



*Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's*  
**Newsletter for August, 2021**

*Meeting this summer at the Landrum Depot, 211 S. 562*

**Note: If not vaccinated against COVID, please wear a mask for your protection**

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

## Happening This Month

**Aug. 1 – In Person Service at 10:30**

Aug. 8 – Olympics Closing Ceremony

Aug. 12 – Perseid Meteor Shower peak

**Aug. 15 – In Person Service at 10:30**

Aug. 25 – *Only 4 months 'til Christmas!?*



*The Nicely Restored Landrum Depot*

*Sunday, August 1, 2021 – Lyndon Harris*

## Why the heck do we “light a chalice?”

*A Glimpse into UU Traditions from the Perspective of a Newby*

Have you ever wondered, like me, why Unitarian Universalists “light a chalice”?

My first thought was, “No, that’s for wine.” But the lighting of the chalice has

been adopted into UU tradition as a symbol of many things, especially political

resistance, and religious freedom. According to Harvard University’s Pluralism

Project, the flaming chalice officially became a Unitarian symbol during World War II, as a symbol of the political resistance against Nazism and Fascism. Come join us, as we take a look at the extraordinary history and meaning of this symbol, and consider the ways it inspires us to action in the world today.



*Sunday, August 15, 2021 – Lyndon Harris*



*After the “Forever Wars”:*

## Possibilities for Conflict Transformation and Peacemaking in Afghanistan and Why It Deeply Matters to Us Today

US forces are being withdrawn from Afghanistan, after a generation of fighting against the Taliban, a war precipitated by the Taliban’s attacks on the

US in 2001. The withdrawal, while expedient for the US, has created a leadership vacuum, already being filled by the encroachment of Taliban forces and leadership. But despite the political chaos, many humanitarian organizations are active and standing courageously in the breach. One in particular, “Roots of Peace” has had a singular focus for almost 20 years: clearing fields littered with landmines and turning them into fertile vineyards to grow grapes – literally “turning swords into plowshares.” Since 2003, they have removed over 100,000 landmines and unexploded bombs, and helped over 1 million farmers across eight countries. Hear the amazing story of this organization, its CEO, Heidi Kuhn, and how we might participate in their vital work for the healing of Afghanistan, and the world.



## Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

What a great reunion we had this past July 18th! 19 of us joined together for the first in-person fellowship we've had in 16 months. It's hard to know if the adage, "May you live in interesting times" is a blessing? - or a curse? Either way, we truly are living in interesting times!

In spite of the spectacular tech failure (neither the sound system, nor the visual projector worked), we had a great time. Being in a new space brought both challenges and opportunities, but the important thing was – we were together. We saw and experienced that our fellowship is strong with selfless leadership and hard work.

One of the songs I had in mind for that first service is a beautiful song performed by the UU Society of Grafton and Upton, MA, entitled "We are Building a New Way." If you are so inclined, have a listen here:

[Building a New Way](#) (The horn section is brilliant!)

I love this song because week by week, day by day, if we focus on our core values of inclusion and justice, kindness and compassion, we are indeed "building a new way." The relational, communal and large-scale shake-up of life after a pandemic presents new opportunities for us to build that new way. May we be bold and courageous, and do our part.

So, we'll gather again at the Depot in Landrum for our next fellowship on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to seeing you! And hopefully, the tech gods will smile upon us

Warmly, *Lyndon*

### A Reminder: Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry's School Supply Distribution *Pack the Bags Week is August 16-20, 2021*

Once again this year, Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry will be providing school supplies to students at all Polk County schools. Come help us pack the bags! To sign up for a day to serve contact Kathleen Edberg at Tryon UMC at 828-859-9218 or at [tumc1@tryonumc.net](mailto:tumc1@tryonumc.net)

## Photos from our July 4 Picnic



Left: Minshew Duo  
Above: Shadetree Trio  
Right: Peanut Gallery



Email your announcements for the Nuisletter 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.  
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