



Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship April 2018

Services at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at
835 N. Trade St., Tryon, NC
www.TBUUF.org; Like/follow us on Facebook @ TBUUF
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

Upcoming Services

April 1, 2018

“Judaism”

Norm Bossert

Service based upon the Prayer Book
Gates of Prayer

Join Norm Bossert as we continue our series exploring the world's great faith traditions. Norm is a founding member of the “Sacred Heart Synagogue” so named because they meet at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Brevard. Norm will lead us through a traditional Sabbath service along with explanations of the history and significance of each part. The service will utilize the Jewish prayer book, Gates of Prayer. (Copies of the book will be provided.) Join us to celebrate the “Religion of Jesus”, not the “Religion about Jesus”.

Since the days of the priesthood and prophets, the Jews have always been a people consumed with the study of G-d. The Torah, the Five Books of Moses and the many writings of the patriarchs, have informed the ways that we Jews face the challenges of the world around us. Above all we have two important life goals. The first is Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world. The second is the commandment that we be a light unto the nations.

Judaism is a faith driven by the need to do good works. In fact, faith in G-d, however powerful that may be, is of far less importance than good works. It is the reason that even secular Jews want to proclaim their Jewishness, whether there is a G-d or not.

The central prayer of the faith is the Shema – “The Lord our G-d, the Lord is one.” True, we have no name for G-d, instead we refer to G-d's attributes. And the after life . . . nothing to be concerned about, as while we are here we focus on this life. The next will take of itself.

Many of our prayers are steeped in ancient history and even more ancient melodies. In fact, some of our prayers are in Aramaic, the language of Jesus. That said, there is a renaissance of Jewish music and melodies that would, no doubt, please the Rabbis. Songs like Jerusalem of Gold inspire the listener and connect today's Jews with the ancient walls of the city that was home to the Holy Temple of Kings David and Solomon.

Today, as it was 2000 years ago, with the disappearance of the priesthood, the faith became a rabbinic faith. When that happened, it was possible to build a structure of religious practices that could travel the globe and survive the pressures of an unsympathetic gentile world.

We Jews have had a home in the New World since Europeans arrived here. Charleston, New Amsterdam (now New York) and even Rhode Island hosted some of our country's oldest Jewish communities. Here in the United States Jews have, for the most part, felt welcome. With that as a subtext, in the last year there has been a disappointing increase in the number of anti-Semitic acts. We must, as our Holocaust survivors would say, "Never Again." We have survived and thrived in spite of the Holocaust and the Spanish Inquisition. We have no plan to retire!



Norm Bossert is a lay leader for the Brevard Jewish Community which he started about 17 years ago. Having changed jobs and with no easy access to a synagogue, he placed an ad in the Transylvania Times: "Are you Jewish? If so, call Norm Bossert." Both Norm and his wife Shelley were completely surprised by the response. After a small gathering, the Brevard Jewish Community was born. It now serves about 100 people.

Norm is a recently retired school administrator. He began his career as a teacher and administrator in 1973 upon his graduation from Old Dominion University. In 2001, he received his Masters in School Administration from Western Carolina University and began working as a school administrator until retiring in June, 2017. He now likes to substitute teach occasionally (because he misses the kids and being in a school,) and he is and has been active in the world of politics.

Norm and his wife Shelley have been married for 44 years and along the way they have traveled and worked overseas, in Norfolk, and in Central New York. They have two grown sons and six grandchildren.

Norm and Shelley's faith has helped them face the trials and tribulations of life as well as its celebrations. Their synagogue has been, and continues to be, an integral part of their lives.

April 15, 2018

"A Higher Morality"

Rev. Ernie Mills

Continuing our series on the UU 7 Principles, we explore the third principle: "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." This principle, like the others, calls us to what I consider a higher morality and challenges us to strive for heroic ideals. Is this possible? Can we achieve this level of being?

Rev. Mills completed a BA in Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, a Master of Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He previously served as minister to the Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County.



* * *

TBUUF services are held at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 835 N. Trade St., Tryon

Coffee, light refreshments and fellowship follow our services.

April volunteers:

April 1: Greeter: Sheila Nungesser; Hospitality: Gretchen Boyd

April 15: Greeter and hospitality volunteers needed

Sign-up sheets to volunteer for hospitality and to greet are on the back table at each service.

* * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TBUUF is co-sponsoring a reading of the play “The Best of Enemies” at the Tryon Fine Arts Center on May 15 and 17. Robin Edgar is the director and producer. More information to come.

There will be an election for Board members in June. If you or someone you know are willing to serve, please let an officer know.

TBUUF Board Members 2017-2018: Phil Nungesser, Co-President; Nan Covert, Co-President; Ninalee Kinney, Vice President; Gretchen Boyd, Treasurer; Penny Kessler, Secretary; Barbara Moffitt, at large member.

The Fischers want to arrange for carpooling to other UU congregations on the Sundays we don't meet. If you would like to participate, contact Cathy or Nick at catfisch111@gmail.com

It has been suggested that we include a section in the newsletter with recommended books, particularly those that are mentioned in our services.

Here are a few that come to mind. Suggestions are welcome.

[Martin & Malcolm & America](#) by James H. Cone. Cone contrasts the ideological visions of these two leaders during the civil rights movement, including how each

man saw the future of blacks in America -- "I have a dream" versus "I see a nightmare".

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Knocking on Heaven's Door: The Path to a Better Way of Death by Katy Butler

In this visionary memoir, based on a groundbreaking New York Times Magazine story, award-winning journalist Katy Butler ponders her parents' desires for "Good Deaths" and the forces within medicine that prevent that from happening.

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

When a newborn baby dies after a routine hospital procedure, there is no doubt about who will be held responsible: the nurse who had been banned from looking after him by his father. A novel that brings forth the issue of race in a personal and easy to understand way.