

UU to discuss how ‘Black Lives Matter’

Born out of the unrest in Ferguson, Mo., after the police shooting of Michael Brown last summer, and culminating this year with the slaughter of nine churchgoers in Charleston, the current protest movement known as “Black Lives Matter” will be explored this Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

This civil rights movement is among some of the most important movements of the time, urging everyone toward racial justice in our nation.

This Sunday will offer consideration on how all can be credible allies in this nation-wide work.

The program will feature a video sermon by the Rev. Thom Belote of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Chapel Hill, N.C.

There will be opportunity for open discussion after the video is shown.

The UU Fellowship Hall is at 87738 Highway 101, and is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org or call 541-997-2840.



My father became a Christian when he was 83 years old.

There were many times throughout the years when I thought, “He will never change.” But I kept praying for him.

And thank God, eventually, he did change — he experienced the greatest transformation of all.

To be transformed means you are changed entirely from the inside out. When we become born-again Christians, 2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP) says we are “a new creation; the old has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come.”

Dare to believe

The Holy Spirit comes to live in us, and He works in us—transforming our mind, will and emotions—so we become more like Jesus day by day.

As we grow spiritually, the good work that’s happening inside us can be seen through the way we live, and we become testimonies of what God has done.

Sadly, many times people don’t believe they can be completely changed. And often they don’t believe other people can change. But the only thing that never changes is God (Hebrews 13:8).

He wants us to dare to believe that He “is able to do superabundantly, far over and above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20 AMP).

The question is what are you expecting God to do for you? Maybe you’re having a hard time believing that your kids can change, your marriage can improve or that you can ever lose weight, get a better job or get completely out of debt.

But Jeremiah 29:11 says God’s thoughts and plans for us are “for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.” He has a good plan for you, and you can dare to believe He can heal you anywhere you hurt and help you with every problem you face.

It’s time to start expecting more from God than you’ve ever believed He would do for you before.

The key to having what God wants you to have is learning to think like He thinks.

Romans 12:2 teaches that we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. I’ve discovered several ways we need to change our thinking so we can live with the mind of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:6).

We need to change our thinking about:

- *God.* It’s so important for us to know who God really is. He’s not an angry God, and He’s not “harsh, hard, sharp or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant” (Matthew 11:30). God loves you, and if you know how much He loves you right now, then you’ll have hope that the things in your life that need to change can be changed.
- *Ourselves.* If you don’t like yourself, you’re going to have difficulty in every area of your life. Don’t demand perfection from yourself. No one is perfect, and no matter what we do, we usually don’t think it’s enough: we don’t pray enough, work hard enough, study the Bible enough, etc.

God spoke to my heart one day and told me, “Joyce, you’re never enough, but I’m always more than enough.”

That’s why Jesus came.

Believe that, in Christ, there’s more right than wrong with you, and you can do whatever you need to do in life through Him (2 Corinthians 5:21; John 15:5; Philippians 4:13).

- *Trials, or the hard, painful things we go through in life.* Habakkuk 3:19 says God is our strength and He will help us to “walk and make spiritual progress upon high places.” James 1:2-4 encourages us to “consider it wholly joyful ... whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials,” because “the trial and proving of your faith” are what God works through to make us “fully developed ... lacking in nothing.”
- *The level of importance we put on what others think about us.* It’s easy to let what others do and say affect us, and to feel like “If you don’t like me, my day is ruined.” But the truth is, if we’re more concerned with being a people-pleaser than a God-pleaser, we won’t become what God created us to be and do what He’s calling us to do (Galatians 1:10).

I want to encourage you to study scriptures that reveal God’s true character and His heart for you.

And dare to believe that there’s nothing in your life He can’t change — including you.



Watch
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Soup’s On to discuss intellect, heart Monday

Monday, Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to the home of James Heintz and Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 875 Seventh St. to discuss intellect and heart — and which one runs our lives.

The group that attends this weekly gathering is from diverse spiritual paths and finds comfort and growth in openly sharing their spiritual discoveries and learning the paths of others.

Abdu’l-Baha,’ the Son of the Founder of the Baha’i Faith, says: “The intellect is

good but until it has become the servant of the heart, it is of little avail.”

The evening will begin with bowls of vegetarian fall harvest soup, fruit, home-made bread and vegetables, followed by the evening’s topic until 8:30 p.m.

The gathering will end with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

For more information, call Suzanne at 541-990-0779.

Food Share expands hours to include two Saturdays a month

In order to better serve its clients, beginning Saturday, Oct. 17, Florence Food Share will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Many of Food Share’s clients are working families unable to utilize the pantry during the normal work week.

Thanks to an anonymous donation specifically for this purpose, Food Share will now be open on Saturdays.

The pantry will initially be open the first and third Saturday of each month, and will soon expand to being open each Saturday.



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