



# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

## *of the Carolina Foothills*

### December, 2023

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 December

Dec. 3 – UUFCF Service at 10:30  
Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Day  
Dec. 15 – Hanukkah begins  
Dec 17 – UUFCF Service at 10:30  
Dec 21 – Winter Solstice  
Dec 25 – Christmas  
Dec 31 – New Year's Eve



Sunday, December 3, 2023 – Rev. Ernie Mills

### "Getting in the Way"

The Tao is often referred to as the Way. To get in the Way begins by removing obstacles that get in the way of getting in the Way. Knowledge is one of those obstacles. When we know, or think we know, we close our minds to the great mystery and wonder of life. Another obstacle is isolation and thinking we can go it alone.. Finding companions is vital as we journey on the Way. Getting in the Way is moving along with the rhythm and flow of life. The goal of this process is "self-actualization" or in Taoism terms bringing life to its completion.

Sunday, December 17, 2023 – Rev. Ernie Mills

### UU Yule

*(This reflection comes by way of special request. It is a "first" for me.)* **Yule** is a noun that means Christmas. Yet its origins derive from natural or pagan festivals that celebrate the winter solstice, that is the birth of the Sun. Yule provides us a first-hand look at the pagan celebrations that form the background of Christmas, the birth of the *Son*. The connections between the pagan Yule and the Christmas story reveal the natural and universal sources of religion. We are all living under the same Sun, all children of the same Divine Force.



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

Chair: Alisa Mosley –803-603-9300 Vice Chair: Christine Mariotti – 828-440-1277

Treasurer: Tom Kosmata –803-546-6322 Secretary: Janice Minshew--772-834-1234

Member at Large: Gretchen Boyd – 828-859-6643



On Thanksgiving Day,  
Sally and Chris MacMillan  
sent this meditation to  
share with our Fellowship.  
It is by UU Rev. Naomi King.



## IN THIS SEASON OF *Gratitude*

Let us join **hands and hearts** in gratitude on this wondrous day where we have the abundance of our lives before us.

We remember on this **day of bounty** all of those who do not have enough, who are afraid, who are lonely, and who suffer. We wish for the abundance of this world to be shared, for **fear to become love**, for the lonely to feel welcomed, and for the suffering to know rest and joy.

For the labors, the love, the care that gave us the delights of this and every day, **we say "thanks!"**

For the nourishment of our spirit, the challenges that strengthen us, and the friends we have on the journey, **we sing "thanks!"**

For all that is our lives, for these good gifts, we whisper, "thanks!" Overflowing with gratitude, **let us shout "thanks!"**

Amen.



## Light for All: Winter Solstice with UUMFE

7 pm Wednesday, December 20

Join us for an evening of music, reflection, meditation, and spiritual grounding hosted on Zoom! The Winter Solstice occurs when Earth's axis tilts away from the sun, making it the shortest day and longest night of the year for those living in the. Join UU Ministry for Earth and other UU partners to honor this time of year, our connection to the natural world, and to remember that light does come after darkness. We will be featuring the work of Energy Democracy organizations and how we can work toward Light for All!

**For more information and to register:**

<https://www.uumfe.org/support-for-activists/light-for-all/>

## 2023: The Year in Pictures



*Happy Holidays!*