

# UUTC UPDATE

APRIL 6TH, 2018



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We are thrilled with the wonderful response of Members and Friends to our newly-formed Stewardship Team's 2018-2019 fiscal year pledge drive. Pledge amounts are up, and we are seeing many financial commitments from first-time pledgers, too! What a blessing.

While pledge amounts for the next fiscal year are excellent and will provide a strong foundation for UUTC's budget, we also need to make sure that none of the financial commitments made for the current fiscal year slip our minds! While we probably all agree that our "covenantal relationship" as Unitarian Universalists provides us tremendous freedom from creeds and a set dogma, this covenant does carry some responsibility. As members, our word is our bond to one another. When the budget is established each year and approved by congregational vote (which happens each year at our Annual Congregational meeting—May 20 this year!), the projected revenues determine salaries, services, and which programs can be fully implemented. The projected revenues are based primarily on our personal pledges to UUTC. Our monthly financial reports indicate how faithful we are in fulfilling those pledges. And, for many of us, there are times in which we need to be reminded of the importance of fulfilling those pledges.

Currently, the actual revenue for the current fiscal year is falling behind the pledged income by approximately \$29,000.00. The Finance Committee is asking everyone to ensure that they make every attempt to fulfill their 2017-2018 annual pledges this fiscal year so that UUTC does not experience a shortfall at the end of the fiscal year (which ends June 30, 2018.) Our Committee is hoping to see the fulfillment of these remaining pledged funds in the next 90 days, helping to minimize the deficit. If there are circumstances which prohibit you from fully funding the pledge you made at this time last year, please contact Dave Roberts, Treasurer, or Rev. Ilene, so that adjustments can be made to the budget. Your response would be greatly appreciated.

In Gratitude,

UUTC's Finance Committee & Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie

## STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY

By Rev. Ilene Tompkins-Gillispie

Sunday, April 8th at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

At this time when our Jewish friends and neighbors (and those among our congregation with Jewish roots) remember and honor the Passover story, we will reflect together on our own stories of bondage and liberation. How, in our individual quests for comfort and safety, have we entombed ourselves in prisons of our own making? From what do we strive to be freed?

Special guest musicians will share settings of several Psalms as part of this worship service. These settings, written by Charles Pettee, will be performed by two members of Pettee's *Folk Psalm* group, plus the wonderful Mark Wingate.

## SUNDAY: WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sunday we will formally welcome 7 of our nine new Members to UUTC during the 9:15am service. Carole Burke, Janice Canon, Lyn O'Hare, Elaine Shaver, Peri & Ed Solder and Katie Spotts all will be on hand—Sharon Gublo and Alice Wellborn (pictured right with Rev. Ilene) had previous commitments and signed the Membership Book with Rev. Ilene on Wednesday.

Share a warm welcome with them Sunday!



*We cannot change anything until we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses.*

—Carl Jung

## COMING UP at UUTC

Christians In Exile — Mon 4/9 @ 3:30pm

Men's Group — Tues 4/10 @ 9am

**Choir Rehearsal @ LCGS Tues, 4pm**

SMART Recovery — Tues 4/10 @ 6pm

Eclectics — Wed 4/11 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 4/11 @ 4pm

Living Wage Coalition — Thurs 4/12 @ 10am

Rainbow Alliance — Thurs 4/12 @ 5pm

Growing Younger — Fri 4/13 @ 11am

**Rev. Ilene's Installation — Fri 4/13 @ 6:00pm**

## COMING APRIL 29TH — OPAL STRING QUARTET

The Opal String Quartet will share with us Beethoven's monumental Quartet in C# minor, opus 131. For the better part of a year, the quartet has been studying this piece, one of the composer's last and most experimental works. The work is performed in seven continuous



movements without pause. The piece (featured in the film *The Late Quartet* starring Philip Seymour Hoffmann and Christopher Walken) begins with a brooding fugue and blooms into soaring melodies, an expansive theme and variations, a quirky, satirical scherzo, and a ferocious finale.

For more information or to register for reserved seating, go to our [website!](#)



## CIRCLE DINNERS

Circle Dinners have been scheduled for April 20, May 18 & June 15. The mission of Circle Dinners is to create greater connections among Members, Friends and Newcomers. Circle Dinners are potluck with a single, couple or couple with children hosting in their home. If you do host, it's for one time and then you are a participant for the other nights. Folks are encouraged to participate in two or three dinners. Participants are assigned in a way that there are at least two people they've met from the previous dinner. The more you participate, the more folks you meet! Sign-up and more information are at the front counter. Contact Elizabeth Thompson (828-384-0778) for more information.

## COMING TO THE INSTALLATION?

Nursery-aged children can be dropped off with staff at 5:30pm at UUTC. Older children are welcome to attend the service. If you are contributing a dessert for the reception that follows, please bring it plated to UUTC by 4:00pm that afternoon or after 5:30 before coming to the Lutheran Church.

We hope you will be a part of this grand event in the life of UUTC!

## **SO MUCH GOOD STUFF! • Highlights from the UUTC Board of Trustees**

**By Carol Moore**

### **Rev. Ilene's Installation Service!**

Don't miss the occasion to rejoice with the congregation and friends of the congregation as we formally install Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie as our minister. We haven't had such a special occasion since Ernie retired in 2015! And what a treat it will be to see and hear Ernie and Ilene play music together at the service!

The Installation will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 13 (nothing superstitious about us!) at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shephard. That choice highlights our growing connections with some other churches in the community and offers plenty of parking.

Board members will greet and usher; John Austin and the choir, as well as the Eclectics, will deliver some very fine music; Bill Kimzey will provide flowers; local clergy will process; the Rev. Dr. Kate Walker, from Rev. Ilene's home church, will preach; the offering will support three charities. Y'all come!

After the service there will be a dessert reception at UUTC. Childcare for children up to 3 years old will be at UUTC – ***please make your childcare needs known to the church office.***

### **Circle Dinners**

Under the organizational leadership of Elizabeth Thompson, Circle Dinners are back this spring! They are potluck dinners that take place in host homes on the Friday evenings of April 20, May 18, and June 15. Their purpose is to bring friends, newcomers and members together to share food and get acquainted, creating deeper connections and greater community within UUTC. Sign up for as many as you can – you will meet a different mix of people at each one.

### **Getting Closer to Razing the Blue House**

As reported earlier, in November the Board unanimously decided to raze the blue house as funds became available. With generous gifts from several members of the congregation, we now have \$5,200 toward the \$7000 needed to proceed. That would cover removal, a civil engineering study of drainage issues, and minimal landscaping. Once we have secured the funds, we can arrange for the Brevard Fire Department to conduct a housefire training exercise to accomplish the removal. *I would personally be thrilled if UUTC were to receive enough additional contributions to go ahead with this project as soon as possible. Please help if you can.*

### **Recent Membership Class**

The March 24 Membership Class included 14 prospective members. Those who choose to join the congregation at this time will enjoy a new member reception to be held on Sunday, April 8.

### **Stewardship News**

Thanks to the Stewardship Team for its efforts in this year's pledge campaign, and its plans to fundraise in the remainder of the year. At the time of the March Board meeting, UUTC had received 68 pledges for 2018-2019, for a total pledge amount of \$149,415. As of this writing, we have received 82 pledges for a total of \$164,723. Thank you – and let's keep those remaining pledges rolling in!

## **New Financial Practice**

An outside financial review by Terry Andersen was completed on February 28. An industry “best practices” recommendation included to keep the counting room door locked on Sundays when the offering is being counted (to prevent distractions) and to have it counted by two people who are not a couple. If ushers serving **are** a couple, they can grab the nearest volunteer to help count, who should sign the form. This is for the protection of both the church and couples who have done it jointly in the past. This new practice is NOT a response to any error by any usher; it is simply best practice.

## **Leadership and Staffing**

Lisa Sheffield has been approved as a new member of the Property Committee. Thank you, Lisa! The Social Justice and Loving Hearts Teams are fully staffed and thriving. But the Stewardship Team needs two additional members, and UUTC needs to form Fellowship, Personnel, and Strategic Planning Teams. We also still have open positions on the Advisory Council and the Board for 2018-19. *Please give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to filling a needed role. Together we carry on the ministry of this church.*

## **Rental Property Boundaries**

Members from the Property Committee and the Facilities Team have determined lot boundaries for the two Varsity rental properties. (These are informal boundaries for our use, not formal or legal boundaries.) We are using bricks already available to establish boundary lines that will be visible to tenants but will allow Hector to easily mow the grass. Shrubs and/or fencing may be considered at a future time.

## **Annual Meeting and Budget Forums**

Mark your calendars! Our **Annual Meeting** to elect officers and adopt a budget will be held after the second worship service on **Sunday, May 20**. Budget forums to explain the proposed budget and answer questions will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3 and at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 5.

## **Shared Pulpit**

On five different Sundays, one in April and four in July, you can look forward to hearing Alex Burroughs, Kristin Leesment, Carol Moore, Susan Sklar, and Michael Solomon share the sermons they wrote in connection with their Shared Pulpit experience last fall. Carol Flake, course facilitator, has generously agreed to facilitate the course again next fall.

## **Memorial Garden Policy**

The Memorial Garden policy was rewritten to clarify how we recognize and celebrate our grounds as a special and sacred place. Under the policy, memorials in the Memorial Garden are limited to a permanent personalized memorial leaf on the Tree of Life. The scattering or interment of cremains is prohibited.

## **General Assembly Delegates and Attendees**

Brigid Fox, Alison Marlett, Carol Moore, and Susan Slocum were approved as UUTC delegates to the General Assembly, to be held in June. In addition, R.K. Young and Rev. Ilene will attend GA as well as professional days for their respective roles.

People

People

**IF YOU ARE A MEMBER, THE BEST DIRECTORY IS ON YOUR SMARTPHONE****Carol Moore**

home

828-862 7

personal

carol@

home

264  
Brevard, NC 28712

family

Dick Tucker



Contact Directories are really important for us all to stay connected. But did you know that the **ChurchLife** app is available to Members? It is easy to use and is the most up-to-date resource for reaching other Members and Friends of UUTC.

You can download and install the app from either Google Play or the Apple App Store. **Before you can use it, however, you will need a password from our ACS database.**

**To get that password, go to our Member page on the website:** <http://uutc.org/member/>, scroll down to the red "ACS" logo and click on it. It will direct you to the ACS

login/get a password page. On that page, **look below the login** box for "Need a Password," and enter your email there. This will connect you to ACS and they will email you with a way to select a password to use with the **ChurchLife** app.

**If you do not receive an email from Access ACS/UUTC within a few hours,** and you use Comporium email, call Comporium Tech Support and ask them to release this email from your Spam folder. Since the email does not look like our "usual," they assume that it's bad stuff and are trying to protect you. They will ask you to verify the last four digits of your SSN to make sure you are you, and they can fix this very quickly. Then you can complete the password process and start connecting!

*You Are Invited to The Installation of*  
**Rev. Jlene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie**  
*Friday, April 13th, 6:00pm*  
*Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*  
*Dessert Reception to follow at uutc*

## TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION • FEBRUARY, 2018

Dear Friends and Members,

We are currently experiencing a shortfall in income of \$29,618.70; most of this is a difference in pledge income received from what was promised during the campaign last year. Pledge income is over 70% of our total revenue, and we depend on it being donated as was promised to pay our bills.

Please check your records, and if you're behind, catch up as soon as possible. Reverend Ilene is available to discuss any life situation you may be experiencing, and I also am available to discuss any discrepancy between our records and yours.

From our Pledge FAQs:

### Can I make changes to my pledge?

Yes; to do so you should contact UUTC's treasurer Dave Roberts at [treasurer@uutc.org](mailto:treasurer@uutc.org) or at 610-751-6309.

### Does all the money I give to the church count against my pledge commitment?

**No**; only pledge payments count against a pledge commitment. Other money given for charitable contributions, plate donations, donations to the Dignity Project, Varsity Fund, or Sponsored Projects, etc. does not. Notes for cash or the check memo line should be used to annotate payments you desire to apply to your pledge.

### What happens to unpaid pledge commitments at the end of the church year?

Each church year ends on 30 June. In early to mid-June, the church sends out a pledge status to each pledge unit, conducts follow ups with people who have not fully paid their pledge and adjusts pledges per the feedback received.

- If someone states that some or all the amount owed will not be paid, their pledge is adjusted accordingly
- If no feedback is received, future payments are applied to the unpaid pledge commitment until it is fully paid off.

### Who do I contact if I have questions regarding my pledge?

- You may contact the church's treasurer Dave Roberts at [treasurer@uutc.org](mailto:treasurer@uutc.org), or at 610-751-6309;
- Call the bookkeeper Sue Gervais on Wednesdays between 9am- noon or email her at [dba@uutc.org](mailto:dba@uutc.org)

Please remember that checks for the Social Action agency of the month need to be made out to UUTC, with the name of the charitable cause on the memo line. Checks made out to the charity will not credit UUTC with a donation and cause accounting problems.

Respectfully, Dave Roberts [treasurer@uutc.org](mailto:treasurer@uutc.org) mobile: 610-751-6309

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Beginning Balance Cash-On-Hand	\$ 9,736.33	\$ 32,944.14
Income through February 28th, 2018	\$ 17,751.00	\$ 159,034.27
Reserve Funds balance	\$ 25,194.74	\$ 25,194.74
Endowment Funds received/(transferred)	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,831.14
Total Funds available through Feb 28th	\$ 52,682.08	\$ 228,004.29

  

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Ministry	\$ 11,067.19	\$ 90,643.86
Programming	\$ 7,759.15	\$ 58,772.31
Facility	\$ 4,218.91	\$ 35,868.78
Misc.	\$ 2,244.31	\$ 4,495.69
Total Expenditures through Feb 28th	\$ 25,289.56	\$ 189,780.64



## GLOBAL ART PROJECT FOR PEACE

**Katherine Somelofski**

What words come to mind when you describe Global Peace? UUTC 4-12 year-olds brainstormed their ideas as they began UUTC's contribution to the 2018 Global Art Project for Peace -- A Book of Visions of Global Peace. But first, what is The Global Art Project?

The mission of The Global Art Project is to joyously create a culture of peace through art. Every other year, groups and individuals use their visions of peace to inspire the creation of works of art (visual, word, performance ...). Participants are matched with another group or individual somewhere else in the world to whom they send their work of art. The sharing takes place in the same week resulting in thousands of people sending messages of Peace around the world at one time -- visions of unity simultaneously encircle the Earth. **Our partner congregation is in Bulgaria.**

Ideas flowed as the UUTC youth brainstormed what peace meant to them -- freedom, equality, harmony with the earth and each other, less competition, no trash, swimming ... and more. Then each youngster created their page for the book with the word(s) of their choice and their own work of art. Many incorporated prints of their hand symbolizing that Peace Is In Our Hands. They signed the page and indicated their age.

Thus began the UUTC book of Visions of Peace. ***The book will be on display during the first 3 weeks of April on the counter next to the nametag boxes.***

**NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!** Everyone is invited to add a page to the book. Blank pages for you to use are with the book. Be creative -- write a poem, draw a picture, create a collage, make your own handprint -- whatever your vision inspires. Sign your page (age optional).

**Feel free to take your page home to work on it. Just be sure to have it back in the book by April 22.**

If you would like to learn more about The Global Art Project for Peace, check out [www.globalartproject.org](http://www.globalartproject.org). Over 145,000 people on seven continents have already participated since 1994. Won't you join us in 2018?!

## ESTABLISHING A DIVERSITY FOREST

The question of the Memorial Garden has been answered—there will be more trees!

After considering a couple of options, the opinion of the Aesthetics arm of the Facilities Team was that every Member, with this precedent established, would prefer to be represented as a leaf on a tree. Other symbology was therefore discarded as a solution. However, knowing that the creators of our trees may differ, and knowing that as a congregation we celebrate diversity, Aesthetics has recommended that a new tree be commissioned, with additional trees to be acquired as needed. New trees should not replicate the original.



## SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY FOR APRIL — S.A.F.E.

The Children's Center of Transylvania County (CCTC) grew out of concern of a group of local community members who felt that abused children should be represented by an organization whose sole function was to advocate for these children. So for over 25 years, The Children's Center has been advocating for abused and neglected children.

CCTC conducts the “Baby, Think It Over” program, the Nurturing Program, and others. The Nurturing Program matches trained volunteers and mentors to provide skills to help manage children without turning to violent methods.

Want to lend a hand? Ana Sandin volunteers at the Children’s Center Emporium. Ask her about her experience! The Emporium is one of the ways that CCTC raises funds for these programs.

You may scan the image above with your phone camera and make a donation today. *This is an opportunity to give, not an obligation.*



## GROUNDS WORK DAY • SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST

Mark your calendar to help tidy up after winter! You do not have to be a member of the Facilities Team to help out. Bring rakes, pruning saws, pruning snips, backhoes (just kidding)... whatever you like to work with. There is lots to do, and the more folks come help, the more fun it will be. The day starts at 9:00am, we will wrap up at noon, and there WILL be coffee!

# THE "YOU" IN UUTC SOCIAL ACTION

## HELP "GET AHEAD" PROGRAM

Provide breakfast or lunch items to Sharing House for the Get Ahead program! UUTC is responsible for April 18. Food should be delivered to Brevard Wesleyan at 9:45am and can be dropped off upstairs. If you can provide food but can't deliver, Kathy Reiff can meet you at UUTC and take your contribution over to BWC. Thank you!

## WEEKEND FOOD FOR THE HAVEN

Help the residents of The Haven by providing weekend meal components on Friday, April 6th and/or Friday, April 11th. Contact Virginia MacDonald for more details (828-862-6505). **We are short on meals.** Sign up at the front counter, and thanks!

## BREVARD CARES

This annual event is a great way to be of service. Last year we had the largest group to participate! Yard or trail cleanup are common chores. Check the bulletin board and front counter for more information! Event takes place April 28th.

## AAUW BOOK DRIVE

The AAUW Book Drive raises funds for scholarships for women who attend our local colleges. Declutter your bookcases, and bring your finds to the yellow box in the foyer. If you have a large number of books and need them to be picked up, call Penny Davies at 828-966-9393.

## 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.*



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).