



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

Tryon International  
Equestrian Center's  
drive-through light  
display now open until  
Jan. 3; tickets required



<https://tryon.coth.com/event/ingles-presents-shadracks-christmas-wonderland-at-tiec>

Sunday, December 6, 2020 -- Lyndon Harris



## ...and a Spirituality of Longing

When we gather on December 6<sup>th</sup> it will be, for many in the faith world, the second Sunday of Advent. But for Unitarian Universalists, Advent is not a time of preparation for either the birth, or the second coming, of Jesus. It is a season of yearning, a yearning for the birth of a new humanity. We long for the emergence of a

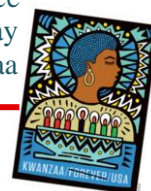
new world order spoken of by the Hebrew prophets, but also intuited by our humanistic spirituality: a spirituality that honors the dignity of every human being, seeks a path of justice for all, and embodies a sacred path open to all quests for the truth. Join us on December 6<sup>th</sup> to experience Advent from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

Join us online Sunday, December 6 at 10:30 <https://zoom.us/j/99380600066>  
or by phone at +1 646-876-9923 Meeting #99380600066



## Happening in December

Dec. 2 -- UUFCF Board Meeting  
**Dec. 6 – UUFCF Virtual Service**  
Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Day  
Dec. 12-18 Hanukkah  
Dec. 13 – Outdoor Social Gathering  
**Dec. 20 - UUFCF Virtual Service**  
Dec. 21 - Winter Solstice  
Dec. 25 – Christmas Day  
Dec. 26-Jan 1 - Kwanzaa



Sunday, December 20, 2020 – Lyndon Harris

## LET'S CELEBRATE!

The holiday season is often eclipsed by the desire and drive to find just the perfect gift, at the perfect price, for our imperfect but loveable family and friends. This year the holidays appear against the backdrop of extreme political polarization and an ever-present worry of the dangers of a pandemic. What are the kernels of truth, the sparks of inspiration we might draw from these timeless holiday traditions for our present time? What are the gifts we might give to others – and to ourselves – that will help us navigate our journey ahead? Join us on December 20<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate this time of light and illumination even as it flickers courageously against the dark.

Join us online at 10:30  
<https://zoom.us/j/99318504524>  
or by phone at +1 646-876-9923  
Meeting #99318504524



## Lyndon's Letter

Dear Ones,

As we continue the path of twisting and turning on what some have called the "coronacoaster," surprisingly, the holidays are upon us. As days pass one into the next and months drop unceremoniously from the calendar, all of a sudden, the holidays are here. How did that happen?? We have a lot to celebrate this year.

Even though we still face anxious challenges, there is light appearing on the horizon: several possible vaccines and therapeutic treatments for COVID 19 and the dawn of a new political era, even as the former regime rages against the transition.

I am reminded of my childhood travels in my mom's station wagon, where the perennial question was always, "ARE WE THERE YET?" Well, we are not there yet, but with 2020 in its final throes, we can say with gladness, "We've come an awful long way." (Awful and long are both intended.)

How might we be diligent in preparing for what comes next? On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we'll explore what the season of Advent might mean for Unitarian Universalists. We'll explore the themes of exile and longing, as they finally melt into the relief of new beginnings. Then, on December 20<sup>th</sup>, we'll celebrate those new beginnings!

There are so many things for which to be grateful this year. I am grateful for you! Our fellowship has had its challenges this year as we have moved our services into the digital world, by way of ZOOM, but still, we meet. I am grateful for every one of you who shows up on our version of "Hollywood Squares." I am grateful for your thoughts and prayers, your good wishes, and for all the ways you actively make the world a better place. In my heart, I envision us all sitting together around a beautiful hearth with a warm fire burning, reminding us of our sacred connection to each other. May your holiday season be filled with joy.

Sending warmest regards and blessings,

*Lyndon*



## There's Life in Outer Space!

Perhaps we should call it Outdoor Space, but our recent exploration of ways to meet socially have landed us in a safe zone, where adequate distancing, mask-wearing, and respect for personal space is practiced by all. Last Sunday, eight cautious souls orbited the picnic tables at Tryon's Harmon Field, and if you feel adventurous, you are welcome to join them for caring and sharing at the next outing scheduled for December 13 beginning at 10:30, weather permitting.



### *An Invitation*

In the January issue of the Nuusletter, we plan to feature personal stories of our lives and challenges in 2020. What have YOU learned, discovered, or focused on during this year of uncertainty and change? In what ways has your lifestyle been altered "for better or worse?" Let's embrace the New Year as an opportunity for reflection and renewal, beginning by sharing your experiences with our fellowship members and friends. Send a paragraph or two about your setbacks and/or accomplishments to Don at [dgreeson1@gmail.com](mailto:dgreeson1@gmail.com) by December 20<sup>th</sup>. It's one more way we can all continue to stay connected!

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



A letter to our fellowship from UUA President Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray



Dear UU Fellowship of the Carolina Foothills,

I send you my deep care in this time of changing seasons and tumultuous days. I continue to hold all of you in my prayers—as you lead your communities in these fraught times. While there is very hopeful news about the efficacy of new coronavirus vaccines, there is still cause for serious concern. Given the dramatic surge in cases, we reiterate our recommendation for congregations to plan to gather virtually through May 2021. We have made some updates to our *Guidance on Gathering*, including revised prevention measures and how decisions can be guided by our values.

As the holiday season approaches, I feel the grief of not being able to physically be with family and friends. While the longing to be together is real, so too is the way in-person gatherings increase risk. This pandemic is a vivid reminder that our decisions impact those around us—not only our loved ones, but those most vulnerable, including weary healthcare and essential workers. This is why we continue to lean into our values of collective care and interdependence.

The way that Unitarian Universalists are living our values is my greatest source of hope at this moment. Whether we are adapting to safely minister to one another or responding to the urgent demands of our world, UUs everywhere are showing up and making a difference.

I continue to celebrate joyfully everyone who voted in this critical election and all who overcame the extreme voter suppression. Black, Latin, and Indigenous people were especially targeted, but they still made their voices heard. Across the country, UUs showed up to protect the integrity of the electoral process, as election workers, poll monitors and election defenders. UU the Vote and local grassroots partners—including in contested states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Georgia—helped mobilize historic voter turnout!

Even as we recognize the scope of our work, I am aware of how incredibly difficult these last four years have been, and the election cycle is still laden with fraudulent claims. The President is spreading pernicious misinformation that is dangerous to our democracy. His thwarted attempts to discount votes in Detroit, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Milwaukee amount to trying to steal the electoral count and are deeply rooted in anti-Black racism. *Election Defenders* is a core organization to volunteer with to help protect the vote in states around the country, including important virtual actions.

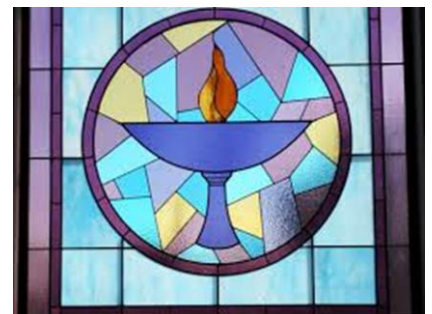
We must not let these corrupt efforts overshadow the fact that the election results are a win for democracy and the will of the people. This is a time to remember our collective resilience and ability to protect each other, to defend democracy, and to organize unfailingly for justice, equity and dignity.

As we anticipate the holiday season and create new ways to connect and celebrate this time, let's remember the joy and love present in our hearts and in our communities. Let us also make space for grief and honor the memories of those who have passed away this year. May we feel the unseen but real threads that bind us all. We are not alone. We are powerful. Our communities are powerful. And we belong to each other.

In this season, may you find restorative space to lean into what you love and what makes you feel connected. May we find strength in our faith, and in the foundation of our families, friends and the people who came before us. While there is much work ahead, may we also make room to breathe and rest, and time to connect with our community and those we love.

Yours in love and care,

*Susan*



# Looking Back, Looking Forward!



*Christmas at Sunnydale 2019*



*From the Edgars' Garden*



*Volunteers  
Becky, Annie,  
Monica, and Derek*



*Valentine's Dance*



*Maria and Lyndon on Zoom*



*Dave & Robin*



*Dieting at the Fellowship*

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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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