



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP *of the Carolina Foothills*

Meeting 1st and 3rd 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 October

Oct. 5 – UUFCF Service at 10:30
Oct. 6 -- Full “Supermoon” (*Biggest of the year!*)
Oct. 13 – Columbus Day and/or Indigenous People Day
Oct. 19 – UUFCF Service at 10:30
Oct. 31 – Halloween



Sunday, October 5, 2025 -- Reverend Ernie Mills

Wholeness as ***THE*** moral obligation

According to Phillip Hewett we “gather together in search of wholeness” (Reading 440 in our Living Tradition Hymnal) from a “fragmented world, separated from one another and divided within ourselves.” But do we know what wholeness really is? While it is easy to witness our separation from one another through such things as racism, sexism, and an array of phobias, how do we experience fragmentation “within ourselves”? Yet I believe wholeness is **THE** moral obligation that transcends all human-made moral and ethical systems, rules and laws. In fact there may even be “moral” systems that divide us against ourselves. Our search for wholeness may lead us into civil disobedience. There is much to think about here.

Sunday, October 19, 2025 — Reverend Ernie Mills

Hope in Action

The ancient Greek myth of Pandora relates the story of how Pandora released all the evils from the box but closed it just before hope escaped. The Greeks did not have a positive view of hope. It was seen as passive and leading to a false view of comfort and a trap for humans to simply acquiesce to their suffering. And yes, we can sit around hoping for something to happen, which is comparable to the constant inaction of our politicians behind the platitude “thoughts and prayers” as a response to mass shootings and gun violence. But our hope needs to be active; it needs to be courageous and even audacious. Our hope must not acquiesce to the suffering, fear mongering and incivility that seem to be taking hold in the global psyche. Our hope must be active, not passive.





"Love your enemy" --Jesus of Nazareth,
from his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:44)
calling for active compassion, prayer,
and a refusal to retaliate with evil.

"I hate my opponents" --Donald Trump of Queens,
from his speech given at the Charlie Kirk Memorial
Service (CNN, NBC, CBS, FOX, MSNBC, ABC et al)
after Erica Kirk announced she was forgiving her
husband's assassin.



[For me, one unsettling thought is that I'm sure Trump's statement
is honest, but I'm not really sure about Mrs. Kirk's. --Don G.]

An Excerpt from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermon titled, **"Loving Your Enemies"**

*"Each of us is something of a
schizophrenic personality,
tragically divided against
ourselves. A persistent civil war
rages within all of our lives."*

longer a mental block impeding a new relationship. Likewise, we can never say, "I will forgive you, but I won't have anything further to do with you." Forgiveness means reconciliation, a coming together again. Without this, no man can love his enemies. The degree to which we are able to forgive determines the degree to which we are able to love our enemies.

Second, we must recognize that the evil deed of the enemy-neighbor, the thing that hurts, never quite expresses all that he is. An element of goodness may be found even in our worst enemy. Each of us is something of a schizophrenic personality, tragically divided against ourselves. A persistent civil war rages within all of our lives. Something within us causes us to lament with Ovid, the Latin poet, "I see and approve the better things, but follow worse," or to agree with Plato that human personality is like a charioteer having two headstrong horses, each wanting to go in a different direction, or to repeat with the Apostle Paul, "The good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." This simply means that there is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies. When we look beneath the surface, beneath the impulsive evil deed, we see within our enemy-neighbor a measure of goodness and know that the viciousness and evilness of his acts not quite representative of all that he is. We see him in a new light. We recognize that his hate grows out of fear, pride, ignorance, prejudice, and misunderstanding, but in spite of this, we know God's image is ineffably etched in his being. Then we love our enemies by realizing that they are not totally bad and that they are not beyond the reach of God's redemptive love.

2025 UUFCF Board Members

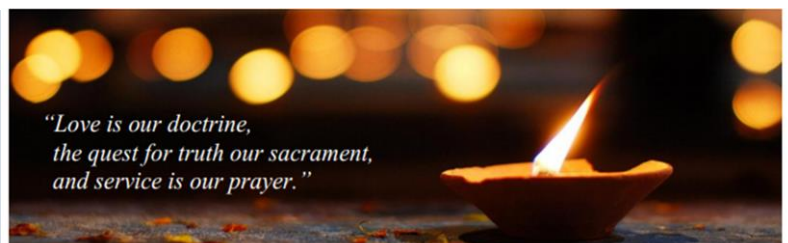
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Member at Large: Christine Mariotti – 828-440-1277



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