



Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's
Newsletter for June, 2021

Virtual Services via Zoom on the first and third Sundays of each month
Mailing Address: UUFCF, P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

Happening this Month:

June 6 – UUFCF Virtual Service

June 14 – Flag Day

June 19 - Juneteenth

June 20 – Father's Day

June 20 –UUFCF Virtual Service
(Congregational Meeting)

June 23-27 UUA General Assembly

June 26 – Forgiveness Day



Tryon's Trade Street nearly a century ago

Sunday, June 6, 2021 beginning at 10:30 – Lyndon Harris

Embracing the Heroic Journey of Your Life

The Flu epidemic of 1918 was followed by the “Roaring 20’s.” What could possibly lie in wait for us at the end of our time’s pandemic? Will we embrace the possibilities ahead with courage and vigor, or will we go forth, more cautiously and carefully? Which is better? We are living in a threshold time, and the universe is calling us forth to adventure.

Join us for a conversation about the spiritual implications of this threshold time, and an exploration of the possibilities on our post-COVID spiritual journey, guided by Joseph Campbell’s schema, “the Hero’s Journey.”



Join the conversation! <https://zoom.us/j/99811665596> or phone **646-876-9923** - Meeting #998 1166 5596



Photo: © Ann Cahill

At any time you can ask yourself: At which threshold am I now standing? At this time in my life, what am I leaving? Where am I about to enter? What is preventing me from crossing my next threshold? What gift would enable me to do it? A threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms, and atmospheres. Indeed, it is a lovely testimony to the fullness and integrity of an experience or a stage of life that it intensifies toward the end into a real frontier that cannot be crossed without the heart being passionately engaged and woken up. At this threshold a great complexity of emotion comes alive: confusion, fear, excitement, sadness, hope. This is one of the reasons such vital crossings were always clothed in ritual. It is wise in your own life to be able to recognize and acknowledge the key thresholds: to take your time; to feel all the varieties of presence that accrue there; to listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you forward. The time has come to cross. -- JOHN O'DONOHUE

Excerpt from his books: *To Bless the Space Between Us (US) / Benedictus*

Sunday, June 20, 2021

UUFCF Annual Business Meeting

The June 20 Virtual Service will not only be the last “virtual only” service, but it will also include our Annual Meeting. New and old business will be discussed, as well as the election (or re-election) of board members. Traditionally, we hold a Pot Luck luncheon on this day, but this year the in-person picnic will follow on July 4. The timing of this meeting may well mark the beginning of a new era in our 31-year history, so please plan to join the discussion. The zoom connections will be the same as each service, and will appear again in future “This Week” emails.



Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

I don't know if you saw it, but the cover of *The New Yorker* this week (May 24, 2021) speaks volumes, as it usually does. How to describe it? There's an enormous (“ginormus!”) door, opening, with tiny cautious people timidly peeking out at the NYC skyline. The artwork is entitled “Venturing Out,” and it was submitted by an artist based in Istanbul (Gürbüz Doğan Ekşioğlu), who is reflecting upon his experience during the season of COVID.

Maybe we, too, are like those tiny people? Peering out at an imminent new world, post-Covid, that seems as strange as it seems ordinary?

“I remember what it's like to give my friend a hug – oh wait! – I shouldn't be hugging people! – it's a pandemic, right? Oh, wait, it's OK – I've been vaccinated.”

These are trying times. These are exciting times. Who knows what will happen?

One way of seeing this point in our collective journey is that we are about to cross a “threshold.” In literature, thresholds signify new beginnings, new experiences, new possibilities. Joseph Campbell, in his highly acclaimed book, *The Hero with 1000 Faces*, understands thresholds to be pivotal, transformative moments on our life's journey. Campbell created a “Hero's Journey” motif that has been used in storytelling, both in print and on screen. It's *Huckleberry Finn*. It's *Moby Dick*. It's *The Matrix*; it's *Harry Potter*. One of the greatest blockbuster movies of all time is *Star Wars*. It takes the viewer, step by step, through the Hero's journey. And anytime one hears the “call to adventure” from life, or God, or the universe, for one to answer, she must cross a threshold.

The tiny people in *The New Yorker's* cover art are being beckoned forth, to cross the threshold of their security in order to embrace the adventure that lies ahead, in the aftermath of the pandemic.

We, too, are being summoned forth to our own post-pandemic adventure. It will be scary; it will be familiar; it will be different – and the same. So many contradictions ahead, right? Are you ready? Let's go!

Warmly,

Lyndon



Email your announcements for the Nuuletter to 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

► Tragedy in Goma

Network news continues to report horrific scenes coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo, where a rogue army has recently terrorized the city of Goma (population 670,000.) Goma is the home of the Mastakis, the family Robin Edgar continues to help settle in the US, with a myriad of issues plaguing the effort. The latest is the eruption of a massive volcano, which threatened the homes of thousands and caused 8000 panicked residents to flee into nearby Rwanda. Though the lava flow seems to have stopped, many are returning to find devastation and a lack of water and electricity. UNICEF reports nearly 170 children have been “lost” in the chaos. Though the Mastakis home in Goma did not burn, the family is experiencing earthquakes, contaminated water, and gas fumes. Prices for essentials have risen sharply. If you wish to send financial aid to ease the crisis, checks written to Riziki Mastaki should be sent to her at 8637 Stoneface Road in Charlotte, 28214. Riziki will use Western Union to wire funds to Africa.

► “Braver Angels” Workshop

The UU Fellowship of Clemson’s Del Kimbler is hosting a virtual workshop titled *Depolarization Within*, designed to teach conversational tools that help reduce political polarization when communicating with others. Del, who is the fellowship’s Social Action Chair, explains, “The workshop begins with a short assessment of our own political thoughts and then proceeds through a few simple things we can all do.” It is free and will be held June 19. More information is available at [Depolarizing America](http://DepolarizingAmerica.com)

► Art Exhibit

I’m taking some editorial license by sharing the news of an upcoming event. Beginning with an artist’s reception on June 10 from 5–7 pm, The Gallery at Flat Rock (www.GalleryFlatRock.com) will feature a special exhibit titled “Child’s Play,” which hosts the work of four local artists. My wife Jean and I are two of them, displaying her creative ceramic sculptures and my recent series of playful paintings. The exhibit remains open until June 27, but you can also view our work by visiting www.jeangreenson.com and www.dongreenson.com.



► July 4 Party!

“Independence!” will have a special meaning when we meet in person as a fellowship for the first time in a year. And what better way to celebrate than with FOOD! On Sunday, Independence Day, we will gather at 11:00 at the new home of Beth Kinstler, who has graciously offered to host the feast. The price of admission is a “pot luck” dish of whatever you want to bring, along with a folding chair if you have one. Directions will be forthcoming in a June email. Beth is a recent newcomer to Tryon, moving here from Savannah, and looks forward to meeting us all in person. The feeling is mutual!

► The Universalist Convocation

When asked when Unitarianism began, one answer might be in the year 385, when at the first Council of Nicaea Christian bishops voted to include Jesus of Nazareth in what was to become the Trinity. Those who remained steadfast in the belief there was only one God were the original Unitarians – simply because they weren’t Trinitarians. As a formal religion, Unitarianism grew out of the protestant reformation, and was organized in Poland in the 1560s. The Universalist Church began a couple of centuries later in America, when Hosea Ballou was ordained in 1774 (as a Baptist) and began preaching that salvation was universal. The first Universalist church was founded that same year in Gloucester, Massachusetts by John Murray.

Sixty years ago this month, the *Universalist Church in America* merged with the *American Unitarian Association* to form the *Unitarian Universalist Association*, so close were their belief foundations. But the two have different roots, and some who trace their spiritual heritage to Universalism have announced a celebration to honor that history. It will be held at the Northwest UU Congregation in Sandy Springs, Georgia this August 6th and 7th. Registration begins June 5. For more information, visit www.UniversalistConvocation.org.

A New Place to Meet

We've known for some time the folks at Sunnydale are planning to increase our rent (substantially) when we return, so the Board has been investigating alternative venue options. There are several possibilities, two of which are approximately 4 miles from the Sunnydale location. One is the newly refurbished and completely updated Landrum Depot, which has three bathrooms, a kitchen, and an impressive meeting space complete with projection screen and built-in sound system. Its central location is the downtown shopping district with nearby restaurants and easy access.

Another is a building designed as a church, now in use as an artist's residence and gallery. The owner has graciously offered the sanctuary for our use, as well as storage space and a piano, neither of which the Depot offers. But unlike the Depot, it has only one bathroom and no kitchen. Those of us who have visited both locations find things to like about both, and a decision to choose one over the other is difficult. Both have parking lots, handicap ramps, and a welcoming feel. One is shiny and new, the other cozy and comfortable. We would be responsible for set up and cleaning every visit for the more commercial Depot, while the old church has pews and needs little more than an occasional vacuum. But the old church is also an artist's gallery, and we would share space with walls filled with whimsical paintings and have only one bathroom. (And yet, the space is fun...)

So we're following Yogi Berra's advice: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it!" Our plan is to utilize both locations, to "try out" one with the option of having the other as an alternative. We have thus reserved a half day for three consecutive services at the Depot, July 18, August 1, and August 15. By then, we should have a better idea of what direction to take for the long term.



Above: Entrance to the Landrum Depot at 211 S. 562 (parallel to Hwy 176)

Right: A glimpse of the Depot meeting room set up for a wedding reception



For the record, either of these two locations will allow us to save money that can be used for outreach programs or perhaps even our own building one day. And we are certainly open to still other possible venues for the future. A randomly conducted survey determined that the most important thing to our members and friends is to build our fellowship community. As Yogi would remind us, "It ain't over 'til it's over!"

Unitarian Universalist affirmation:

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