

UUTC UPDATE

June 29th 2018



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

ALL ARE CALLED

Rev. Ilene Tompkins-Gillispie

Sunday, July 1st at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time? Who are we called to be, individually and collectively? How are we to act and to live?" Our call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So is our call to examine our own structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and honor the interdependent web of life.

Join us for coffee at 10:30am!

OPEN HOUSE!

Atlanta UUs Pat Harris and Dave Smith have purchased a home in Brevard at 541 W. Probart Street and would like to invite you to join them on Sunday, between the hours of 11:00am and 1:00pm. Drop by after the service and enjoy some cookies!



**Do something wonderful,
people may imitate it.**

- Albert Schweitzer, Unitarian



COMING UP at UUTC

Rev. Ilene begins summer leave 7/2

New Member Ceremony — Sun 7/1 @ 9:15am

Men's Group — Tues 7/3 @ 9am

SMART Recovery — Tues 7/3 @ 6pm

Eclectics — Wed 7/4 @ 9:30am

Keys to the Kingdom — Mon 7/9 @ 5:00pm

WAKE NOW OUR VISION

COLLABORATIVE CAMPAIGN

Legacy Challenge

WAKE NOW OUR VISION LEGACY CHALLENGE — LOW HANGING FRUIT THAT WILL SPOIL QUICKLY!

We call your attention to this program because **Wake Now Our Vision** requires no grant committee, no competition, and no approval by any official UUTC group. You are in complete control, and you have the power to strengthen

various arms of Unitarian Universalism, including UUTC. But you need to act quickly.

Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge is designed to encourage new *legacy* giving. A legacy gift is a gift of cash, securities or other property that is realized after you die through a beneficiary designation or your will. New legacy gift intentions made between January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020 will qualify for a matching program **as long as matching funds remain**. **If the receiving institution is unaware of an earlier intention, it will still qualify as new.** *Hypothetically*, the matching amount is 10% up to \$10,000 and the match comes from the Shelter Rock Congregation. In other words, a gift up to \$100,000 dollars will be matched by a gift from Shelter Rock in the amount of \$10,000. A \$100 gift will be matched by a gift in the amount of \$10. If no approximate amount is supplied, or if the gift cannot be accurately valued at this time, a flat match of \$1,000 will be given. Charitable Gift Annuities will count for this flat match. ***The “hypothetically” is because of the five million pledged by Shelter Rock, 53% has already been allocated to match gifts already made.***

The UUA groups that qualify for these matching gifts are Church of the Larger Fellowship, Starr King School for the Ministry, UU Minister’s Association, Meadville Lombard Theological School, the UUA, UUSC **and any qualified UU Congregation such as UUTC.**

If your gift to UUTC is listed as a percentage of your assets, then Shelter Rock will provide a flat match of \$1000. ***However, unlike your legacy gift, the contributions from Shelter Rock will begin paying out this summer to your selected groups.*** **Don’t miss this chance to amplify your giving.** Fill out and sign a Legacy Challenge form and submit with supporting documentation. Forms may be found on the office counter, or downloaded from the website, below. You may also request one be mailed to you from the office — 828-877-6121 or office@uutc.org.

Visit wakenowourvision.org, or contact Campaign Director Laura Randall at lrandall@uua.org, or call 617-948-6511 for more information. Other congregations got this same info at GA!

SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY FOR JULY — MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In the past year, our minister has given funds to assist with health care, financial emergencies and other needs. Sometimes these gifts support those at UUTC and sometimes they support others in the community. Your gifts this month will refill this reservoir for Rev. Ilene to use in ministering to the needs of our personal and connected community. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.



THE BACK PAGE

Does Social Justice work make your heart beat a little faster? We have ongoing and new announcements from the Social Action Team on the back page of the newsletter. So don't quit reading this epic work until you get to the very end! Thanks!

HOGWARTS WANT ADS: HELP BRING THE MAGIC!

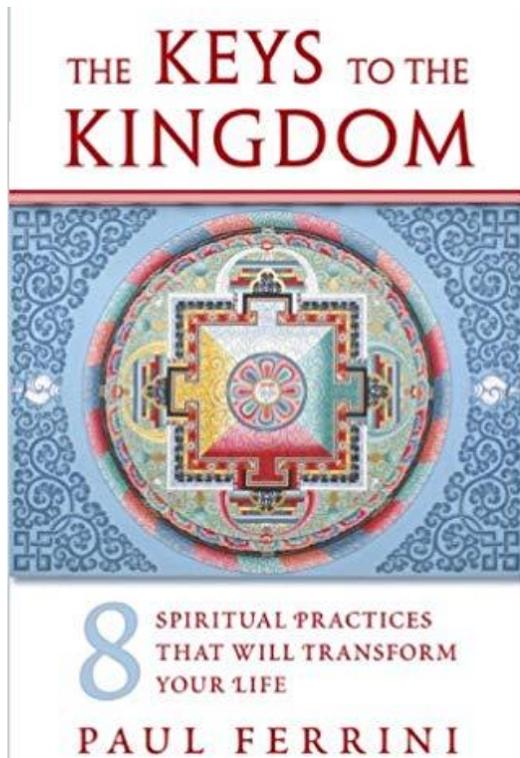
Help Wanted for two hours one day of own choosing during the week of August 6-10

- A Magician, someone who loves to do magic and can perform for children one time during the week
- Potions Professors to either cook with children as part of a Potions class OR bring in a Harry Potter-themed treat for the campers to have for a snack
- Transfiguration Professor- someone who enjoys working with modeling clay and being crafty
- Care of Magical Creatures Professor- loves animals and can share a lesson revolving around care of animals
- Herbology Professor- loves gardening and herbs and can share one lesson
- A big fake rat and small figures of mythological creatures, like dragons and wizards

Contact Professor Layton, Headmistress of Hogwarts School of Magic and Fun if you would like to apply. creuutc@gmail.com or 553-3810.

August may seem like a long way away—but knowledge beforehand enriches all!

BEGINNING JULY 9TH: KEYS TO THE KINGDOM



“Keys to the Kingdom: 8 Spiritual Practices that will Transform Your Life” begins Monday, July 9, from 5 to 7:00pm. This 8-week course, developed by Paul Ferrini, will be led by Luanne Allgood.

These keys will unlock new doorways to love and fulfillment. They will help you to walk through your fear, discover and express your gifts, and step into your power and purpose. Ferrini writes: “A fearful world cannot exist for a loving heart. Love changes everything. That is why these practices work.”

The cost of the course is \$20 (UUTC Members may enroll free of charge). All enrolled will need the book, which costs \$15. **Call the office at 877-6121 to enroll or sign up at the front desk. Space is limited!**

CHANGES IN BOOKKEEPING

Among the rest of the insanity that was June, our Bookkeeper, Sue Gervais, came to us with the news that her husband has a new job... in Florida. Their home in the Skyland area hits the market today. Sue in no way really wanted to take her children and head to Florida, and she has loved working with us. Since we are not in a position to replace her with ease, the Board voted on Tuesday evening to authorize your Administrator to take on some of the financial duties common to this position in other UU churches, with Sue logging in remotely to deal with the more complex pieces of the accounting.

Without Dave Roberts’ foresight, this solution would not be possible. By moving our church management software into “the cloud,” he has made it possible for any who have the authority to interact with the software to access it remotely. And while neither Sue nor UUTC may wish to keep the arrangement going permanently, this solution gives us the time to get your Administrator properly trained on the software. Sue will continue with UUTC through the second week of July. We will dearly miss her presence!



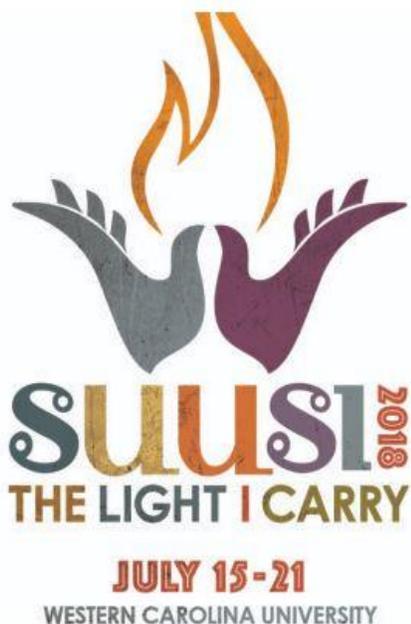
Sue, humoring RK’s demonstration of remote shutter release of the camera.

HELP SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATE OUR ACTIVITIES

Susan Zelle

As the Social Action Team gets back into full swing, we ask for your help in meeting our many commitments and expanding into new areas. With the relaunch of our team – and the growth in our church activities -- we need to ensure that we meet the needs of UU members and our community, while not overbooking the church's resources. We've created a one page form that you can fill out online, or print out and drop off with RK for the Social Action team. We need a description of the activity, proposed dates, a point person, a sentence or two about how it fits into the missions of UU and Social Action, and the resources needed. "Resources" includes *people* (who is going to open the church, coordinate the event, and run the audiovisual equipment?) and space, as our rooms are increasingly in use. Is food going to be served? Will you need child care? And how is the event going to be publicized?

The Social Action team will coordinate the proposal with the Adult Religious Outreach team as appropriate, review it at our monthly meeting and give you a quick response.



THE LIGHT I CARRY • SUUSI 2018 • WCU

This year's Southeast Unitarian-Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) catalog has been released and is ready for download at suusi.org.

SUUSI will be held from July 15-21 on the Western Carolina University campus in Cullowhee, NC, in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. The catalog lists hundreds of workshops, nature trips, and sports & games activities available, as well as this year's lineup of worship leaders and concert hour musicians.

Many people prefer the electronic version of the catalog, but if you'd prefer a Kindle version or paper copy, [you can order one through Amazon for \\$3 or \\$11](#). Both the electronic and the paper catalog are full of glorious color pictures of SUUSI at its best.

Questions about registration? Contact our registrar, Connie Moore, at registration@suusi.org. Coming to SUUSI for the first time? Our newcomer coordinator, Dianna MacPherson, would love to hear from you and answer your questions. Contact her at newcomers@suusi.org.



2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PART ONE

RK Young

It is hard to know where to start. So I will start at the beginning, which for me was Pro Days. Since the Pro Days experience framed everything else I participated in, this may even be logical.

There were two particularly compelling pieces for me during Pro Days. The first had to do with safety, and the second dealt with systemic white privilege/white supremacy culture. The safety component set me up to better help plan our responses to various safety issues—everything from natural disasters to armed intruder scenarios. I hope to be working with the appropriate Teams and Committees on fleshing out our plans in these areas, soon. The most “eye-opening” piece of this for me, however, was that I had compartmentalized each of the various scenarios into their little boxes and failed to see how a remediation for one safety situation might actually make another situation worse.

The most readily-imagined of these overlaps is the windows in our doors, which are designed to provide safety for children and others in case of sexual or other abuse. These same windows, of course, allow others to see in to these spaces that we might rather wish could NOT see. So, suddenly, I am not as averse to the use of cameras in our spaces. I imagine this is a conversation that will take awhile for us to complete, but I hope that sharing this overlap of needs will help all of us to remember that there is always more than one way to see a problem—or a solution.

“If Not Us, Then Who?”

We are the most liberal religious group in the United States. We are the only religious group to show up at Standing Rock. The ONLY one. Think on that. When it comes to tackling systemic White Privilege, who exactly, do we think will do this work if we don't?

I personally believe that this congregation is up to the task. We are still relatively small, which makes us more relational to one another. We are definitely still young as a congregation, which makes us far more nimble than those entrenched in literally hundreds of years of history. We can start the work of combing through job descriptions, written communications and policy to ensure that each is free of language that excludes, in ways in which we are typically blind, those who grew up in dissimilar cultures.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6...

To better illustrate what that looks like, I am going to first purge “perfection” from your newsletter. **Perfection is a false yardstick.** In this liberally religious community, it is connection and clarity that are our primary concerns. Furthermore, “perfection” is framed and defined by the supremacy culture—so anyone who isn’t afforded admission to the club can never reach the end of the yardstick, anyway. “If she had just worn... if he just didn’t... it would have been so much better if...” That critic is privilege speaking. Privilege is also speaking when it insists on the enshrinement of the King’s English, so to speak. Being grammatically correct, perfectly, is a good yardstick if one is an editor for the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal. It is not a requirement for Beloved Community. In fact, insisting on it may be a violation of the First Principle: that every individual has inherent worth and dignity. Because this is part of our culture, this will feel uncomfortable. It may even be making you angry right now for me to express this challenge.

Stylistically, I have used fragments and sentences with prepositions at the end for quite some time... even, on occasion, split infinitives and the occasional spelling error. These (mostly) stylistic transgressions are part of my unique “voice,” that written expression that you understand as me. I will be working to preserve the voices of other writers in these pages. It is our differences we claim to celebrate, and as editor of this newsletter I will work to preserve those differences as one way to make us more aware of our own privilege. I will edit strictly for clarity, not style. In UU churches, we afford the freedom of the pulpit to our ministers and others who speak there. This freedom, when upheld, provides us a richness that reflects the human spirit. We should expect the same from all who raise their voices in our written communications, and be open to what that will look like.

WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

IMMIGRANT **LGBTQ**
OF COLOR **WITH DISABILITIES**
OF ALL AND ANY FAITHS

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

There are other elements to supremacy culture—so why am I starting with this one? Primarily because it is the one that I don’t need other people to help me with. (There’s one of those prepositions!) I will work on “urgency,” and “defensiveness,” and plenty of other elements as is appropriate and timely. But I can start the work of making your newsletter more open to others now, today. Thanks for joining me on the journey.

REPRINT FROM 2016: WHAT EXACTLY IS A COVENANTAL CONGREGATION?

Carol Moore

The role of covenant in UU history and governance was a major theme at SUULE, and caused me to look at covenant in a new way. We have a UUTC Covenant and a Board Covenant. They are largely behavioral, where we agree to act like respectful, civilized people. We have Covenant Circles, which are small group opportunities whose rules of confidentiality and behavior encourage deep sharing.

But are we truly a covenantal church? Do we understand the role covenant played in the free church?

Do you think our liberal free church ancestors talked mostly about original sin, predestination and hellfire? [Apparently not.](#) Remember—this follows the publication of the Bible in a form accessible to all. In 17th century England, the authoritarian established State church quashed every effort of laypeople to hold discussions in their homes, professional organizations and marketplace concerning what love, peace and freedom could truly mean. People were fined, jailed, exiled, whipped, and even hanged for such gatherings.

Nonetheless, the doctrine of a liberal free church defiantly grew. Our spiritual ancestors structured churches that put the spirit of love at their heart: places where members “walk together” to reason about what and how to love, to wrestle with love’s complexities and social implications. *Members signed a covenant (promise) to live together as a beloved community with all the integrity that members, individually and collectively, could muster.*

Our spiritual ancestors also created patterns of church organization for the empowerment and delegation of authority. The lay members of the congregation elect leaders, and the leaders are responsible to the whole congregation for the health of the church. They knew that without some structure in church organization, the members are not an organized body walking toward some chosen goals, but a simply a social organization.

Strong, effective churches, sometimes capable of positively altering the direction of their whole society, are those whose lay members can clearly, individually and collectively, state their most important loyalties. Often people who show up at our services have been in and out of all kinds of religious and social groups, looking for what? Not finding what? Still looking for what?

I suggest we continue to ask what matters most to us, what we love most, what might be worthy of our faithful loyalty. We might then consider anew or again the place of covenant in our congregation. What are we willing to promise in order to truly live in the ways of, and draw others to, a life of effective love? How do we intentionally form a deeper community?

What effect could that have on the world?

WHAT WE BUMPED UP AGAINST IN 2017-2018

Going into our 2018-2019 fiscal year, we may have some unplanned expenses. Here's why.

Transportation & Mission — This past year found us scrambling for drivers for Youth Cons. Heather had to spend hours trying to find drivers. The greater cost, however, is the lost opportunity cost of not marching together, or having fewer youth participate, or doing fewer things with our children and youth. For this year, it is recommended that we rent vans for these occasions to take the burdens off staff and improve our ability to respond to events that require our attendance in mass. Strategically, we should collect data on the costs of ownership.

Safety — Our exterior doors are showing their age. The two that exit the sanctuary were pointed out by the Fire Marshall—one fails to close completely on frequent occasions, and the other has too much play to be considered completely secure. Both will need replacement of the doors and the frames that contain them. The front doors are fine for commercial establishments with minimal traffic. However, the in-seam latches create both security threats and safety threats if not addressed properly at those times when many are in the building. These latched doors can prevent egress (as a standard emergency exit bar, like those in the sanctuary, would not), and also can allow intruders in if the latches are not re-secured. While new doors will be expensive, the alternative is paying staff on Sundays every week of the year to see to proper positioning of the latches for opening and closing—an alternative that will cost a minimum of \$3000 every year.

Communications — Our memorial services for Peg Hall and Gary Kendrick, whose influence reached far beyond Transylvania county, left us with checks directed to 24 Varsity Street (the address most easily found on our website)—causing the Post Office a great deal of angst. A re-design will be in order. We also found ourselves without handouts or brochures which would have taken a lot of the guess work out of making a contribution for those inclined to do so. Our biggest growth problem, however, has sprung up from not being able to forward a phone call to a more confidential location than the front desk. We will need to investigate VOIP solutions, and probably add another business line from Comporium, to be able to transfer calls to the minister's office and to the back office.

Non-Profit Status — To keep staff size low, we must make it easier for volunteers of the church to do the work of the church. This means working with shared documents in the cloud. These solutions cost a lot less money if the organization has 501c3 status. As one example, the purchase of Adobe Acrobat Pro, which allows for forms to be filled out online, and for scans of documents to be searchable, costs \$500 without a 501c3, \$175 with one. The larger costs are those associated with services like business class email hosting, since they recur monthly.

RECAP OF THE FUNDS FOR 2017-2018

Varsity — #52 Progress



After \$1360 of asbestos sample inspections and \$3000 of remediation, we have a date: The Burn will happen on July 30th, weather permitting! Clean up of the site after the burn, which will include grading and seeding, will come to \$2400. While this is not a “final solution,” it will certainly ease the pressures created by that derelict

property. We made \$500 on salvaged material from the property, but also spent \$200 to prune low-hanging limbs from the red oak that we wish to protect. Even with that expense, we appear to have come in under the Board allocation of \$7415 with total razing costs of \$6960. We’ll know for certain after the final cleanup.

Sponsored Projects

This year we again made a number of improvements to the physical plant by means of generous gifts from pledging Members, Friends and former members. The space that received the biggest makeover was our nursery, which benefitted from new, built-in shelving, new flooring, new LED dimmable lighting (very popular!) and designated ventilation to assist in removing those stinky-diaper odors.

In the sanctuary, more teal hymnals were purchased, book racks were added to the choir’s chairs and a new microphone was acquired to make it easier to amplify the choir and other musicians. In the social hall and foyer, we removed most of the florescent fixtures and replaced them with LED lighting, created an “overflow” media solution with live stream TV from the sanctuary, and created table storage space right off the social hall. The vestibule also received new LED lights.

The classrooms, having already had their flooring upgrades, got LED dimmable fixtures and the ability to mirror devices to the TV with a donated Apple TV. A donated time clock was installed for employee use. The minister’s and bookkeeper’s offices also received dimmable LED lighting upgrades. Finally, the removal of white pines from our southern border was completed, reducing the threats of these not -too-stable trees to our sanctuary.

The cost of all Sponsored Projects for this fiscal year came to \$11,763.94. Thanks, donors!



PROJECTS FOR SELECTION AND FUNDING IN 2018-2019

Moving into the new fiscal year, we have one approved project which we hope to get underway as soon as the razing of #52 Varsity is complete: an additional Tree of Life. The approved bid for this project came to \$1334, and we hope we haven't fallen too far down the totem pole of jobs the sculptor has in progress. Four names will immediately be placed on the new tree.



High on the list of desires from the Facilities Team after that will be insulated blinds for skylights over the choir and in the social hall. The bid for these blinds drew on the expertise of Lisa Sheffield, with her experience with the blinds at the Transylvania County Library. She recommended that, to avoid the future expense of repairs, we invest in motorized blinds. So the bid provides for remote control (one control for each group of blinds) of the blinds, reducing the possibility of operator damage. The skylight blinds were bid at \$2800, and the social hall blinds were bid at \$4500. The social hall blinds, besides reducing the heat in that space (and our power bills) will have the added benefit of creating a more private atmosphere in the social hall for those who desire it.

Also on the project list is the completion of our conversion to LED lighting—to cover the kitchen, hall by the bathrooms, front office and hall to the sanctuary. This bid is \$1980. There is a possibility of adding another row of lights in the east wing of the sanctuary where the choir once sat, at a cost of \$425. Speaking of the sanctuary, we have a bid for a complete paint job of the space, which would include the repair of taped seams which have cracked over time. That bid comes to \$4750.

A small project which would increase the usability of the small classroom is a glass magnetic whiteboard, which we have found for \$700: half the previously quoted price. This would allow lots more creative work by kids to be hung in the space and would eliminate the need for a portable white board in that room to supplement the smallish one when Teams or Committees are doing their work.

Safety discussions may require bids for blinds in the classrooms in order to provide more privacy—again, these would have the additional benefit of serving as insulation and reducing our power bills when not in the open position. Other suggestions from Teams may reflect concerns from page 9. Teams will vote on the final list of bids to provide guidance to the Board on these expenditures (*when funds are available*) in the fall.

THE "YOU" IN UUTC SOCIAL ACTION

DIGNITY PROJECT SORTERS NEEDED

Thursday, July 5th @ 4:30

Let Social Action Team Lead, Susan Zelle know if you can help! Email swzelle@yahoo.com.

SHARING HOUSE REQUESTS HELP

We need someone to pick up empty milk boxes from Sav-Mor every Wed. at 10am. We also need someone to pick up Ingles donations on Mon, Wed, & Thursday @ 10:30 am.

We also need volunteers to pick up donations from Wal-Mart on Tues and Thurs @ 1:30pm. These donations can be heavy but there is always someone to help load at Wal-Mart and someone at Sharing House to help unload. Thanks!

FIX IT: HEALTHCARE AT THE TIPPING POINT

September 20th, 2018 — 6:30-8:00pm at UUTC

FIX IT: Healthcare at the Tipping Point will be shown, comments given by Marsha Fretwell MD, and a discussion facilitated by Kyra Moore and Dr. Fretwell. The documentary reaches across the political and ideological divide and makes the case for business leaders to support major healthcare reform. The system, as is, is inefficient, has limited accessibility and is cost prohibitive to business and families. Is Medicare for all as a single payer system the solution? This event is sponsored by Healthcare for All, Physicians for a National Health Program and the Transylvania Branch of the NAACP.

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.*



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.