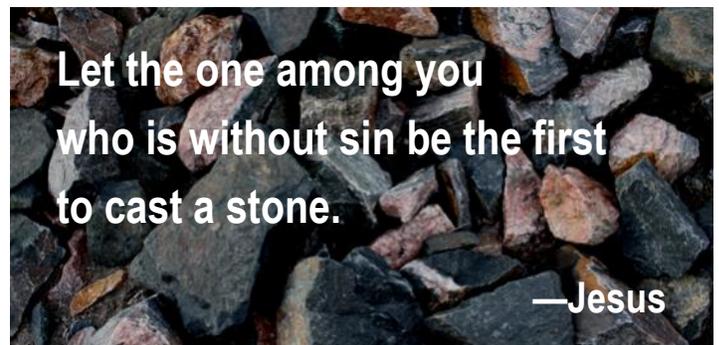
Sunday, January 8th at 9:30am and 11:00am

As children of the Enlightenment, Unitarian Universalists are prone to dismiss the concept of sin. In this homily, I suggest that the concept of sin is quite useful, and that in dismissing it we are perhaps left without a replacement that could help us speak of the irreducible capacity for evil that dwells in every human heart.

Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am

KEEPING UP WITH OUR MUSIC

We've had a number of selections from our teal hymnal, "Singing the Journey," featured in services of late. Our supplies of this hymnal are pretty sparse—but you could help with that! If you'd like to purchase one of these hymnals for the church, you can purchase them through the [UUA](#) or through [Amazon](#). Twenty would make a big difference—thanks!



Let the one among you
who is without sin be the first
to cast a stone.

—Jesus

the opposite of
faith is not
doubt, but
certainty.

Anne Lamott

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

Growing Younger — Mon 1/9 @ 11:00am

Men's Group — Tues 1/10 @ 9:00am

Eclectics Jam — Wed 1/11 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 1/11 @ 4:00pm

Wonderful Wednesday! — Wed 1/11 @ 5:30pm

Rainbow Coalition — Thurs 1/12 @ 5:00pm

Living the Tao — Fri 1/13 @ 10:30am

OFFICE CLOSED — Friday 1/13 @ 7:00pm

THE ART OF BEING—NEW CLASS FORMING

UUTC Adult Religious Exploration is pleased to announce the re-launch of “The Art of Being” under the leadership of Hilly Bernard. “The Art of Being” is a course designed to help participants create a life of peace and passion by doing such things as resolving internal conflict, improving relationships, increasing personal power and enhancing joy. **This guided conversation is open to newcomers and prior participants and is limited to 12 participants.**

“The Art of Being” will meet on Wednesday afternoons from **2-400PM beginning on January 11, 2017.**

A sign-up sheet is available at the front desk at UUTC. Sign the waiting list if it's full!

JAN. WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY FOCUSES ON WORLDWIDE REFUGEE CRISIS

Wednesday, January 11th—5:30pm dinner, 6:30pm program: With global conflicts raging, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, the world is experiencing the displacement and migration of millions of people on a scale not seen since World War II. With many European countries closing their borders, thousands of these migrants have made their way to northern France in hopes of gaining asylum in the United Kingdom.

Our own Bobby King has just returned from a one month volunteer stint working with migrants in the Calais-Dunkirk region of northern France. At the January 11th Wonderful Wednesday dinner and program he will give a presentation that will include an overview of the events that led to this crisis and what is being done by France and other European nations to deal with it. His focus will be on the grassroots efforts to alleviate the suffering of homeless migrants in Calais and those living in a temporary refugee camp in Dunkirk.

Bobby King is a former Executive Director of Refugee Family Services, providing social services, employment opportunities, health education, women's services. And youth services to refugees living in the metropolitan Atlanta area. He also worked with Georgia Piedmont Technical College where he served as an English as a Second Language instructor. Since his retirement in 2008, Bobby has worked as a fulltime volunteer with The International Rescue Committee.

You are cordially invited to attend the January 11th Wonderful Wednesday event. The dinner opens at 5:30, followed by the program at 6:30. **Dinner reservations are necessary, and may be made through the church office or the sign-up sheet at the office desk.** There is no charge for the dinner, but donations are gratefully received.

UPDATE THAT PHOTO!

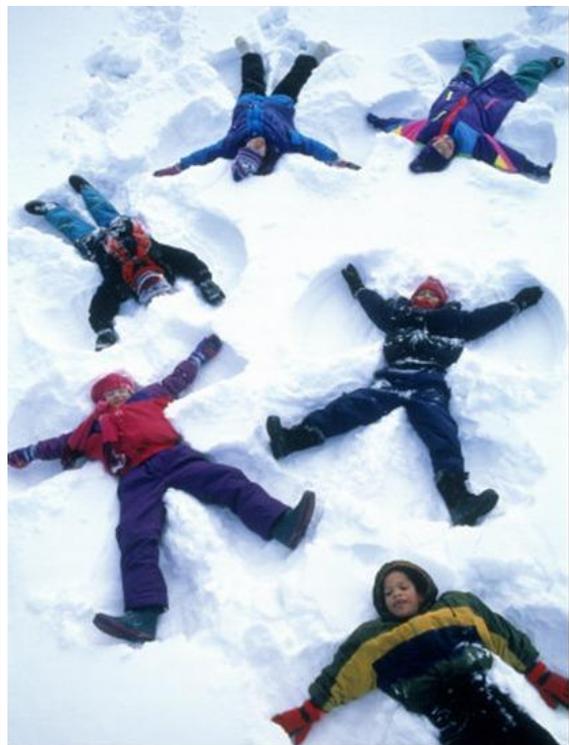
Members, Friends and Staff Photo Session - Saturday Morning, **January 28th**

Mark Allison and Barbi Smith will be taking new photos and doing updates for our website and photo directory. Sign up on the office counter or email membership@uutc.org with your phone number. Barbi will call you with a time. The original date was changed in order to accommodate the Women's Marches in Asheville & DC.



MEMBERSHIP MENU 2017

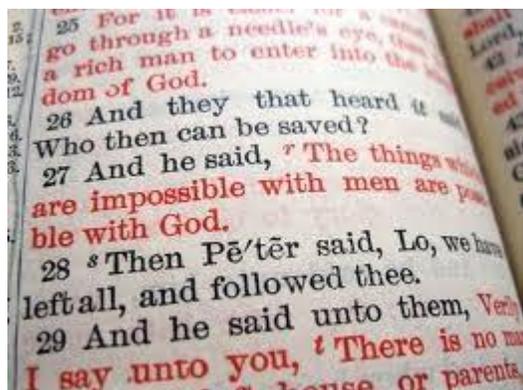
- January 15th: Welcoming Ceremony for Fall 2016 New Members during first service.
- **January 28th:** Members and Friends Photo Session with Mark and Barbi. A Saturday morning in the Sanctuary. **Contact Barbi: 910.392.7045**
- April 1st (No Joke) Spring Prospective Member Class, a Saturday with Ian, staff, and UUTC leaders. Lunch and Childcare. Contact membership@uutc.org. Fall class date is October 7th.
- April 16th: Easter and Spring Signings and Welcoming Ceremony. Contact membership@uutc.org. Fall date is October 15th.



SNOW PROCEDURES—HOW TO KNOW WE HAVE CANCELLED A SERVICE

If the highest-ranking available Board member has cancelled a service, the Minister, Worship Team Leader and Grounds are notified, as is Hector Flores. Grounds notifies Jake Zimmerman (our contracted snow-removal expert), and Worship notifies anybody associated with the worship service. The Secretary of the Board will notify WSQL radio and WLOS Channel 13. The Administrator will send out a bulk email to all newsletter contacts AND a Phone Tree message (robocall) to Members & Friends—I call per household. **The plan is to have a service.** It may not be the advertised service, but we will have one!

FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE THEME FOR UUTC CHRISTIANS IN EXILE



UUTC has a unique group for any who seek to be followers of Jesus. Many of us (but not all) grew up in traditional Christianity, but no longer find it to be adequate for our personal growth. We call ourselves “Christians in Exile” because we have voluntarily chosen a better route to being “followers of Jesus.” Our goal is to explore the wisdom of the human being, Jesus of Nazareth, and apply that wisdom to our individual daily lives. We meet at the church the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 3:30 to 5:00. Everyone is welcome.

A new session begins this Monday, January 9th. We will explore “The Jesus Textbook.” It is the collected wisdom sayings of Jesus, and is embedded in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Over the next few months we will examine together these wisdom sayings and discuss what they mean to us. Rev. Earle Rabb and Rev. Jean Rowe will facilitate these sessions.

There is no advance study needed to participate in the exploration of “The Jesus Textbook.” If you are interested in discovering what “Christians in Exile” is all about, January 9th is a good time to begin.

SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY FOR JANUARY—THE HAVEN



The Haven is Transylvania County’s two-building shelter for homeless families and individuals of all ages. The Haven works with other community agencies to prevent long-term homelessness and to promote sustainable outcomes for its residents. Your donation will support our fellow citizens as they work toward reaching self-sufficiency and permanent housing. Last year, UUTC gave \$2103.00 and 70lbs of food. *This is an opportunity to give, not an obligation.*

APPLE TV... OLDER MODEL

One addition we still need to simplify connections for all in the classroom is an older model Apple TV to allow iPhone and iPad users to mirror their devices to the TV. This would be especially useful for CRE in teaching our youth songs—these can be streamed from YouTube. If you upgraded your AppleTV recently, we’d love your old one! Thanks in advance if you can help.

MEMBERSHIP MENU 2017

- January 1st: **Happy New Year! [Souper Sunday on Hiatus](#). Returns Feb 5th.**
- January 15th: Welcoming Ceremony for Fall 2016 New Members during first service.
- January 21st: Members and Friends Photo Session with Mark and Barbi. A Saturday morning in the Sanctuary. Contact Barbi: 910.392.7045
- April 1st (No Joke) Spring Prospective Member Class, a Saturday with Ian, staff, and UUTC leaders. Lunch and Childcare. Contact membership@uutc.org. Fall class date is October 7th.
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WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

The mid-day Women's Group will meet Thursday January 5 in the social hall at 12:30 pm to enjoy a bag lunch and socialize. Discussion begins at 1:00 pm. The topic this month will center around current events and areas of concern as we move into the new year. All UU women, friends and especially newcomers are welcome.

If you have questions contact JoAnn Crawford at 877-5344.



NOMINATING YOUR LEADERS

The Nominations Team needs to know who you want to lead UUTC! We will have three vacancies that need your input— President-Elect of the Board, a Member At Large of the Board, and a member of the Nominations Committee. Members staying on the Nominations Committee are Carolyn Fredley and Virginia MacDonald—Isabel Lynch will be rotating off. Ben Potter will be leaving the Board, as will Gary Kendrick.

Who do you think would represent you well in these roles? Send an email to nominations@uutc.org and tell the Nominations Committee who you want and why. Your email will go to all three members automatically, letting them all see who you would love to see representing you. Be thoughtful. Many who may not think of themselves as “leaders” would be excellent in the roles of “At Large” and for Nominations. **Anyone who you recommend must have been a Member for at least two years.**

Thanks for your help!

SPONSORED PROJECTS UPDATE — WHERE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WENT

Project	Projection	Actual
SPONSORED PROJECTS CONTRIBUTIONS	\$28,524.00	\$28,524.00
Alarm system to compliance	-\$3,067.00	-\$3,000.00
Office furniture for minister's office	-\$2,000.00	-\$450.00
Insulation (\$savings/Principles)	-\$2,630.00	-\$2,436.00
new kitchen faucet	-\$300.00	-\$334.00
new kitchen appliances	-\$1,200.00	-\$2,845.15
entry sidewalk repair + ADA access at sanctuary	-\$4,896.00	-\$5,509.48
bike rack	-\$300.00	-\$929.93
NAS storage 2-3TB drives	-\$250.00	-\$232.72
Window for Minister's Office-materials	-\$87.00	-\$87.00
*additional alarm expenses	-\$750.00	-\$665.00
Electrical: back door & kitchen	-\$748.90	-\$1,114.85
Plumbing: kitchen appliances	-\$550.00	-\$475.00
Cabinet modifications, kitchen	-\$325.00	-\$325.00
Electrical: move outlets in classroom	-\$250.00	-\$250.00
Flooring, 2 classrooms	-4,200.00	-\$4,090.77
Classroom cabinetry: cabinets	-\$5,660.55	-\$5,651.47
Classroom cabinetry: installation	-\$750.00	-\$600.00
TV, DVD player, bracket and cabling for classroom	-\$350.00	-\$305.23
Mesh Network	-\$600.00	-\$510.34
	donations for flagpole	\$150.00
	Rebate for Appliance Purchases	\$400.00
	Range sale to H. Flores	\$200.00
	Warm & Dry Contribution (Insulation)	\$1,005.00
	Balance	\$1,264.55
		\$467.06

Last fiscal year, your Board presented you with an operating budget and a capital improvement budget that we have referred to as the “Sponsored Projects” budget. The projects identified at that time came to over \$46,800. We have made tremendous project on meeting those capital investment needs.

Contributions towards Sponsored Projects this year have come to \$28,524. Some initial estimates were high, some were low. Other projects were modified to meet needs more completely or to take advantage of incentives. Also, a couple of new projects (new tech in classroom, flooring)

were adopted after the fact to work towards greater facility safety and increased flexibility of our existing spaces.

As you can see, we’ve about exhausted our Sponsored Projects funds for this fiscal year. When the fund is replenished, we will move forward with other projects, such as flooring in the nursery and cabinetry in the foyer to accommodate other storage needs and our hidden-in-storage Library!

Some projects, such as insulation and the alarm, were past-due capital investments. Others, such as the mesh network and NAS (network-attached-storage) drives were essential to the protection of our data and enabling of better network access by all devices. Completely boring, in other words.

Thanks to those donors who committed to moving forward, despite “the boring!” And remember—it is never to late to make a contribution, and no donation is “too small!”

SAFE CONGREGATION IMPLEMENTATION—WHAT'S THAT?

Back in October, your Board adopted a Safe Congregation Plan. Policy-wise, a plan such as this helps to protect UUTC and all its members by proactively preparing for the worst. A Safe Congregation Plan makes insurance companies happy (and lowers our rates) and is just good policy in protecting our children. You can find a copy of this Plan on the Board's [page](#) on the website.

The first implementation of this plan, which began before plan adoption, was a rigorous system of background checks for any and all who would be working with children. These checks must be renewed every three years. Every CRE volunteer, staff member or nursery care worker has had a background check. This past year we had our first CPR/First Aid training session to begin to better prepare to meet emergency needs of children OR adults. And the installation of a new alarm system creates a faster way to notify appropriate emergency personnel from either the lobby or the sanctuary as needed.

One of our policies, which is part of this plan, is that children must always have two supervisors in place. To better accommodate this need, a wall-mounted changing station will be added to the nursery so that supervisors do not need to leave with a child and take him or her to the bathroom for changing. To keep these spaces cleaner, Jill Roberts recently donated three motion-activated trash cans so that diapers can be disposed of in these rooms without undo odors.

While some parts of this plan will take us longer to completely implement, each step we take is a step towards living our principles more fully.

Thanks for your patience!



Changing table as found in ADA bathroom; location for new one in nursery.

ON THE LAST PAGE — A GOOD READ

Do you ever check the UUA Newsletter link on our last page? You might enjoy it! This week we have a particularly juicy article from Connie Goodbread about how we sometimes cling a little too hard to a single viewpoint and lose the opportunity to make a difference. Check it out!



"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.