



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

of the Carolina Foothills' February, 2023 Newsletter

Meeting at the Whimsical World Gallery, 116 Jones St. Landrum, SC • Mailing Address: UUFCF, P.O.Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782



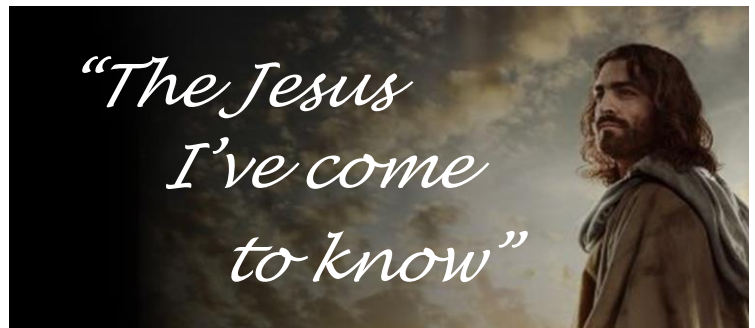
Happening This Month:

- Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Feb. 5 – Service at 10:30**
- Feb. 12 – Superbowl Sunday
- Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 19 – Service at 10:30**
- Feb. 20 – Presidents’ Day
- Feb. 21 -- Mardi Gras



Sunday, February 5 – Rev. Ernie Mills

Jesus was a social activist with a simple message, nothing less, nothing more. He led a movement among the poor and poverty stricken Jews of Judea during the Roman occupation. As the movement grew, the fame of Jesus spread far and wide all across Judea. The movement became known as the "Way". But this troubled certain Jewish leaders and other sympathizers who were benefiting from



The Greek's Trinity of Erotes, an example of male trinities common in ancient cultures

the Roman occupation. They grew increasingly fearful that the Way could turn into a revolt so they plotted to have Jesus executed. Not long after his execution, some of his followers began making claims that he was still alive. At that point a process began that transformed this social activist into the Christ figure. Layers and layers of theological doctrines and mythologies from all four corners of the earth were piled upon Jesus to the point that the real person disappeared up the ladder into complete godhood. When we peeled away these layers we discovered a great teacher who bequeathed to humanity a simple message of love and a way of living to the fullest in the here and now.

Sunday, February 19 – Rev. Sally Beth Shore

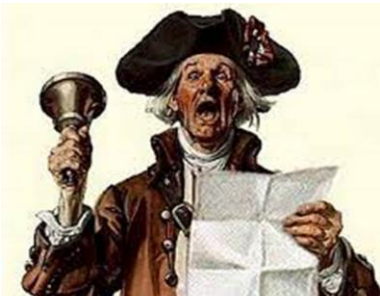
The Greatest Love

It's the month of hearts and flowers, and chocolates, ugh, can we really stand to hear more about love? You bet! I know that Valentine's Day may have left us gagging with sentimental expressions of affection, but let's use this as a point of departure and go beyond notions of romantic passion to explore questions such as, "What does it mean to be a lover?" and "What is the greatest love?"

- **Are Unitarian Universalists called to love?**
- **Does love really have anything to do with justice?**
- **How do we grow love in the world?**

We'll draw on a few popular songs about this crazy little thing called love to help us in our contemplations.





New Member Recognition

Here Ye, Here Ye! All those who wish to officially join the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Carolina Foothills shall have their wishes granted on February 15, 2023 during the service! And all those who wish to welcome such new members after said service will be afforded that opportunity. Much fanfare and celebration will ensue! Be ye a Whimsical World Welcomer and be sure to attend. Thus sayeth the Board. *NOTE: Jim Minshew will again be taking photo portraits!*

Our Ministers

Our fellowship is fortunate to have two veteran Unitarian Universalist ministers currently serving the congregation. Both are well educated and accomplished in various disciplines related to UU principles and traditions. From teaching to volunteering, their experience in working with people and striving for a better world provides for us an extraordinary level of wisdom and leadership. Here are short bios for each.

Reverend Ernie Mills

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.



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 Fellowshiping. I continue to be challenged and rewarded."

(Thanks to UUTC for photo and text)

Reverend Sally Beth Shore

Sally Beth grew up in central NC, graduated from the University of North Carolina, and served in the US Peace Corps (Mali) as a forestry volunteer. She was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry in 2013 after receiving her Master of Divinity (2012) from Meadville Lombard Theological School. Shore also holds an MS in Environmental Science from UNC (1994). She has served a number of Western Carolina UU congregations, including the UUFCF from 2013-2015. In addition to her ministry with us, she consults as a professional facilitator and holds yet another MS, this one in Positive Organization Development from Case Western Reserve University. Sally Beth loves gardening, bicycling, music, her husband of 32 years and their 3 adult children.



We invite you to contact any of the Board of Trustees with your questions, comments or ideas.
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