



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

*Now wearing masks and meeting at the  
Whimsical World Gallery, 116 Jones St. in Landrum*

Mailing Address: UUFCF, PO Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

## **Happening this Month:**

- Dec 5 – UUFCF Service at the Gallery**
- Dec 5 – Holiday Reception at the Fischers
- Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 19 – UUFCF Service at the Gallery**
- Dec 21 – Winter Solstice
- Dec 25 – Christmas Day
- Dec 26 – Kwanzaa
- Dec 31 – New Year's Eve



*Cathy Fischer's been decorating!*



**Sunday, December 5, 2021 – Lyndon Harris**

## **Finding Happiness through Accepting the Things We Can't Change**

The well-loved and often quoted “serenity” prayer is full of wisdom. One aspect of the prayer asks for us to have the strength to accept the things we can't change. However, our entitled egos have a hard time with that. In his book, *Five Things We Can't Change and the Happiness We Find by Embracing Them*, psychologist David Richo gives us wisdom to face the unchangeable realities of life, and to find joy in their embrace. Please join us for a presentation on Richo's ideas, with discussion following.

**Sunday, December 19, 2021 – Lyndon Harris**

## **A Prophet is Born, with a Radical Message to Inspire: The Non-Violent “Third Way” of Jesus of Nazareth**

With over two billion followers of the way of Jesus in the world, sometimes there can be many mixed messages – that Jesus was blond-haired and blue-eyed (not!), or that he was some kind of gnostic magician. Centuries of interpretation of his life and ministry lead one theologian (Rudolf Bultmann) to make a distinction between the “Jesus of History” and the “Christ of Faith.” We will explore the message and commitment to justice of the historical Jesus borrowing from Walter Wink's understanding of the “Third Way” of Jesus, and other new resources recently published. Discussion with eggnog to follow!





## Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

*A favorite prophet of mine (and maybe yours!) once wrote in the 1960's, "The Times, They Are A'Changin'." Indeed.*

The leaves are a'changing – mostly gone. The weather is a'changing: winter is gaining ground on the last vestiges of autumn weather. And, in a delightful way, we, too, are a'changing. Our fellowship is growing, and with our new members we are energized and inspired. We are planning a New Member incorporation celebration for January to honor and acknowledge our new folks. Please be sure to join us for that.

Other things are changing too, but on some critical issues, not as much as we'd like. Just as we hoped we would soon be near the end of the COVID pandemic (at least in the US), according to NPR, infection rates in at least half the US states are on the rise again. There is talk about a possible "fifth wave" of COVID, or as someone snarkily called it, "winter." And the political polarization of the US continues unabated, despite having new political leadership. Unsettling, to say the least.

But David Richo, in his book of Zen wisdom, *The Five Things We Cannot Change*, invokes a Zen koan that inspires us and helps us frame our response to these realities. His question: "This being the case, how shall I proceed?" Not, "This being the case, *who is at fault?*" or "*Why is this happening to me?*" Please join us for our fellowship on December 5<sup>th</sup>, when we will attempt a deep dive into Richo's wisdom, and explore how acknowledging the things that don't change doesn't diminish us. In fact, just the opposite. "This being the case, how shall I proceed?" is an invitation for each one of us to claim the larger heroic agency of our lives, and to live with the courage that this reality brings. In doing so, we become more compassionate, and more kind, and, in my humble opinion, better humans.

Further, on December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Christmas celebration, UU style! The reflection for that day is entitled, "A Prophet is Born, with a Radical Message to Inspire." Often, when we think about or talk about Jesus of Nazareth, we get tripped up by all the dogmatic assertions that sometimes obscure his profound message of peace and forgiveness, and his critique of the powers of the Roman Empire. We will explore Jesus' "third way" of non-violent activism and his call for justice in community. And, hopefully, have some eggnog too!

Until then, I hope you are well and thriving, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Warmly,  
*Lyndon*



### **Holiday Reception on December 5 After the Service** *at the home of Nick and Cathy Fischer*

In lieu of refreshments after the service on December 5th, Cathy & Nick Fischer have invited our Fellowship to a holiday get-together at their house with snacks and hors d'oeuvres. For those of you who do not feel comfortable unmasking to partake of refreshments, they will have a goodie/cookie bag for you to take with you. Each room of their house will be decorated, so it should be festive and fun for all. Their address is 1455 Braewick Rd in Tryon. *Regarding directions, coming from the Whimsical World Gallery on 176, you will drive about 3.5 miles toward Tryon, turn left onto Carolina Drive (just before the IGA) and take your first left onto Braewick. After 3 elbow turns on Braewick, watch for a brown house with aqua shutters on your left - 1455 is on the mailbox (it's just before the SC border). Parking is available on either side of the street. See you there!*



Email your announcements for the Nuusletter 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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