

Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Nuusletter for July, 2021

Meeting In Person on July 18 at the Landrum Depot

Mailing Address: UUFCF, P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

Happening This Month

July 2 – Civil Rights Act Anniversary

July 4 – Independence Day and
UUFCF Potluck Picnic

July 18 – UUFCF Service at
Landrum Depot

July 23 – National Gorgeous
Grandma Day



The Depot is on Coleman St. and sits parallel to Hwy 176
Street address is 211 S 562



July 4th Potluck Picnic at 11:00

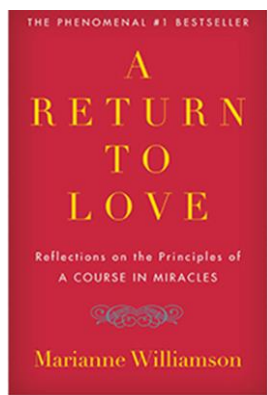
Celebrating Together on Independence Day

...in person, no less! Recent arrival to Tryon and frequent visitor to our virtual services, Beth Kinstler has volunteered to host our first official get-together as a fellowship since the COVID pandemic forced us to stay home. Come join us for a time of fellowship and engagement. Bring open hearts, kindness, big ideas and a dish to share! If you have family visiting this holiday, bring them, too! In addition to food, there will be some guitar picking and maybe some singing, so remember your folding chair if you have one and be prepared to party!

Beth lives at 55 Markham Road, Tryon 28782. Markham intersects with Grady Ave., which in turn intersects with Howard St.

Sunday, July 18, 2021 at the Landrum Depot – Lyndon Harris

“A Return to Love”



In 1992, Marianne Williamson captured the imagination of many in the world with the publication of her book, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Spiritual Principles of A Course in Miracles*. Spending 39 weeks on the *New York Times*' bestseller list, the book's principal idea is that practicing love every day brings more peace and fulfillment to one's life. Drawing from ideas in the book, and from other sources, Lyndon will offer a reflection on what it might mean for us to “return to love” as we return to meeting together in person. Love, compassion, kindness, and justice are the



cornerstones of Unitarian Universalism spirituality, and in our present world - often characterized by polarization, isolation, and hostility – this kind of love is needed now more than ever. Discussion to follow. Join us!

Member Events



Hear Becky and Derek perform at the Columbus Farmers' Market July 10, 8:30-10:30 and at the Landrum Farmers' Market July 17, 8:00-10:30.

[Readers: Let's let “Member Events” become a regular feature of our Nuusletter! Send your announcements to dgreeson1@gmail.com]



Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

I write this note following our fellowship's annual meeting this past Sunday. I want to thank our board for doing such wonderful work during the past 15 months to keep us connected. I want to personally thank Barb, Becky, Don, Christine and Annie for holding on to the belief that our fellowship is worthy of our efforts, and that we will be together again soon in person. This time has been a good opportunity for us to reflect on who we are, and what we want to accomplish when we're back together. I am sure we will look back on this season of COVID, and we'll marvel at how we've managed.

An old saying that has meant a great deal to me is "We can't truly appreciate the miracle of a sunrise, unless we have waited in darkness." With that in mind, and with a joyful heart, I can see new beginnings are on the horizon! The sun is rising and the long night of COVID is beginning to give way. On July 4th we will be together **in person** for a potluck brunch at our new friend, Beth Kinstler's home. Thank you, Beth! Your willingness to dive right in with your gift of hospitality is greatly appreciated. And then on July 18th, we will resume our fellowship meetings **in person** at the Landrum Depot in Landrum, SC. We will continue at the Depot on a trial basis for the next several Sunday fellowships.

During our annual meeting, we engaged one another in a discussion about how we might better serve our community. Several ideas were shared, and energy was generated to create a conversation group about this. If you have ideas, or thoughts you'd like to share, please be in touch with Christine Mariotti, a member of our board, who is excited to continue this discussion.

And finally, to be sure, our present pandemic is far from over. This is evident as we watch the news of those around the world who have not been as privileged as we are to have vaccines widely available. But the energy in our local communities, and in many parts of our nation is surging to reconnect, and to return to some sense of normalcy. What will it be? And how can we – grounded in our UU principles – make it better?

With love and blessings,

Lyndon

In the Simplest Terms

Here are the Seven UU Principles in "Kid Speak"



1st Principle: We believe that each and every person is important.

2nd Principle: We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.

3rd Principle: We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

4th Principle: We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

5th Principle: We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.

6th Principle: We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.

7th Principle: We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.



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

- *President:* Barbara Moffitt - 443-535-7632 • *VP:* 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

Minutes from the UUFCF Congregational Meeting

For those who missed it, here is a summary of our annual business meeting held virtually on June 20, 2021.

Board President Barbara Moffitt opened the meeting with a review of our challenges and accomplishments over the past year, finishing with the question, “Where do we go from here?”

Lyndon spoke to the “shutdown” and our resilience to adversity. He encouraged us to “re-engage” as a fellowship and find ways to reach out to the community.

Almost as a demonstration of adversity, weather-related power outages and the loss of internet connections challenged the flow of the meeting, but we soldiered on with the re-election of current board trustees to a second annual term.

Becky Kraai gave the treasurer’s report and posted the proposed new budget. She asked for input for best use of unspent money due to not having to pay rent or insurance over the past year. Opinions were shared, mostly on community involvement vs. investing in real estate. Jim Minshew, having experience with other churches’ struggles to fund buildings, warned that our fellowship was not large enough to consider such a capital expense at this time. We are fortunate to have options for meeting space, and will evaluate these and potentially others beginning this summer.



Zoom image of Maria and Lyndon in 2020

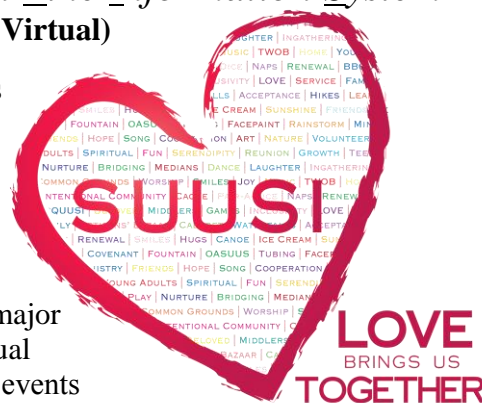
Lyndon advised that we need to be intentional with our investments, and recommended we form a committee to evaluate how to best sponsor community events and/or support local causes. Christine Mariotti volunteered to head such a committee.

Barbara opened the floor to new ideas and/or further discussion. There being none, the meeting was adjourned.
—Don Greeson, Board Secretary

Accessing SUUSI July 17 – 24: *SOLIS* –The SUUSI On Line Information System **How YOU can join the fun! (This year the Summer Institute is All Virtual)**

I was planning to copy and paste a review of this year’s SUUSI workshops into this Nuusletter, but discovered it would require the entire edition just to list them! Everything from “Origami Cubes” to “Let’s Get Saucy!” to “History of the American Submarine” is among the classes, worship services, and social gatherings –literally hundreds of sessions—described at <https://www.suusi.org>.

Registered participants will also receive a daily email with Zoom links to major all-SUUSI events (for example, worship services) as well as to the individual workshops and age-group activities you’ve signed up for. Links to SUUSI events will also be available when you log into SOLIS at the link above.



A message from Riziki Mastaki, whose family has safely returned to Goma, DRC

Dear church family we just want to take a moment thank you very much for your donation of \$200 for my family. Thank you for your assistance during this extremely difficult time in our lives. It is greatly appreciated. Please thank everyone. It is great there are people that care so deeply for their brothers in need.” “Thank you very much for your extremely generous donation to my family in Congo Goma. They all said thank you very much.

Beth Kinstler

Those of you who have been attending our virtual services will know Beth, who recently made her home in Tryon and graciously volunteered to host our Independence Day potluck picnic. And if it seems adventurous of her to merge into our social orbit so quickly, you will soon learn that's just her style! After all, she has merged into different locations, schools, interests and jobs all her life. Born in Brooklyn, she attended three different elementary schools due to integration issues, then moved to Albany, NY where she faced issues of anti-Semitism. From there the family moved to Alabama, but eventually moved back to NY where she finished high school. But then it was back to the South, this time to Savannah, which became home base as she attended Armstrong State College and UGA, graduating with a degree in Geology. However, her career hasn't been as a geologist, but rather a string of seemingly random occupations from a typesetter for printers, to a camera operator at a TV station, to owner of a computer store that sold the first Apples (even meeting Steve Jobs!) Beth has also owned a restaurant, worked as a financial consultant, and most recently, appraised and liquidated estates. With the rise of COVID 19, she played it safe and retired, but now volunteers at the Second Chance Thrift Store, which is affiliated with the Steps to Hope, which provides emergency temporary safe shelter to those seeking refuge from domestic violence and/or sexual assault. She plans to soon increase her volunteer work at the Foothills Humane Society and join a local garden club. Beth sums up her hobbies as "gardening, art, and volunteering." When asked about her religious or spiritual heritage, she explains that she was born a Jew but became an atheist at age 11 after realizing so much money went to religious institutions rather than humanist causes. She continues to believe that more resources should be invested in helping the homeless, especially in these troubled times, and identifies with the philosophy of Rationalism. Beth is one of four children but has none of her own and, as she puts it, is no longer married. She claims to have ADHD, but there's a good chance it's really simply a case of "too much energy!" We welcome this creative and progressive spirit to our community.



Beth was unable to provide a recent photo of her, but we do have an image of her home on Markham Road in Tryon, where we'll be meeting on July 4 for our picnic!

Look for this banner.



Visual Arts Week at *The Mountain*

A Savannah artist named Alan Kindler is organizing an artist's workshop at the UU retreat The Mountain this summer. In an email invitation to our Fellowship, he writes: *Join internationally recognized artists Melinda Borysevicz and Matt Toole for a 4 or 6 day retreat at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC, August 19 thru 25, 2021! Plein air landscape painting and found-object sculpture will fill the days and warm, congenial community will fill the evenings. Locally made food from the on-site farm will sustain us. Part of the proceeds support The Mountain's mission to "enrich lives, foster an appreciation of the natural world, honor the interconnectedness of all things, and inspire people to build inclusive, meaningful, sustainable communities throughout their lives."*

For more info and registration: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/visual-arts-week>. Early bird registration ends July 31st. In order that each participant gets the most from their instructor, openings are limited.