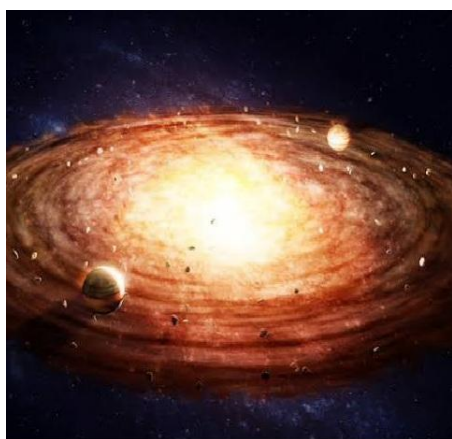




Meeting 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at the Whimsical World Gallery, 116 Jones St. in Landrum, SC
Services begin at 10:30 am • Mailing Address: UUFCF, P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

August, 2026 Events

- Sunday, 8/2 Service at 10:30
- Tuesday, 8/11 Board Meeting at 10:00 – Whimsical World Gallery
- Tuesday, 8/11 Men's Discussion Group at 11:15 – Whimsical World Gallery
- Wednesday, 8/12 Women's Discussion Group at 2:00 – Landrum Library
- Sunday, 8/16 Service at 10:30
- Tuesday, 8/30 Men's Discussion Group at 11:15 – Whimsical World Gallery
- Sunday, 8/30 Service at 10:30



Sunday, August 2, 2026 – Ernie Mills

LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS

The question of life on other planets has fascinated and haunted humans for a long time. Even though there is no proof at the moment, one way or the other, most speculate that there is life in the universe beyond our tiny planet. The German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer says, "It is absurd for there to spring into existence only one world in infinite space." Aside from all of this, there are the consequences of our view of ourselves and even our religions – if we were to discover beyond any doubt that life existed beyond our planet. We will explore the implication of such a discovery.

Sunday, August 16, 2026 – Ernie Mills

The Odyssey- A Journey Within

Over 2000 years of Homer's Odyssey, and it still fascinates us. Yet over 2000 years and we still read it, like we do most mythology (the Bible included) as literal history; that it "really did happen". But where on earth do we find one-eyed cyclops who trap people in caves and eat them? Homer's Odyssey should not be read as literal history, but as psychological representations of a journey within. There is a one-eyed Cyclops living in all of us... its name is Fear and if we let it, it will eat away our lives. We will explore a few of the symbols in The Odyssey as references to an inward journey.



"Fe, Fi, Fo, Fun! Do I smell a Unitarian?"



Sunday, August 30, 2026 – Guest Speaker Yvonne Ulmer

“The Fourth Quarter: Time and Intentionality”

Yvonne Ulmer is an author, speaker, educator, and Certified Professional Coach who is passionate about encouraging others to live with purpose, hope, and intention. Drawing from a remarkable life journey—including a career in higher education, experiences in country music, and years of coaching and teaching—she shares inspiring stories that remind audiences of the power of faith, resilience, and the ordinary people God places in our lives. Yvonne is the creator of *The Fourth Quarter: Living Life with Intentionality and Purpose* and the author of the forthcoming memoir *Boots, Ballads and Barstools*, scheduled for publication in Spring 2027.

"Unprecedented Times"

The following article is a reprint of a news report addressing the 2026 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, which took place in June. It represents one of several programming sessions described in the site, <https://www.uua.org/ga> There is a lot going on at the national level involving justice issues and UU efforts to combat misinformation and bigotry. For a more complete understanding of UUA positions and initiatives, visit the site. What appears here is only an introduction.

At General Assembly 2026, UUs Find and Celebrate Community, Everywhere

The annual gathering offered Unitarian Universalists multiple connection points.

[Elaine McArdle](#) 6/22/2026

As Unitarian Universalists continue to reimagine where and how they come together to worship and create community, more than 2,000 embraced an experimental approach to this year's General Assembly, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, where they gathered to recommit to resisting oppression and working for collective liberation.

Featured speakers, ministers, and lay delegates alike described the "unprecedented times" that have left many dispirited and exhausted by the relentless governmental assaults on the trans community, the immigrant community, and other marginalized groups; the accelerating climate disaster; and the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, as UUs rise to "Meet the Moment," GA also emphasized joy as resistance, the importance of community and relationships, and the need for self-care in order to continue to promote the faith's values in the face of rising fascism and authoritarianism.

UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt told GA that "while our leaders are overwhelmed, while our institutions are facing real and existential threats," many congregations "are experiencing vitality in new and exciting ways," from reinvigorated pride about the faith to "showing up for our neighbors in new ways."

In presenting this year's Ware Lecture, the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, the first woman elected as the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, D.C., said, "In the work of social justice and inclusion UUs are almost always among the first."

Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd, the UUA's Vice President for Communications & Development, told the assembly that some UU congregations are "packing the house" over the past nine months, and that media mentions of the faith are up 62 percent over the past year "because we are under assault but also because we are not letting our light be buried."

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"We need not think alike to love alike."

– Francis David, 1579

Mark Twain once remarked, "History may not repeat itself, but it often rhymes." To suggest we live in unprecedented times may not be totally accurate if you consider David's quote. Francis David was a Unitarian.

Ferenc Dávid (also rendered as *Francis David* or *Francis Davidis*; born as **Franz David Hertel**, c. 1520 – 15 November 1579) was a preacher and theologian from Transylvania, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, and the leading figure of the *Nontrinitarian* Christian movements during the Protestant Reformation. He disputed the mainstream Christian doctrine of the Trinity, believing God to be one and indivisible.
from Wikipedia