

Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Newsletter for September, 2021

*Now wearing masks and meeting at the
Whimsical World Gallery, 116 Jones St. in Landrum*

Mailing Address: UUFC, P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

Happening this Month:

Sept 5 – UUFCF Service at the Gallery

Sept 6 – Labor Day

Sept 11 – Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11

Sept 12 – Grandparents' Day

Sept 19 – UUFCF Service at the Gallery

(Guest Speaker Ernie Mills)

Sept 26 – Native American Day

(In the past, Columbus Day)



A New UUFCF Milestone:

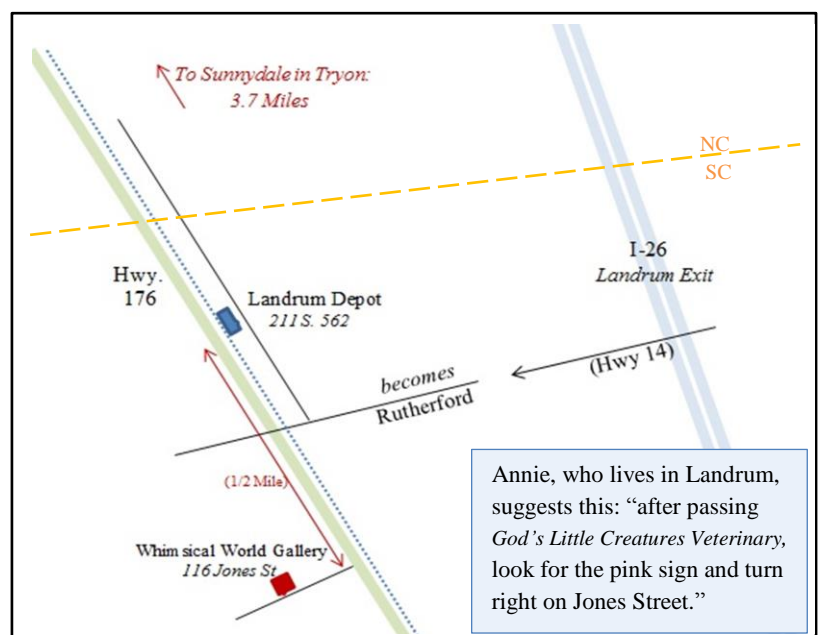
Imagine meeting in a building designed as a church!

In his folksy way, Mark Twain may have said it best: *“Let us not be too particular; it is better to have old secondhand diamonds than none at all.”* At our recent congregational meeting, members shared a common belief that we would better realize our mission to serve the community by *not* investing our limited resources in owning a building that sits empty throughout the week (or in our case, *weeks*.) It might be better to meet in a place that provides space for others as well, perhaps sharing the costs of maintenance and utilities. Of course, UUFCF has traditionally met in Tryon, but “Carolina Foothills” includes a wider area than just one town. The Board is impressed with David Cedrone, the artist who moved from Portland, Maine to Landrum, South Carolina and relocated his *Whimsical World Gallery* to an old church building. He has a similar philosophy to ours, and offers his secondhand diamond to the community for AA meetings and LGBTQ gatherings. David graciously offered it for us to use as well, and for a time, we wrestled with the idea of meeting in a quirky “church-turned-gallery.” But, as Samuel Clemmons, aka Mark Twain also said, *“I was seldom able to see an opportunity until it had ceased to be one.”* Not quite five miles from downtown Tryon, this Landrum location opens new possibilities for an expanded membership, provides an ideal site for Sunday services, and offers the greater community a sanctuary for the socially conscious. Beginning on September 5, we will don our masks and enter the whimsical world that may well become a familiar, welcoming home for UU members and friends.



*Artist/Owner of the Whimsical World Gallery
David Cedrone poses with a couple of his
imaginative creations for a 2017 article
in the Tryon Daily Bulletin*

Read it at [David Cedrone Interview](#)



Annie, who lives in Landrum, suggests this: “after passing God’s Little Creatures Veterinary, look for the pink sign and turn right on Jones Street.”

Sunday, September 5, 2021

The Future of our Past

Some thoughts on 9/11
twenty years on




On September 5th our minister, Lyndon Harris, will share stories and lessons from his first-hand experience of the terrorists' attacks in NYC on September 11, 2001. At the time Lyndon was serving as priest in charge of Saint Paul's Chapel, the Episcopal chapel directly across the street from the former World Trade Center. Lyndon will recount his harrowing journey from being at the foot of the South Tower as the second hi-jacked airplane collided with it, to setting up a relief mission to serve first responders and emergency personnel working in the devastated WTC site. For 8.5 months Lyndon and an amazing team of volunteers sought to meet the needs of first responders, serving over ½ million meals, and providing services such as massage therapy, chiropractic care, grief counseling, religious services and music. Saint Paul's Chapel was described as an "oasis of Heaven in the midst of Hell."

Someone once asked Mr. Rogers how to speak to the children about 9/11, and he responded, "Tell them to keep their eyes on the helpers." Sage advice. Please join us on Sunday September 5th as Lyndon shares stories, photos, and remembrances of the amazing helpers – firefighters, police officers, construction workers, and volunteers - who courageously served our country in response to the attacks on 9/11 in NYC.

UU's who have made a difference

One of the privileges of UUFCF membership is a subscription to *UU World*, the official magazine of the UUA. In the most recent issue, there is an article titled "Our Community Has Power," followed by a sidebar on pioneering Unitarians and Universalists who have advocated for civil justice. In the online version of *UU World* (available to everyone), there is actually a link to each of the featured activists that impacted our society for the advancement of civil rights and a more inclusive American society and beyond. The "short list" includes the familiar (Henry David Thoreau, advocating civil disobedience in 1848) to the lesser known (Viola Liuzzo, UU minister killed by the KKK in 1965.) The most recent profile is about the 2003 wedding of UUs Julie and Hillary Goodridge, who through court battles paved the way for legal same sex marriage. There's some interesting and inspiring reading here. If you have the time, visit <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uu-justice-makers>.



Sunday, September 19, 2001

Reverend Ernie Mills

*“No More Shall
Grief of Mine
the Season Wrong”*

(A line from a William Wordsworth poem)

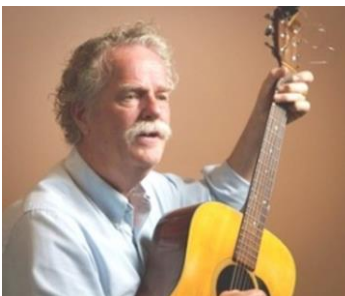
Most of our beliefs, attitudes and sentiments toward aging and death have been shaped over the millennia by mythologies found in the Bible. The very opening of Genesis describes how Eve and Adam brought death into the world because they disobeyed God's command not to eat the forbidden fruit. Death, then, is understood to be a "punishment for sins," which became a core belief of Paul's gospel and subsequently of Christianity. My hope is to counter these attitudes and beliefs and offer another perspective that gives more grace and dignity to the process of aging, dying and death. Rather than resist or deny aging, the question is, how can we embrace it and grow wiser for it? Carl Jung, the founder of Depth Psychology once said "death can become a goal toward which we strive." –Ernie

Ordained to the UU ministry in 2007, Ernie 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 began his ministry in the United Methodist Church, serving as director of education, assistant pastor, and minister. Prior to joining the Unitarian Universalist Church of Transylvania County in June 2002, Ernie was Chaplain and Instructor at Brevard College. After his tenure with UUTC, he served our fellowship for nearly a year in 2018.

We are honored to welcome him back as a guest speaker!

Recounting his experience with UUism, Ernie observes, "Opening up a hymnal opened up another phase in my life. Its songs and readings provide a roadmap for an adventurous and exciting spiritual journey where the wisdom from all the world's faith traditions is honored. My understanding of our UU faith has deepened as I have prepared sermons, taught lifespan faith development courses, and completed the readings and other tasks required for my Ministerial Fellowship. I continue to be challenged and rewarded."

(Thanks to UUTC for photo and text)





Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

Twenty years. A generation. A long time. The 20th anniversary of 9/11 is just around the corner. It has been 20 years since the terrorist group Al Qaeda brutally attacked the US: at the former World Trade Center in NYC; the Pentagon in Washington, DC; and in a third airplane (United Airlines Flight 93), whose attack was thwarted by unarmed passengers from reaching its destination of either the Capital Building or the White House, only 20 minutes away by air.

The fateful day of September 11, 2001, has had enormous repercussions throughout the fabric of our country and the world. We still live with the trauma of 9/11 today.

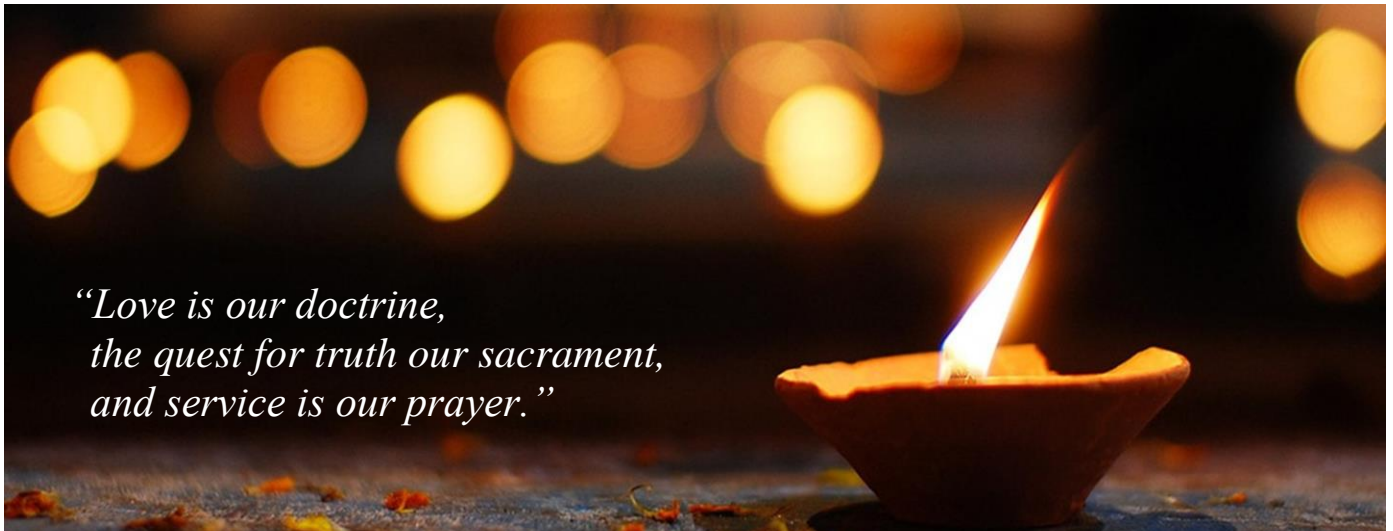
Twenty years later, what are we to make of it? What meaning might we glean from this painful tragedy?

Someone once asked Mr. Rogers how we should speak to our children about the attacks on 9/11. He replied, "Tell them to keep their eyes on the helpers."

Keep your eyes on the helpers. Sage advice. Please join us on Sunday, September 5th, as I'll offer thoughts, stories, and first-hand experiences of that day, and the days and months following. Keeping our eyes on the helpers, I'll speak about and share photos from my personal experiences of 9/11, and my experience in helping develop and oversee an outreach support mission from the church where I was serving, Saint Paul's Chapel, directly across the street from the former World Trade Center.

Stay safe and strong, dear ones, and I'll see you then.

Warmly,
Lyndon



Email your announcements for the Nuusletter to dgreeson1@gmail.com.

Also, feel free to contact any of the Board of Trustees with your questions, comments or concerns.
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