



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship *of the Carolina Foothills*

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For more information, go to: [www.uufcf.org](http://www.uufcf.org) Like/follow us on Facebook @ UUFCF

NOTE: NO ON-SITE SERVICES WILL BE HELD THIS MONTH



*Let's all stay at home this month and remain healthy!*



## Catching Up...



• **Meaningful Discussions**  
*followed the March 15 service led by guest speaker Diane Richard-Allerdyce on the topic of hunger, both world -wide and local*

• **Call for Board Nominations**  
*The search committee for new board members is actively soliciting candidates to take over positions of retiring positions. Contact Dave Edgar or Maria Lund*

• **Fellowship Volunteers**  
*Thanks to our February volunteers: Greeters - Kathy Fischer and Robin Edgar  
Chalice Quotes – Joy Soderquist and Barbara Moffit;  
Hospitality – Gretchen Boyd and Becky Kraai*

*Our Next Service, On Line and/or By Phone on April 5, 2020*

## Welcome to the Virtual Fellowship!

Dear Ones,

In this challenging time, how do we take care of ourselves? How do we take care of each other? How do we find resilience and hope? In my last letter I wanted to strike a note of encouragement and connection, even with social distancing in place.

So, with your support and participation, I'd like to host a virtual fellowship on the computer platform, ZOOM, for our next fellowship. I have used ZOOM for quite some time now for teaching and business matters, and it has the capacity for us to gather together from our own respective places. ZOOM is easy to use, and you don't have to purchase anything. In the email this newsletter was attached to, there is a link for you to click on, and it will take you directly to the meeting. With ZOOM we have the opportunity to interact with one another, and to have the opportunity for conversation. I'll offer a few spiritual thoughts, and I'll ask for your thoughts. Maybe Becky and Derek can play some music for us, and we can check in with one another. If you don't have access to a computer that Sunday, you can call in and participate by telephone (**any telephone**).

The march of time through this unfolding pandemic is slow and painful, and sometimes overwhelming. And it's even worse when we feel alone. But together we can find support and encouragement. Together we share memories, experiences, our challenges, and maybe our latest favorite movie. Together we are stronger and more resilient. Let's give it a try!



Warmly,  
*Lyndon*

.....

Sermon for April 5, 2020 –Lyndon Harris  
**Hope in Troubling Times:**  
**The Coronavirus,**  
**Community... and You**

In her article, "Preparing for Coronavirus to Strike the U.S." journalist Zeynep Tufekci says that "...getting ready for the possibility of major disruptions is not only smart; it's also our civic duty." (Scientific American, February 27, 2020). She writes that, in response to the coronavirus (Covid-19), "We should prepare, not because we may feel personally at risk, but so that we can help lessen the risk for everyone. We should prepare not because we are facing a doomsday scenario out of our control, but because we can alter every aspect of this risk we face as a society." Tufekci makes a strong case that staying home (also known as "social distancing") is one of the most pro-social, altruistic things we can do in response to the potential disruptions of this dangerous global pandemic.

But how do we maintain community, when we stay at home? Isn't hunkering down just another danger in disguise? – a justification for social isolationism? Are there ways to "stay in touch" from a (social) distance? How can we support one another and build community during these trying times? Join us Sunday morning, April 5th, for a lively discussion on "Finding Hope in Troubling Times"

## *Zoom Invite!*

Lyndon Harris is sending you an invitation:

Topic: April 5<sup>th</sup> UUFC Fellowship Meeting  
Time: Apr 5, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting by internet:

<https://zoom.us/j/659634488>

Meeting ID: 659 634 488

Join Zoom Meeting by phone:

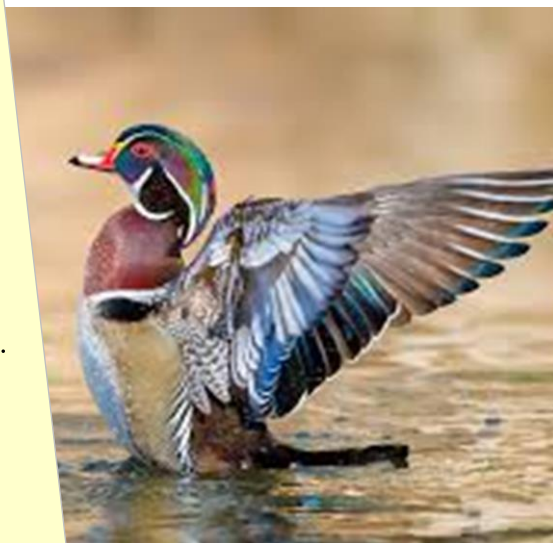
(253) 215 8782

or (301) 715 8592

Here's one of my favorite poems that I hope will be inspiring to you. It gives me great comfort. It's by Wendell Berry:

### **The Peace of Wild Things**

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



**Unitarian Universalist affirmation:**

*Love is our doctrine,  
the quest for truth is our sacrament,  
and service is our prayer."*

## Lyndon Harris & Maria Lund – *Part 2: Maria*



To look at Maria Lund, one might not see the adventurous spirit that helps define her, but a brief conversation with this bright soul reveals a past packed with restless moves and bold decisions. It started quietly enough. Born and raised in the town of Plantation, Florida, adjacent to Ft. Lauderdale, Maria was the youngest of four children, her dad a CPA and her mom, a native Floridian, the President of Tri-Delta Sorority. By the time she left home to attend college at Clemson University, her dad had passed away and she worked odd jobs to pay for tuition and living expenses. That was a struggle until she was accepted to a program sponsored by Texas Instruments in her junior year, a paid position that led to permanent employment. Her majors? Computer Science and Business... exactly what TI was looking for, and what helped her to become one of only two candidates hired from South Carolina. Her role was to program computer updates for payroll applications, a dry business for a young, energetic single girl

raised on the coast of Florida. So after a couple of years, she quit, and much to her mother's horror, began traveling around the country, camping here and there for six months. Eventually her wandering brought her back to South Carolina, where for a brief period she took up farming. (Well, sure... farming's a natural choice for computer programmers with business experience, right?) When Maria realized she should probably go back to school for a Master's Degree, she chose Western Carolina, and this time majored in Clinical Psychology. And to pursue a professional career in this field, she moved to... Alaska? (Maria explains that the 49<sup>th</sup> state was desperate for psychologists, and didn't mind that she wasn't a PhD.) She took up residence in what has been described as the 'fishing capital of the world,' Kenai, where she worked in the town's Community Mental Health Center. After four years there, she learned her mother's health was deteriorating, and because there's no such thing as a quick trip from Alaska, she once again made her way back to South Carolina, where she found the ideal employment in an Employee Assistance Program. She's been there in one role or another since 1992 and today serves as their president, overseeing a staff of 19. Most are counselors who work with businesses and their employees to provide free organizational consultation, mental health counseling and other helpful services. But her return to the Palmetto State hasn't been all business...she married in 1997 and remained married for a decade, ultimately admitting to herself he was the wrong guy for her. When that ended (amicably, no less) she waited for the right guy to come along, and on a hike with Western Carolina's Land Conservancy, walked beside another adventurer named Lyndon. This began a beautiful dream for Maria. As they began to meet for other hikes, she discovered that both had always wanted to hike Spain's *Camino de Santiago ending in Finisterre*, which means "*End of the World*." At this spot, pilgrims traditionally throw a rock, symbolic of their past lives, off a cliff into the sea. It was at this very tip of Spain, representing the end of their journey, that Lyndon proposed to Maria. They actually married last year back in South Carolina, on Edisto Beach, with Tigg's Pond's Posey Jackson conducting the ceremony. Posey had lived on a boat, and understood ocean currents. She explained to those gathered that the stones thrown off of Spain's coast would have been swept up into the Gulf Stream and, as prisoners of the powerful current, travelled across the Atlantic, where they would be deposited right here on the Carolina coast. She then produced two heart-shaped stones, symbolic of Lyndon's and Maria's long journey to find each other. And now we've found *them*!



## Editorial: *What can I do?*

Every news program we hear or see these days provides the latest updates on the Covid-19 coronavirus. In the midst of reports of its escalation and correlating changes to our lifestyle, we witness how different people react in a crisis. Some respect the warnings by keeping their distance and frequently washing their hands, some think it can't happen to them, and some actually go out and purchase guns, fearing the ultimate survival-of-the-fittest scenario. What I've noticed is how everyone's true personality emerges in the face of uncertainty and concern. I watch how people deny, blame, ignore, fear, justify, or simply accept the facts about this emerging pandemic.

It occurs to me that one of the few silver linings in such a crisis is that each of us has an opportunity to look inward and assess what's really important in our lives. In a recent writer's workshop, I and my fellow participants were asked to write our own obituaries, which I think you'll agree is a sobering assignment, given our current state of affairs. Some had difficulty with real facts and made up fantastical narratives to simply amuse the group. Others, like me, realized career highlights and material achievements were far less important than being remembered as someone who was beloved, contributed to the community or worked for a greater cause.

Stay with me as I intersect this realization with something I saw on PBS. In a program titled *Networld*, [<https://www.pbs.org/show/niall-fergusons-networld/>] host Niall Ferguson showed with computer modeling how small acts or gestures can influence the entire world in unexpected ways. We've all heard of the ripple effect and the butterfly effect, but this was a computerized demonstration of the networking process that reminded me of a moving and migrating underground root system, interlaced with other root systems, growing and changing constantly. It was also a reminder to me that what I say and do every day can have a subtle but very real impact on those around me and even on my own future. (And maybe what will be written in my obituary!)

This brings me to a conclusion I've reached before, but these days there seems to be a spotlight on it, and it's this: I can do SOMETHING. Maybe I can't argue someone into thinking like me, but I can demonstrate that I don't think like them. I may be the wrong person to run for political office, but I can campaign or vote for whom I think is the right person. I may not be qualified to be a church treasurer, but I know how to create a newsletter. The bottom line is, everyone can do something, and if we actually believe in the principles that brought us together as a fellowship, we should support it by taking a share of responsibility. If you agree with the simple idea that small things make a big difference, I hope you too will contribute your time to help our fellowship prosper and make (via the butterfly effect) a better world. Whether it's helping set up chairs, organizing a telephone contact chain, bringing a friend, updating the website, or doing whatever you're capable of, remember it all makes a difference.

At the moment, the nominating committee is looking for a few good men/women to serve on the board. I'm considering it, and I hope you will too. If you own a calculator, Gretchen would like to show you how the budget process works. If you own a telephone, you could check on people who we haven't seen recently. So in this time of reflection, wash your hands, stay at home if you can, and consider telling Dave Edgar or Maria Lund you'd like to do your part.

Thanks for reading,  
Don Greeson

