



# Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

February, 2017

**Services: 1st & 3rd Sundays 10:30 A. M.**  
**Minister: Reverend Michael J. Carter**  
**Location: 835 N. Trade St., Tryon, NC**  
**Coffee, Refreshments & Fellowship after service**  
**Questions? Call 828-513-0570**  
**Website: TBUUF.org      Facebook @ TBUUF**  
**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782**

Greetings To All,

For many of us, (but certainly not all of us) the time is upon us to practice compassionate activism to promote the society we say we want to live in. We say that we want to do this by peaceful means. The words of Dr. King come to mind. He said that peace is not the goal; peace is the means by which we achieve our goals. Gandhi reminds us that we must be the change (or peace) that we want to see in the world. Well, we wage a lot of war in this great land of ours, and not just wars in other countries. There's the war on drugs. There's the war on poverty. There are "peacekeeping missiles (now there's an oxymoron if ever there was one. It's like the phrase, "jumbo shrimp") that we have aimed at our enemies in order to keep the peace. Let's not forget the war on cancer, the war on diabetes. Our very language betrays our love for war and violence. I have even heard sports announcers use the phrase " he pulled the trigger" when describing a quarterback in a football game throwing a pass, or a pitcher throwing the ball to a batter at the plate.

**The fact of the matter is that we are in the year 2017 and collectively and individually humanity is still resisting the fact that we can only know peace when we are willing to be peaceful.**

Fighting to have your way does not bring peace. Fighting others about their ways does not increase your peace. Refusing to acknowledge when you have made a mistake does not increase your peace. Refusing to acknowledge and embrace your shortcomings does not increase your peace. Pointing out the shortcomings of others does not increase your peace. Constantly telling yourself that you are flawed and defective; telling yourself that there is something fundamentally wrong with you does not increase your peace. Not asking for what you want does not increase your peace. Trying to prove your worth and value does not increase your peace. Failing to take responsibility for yourself and your actions does not increase your peace. Taking on the responsibility for the lives of others does not increase your peace. Avoiding unpleasant things does not increase your peace. **Trusting that you always try to evolve and do the best you can does increase your peace. Being gentle with yourself and others does increase your peace.**

Yes, you and I may have engaged in behaviors and activities that disturbed our peace of mind and the peace of mind of others. But let's try, at least for today, to increase the peace—for ourselves and others. Let's engage in self-loving, self-nurturing, self-supporting behaviors and activities. Let's strive to be joyful even after considering all of the facts!

Peace and Richest Blessings,  
Michael

## Upcoming Services Reverend Michael J. Carter

### February 5, 2017 “Grudges”

Well, it's 2017 and this year some of you are determined it's going to be different. Some of you may have made a couple of New Year's resolutions that I know you will be able to keep for the whole of 2017.

This morning I want to talk to you about some resolutions, some commitments, which I guarantee will make a radical difference in my life and your life if you and I follow through on them.

In fact, what I want to do is to offer to you a way of starting the New Year that could significantly change your life. Here is what I want to suggest to you: if you will make two commitments this year I guarantee you that the start of 2017 could become one of the most significant years in your life. I want to challenge you to make 2 new commitments for this New Year. Here they are:

- 1: Commit yourself to forget your failures
- 2: Let go of your grudges.

### February 19, 2017 “Uncivil War”

Whether you call it the Civil War, The War Between The States, or The War of Yankee Aggression, the American Southland is still fighting the Civil War. Since wars are never “civil” it is an interesting label. Americans were killing each other wholesale; father against son, brother against brother. When I first moved to Asheville from New York City, I was enamored of the natural beauty, the politeness of the people I met. “Yes sir”, and “no sir”; “yes ma’am” and “no ma’am.” “Doin’ well, and yourself?” There was a flicker of hope as I, too, was raised this way by my parents. Yet, beneath the natural beauty of the area, beneath the genteel civility, the overt politeness, I could feel the lingering, seething, unfinished business of race. In order to understand the current cultural and racial situation that we inhabit in our nation today, it is my belief that we must take a look again at this “uncivil war.” Our very democratic experiment depends on it!

## ***Announcements***

The Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry is seeking volunteers to help package and/or deliver meals for the Feed-A-Kid Program this summer. If you would like to participate, please contact Carolyne Rostick at [beagle5915@yahoo.com](mailto:beagle5915@yahoo.com). Last year we fed 129 children for 10 weeks and the monetary donations from TBUUF helped by adding fresh fruit and produce to each bag.

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Joy Soderquist has offered to create a church directory for TBUUF. If you would like to be included please see Joy or sign the sheet on the Information Table in the rear of the sanctuary.



## Welcoming New Members

*If you hunger for spirituality without dogma...  
If you long to put yourself to work healing a suffering world...  
If you want a faith community that helps you deepen into life's questions  
Even when there are no final answers...  
Unitarian Universalism may be your religious home.*

-Rev. Kathleen McTigue

On March 19<sup>th</sup> Rev. Carter will welcome new members into our Fellowship. Membership is open to all who wish to support this community with their time, talents, treasures, hearts and wisdom to whatever extent possible.

Unitarian Universalists are bound not by creed but by the common purpose of human betterment through the never-ending search for truth. This Fellowship is committed to freedom of belief. We are unified in spirit but hold a diversity of convictions. We believe in the importance of a faith community which recognizes the worth and dignity of each human being.

By signing our membership book, you will become a voting member of this Fellowship, have the opportunity to serve on the Board or other committees, and will receive a subscription to *UU World* magazine. Becoming a member also involves the commitment of an annual contribution of record.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this Fellowship please contact Rev. Carter or Sheila Nungesser of the Membership Committee at 828 625-3060 or [BarNun315@gmail.com](mailto:BarNun315@gmail.com).

*Unitarian Universalism is a non-judgmental religious home that will accept and support you wherever you may be in life's journey. It is a safe place to stand out, stand up, and change your mind, particularly during life's transitions. Our only doctrine is love.*

-Victoria Mitchell

### UU Book Club

### Please note the time change.

*Knocking on Heaven's Door* by Katy Butler is the book we'll be discussing at the UU Book Club on February 1 in the meeting room of the Black Coffee Café in Tryon at **1:30**. Since this is our first time to meet, we'll need to establish some guidelines.

Do you want to limit our future book selections to nonfiction, like I do? Do you wish to open our book club to people who don't attend our UU Fellowship? Is the first Wednesday of each month a convenient time to meet? Do we want to meet more than once a month?

After we establish some guidelines for our UU Book Club, we'll discuss this book that we've been reading this month, *Knocking on Heaven's Door*. A memoir that is about Ms. Butler's struggle to support her parents after her father had a stroke. Following are some of the questions that we'll consider on February 1<sup>st</sup>:

1. Was there something especially surprising about this person's story? What was it and why?
2. Memoirs can be written for a variety of different purposes, such as clearing up a misconceived notion, gaining fame and notoriety or promoting something. Into which category does this book fall?
3. Was there a lesson that could be taken away from this person's life? What was it and why is it important?
4. Did preconceived opinions of this person change after reading their story? If so, did it change for the better or the worse? Explain. (Credit: Lisa Rufe, Westfield Memorial Library, Westfield, NJ)

Please come with suggestions for the next book that our book club might read. It should be a book that you've read, so you can tell us something about the book. Currently, I'm reading *Martin and Malcolm and America* by James E. Cone. This was one of the books that Michael Carter recommended in his sermon on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

`Submitted by Robbie ter Kuile