



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

of the Carolina Foothills

Meeting 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at the Whimsical World Gallery, 116 Jones St. in Landrum, SC
Mailing Address: UUFCF, P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782



Happening in April, 2023

April 2 – UUFCF Service at 10:30

April 5 – Passover Begins

April 9 – Easter

April 16 - UUFCF Service at 10:30

April 18 – Tax Day

April 22 – Earth Day

April 28 – Arbor Day



Sunday, April 2, 2023

Rev. Sally Beth Shore

Approaching Easter, Earth, Biomimicry, And Rebirth



Every year about this time, we revel in greenery, flowers, and warmth as spring bursts forth in the northern hemisphere. In this time of burgeoning beauty, promise and energy, there is Easter, linked to age-old spring celebrations but with a different message.

Or not. Easter is, after all, about rebirth—of life renewed despite the past, despite death. What do we need to find ourselves renewed, and regenerated? Where does nature offer insight for this project?

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

President: Barbara Moffitt – 443-535-7632

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Sunday, April 16, 2023 – Rev. Ernie Mills

The Epic of Bread

Carl Jung once said "hunger turns food into gods" (I would substitute "goddesses" in place of "god"). This pretty well sums up the rituals and mythologies of our ancient ancestors. Food was directly tied to the goddesses. Our word "cereal" comes from the Roman goddess Ceres, goddess of agriculture. The ancient Greek festival known as Thargelia, devoted to the earth goddess Demeter, had at its core, the thargalos (a loaf of bread). The process of making bread evolved over time and the consequences were revolutionary. We learned how to store grain. Bread became plentiful which gave our ancestors time to think, to philosophize and theologize. Bread became a metaphor for the "Word" (Logos) as religion moved up from the stomach to the head. Mother Earth goddesses gave way to Father Sky gods and we began to take for granted our absolute, utter dependence on the Earth. It's time to recognize where our bread comes from and to pay tribute to Mother Earth. We may even have a Mother Earth communion on this day. Be ready.



The Night of May 5, 2023 Gives “Senior Prom” New Meaning!

Did you miss your prom? Do you reminisce about how it felt to look forward to going to prom? Well, we have good news! The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUFCF) is partnering with The Congregational Church, UCC to sponsor the ***Tryon Adult Prom Fundraiser for Outreach.***

This fun event will be at the Congregational Church located at 210 Melrose Avenue, Tryon, NC on May 5, 2023, from 7 to 9 PM. Singles and couples age 21 and up are welcome to shimmy and shake to the music of the Trophy Husbands. Light snacks will be available and beer and wine will be served for a suggested donation. Tickets for the ***Tryon Adult Prom Fundraiser for Outreach*** are available for purchase through Brown Paper Tickets (<https://m.bpt.me/event/5746458>). You can also call 828-859-9414. Seating is limited, so be sure to get your tickets soon!

Since 1991, Outreach has served Polk County with caring hearts and helping hands to meet the needs of countless people. The vision of Outreach is to be the heart of a unified, community-wide effort through which no individual or family in Polk County goes hungry, cold or without shelter. For more information about Outreach, go to <http://www.tboutreach.org>



Dance to live music by The Trophy Husbands!



Hymn #159: A Song of Peace -- Don Greeson

Do you remember our hymn *This Is My Song*? The melody, from a symphonic work titled *Finlandia*, was composed by Jean Sibelius in 1899, and is now considered the Finnish National Anthem. I say “our hymn” because alternate lyrics were written for Christian churches in 1940 with the title, *Be Still My Soul*. The tune has also been used for school and college songs, and was adopted for Biafra’s national anthem in the 1960s. The lyrics we sang at our last service (Hymn #318, *We Would Be One*) are among those written much later to accompany Sibelius’ melody.

But it’s our Hymn #159, *This Is My Song*, with yet another set of lyrics to the same melody that serves as the Finnish anthem. Written in 1934, it reflects a prayer for peace “for lands afar and mine.” The significance of the hymn is pronounced when you consider the global political landscape in that year. Stalin was repressing the Russian populace, Hitler declared himself “the Führer,” and new fascist dictators surfaced in Europe, Asia, and South America. The U.S., with unemployment at 22%, was in the depths of a depression.

The Finns had good reason to pray for peace, fearing Russia would invade their country. Those fears came true, even as the prayers failed, just five years later. By early February 1940, the Finnish Army was exhausted and its defensive lines were overrun, *when help from other countries never materialized*. Finland was forced to sign the Treaty of Moscow on March 12, 1940, which ceded 11 percent of its land to the Soviet Union. At the eastern tip of the Gulf of Finland, in the city of Lappeenranta, a museum displays a giant scale model of Viipuri as it looked in 1938, before Russia forcibly “annexed” it and renamed it Vyborg. I visited Finland in 1991, and learned that my host and tour guide Timo Iitia was born in Viipuri. He knew well what the anthem meant, then and now.



All this is to say that there are meanings to the songs we sing and the readings we recite that have both spiritual depth and current relevance to the world we live in. Fascism is once again a growing concern, Russia is still brutally invading sovereign countries, and peace initiatives are too often compromised or abandoned. I’m proud that UUs recognize and address serious world problems instead of reciting Bible verses hoping to numb personal suffering. The final verse of *Be Still My Soul* talks about being safe at last with the Lord. In contrast, the last two lines of *This Is My Song* are:

O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

To read full lyrics of *This Is My Song*, visit

<https://mosaicharmony.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/ThisIsMySong.pdf>

To hear a UU Church Choir sing it, go to

http://www.koober.org/11Nov12/hymn_159.mp3

PS. One more thing... According to the World Happiness Index of 2023, Finland is now ranked the world’s “Number 1 Happiest Country.” The same index ranks the US as Number 19 and Russia as Number 68.

Unitarian Universalist Affirmation: *“Love is our doctrine, the quest for truth
is our sacrament, and service is our prayer.”*



A Brief Description of UUFCF

Our Denomination

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) was formed in 1961 through the consolidation of the American Unitarian Association, established in 1825, and the Universalist Church of America, established in 1793. Both denominations embraced liberal Christian traditions, and both have a long, proud heritage. In fact, one of Harvard Divinity School's graduates named Ralph Waldo Emerson became the minister of Boston's Second Church (Unitarian) in 1829.

Our Fellowship

The dozen or so folks who formed a fellowship in our area were respondents to a simple newspaper invitation three decades ago. Meeting in a private home, the growing group eventually adopted the name *Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship* and in the years that followed moved to larger spaces around Tryon. Among others, both Sally Beth Shore and Ernie Mills each served as ministers. After changing the name to *Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Carolinas*, the congregation was served by a new minister, Lyndon Harris. During the covid years, the Fellowship continued to meet virtually through Zoom services, and once able to gather again in person, briefly met in Landrum's *Historic Depot*. As nice as that facility was, it seemed a bit impersonal, and the Board accepted David Cedrone's invitation to meet in his *Whimsical World Gallery*, which amazingly enough was built as a church. Home at last! Today we continue to meet there, and once again Sally Beth and Ernie lead the services, this time on alternating dates.

Our Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. *They are:*

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



Prelude/Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

Chalice Lighting (in unison)

We light the chalice for the light of truth. We light this chalice for the warmth of love. We light this chalice for the energy of action. We light this chalice for the harmony of peace.

Opening Words/Announcements

Opening Hymn

Joys and Sorrows (in unison)

We rejoice together, and we grieve together as one. Help us to remember that every human heart holds its own joys and sorrows.

Meditation and Prayer

Offertory/Offertory Words (in unison)

To the work of this Fellowship, which is weaving a tapestry of love and action we call community, we dedicate our lives and these, our offerings.

Responsive Reading

Sermon

Extinguishing the Flame and Affirmation (in unison)

We extinguish the flame of this chalice. Let us follow the light of truth until we meet again.

Closing Hymn

Closing Words

Discussion (time permitting)

Please join us for coffee and conversation after the service.