

UUTC UPDATE

DECEMBER 1ST, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

SAVING FAITH: PILGRIMAGES INTO THE LIGHT

by Rev. Dick Tucker

Sunday, December 3rd at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

Many who consider themselves to be Christian struggle with what they have been taught to believe. Some can no longer accept these beliefs and leave the faith entirely. Others find ways to reinterpret old truths in such a way that they can maintain their faith with integrity, rather than with crossed fingers, and become able, once again, to follow the one who was called “the light of the world.”

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



Be the light.

MEN: SEE PAGE THREE!

COMING UP at UUTC

Souper Sunday — Sun 12/03 @ noon

Growing Younger — Mon 12/04 @ 11:00am

Men's Group — Tues 12/05 @ 9:00am

Centerpiece Wkshp — Tues 12/05 @ 10:00am

SMART Recovery — Tues 12/05 @ 6:00pm

Eclectics — Wed 12/06 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 12/06 @ 4:00pm

Team Meeting Night — Wed 12/06 @ 5:00pm

Women's Group — Thurs 12/07 @ 12:30pm

Santa's Workshop — Sat. 12/09 @ 2:00pm

WARM UP WITH SOUPER SUNDAY!

THIS Sunday, Dec. 3rd, is SOUPer Sunday!

Given the season, we'll provide some SOUP to get things moving! Connect with Members, friends and visitors after the 11:00 service. Bring bread, fruit, veggies, chips, dip or other finger foods to share. Meets in the UUTC Social Hall. Questions? Call Victoria Kerr!



TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTORY? PHOTO & INFO

With a crop of new Members and Friends, and many old members and friends with new "digits," it may be time for new Directories at your house!

Photo Directories will be printed soon, but you'll need to order in advance from the [Membership Team](#). Email them and ask them to put you on the list! The cost per hard copy is \$7.00. The cost for a hard copy of the address & phone directory is \$3.00 You may sign up for these at the front counter.

For digital copies of either of these directories (free of charge), [email the office](#).

SANTA'S WORKSHOP — ELF-LIKE BEINGS SOUGHT

Do you like crafts? Do you like making children smile? Do you have holiday spirit, or need some? If you answered YES to any of these questions, then I have the service opportunity for you! The 3rd Annual UUTC Santa's Workshop has been scheduled for Sat., Dec 9 from 2:00pm-5:00pm.

We are in need of Lead Elves. Each Lead Elf will work a craft station. The Youth Elves will rotate among these stations. Lead Elves will assist the Youth in creating a gift for their family or friends. Lead Elves are encouraged to present a craft idea to Heather or to be willing to lead a craft station assigned to them.

If you are willing and able to be a Lead Elf or would enjoy providing Nursery Care supervision that day, please contact Heather, AKA Mrs. Claus, at creuutc@gmail.com or 828-553-3810.

With Peace, Heather Layton

MEN FOR CHANGE • REPRESENT! @ THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND • 2:00PM

Please join SAFE Inc. of Transylvania County on **Saturday, December 2, 2017** for the 46th Annual Downtown Brevard Christmas Parade. The Chamber of Commerce announced that Rodney Locks, SAFE Board Member, has agreed to be the Grand Marshal of the Parade. SAFE will be the Parade Marshal.

Men of all ages are encouraged to walk as a part of the “Men For Change” initiative. Join us at 2:00 pm at the front of Brevard High School OR meet us on the parade route at the SAFE Attic, located next to Cardinal Drive-In at 370 South Broad Street in Brevard.

It is important that men come together to collectively say that sexual and domestic violence is unacceptable.

Participants in “Men For Change” believe that violence against women is wrong and that men are integral to stopping the violence and providing support to the victims.

“**Men For Change**” provides an opportunity for men in our community to take a stand and find ways to end the violence.



Since SAFE Inc. began working in Transylvania County in 1985, they have reached more than 15,125 victims of domestic or sexual violence and their children – through their shelter, 24 hour hotline, support groups, court advocacy, counseling, life skills training, job training, medical advocacy and children’s’ programs. In addition SAFE’s prevention programs provide Healthy Relationships classes at all the schools in Transylvania Schools.

Please call Carolyn Cronin, Director of Philanthropy, at 828-885-7233 or carolyn@safetransylvania.org to sign up or for more information.

DOING ONLINE SHOPPING?

Shop locally first, of course, but if you must go online, make your holiday purchases at smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2159071 and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County. These contributions go into the general operating fund. Thanks for your support!





COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Members and Friends of UUTC participate, along with other local church members, each year in assisting Sacred Heart in their Community Christmas Dinner, which feeds all who come through the doors. Come be part of this 19th Annual Community Christmas Dinner

by serving, donating, or enjoying a wonderful dinner with others in our wonderful and diverse community. The dinner is served 12pm-4pm on Christmas Day. There is no charge. All are welcome.

This year our opportunity to be a part of this is to donate a total of 25 gallons of tea (commercial ready-made, in plastic jugs or bottles), sweet or unsweet. (We did a great job of this last year!) Donations of tea may be dropped off at Sacred Heart during office hours or Sunday morning. Contact Joan Lemire at tjbindire@yahoo.com or 231-9259 with amount of sweet or unsweet donated so we don't overwhelm their storage area (UUs can be really generous!). PS: Desserts are also always welcome.

There is also a need for volunteers to help during serving hours and with cleanup. Our volunteers from previous years were very much appreciated and enjoyed a great Christmas dinner in true community. If you are able to help in one of the time slots - usually 1 hour or so- with serving, seating, greeting, etc., you may sign up at the Gathering Table at Sacred Heart or contact Sandi Rogers directly at sandidougrogers@yahoo.com. For additional information, call Sandi Rogers at 883-2990.

THE DIGNITY PROJECT — SORTING IN JANUARY

Curious to learn what the Social Justice Task Force has been up to? Plan to join us on **January 3rd** at the UUTC monthly Team Night. In keeping with the Hogwarts' tradition of "sorting," you are invited to help sort products to stock Dignity Pantries for six organizations: El Centro, Sharing House, The Haven, Bread of Life, The Family Place, and SAFE. You'll recall we have taken on the task of stocking and delivering items which are NOT eligible for purchase through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – most notably, menstrual hygiene products, diapers, and condoms—items which our neighbors desperately need in order to fully feel their inherent worth and dignity. January will be our first delivery, and what better way to show our commitment to the first principle of "the inherent worth and dignity of every person" than to help others? Lend a hand and the work will go quickly. Be sure to let the office know if you want to be included for the pizza count!



TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION FOR OCTOBER 2017

The information presented below provides a snapshot of our fiscal standing as of the end of October. Our fiscal year begins July 1st and ends on June 30th.

Our expenditures for October break out as shown in the chart.

Electronic online pledges through our secure payment handler VANCO may be made or updated at [this link](#). Please contact me or any Board member for assistance.

Please remember that checks for the charitable giving institution of the month need to be made out to UUTC, with the name of the charitable cause on the memo line.

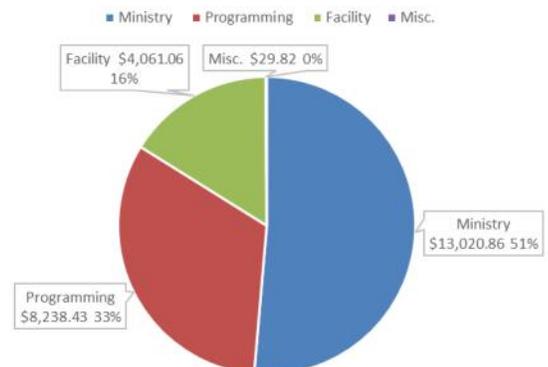
Respectfully, Dave Roberts

treasurer@uutc.org mobile: 610-751-6309

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Beginning Balance Cash-On-Hand	\$ 20,183.09	\$ 32,944.14
Income through October 30th, 2017	\$ 21,642.84	\$ 80,199.08
Reserve Funds balance	\$ 40,166.65	\$ 40,166.65
Endowment Funds received/(transferred)	\$ 70.00	\$ (70.00)
Total Funds available through Oct 31st	\$ 81,992.58	\$ 153,309.87

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Ministry	\$ 13,020.86	\$ 46,744.94
Programming	\$ 8,238.43	\$ 30,577.49
Facility	\$ 4,061.06	\$ 16,497.26
Misc.	\$ 29.82	\$ 2,847.78
Total Expenditures through Oct. 31st	\$ 25,350.17	\$ 96,667.47

Where Our \$\$ Go



LIVING OUR PRINCIPLES...THROUGH OUR BUDGET & WORK

When we approve our budget every year, we talk about expenses. But we may as well talk about "walking the talk." Our budget is where we realize: respect for all people through living wage rates for each and every employee; where we realize the rule of law by purchasing copyrighted music, not making pirated copies; where we realize the maintenance of housing for women in rehabilitation; where we realize our commitment to the spiritual development of all in our district and nation through our UUA GIFT contribution; where we realize our commitment to a cleaner, healthier world through the purchase of wind energy and recycled bathroom products.

Your dollars. Living your values. (*Budget worksheets go out to Teams in January!*)

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

“How short the days have become,
How gray the skies,
How barren the trees.
There is a damp
And chilling wind,
And snow is soon to fall.
These have gripped our minds and made us gloomy too.
But there is something in us
That reaches for the light.
Our ears and our heart open to the carols and the stories of the season.
And no matter what our rational minds may think,
At a deeper level we know
That these stories of incredible love, goodness, and hope are indeed true.
This is the season of incredible true stories”

(Adapted from Dori Summers)



Indeed, the days are becoming shorter and cooler, and the winds stronger (although no snow has been sighted as of yet—which is fine by me!). So many memories come up for me at this time of year, of holidays past—both good and bad. I feel excitement for the weeks to come in this Advent season of waiting. Our pagan siblings await the return of the light with the Solstice approaching (don't forget that our worship team will be offering a Solstice Service on December 21!), and our Christian neighbors and friends are eagerly anticipating the coming of the Christ-child. And, of course, there is much to look forward to for me as well—favorite songs to sing, decorations with which to adorn my home and our UUTC sanctuary, holiday foods to prepare and enjoy, and beautiful candlelit Christmas eve services full of tradition and memory. And, it is true for me too, that this season can be one of sadness, loss, and melancholy as well. I have been thinking lately, more than usual, about those who I have loved and lost, especially those for whom this holiday season will be their first away from the realm of the living.

Whatever it is you are feeling—excitement about all that is to come, anxiety about crowds and shopping, annoyance or enjoyment over holiday music on the radio, sadness over those you've lost, or hope for what the approaching new year might bring—please know that my heart is with you. I, too, am excited, nervous, grieving, and hopeful. For me, just as for you, these feelings can live alongside one another, bringing complexity to this season which was already quite complex to begin with.

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Through it all, I feel deeply lucky to travel the path alongside each of you, whatever the journey may bring. I am profoundly grateful to be your minister and cannot wait to celebrate winter's many holidays with you and yours in the weeks to come.

I will be thinking of you all this weekend (December 1-3) as I travel to Boston to serve as liaison to the ministerial candidates who will be seeing the UUA's Ministerial Fellowshiping Committee. I was in their shoes a year ago, clearing the final hurdle in my ordination and fellowshiping journey, and I look forward to being an advocate for them as they travel from all over the US and Canada to our denomination's headquarters. I hope no snow will be in my future! I do certainly look forward to sharing with you all about my experience, and each of you will be with me in spirit on this journey!

Faithfully Yours,
Rev. Ilene

MEET THE MCGANNS

Jayma was born and raised in Bloomington, Indiana and returned to Indiana after 17 years in Florida where she lived and worked on a Navajo reservation. With 20 years of experience teaching elementary school, she returned Indiana to serve as Director of Early Education, PK-3. With retirement and the move to Brevard, she is putting her experience to good use as a volunteer at Rise & Shine.



Tim was born in Chicago, grew up in northern Indiana, went to school there and worked throughout the state in public administration and policy development at the state and local level. He also taught computer classes and provided computer consultation. Tim's volunteer work has been in areas of environmental issues and local politics.

Tim and Jayma have two sons, two daughters-in-law, one beautiful granddaughter and one beautiful pooch named Zoey (pictured!). Zoey made a happy splash at the UUTC Photo shoot, where she got to meet other UU pets. Jayma enjoys painting, drawing, quilting, travel and hiking. Tim especially appreciates the National Parks, waterfalls and play time with Zoey.

Tim first came to the Men's Group at the invitation of neighbor Lem Miller. That did it! Tim came to understand that UUTC is a community, an actual community, not the cathedral he knew as a child. That community, to Tim, makes all the difference. Jayma also was drawn to our very welcoming community and truly feels at home.



FELLOWSHIP ON TAP / FELLOWSHIP WITH SNACKS

Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00pm Fellowship on Tap moves to Mayberry's! What are the advantages?

First, there's room for more of us. Heather Williams has worked with Jake to make sure they will be ready for a crowd of 25 or more. Secondly, beverages are varied, and menu prices are very reasonable. Vegetarian options are on the menu, as well. Third, the style of service at Mayberry's will suit us well. When you arrive, place your order, grab a table, and others will join you shortly!

Finally—both desserts and table hopping can be accomplished with ease at Mayberry's. Sign up at the front counter so we can give Jake a proper head count, and we'll see you then!



NAME THAT HOUSE — TIME TO VOTE!

THANK YOU to those who took the time and trouble to submit nominations for our "Name that House, Spread our Heritage" contest. At its November meeting, the Board selected two options for each house for congregational vote.

Members, Friends, and UUTC Youth are invited to vote for one choice of name for each of these houses. **Paper or electronic ballots must be received by the UUTC Administrator between December 1 and December 10.** The winning house names, and the biographies and photos of those who submitted those names, will be announced in the subsequent UUTC newsletter.

Professional signs with the names chosen for the two houses will be made and attached to the buildings. Paper ballots are on the front counter at UUTC; you may vote NOW—[HERE!](#) Click **SUBMIT** when you have completed your vote.

TIME, TALENT — AND MEETINGS

Team Meeting Night is coming up next Wednesday. Is it worth it?

A recent article on the Congregational Consulting blog by [Lawrence Peers](#) used the following example of institutional awfulness:

“Once while sitting in a meeting with people flown in from around the country, I started estimating the travel and staff time expenses for the people sitting around the conference table. I asked myself, “Are the results of this meeting worth the thousands of dollars it took to gather for it?” I didn’t have to wait until the end of the meeting to come to my conclusion: No.”

Meetings, in and of themselves, however, do not have to be a waste of time. The best meetings have been well planned to be good investments of the time of those participating. Not because of what is said in the meeting, but because of what actions come out of it.

When we become Members or Friends of UUTC, we are pledging Time, Talent and Treasure to the good of our spiritual community. Those who participate on Teams are making a commitment of Time. But the best result out of such a commitment should be the reward of spiritual growth through active participation. Sometimes, when we go to a meeting, we labor over a decision and the “collapse into a heap of satisfaction” when we have a plan. As if the labor of the conversation and the decision made actually yields an immediate result (“Let there be light.”). It doesn’t, of course. The decisions reached in Team Meetings should be accompanied with a plan to reach the goal embodied in the decision. When we fail to follow through, we create a “gap in our aspirations and our actuality. It’s as much a spiritual issue as it is an organizational or personal issue....”

Earlier in this newsletter was a brief article on how our Budget is a realization of our values. So can be our Teamwork. Our self-evaluations within Teams, aligned to our Functions, when used as a means of deep assessment rather than rote checklists, help each Team to actualize themselves through their work. When each member of each Team is helping the Team to work through the individual barricades to greater Functionality, it is, essentially, a spiritual practice. Because there is nothing harder than learning to work with others and accept our role in the creation of the results.

This practice is not a function of just Team Leaders, but of Team Members. Fully engaged participation will always reap richer results, both for the individuals “working through it,” and for the rest of the congregation that benefits from the intentionality of that work. Here’s to Team Meeting Night!

(All text quoted is from the article referenced and linked at the top of this page.)



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!



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. Our church is located at the corner of Varsity Street and South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.