

# Our UUTC Programs and Ministries

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## **Worship**

Worship is the heart of our congregational life, bringing us into an experience larger than our egos. This year powerful sermons focused on a monthly theme, such as Grace, Threshold, or Surrender. The themes introduced theological concepts to help us understand our lives and engage our individual spiritual journeys. Members of a new Lay Ministry Team shared personal stories based on the theme, highlighting our Fourth Principle, “The free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Our worship also included exceptional music, with meditative hymns, instrumental interludes, and robust now twice-monthly performances by our growing choir.

*(Percentage of total budget: 22.8)*

## **Pastoral Care & Support from Your UUTC Family**

UUTC is here when you face a life change such as sudden illness, unexpected hospitalization, bereavement, or the loss of a job. Whatever the crisis, when you are challenged or afraid, your minister is available to sit with you, counsel you, comfort you, and help you find inner strength. Loving Hearts and Helping Hands’ volunteers are also present to offer meals, transportation, and emotional support. As you return to Sunday services, we light candles of joy or sorrow, and reflect on how these freely-offered acts of loving kindness sustain us.

*(Percentage of total budget: 8.7)*

## **Community & Small Group Ministries**

A cherished fundamental principle of Unitarian Universalism is the exploration and celebration of the vast diversity of beliefs via open dialogue. At UUTC, this approach finds successful expression in many programs, including The Men's Group, Christians in Exile, the Being Group and Covenant Circles. The opinions, insights, and creative ideas which flow promote personal growth and build a special bond among the participants.

*(Percentage of total budget: 19.2)*

## **Children's Religious Exploration**

Parents and caregivers are drawn to UUTC for the partnership we offer in raising children who will become kind, respectful, fair-minded, caring, and strong enough to stand up for what is right. This year 65 children were engaged in a broad range of activities, from established UUA curricula presented on Sunday mornings, to youth conference weekends at The Mountain, to Chalice Camp. CRE also provided care for babies and toddlers during worship, conducted several Parents’ Night Out programs, and sponsored quarterly Family Dinners. Through story, song, art, movement, discussion, and play, Children’s RE nurtures truth-seeking, spirituality, and the development of values, which – grounded in UU's seven principles – will forever guide our children as they grow into adults.

*(Percentage of total budget: 13.9)*

### **Adult Religious Exploration**

The Adult Religious Exploration Team serves UUTC Members and Friends with in-depth educational programs and materials that expand the intellect and spirit of congregants, program the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, and support and help fulfill the social and cultural initiative of the Unitarian Universalist Association. These include single session offerings, Wonderful Wednesdays, book groups, film series, and workshops.

*(Percentage of total budget: 7.4)*

### **Fellowship**

Opportunities for relaxed fellowship include a weekly coffee hour between the worship services, monthly Souper Sundays (or Picnics in the Park during the warm months), and occasional receptions for new members, young families, and new ministerial staff. Every week the Eclectics jam in the social hall to a devoted audience, we have a trophy-winning Softball Team, and Tap Night has become increasingly popular.

*(Percentage of total budget: 16.0)*

### **Social Action Outreach**

"We are Unitarian Universalists: a people with open minds, loving hearts, and helping hands." This affirmation also takes UUTC beyond its walls into Brevard and Transylvania County, where our members volunteer at community-based organizations like The Haven, Rise and Shine, Bread of Life, and The Children's Center to respond to the urgent human needs of neighbors in crisis; or where we unite for social action that embodies justice and affirms the dignity of all living beings. Through our Sunday collection baskets, this year we also collected a total of \$22,966 in donations to human service agencies.

*(Percentage of total budget: 4.2)*

### **UU Connections**

UUTC can depend upon finding help and resources at the district, regional, and national levels. The dues we pay to support these affiliations reward us with many benefits and services. Recently, for example, UUA helped UUTC find both an interim and a settled minister. Regular regional training workshops offered by UUA impart professional skills our UUTC leadership needs. In addition, congregants have been delegates to the annual General Assembly and participants in the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience, developing skills which they brought back to the congregation. And the nearby Mountain Learning and Retreat Center offers exciting programs for youth and adults.

*(Percentage of total budget: 7.8)*

### **A Very Special Year**

This year we have seen many amazing things happen for UUTC. Donations to Sponsored Projects allowed us to upgrade our insulation and alarm system and make significant upgrades to flooring, classroom space, the lobby, and the kitchen. We purchased adjacent properties, a move which will ensure we have room to grow for the future; we welcomed our interim pastor the Rev. Ian White Maher. Now, as we prepare to say farewell to Ian and welcome our settled minister candidate the Rev. Ilene Gillispie, we prepare for the new fiscal year by electing officers to serve the congregation and approving a new operating budget to fund our worship and activities.