

Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's  
**Newsletter for February, 2026**

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

### Happening This Month

- Feb. 1 – Service at 10:30
- Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Feb. 8 – Super Bowl
- Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day
- Feb. 15 – Service at 10:30
- Feb. 16 – Presidents' Day



Sunday, February 1, 2026 – Ernie Mills

## Unitarian Universalists go to Hell

Whenever any group of people are “catching” hell - that is, being brutalized, persecuted or ill-treated in any manner, Unitarian Universalists have been there “standing on the side of love,” peace and justice. In these dark times, it is important to remind ourselves that as Unitarian Universalists we have a role to play...and we have played it in the past. To list only a few examples: Theodore Parker actively hid runaway slaves. The Ken Burns documentary, “Defying the Nazis; the Sharps’ War” shares the story of how Waitstill and Martha Sharp, who did just that, defied Hitler. And then there is Reverend James Reeb, who was beaten to death by white supremacists on his way to join Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a protest march in Selma Alabama. We UU’s go to hell when it means standing up for justice.



Sunday, February 15, 2026 – Ernie Mills

## Revenge

Revenge is a normal human emotion, or should we call it a “passion?” At a gut level, it is normal to want to hit back when you’ve been hit. In the distant past, revenge was a matter of justice. The old law known as “lex talionis,” simply stated “eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life.” But times have changed and we have evolved. That is, most of us have evolved. As difficult as it might be, *mature* adults try their best not to hit back, but rather channel all that passion into other avenues, like being successful. As the saying goes, “Success is the best revenge.” We will explore the passion of revenge and how to channel it in positive directions.

### 2026 UUFCE Board Members

Chair: Alisa Mosley –803-603-9300  
Vice Chair: Don Greeson – 828-290-3627

Treasurer: Tom Kosmata –803-546-6322  
Secretary: Janice Minschew--772-834-1234  
Member at Large: Christine Mariotti— 828-440-1277  
Minister: Ernie Mills – 828-553-7418

**An Invitation:** Our fellowship is now in the second half of its fiscal year and we need to start considering leadership candidates for the next term. If you have ideas or suggestions and would like to participate on a nominating committee or on the Board itself, please let Alisa know by sending her an email at [alisagmosley@gmail.com](mailto:alisagmosley@gmail.com)



## A Note from Ernie



### Editor's Note:

Ernie wrote this short essay before masked I.C.E. thugs murdered Alex Pretti, but another innocent protestor's assassination only underscores the points Ernie is making.

### **Civil Disobedience is Our Duty**

"In an unjust society the only place for a just man (or woman) is in prison." (I added "women" to this quote from Henry David Thoreau, because they too have gone to prison for disobeying laws. *Our own Ellen Thomas is one example.* In an unjust society it is the duty of good citizens to disobey laws that inflict suffering on others. It is our duty to obstruct law enforcement agents who engage in brutality and the inhumane treatment of others.

Today in the news, it was reported how the citizens of Minneapolis are banning together to obstruct I.C.E agents from brutalizing innocent people. They are doing their duty to uphold and restore justice. It is tragic that one woman, Renee Good was shot and killed by an I.C.E. agent for "obstructing" the law. She paid the ultimate price.

I believe Renee will be remembered in history the same way we remember Harriet Tubman who broke the law known as the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. She will be remembered the same way we remember Corrie Tin Boom who broke Nazi laws and lied to the Gestapo after hiding Jews in her home. And let's not forget Martin Luther King Jr. who broke the law and was jailed on several occasions for disobeying the unjust laws of segregation.

The list goes on and on and includes the thousands and thousands of unnamed heroes and heroines throughout history who have stood on the side of justice against systems of oppression that dehumanize or demonize certain groups of people. As Americans, it is our duty to disobey unjust laws and to obstruct all those who engage in the inhumane and brutal treatment of others.

We stand with our sisters and brothers in Minneapolis.

Thanks, *Ernie*



### **Old Friends become New Members**

The Fellowship is thrilled to welcome three new members to our family. Joining UUFCE on January 18 were Joy and Jerry Soderquist (flanking Ernie) and on the right, Anita Wofford.



### **Becky Kraai says (or rather, sings) Farewell**

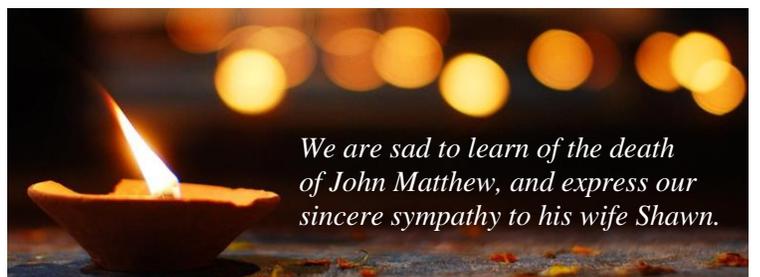
We were sad to say Goodbye to Becky as she prepares to relocate to Oregon to live near family. But on January 18, in addition to joining Ernie and Rob McClasky (above) she sang a solo for us one last time, to music and lyrics she wrote herself. Becky, we will miss you!



**Men's Discussion Group** meets the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 11:00 in the Polk County Library, 1289 W. Mills St. in Columbus



**Women's Discussion Group** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 at the Landrum Library, 111 Asbury Drive



We are sad to learn of the death of John Matthew, and express our sincere sympathy to his wife Shawn.