



# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

## *of the Carolina Foothills*

Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at the Whimsical World Gallery, 116 Jones St in Landrum, SC  
Mailing Address: UUFCF, P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782



### Happening in March

March 3 – World Wildlife Day  
**March 5 – UUFCF Service at 10:30**  
March 8 – International Women’s Day  
March 12 – Daylight Savings begins  
March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day  
**March 19 -- UUFCF Service at 10:30**  
March 20 – Spring Equinox

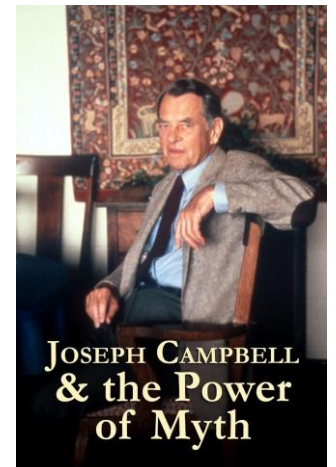


*Sunday, March 5, 2023 – Reverend Ernie Mills*

## My Journey to Freedom; Finding Unitarian Universalism

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, once described himself as a “one book-man”. That one book, of course, was the Bible. Being a third generation United Methodist, I too, like Wesley, became a “one-book man”. In 1983 I was ordained a United Methodist minister eager to teach and preach the Bible.

But something happened in those early years that would change the course of my life. One evening I happened to turn the TV on just as PBS was introducing a program called “The Power of Myth,” an interview between Bill Moyers and Joseph Campbell. It was my first introduction to comparative myth and religion and it opened up a whole new world for me. I realized I could no longer be a “one-book man”. It was not easy letting go of that one book but I realized now that it was a liberating experience. Fortunately, on my journey toward freedom I found a place that encourages a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning,” and a community that is “grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith”; Unitarian Universalism.



*Sunday, March 19 – Reverend Sally Beth Shore*

## The Power To Be Wrong

Being right seems to be highly valued in our culture. We will argue, debate, and even come to violence to avoid admitting to errors and be right, and this inclination seems to grow the higher up the status ladder we go. Why is this, and what’s so wrong with being wrong? Is there another way? Let’s delve into this need to seem infallible habit and consider what’s on the other side if we can let go of it.

Feel free to contact any of the Board of Trustees with your questions, comments or concerns.  
President: Barbara Moffitt – 443-535-7632 • Vice-President: Christine Mariotti – 828-440-1277  
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## Princess On Board --Don Greeson

There's a sticker on the sliding door of my daughter's minivan that reads, "Princess on Board, *Please Leave Room*" with the stylized image of a figure in a wheelchair wearing a tiara. Having a granddaughter with spina bifida has made me acutely aware of the difficulties physically disabled persons face in public, such as having to enter a building by a separate entrance, or in some cases, not entering at all. And nothing makes me more angry than seeing fully abled persons park in spaces clearly marked *Handicap*. On the occasions I have confronted them, the response is either, "I'll just be a minute," or worse, "I have a sticker" (which is probably meant for a family member not present.) Aware of such willful abuse, my daughter makes a point of NOT using a handicap space when the princess is not with her. But in the lives of the disabled, it's not just about parking spaces.



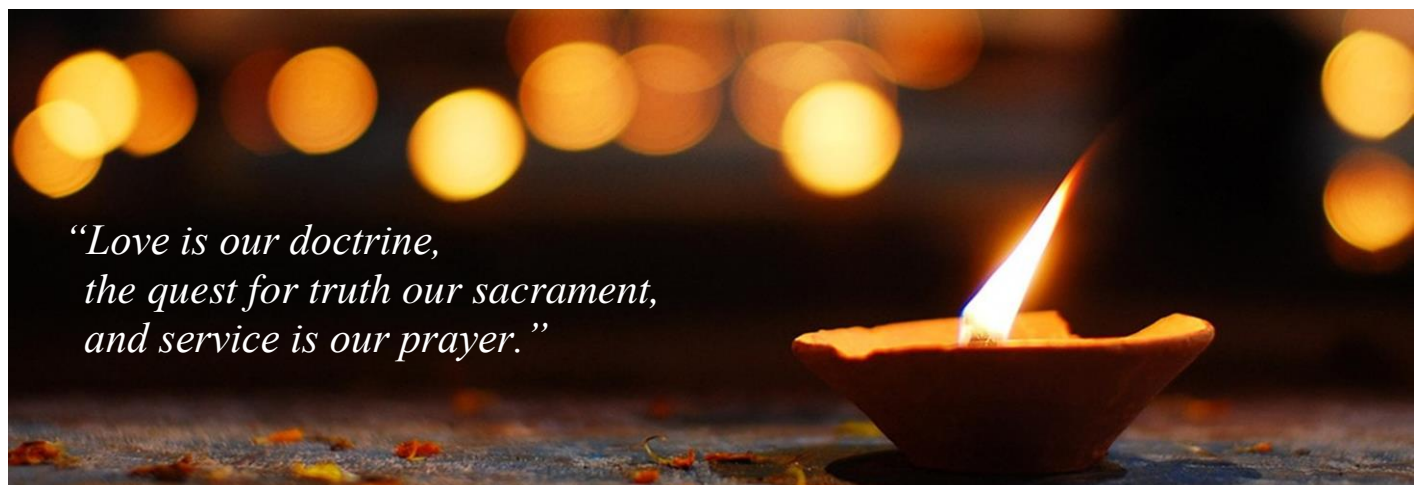
*"The Princess" poses with Miss America*

A recent incident at a town hall meeting was reported in the NY Times explaining how, because there was no ramp for his wheelchair, a paraplegic speaker had to hoist himself onto the stage with just his arms as the audience watched. I realize such disregard for the disabled can be dismissed as oversight. But "inclusion" is a challenge for many people, whether the subject concerns religion, politics, or identity. To exclude a person because of a physical or mental disability, or make fun of someone as Trump once did of a reporter with Parkinson's, reveals either a low level of emotional intelligence or a disgraceful lack of compassion. I'm reminded of Ernie's comment about the Golden Rule, "If you can do just that one thing..."

I'm pleased that the UUA recently did one thing. Though in some ways it's just a gesture, our parent association at least addressed the problems of access and inclusion with this press release:

**Boston, Mass. (October 19, 2022)** – The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and EqUUal Access are announcing today that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support our Unitarian Universalist faith communities' work for accessibility and inclusion, and expanding our commitments to disability justice. The MOU builds on the historic partnership between the two organizations. It ensures that the UUA will provide more resources and staff to address ableism within Unitarian Universalism and to support equity in the engagement of disabled people in society as a whole.

Passed in 1990, the American Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability just as other civil rights laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The UU emphasis on justice often deals with intolerance, but with such cultural obscenities as book banning, anti-Semitism, and gay bashing dominating the headlines, it's easy to forget there are subtle challenges we can address in our everyday lives.



*"Love is our doctrine,  
the quest for truth our sacrament,  
and service is our prayer."*