



# UU UPDATE

OCTOBER 30th, 2015

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## UNCERTAINTY

by Pedro Sandin— Sunday, November 1st

Throughout history and up to this very day, certainty has played an appalling role in many of the worst instances of human action. In view of such a history, one would wonder why we seem to have not learned to be cautious and tentative before certainty, rather than craving it as we seemingly do. What if we were to cultivate, rather, a spirituality based on uncertainty, especially in the face to face encounters with other human beings?

*Please join us for worship on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m., and for coffee and fellowship at 10:30.*

## WHY UUTC IS HOME

After my Christian neighbors took me to Biltmore Baptist and to Davidson River Presbyterian, I asked where were the liberals....religiously and politically. They pointed me to UUTC. The first day, so many were so friendly and soon I decided to join the choir in order to have a "smaller" group to belong to while I got to know the larger congregation. I think I officially joined in January 2007 and immediately joined the Grounds Team which I still serve on now 8 years later. Since then, I have served on every committee and on the Board. I love the Principles and the openness of all to accepting each of us in our search for our own spiritual truths.

Carol MacAllister

## TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK SAT NIGHT

### NEXT WEEK at UUTC

**Mindfulness Community** – Mon 11/2 @ 7:00pm

**Morning Meditation** — Tues 11/3 @ 7:00am

**Men's Group** – Tue 11/3 @ 9:00am

**Staff Mtg** — Tue 11/3 @ noon

**Dream Group** – Tue 11/3 @ 2:30pm

**SMART Recovery** – Tue 11/3 @ 6:00pm

**Eclectics Jam** – Wed 11/4 @ 9:00am

**Being Group** – Wed 11/4 @ 1:00pm

**Morning Meditation** — Thurs 11/5 @ 7:00am

**Women's Mtg** — Thurs 11/5 @ 12:30pm

**End of Life Conversation** — Thurs 11/5 @ 2:00pm

**Drum Circle** — Thurs 11/5 @ 7:00pm

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

There is so much going on that I've been looking for ways to communicate it all to you. Some of you may have been in church Sunday when I couldn't help myself and stood up suddenly to talk about the importance of a Visioning Retreat.

**At Tuesday's meeting, the Board discussed our sense that we needed more input from (and wanted to better communicate with) the congregation.** Consequently, we voted to **postpone the congregational Visioning Retreat until sometime in the New Year.** (More later.) We decided that our big dreams will become a reality only when the congregation is excited about the future and feels optimistic that these ideas can be adequately funded. Our Beloved Community can be even stronger!

Paula is providing the opportunity to explore new ideas of how we may grow from a pastoral congregation to a program congregation. Another aspect of Paula's work and role – as spelled out by our interim search committee – is to help us prepare for a settled minister to arrive in August 2017. **Her "outsider" eyes are allowing us to get glimpses of how we may be seen by those candidates.** After three months, our congregation seems to be on the spectrum between "I've got concerns" and "I'm wildly excited".

While we have wonderful opportunities ahead, there is much preparatory work to be done. For instance, the Board has named a task force to examine changes to make more effective use of our building. We may need to revisit how we manage our funds as well as our mindset about raising funds. **It is vital to have your input as we determine our Vision and Mission.**

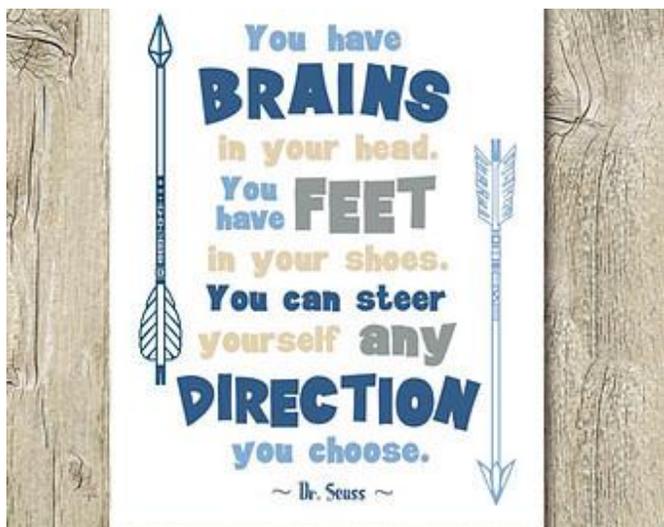
**I want to remind us that Paula is only here for an interim period. She is a facilitator. It is up to us to determine and plan our future.** The changes to date that we've been experiencing have happened at the direction of either the Board or some other UUTC body. Your board decided it was necessary to make the Administrator position full time, even though the position had not been included in the annual budget. It was the Worship Team who introduced the Joys and Sorrows journal. You'll hear more about this on Sunday, November 1. Your input will determine how we

address these and other changes and which ones may need further revision. Please share your concerns and ideas with us any way that works for you.

**Watch for the announcement of a congregational Forum coming Soon.**

All my best to you all,

Peg Hall, President



## NOVEMBER 29TH — BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

### RESCHEDULED!

Both services, for all ages—Bring your well-behaved companions on leashes, in baskets, crates, tanks or whatever they call home, for a special blessing in our sanctuary.



You might choose to bring a framed photo of your pet, as we will have a special **Time of Remembrance** to mourn the loss of “furry, feathered and scaled family members.” Mark your pet’s calendar for this service!



*Future Choir Member Cora Rock gets acquainted with the hymnal.*

Last Week’s LHHH Luncheon was a big success, with music from Ed H., John A. and Paula throughout the meal.



## ELECTRONIC GIVING

UUTC offers an electronic donation service through the secure payment processor Vanco. You may make a one-time donation, or recurring donations on a schedule of your choosing. Vanco can process your donation through your bank account, or use a credit card for convenience and points! Over a third of the congregation has chosen to donate through Vanco – you can also. Click [GIVE](#) on our website [uutc.org](http://uutc.org) and follow the simple directions. Dave Roberts, the UUTC Treasurer, will be happy to assist you.

[Click here to give it a try! —>](#)





## WORSHIP TEAM NEWS— JOYS & SORROWS

To strengthen our services, the Worship Team has been investigating how other churches handle Joys and Sorrows. The Team feels that is an important part of the service and wants to insure that everyone is heard and understood. It is also important for the Loving Hearts, Helping Hands team to receive an accurate record of the joys and sorrows expressed for follow up.

In response to these objectives and meaningful practices of other UU churches, a journal will be available before each service in which each member can write their specific joy and/or sorrow. The member will have the option to sign their entry or have their listing be anonymous. During the service, the minister will read these entries to the congregation. While this is a change in our service, it has proven successful in other Unitarian Universalists congregations.

**Many congregations have 50 years of recorded history (or more) in their journals—and what a treasure!** Help us make our oral history recorded history by trying out our new Joys & Sorrows Journal.

You can find the Journal on the front counter, with a pen, on Sunday mornings.

## WHAT DO THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS MEAN?

In last week's issue of the UU Update, the Board posted a draft agenda for the meeting that took place on October 27th. At the top of that agenda, a count of current Members and Friends was included. This indicated a current Member Count of 155 and a current Friend Count of 99. All good, at least until you compare it to the "January Certification" for 2015 of 166... or the "February Certification" for 2014 of 183.

So what gives?

What gives is that your Membership Team has been working diligently to remove from the rolls people who have moved, resigned or otherwise disassociated themselves from UUTC as a congregation. Some of these disassociations are years old—where people have stayed on the rolls only because a call was not made to verify their preferences.

Anyone who has logged into our new software and attempted to pull up a Directory will also be aware that the database is even worse—with over 800 names, many of whom no longer live in the area.

Cleaning up our records completely will take a while, so expect those membership numbers to continue to fluctuate a bit ... and for the database itself to take even longer to get straightened out. Your patience, as always, is greatly appreciated!

# SOCIAL ACTION TEAM NEWS

## SOCIAL ACTION FOR NOVEMBER: UUSC

UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, is Social Action's agency for November and is the only agency UUTC sponsors that supports people outside Transylvania County. UUSC is a leading voice for human rights and social justice in the United States and in 21 countries around the world. UUSC focuses on Civil Liberties and Democratic Processes, Economic Justice, advancing workers' rights and living wage campaigns, the Human Right to Water, and Rights in Humanitarian Crises. UUSC also responds to disasters, defending the rights of marginalized and oppressed populations who are often left out of recovery efforts.

Cash or checks written to UUSC are most welcome. **Individual or family contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar** by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, N.Y.--**doubling the impact of your gift.**



## FOOD DRIVE FOR SHARING HOUSE

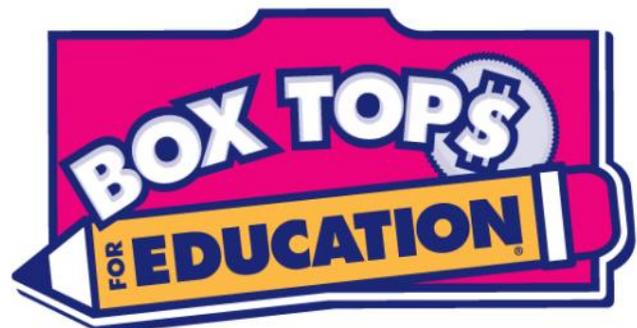
UUTC attendees frequently say they'd like to be helpful in ways other than writing a check. Here's your chance. Twice a year, Sharing House sponsors a food drive to help fill their shelves for needy people. Will you consider giving an hour of your time between 10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, to ask K-Mart shoppers if they'd be willing to purchase a few items for Sharing House? Sign-up at the front counter!

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please save your BOX TOPS for Education and bring them to UUTC. Emily and Heather will split up the collection and donate to our county schools. Schools earn cash rewards for educational programs. See this website for more information:

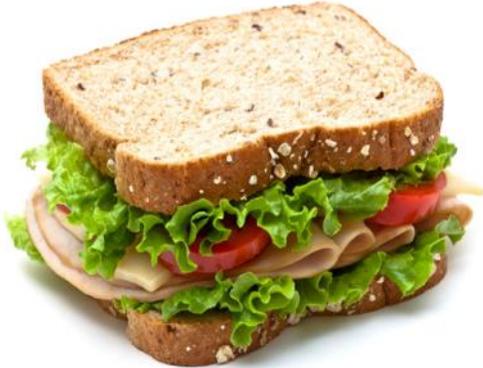
<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

A collection box is on the left side of the front counter. Thanks!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## THIS SUNDAY IS SANDWICH SUNDAY!



Get to know Members, Friends and visitors at **Sandwich Sunday on November 1st** after the 11:00 service. Bring a sandwich (and maybe one to share?) and a piece of fruit or chips. The Membership Team will provide lemonade. We'll gather in the Social Hall, unless the weather is fabulous (then the park!). Coffee time is never long enough—come join us in expanded social time! Contact Elizabeth Thompson at [etville@gmail.com](mailto:etville@gmail.com) or **384-0778** for more information.

## END OF LIFE CONVERSATION • (NOT) CONCLUDING OCTOBER 29th

Adult Religious Exploration is sponsoring a series on end of life planning to be held on Thursday afternoons, from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. Betty Kendrick will lead the session on October 29th and will demonstrate how to have conversations with parents, children, siblings, etc. about your wishes for end of life care. Betty has just completed training in a new program entitled The Conversation Project. On November 5th, Jim Null will re-present the first workshop of the series, which deals with some nuts & bolts on costs and other info. If you have questions, contact Jim Null at 877-2550 or [jnull69@citcom.net](mailto:jnull69@citcom.net).

## MORNING MEDITATION TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 7:00AM

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9am

Paula Gable has begun an informal morning meditation program in the sanctuary. Although you may come and go as your schedule permits, participants are encouraged to be seated before each meditation period begins. Wearing loose-fitting, comfortable clothing is recommended, and you may bring your own mats and cushions, or simply sit in a chair.



For questions, comments, requests or suggestions, please contact Paula at 553-9410 or [revpaula@uutc.org](mailto:revpaula@uutc.org).

## INTERGEN GAME NIGHT! • NOVEMBER, FRIDAY THE 13TH



UUTC will be hosting a game night on November 13th. **Sandwiches, childcare and tea or water will be provided.** Feel free to bring something to share or the beverage of your choice! Just a time to have some fun and get to know each other better. Have a favorite game? Bring that, too! Register [HERE](#) or sign up at the front counter (not both, please!) to help us know how many sandwiches to have on hand.



Elizabeth, Meighan, Lynn & Ben battle the Rummikub.

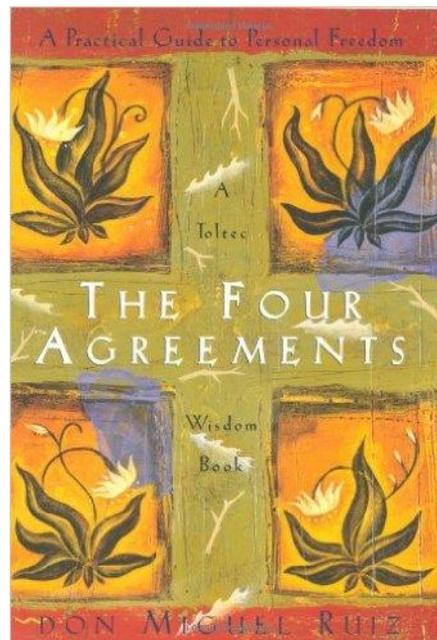
If you (or your child) has food allergies, please bring something you know is safe to eat. When you register, if you are bringing a child, please be sure to include them in your reservations.

Game Night will be hosted once a month, on a Friday night. Our first Game Night featured Mexican Train, Farkle and Rummikub, though we had many more options. Join us!

## THE FOUR AGREEMENTS COVENANT CIRCLE • STARTING NOVEMBER 15TH

If reading ahead does not fit in with your schedule AND you would love to have a sharing experience with others, please join us for a new type of covenant circle. We will be **listening** to the book, The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz (as read by Peter Coyote) and then taking time to reflect and share with another.

Participants are not required to purchase the book--although it will be helpful! The book is designed to help us to a path of personal freedom by learning how to follow these agreements: *Be impeccable with your word, Don't take things personally, Don't make assumptions, and Do your best.* The circle starts November 15 and will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month and will end in May. Sign-ups are at the front counter—*space is limited.*



## MEET YOUR USHERS

Ushering is one of those tasks of Ministry that gets kind of “comfortable.” It’s a task that doesn’t go home with you but is instantly gratifying and simple to do.



Early service ushers begin by setting out hymnals at about 9:00 on Sundays. They may be called on to grab a glass of water for the speaker, but otherwise will stand by the entry doors to the sanctuary to hand out bulletins to those who arrive. In addition, they may pass out envelopes for the Social Action Outreach or provide large-print bulletins or hearing assistance devices for those who request either.



When the music begins, ushers close the doors to keep lobby noises out of the sanctuary. At appropriate times during the service, ushers may be required to take a microphone to someone who needs to speak. One of the ushers will bring in the Joys & Sorrows Journal for those remembrances to be read during the service. In addition, ushers pass the offering baskets and take a “head count” of those in attendance, including everyone except the speaker. Ushers working the second service take up the hymnals after that service and return them to their cabinets.



At the end of each service, the ushers collect the offering and use envelopes provided by the bookkeeper to record the number of people in attendance, the number of envelopes for Social Action, and the offerings received. These records are then dropped into the lockbox in the A/V room (where most ushers do the paperwork). Both ushers are required to sign the documentation after each does a count of the collection.

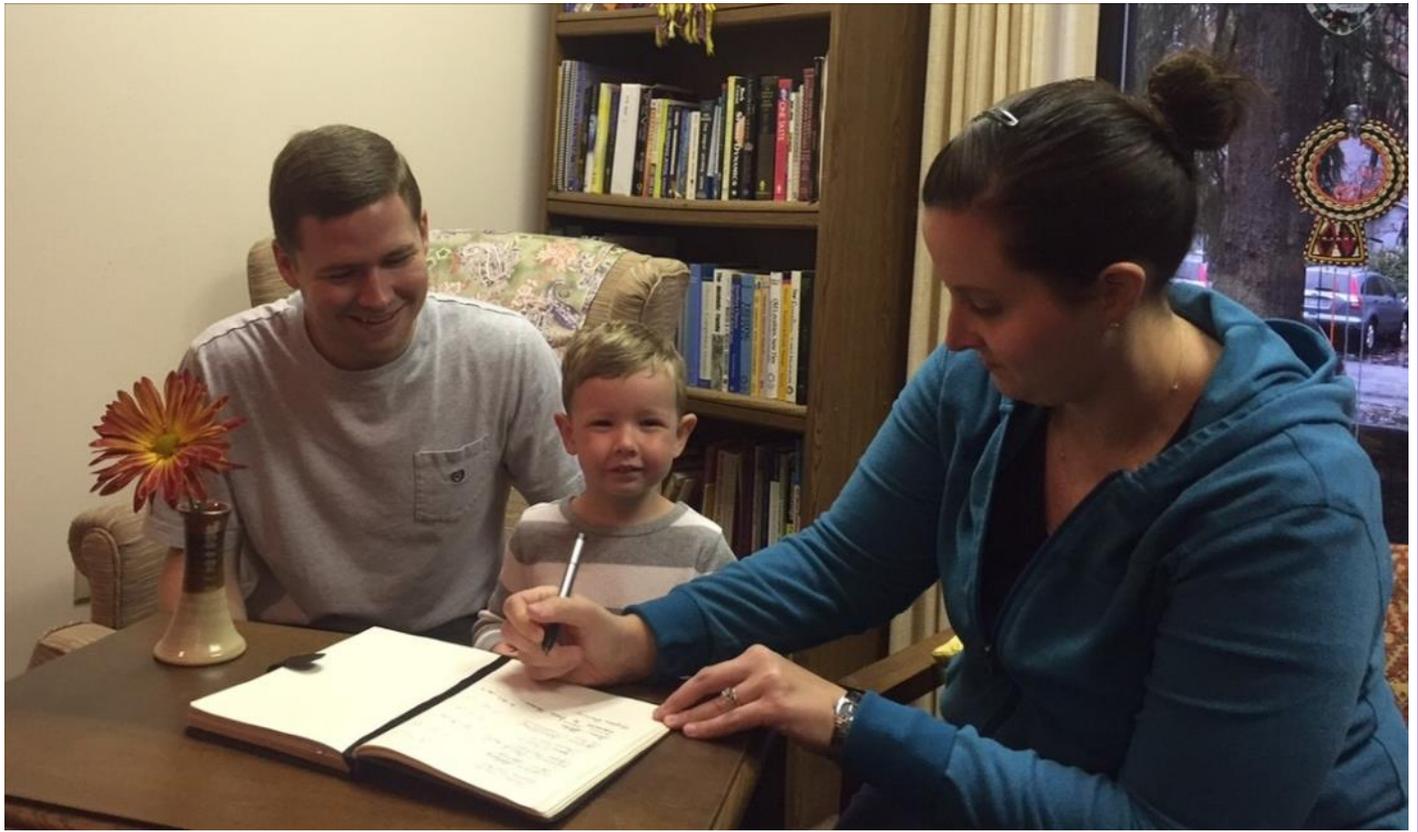


The people you see here are just a few of our Members and Friends who serve as ushers—Joanna Bliss, David & Tricia Parker, Jeanne Smith, Barbi & Wayne Smith, RK Young & Kay Webb—others, including Carol MacAllister, Karla Maar, Christine Schmidt and David Warinner are regulars. Due to travel and other commitments (like choir), we are always in need of a few more people to serve as ushers. If you think this is something you would like to try, just email the [office](#) and RK will get you started!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ben & Meighan Browning, with son Conner, have “signed the book!”



## BUILDING USE TASK FORCE

An update of the data collected from the last building assessment in 2010 is now underway, and if you are interested in thinking about how to best use our space and visioning how we can make it more effective for our needs, please contact [the office](#) so we can get you into the loop. The Task Force is currently comprised of Meighan Browning, Paula Gable, Lynn Halsey, Jim Hardy, and RK Young.



Is alternative transportation making its way to UUTC?

We will be quantifying current use, considering various renovation scenarios, considering “timeliness” of renovations and getting concrete numbers for what these scenarios might cost. We might, among other things, need a bike rack. Information from the updated assessment will be shared with the Board for use in determining the best fit for the Congregation’s Vision. Join us!



*"We are the certain and the seeking, the lifers and the newcomers, the beloved and the brokenhearted, the insiders and the rejected, all of whom have found a home in the extraordinary, yet intimate, communities of Unitarian Universalism."*

Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC Host

*Our mission is to create a community that encourages free spiritual discovery and growth, celebrates personal and religious diversity, and promotes active, responsible involvement in the larger community.*

**Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.**

## PHOTO SHOOT FOR THE DIRECTORY—NOVEMBER 7TH



You, too can look this great— but you must contact [Barbi Smith](#) and let her know that **you want to be scheduled for the Photo Shoot on Saturday, November 7th.** Well-behaved canines can also be included. And don't forget—children grow. It may be time to update that photo!

Members and Friends may request the PDF of the most recent Members and Friends Photo Directory by email —click here! [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).

## KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

VIEW our [church calendar](#). This is the calendar which has ALL events.

For previous issues of the UU Update, contact the office at [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).

SEND news for this newsletter by 10:00am on Wednesdays.

## CONTACT US

Our Minister is the Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable. To reach her out of the office, call **828-553-9410**.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. 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 24 Varsity Street, at the corner of South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).