



# Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

March, 2017

**Services: 1st & 3rd Sundays 10:30 A. M.  
Minister: Reverend Michael J. Carter**

**Location: 835 N. Trade St., Tryon, NC**

**Questions? Call 828-513-0570**

**Address: PO Box 653, Tryon, NC 2878**

**Website: TBUUF.org Facebook@TBUUF**

“Isn’t it grand that the spring equinox happens without us doing the work to keep the machinery operable?” ed.

## ***“The Politics of Human Nature”***

**March 5, 2017**

**Rev. Michael Carter**

How we see human nature is the most important political question of all. Have you ever really thought about that? As offspring of the Protestant Reformation, UUs split away from Christian religious orthodoxy by declaring that humanity is always in a state of becoming or evolving and not stagnant and born in sin. We have a higher vision of what human beings can possibly become. Many religious and political conservatives (certainly not all) hold the belief that humankind is inherently bad and born in sin, and that we cannot evolve beyond a certain point because of something within us that is in arrested development. Just as we can become dogmatic in our progressiveness or liberalism, the attitude (conscious or not) of many religious and political conservatives divides humanity into “us and them” as well. What do you believe?

## ***“Membership Has Its Privileges”***

**March 19, 2017**

**Rev. Michael Carter**

This morning we acknowledge and celebrate our New Members. New members are the lifeblood of any church as we attempt to grow our souls and our congregation. Rest assured that we do not take your presence here lightly. It is our privilege to have you here and we hope it will be a privilege for you to be here.

Unitarian Universalism has a rich heritage. We do not have to think alike to love alike and we encourage a free and genuine search for truth and meaning.

Are we perfect? Of course not, our first principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all beings. Our 4th principle affirms an individual’s free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Each person is free to pursue his or her own spiritual path. She is granted total freedom in this pursuit, and in return grants this freedom to others. He agrees not to try to convert or to “fix” anyone else. We give as good as we get. With that in mind, Let’s celebrate our New Members into our Fellowship.



## March Minister's Message

*"The ability to observe without evaluating is the highest form of intelligence."*

---Indian sage Jiddu Krishnamurti

As I write this column on February 14th (Valentine's Day) for the month of March, the theme of renewal and rebirth are on my mind and probably on your mind, as well. The Spring Equinox is March 20th. Part of rebirth and renewal is having the intentionality to open our hearts and minds to the newness of life. In doing this we are also called upon to let go. There is an old Zen saying that an intelligent person learns something new every day and a wise person lets something go every day. Something to think about—right?

As we move forward into the newness of spring, I would challenge all of us, (and yes, that always includes me) to let go of something or to at least try. You can decide for yourself what that "something" will be, but I suggest, as much as possible, we try to let go of judgment. You may be looking at some people, observing their actions, trying hard to understand their motives without a clue about why they do what they do. From your perspective, it may seem that certain individuals *should* simply know better. They *should* be better and they *should* be doing better.

But the fact of the matter is that no one wants to be should all over. The truth is that every time you should *all over* someone you are making a judgment. This means that the wrong you attribute to him (or her) actually belongs to you. Yes, there is such a thing as righteous judgment. But there is also such a thing as self-righteous judgment as well. Many times, but not all of the time, when we make a judgment we are making a decision that things are not the way they are supposed to be. Our judgment reflects our belief in right or wrong based on what we may or may not know. In other words we seldom have all of the facts. Judgment reveals an attitude of superiority that says you or I have the right to determine what must be done, how it must be done, and who must do it. Our judgments also show our need to control because we resist accepting things exactly as they are. One cannot change anything without first accepting what is. Judgment is an attempt to get people to do what we want them and need them to do in order to feel better about ourselves. More importantly, judgment is really a way to set ourselves up to be judged by others.

Life is difficult at times and I can barely get my "ducks in a row," much less know how someone else should run his own life. People are who they are and will do what they do whether we like it or not. This earth journey is a schoolhouse and we all have our own individual lessons to learn and we each take a different path to those lessons. There will be times when our paths will cross and you will cause me to stumble and vice versa. That does not necessarily make us wrong. It does not necessarily make us right, either. The only thing a judgment does is to distract you or me from what it is that we must do for ourselves.

This spring let us practice resurrection and let go of the old, stale, habit of judging each other and ourselves. Just for today, suspend all judgments. Learn to see people, places, things, and events, just as they are. *It's an earth song—and I've been waiting long for an earth song.*

### *Earth Song*

*It's a spring song! I've been waiting long for a spring song:*

*Strong as the bursting of young buds.*

*Strong as the shoots of a new plant.*

*Strong as the coming of the first child from its mother's womb--*

*An earth song!*

*A spring song!*

*And I've been waiting long for an earth song. ---Langston Hughes*



## Announcements:

[Our UU Book Club](#) will meet on **Wednesday March 1st at 2 p.m.** in the back room of Black Coffee. We've chosen to read *Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World* by Matthew Goodman. The story is of two women journalists, in 1890, who try to circumnavigate the world in opposite directions in 80 days. Hope you can join us. Need more info, contact Robbie 828- 817-0382

[New Members Are Welcome](#) On March 19th, Rev. Carter will welcome new members into our Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. [If you are interested in becoming a member](#) of our congregation please see Rev. Carter following the service on March 5<sup>th</sup>, or you may contact Sheila Nungesser, Chairperson of the Membership Committee at (828) 625-3060 on or before March 10th.

### [Michael Carter Radio Interview](#)

Guest: Michael Carter

Show: A Better World

Station: WPVM FM 103.7 - Asheville, NC

Also live streaming: [wpvmfm.org](http://wpvmfm.org)

Date of interview: Thursday, March 9 at 5 p.m. ET

Encore airing of interview: Sunday, March 12 at 10 a.m. ET

Show will also be archived at: <http://wpvmfm.org/show/a-better-world/>

