



# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

## *of the Carolina Foothills*

### December, 2024

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



*Sunday, December 1, 2024 – Ernie Mills*

## "Beyond Tolerance"

We'll explore our 3rd UU Principle, "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." This principle challenges us to move beyond tolerance which is a form of suffering- in this case- of another's beliefs or ideals. Through accepting one another we experience the enriching and ennobling of our own faith and "expand our vision"...and our horizon.

*Sunday, December 15, 2024 –Ernie Mills*

## Freedom to Be

Freedom is essential to all our searching and seeking. As Unitarian Universalists we work with the intention of creating a safe space for each other to openly and freely search for meaning without fear of being morally judged or corrected. Our 4th UU principle calls us to "affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning."



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

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# The Evolution of Our UU Hymnbook

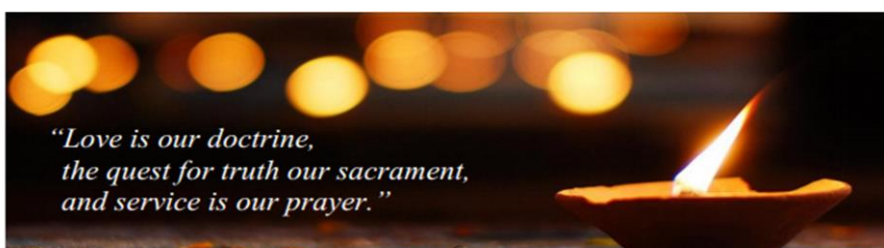
“What we choose is what we are.”

You may have noticed, as I have, that when Ernie has us turn to “the seventh page” of our hymnbooks to reference the Seven Principles and Six Sources, not every copy lists them all. I did some checking and found the explanation. Below is the final part of a long history of hymnbooks for both the Universalist Church and the Unitarian Church, the two denominations that consolidated in 1961. (You can read the entire essay at [https://www.uua.org/files/documents/sheltonjason/changing\\_words.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/documents/sheltonjason/changing_words.pdf).) Basically, it explains that the UU Hymnbook changes as we change, and the Principles were added about 40 years ago, with the Sources following (but not all at the same time). For me, the most interesting part is what I’ve highlighted in yellow, and explains the book’s title, “Singing the Living Tradition.” - Don

Jason Shelton’s history was written in 2022. This is the essay’s last paragraph.

“The 25 hymns of the 1978 collection were expanded to 51 in 1988. At that same time a newly appointed Hymnbook Resources Commission had already begun working on a new hymnbook that would represent Unitarian Universalism into the 21st century. *Singing the Living Tradition* (1993) builds on the best traditions of previous hymnbooks, is conscious of language issues, and makes a bold step forward in the exploration of words and music of cultures not generally associated with the movement. Though some smaller publications had begun to include hymns or songs from various cultures mid-century, *Singing the Living Tradition* was the first standard denominational hymnbook to include songs from Unitarians in Eastern Europe, spirituals from the African American tradition, folk and popular songs, music of major, non-Christian religious traditions, and chants and rounds gathered from the various traditions of the world. All of this diversity was inspired by the Association’s accepted statement of principles and purposes in the mid-1980s. That we now recognize a broad base of sources from which we build our religious foundation necessitates a wider range of musical possibility than a “traditional” hymnbook could provide, and the Hymnbook Resources Commission responded to their challenge by giving us a gift which represents us better than many dared to hope possible. Yet there is already talk of creating a supplement to *Singing the Living Tradition* which would add 14 - 25 Familiar Hymns in New Form from *Hymns for the Celebration of Life* (Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 1979), Preface (page unnumbered). Of those, 12 consist of new, recently composed materials, even more selections which meet our expanding concerns for multiculturalism and religious pluralism. **Our hymnbooks represent who and what we are at a given moment in history.** Because ours is a living faith, we sing a living tradition – one which must constantly change if it is to continue to reflect an accurate picture of our religious community. I am reminded of a hymn, Creation’s Lord, We Give Thee Thanks (#311 in *Hymns of the Spirit*), written by William De Witt Hyde in 1903. The hymn appears in *Singing the Living Tradition*, though it seems doubtful that Hyde would recognize it, having undergone extensive adaptation by Beth Ide (#289 – Creative Love Our Thanks We Give). Nonetheless, the final stanza is almost untouched from its original form:

*Since what we choose is what we are, And what we love we yet shall be,  
The goal may ever shine afar – The will to reach it makes us free.”*



  
*Happy Holidays!*