



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

of the Carolina Foothills' May, 2025 Nuusletter

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



Happening This Month:

May 3 – Kentucky Derby
May 4 – Service at 10:30
May 11 – Mother's Day
May 17 – Armed Forces Day
May 18 – Service at 10:30
May 26 – Memorial Day



Sunday, May 4 – Rev. Ernie Mills

“No hell below us”

“No hell below us” is a line from John Lennon’s song *Imagine*. Hell is a product of the imagination for reasons that I will explain. If hell can be imagined into existence it can also be imagined out of existence. A concept often used to highlight Unitarian Universalism is “give them not hell, but hope.” That’s what we do.

Mosaic in Strawberry Fields, the John Lennon memorial in Central Park



Sunday, May 18 – Rev. Ernie Mills

“Above us only sky”

“Above us only sky” is also a line from John Lennon’s song *Imagine*. Wouldn’t it be nice if we humans could just do what is right without expecting a reward, that is, if we treated virtue as its own reward. I am reminded of a church billboard that read; “Jesus is your ticket to heaven.” I don’t believe Jesus would care a whole lot for being seen as a piece of paper with markings on it.



Men's Discussion Group

meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 in the Polk Co. Public Library at 1289 W. Mills Street, Columbus, NC



Women's Discussion Group

meets the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 in Cardinal Coffee in Landrum at 114 E. Rutherford Street

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.

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

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

Member at Large: Don Greeson – 828-290-3627 **Minister: Ernie Mills – 828-553-7418**



On 'Becoming'

-- Don Greeson

Not long ago, Ernie suggested we see ourselves not as Human Beings, but rather as “Human Becomings.” Of course, he was referring to how we mature intellectually and spiritually. In a letter to church leaders by Connie Goodbread, the Conflict Engagement Team Director of the UUA’s “Hope for Us” initiative, she used the term *becoming* in reference to our denomination. How are we as a church evolving in response to what is happening politically in our country and around the world?



For perspective, I'll mention that in 2010, trustees from boards across several UU districts met to discuss how to increase our membership, which was declining in percentage of the country's population. There was a genuine fear that we might ultimately become irrelevant if not disappear altogether. By 2015, organizational goals were established and structural changes were made, outlined in a document called the “Orlando Platform.” Among the changes was the creation of the UU Southern District, which turned 10 years old in April. Here's an excerpt from Goodread's letter:

“Now we are ten years down the road. So much has happened.

“There is now, at this moment in time, so much pain and fear and strife in the world. None of us has ever been here before. Yes, people have experienced trauma. Throughout human history there have been wars, pandemics, famines, oppression, enslavement, cruelty, abuse of power, injustices, violence and stupidity. Rights have been hard fought for and taken away again and again. What is different at this moment is that we are more globally aware. Communication is lightning fast. Abuse of that speed is being taken advantage of by those who would divide us and foster in us all the uglier traits of humanity. And yet, my people, for a moment it felt like we were close to seeing more of humanity liberated and empowered. We were so close to being our siblings' keepers - showing more compassion and empathy to one another. We were so close to allowing truth to be seen for the complicated thing that it is. I feel snatched from that uncertain spot where human beings might have transcended what's been into what could be. I feel yanked back into what has been.



Connie Goodbread

“Humanity comes to these liminal moments every so often, where evolution, change, transcendence is possible. We hold our breath and wonder - will we choose the unknown and become, or will we move back into what has been? Will homeostasis pull us back from the brink of our own becoming? Right now we can see that this backward-facing direction is what many want. It is not what I want. I am wondering how you all are feeling right now.”

Since her letter was written, there has been increasing pushback against that backward-facing direction that a minority of Americans embraces, in the form of protest rallies and court decisions. We are in the midst of defining collective standards and determining our future as a country. I'd like to think that more and more people are realizing the UU principles we espouse represent the values we embrace as a nation, or at least a nation that we are becoming.

