

UUTC UPDATE

FEBRUARY 24th, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

IN DEFENSE OF SIN

by Pedro Sandin

Sunday, February 26th 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!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER THE 11:00 SERVICE
WE NEED A QUORUM OF MEMBERS ON SITE TO VOTE!**

**IT IS A MAN'S OWN
MIND, NOT HIS ENEMY
OR FOE, THAT LURES
HIM TO EVIL WAYS.**

BUDDHA

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

Cabinetry Install — sometime this week!

Growing Younger — Mon 2/27 @ 11:00am

Christians in Exile — Mon 2/27 @ 3:30pm

Men's Group — Tues 2/28 @ 9:00am

Eclectics Jam — Wed 3/1 @ 9:30am

Art of Being — Wed 3/1 @ 2:00pm

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 3/1 @ 4:00pm

Team Meeting Night — Wed 3/1 @ 5:00pm

Women's Group — Thurs 3/2 @ 12:30pm

Quantum Consciousness — Thurs 3/2 @ 7:00pm

Living the Tao — Fri 3/3 @ 10:30am

SOUPER SUNDAY! NEXT WEEK, MARCH 5TH

NEXT week is **SOUPer Sunday**! Given the season, we'll provide some SOUP to get things moving! Connect with Members, friends and visitors after the 11:00 service. Bring bread, fruit, veggies, chips, dip or other finger foods to share. Donations appreciated to offset the cost.

The soups for March will be provided by the following from UUTC's Men's Group: Bob Bennett, Charlie Williamson, Jim Null, Joe Webb, Dave Hunter and Tom Traywick. Souper Sunday meets in the UUTC Social Hall. Questions? Call Carol Moore at 828-862-6447 !



TEAM MEETING NIGHT • 5:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST



That's right—Team Meeting Night is upon us, already! If you have questions for Ian, please email them to ian@uutc.org by Monday evening. Team Moderators, please turn in a head count by Tuesday, as well!

THEY DID WHAT?!

Find out for yourself! The Board's Minutes for January are now posted on the [website](#)!



CAN YOU FIND THE PLUMBER?

Johnny Gravely, of Gravely Plumbing, is buried here in the nigh-on-to-impossible crawlspace of #46 Varsity. All of the supply lines in the house, and all the drain lines for the bathroom and washer/dryer, had to be replaced. This wouldn't be a big deal except for the duct work, which you can see occupies the majority of the space. The plumbing passed inspection with flying colors.



WOMEN'S GROUP

The monthly meeting for UUTC women, friends and guests will take place on Thursday March 2 at 12:30 PM in the Social Hall. Bring your bag lunch and a treat to share if you like. After a social time, the topic of discussion will center around "circumstances" on many levels. Can we control our circumstances or do they control us? For more information contact JoAnn Crawford at 877-5344.



UUTC WELCOME CARDS

If you have not read both sides of our new Welcome cards enclosed in the order of service, please do so. Members and Friends, as well as guests and visitors, may add a request or comment on the front of the card. On the back, you will find either meaningful quotes from our website focus group or the Sources of our Faith.

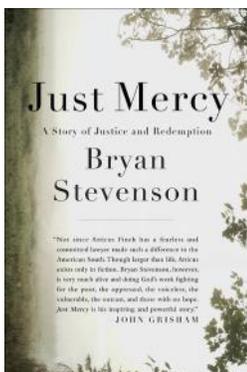
If you do not need your card, please return to the usher's station for reuse within the order of service. If you think of something later, there are extra cards on the Welcome Table in the foyer. Thank you!

The Membership Team membership@uutc.org

THE HAVEN PICKS UP A BIG CHECK

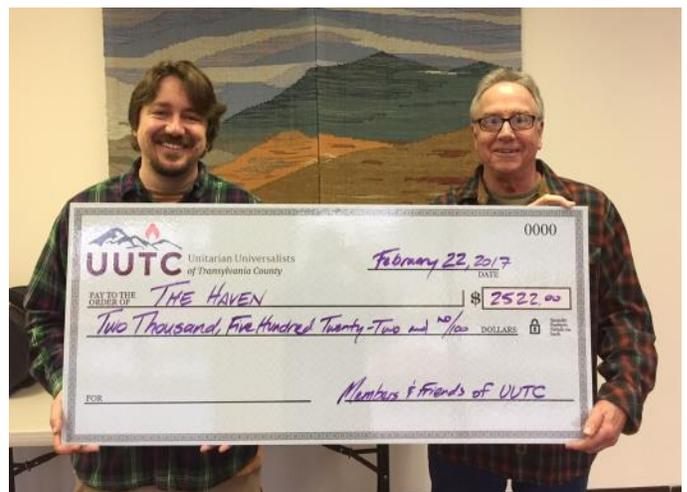
In January, UUTC visitors, Members and Friends helped out The Haven with \$2522 in charitable donations. Mark Fields, the new Director, was thrilled with your gifts and will happily put them to good use serving the homeless in Transylvania County! Thanks to all for your generosity!

BOOK DISCUSSION



Book Discussion on the 2016 UUA Common Read, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Books are available at a discount at Highland Books. There will be three ninety minute

sessions in March on Thursdays, the 2nd, 16th, & 30th from 3:30 - 5:00 PM at UUTC. Email Virginia or sign up at front desk at UUTC to register.



UPDATE ON VARSITY EXTENSION PROJECT

Today, Yellow Dog Construction is back on site, putting up drywall and preparing for lan. HVAC work came in only \$80 over bid, despite the mess they faced. The vast majority of the electrical work has been completed, as well. Fixtures are also coming in under estimates, meaning that we may be able to invest in a toilet paper holder, among other things.

We are moving at the *speed of contributions*! Our property acquisition was not exactly in the Operating Budget. Therefore, no operating budget funds are being used for the work that is happening. Only designated contributions are going towards meeting this un-planned for need.

DAN CARTER: “WHAT WOULD DIOGENES DO IN AN AGE OF LIES?”

Our own Dan Carter will be the speaker for the **March 8th Wonderful Wednesday** event. Classical writers, the Christian Bible, the Jewish Talmud, and the Quran all condemn lying. It is instructive to note that the Ten Commandments prohibits only the bearing of false witness against our neighbors, leaving a great deal of wiggle room for those who wish to play fast and loose with the truth. When an insufferably boring English aristocrat invited the writer Oscar Wilde to a weekend game shoot, Wilde responded by telegram: “Circumstances prevent me accepting your gracious invitation. Lie to follow.” We are amused.

Not all lies are equal. But how do we make distinctions in a culture in which the boundaries between facts and “alternative facts” seem to have disappeared? Are we simply witnessing the most recent chapter in the long struggle between truth and falsehood? Or have we turned the page and entered into a new era in which the past offers no precedents? Dan Carter will examine some of the forces that have blurred the boundaries between truth and lies in American politics over the last half century, that we may be better equipped to respond with skepticism rather than cynicism and despair.

Dan Carter is a retired University of South Carolina professor who taught US history at five American Universities, as well as in England, Italy and the Netherlands. He is the author of four prize-winning books and more than 40 scholarly articles as well as essays and articles in many magazines and newspapers. He has also appeared in sixteen documentaries on CNN, PBS and the History Channel.

The evening begins on March 8th at 5:30 with dinner. There is no charge for the dinner, but donations are gratefully received. Reservations for dinner are a must and can be made by contacting the church office or using the sign-up sheet at the office desk. The program begins at 6:30, and no reservations are needed for the program.

SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY FOR FEBRUARY— BREAD OF LIFE



From its inception in 1997, Bread of Life has received broad support from Transylvania churches and individuals. Both volunteer help and financial support have been the key. Meals are served Monday through Friday and on Sunday night as well for those in need in our county. 180 free, well-balanced meals and emergency pantry boxes are provided each day. That translates to 900 meals a week, and over 45,000 each year. Bread of Life is the focus of our Social Action outreach for February at UUTC. At these difficult times for many in Transylvania County, we ask that you continue to generously support the Bread of Life.

TIME TO TALK: THIS WEEK, RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

In response to concerns being expressed in our communities, Transylvania County's NAACP launched a series of public conversations, "Time to Talk," to take place weekly over an 8-week period.

The remaining sessions will address timely themes being raised publicly by the challenges facing various groups: **Religious Bigotry** (Thurs, Mar 2, St. Philip's), **Environmental Justice** (Thurs, Mar 9, Good Shepherd), **Economic Fairness** (Thurs, Mar 16, Bethel A Baptist), and the **Assault on Public Education** (Thurs, Mar 23, Brevard Elementary School). All sessions will be from 6-8:00pm.

Questions can be addressed to NAACP Religious Affairs Chair Rev. Carter Heyward at 884-5041.

POSTCARD PARTY! COMING MARCH 7TH TO UUTC!

Taking action can be as simple as writing a postcard and sending it to a state or federal legislator. Political action, on any scale, helps us feel stronger, more hopeful, and more energized. So let's get together with family, friends and neighbors on March 7th to write postcards on whatever issues you want to support or to voice your concern. Doors will be open at UUTC between 4:30-6:30pm, so come on by to share your thoughts with your elected officials!

We still need postcards and postage (or donations) to make this party a success. A basket is available at the front desk to accept your contributions to the cause. We will also need a few people to greet other partygoers at the door—if you can help in any way, please contact:

[Jeanie Bernard](#) 884-9179 and [Pam Drellow](#) (716)969-2564



BREVARD COLLEGE MARCH SUPPORTS STUDENTS — ESTIMATED 200 ON HAND WITH SIGNS, SMILES AND ATTITUDE!



HELP WITH MEALS

Join Virginia MacDonald in providing support for Fred and Isabel Lynch by helping with dinner once a week from March through May. This type of ongoing support is outside the purview of Loving Hearts and Helping Hands, but would be greatly appreciated. Any day of the week, just call to arrange delivery time. To sign up, email Virginia at vrmacd2527@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP MAIN COURSE & DESSERT 2017 • APRIL 1ST



The new name for our prospective member class is **The Main Course: UUTC Connections Class**. If you are thinking of becoming a Member or Friend of UUTC this spring, attend and share this day with Ian, staff and congregational leaders. Childcare is available by request. Other details, including lunch break details and your preparations for the class, will follow.

For those who choose membership, the spring Signing and Welcoming Ceremony is scheduled for **April 16th**. Sign up on the office counter or email membership@uutc.org.

“You, Me, and UUTC” grads who are interested in Signing and being part of the Welcoming Ceremony on April 16th should email membership@uutc.org.

Fall dates are October 7th and 15th for the class and welcoming ceremony.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

The Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Greenville, SC will be hosting a two-day workshop featuring Rev. Carlton Smith, who is a Congregational Life Consultant for the Southern Region of the UUA, on March 17-18, 2017. This is an excellent opportunity to learn and practice non-violent communication.

The cost of the workshop is \$35 for those who register online by March 10; \$40 for late registration or those who wish to pay at the door. Your registration fee covers all materials, Friday night supper and Saturday snacks and lunch. The workshop is limited to 50 participants, and **registration closes on March 10th**. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Refunds are available if you cancel by March 10, or if the event is cancelled for any reason.

Complimentary childcare and limited home hospitality are available *by request*, and we welcome campers or RVs to park on campus overnight (no hookups, but access to facilities). After you register, please contact dre@greenvilleuu.org if you prefer vegetarian, vegan, or gluten free food. Our Saturday caterer is happy to accommodate. *If we do not hear from you, we assume you are an omnivore.* To learn more, watch this brief introduction on YouTube: [Nonviolent Communication with Marshall Rosenberg - a Brief Introduction](#)



TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

As of the end of January, our total assets were \$761,630.21 and our total liabilities were \$49,224.63. Our new Varsity Street purchases are not reflected in these numbers as we have not received the official paperwork from the bank.

Miscellaneous expenditures are primarily capital improvement items such as Sponsored Projects expenditures.

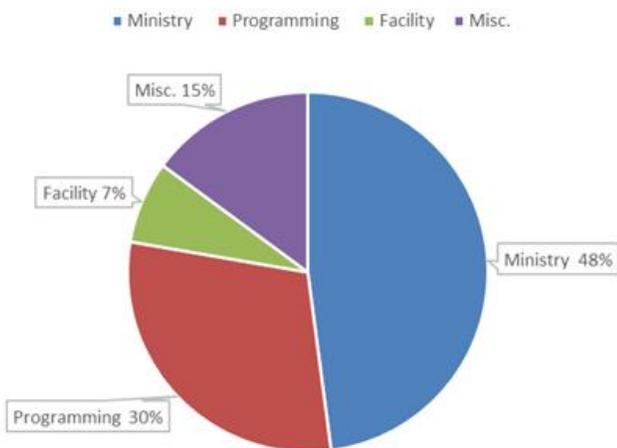
Our UUA Endowment Fund has a balance of \$40,996.16. Once this account reaches a principal amount of \$100,00.00, we may begin withdrawing the interest for

use in supporting social action / outreach programs. Please consider a gift to the Endowment Fund of any size. One-time and recurring donations may be setup through VANCO. For questions, any member of the Board or the Finance Committee will be willing to help.

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Beginning Balance Cash-On-Hand	\$ 3,383.25	\$ 15,602.74
Income through Jan 31st, 2017	\$ 32,233.00	\$ 160,320.98
Sponsored Projects Fund	\$ 7,279.94	\$ 7,279.94
Reserve Funds balance	\$ 40,061.65	\$ 40,061.65
Endowment Funds received/(transferred)	-----	\$ (-----)
Total Funds available through Jan 31st	\$ 82,957.84	\$ 223,260.04

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Ministry	\$ 12,504.96	\$ 69,487.45
Programming	\$ 7,769.48	\$ 44,507.47
Facility	\$ 1,931.23	\$ 22,054.60
Misc.	\$ 3,885.13	\$ 30,348.76
Total Expenditures through Jan 31st	\$ 36,090.80	\$ 166,398.27

Were Our \$\$ Go



Our expenditures for the month of January break out as shown (left).

I would 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 Varsity Property Fund or the Ministerial Discretionary Fund. You may set up or

change a pledge at [this link](#).

Respectfully, Dave Roberts treasurer@uutc.org

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING • FEBRUARY 26, 2017

Agenda:

Resolution to approve 12/11/16 Congregational Meeting Draft Minutes

Resolution to approve Proposed UUTC Mission Statement

Resolution to approve Proposed Bylaw Revisions

Mission Statement (10/28/16) Proposed by Mission/Vision Task Force:

Our Mission, as a welcoming, inclusive community acting from love, compassion and respect, is:

to support individual spiritual journeys

to promote social, economic and environmental justice.

Proposed Revisions to the current (5/22/16) Bylaws:

1. Page 5, Article VI. Board Member Duties, Section D. Duties of the UUTC Treasurer include: Number 6. - Supervise the *Database Administrator*

Proposed revision: replace "Database Administrator" with "Bookkeeper"

Rationale: there is no longer a position with the title "Database Administrator"; the Treasurer supervises UUTC's bookkeeper.

2. Page 7, Article VIII. Congregational Meetings, Section B. Quorum for Meetings, Number 3. – Decisions will be made by simple majority of the votes cast (in person and by absentee ballot), EXCEPT for matters referred to in Article IV, Section A, Numbers 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, which decisions shall require no less than two-thirds of the votes cast (in person and by absentee ballot) in order to pass. Article IV, Section A, Number 7 [approve a ministerial candidate to serve as minister] requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote in order to pass.

Proposed revision: replace "3/4" in the last sentence with "90%"

Rationale: the "3/4" is in conflict with Article IX. Section C. Number 3, which requires a 90% approval vote for calling/approving a new Minister. We adopted the 90% number at our May 2016 Congregational Meeting.

3. Page 7, Article IX. Minister, Section D. Resignation, Number 2. - Procedures to be followed by the Board and Congregation shall be included in the UUTC *Policy Manual*.

Proposed revision: replace "Policy Manual" with "Board Operating Guidelines".

Rationale: procedures are lodged in Operating Guidelines not in the Policy Manual.

4. Page 8, Article IX. Minister, Section E. Termination, Number 2. The Board shall act on the petition by calling a Congregational Meeting as prescribed in Article VIII, Section A, 2. Quorum and decision requirements are prescribed in Article VIII, Section B, 1-3 and *Section C, 1-3*. The Minister shall be invited to speak at this meeting.

Proposed revision: replace "Section C, 1-3" in the 2nd sentence with "Section C, 1-2". Rationale: there are only 2 parts to Article VIII. Section C; there is no number 3.

This meeting will be followed by a Forum on UUTC's commitment to the LGBTQ Community.



Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.

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.

KEEP UP WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Like us on Facebook and keep up with events during the week—get early notification on sermons! Great posts from our Children's Religious Exploration program and more. Click the logo to be taken to the page!



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



SOUTHERN REGION

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

VIEW our "insider" [church calendar](#). For previous issues of the UUTC 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 the corner of Varsity Street and South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.