

# UUTC UPDATE

MAY 4TH, 2018



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## LIVING IN A WORLD OF ABUNDANCE

Rev. Phillip Thomason

Sunday, May 6th at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

The concept of abundance in our lives works two ways. The idea of all that we have as an abundant world is a phrase that confuses us in many ways. I suggest that abundance means more than what we surround ourselves with. Stop. Look at the abundant amount of work that must be done to bring this world into wholeness.

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

## COME ONE, COME ALL — BUDGET FORUM — SATURDAY, 2:00PM

Our Budget Forums are where you have the opportunity to review and gain clarity on how your pledges are spent in the furthering of UUTC's Mission. Please take advantage of this final meeting time to have your questions answered—this goes a long way towards keeping our Annual Congregational Meeting both relevant and brief! Join us **Saturday, May 5th at 2:00pm**, if you were not able to come Thursday evening. Hope to see you there!

"ACKNOWLEDGING  
THE GOOD THAT YOU  
ALREADY HAVE IN YOUR  
LIFE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR  
ALL ABUNDANCE"

-EKHART TOLLEE, A NEW EARTH

## COMING UP at UUTC

**Budget Forum — Sat 5/5 @ 2:00pm**

**Rev. Ilene out of office this week**

Men's Group — Tues 5/8 @ 9am

SMART Recovery — Tues 5/8 @ 6pm

Eclectics — Wed 5/9 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 5/9 @ 4:00pm

Rainbow Alliance — Thurs 5/10 @ 5:00pm

**ANNUAL MEETING — MAY 20th**



## SANDWICH SUNDAY! THIS WEEK!

**This week** is Sandwich Sunday! Bring a sandwich and something to share and stay after the second service for lunch with the crew. Added benefit—spending time with terrific people! Bring fruit, veggies, chips, dip or other finger foods to share. Donations appreciated to offset the cost.

Sandwich Sunday meets in the Social Hall (or outside if the weather is delightful) and is a true highlight of the month for many. Come enjoy!

## UU & FRIENDS CULTURAL ECO-TOUR

**to San Ramón, Nicaragua, Feb. 17 – 24, 2019**

Travel with Rev. John Saxon (UU Justice Ministry of NC) and fellow UUs to the mountains of rural Nicaragua to meet local farmers and artisans, learn about Nicaraguan history and culture, visit coffee and chocolate farms, go bird (and monkey and flower) watching in the jungle, and relax and eat great food in an eco-lodge on a cultural immersion and eco-tour that benefits the lives and welfare of rural Nicaraguans. For more information, check [here](#) or contact [John](#) (919-656-2824).

## JOIN US IN JUNE! NEW MEMBER CLASS: SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH

Why become a Member? How? Beginning with this morning, Rev. Ilene will guide you to the Why and How of opening yourself to UUTC membership. The Membership Team will help you start the day off with beverages and treats before 9:00am and top it off with lunch from 12:30-1:30pm.



Those who choose to become members will sign the Membership Book, be welcomed before the congregation and celebrate with each other at the Welcoming Ceremony and Reception on the morning and afternoon of Sunday, July 1st. See the sign up sheet on the office counter or email [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org) and let us know if you would like childcare.

New Member, Alice Wellborn, said of the experience: *“The membership class was great; good food, good fellowship, lots of information, great orientation to building and grounds. The experience was greatly enhanced by the homework. I especially liked the drawing we made of our spiritual journeys.”*

Those who have previously taken a membership class can speak with Membership about joining on July 1st.

## MEET NEW MEMBER CAROLE BURKE!

Like many of our members, Carole has gotten around! Originally from Omaha, NE, she has also lived in Breckenridge, CO. Her grandchildren, however, were born in Atlanta. Looking for a place that was closer to these new family members, she found the mountains of Western North Carolina—and the programming of the Brevard Music Center.



Carole just recently lost her husband of 46 years, Edward. Her daughter, Allison, lives in Atlanta—her grandchildren are Hank and Drew. She has a wealth of experience volunteering with hospice, TRH, Tore's Home and as a guest reader with elementary students. She is now a member of our pastoral care team, Loving Hearts & Helping Hands (LHHH). She loves hiking, reading and crossword puzzles and is a practicing Buddhist. This is what brought her to UUTC—"I found UUTC best suited to my philosophical and spiritual beliefs." She was inspired to join because of the openness of other members about their beliefs and has been particularly impressed with Rev. Ilene and her teachings.

## CREATING THE CAPACITY TO SERVE — A SOCIAL ACTION ARMY

*Susan Zelle*

Social Action is gearing up and we need YOUR help to meet our UU commitments. When we looked at what we had already done this year – and took a closer look at a jam packed April – we decided to recruit a cadre of potential volunteers whom we could contact to cook or donate food for the many needs we are asked to facilitate. In addition, we can use “backup” delivery for Dignity Project goods and other such tasks. If you are interested, sign up on the **Social Action Corps of Engineers** sheet at the front desk or email Susan Zelle ([swzelle@yahoo.com](mailto:swzelle@yahoo.com)). Your name will be put on an email list that our SA organizers can reach out to for help. If you prefer to be contacted by phone rather than email, we are glad to do that as well. *And, always be sure to check the last page of the newsletter for ways in which you can help to meet our community's needs.* Thank you!

**ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, MAY 20TH, 12:30PM**

**ACCESS THE**

**[AGENDA](#), [ABSENTEE BALLOT](#), [PROPOSED BUDGET](#) & [2017 MINUTES](#)**

**REMEMBER: UUTC TRADITION = WAY OVER QUORUM**

## COURAGE TO SERVE — MEET THE SLATE

At the Annual Meeting on May 20th, the Congregation will vote (if a quorum is present!) to elect new members to the Board of Trustees and to the only congregationally elected committee, the Nominations Committee.



Candidates for the Nominations Committee (or NomCom, amongst those of us who like to abbreviate) are Virginia MacDonald, returning for a third and final year, Wayne Smith (pictured at left with Barbi) and Jim Hardy.



Returning to service on the Board this year (with your vote) are Members-at-Large Cantey Carpenter and Brigid Fox, and, for the office of President, Peter Mockridge. Your other candidates are President-Elect Joyce Henneberry, Secretary Gypsy Richardson, and At Large member Linda Young. There was no candidate for Treasurer at the time of the Board meeting on the 24th, so nominations for this office will have to be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. **Those nominated must be in attendance and willing to accept the nomination.**



Linda Young has been a regular in the choir's tenor section for many years. Gypsy Richardson joined in 2016 and has been an active part of the Worship Team. Joyce Henneberry has been a UU since 1999 and joined UUTC in 2016 around the same time as Gypsy. Joyce owned and operated her own business as a graphic artist for 20 years. With younger daughter Aly soon off to college, she is excited about this time to be able to share her skills with UUTC.

*Pictured at right from top to bottom: Peter Mockridge, Joyce Henneberry, Gypsy Richardson, Cantey Carpenter, Brigid Fox and Linda Young. Above left: Wayne (and Barbi) Smith, Virginia MacDonald and Jim Hardy.*



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UUTC BOARD

*Carol Moore*

### **Minister's Report**

Rev. Ilene highlighted good feedback received from members on the intergenerational Easter service and the children's activity bags. She shared plans for preparing at least six intergenerational services for the coming church year.

Other items reported include:

- Continued work with Koinonia and upcoming speaking for the Brevard Jewish Community
- Kudos for the excellent work of the Stewardship Team, and enthusiasm for the addition of its newest member, Katie Spotts
- New Member class scheduled for June, followed by a Welcoming Ceremony two weeks later
- Pastoral care training on June 13 for LHHH members and others who may be interested

Rev. Ilene shared some plans and goals for 2018, including several UU rites of passage/capstone moments for Sunday services, and monthly programming for teens.

She discussed several tasks that require a Personnel Team and a Strategic Planning Team.

She requested Board input on two issues that may require the development of policy or procedure: clearer guidelines for the use of UUTC space by non-members, non-friends, and the guidelines around legacy gifts.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Roberts updated members on the progress of the pledge campaign. As of April 24, UUTC had received 95 pledges valued at \$186,000; the average pledge was higher than last year's average.

A memo from Alison Marlett, Chair of the Finance Committee, stated that Committee members unanimously approved the balanced budget proposal for 2018-2019.

### **Nominations Committee Update**

Susan Slocum (assisting Peg Hall, Chair of the Nominations Committee) updated Board members on the progress of nominations for the upcoming election. Susan shared that member service records are being kept that track, for future reference, members who have been asked to serve, in what capacity, and their responses. See the article on page 4 for details.

### **#52 Varsity Update**

Donations designated for razing the house at #52 Varsity are sufficient to proceed to the next step, removal of asbestos from the building. The Administrator will contact inspectors and contractors recommended by the Fire Department to bid on removal of asbestos inside and outside of the building.

*(continued on page 6)*

(continued from page 5)

Dave reported that the bank and the insurance company have provided the necessary documents required by the Fire Department to pursue a controlled burn of the house.

### **Calendar**

Budget Forum on Saturday, May 5 @ 2PM

Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 20 @ Noon

### **Sponsored Project Priorities**

The Board determined to use available funds to remove the white pines along the driveway beside the Memorial Garden and to commission the construction of a second Tree of Life for the Memorial Garden.

### **Oxford House Concern**

Oxford House has had tenant vacancies and has not paid its April rent (*ed: April rent has now been received in the office*). Dave Roberts specified our need to have a steady stream of rental income going forward. The Board agreed to give Oxford House 30 days to find tenants and to pay its arrears. Any renewal of the lease with Oxford House will include regular payment of the agreed-upon monthly rent.

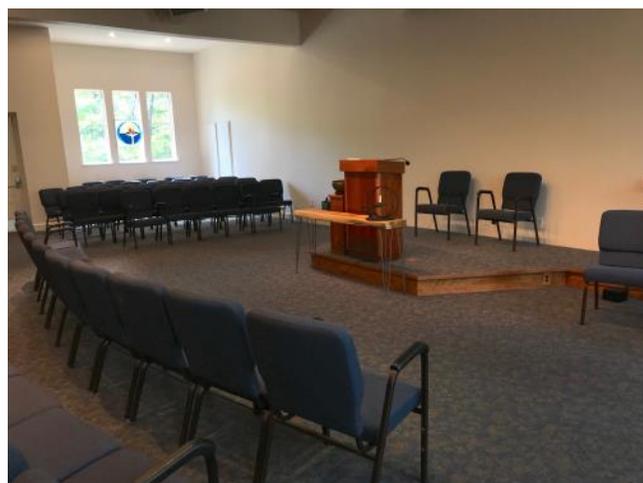
## **WHO MESSED WITH MY SPACE?**

You may notice some changes when you come into the Sanctuary on Sunday!

Choir members were astounded with the difference in sound quality between the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd's space and our own. In an attempt to mitigate that difference, a "test drive" of placing the choir under the angled ceiling on the west side of the sanctuary is being run.

The un-imagined impact was a space in which all seats are more open to the pulpit area. Please note, when you re-arrange chairs for other meeting purposes, that a chair with arms is on the end of each row in the center, whereas this is NOT the case in the west portion of the seating beside the piano.

Come see how it feels to you!



## EXPLORING NEW OPTIONS — WAYS TO MEET SURVEYED DESIRES

*Jeanie Bernard*

The Adult Religious Exploration Team (ARE) is pleased that we have completed our Facing Death with Life series of offerings. The classes facilitated by Jim Null and Hilly Bernard are still in process and I hear from participants they are well received. Thank you to Jean Rowe for leading the conversation on facilitation. It is our desire to build a cadre of UUTC Faculty to facilitate groups.

Here is an opportunity for such facilitation needs—our congregational survey (conducted in December) revealed the next topics of interest are ***Ethics for UU*** and ***Building the World We Dream About*** (focuses on building a multicultural world related to race, ethnicity and cultural identity). Both are completely developed curricula available for our use. Please peruse the following sites to see if you are interested in facilitation. ARE's suggestion is that they can be adjusted significantly, reduced or even adapted as standalone sessions. The main intent is to have the conversation.

Learn More: [UUA Ethics for UU](#) • [Building the World We Dream About](#)

The next need for a facilitator is to host ***Congregational Conversations Project***, a once a month gathering at UUTC to view TED Talks and then engage in a guided conversation. List of programs and discussion questions will be provided. The intent of this program offering is for our congregation participants to be active listeners, deep sharers, to get informed and to have meaningful conversations around topics such as art, science, metaphysics, etc .

Contact [Jeanie Bernard](#) if you have interest in facilitating any of these sessions.

There is a great need to develop programming for our teens. Rev Ilene is willing to facilitate bi-monthly Sunday afternoon sessions and needs a willing co-facilitator/ chaperone to be present for each session. Our Safe Congregation Policies require that we always have a minimum of two adults working with youth. If you have an interest in working with our teen population, please contact Rev Ilene for more information.

Finally, Virginia McDonald is interested in starting up a beginner dulcimer class. Please contact her for information.

Thank you from the ARE team (Jeanie Bernard, Earle Rabb, Jim Null, Paula Williamson, Alex Bourroughs, Rabbit Krueger) for your active participation.



## A LOCK? A LATCH? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? AND WHY DO WE CARE?

It's not just building security we need to think about, but PEOPLE security.

On any given day, all sorts of groups, with various numbers of people come to UUTC to meet and enjoy each other, learn a little something, or make connections. Our front doors provide both security for the building and a means of egress—to get out in a hurry, should the need arise.

Each set of doors has two features— a deadbolt lock and an “in-seam” latch (pictured at right, in that order). **IF** the latches are secured, then the latch-enhanced doors stay rock solid in position...a good thing if we are trying to lock the doors, but not be a good thing if we had an accident with the chalice on a Sunday morning and a fire erupted.

For this reason, and because we do not have a single employee responsible for the building on Sunday mornings, Greeters & Ushers are our first line of defense in protecting our people. Yes, Greeters give us a warm welcome on Sunday mornings, and Ushers take up the offering—but they see to your safety, as well. When Greeters arrive, one of their responsibilities is to unLATCH the inner and outer doors of the building so that should an emergency take place, everyone could get out of the building easily. Conversely, after the second service, the Ushers RE-latch the doors so that the locks can actually do their jobs. If the doors are **locked but not latched**, the **whole shooting match comes open with a strong tug**.

Most days, with relatively small numbers of people, we do not need to unlatch the doors. However, the more who are aware of these features, the better—because sometimes groups get big (Sierra Club, etc.), and these doors SHOULD be unlatched. It's a function of Fire Codes and common sense.

However, if you unlatch the doors for a large group—be sure to latch them back when securing the building! And thank you for watching out for each other!



**WANT MORE PICTURES, MORE OFTEN?**

**KEEP UP WITH EVERYBODY ON THE [FACEBOOK GROUP!](#)**

## SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY FOR MAY — MUDDY SNEAKERS



Muddy Sneakers is an experiential science education program that works in partnership with public schools in Western North Carolina to educate and engage fifth graders. Teaching to the state-mandated science curriculum requirements, experienced naturalists lead six to ten outdoor expeditions per school year on local, public lands, providing hands-on learning experiences that allow children to deeply engage with the natural sciences and enjoy the learning process. Our mission is to awaken in children a deeply felt connection with the natural world, one that inspires curiosity, stimulates learning, and brings new life to classroom performance.



You may scan the image above with your phone camera and make a donation today.

## HAVE YOU HEARD THE ECLECTICS, LATELY?

...Because they have BLOSSOMED. Come by on Wednesday mornings at any time between 9:30 and 11:00am and enjoy the smooth sounds in the soft seats of the sanctuary!



*Photo by Bob Bennett*

# THE “YOU” IN UUTC SOCIAL ACTION

## WEEKEND FOOD FOR THE HAVEN

Help the residents of The Haven by providing weekend meal components on **Friday, May 11th**. Donations should be delivered to the Haven (Behind Bread of Life) between 3:00 & 5:00pm. Contact Virginia MacDonald for more details (828-862-6505). Sign up at the front counter, and thanks!

## 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 lots of books and need them picked up, call

Penny Davies at 828-966-9393. Help defeat poverty at its source by providing for lower-debt education opportunities for women.

## PACK THE PANTRY—SHARING HOUSE

Coming **May 19th** is the biannual event where our community is encouraged to help load the larder for Sharing House. Join us at Food Lion to hand out shopping lists and encourage folks to make a contribution to meeting the needs of our neighbors. **A sign up sheet is available on the front counter.**

## 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).