



wayfinding

Water: the Tie That Binds

Facebook or YouTube Livestream at 9:00am, Sunday — Services at 9:00 & 11:00

In Unitarian Universalist tradition, the water communion service is when the community re-gathers, like waters running to the sea. We bring water to this service and pour it from individual containers into a

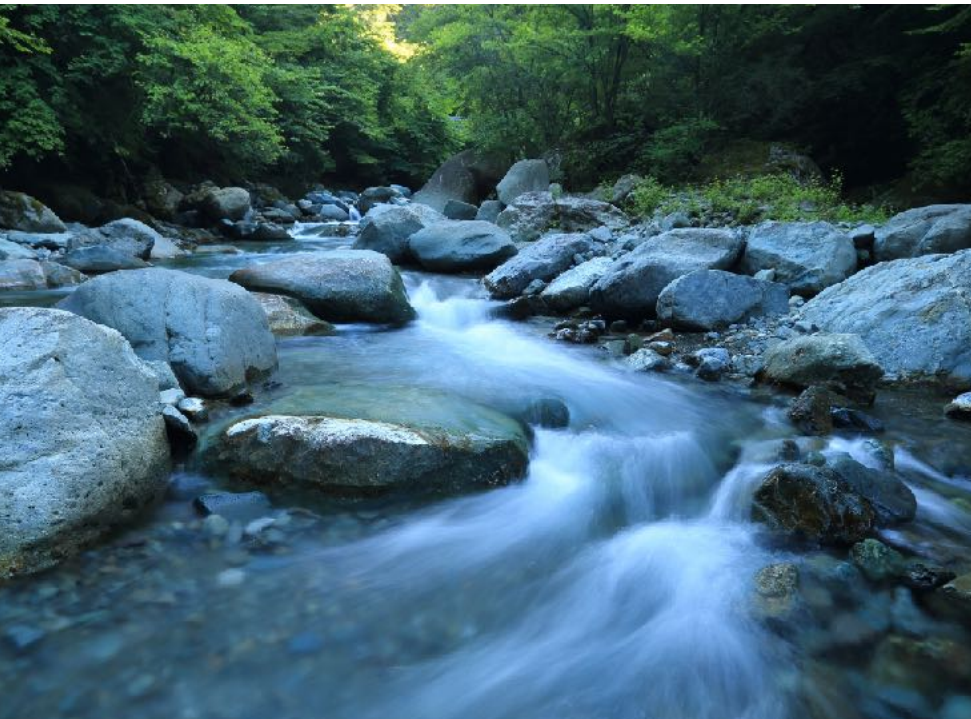


Photo by [kazuend](#) on [Unsplash](#)

common bowl, reflecting our selves coming into the community and making it whole. Participants pour water that's significant to them into a common bowl to symbolize the ingathering. You are invited to infuse your water with your intentions toward your UUTC community by putting a word on your water container: love, peace, healing, clarity, reflection, compassion, for example.

Speaker: Rev. Jean Rowe

Staying Home?

There is no shame, here! If you need to watch the livestream instead of coming to a service, we love you

regardless. The 9:00am service is live-streamed weekly. Our Service Stream page on the website links you to YouTube (in the main window) and Facebook from the link below. The Facebook Link is most effective if you don't click before 9:00. "See" you soon!

“

“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.”

Ryunosuke Satoro

August

Excerpts from the Minutes:

Present: Glenn Cockerham, Betty Kendrick, Gail Meyers, Bart Renner, Kay Webb, Alice Wellborn and RK Young.

Minister's Report – Rev. Bob

highlighted his activities since the July

Board meeting: regretfully cancelled a November retreat at The Mountain due mostly to volunteer hesitations due to Covid. He welcomed new AV tech Doug Wilks to the team, recommended that new Board members invest time in the Dan Hotchkiss book, *Governance & Ministry*.

Treasurer's Report – The monthly report was shared with Board members, providing the financial status as of July 31, 2021. In her comments, Gail emphasized that unusually high July income is the result of early '21-'22 pledges received prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Administration Committee Report – The August report shared that the committee has completed an alignment review of the Organizational Structure with other governing documents but will await the congregational vote on the Bylaws before finalizing revision recommendations for the Board. The Hybrid Work policy developed by the Personnel Committee is on the agenda for the committee's Sept. meeting.

Finance Committee – No Report. Remaining members did not meet in July or August; new members to populate this committee must be found. *(Note: you do not need to be a CPA to be able to understand the workings of UUTC and make good recommendations to the Board. -Ed.)*

New Business: Creation Care Alliance of WNC (CCAWNC) — Prior to the meeting, information about the CCAWNC was shared with Board members, Rev. Bob, and the Facilities Team. Jim Hardy, who initially brought this initiative, under the auspices of Mountain True, to the attention of the Board, attended the Board meeting to speak about his involvement in the environmental coalition forming in Brevard and Transylvania County. The coalition is composed of local faith-based groups who plan to sponsor an EV event in Brevard in the fall. Though not currently part of the CCAWNC, the local coalition may decide to join the alliance of over 70 faith-based groups across Western North Carolina. There was discussion about what affiliation with the CCAWNC would mean and require of UUTC and how it differed with UU's Green Sanctuary Program. *Bart Renner made a motion to approve Jim Hardy to represent UUTC within the local coalition; Gail seconded the motion. The motion was approved.* This does not mean that UUTC has agreed to affiliate or covenant with the CCAWNC at this time.

To read the full minutes, click [HERE](#). To read the 2020-2021 Fiscal Summary, click [HERE](#).

For the Treasurer's Report, for the month of July, click [HERE](#). For clarifying remarks, click [HERE](#).



Book Club Selection for September

The UUTC Book Group is reading ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer for our September meeting. The book group always meets the last Sunday of the month (Sept. 26th this month) at 3:30 (outside if weather permits, inside with masks if it doesn't). Gypsy Richardson is leading the discussion on this nonfiction book which is written by a Native American botanist. The author helps us understand more of what indigenous people have learned from plants. The book is written as reflections - somewhat poetic - and critiques "western" cultural views of nature and plants. Kimmerer " . . . circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world." If you would like to join the group for this book discussion, please contact Krista Moore at moorek@mtmary.edu.

Message from the President

“*For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it*”
-Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

I am always inspired by Rev. Bob's sermons, but recently I really resonated with this sermon titled "What to do?". This sermon really spoke to many of the sources of anxiety in my life as I try to lead my office, my family, and now (in my role as board president) being part of the leadership of this church. For months now I've been asking myself what it means to "be the light" that Amanda Gorman spoke about during President Biden's inauguration. The same words we used during our pledge campaign. I've been asking myself how I was going to do my part to bring this country together and start the healing process. As your new board president I join Rev. Bob, RK Young, and so many other volunteers and employees who feel a huge responsibility to lead this church in the right direction.

There's no way to sugarcoat the fact that COVID has once again brought so much darkness into our lives. It's so hard to know "what to do", especially when you want to "be the light". Whenever I have a hard decision I need to make I usually just ask my wife what to do. Very often, I hear something like "follow your heart, and I will support you". While that is obviously a loving and reassuring response, it effectively makes me have to go back to doing the hard work of "getting grounded" as Rev. Bob suggested. Usually it means I have no choice but to go on a camping trip with my friends! While this may seem like I'm running away from my work, it is quite the opposite. The quiet stillness of the forest, the simplicity of the days, the extreme physical exertion of trying to get uphill, the opportunity to be present and focus on my breath all help me find the answers that were always there in my mind- buried under the constant chatter, anxiety and business of our crazy lives.



Bart Renner

Continued next page

Rev. Bob speaks about trees in August that are stressed and need to drop leaves. For me, I realized I need to get away from social media. I realized I was being constantly bombarded by people whose lives seem better than mine, negative comments, sensationalized news, misinformation, etc. Also, I have such poor time management skills I would spend too much valuable time scrolling instead of really living. I knew it was affecting me, but I had no idea to what extent I was internalizing this negativity.

As I approach my 40th circle around the sun, I'm beginning to understand that being an adult seems to have a lot to do with finding balance and equilibrium. I am noticing that I have to be careful with what I do with my body, and also with what I decide to consume. Sleep, exercise, coffee, beer, sugar, fiber, etc. it all needs to be kept in balance (or just not consumed!). But I'm also learning to be much more careful with what I allow my mind to consume. The message coming from UUTC is nourishing and positive, and your board is working hard to make sure you can hear that message safely and as comfortably as possible. We deeply respect the responsibility placed on our shoulders when we make decisions and we hope we are serving this congregation well. We want you all to know a few things:

- The church is a safe place! With our mask requirements, high level of vaccination, and new air handling system we have taken every step feasible to make our building safe for you to join us!
- We are here for you! Rev. Bob has made his number available. He really is interested in talking to you if that's something you feel would be helpful. I have also heard many of your issues as Board President and I hope I can help!
- We need you! There are many ways to be a part of this church, but we encourage you to volunteer in whatever way you are able. RK does a good job in our newsletter of highlighting areas that we could use more help.

This church will continue to be the light for this community in whatever way we can. We invite you to be a part of that light in whatever way YOU can.

In Covenant, Bart Renner

STILL HIRING — UUTC

RK Young

We are still looking for nursery workers! We are requiring that these individuals show proof of Covid vaccination, and we will be adding a TB test to those requirements (UUTC will reimburse this expense). This position will start at a minimum of \$14 an hour. We've got our second T Times ad running and have registered the position at Brevard College. Also — WE ACCEPT VOLUNTEERS! (Who must also show proof of vaccination.) Please let us know if you might be able to help fill in.

The reality of the labor market is ... very tight. If you could use a little extra income, once or twice a month, do not feel that you would be taking work away from someone else. We would love to have you be part of the team that cares for our children.

Sometimes Being Present Is **ALL**

Some members of UUTC partner with the Transylvania Branch of the NAACP on Moral Mondays at our courthouse. There's much to protest these days. Maybe you feel like joining them? While there is a lot to be said for letter writing and making financial contributions, "showing up" has its own special power. Larger groups help people realize that the group represented is larger than they think.

And. Our Principles demand that we all do *something*. Let's review:

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. (*Each & Every person is important.*)

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. (*All people should be treated fairly and kindly.*)

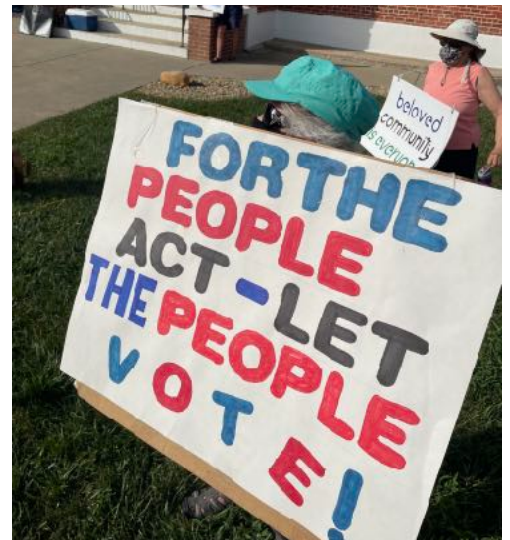
5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. (*All persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.*)

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. (We must **work** for a peaceful, fair, and free world.)

"We are again masking at this time, unless using the microphone. I can always find parking on the lot across Gaston from the courthouse area. Parking can also be found behind the courthouse. Parking on Main Street was more available this Monday than it has been all summer. I like to leave those spots for those who bring equipment, signs, etc. and for the less agile. There are "marshalls" among us to handle any disturbance or pushback. There are usually signs available to hold. You can also make your own. Messages on signs should be expressed as **what one is for**, not what one is against."

The Transylvania Branch of the NAACP sponsors Moral Mondays from 5:00-6:00pm weekly. In these images you can find UUTCers Carter Heyward, Doug Denton, Joanna Bliss, Ian Cowie (and Vanessa took the pictures—thank you, Vanessa!). If you are physically able, please consider joining this stalwart crew. If you are not, think of how else you can work to manifest the Constitutional intent of "one person, one vote" —regardless of race or gender.

Be a thorn in somebody's side today!



Our Committees & Teams

In our organizational structure, **Committees** report to the Board of Trustees, and **Teams** do the work of the congregation and report to the Minister.

Our Committees are:

Administration
Finance
Personnel
Property

Our Teams are:

ARE (Adult Religious Exploration)
CRE (Children's Religious Exploration)
Facilities
Membership
Social Action
Stewardship
Worship



Lifting Up What's Worthy

I can remember a time when I wondered what Unitarian Universalists meant by “worship.” UU services could mingle deep reverence, startling beauty, and clarion calls for justice-seeking, but they did not look like my previous concept of worship. Then, I learned the word “worship” shares a root with “worth.” In UU services, we show reverence for what is worthy—we honor and celebrate our deepest values. Our minister, Rev. Bob Renjilian, is our foremost and most visible worship leader, but we can all engage in UU worship.

Your Sunday worship experience starts with an usher welcoming you into the sanctuary, where a volunteer has contributed a thoughtfully-prepared arrangement of fresh flowers. Music, readings, and visuals such as candles and slides complement the sermon—the message that,

ideally, gives you something to ponder in your head and heart throughout the rest of your week. It might be a reflection on the values you hold, or a challenge to live more fully into them.

UUTC's Worship Team assists Rev. Bob when he's in the pulpit on Sunday mornings and coordinates services when he's not. Being on the Worship Team gives you a chance to be “present at the creation” of these services. It's a great way to get to know both your UUTC community and your UU heritage more deeply. And you don't need to perform all of these roles to participate. There are many ways to serve as part of the Worship Team. Team members meet monthly to evaluate and plan inclusive services that honor our mission and engage the mind, heart, and spirit. Since Unitarian Universalism isn't a creedal religion and draws from many wisdom sources and faith traditions, there's a rainbow of creative possibilities. Reverend Bob attends these meetings and shares his perspective.

Planning ahead for future services, a team member might coordinate with a guest minister invited by Rev. Bob, or recruit a guest speaker from the congregation. In both cases, the worship coordinator maintains communication throughout the process of planning and carrying out the service. On Sunday mornings, a Worship Associate from the team assists Rev. Bob or a guest speaker at both services by welcoming the congregation from the pulpit and delivering announcements, lighting the chalice, and/or lighting candles of joy and concern. Sometimes they choose readings—but they don't have to “reinvent the wheel”—there are many sources available.

A Worship Team member schedules ushers; another organizes supplies—do you realize how many different types of candles we use?; we take turns keeping minutes for meetings. Ushers, musicians, and flower providers are essential volunteers for Sunday worship, even though they don't necessarily attend Worship Team monthly meetings.

We can always use more Worship Team members, but especially now as we gradually return to our pre-pandemic activities. Stimulating discussions about our UU values, creative expression, serving our UUTC community, and getting to know each other better—what's not to like about that?

Please consider serving on the UUTC Worship Team. Thank you!

If you have questions, [contact Vanessa Cowie](#), Worship Team leader.

Being the Light — On Sunday!

RK Young

A few hardy souls have been keeping the flame burning on Sundays, and we need your help. I for one, am finding I am a lousy usher at the second service because there are other tasks that I need to be attentive to. Won't you give me a hand with that?

We need 4 ushers per Sunday. Two at 9:00 and two at 11:00. To cover every Sunday of the month, without repeating volunteers, means we need a minimum of 8 volunteers for 9:00 and another 8 at 11:00. Ushers are an arm of the Worship Team and added to their schedule.

Greeters, on the other hand, are assistants to the Membership Team. I caught Peter Mockridge last week asking a great question — “are you familiar with the building?” — to find out if the person is already comfortable or has been here before. Victoria Kerr has been pulling multi-week service in this role, but she deserves to just come in and sit down sometimes, too! But she has been especially wonderful at getting visitors set up with a new name tag, or a Welcome card so they can receive a newsletter.

I want to also let you know that the Facilities Team has a big campus to take care of. While Hector takes care of mowing the grass, keeping the beds weeded and/or mulched takes many hands. To get your name added to any of these teams, please reach out to [me](#) or to [Eloise](#) and we will make it happen. Thanks in advance for the help!



Why “WayFinding?” It’s Missional!

Our Mission is to support individual spiritual journeys and to promote social, economic and environmental justice.

RK Young

Unitarian Universalism’s **4th Principle** reads: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A new paraphrase of that is: Each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life. We express that in our mission statement to say that UUTC desires to support individual spiritual journeys — no matter what your journey looks like.

I mean, how free are we if we can’t make our own mistakes?

In developing the new monthly newsletter design, our design firm first brought the richly textural illustration you see on page one — minus the path. I wasn’t sure that said enough about us as a liberal religious community, so I gave my sister a call. She has a vocabulary twice the size of mine, and I illustrate her book covers. She suggested that a trail of some sort would suit the illustration. I remembered that we each need to find our own path. And thus the title was born.

New Programming—Climate & Authors

On the last page of this newsletter, you'll see a new calendar for posting on your fridge. In it, on Tuesdays, you'll see a couple new items of interest: The Climate Series and the Authors Series. Both are at 7:00pm on Tuesdays. The Climate Series captures 2nd Tuesdays, and the Author Series takes the 3rd.



On September 14th, we have a hybrid event (tune in online or come in person) “Bicycle Infrastructure, Transportation & Social Equity.” That doesn’t all fit in the calendar of course, but that’s the target of the panel. Our speakers for that panel are Aaron Baker, Lauren Agrella-Sevilla, Doug Miller and Lynn Barnett. Did you know that the cost of ownership for a car each year averages about \$11,000? And that the cost of ownership for a bicycle is under \$1000? For folks working at minimum wage, a bike could save a lot of money, if the distance between home and work isn’t too far.

E-bikes, of course, make those distances shorter and less work (read “less sweaty”), so we will have the Pace 350 that’s being

raffled on stage with our panel guests.

Our Author Series kicks off with one of our Men’s Group writers, Gus Napier. Jim Hardy will interrogate the poor man as he expounds on the book he co-authored: “The Family Crucible: The Intense Experience of Family Therapy.”

I am looking for assistance in lining up authors for this series. In October, we have Nicola Karesh, who will be questioned by Sheila Mooney. Nothing else is yet pinned down. If you’re willing to assist with that (and work with Victoria Kerr and Don Lander), please [send me an email](#). —RK

Website Makeover

RK Young

Just a brief note on the website— we are attempting to make it easier to be able to “take a peek” at our website, and have gotten rid of one menu... more may be facing the cutting room floor! Do take a look—we hope the design changes make the page more accessible for members, too. The calendar, in particular, is at the bottom of the home page instead of under another menu.

Our website is completely device-responsive—depending on what device you are using to look at it, it will reconfigure itself. So if you look at the home page on a desktop, the calendar will have images. If you look at it on your phone in portrait mode, it won’t. But if you turn your phone sideways, voilà! The images will be revealed.

It’s magic. ;)

Meditation for the End of Summer

Rev. Bob Renjilian

We take this moment to pause,
Recognizing the seasons of our lives
And the lessons of nature.

In this summertime it seems each time we've looked away,
The weeds have returned, obscuring what is of value in our gardens.
So it is time once again to pull and tend, so that we can see what is important to nurture.
Just because it has appeared in the hot sun, does not mean we have to keep it.
So too let us carefully choose in life what we want to nurture to fruition,
And not lose sight of what is important to us:
Our relationships, our health, our spirituality, our goals,
Deserve to stand out, and not be overshadowed by a crowd of distractions.
So we kneel again, reach our hands to the stem at the soil line, and pull.

It is easier to do if we've kept at it frequently,
Less easy, and more yard waste, if a weed has taken root for a while.
Our lives are like that too. It is harder to get rid of a habit or distraction if we've put up with it, or ignored it, for a long while.
It is summer, and it does not take long for the weeds to take over.
So we learn to be vigilant, or not, and have an easy time of clearing away what we don't want, or not.
May our weeds remain small and easy to pull.
May our gardens bring the harvest we want.
You'd think we'd deserve a rest from this task, but not during the summertime.
So pause and kneel again, even if we did it last week, and take time to sort it out.
Not all seasons are like this, so this is the meditation for now.



Photo by [Andrea Lightfoot](#) on [Unsplash](#)

September 2021 at UUTC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Water Communion September 5th	Bring a container of water to the service to be added to our	MEALS ON WHEELS is this month's Social Justice Giving		3 pm French Conversation Grp	Wayfinding Newsletter	
5 9:00 am streamed 9 & 11 in-person service 5:30-7:30 BYOB at the RING	6	7 9 am Men's Group Zoom 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 3:45 NAACP Education Mtg	8	9 3 pm French Conversation Grp 5:30 Rainbow Alliance	10 Check email for UUPDATE	11
12 9:00 am streamed service 9 & 11 in-person service	13	14 9 am Men's Group Zoom 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 7 pm Climate Series Transportation on Two Wheels	15	16 3 pm French Conversation Grp	17 Check email for UUPDATE	18
19 9:00 am streamed service 9 & 11 in-person service 5 pm By-Laws Forum	20	21 9 am Men's Group Zoom 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 7 pm Author Series Changing the Rules on Therapy	22	23 3 pm French Conversation Grp 5:30 pm Board of Trustees mtg	24 Check email for UUPDATE	25
26 9:00 am streamed service 9 & 11 in-person service 12:30 Soul Matters hybrid discussion 1:00 Apple Picking@ Jeter Mtn (All ages) 3:30 Book Group	27	28 9 am Men's Group Zoom 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green	29	30 3 pm French Conversation Grp	See Wayfinding September newsletter for details! Also check your UUpdates!	Current UUTC Library Hours: Mondays 10-1 Tuesdays 10-1 Thursdays 10-12 Fridays 3-5