

# UUTC UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## CONSCIOUS AGING

by Carol Flake

Sunday, September 10th at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

Aging is a lifelong process, although not one we always pay attention to until we become elders. Carol reflects on her recent seven day nature-based intensive, "Becoming Conscious Elders," and shares insights she's gleaned from examining what she's carried in her backpack over the years.

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

**What does rocker Keith Richards have to do with  
this Sunday at UUTC? Find out at 11:00!**

THE SECRET OF GENIUS

IS TO CARRY THE

SPIRIT OF THE CHILD

INTO OLD AGE.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

## COMING UP at UUTC

**PICNIC! 12:30! ATAGAHY PARK!**

Heartfulness Meditation — Sun @ 4:30pm

Growing Younger — Mon 9/11 @ 11:00am

Haunting Church — Mon 9/11 @3:30pm

Men's Group — Tues 9/12 @ 9:00am

SMART Recovery — Tues 9/12 @ 6:00

Eclectics — Wed 9/13 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 9/13@ 4:00pm

Drum Circle — Thurs 9/14 @ 7:00pm

## FALL PICNIC JUST AROUND THE ... OH, IT'S HERE!



Don't miss this chance to hang out with your UUTC friends! Everyone loves Atagahi Park, where you can play, swim, converse and chow down on each other's cooking! **This year's picnic will be full-on potluck. Bring utensils, plates, placemats and a dish to share! UUTC will provide bottled water.** Feel free to bring alternative beverages. Those who wish to carpool from the church are encouraged to do so.

## FLIP THAT EVENT!

Wonderful Wednesday and Fellowship on Tap are reversed this month! **Next Wednesday, the 13th, will be Fellowship on Tap at Oskar Blues**, and the Wednesday following, the 20th, will be Wonderful Wednesday, featuring Rev. Ilene Tompkins-Gillispie, speaking on UU History.

## THE SHARED PULPIT

You might not consider yourself a preacher, but everyone has stories to share. In a new Adult Religious Exploration course being facilitated by Carol Flake, you can explore Homiletics — the art of preaching or writing sermons.

If you would like to learn to craft thoughtful sermons anchored in your own experience, sign up for the one-hour informational meeting to be held on **Sunday, October 8th at 9:15am**.

The course will be based on the book *The Shared Pulpit*, by Rev. Erika Hewitt. Hewitt provides a road map to creating meaningful worship in the book, which will be provided by the Worship Team for the use of those who sign up. The maximum number of participants is eight.

This class will meet once or twice a month for eight sessions, each lasting three hours. Dates of these sessions will be determined at the organizational meeting, so bring your calendars!

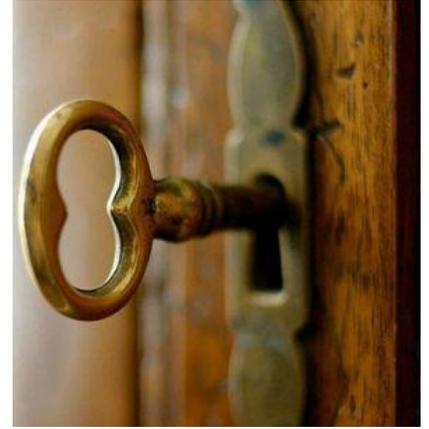
Participants will NOT be required to give a sermon upon completion of the course, but growing this ability to express ourselves is one way to support our own spiritual journeys. If you have questions, please call Carol at 828-553-4910. Sign up at the front desk!



Rev. Ilene, before she was a minister, at age 20, sharing a pulpit!

## THE HAUNTING CHURCH • REV. JEAN ROWE

A study group of 20-25 UUs has been meeting for 5 or 6 years using the name "Christians in Exile," a term coined by progressive Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong-- who said many of us are followers of Jesus but dissatisfied with the institutional Christian churches. We've read and discussed many books, some on progressive Christianity, and some on a study of compassion from a Buddhist and secular viewpoint. We've had wide-ranging topics loosely related to following Jesus' teachings.



*Does your past hold the key to  
a richer spiritual future?*

The group was founded and led by Revs. Earle Rabb and Jean Rowe, originally to help the many new members who had joined UUTC but were disoriented because they had always been mainline Christians. We began the group with a 5 week UUA program called *The Haunting Church*...meaning a look back at the church of your earlier years that continues to shape or haunt your ideas of church. It helped us to look back and then compare and contrast aspects of being UU and one's past affiliation (or no affiliation).

It's been so long, and so many new people have joined, we are revisiting *The Haunting Church* for five sessions. ***Even if you don't plan to continue with this study group***, the five sessions stand on their own and are ***open to everyone***.

The Christians In Exile group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:30 to 5:00, Sept. through June, in the sanctuary. ***The Haunting Church* program meets **Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, and Nov. 13****. Please [email Jean Rowe](#) if you want to be put on our mailing list for reminders and so we'll know how many to expect!

## Celebration of Life

Join Jill Roberts on September 22nd at 2:00pm in a Celebration of the Life of our dear friend and long-time Member, Robert (Bob) Thompson.

At right, Bob poses with the bookcases he had just finished anchoring to the wall in the minister's office.



## A NEIGHBORHOOD REQUEST/DEMAND

**WE ARE:**

**ALL CONNECTED**

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

**LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD**

**CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE**

**RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE  
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Option 1: "We Are"

**IN THIS HOME, WE BELIEVE:**

**LOVE IS LOVE**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL**

**NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL**

**ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD**

**WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Option 2: "We Believe"

**WE LOVE OUR  
NEIGHBORS**

**IMMIGRANT LGBTQ**

**OF COLOR WITH DISABILITIES**

**OF ALL AND ANY FAITHS**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Option 3: "We Love"

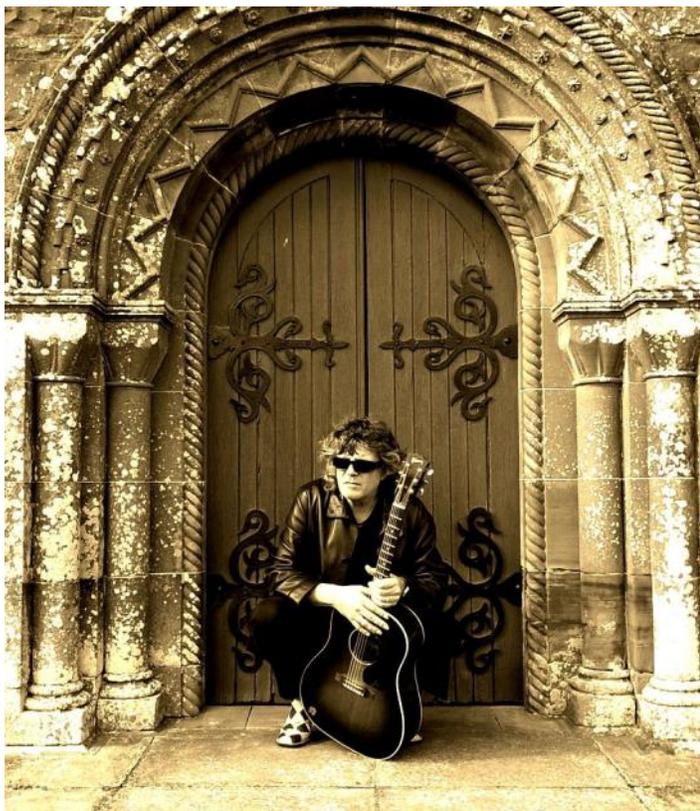
Following the week of Charlottesville, vandalism of signs was reported in the Maple Street area here in Brevard. On Facebook, this was met with indignation and a desire to post MORE signs!



So how do we support this desire of our community to love their neighbors?

The images to the left are UUA developed signage, available for printing as yard signs. Four-color process signs are not inexpensive, so the most economical way to acquire these will not be locally (we checked), but through the UUA-partnered printshop in Maryland.

We must order 50 of these to make the price affordable, but if we do, signs are only \$10 each. If we have more than 50 orders, we will increase our order to meet demand. **Sign up sheets for the three styles are on the front counter.** No payment is required up front. Please inquire of your neighbors!



**Coming October 13th:  
Medieval & Spanish Blues with  
Claude Bourbon  
*Mark your calendar!***

## SUNDAY MUSIC

This Sunday, the choir will be singing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.” The lyrics to the piece were written by Rev. Thomas A. Dorsey, who also adapted the melody from an 1844 hymn tune, “Maitland.”

The lyrics were written in response to Dorsey’s “inconsolable bereavement at the death of his wife, Nettie Harper, in childbirth, and his infant son in August 1932.” ([Wikipedia](#))

Dorsey had been called to St. Louis to sing in a revival and his wife, despite being ready to give birth, persuaded him to go on alone. In the first night of meetings he was brought a telegram telling him that his wife had died. He hurried home, and saw his son, seemingly fine. The boy died that night and was buried in the same casket as his mother. [More on the story here.](#)

## TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE MAIN COURSE • OCTOBER 7TH

The name for our prospective member class is **The Main Course: UUTC Connections Class**. If you are thinking of becoming a Member or Friend of UUTC this fall, or if you’re an old Friend thinking of changing your status, attend and share this day with Rev. Ilene, staff and congregational leaders. Even folks who’ve been here awhile will learn things!

The class meets on Saturday, October 7th. Childcare is available by request. Other details, including lunch break details and your preparations for the class, will follow.

A Welcoming Ceremony for those who choose to become Members will be held Sunday, October 15th, and on the 28th, we will have a photo shoot where Barbi Smith and Mark Allison will make you look 5 years younger and authentically charming! (Photo Shoot open to all Members and Friends who need an updated image.) Sign up for the class at the front counter!

## MEET KATHERINE GALVAGNI!

I was born in New Jersey, but Charleston, SC has always felt like home to me. Most recently, my family relocated to Brevard from Bergen County, NJ, seeking solace and refuge, and in order to be close to my parent in-laws, who live in Laurel Park, NC.

I taught English as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso, West Africa where I also worked on community development projects in girls' education, women's income generation, AIDS awareness, and potable water. While pursuing my doctoral studies at the City University of New York in Manhattan, I worked as an Intern at Human Rights Watch. I volunteered my time in creating and directing a French Immersion Saturday School for young children in conjunction with the Alliance Française de Charleston. Currently, I volunteer at Brevard Academy, where I am secretary of the PTO. I have nearly twenty years of classroom teaching experience from first grade through university. I have taught courses in French, African Civilization, Philosophy, and English as a Foreign Language.



My husband, Joel, is a Solution Architect and Senior Technical Consultant, and he grew up in VT, NJ, NY, CA, CO and SC. After having met in Charleston, we began our family life together in Charlotte, NC. Our two boys are William Patrick (Liam, 10 yrs) and Daniel Ignatius (Iggy, 8 yrs). They are Cub Scouts and they participate in different activities during the year. Liam enjoys chess and listening to books on Audible. Iggy loves electricity, locks, and boxes. They also enjoy biking, swimming, camping, gaming, and going on adventures. They have lived in NC, SC, and NJ.

I love to read, write, and do research. I love being outdoors: biking, hiking, doing yoga, and spending time with family and friends. I love to travel, but haven't gotten to travel much, lately. I would like to return to Africa someday and travel to Haiti, and anywhere else I haven't been yet.

Many years ago, I first learned of UU from a college roommate. I didn't give it much thought then. As a parent, I considered many options for our family. UU seemed to make the most sense. I visited UUTC once, and I was hooked. One might say that UUTC is a small body (although a growing body). In this small body, I observed how instrumental each individual is in making this congregation what it is. I feel good with what UU stands for and what UUTC represents in our community.

*Ed. Note: Katherine serves on the CRE Team and played softball with us this Spring.*

“Why must it take a disaster, such as a hurricane, to get us to treat one another with care and concern?” [Read more from Rev. Dawn Cooley here!](#)

## CHARITABLE GIVING FOR SEPTEMBER: PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES



Pisgah Legal Services is a community-based non-profit law firm providing free civil legal help to our communities' most vulnerable: the working poor, the elderly, the disabled, and victims of abuse. In 2016, Pisgah Legal prevented homelessness and stabilized housing for 2,967 people in WNC. **They are the only free legal resource in Western North Carolina.**

Thursday, September 28, Pisgah Legal Services, together with Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity, Homeward Bound and Mountain Housing Opportunities are hosting an evening with Matthew Desmond, the keynote speaker for Pisgah Legal's 7th Annual Poverty Forum. Desmond is a professor of sociology at Princeton University. His book, *Evicted*, won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction, among many other awards. You can purchase tickets to this event at the Kimmel Arena, UNCA [HERE](#).

This summer, Pisgah Legal Services lost \$535,000 in state funding that was previously designated to provide legal aid to people in need. On July 1, the NC General Assembly eliminated more than \$1 million for legal aid funding across the state. In addition, funds that once allowed Pisgah Legal to assist people with mental health care, disability benefits and housing needs have also been lost due to state cuts. Please give generously. *This is an opportunity to give, not an obligation.*

## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 20TH • THE GIFTS OF OUR FAITH

Ever wondered about the first U's, U's, and UU's, and what their lives looked like as transformational religious radicals many years and even centuries ago? Maybe you've wondered about whether Unitarian Universalism has sacred sites or beloved martyrs like so many other faith traditions. Or perhaps you'd just like to hear from a self-proclaimed UU history nerd!

For many of us, especially those who were not raised as Unitarian Universalists, this faith tradition seems as though it is a relatively new one, minted recently in America. However, Unitarian Universalism's history is, in fact, long—spanning multiple centuries and continents. Rev. Ilene, in this Wonderful Wednesday presentation, will reflect on the history of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism, and on the myriad gifts these histories bestow on modern UU practitioners. Whatever your questions and wonderings, bring them to this Wonderful Wednesday with our new settled minister!

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Happy September! It's hard to believe I have been here at UUTC for over a month. Since my arrival on August 1, I have felt so welcomed, and am deeply grateful to all of you for receiving me with such warmth, generosity, and inclusivity. I already love UUTC and feel so proud to call this place home.



My husband, Dustin, wishes to thank you all as well. While he still has a few weeks left of work in Durham, he has had the opportunity to visit me here in Brevard several times since my move “out west,” and he is just as in love with this community as I am. He, too, appreciates how well you have been taking care of me during this time of transition and change in our lives.

I have enjoyed leading worship and working with our many organizational groups to plan for the future of this beloved community. I find you to be hard workers and deep thinkers with big hearts and unique ideas. I am so excited about the ministry that we will do together in the years to come.

Of particular excitement to me has been my work with the Social Justice Task Force as we discern together where UUTC as a congregation may be led in our justice work moving forward. I have enjoyed connecting with other local clergy on justice issues as well, both through Koinonia and the VISION Transylvania County course in which I am enrolled.

I'm also very excited to share a Water Communion ceremony with you all on September 17, a tradition which I grew up observing each year in the UU church of my childhood. ***Please bring a bit of water that represents who you are in some way—it could be water from recent travels, from a place that is meaningful to you close to home, or even just tap water from home that you infuse with your own meaning and intent.*** After the merging of our waters in the Water Communion ritual, I will boil and store our combined water for use in the dedication of children, blessing of new homes, and any other occasions that could use an extra-sacred touch!

I have several exciting events coming up, both here at UUTC and elsewhere. ***I'm looking tremendously forward to leading Wonderful Wednesday on September 20.*** I'm also already planning for our winter holiday services here at UUTC—hard to believe it, but Christmas is only 3.5 months away! I'm excited, too, to share that I will be attending a training led by the Rev. Susan Beaumont, on the topic of staff supervision at the end of this month. And, in November, I will also be attending the Southeast UU Ministers' Association Retreat at The Mountain. UU clergy will be coming from far and wide to work and worship together here in beautiful Western NC!

*Continued from page 8*

I've been working closely, too, with the WNC cluster of UU ministers, as well as with the larger cluster that includes the Knoxville-area churches and others in eastern TN. The UUA Board of Trustees will be having a weekend-long meeting in the Knoxville area in January, 2018, and we are excitedly planning for this honor and opportunity.

Again, my deepest gratitude goes to each and every one of you who have welcomed me so lovingly to UUTC and to Brevard. I feel like I have much more I'd like to write, but we will have lots of time together, so I'll save some things for later! I am deeply grateful to be your minister and it is my joy to work alongside you as we co-create this beloved community.

In faith and thanks,

Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie

## **WHY DO WE NEED SPONSORED PROJECTS?**

An Operating Budget is just that—planning for maintenance of the status quo: the current employees, the current utilities, the current programming. Each year, as part of that Congregationally-approved Operating Budget, there are various line items to fulfill the needs of these existing programs. For building needs, that line is \$3000 and is designed to clean carpets, replace bulbs, buy furnace filters, touch up paint, etc—it is NOT designed to replace flooring, replace light fixtures, replace appliances... all of which are capital, and not operating, expenses.

Our current alarm system was \$5000—which would have blown the budget for more than a year of maintenance. The same goes for the “repaired” (through replacement) sidewalk at our front entrance—\$5000. [Yes, numbers are rounded.] When UUTC purchased our building originally, it belonged to a gas company, and while it is a fabulous structure, the needs of a spiritual community are different than the needs of a utilities company. While the building has served us extremely well, our needs are changing as our membership changes. Those who have given to the Sponsored Projects fund have been making an investment in the life and future of this congregation. We are very thankful for their contributions which have enhanced the safety and welcoming feel of our building.



## 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

Need Pastoral Care? Call Rev. Ilene at (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).