



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

of the Carolina Foothills' September, 2025 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:

Aug. 31 - Service at 10:30 - "Still Ticking"

Sept. 1 – Labor Day

Sept. 7 – Service at 10:30

Sept. 11 – Patriot Day (9/11 Anniversary)

Sept. 21 – Service at 10:30

Sept. 22 – September Equinox

Sept. 23 -- Rosh Hashanah

*Sept. 30 – Seraph Brass Quintet performs
at the Tryon Fine Arts Center*

Sunday, September 7, 2025 – Rev. Ernie Mills

On Becoming a Human

What does it mean to be a human? We presuppose that humans are "beings" when we really should think of humans as "becomings." One bumper sticker reads "Humankind, be both." Becoming human requires a certain kind of nurturing. As the song from South Pacific says "You've got to be taught to hate and fear," so we have to be taught to become loving, kind and humane. An inhumane human is an oxymoron. If we don't become human (humane) we remain beasts with insatiable appetites for cruelty. We are witnessing plenty of beastly behavior in our world these days.



Sunday, September 21, 2025 – Rev. Ernie Mills

Live Your Life

Democritus, a fifth century B.C.E philosopher once said, "to live badly, is not to live badly, it is to take a long time dying." The implication being that we can not only be living life but dying it. I propose that life and living are two entirely different things. Life can be reduced to biological functions, a matter of matter-physics and chemistry. "Life" as Carl Jung once put it "can be defined as a function of the carbon atom." We can even mimic life through AI.

Living is different. We will explore what it means to be fully alive and what it means to "live your life" rather than living it badly, that is "dying it."

Board Members

Chair: Alisa Mosley – 803-603-9300

Vice Chair: Don Greeson – 828-290-3627

Member at Large: Christine Mariotti – 828-440-1277

Secretary: Janice Minshew--772-834-1234

Treasurer: Tom Kosmata – 803-546-6322

Minister: Ernie Mills - 828-553-7418

Who was Democritus?

A brief explanation from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

[Interestingly, there is a great amount of philosophical thought attributed to Democritus, though nearly all of it has been handed down through second-hand references from other great thinkers. Reading about his insights on a variety of subjects, from the Soul to Mathematics to Ethics, it's easy to understand why historians find him so interesting and how his theories are so relatable to today's understanding of our natural world. –Don]

Democritus, known in antiquity as the 'laughing philosopher' because of his emphasis on the value of 'cheerfulness,' was one of the two founders of ancient atomist theory. He elaborated a system originated by his teacher Leucippus into a materialist account of the natural world. The atomists held that there are smallest indivisible bodies from which everything else is composed, and that these move about in an infinite void. Of the ancient materialist accounts of the natural world which did not rely on some kind of teleology or purpose to account for the apparent order and regularity found in the world, atomism was the most influential. Even its chief critic, Aristotle, praised Democritus for arguing from sound considerations appropriate to natural philosophy.



Here's the bumper sticker (or decal, or magnet) from the *Peace Project.com* in case you want one.

<https://peaceproject.com/product/humankind-be-both-small-bumper-sticker-decal-or-magnet/>



Men's Discussion Group

will meet this month on September 8 at 11:00 in the Polk Co. Public Library at 1289 W. Mills Street, Columbus, NC



Women's Discussion Group

will meet this month on September 17 at the current home of Barbara Moffitt, 420 Arlys Lane in Tryon. (Travel tip: Use your GPS to navigate your way to her house!)

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

