

UUTC UPDATE

Inclusive. Intentional. *Involved.*

Office Hours

The office is open Mon-Fri from 9 to noon and by appointment. Time with the Minister can be scheduled on Tuesdays from 9:30am-2:00pm & Wednesday from 12-4:30pm.

Pastoral Care

Going through a rough spot? Have surgery coming up? Call (877) 510-5603 or email lhjh@uutc.org.

Nursery Care

Our Nursery is open Sunday mornings from 9:00am to noon for children ages 0-3. Take advantage of either service at your convenience—our childcare staff would love to welcome your child.

Coming Up at UUTC

NOT MUCH THIS WEEK! :)

Eclectics — Wed 12/19 @ 9:30am

If you have not had time to enjoy the sweet sounds of the Eclectics, take advantage of this slower-paced week and come listen! They start at 9:30 and play until 11:00am.



Sunday

Sunday, December 23rd

WHY WE RING BELLS AT CHRISTMAS

Rev. Jean Rowe

The Chinese called bells “singing stones,” and Egyptians, Jews and Greeks rang them for their feasts and ceremonies. For Christians, bells became heralds calling believers to worship. In the Middle Ages, bells were sources of inspiration announcing Jesus’ redemption of the world. Upon hearing the chimes, believers were to respond with proper reverence.

Join us for coffee at 10:30am!

“When one bell is rung, by the sound of that one bell, other bells will also vibrate.

So it is with the dancing of the soul...it produces its reaction, and that again, will make other souls dance.”

— *Hazrat Inayat Khan*

Muffins with the Minister

Our January “Muffins” date is **January 28th**. Come have coffee, talk with Rev. Ilene and others who join the fun! This is a laid back, easy way to learn something new about others in the congregation, including Rev. Ilene. Runs from 10:00am to noon.

Social Justice Giving



You are invited to help stock Dignity Pantries for 4 organizations: El Centro, Sharing House, The Haven, Bread of Life, and SAFE. You'll recall we have taken on the task of delivering items which are NOT eligible for purchase through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – most notably, menstrual hygiene products, diapers, and condoms—items which our neighbors desperately need in order to fully feel their inherent worth and dignity. We also provide razors and deodorant and other similar items that help in getting and retaining employment. Remember to make out your check to UUTC with “Dignity” on the memo line. What better way to show our commitment to the first principle of “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” than to help others? Thank you for your generous contributions.

The Haven will be our January opportunity to support a Social Justice agency.



SUNDAY, A WEEK FROM NOW

“Why We Must Choose Love”

Abigail Cooley is an advocate at SAFE, Inc. of Transylvania County. She works with local organizations to educate people about intimate partner violence, to build collaborations with service providers and to support people



who want to make changes in their way of relationships. She moved to the Brevard area 3 years ago to be near the mountains and to get involved in rural social services. She attends the Grace Brevard Presbyterian Church.

Her message on “Why We Must Choose Love” focuses on the ways we can love people and how we can teach others to love, especially in the hard places. She will talk about the different kinds of love and how love helps us become resilient and masterful in our relationships and in community.

UU HISTORY: DAY CLASS STARTS JAN 28TH

New to Unitarian Universalism? Need a refresher on the history of our progressive faith tradition? Have questions about how we got to be the way we are? Rev. Ilene starts the second section of this course on the history of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the modern UU beginning late January.

If you have not already signed up, there is still time. Call or [email](#), or drop by and put your name on the sign-up list at the front desk. This will be a three-session course. The first session begins Monday, January 28th, at 1:00pm, and will meet in the sanctuary. It continues on the following two Mondays.



PREPARING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



As paperwork is completed, the arrival date of a new DCRE gets closer. Your Facilities Team once again showed up and busted their collective body parts to make sure that we are physically, operationally, prepared for the transition.

One of the problems with cramming two people in one office is that neither party is guaranteed an ability to work undisturbed. This was something I felt dreadful about, when folks would need to meet with me—and Heather had to work with all of the conversation that generates. Heather NEVER complained about this—let me be clear!—but, faced with setting up for someone new, I requested help from Facilities, and they delivered in a big way.

A new, smaller desk was purchased so that our new DCRE can work in the small classroom (office time will be scheduled so that no group comes in to use that room when the DCRE needs it). It was ordered Monday of this week, arrived Tuesday (!!), and Janice Canon assembled it on Wednesday. While she was working on that, Bob & Mary Bennett unloaded the remaining contents of the old desk that had once lived in the minister's office and stashed all necessary things out of the way. They then disassembled the desk and moved the pieces to the foyer for later disposal. Later turned out to be while I was at lunch—apparently, Bob & Mary have the strength of apes.



THEN, after cleaning the area where the former desk had been, the Bennetts took the music out of the lateral file holding the vast majority of our "Music Library" and moved it into the AV room, with Janice's help. Janice was then able to set the new desk into it's proper location.

Still to do is the re-formatting of the hard drive of this computer, which once belonged to Carolyn Fredley (thank you for that gift, Fredleys!). The RAM has been quadrupled, making it run faster, but a reformatting of the drive will eliminate the system anomalies that come when we've been using a device like this for many years. This iMac dates to 2011, but is working just fine. The new desk cost us about \$120, the new RAM another hundred— a bit more will be spent for a surge protector and new mouse pad. The final step will be dropping a new ethernet jack into place so that our new DCRE will be able to print to the copier and work on the Secure network. Thanks to all for their help! — RK

UUA LEGACY CHALLENGE WRAPS UP

The “Wake Now Our Vision” legacy giving campaign has been a colossal success, with over 92 million in legacy challenge forms submitted.

From the [website](#): “The Legacy Challenge will strengthen the future of Unitarian Universalism through legacy giving. Your legacy gifts support our institutions and congregations in bringing people together as we work toward a world with more love and justice. The generous Legacy Challenge grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock has been completely allocated at this time.”

Of the gifts designated, 85% of the matches will go to individual congregations and about 15% is designated to the Wake Now Our Vision partners who envisioned and created the campaign.

A legacy gift to is a planned future donation to a charity, given through a will or other form of designation. It is a decision that each person makes in their own financial planning process, taking into account their charitable wishes and values. Six people from UUTC created new designated gifts benefitting UUTC or one of the other Legacy Challenge approved partners. It should be noted that many other individuals have set up planned giving for the benefit of UUTC—these could not be considered for the matching funds from Shelter Rock, which were to encourage *new* gifts and raise awareness for the impact that these gifts can have on the health of our local congregations and our larger UU faith.

Legacy giving can be an essential part of stewardship. These gifts compliment annual pledge drives and other means of building fiscal health—they do not compete with regular giving. Even though the matching funds have all now been allocated, a legacy gift to UUTC can be designated at any time. If you’d like to talk with someone who knows this topic well, consider a conversation with Jim Null or John Held.



STORM DAMAGE

Like so many others, UUTC sustained some significant storm damage to our landscape. In terms of power and the facility itself, our problems amounted to having to reset the time on the answering machine. But



our poor dogwoods really got hit hard, and another white pine on the shared border on our southern side sustained enough damage that the power company was forced to leave significant remains on the sidewalk.

In the Memorial Garden, one shrub was completely uprooted (tipped over) from the weight of the ice/snow burden, and a couple other branches from the decorative maples are on the ground. Many, many of our small trees need attention, and our property edge at Jumping Branch is looking a bit disreputable, as well.



This storm makes our decision to remove those white pines on the southern border look a bit like premonition— it was good we got that accomplished in 2018.



SOLSTICE SERVICE—DECEMBER 21ST, 5:30PM

This year our Winter Solstice Celebration will be A Winter Solstice Singing Ritual created by Julie Forest Middleton and Stasa Morgan-Appel. It will be held on Friday, December 21st at 5:30 PM. Charles Wicker will narrate and Teri Sandoval will lead the music. This ritual, lasting about an hour, is composed of stories and music. Those in attendance are led on an inner journey that explores the nature and benefits of the dark. The ritual helps to renew us and leads us back to resume our outward journey through the darkest time of the year.



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.*

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

Our mailing address is UUTC, PO Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712. Our church is located at the corner of Varsity Street and South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.