



Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship July 2017

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

Upcoming Services

July 2, 2017

Rev. Michael J. Carter

Your Spiritual Manners

What are the appropriate manners that we bring to the banquet table of our lives? When I moved from New York City to North Carolina, I noticed how many people here in the South say they “appreciate” things. How does this appreciation play out in our day to day lives? *I’m not speaking about the etiquette of meeting and greeting people, or the way we conduct ourselves at the dinner table (knowing what knife, fork, and spoon to use at just the right time).* I’m speaking about the day to day etiquette we use in our day to day living while experiencing life on this wonderful planet of ours. A modern day expert on etiquette, Emily Post, offers a view of manners beyond the dining room table with this little gem: *“Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners no matter what fork you use.”* See you on Sunday!

July 16, 2017

Rev. Michael J. Carter

Feelings

We are often told to get in touch with them. We are often told to keep them in check. In certain schools of Eastern thought we are taught to just be aware of and to observe them as they are impermanent and ever-changing. There is truth to all of this, yet, however one looks at it; we cannot really become a healthy human being without them. Obviously, I am referring to our feelings. How do we get over this Western notion, this love affair with the intellect, to balance heart and mind, to become the whole, authentic and integrated people we are meant to be? Let’s explore this balancing act of what it means to be human; let’s talk about feelings.

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Coffee, light refreshments and fellowship follow our services. Our thanks to Marie King and Joy and Jerry Soderquist for providing the hospitality in July.

Our Minister's July Message

Dear Friends,

We All Have A Right To Be Wrong.

Mistakes are our greatest teachers. Yet there are some of people who are afraid to make a mistake or to be wrong. Mistakes are part of life, and they make us human. One of the greatest things about the game of baseball is that they never lose sight of the fact that human beings play the game, not machines. At times some of the baseball sport announcers seem to believe that the players are not allowed to make mistakes and it's easy to sit and judge from the announcement booth. Yet baseball is the only sport that makes room for errors. The box score includes, runs, hits, and errors!



Are you so afraid of doing things wrong that you won't do anything at all? In my pastoral care sessions with members of the various congregations that I have served, there were times when individuals disclosed that they had been raised in families where their parents had said that they would rather have died than to admit that they made a mistake. Imagine being raised that way; what a way to have to live! How many times have you convinced yourself that something is right for you to do, only to allow yourself to be blown off course by someone who says "that's wrong!"

Is it possible that you dwell in a past of things wrong to such a degree that you now believe that anything you do will probably go wrong? If you answered yes to one of more of these inquiries, I have another question for you, "What's wrong with being wrong?" When you take a step in a direction that could ultimately lead you off course, being "wrong" lets you know that you need to change directions. If you choose something or someone that is less than worthy of who you decide to take on something that you are not really prepared to handle, being "wrong" lets you know what skills you need to build, what information you need to acquire, what things you can do well and what things you cannot. When you get right down to it, being "wrong" is life's way of letting you know what you need to know in order to get the right results for your efforts.

Now what's so wrong about that?

If you have a fear of being wrong, look back into your personal history. Allow yourself to remember the first time you were told you were wrong. Allow yourself to hear the words, feel the feelings and remember the experience. If you can place yourself in the midst of the experience, forgive yourself for believing that there is something wrong with being wrong. There is a difference in making a mistake and feeling that you are a mistake.

Perhaps until today, you may have allowed yourself to believe that if you did something wrong that you would not recover. Just for today, take a risk. Do something you fear just might be wrong. You just may discover that you were wrong. Welcome to the human race! Join the club.

You're certainly not alone.

Michael J. Carter

Upcoming Events & Announcements

UU Book Club

Strangers in Their Own Land—Anger and Mourning on the American Right by Arlie Russell Hochschild is the book we've chosen to read for July. The author is a sociologist who traveled from her liberal hometown of Berkeley, CA, deep into arch-conservative Louisiana bayou country. Her mission is to “truly listen to the other side in order to understand why they believe—and feel—the way they do.”

This book was chosen by Indivisible Foothills Carolina and we will join them when they meet to discuss the book. **The meeting will be at Black Coffee (15 S. Trade Street, Tryon) on Thursday, July 13th at 4:30 p.m.** You can learn more about this organization at www.randolphreview.com and on Facebook: IndivisibleFoothillsCarolina.

For more information, call Robbie terKuile, 828-513-0570.



Looking for more summer reading ideas? Check out the UUA's Book and Gift Shop on the website: www.uuabookstore.org

TBUUF Welcoming Committee

In the May Newsletter a visitor submitted an article about ways in which a church could be more welcoming. As a frequent greeter I have noticed that many of our visitors attend once but do not return. Why? If you would like to be a part of a Welcoming Committee to discuss ways in which we can be more welcoming please contact Sheila Nungesser at 828-625-3060 or at BarNun315@gmail.com.

Pastoral Care Committee

At the Annual Meeting in June Christine Mariotti (859-8392), Joy Soderquist (859-3090) and Sandy Sammons (859-0106) volunteered to be part of a Pastoral Care Committee. If you would like to be a part of this committee please contact them or a member of the TBUUF Board. If you know of someone in need, please notify a member of this committee.