



Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's
Newsletter for May, 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

- May 1 – May Day
- May 2 – UUFCF Virtual Service**
- May 2 – Kentucky Derby
- May 5 – Cinco de Mayo
(but I repeat myself)
- May 9 – Mother's Day
- May 16 – UUFCF Virtual Service**
- May 31 – Memorial Day



Campobello's covered bridge along the South Pacolet River, the last one in SC

Sunday, May 2, 2021 – Lyndon Harris

Anti-racism and the “Lost Cause”

What does it mean to be a progressive spiritual community (UU) in a small Southern town?

Join us for an engaging conversation as Lyndon shares his own journey through the challenges of growing up in a small SC town, to living at the crossroads of the world in NYC for 17 years, and back again. We will survey some of the important books on anti-racism, and try to find a new path from our current attitudes to our behavioral goals. Join Sunday's 10:30 conversation at <https://zoom.us/j/99811665596> or by phone **646-876-9923** - Meeting #998 1166 5596



The myth of the happy slave in southern plantation life is perpetuated here in a twentieth-century ad for Aunt Jemima Pancake Mix. The character was created 25 years after the Civil War, designed to appeal to nostalgia for the romanticized lifestyle associated with the Lost Cause.



The reality is overt racism embedded in everyday American life. Owner Pepsico finally changed the company's name in 2020, acknowledging the issue.



Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

On April 18, we were blessed to hear Rev. Neal Jones clarify for us what the difference is between “spiritual” and “religious.” For the service, I was zooming in from my daughter’s home in Charleston, SC. Immediately after our fellowship service, we took our grandchildren out to ride their bikes in the park. This was a follow-up ride from the day before, the day when the training wheels came off. On Saturday, there were many crashes, complaints, and not a little whining: “Can’t we just put the training wheels back on? This isn’t any fun!” Their mother encouraged patience and determination. Reluctantly, on Sunday we tried again. What Maria and I witnessed on Sunday afternoon was nothing short of a “spiritual” experience! Gaining speed, balance, and a little bit of courage, each of the three grands crossed over from struggling to succeeding. This transformation in confidence and joy was beautiful to behold. It was, as some might say, “a quantum leap.”

April 20th did not offer a “quantum leap” forward in racial justice, but it did help us see the hope that is beginning to emerge in communities around the country. Precipitating a group exhale of relief, the officer who detained and killed George Floyd last year was convicted on all three counts leveled against him by the prosecution: second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter. This is no great leap forward – what happened was clear to anyone who saw the horrific video – but it is a relief to have what so many of us saw with our own eyes confirmed by the jury. This was the first time ever that a police officer in Minneapolis has been convicted of killing a black man. As Dr. King said, “The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” Maybe we are seeing the dawn of a new day in racial justice. I sure hope so.

On Sunday, May 2nd, I plan to explore ideas related to this, as I delve into my own journey through understandings of racism, from growing up in a small Southern town in SC, to becoming a kind of citizen of the world as a New Yorker for 17 years. The plethora of books emerging during our season of COVID on racism, anti-racism, racial justice, and the enduring legacy of the “Lost Cause” have spurred me into a reckoning with the topic that has been long overdue. Please join us for a conversation about anti-racism and what it means to live as Unitarian Universalists in a small Southern town in the shadow of the “Lost Cause,” a view of the Old South that struggles to confront the racism so evident. We will explore and discuss practical ideas that you and I can do to honor and live the values of UU, based on the 7 Principles.

In the sermon for May 16th, I plan to dive back into the idea of “Beloved Community” and explore what it means for us to be leaders from a progressive spiritual community as we seek to figure out how we might best live our values as we engage the wider community again. After the flu epidemic of 1918, we had the “roaring twenties.” Is it time for Gatsby, anyone? I’ll have more to say about this in an upcoming Nuusletter.

Finally, thank you all for being for us a community of hope. Thank you for being a community of joy. Thank you for being a community of friends. We are grateful for you, and that, itself, is also a spiritual experience.

Warmly,
Lyndon



Email your announcements for the Nuusletter to dgreeson1@gmail.com.

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