

# UUTC UPDATE

MAY 5th, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## OUR HEARTS' OWN SONG

by Rev. Illene Gillispie

Sunday, May 7th at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

UUTC has been on a long journey these past few years, as a new settled ministry has been discussed, dreamed, sought out, and planned for. And, this ministry has not been the only hallmark of the many changes being felt in the life of this beloved community. Our denomination, too, has been in a time of transition, as has, certainly, our country as a whole. While the work we as Unitarian Universalists hope to do is great, and the losses we have felt individually and in our community have been challenging, we also have much to celebrate in where we are and who we are becoming. What is there to celebrate in who we are, and who we are called to be?

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



## COMING UP at UUTC

- Congregational Meeting** — Sun 5/7 @ Noon
- Admin Recovery Day** — Mon 5/8 All Day
- Growing Younger** — Mon 5/8 @ 11:00am
- Christians in Exile** — Mon 5/8 @ 3:30pm
- Men's Group** — Tues 5/9 @ 9:00am
- Eclectics Jam** — Wed 5/10 @ 9:30am
- Choir Rehearsal** — Wed 5/10 @ 4:00pm
- Wonderful Wednesday** — Wed 5/10 @ 5:00pm
- Drum Circle** - Thurs 5/11 @ 7:00pm
- Budget Forum** — Thurs 5/11 @ 6:00pm
- Budget Forum** — Fri 5/12 @ 6:00pm

## SCENES FROM THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH, ASHEVILLE

Alice and Jim Hardy met up with Jim and Judy Pierce, Kevin Glenn and Susan Sklar to show their support for initiatives that would protect current lifeforms on this planet. Like us.



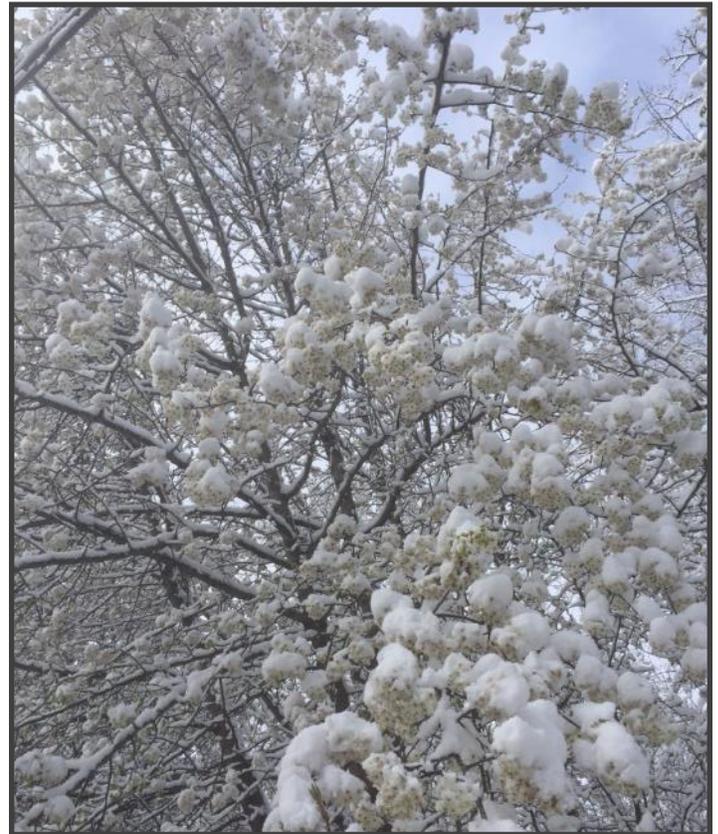
## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everybody who generously donated 93.5 pounds of food and household items to Sharing House.



# Sharing House

TRANSYLVANIA CHRISTIAN MINISTRY, INC.



## HAVE YOU HUGGED A TREE TODAY?

(Above: Ilene's cherry tree from her visit to Brevard.)

The story of the young woman whose death I witnessed in a concentration camp. This young woman knew that she would die in the next few days. But when I talked to her she was cheerful in spite of this knowledge. "I am grateful that fate has hit me so hard," she told me. "In my former life I was spoiled and did not take spiritual accomplishments seriously." Pointing through the window of the hut, she said, "This tree here is the only friend I have in my loneliness." Through that window she could see just one branch of a chestnut tree, and on the branch were two blossoms. "I often talk to this tree," she said to me. I was startled and didn't quite know how to take her words. Anxiously I asked her if the tree replied. "Yes." What did it say to her? She answered, "It said to me, 'I am here-I am here -I am life, eternal life.'"

—Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

## 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!

## BUDGET FORUMS • MAY 11TH & 12TH

Please select one of these days to attend a forum on our 2017-2018 Operating Budget. Childcare will be provided. The meetings start at 6:00pm—childcare providers will be “in pocket” by 5:45pm.

One of the things to be discussed is the possibility of using #74 Varsity Street as an “Oxford House.” These houses are used as group homes for those in recovery as they get back on their feet. You can learn more about how these homes are run at [this link](#). The Board has discussed this option at their last two Boards meetings, and would like the Congregation to “weigh in” on this issue. Our particular property would be used as a women’s home—another Oxford House on French Broad Street is for men. Adding a women’s home could help take some pressure off of the Haven, but there are budget considerations that accompany this decision.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 21st, following the second service. We will elect our 2017-2018 Nominations Committee and our Board, and we will vote on the Budget. To keep this meeting brief, it is in everyone’s interest to attend the Budget Forum of your choice so that your questions can be answered at that time. **Documents for this meeting can be found [HERE](#).**

The Agenda for this meeting can be found on page 4. **In JUNE, we shall rest!**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**May 21, 2017 at 12:00pm @UUTC**

**Agenda:**

President's Address

Resolution to Approve 05/22/16 Annual Meeting Minutes

Resolution to Approve Nominees for Board of Trustees for 2017-2018

Resolution to Approve Nominees for Nominations Committee for 2017-2018

Resolution to Approve Proposed Budget for 2017-2018

**Slate of Nominees for Board of Trustees for 2017-2018:**

President - Carol Moore

President-Elect - Peter Mockridge

Secretary - Kay Webb (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Treasurer - Dave Roberts (3<sup>rd</sup> year)

Member-at-Large - Wayne Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> year)

Member-at-Large - Cantey Carpenter (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Member-at-Large - Brigid Fox (1<sup>st</sup> year)

**Slate of Nominees for Nominations Committee for 2017-2018:**

1. Virginia MacDonald (3<sup>rd</sup> year)

2. Carolyn Fredley (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

3. Peg Hall (1<sup>st</sup> year)



The best way to find yourself is to lose  
yourself in the service of others.

*Mahatma Gandhi*



## CHARITABLE GIVING AGENCY FOR MAY: RISE & SHINE

**You matter. • We believe in you. • Dream big.**

Our May social action community outreach is Rise and Shine/Neighbors in Ministry. Rise & Shine is dedicated to enriching children, empowering parents and encouraging community. Since 1996 when Rise and Shine was launched as a year round after school/summer program, they have been helping economically disadvantaged and racial minority children learn about the fundamental importance of education, about their community and culture, and about themselves. Rise and Shine is the only after school program that offers:

- \*one on one tutoring that coordinates with the scholar's classroom teacher
- \*STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) activities
- \*tools for academic and collegiate success
- \*lessons in African American history and culture

Every contribution of support will be accepted with gratitude. Envelopes will be in the collection basket each Sunday in May for you to use. Please make your check out to "Rise and Shine."



Above: Susan Sklar and other "Level I" volunteers with their Scholars.

## CHARITABLE GIVING • UPDATES

To date, **27** 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. Still others support us giving strictly to the United Way to disperse as they see fit based on their research of all available agencies in Transylvania County.

Twenty-seven 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](http://www.uutc.org/charitable-giving)



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:admin@uutc.org).