

UUTC UPDATE

MARCH 31st, 2017

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

THE AGE OF OUTROSPECTION

by Rev. Ian White Maher

Sunday, April 2nd at **9:15am** and 11:00am

With the marginalization of the Bible and, relatedly, God, humans began searching for new authorities and they were us. The 20th Century became the era of introspection and the realization of our own will to power. God's will became whatever we decided was right for us. But on the edge of the 21st Century, we find that we are not happy and that the environment is groaning beneath our demand for every product created to satisfy our sense of desire.

Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am!

THIS WEEK— AN EARLIER EARLY SERVICE !!!

Starting April 2nd, our early service will begin at **9:15am**. This will allow us a bit more time for coffee and for the coming and going of folks to ease the pressures on our available parking.

The whole inhabited earth is
sacred space in which God
lives, breathes, and acts.

Carter Heyward

COMING UP at UUTC

- Souper Sunday** — This Sunday @ noon
- Growing Younger** — Mon 4/03 @ 11:00am
- Lusty Horn Concert** — Mon 4/03 @ 7:30pm
- Men's Group** — Tues 4/04 @ 9:00am
- Eclectics Jam** — Wed 4/05 @ 9:30am
- Choir Rehearsal** — Wed 4/05 @ 4:00pm
- Team Meeting Night** — Wed 4/05 @ 5:00pm
- Women's Group** — Thurs 4/06 @ 12:30pm
- Work Day** — Sat 4/08 @ 10:00am



OUR HEARTS CAN HEAR

UUTC's Stewardship Campaign is in full swing! The Team is proud of the 2016-2017 year and excited about the one to come!

Think about these past months. We welcomed a record number of visitors, gathered new members, and added adjoining property. Our overflowing parking lot attests to the fact that people are being drawn to our doors. Look at the record for 2016-2017 so far:

- We welcomed 17 new members, who now make up 10% of our congregation.
- We have 23 people enrolled in The Main Course, our April member orientation class, the largest number in our history.
- Loving Hearts and Helping Hands made 75 visits to sick and hospitalized people, wrote 290 encouraging notes, prepared and delivered 33 meals, and provided occasional transportation assistance.
- **CRE served and nurtured 63 children, nearly double the number served the previous year**, through Sunday programs, nursery care, summer Chalice Camp, fall Youth CONS at The Mountain, and occasional Parents Night Out and Family Dinners.
- Adult programming included the Being Group, Book Discussions, Christians in Exile, Covenant Circles, Dream Group, Drum Circle, Eclectics, Men's Group, Women's Group, Women's Sharing Circle, and Wonderful Wednesdays.
- Our committed Search Team expended enormous time, thought, energy and resources on the search for a settled minister. They will present a candidate to us next month, bringing us to the exciting point of welcoming a new minister.
- With the unanimous support of the congregation, and special donations from many, we acquired adjoining property, paving the way for future income and the growth of our mission.

None of this would have been possible without regular pledges and generous gifts from UUTC's members and friends. Fiscal year 2017-2018 will continue to shape our future. And it requires a growing budget to support current and new programs as well as the increased mortgage and insurance on our new properties.

To meet the challenge, the *Our Hearts Can Hear* Stewardship Campaign asks you to consider increasing your prior year's level of support. Every member of the Board and the Stewardship Team has done so. And if you have not made a pledge in the past, now is the time to do so. Every gift is appreciated and welcomed.

Please reach out to any member of the Stewardship Team if you have questions.

Cantey Carpenter, Kristin Leesment, Alison Marlett, Carol Moore, Jim Null, Dave Roberts



LARRY HUNTLEY RETURNS TO UUTC MONDAY APRIL 3RD — THE LUSTY HORN

This “Lusty Horn” concert will celebrate the **music of Broadway!** Hornists **Lawrence Huntley** and **Carol Weinhofer**, accompanied by **John Austin** at the piano, will present a performance of timeless show tunes that have thrilled audiences throughout the past century. Attendees will be invited to participate

in this hour-long songfest of Broadway highlights, including that perennial favorite, “The Sound of Music”!

Suggested Donation: \$10. The musicians are donating the proceeds to UUTC's Varsity Extension Project Fund. [Reserve preferred seating HERE](#). Doors open at 7:00pm, concert begins at 7:30pm!

SOUPER SUNDAY! THIS SUNDAY!

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 April will be provided by Jane Carter, Betsy Culpepper, Carolyn Fredley, Peg Hall, Jim Null and Christine Schmidt. This will be the last Souper Sunday in this series—SANDWICH Sunday will return in June! Questions? Call Carol Moore at 828-862-6447 !



2017 UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's GA will be a Justice Assembly, and New Orleans was selected strategically. New Orleans is known as a place of rebirth following the devastation of Katrina in 2005. Many Unitarian Universalists have contributed time and funds in the effort to rebuild both the city and the congregations in the area. By going to New Orleans, we can both celebrate our successes and recommit to the relationships that have been forged with this community. Register by clicking the title link above. Begins June 21st.

Susan Slocum intends to go and could use a roommate. Call Susan if you'd like to join her!



SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY FOR APRIL—

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER by Alice Hardy

Over twenty years ago, a small group of local citizens became aware of the number of children in the county who were victims of abuse and neglect. Upon investigation, they found that once the children were removed from the home they were placed in foster care and any visits with their family were held at the courthouse (often in the hallway) or at the police/sheriff's department in a very uninviting institutional setting.

Thus, The Children's Center of Transylvania County was formed.



With their own money, that small group of concerned citizens purchased a small house, made it into an inviting home and, with the cooperation of the law enforcement, the Department of Social Services, health department, and the school system, children in foster care can now visit with their family members in an inviting house with caring adults. They can enjoy birthday parties, adoption parties, play in a yard, enjoy lunch/snacks and generally be safe and free to be a kid.

The Children's Center is the only agency in Transylvania County that does not receive funding from the state, the county or the city. *Other agencies look to the Center to provide needed money for medications, gas and heating vouchers and extraordinary needs of children that they cannot supply because their funds are restricted.*

Volunteers are the backbone of the agency. With only two paid staff, all programs are staffed by dedicated volunteers. I invite you to review the materials on display to learn more about, what I call, "The Little Yellow House with the Big Heart."

Words cannot express the appreciation that we, at the Center, have for the past support of UUTC. We are a very small agency who, with your continued help, manage to accomplish amazing things.

WOMEN'S GROUP • THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH

All UU Women and friends are invited to the Women's Group Meeting on Thursday April 6th from 12:30 to 2:00pm in the social hall. Bring your bag lunch and a treat to share if you like. Discussion of current events will begin at 1:00 p.m. and continue with a sharing of "Crossing Thresholds" as inspired by Brigid's Fox's recent homily.

Any women or visitors new to UU are welcome to join the group. For additional information call JoAnn Crawford at 877-5344.

BREVARD JEWISH COMMUNITY INVITATION

Passover dinner will be April 10th, 2017 at 6pm. We must receive RSVP's by April 3rd so we can order the right amount of food which will be supplied by Blue Ridge Bakery.

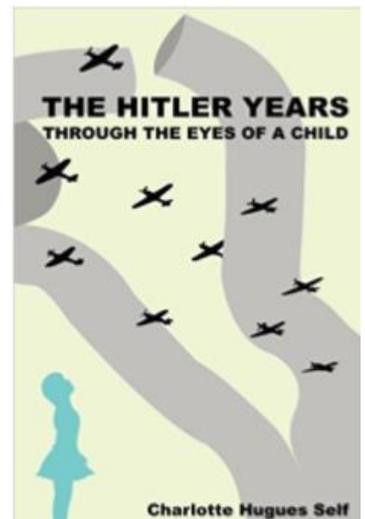
We are opening up the Passover Dinner reservations to outside guests from the Faith Communities of Brevard. Space is limited, so register quickly!

The location is the Sacred Heart Church social hall. Your paid reservation is your ticket and can be reserved by mailing a check by 4/03 to the Brevard Jewish Community care of Retha and Ross Lynch at 421 Fox Tower Rd. Brevard, NC 28712. The cost is \$35/adult and \$20/child under 13 years of age.

If you have ANY questions, please call Henry Felt, Telephone # **828-515-1836** or e-mail him at henryfelt@gmail.com.

APRIL 12TH - A UNIQUE WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Charlotte Self grew up in Nazi Germany during the 1930s and through the war years. Her captivating book, *The Hitler Years through the Eyes of a Child*, tells her unique story. Her parents were not Jewish, but her mother was active in the German resistance movement to the Nazi party. The book relives the wisdom and bravery of Charlotte's protective physician mother and mentoring grandmother, who joined forces to shield her from Nazi indoctrination and the Hitler Youth movement. Their risky combined efforts enabled Charlotte to eventually become a successful microbiologist and immunologist, as well as a mother and grandmother.



Charlotte will be our featured speaker for our April 12th Wonderful Wednesday dinner/program. Having been a refugee twice and an immigrant twice between the ages of 18 and 26, she has great sympathy for those who must take flight to escape persecution, or worse. Charlotte often says, "Love and kindness restored me, and that is why I feel so strongly that every refugee deserves to find open arms...somewhere."

The dinner begins at 5:30, followed at 6:30 by the program where Charlotte will share her story with us. **Due to limited seating, dinner reservations are a must, and MUST be in to the office by April 9th.** There is a reservation sign-up sheet at the church office desk, or you may contact the church office by phone or email. There is no charge for the dinner, but donations will be gratefully received.



UUTC CARES—BREVARD CARES

The crew at the New French Broad River Baptist Church cemetery clean up. UUTC Members and Friends pictured are Susan Sklar, Lisa McHenry, Nancy Davis, Lynn Halsey, Jim Hardy, Alice Hardy, Sue Null, Earle Rabb and Phil Davis.

UUTC had the largest number of volunteers for the event!

SUULE: SOUTHERN REGION UU LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

“Sending a team to a Leadership Experience is an investment in the future of the congregation and in the future of Unitarian Universalism.”

Perhaps no more compelling statement can be made in support of this premise from the UUA website than to look at the work of Susan Slocum, Carol Moore and Gary Kendrick over the last year—all of whom attended SUULE. With their leadership, UUTC has experienced positive growth—both in membership and in revenues. Positive revenues in church communities are always indicative of faith in the leadership of the congregation, and UUTC is no exception.

Attendees of SUULE must be nominated by the Board to attend. This year, nominations are due by June first. SUULE will take place in August, on the week of the 6th. It will be held in Wirtz, VA.

“The core pedagogy of the Southern Region Leadership Experiences rests on the philosophy that **leadership is about discernment, presence, and functioning of the self**. Each individual brings their own gifts and talents to the experience, and over the course of the week, each individual gets an opportunity to see how those gifts can manifest as a leader in a spiritual community. To augment this individual discovery and growth, knowledge of systems and group dynamics are taught to shed light on how each individual can play a unique and important role in creating a vibrant religious community.”

Your Board would like to send a willing Team. If you are interested in being part, contact [Gary](#). The Board did budget some supporting funds to assist with costs. Be part of UUTC’s future by committing to this Leadership Experience — it is a real joy.



CHARITABLE GIVING — ADVOCATE FOR YOUR AGENCY!

On page three, you saw a new format for the publication of information on our Charitable Giving to local agencies who are doing the work of **social, economic and environmental justice**. Alice Hardy is advocating for The Children's Center to set an example for how agencies can better promote their work—through the words of UUTC Members and Friends.

This need for a better understanding of the commitments of UUTC congregants takes us to the next step in this process—soliciting your input on the selection of Charitable Giving recipients for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This year we will use two separate instruments. The first will ask you to name your three most important agency choices to help us support social, economic and environmental justice in Transylvania County (aligning to our Mission). Then it asks you why you have recommended each agency. Your answers will provide both quantitative (how many times does the agency get selected) and qualitative (how effective? how passionate?) data. This data will guide the Charitable Giving Task Force in creating the second instrument— which you will use to select the nine agencies we as a congregation will support through charitable giving in the next fiscal year.

In between the initial data collection and the final vote, we will use the information you provide in our newsletter to educate each other on the agencies that were submitted. One reason for using this new method is that non-profits are constantly changing, and we have over 300 non-profits in Transylvania County. The one you would most like to support may not even be known to you! By each of us sharing what we are passionate about, we are more likely to build a consensus around agencies that help us all meet our Mission of support for social, economic and environmental justice.

We will close the submissions April 16th to allow the Task Force time to compile the data before their meeting that week. Go ahead and make time for this today!

Click this link to get started! www.uutc.org/charitable-giving

**Kindness is the language which
the deaf can hear and the blind
can see.**

Mark Twain

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Friends and Members,

The information presented below provides a snapshot of our fiscal standing as of the end of February.

Our fiscal year begins July 1st and ends on June 30th.

As of the end of February, our total assets were \$1,144,254.77 and our total liabilities were \$424,588.70. Our new Varsity Street purchases are now reflected in these numbers. We began payment on the new mortgage March 1st.

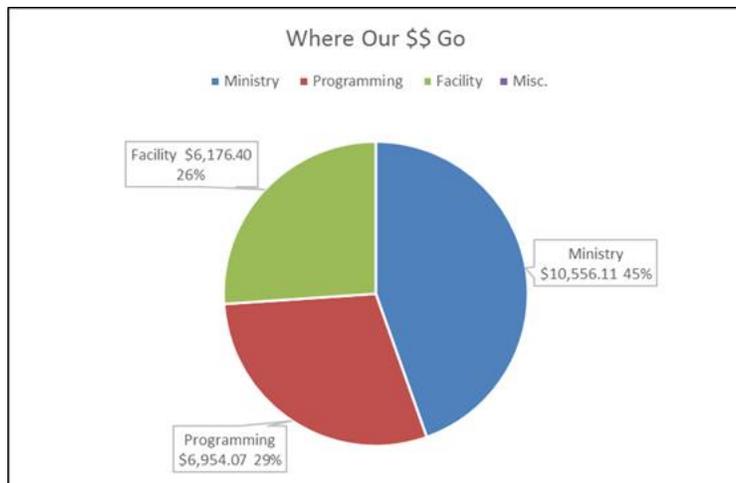
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Beginning Balance Cash-On-Hand	\$ 9,343.96	\$ 15,602.74
Income through Feb 28th, 2017	\$ 19,792.60	\$ 180,113.58
Sponsored Projects Fund	\$ 6,320.69	\$ 6,320.69
Reserve Funds balance	\$ 40,076.26	\$ 40,076.26
Endowment Funds received/(transferred)	-----	\$ (-----)
Total Funds available through Feb 28th	\$ 75,533.51	\$ 243,072.52
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Ministry	\$ 10,556.11	\$ 80,225.04
Programming	\$ 6,954.07	\$ 51,561.53
Facility	\$ 6,176.40	\$ 28,231.00
Misc.	\$ 959.25	\$ 31,308.01
Total Expenditures through Feb 28th	\$ 24,645.82	\$ 191,225.58

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. **The Board of Trustees recently approved the following policy regarding our Endowment Fund:**

The UUTC endowment fund supports an enduring investment in the mission of UUTC. To that extent, the funds may only be placed in socially responsible investments as with the UUA Common Endowment Fund, or similar vehicle.

1. Our intent is that the principal of the fund remains intact, and grow with time. To that goal no withdrawals may be made from the Endowment Fund before the principal reaches \$100,000.00.
2. Withdrawals may be made annually in the amount of 50% of the current year's interest on the principal, provided the principal is above the minimum set forth.
3. The fund income may be used for community outreach, social justice, or educational and spiritual exploration programs. The fund income is not intended for, and may not be used for operating or capital budget expenditures, except in the case of extraordinary need where not using these funds threatens the existence of UUTC, and then only with the approval of 75% of the membership present at a quorum advertised 30 days in advance.

Continued from page 8...



Our expenditures for the month of February break out as shown at 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](#). If you need assistance, please email me and I'll be happy to help you.

Respectfully, Dave Roberts treasurer@uutc.org



GOT NATIVE PLANTS?

During Earth Week at Brevard College, [Hometown Habitat](#) will be screening, creating a venue in which we hope to share this remarkable film with more than just, shall we say, tree huggers. Invitations are going out to city and county planners and others to encourage action on our local environmental issues such as the loss of trees on Caldwell and the dangers to our rivers from warming.

The film will air at Dunham Auditorium on April 18th at 6:00pm. If you have not yet seen it, your Admin and others such as Dick Bir highly recommend this screening. At the end of the film, which encourages people to act, a handout with local initiatives already underway will be passed out. One of those initiatives is to have a native plant exchange / give-away to encourage people to pull out their invasives and install something that better meets the needs of wildlife.

If you grow natives or nativars that have spread to the point where you can “share the wealth,” consider dividing, starting live stakes or other propagation and potting your extras for this initiative! Plants do not have to be “ready” on April 18th, as the giveaway is scheduled for late spring/early summer. See more on the film at [The Meadow Project](#) and mark your calendar for the screening!



Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.

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

To support individual spiritual journeys and To promote social, economic and environmental justice.

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 ianuutc@gmail.com 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.