

UUTC UPDATE

APRIL 28th, 2017

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

THE FIRE OF COMMITMENT

by Rev. Illene Gillispie

Sunday, April 30th at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

Whether our life experiences have led us to become commitment-phobic or eager to commit, we each bring with us into this faith community our unique needs, hopes, fears, and dreams. But, together as Unitarian Universalists, who are we called to be, and where do our most vital commitments lie? In this time of transition-- discerning a commitment to a new minister and reimagining our shared ministry together-- what do we bring to the table? And what will a new minister bring? In this first worship service together with ministerial candidate Rev. Illene Gillispie, she will share some stories of commitment from her own life, and will reflect, too, on her commitment to Unitarian Universalism and to our beloved community at UUTC.

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



COMING UP at UUTC

Growing Younger — Mon 5/1 @ 11:00am

Champion Fulton in Concert — Mon 5/1 @ 7:00pm

Men's Group – Tues 5/2 @ 9:00am

Eclectics Jam — Wed 5/3 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 5/3 @ 4:00pm

Team Meeting Night — Wed 5/3 @ 5:00pm

Women's Luncheon - Thurs 5/4 @ 12:30 off campus

Candidate Forum — Thurs 5/4 @ 7:00pm

Candidate Forum — Fri 5/5 @ 7:00pm

Congregational Meeting — Sun 5/7 @ Noon



"...joyfully anchored in a style that's pure, unmannered swing; She is a superb steward of America's own music at its best, and that's a very welcome proposition."

CABARET SCENES

CHAMPIAN FULTON plays Monday, May 1st at 7:00pm. [Listen and register for the concert from our website!](#) Champian's newest album is an instrumental collection of covers and her own works, called "Speechless." **Want the Admin to set up your seats? [Email the office!](#)**

SHARING HOUSE GIFTS

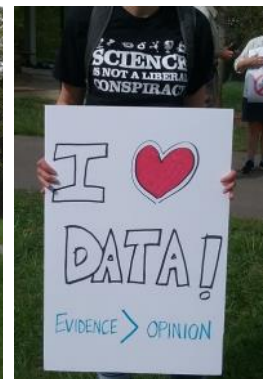
Baskets will be available in the lobby for your donations on April 23 and 30. Please take with you a list of most needed items from the basket on the counter.

The non-food items most needed by Sharing House are diapers, (sizes 5 and 6), laundry detergent, tampons (super), toilet paper, and paper towels. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.

SCENES FROM THE ASHEVILLE MARCH FOR SCIENCE



Above, Michael Solomon with Pat and Joe Webb. Not shown, Annette & Kevin Glenn. Below, Susan Slocum & Joe Webb. At bottom, Erika, Drew, Vivian and Kai Maciula.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR CANDIDATING WEEK

The Rev. Ilene Gillispie will be here for Candidating Week April 29 – May 7. You will have many opportunities to get to know her. She will meet with our congregation's teams, committees and groups. There will also be two open question-and-answer forums on Thursday and Friday evenings during Candidating Week. Please plan to attend one or the other of these Forums.

Saturday, April 29

5:30pm: Evening dinner with the Board of Trustees

Sunday, April 30

2 worship services – Ilene will preach • 1:00 pm: Lunch with the Search Team • Dinner with GMAC

Monday, May 1

10:00am: Coffee with Nominating, Property, and Administration • 3:30pm: Christians in Exiles

Tuesday, May 2

9:00am: Men's Group • 12 Noon: Lunch with Finance Committee • 4:00pm: Tea with LHHH

Wednesday, May 3

10:00am: Meet with Heather Layton, DCRE • 11:30am: Staff meeting
2:00pm: Mission and Vision Task Force • 5:00pm: Team Meeting Night

Thursday, May 4

12:30pm: Women's Group Luncheon • 7:00pm: Q&A Forum & Dessert – Open to everyone

Friday, May 5

Morning: Members at College Walk • 7:00pm: Q&A Forum & Dessert -- Open to everyone

Saturday, May 6

4:30pm: Meet at Franklin Park with parents with children in the congregation

Sunday, May 7

Two worship services -- Ilene will preach
12 Noon: Congregational Meeting to vote on calling Rev. Ilene Gillispie as our Settled Minister

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH • THE MEANING OF MISSION

We are facing serious problems: income inequality, erratic climate change, endless war and rampant military spending, a refugee crisis, a return of white supremacy to political power, etc. On the surface these appear as intellectual issues to be solved by education and political policy. But in actuality they are the result of spiritual misalignment—they are spiritual issues. And they need spiritual solutions.

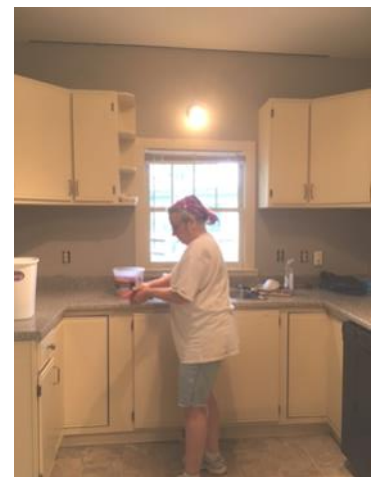
Unfortunately, most churches, temples, and mosques are not designed to create spiritual solutions. There is an orthodoxy in American religious life that prioritizes the status quo over cultural transformation. People seek religious communities to find people who think like them rather than religious communities that offer them the opportunity to be changed as human beings so they might participate in the transformation of humanity.

If we are to survive, we must insist that our houses of worship create a new spiritual expectation of missional devotion.

If you haven't guessed already, Rev. Ian White Maher will be our speaker. Sign up at the front desk for dinner!

WEEKEND WARRIORS

Bob & Mary Bennett, Lynn Halsey, Sue Null, Nancy Potter, Christine Schmidt, Susan Sklar, David Warinner, Kay Webb and Charlie Williamson all showed up on Saturday to clean, scrub, paint, shovel, prune and weed! Bob & Mary were back this week to patch drywall... which is almost ready for paint!



CHARITABLE GIVING AGENCY FOR APRIL: THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

HOW YOU CAN HELP



- Become a trained mentor to an “at risk” family – commitment of time
 - Become a “Baby Think It Over” instructor – limited time commitment
 - Office volunteer – a few hours a week
 - “The Children’s Center Emporium” (located next to Bracken Mtn. Bakery on S. Broad St) Work as a clerk or inventory organizer – limited time commitment per month
 - And, of course, **financial support** for which we are always grateful.
- Contact Alice Hardy – Board Member of The Children’s Center for 17 years!

STILL A FEW SEATS LEFT • MAY 7TH



“ J a c k Williams is one of the most eclectic singer

songwriters going. You can hear both the white and black musical traditions in his writing. You can hear country, you can hear blues, you can hear jazz. He’s a poet who knows how to write simply. And he’s a remarkable, magical performer, with graceful good humor, and a hot guitar style.”

Time is running out: [REGISTER HERE!](#)

This concert is a celebration of Jim Avery.

CHARITABLE GIVING

To date, only **23** people have completed the Charitable Giving Survey, which would seem to indicate a low interest in continuing this practice, at least without a settled minister in place.

Some people have used the survey to indicate UUTC as their Giving Selection, with commentary supporting the collection of funds to address our financial needs in rehabbing the structures on Varsity to make them usable. Others have said that they prefer to donate directly to the agency of their choice.

Twenty-three is certainly not an adequate sample size from which to draw conclusions. Therefore, the link is here for you to participate.

www.uutc.org/charitable-giving

A MESSAGE TO YOU FROM YOUR MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM

Sixteen months ago you chose the six of us to serve as your Search Team to seek and find the candidate who would be the best fit to serve our congregation as our next settled minister. We value the trust and confidence you have placed in us to make this momentous decision. We have reviewed the eleven applications for the position of minister of UUTC, listened to numerous sermons, interviewed candidates for countless hours, checked dozens of references, hosted our top candidates on three weekends, and discussed the candidates in depth. At every stage of the process, we have held in mind the hopes, dreams, and concerns of our beloved congregation.



After this exhaustive search, we unanimously and enthusiastically chose Rev. Ilene Gillispie to be the candidate to serve as UUTC's settled minister (via secret ballot). The final decision, however, is in the hands of the Members of UUTC. In the life of our congregation, calling a minister is among the most significant acts we can take.

The good news is that Candidating Week is here, where you will have many opportunities to get to know Rev. Ilene Gillispie. She will preach at both services on April 30th and May 7th. During the week she will meet with the various committees, teams, and groups of our congregation. She will also be present for two Open Question-and-Answer Forum and Dessert evenings at 7:00 next Thursday and Friday (come either evening). At all these events Rev. Gillispie will be available for informal dialogue and a question and answer period.

As you participate in at least one of the Candidating Week events we are confident you will come to appreciate Rev. Ilene as we do. We anticipate an enthusiastic "Yes" vote at the Congregational Meeting following the 11:00 worship service on May 7th.

During this week we will be available to respond to any questions you may have, and we'll do all we can to help you understand why she is such an outstanding choice to be our next settled minister.

Your Ministerial Search Team,

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

WAS EARTH WEEK DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

Living Our Principles...



Thanks to those who contributed to Sponsored Projects this year, we finalized our insulation work and began the steps to convert to LED lighting. All of our outdoor lighting is now powered by LED fixtures. All but our sign is lit with Dark Sky compliant lighting, and the color temperature of that lighting is safer for both humans and wildlife. Outdoor lights are all on a timer so that we are not consuming electricity for this purpose after 11:00pm.

Also this year, with the acquisition of our new properties, we began some remediation of invasive plant species—beginning to establish some native species to take their place. The live stakes of silky dogwood planted by Dick Bir

and Kay Webb have begun to take hold—eventually, we will be able to safely remove the privet and ligustrum that currently lines the borders of Jumping Gully—at least on our side. Maybe a successful example will help our neighbors make the change.

Recently, the City of Brevard passed an ordinance (8.2, General Provisions of the UDO) prohibiting the introduction of invasive plant species to property within the city limits. We are, of course, grandfathered in for those species that were here prior to the passing of this ordinance. The spirit of the ordinance, however, speaks to the damage these species are doing to the forest we love.

In the final picture, you can see a couple of the species which have been identified as invasive for this community in the City's ordinance: English Ivy and Mahonia. Other invasive species on various parts of our property include Nandina, Burning Bush and Sweet Autumn Clematis. (You can find the full list by visiting the City [Code of Ordinances](#) and searching for *invasive plants*.) Removing all of the plants which have been identified in this ordinance will take time and some considerable effort, but may be what we need to do as good stewards of the 7th Principle.



SUULE AND KITTENS — WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

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

Before attending SUULE, while I was committed to UUTC, I didn't fully appreciate the implications of my own conduct or mindset in building our spiritual community—nor did I fully appreciate how important a faith like Unitarian Universalism can be for people who are currently “unchurched.” This was brought home to me this week in an interaction with the family from whom we just adopted kittens.



On Facebook, “Kitten Mama” shared a statement from one of her children that spoke of a liberal theology... I responded to the comment saying, “He must be a UU!” Her reply was a big “?”

We then had an extended conversation, in which she shared her anguish that she was just now learning about something she had been seeking all her life. ***Without the SUULE experience, I doubt that I would have even initiated that conversation.*** And Kitten Mama would still be in the dark, searching...for a community she had lost hope of finding.

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.” **UU is bigger than UUTC, and it's a beautiful thing.**

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.

RK

UUTC SOFTBALL IS GEARING UP

Our roster of players is due by the start of the season on May 15, 2017 —just a few short weeks away! Players must be 15 years of age by 12/31/17 to play and men cannot play in any other league during the season, which is scheduled to end in early July. Interested parties can contact me at ajmaciula@gmail.com or my mobile (757) 339-9712.



Join Marcus Webb, Heather Layton, Bill Edmonds, Anthony Dill, Amy Pointer, Cheri Miller, Matthew Agrella-Sevilla, Bart & Kate Renner, Annie Burgess, Daryl Rock, Michael Solomon, LaDonna Huffaker, Amie Norris, Katherine Galvagni, John Held, Don Lander, Bob Bennett, Kevin Smith and lots more—sign up at the front counter! **If you are a new player, we will need to order t-shirts, so be sure to indicate what size you wear.** —Drew Maciula

PARACHUTING CATS TO THE RESCUE • CRE MORAL TALES



The Earth Day Moral Tale on Sunday the 23rd was "Parachuting Cats to the Rescue." This is a true story. The World Health Organization (WHO), in an attempt to stop malaria in Borneo from spreading, decided to spray DDT, which did help kill mosquitoes, but also resulted in the mass death of a type of wasp that eats caterpillars. So the caterpillar population exploded and they ate all

sorts of native plants and grasses, causing more problems.

The DDT also effected cockroaches and other insects which were food for the Borneo's native geckos, so then the geckos were dying from DDT. Cats eat geckos, so then the cats started dying, and wouldn't you know it, the rat population exploded with the absence of predators, taking the country right back to the problem of diseases harmful to humans. So, the British Royal Air Force flew over Borneo in 1959 via helicopter and sent 20 cats in parachutes to the ground to help decrease the rat population. Twenty parachuting cats, all because nature got out of balance. Our word for our Moral Compass for the day was "Balance" and we celebrated the UU 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."



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.