



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Carolina Foothills March 2019

**Services at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at
835 N. Trade St., Tryon, NC
www.uufcf.org; Like/follow us on Facebook @ UUFCF
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782**

Upcoming Services

March 3, 2019

“Beloved Community”

Lyndon Harris

One of the foundational guiding metaphors of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s ministry and leadership in the Civil Rights movement is the idea of a “Beloved Community.” The beloved community is the community called to work together for justice through love. One of the best descriptions is his statement, “Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” Come join us on March 3rd, as we probe the depths of this compelling vision and seek ways to embody this idea in our own lives and in our community.

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March 17, 2019

“The Prodigal Son”

Lyndon Harris

To me, one of the most beloved teachings of Jesus is his parable of the Prodigal Son. In this parable, love and forgiveness abound, even as a disgruntled older son refuses to participate. Some of the details of the story are shocking such as the idea that a Jewish son would be so desperate as to resort to feeding swine in order to survive. But even more shocking is the magnanimous love of a Middle Eastern patriarch for a son who, by any reasonable metric, would be considered disqualified and unworthy. But perhaps the timeless nature of the parable of the Prodigal Son has more to do with our own identification with the prodigal. The experience of loneliness, exile, and hunger are common to many of us at one time or another. Perhaps, like the Prodigal, we’re just trying to find our way home to a table where we are welcome and cherished. What secrets might

this parable impart to us modern day prodigals as we seek to find our place in a community where we are cherished? Where our needs are met? Where we are blessed with meaningful work? Where we are able to grow closer to our full potential as blessed human beings? Join us on March 17th, and let's explore what it means to journey toward "home" together.

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*UUFCF services are held at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at
835 N. Trade St., Tryon*

Coffee, light refreshments and fellowship follow our services.

** * * And a BIG THANK YOU to Jane and Whit Diggett for our new coffee pot! * * **

Sign-up sheets to volunteer for providing snacks for coffee, a quote for the chalice lighting, and to be a greeter at the door are on the back table at each service.

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From Lyndon Harris



What a delight it is to serve with you at the UUFCF. I am deeply grateful for and inspired by the fellowship's warm, welcoming, and stimulating conversations and the opportunity to explore the healing path of forgiveness in our Wednesday conversations. In last month's teachings, we explored the powerful experience of hope to inspire transformation, and considered ways to grow our hope as individuals and as a community. We then took the plunge into a consideration of the hopeful future described by Charles Eisenstein as "the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible." However, as we discussed, it seems that the idea of a "more beautiful world" is more prescriptive of what we'd like our future to be than a descriptive assessment of our current reality. It's an idea we know is possible, that it's on its way, but not one that currently holds sway. Like Arundhati Roy says, "...if we listen closely, we can hear it breathing," but we currently only experience this new world in glimpses, in inklings, and in inspiring, but fleeting, moments of connection.

So how do we gain ground as we approach that longed-for reality? How do we work for its manifestation? This is an idea taken up by many great spiritual leaders and sage guides. Perhaps the closest we have come to experiencing the "more beautiful world" is in the throes of a movement for social justice guided by these inspiring leaders. This certainly was the case in the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he spoke eloquently about the "Beloved Community." Another experience of beloved community comes to us in one of the teachings of Jesus in the timeless parable of the Prodigal Son. Continuing our quest to find paths to that more beautiful world, we will dive into these two visions of community in the sermons for March.

Sincerely yours,
Lyndon Harris

Greetings from UUFCF President Robin Edgar

For any of you interested in learning more about other UU activities in our region, I thought the following links might be helpful:

- To get on the Southern Region e-newsletter mailing list, use our congregation's ID 6639 to sign up at www.uua.org/southern.
- Individual Unitarian Universalists are also welcome to share congregational news and events with our Southern Region Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/128511403930295/>.
- They also have a Facebook page where we share general announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/SRUUA/>.
- If you are interested in lending your skills to leave a meaningful impact with a UU College of Social Justice partner organization while strengthening your personal faith through justice work, sign up at: <https://uucsj.org>.

Best regards,
Robin Edgar

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Community Coffee Conversations on Forgiveness

The Community Coffee Conversations on Forgiveness with Lyndon Harris and Robin Edgar are doing well and going strong. Several of the participants say it has really helped them and one even said they wished the sessions would last longer! If you haven't had a chance to attend, please feel free to drop in on the last two sessions on March 13 and 27. The sessions are from 3:30 to 5:00 and if you cannot get there right when it starts, come when you can.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOVE
RESISTS

Dear UU Fellowship,

As the deeply racist and oppressive nature of the Trump administration continues to reveal itself and we see our country returning more and more to overt and often violent methods of disempowering people of color and other vulnerable communities, we can find the strength to remain steadfast in our resistance by reinvesting in solidarity.

Ever faithful in our commitment to building Beloved Community, we must keep our hearts, eyes, and ears open to the guidance and needs of those most at risk. Love Resists the racism that is tearing apart our shared community. And we know we must be courageous in our resistance.

To renew courage and sustain commitment, we've compiled stories, resources and actions on the Love Resists blog. Check them out; we hope they can provide the support and encouragement so needed to stay the course in this work.

As we work together under Love Resists, the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee are in solidarity with communities on the frontlines of resisting the criminalization of people based on their identities. Join the conversation using #LoveResists on Twitter. Follow [@UUA](#) and [@UUSC](#) to stay up to date.

www.loveresists.org

Love Resists is a joint campaign by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.



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Make a Difference in the Lives of Others

Are you interested in lending your skills to leave a meaningful impact with a UU College of Social Justice partner organization while strengthening your personal faith through justice work and you can be among the first to know when new volunteer opportunities arise throughout the year.

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UUFCF on Facebook

Did you know we have a UUFCF group page where members can share thoughts and news?
If you have a Facebook account, check it out:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/391001518030240/>

You do not need a Facebook account to visit the UUFCF Facebook page where you'll find the most up to date information about UUFCF programs and other information of interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/UUFCF/>