

UUTC UPDATE

APRIL 7th, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

OUR HEARTS CAN HEAR

Carol Flake & Carol Moore

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

Two homilies will fill us this Sunday: hear stories of commitment from people you know. Perhaps one of these will strike a chord within the context of your own life. While Ian will not be in the pulpit, this will be an engaging worship service, and the choir will be singing!

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

**SATURDAY—LIVE STREAM OF UUA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FORUM
COME FOR THE WORK DAY—WATCH AT 11:00 IN THE SANCTUARY**

Faith is a commitment to live
as if certain things are true,
and thereby help to make
them so.

Faith is a commitment to live
as if life is a wondrous
mystery, as if life is good, as if
love is divine, as if we are
responsible for the well-
being of those around us . . .

Faith is a leap of the moral
imagination that connects
the world as it is to the world
as it might become.

Galen Guengerich

COMING UP at UUTC

Work Day — Sat 4/08 @ 10:00am

Growing Younger — Mon 4/10 @ 11:00am

Men's Group – Tues 4/11 @ 9:00am

Eclectics Jam — Wed 4/12 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 4/12 @ 4:00pm

Wonderful Wednesday — 4/12 @ 5:30pm

Living Wage Coalition — Thurs 4/13 @ 10:00am

Rainbow Alliance — Thurs 4/13 @ 5:00pm

Drum Circle — Thurs 4/13 @ 7:00pm

OUR HEARTS CAN HEAR

The Stewardship Team is working to help our members experience generosity as a dimension of their spiritual journey. Our covenant as a team includes leading by example, creating an environment of trust and safety around financial matters, and cherishing our relationships with our fellow congregants above the goal of raising money.

As we approach the end of our six-week series of stewardship testimonies, letters, and parties, we ask that more of you contribute to the financial health of our congregation.

The congregation voted unanimously to purchase Varsity Street property; now we need to carry the additional mortgage. Our Search Team worked on our behalf for 15 months to select the right candidate; now we need to pay for a full time settled minister. We have doubled the number of children in our CRE program; now we need to serve them. We have added many new members; now we must minister to their needs and integrate them fully into our community.

Please search your own heart and let it hear. Why do you come to worship on Sunday morning, or attend Men's Group or Wonderful Wednesday, or serve on Teams or Committees?

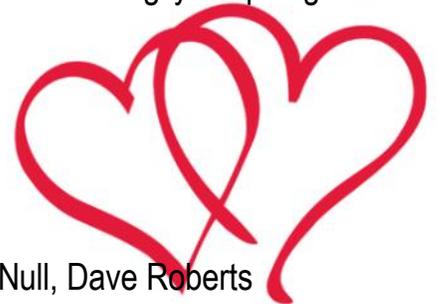
We have 159 member and friend households and have received pledges from 60 of those households. Fifty-eight percent of member households and twenty-one percent of friend households have pledged. In addition, six visitors have pledged.

***Whether your financial contribution is large or small, each of you is a vital link** to our success in becoming the beloved community and transforming lives. Please send or bring your pledge to the church this week. Let's cover that stewardship tree with leaves!*

With appreciation,

The Stewardship Team

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



If you have any plastic Easter eggs you would like to donate, CRE could use a few more, just a few, not an onslaught, as well as small prizes and candy to fill the eggs. Preferably nut-free and GF treats. Thanks! Donations can be put into the box next to Mac computer in AV room. This year the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on UUTC's new property! Yeah! The hunt will begin directly after the 11:00 service so that all congregants can participate, a Time for All Ages Easter Egg Hunt. 😊



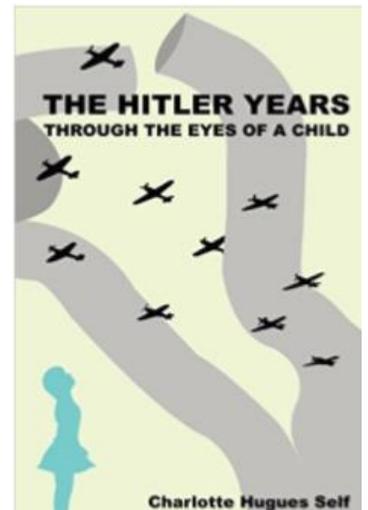
NEW MEMBERS SIGNING UP!

Lisa McHenry, who will be out of town on the day of our Welcoming Ceremony (April 16th), signed the book with Ian as her witness this week. Also signing was Amie Norris— Welcome to both of these new members!

Saturday's Membership Class (*The Main Course*) was a huge success— and in addition to Lisa and Amie, we will have twelve more people joining UUTC as full Members. Four others are becoming Friends... it must be time for another Photo Directory Shoot!

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 to cover our costs.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM

Sixteen months ago you elected us to serve as the Search Team for our next settled minister. You have placed great trust in us, and we respect that. We have conducted a thorough and exhaustive search for the minister who is the best fit to lead our beloved congregation into the future. After the survey and cottage meetings last summer, we produced our congregational record for prospective candidates to peruse. We had eleven Unitarian Universalist ministers express interest in our settled minister position – two men and nine women. We read eleven ministerial records, read and listened to countless sermons, and held six video conferences with our top candidates.

We then narrowed the list down to our top three choices for the position of our settled minister. All of the ministers in our final pool of candidates offer great gifts and unique qualities. We hosted our top three candidates on three week-ends and heard them preach in places away from our church.

After this long search process we have unanimously selected with great enthusiasm the Rev. Ilene Gillispie as the best candidate to recommend as our next settled minister. She is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, and a chaplain at a Veterans' Affairs Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. She is a graduate of New College of Florida (Florida's public honors college in Sarasota) and the Boston University School of Theology.

Ilene has received many awards and honors, and has several published writings. She wrote her undergraduate dissertation on the politics of gender in the Sikh religion, the first work on that topic published by the New College of Florida. She is fluent in Spanish, and recently had her Spanish translation of a Sikh spiritual text published in New Delhi by the Institute for Advanced Studies in Comparative Religions, an interfaith ashram with which she has volunteered numerous times. She frequently uses her language skills in her ministry, providing pastoral care to patients and families in multiple languages.

In 2012, 2013, and 2015 she was the recipient of a Critical Language Scholarship through the US Department of State, which allowed her to study Punjabi language in North India. She is fluent in Punjabi and also in Hindi. She has been awarded numerous travel grants by both her college and her seminary, allowing her to do study and research in both India and Turkey.

Ilene grew up in Alexandria, VA, right outside of Washington, DC. She worked extensively with children, teaching Religious Education in her home Unitarian Universalist church, which helped her approach the spiritual care of children and youth from a place of authenticity and compassion.

Ilene describes her hope for her ministry with a congregation in this way:

“My hope for a new ministry is that I will join a community in which the congregation and I can begin a process of mutual growth and discovery. I do not seek to enter a new ministry to change it or to shape it towards my own will, and neither do I expect to be bent and molded into the shape of an idealized, hoped-for minister. Instead, I know, through a heart-centered life in ministry together that is collaborative and dialectical, I can expect to be profoundly changed while also being a profoundly loved and loving agent of change.”

Your Ministerial Search Team is thrilled to be able to present the Rev. Ilene Gillispie as the candidate to be our next settled minister. We on the Search Team feel wonderful about Ilene as our candidate and we trust that by the end of the candidating week, you will appreciate her as we do.

Please feel free to contact any of us and we will be happy to listen and respond to your questions or comments. For more information, you may also visit Rev. Ilene Gillispie's [website](#).

Your Ministerial Search Team,

Lauren Agrella-Sevilla, Joanna Bliss, Ben Browning, Betty Kendrick, Bruce Kirkman, Earle Rabb



SOCIAL ACTION / CHARITABLE GIVING AGENCY FOR APRIL— THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

All babies are not as happy and healthy as this one. Often this is the reality.

“I need help with these kids. They talk back, don't listen. Even punishing 'em doesn't teach 'em” Not an unusual lament heard at the Children's Center. This frustrated mother had, most likely, been sent to the Center by the Department of Social Services (DSS) or the health department.

The children being described were in danger. Danger of abuse or neglect and the mother was “at risk” for actions that might result in having her children taken from her. *With the help of trained volunteers at the Children's Center, she will be partnered with a mentor with whom she will meet weekly where her frustrations will be dealt with and she will be provided with skills to help her manage her children without turning to violent methods.*

This Nurturing Program is only one of the many services provided by the Center which is supported solely by public contributions. The Center receives no financial support from the Federal, State or local government.

UUTC has been a strong supporter of The Children's Center for many years and for that we are deeply grateful.



CHARITABLE GIVING — ADVOCATE FOR YOUR FAVORITE AGENCY!

Who will we give to starting in July? **So far, only 5 different agencies have been suggested!** We need to hear from you about who you believe deserves to receive UUTC's charitable contributions through your monthly giving opportunities (formerly "Social Action giving").

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

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

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 and has weathered our changes through interim ministry and the move to Program size with, frankly, pretty manageable "trauma to the system."

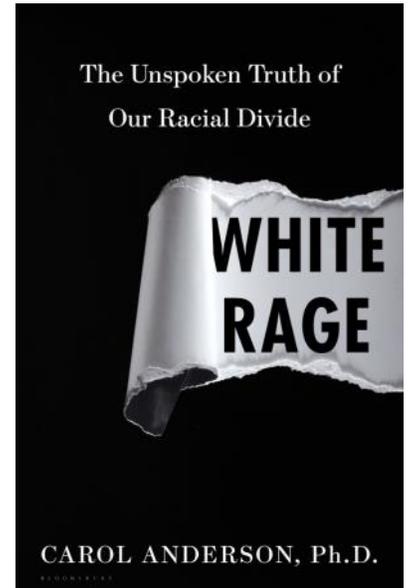
Attendees of SUULE must be nominated by the Board to attend. This year, nominations are due by June first. SUULE will take place in August, on the week of the 6th. It will be held in Wirtz, VA.

"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.

BOOK STUDY: *WHITE RAGE* by Carol Anderson

In “White Rage” Carol Anderson makes it eloquently clear that every time African Americans made advances toward full participation, white reaction has fueled a deliberate and relentless rollback of their gains. The end of the Civil War and Reconstruction was greeted with the Black Codes and Jim Crow. The Great Migration north was physically opposed in many Southern states. 1954’s *Brown v. Board of education* was met with closing of public schools while taxpayers financed white private schools. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 triggered the so-called Southern Strategy and the War on Drugs that imprisoned millions of African Americans. The election of Barack Obama precipitated a rash of voter suppression laws in Southern and swing states while the Supreme Court gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act.



If you are interested in participating in this two-session book study facilitated by David Warinner, sign up at the front desk for a time that works for you.

CONTROVERSY AT THE UUA & THE SELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT

There’s a lot going on in the UUA and in the Southern Region right now. If you have not heard of some of the frailties we are experiencing, you are urged to read this latest edition of the Southern Region newsletter. The newsletter is always linked from the back page of the newsletter with the text you see below. Click to get caught up!

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



GOT NATIVE PLANTS?

During Earth Week at Brevard College, [Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home](#) will be screening, creating a venue in which we hope to share this remarkable film with more people than we can reach in our sanctuary.

The film will air at Dunham Auditorium on April 18th at 6:30pm. The film shares many community stories—some of which are mind boggling. 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.