

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

July, 2026 Events

- Sunday, 7/5 Service at 10:30
- Wednesday, 7/8 Women's Discussion Group at 2:00 – Landrum Library
- Tuesday, 7/14 Men's Discussion Group at 12:15 – Polk County Library (*Note time change*)
- Sunday, 7/19 Service at 10:30
- Tuesday, 7/28 Men's Discussion Group at 11:00 – Polk County Library

Sunday, July 5 – Ernie Mills (*Originally scheduled for June 21*)

Hidden Forces

“Hidden force” is the English translation of this Latin term *qualitas occulta*. It refers to those forces behind nature that are inexplicable, unknown and perhaps even unknowable. When I think of such hidden forces I can't help but to think of the Tao, in Taoism or the Greek idea, *Moria*, both of which name the nameless. Something Joseph Campbell once said that I find very intriguing is that God is not the Source, but the manifestation of the Source- one more expression of the *qualitas occulta*. We will explore this idea and human expressions and reactions to it through the centuries.



Sunday, July 19 – Ernie Mills

Cultivating Kindness

I believe kindness is a quality we must cultivate. It's a learned skill like learning to play the piano or basketball... it takes practice. And like piano or basketball, the more we practice the easier it gets to be kind. Beginner lessons start with the self –

We must first learn to be kind to ourselves.

UUFCF Board Contacts

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

Travelin' Man (and family)

In June, Ernie and Diane Mills took a much needed vacation with their grandson Ryan to visit their daughters, one of whom lives in California and the other who lives in Australia (but met up with them in California.) And then the trio set out on a road trip, visiting Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota. Along the way, they saw moose, buffalo, fox, deer, and a grizzly bear.

(There's a rumor that the bear ran away when he saw Ernie!)

Right, At Yellowstone

Far Right, at Wyoming's Devil's Tower



UU AND POLITICS --Don Greeson

Between the Trump administration's unprecedented corruption, stupefying wars in the middle east, continuing Epstein cover-ups, and hoopla surrounding the country's 250th birthday, not a day passes without some new political revelation. The news is dominated by stories of injustice, bigotry, and conspiracy theories, and as a result, more positive and hopeful narratives are often overlooked or underreported.

At present, there are only three US congressional representatives who identify as Unitarian Universalists, two from California. But one of the most active is NC's District 2 rep, Democrat Deborah Ross. She serves the Raleigh area, with much of her work focusing on what we UUs consider core principles – equality and justice, women's health and reproductive freedom, environmental reforms and clean energy initiatives. Many of her efforts are state concerns, and not just Wake County's, i.e. Helene disaster relief, protection of immigrant workers, etc. She has also held more town halls than any other NC representative.

It's hard to say whether Ross' positions on issues are the result of UU influence, or if someone with such values would naturally choose our denomination. And of course, you don't have to be a UU to embrace liberal politics or have a strong sense of justice. But there has been a long tradition of UU principles influencing American politics, beginning with the Continental Congress and the creation of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson's ideas and belief structure were shaped by the writings of John Locke, historically associated with Unitarianism. Locke's philosophical views emphasized reason and experience over dogma, reflecting a perspective that values individual interpretation of religious texts.

Locke's Unitarian beliefs also influenced his views on morality and governance, advocating for a rational understanding of faith that opposes authoritarianism. His contributions laid foundational ideas for both political liberalism and modern empirical thought, which resonate with Unitarian values. And since the founding of the United States, there have been four Unitarian presidents.

As we celebrate America's Semiquincentennial, let's remember that our Constitution was created using enlightenment philosophy. No divine right of kings, freedom and equality of citizens, inherent rights of life, liberty and property – ideas mirroring today's Unitarian Universalist beliefs. And let's also remember to vote. We need more people in congress who hold these principles as self-evident. People like Deborah Ross.

