



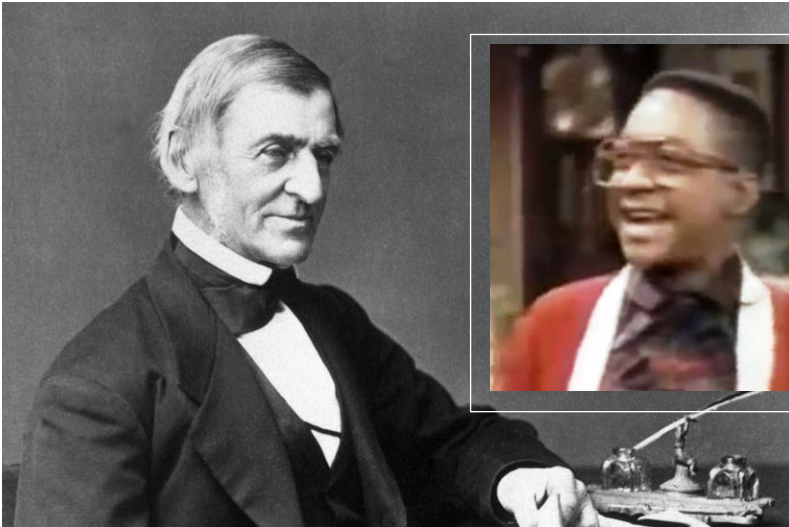
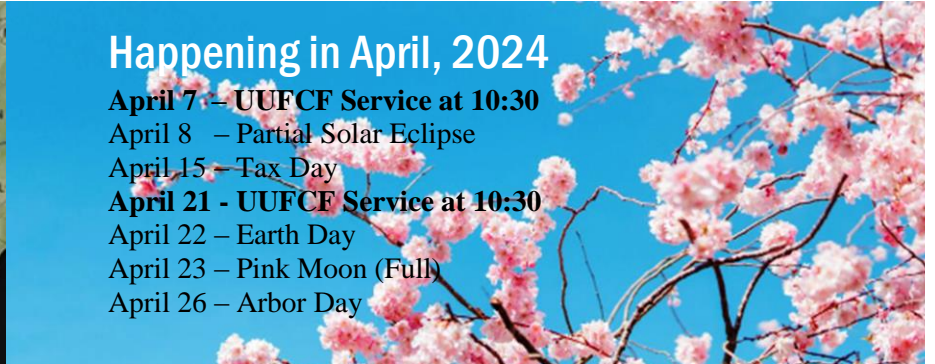
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP *of the Carolina Foothills*

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 April, 2024

- April 7 – UUFCF Service at 10:30
- April 8 – Partial Solar Eclipse
- April 15 – Tax Day
- April 21 – UUFCF Service at 10:30
- April 22 – Earth Day
- April 23 – Pink Moon (Full)
- April 26 – Arbor Day



April 7, 2024 – Rev. Ernie Mills

“Did I Do That?”

Exploring the Over-Soul

Those of you who were fans of “Family Matters” may recall the main character Steve Urkel asking from time to time, “Did I do that?” Steve was an unassuming nerd, who quite often engaged in behaviors that had unintended consequences. This brings to mind Emerson’s idea of the “over-soul” of which he says,

“I am constrained every moment to acknowledge a higher origin for events than the will I call mine.” Perhaps you can recall a moment or moments in your life, when you asked “Did I do that”? If so, you can relate to the over-soul.

April 21, 2024 – Rev. Ernie Mills

Eve, the Founder of Science

Could it be that the mother of science was just that, a mother? Yes, I believe it could be and indeed it was, in my opinion. It all depends on how you interpret the role of Eve in the Genesis myth of the Fall. Instead of bringing sin and death into the world, as orthodox interpretations would have it, I believe Eve was willing to think outside the box, wonder, reach out beyond the established boundaries, even if it meant angering the gods and get the science ball rolling. Eve gets blamed for the Fall, but really should get the credit for being the true mother of science.

After all, who wrote the Book of Genesis?



The name Ralph Waldo Emerson looms large in 19th-century philosophical literature, including the Transcendentalist movement, and Unitarians claim him as one of their own. But what role did this luminary actually play in our denomination?

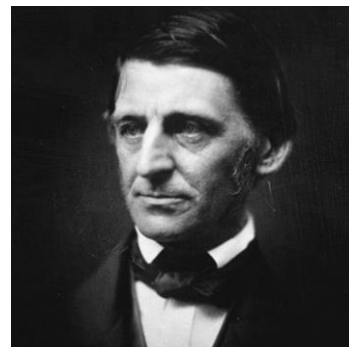
A Brief Bio of Our Man Emerson

Well, for starters, he was the son of Unitarian Minister William Emerson, who died of cancer just before young Waldo's eighth birthday. Raised in Newbury, Massachusetts by his mother Ruth Haskins and his aunt Mary Emerson, Waldo attended the Boston Latin School and entered Harvard at age 14. After graduation, he taught at a school for young women run by his brother, migrated to Charleston, SC for health reasons and eventually moved to St. Augustine, FL, where he encountered slavery. He married Ellen Tucker (who died two years later of tuberculosis) and moved back to Massachusetts, where he served as minister to the Second [Unitarian] Church in Boston between 1829 and 1832, but left this position when he disagreed with, among other ceremonial traditions, the act of communion.

In 1833, Emerson toured Europe and while in Paris, visited the *Jardin des Plantes*, the city's botanical gardens. There he gained insight into the interconnectedness of nature, which influenced his thinking about science, often at odds with religion. When he returned to the U.S., he lived for a time with his mother, then with his step-grandfather, Dr. Ezra Ripley, and began a speaking tour that included over 1500 lectures.

In 1837, Emerson befriended Henry David Thoreau. In that year, he asked Thoreau, "Do you keep a journal?" The question went on to be a lifelong inspiration for Thoreau. Emerson's own journal was published in 16 large volumes, in the definitive Harvard University Press edition issued between 1960 and 1982. Some scholars consider the journal to be Emerson's key literary work.

But it was a speech he made to the 1838 graduating class of Harvard Divinity School that branded him as an atheist. In it, he discounted biblical miracles and proclaimed that, while Jesus was a great man, he was not God: historical Christianity, he said, had turned Jesus into a "demigod, as the Orientals or the Greeks would describe Osiris or Apollo." His comments outraged the church establishment and the greater Protestant community, who considered him a "poisoner of young men's minds." Despite the roar of critics, he ignored them, leaving others to offer a defense. He was not invited back to speak at Harvard again for another thirty years.



Throughout his life and after his death, Emerson's influence was profound. His first two collections of essays represent the core of his thinking. They include "Self-Reliance," "The Over-Soul," "Circle," "The Poet," and "Experience." Together with "Nature", these essays made the decade from the mid-1830s to the mid-1840s Emerson's most fertile period. Emerson wrote on a number of ideas such as individuality, freedom, the ability for mankind to realize almost anything, and the relationship between the soul and the surrounding world.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's writings could easily serve as a primer for Unitarian Universalism, and their relevance to today's spiritual debates is undeniable. And to think, he was born in 1803, 221 years ago.



Men's Group Meets April 2 at 10:00 am
at the home of Derek Harrison, 56 Whitney Avenue in Tryon.
(Bring a folding chair if you have one.)

Discussion quote: *"Folly is a more dangerous enemy to the good than evil."*

Questions, Comments, or Ideas?

Contact any of our UUFCE Board Members

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Vice Chair: Christine Mariotti – 828-440-1277

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