



# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP *of the Carolina Foothills*

Virtual Services via Zoom on the first and third Sundays of each month during the pandemic



*Lake Summit in the Fall*

## Happening in October:

- Oct. 4 – UUF CF Virtual Service
- Oct. 12 – Columbus Day
- Oct. 16 – National Bosses Day
- Oct. 17 – National Pasta Day
- Oct. 18 – UUF CF Virtual Service
- Oct. 31 – Halloween



*Sunday, October 4, 2020 – Lyndon Harris & Jim Minshew*

## The Feast of Saint Francis

### *and Virtual Blessing of Animals*

St. Francis of Assisi, a much beloved Franciscan monk from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, is known as the patron saint of pets and animals. In our presentation last year, “Saint Francis: Beyond the Bird Bath,” we examined the many levels of his life and contributions. In conversation with our dear friend Jim Minshew, a retired Episcopal priest, great excitement was generated about having our own blessing of the animals, one of Jim’s (and my) favorite aspects of parish ministry. This Sunday Jim will join Lyndon in a conversation about the joys of these celebrations, as they share memorable experiences and theological perspectives. Our service will conclude with a “virtual” blessing of the animals, and we ask that you email this week’s Zoom host Becky Kraai pictures of your beloved pets at [rebecca.kraai@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.kraai@gmail.com). This will be fun!

Join the conversation at 10:30 on October 4.

Just go to <https://zoom.us/j/93788587986> or by phone 646-876-9923 - Meeting #93788587986

*Sunday, October 18, 2020 – Lyndon Harris*

## This I Believe: Sharing Our Core Values

From 1951-1955, radio host and luminary, Edward R Murrow, offered a popular series of five-minute broadcasts entitled, “This I Believe.” These captivating interviews and stories were based on the core beliefs of everyone from political leaders, to powerful social critics to the perspectives of everyday folks. The mantle of this movement has been taken up by an international organization called “This I Believe” ([www.thisibelieve.org](http://www.thisibelieve.org)) and their website currently has catalogued over 125,00 statements/essays of belief. This foundational sharing of motivating beliefs has become popular in Unitarian Universalists fellowships. Join us on October 18<sup>th</sup>, when participants from our own fellowship will share our own statements of “This I Believe.” We are really looking forward to this!



Join the conversation at 10:30 on October 18.

Just go to <https://zoom.us/j/99591188843> or by phone 646 876 9923 - Meeting #99591188843



## Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

As I write to you today, we are 36 days from the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election. It seems that so much is at stake; so much is up in the air. The tumultuous political run of the past four years doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon, even if the incumbent is not re-elected. In short, these are trying times. My hope is that you have already voted, or that you have a plan in place to cast your vote either on or before November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

But in these trying times, something equally important to voting is that we maintain our peaceful, compassionate demeanor – as Gandhi put it: “We should be the peace (change) we wish to see in the world. By finding peace within ourselves, we automatically increase the peace of the world. BUT, my personal temptation is to savor the flavor of every incriminating detail coming out about “the other side’s” candidate. Maybe you too? I am too easily tempted to revel in political humor that embarrasses the “other side.” But while that may be fun, it doesn't accomplish much. And it certainly doesn't increase my own peace. It keeps me awake at night. It skews my thinking into cynical directions, and it makes me less happy. I remember vividly when President Obama was giving a political speech denouncing the actions of political adversaries and the crowd starting booing. His response was immediate: “Don't boo. Vote.” Don't boo. Vote. This is sage advice. Our voting is the sacred action - the foundation - upon which our democracy rests. So... let's vote, y'all!

Regarding our “being the peace,” I am including a Facebook post from Episcopal bishop, Steven Charleston. I think it's apropos, whether you're Episcopalian, Unitarian or somewhere in between:

*“People of faith, be alert, be awake, be active: for now is the time to live the peace we preach. The high tide of turmoil around us has not yet been reached. Fear and ignorance are out searching for an opening in hearts wherever they can find them. Anger comes as quickly as if people were a box of matches looking for a way to be lit. In this volatile atmosphere let us be a calm voice of reason. Let us speak with courtesy to all whom we encounter. Let us embody the civility we seek to inspire in others. Even if we think we are only whispering into the wind, our presence will be felt. The people around us are being driven by forces that want a reaction from them. Let us want something else: let us want their shared humanity, their common sense, their mutual hope for a better day. As hard as it may be, speak peace into the storm, knowing that with each word you say you help to calm the soul of a troubled nation.”*

Finally, I'm really excited for what we have lined up in October! On October 4<sup>th</sup>, retired Episcopal priest from Florida, and cherished member of UUFCF, Jim Minshew, will join me in reflecting on the joys of celebrating the annual Feast of Saint Francis and the blessing of animals. We will conclude with a virtual blessing of our pets. Please send any photos you're willing to share, along with names and how long you've had your beloved pet, to Becky. And on October 18<sup>th</sup>, we will return to a much-loved theme and experience of Unitarian Universalist fellowships – an opportunity to share our foundational values in a forum called, “This I believe.” I look forward to our time together in October.

With warmth and affection,

*Lyndon*

*Email your announcements for the Nuusletter to [dgreeson1@gmail.com](mailto:dgreeson1@gmail.com).*

Also, feel free to contact any of the Board of Trustees with your questions, comments or concerns.

President: Barbara Moffitt – 443-535-7632 • Vice-President: Christine Mariotti – 828-859-8392

Treasurer: Becky Kraai – 207-210-2086 • Secretary: Don Greeson – 828-290-3627

Member at Large: Annie Ewing – 864-457-7278

## Note to Self:

### Want to help with the Presidential Campaign at the local level? — submitted by Robin Edgar

Robin invites anyone interested to help her contact folks on behalf of the Biden campaign, and voices enthusiasm for her success to date. She asks that you contact her at [2robinedgar@gmail.com](mailto:2robinedgar@gmail.com) to learn how.

### Want to help with the National UU Effort? — submitted by Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President

- Get UU the Vote updates on your phone by texting VOTELove to 51555.
- Sign the [#VoteLove Pledge](#) and let us know how you're going to do your part to protect our democracy.
- Make an individual gift to UU the Vote to help us bring this campaign home. [Donate here](#) or text VOTELove to 91999.

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## THE “I DISSENT” MOVEMENT

### ► Unitarian Universalists are taking a stand

*[Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from a weekly newsletter sent to Lyndon and originally included opportunities to join an effort to phone voters in Wisconsin. Of course, we have many local voters we can contact and the content of this communiqué is equally relevant here.]*

Dissent is powerful. Right now, we find the language of dissent embodied by folks working to shift resources away from deadly police forces and towards schools, sustainable jobs, healthcare, and community services. We find it in folks caring for our spirits through powerful sermons, art, healing, and music to bring beauty and resilience into our lives.

The legacy of principled dissent is one that will forever be associated with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She taught us that taking a moral stance--even when it is the minority--can be a powerful tactic in shaping public opinion over the long haul. And--while we lift up these lessons from Justice Ginsburg, we must also acknowledge the ways in which we dissent against the ways in which she perpetuated systemic inequality--particularly against Black and Indigenous peoples. Dissent can also be nuanced: it is honoring the legacy of Justice Ginsburg by celebrating her fight for gender equality, while also holding and naming [where she held up ideas and systems oppression](#).

Dissent is not about performance. It is a prophetic force that breaks through the despair of our realities and awakens us to new possibilities. It invites us into a community of dissenters that refuse to allow the status-quo to be the only option--no matter the party, no matter the popularity of our politics, and sometimes, no matter the backlash.

We dissent. We dissent like Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg did in her opinion after voting rights were gutted by the [Shelby v. Holder](#) decision.

We dissent like our faithful siblings in Louisville, Kentucky who await the [Kentucky Attorney General's decision in the Breonna Taylor case](#).

We dissent to infringing on [constitutional freedom of assembly in Florida](#).

We dissent when necessary. We dissent when unpopular. We dissent especially when it's uncomfortable and risky because this is where we transform ourselves along with our world.

My fellow UUs, I dissent.

I dissent against fatalistic ideas that the battle is already lost.

I dissent against choosing comfort over being effective.

I dissent against living in a country that continues its history of racial and sexual violence.

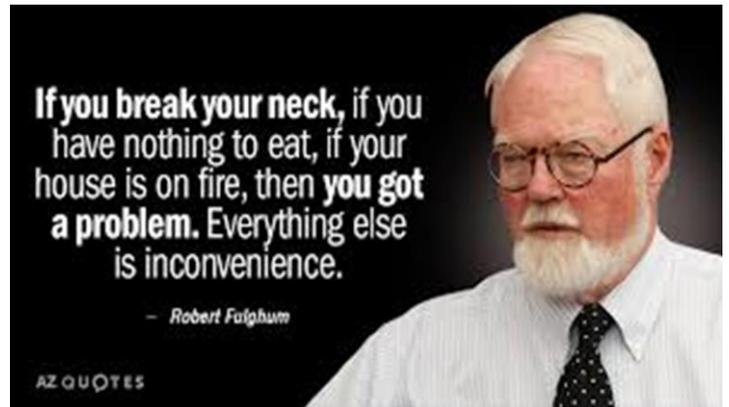
I dissent against shrinking my UU faith to fit neo-liberal ideas of progress.

I dissent by doing everything in my power to mobilize voters in this critical election and keeping that energy up every single day after November 3rd. I dissent by combating voter suppression in marginalized communities, and aligning myself with the work to build political power alongside those communities on their terms.

I dissent by committing to UU the Vote!

## “No Picnic”

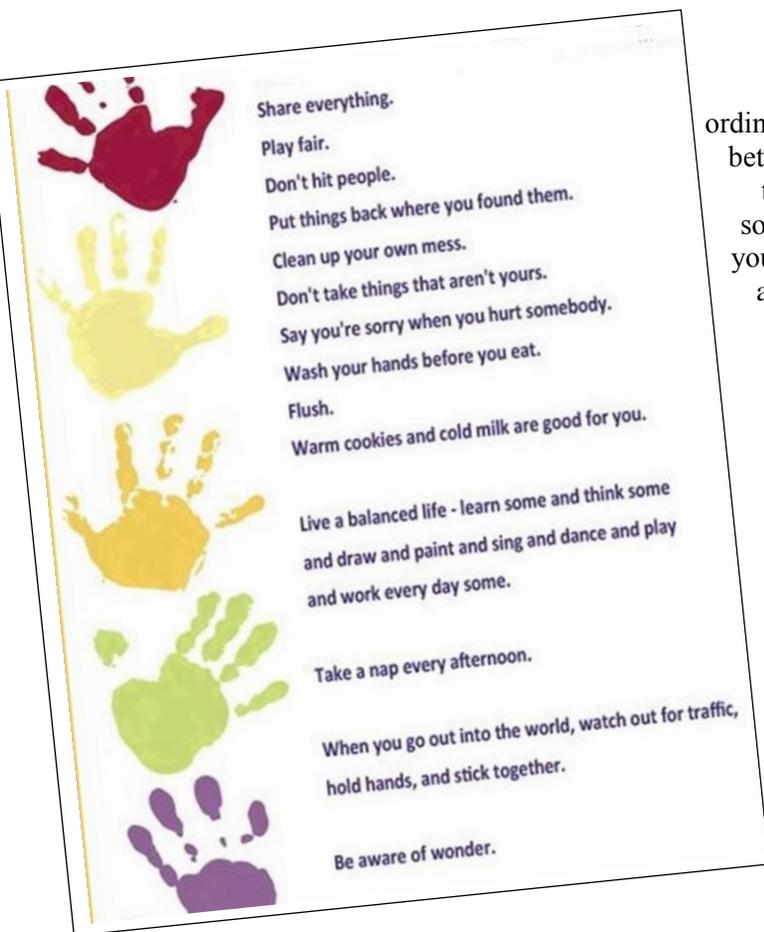
A 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of Robert Fulghum’s famous book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, has just been released, revised to include 25 additional stories. Fulghum is Minister Emeritus of Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Church in Edmonds, Washington, and those who have attended his services smile when they tell of his pulpit style – a balance of good-natured humor and no-nonsense advice. His take on adversity is worth remembering in those moments when we feel depressed or deprived because of the pandemic.



### In this unusual time of isolation,

normally small problems become big ones; issues that we would ordinarily brush off seem to weigh more. As we wait for things to “get better,” there is little doubt that Reverend Fulghum would remind us that we’re all in this together and recommend that we stop feeling sorry for ourselves. After all, one of his admonitions is to “clean up your own mess.” UU principles are central to Fulghum’s philosophy, and include “You are free to give life meaning, whatever meaning you want to give it.” From day to day, do you feel joy or anger? Are you grateful or bitter? In one of his books he writes, “*Who do you think you are?* That’s the big [question,] isn’t it? A flourishing life depends on how you answer that.” True to his frankness, he warns “The examined life is no picnic.”

No doubt we’re all examining our lives and relationships right now. We may or may not have a serious problem, but we certainly are experiencing inconvenience. Congregating on Zoom is a challenge; we’re not able to socialize the way we’d like. Efforts to make personal contact can seem awkward or even contrived. As a fellowship, the circumstances may prevent us from reaching our full potential, but they can’t defeat us without our permission. It’s tempting to ponder why we should make the effort, to ask “what’s in it for me?” Rather than fret over difficulties or complain about the challenges, maybe we should consider them a test of our resolve and focus on the positive. In the end, our little UUFCF is not bound by chance or obligation, but by shared beliefs and principles. Even when we can’t visit each other in person, we are still in this together.



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Unitarian Universalist affirmation:

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

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