



# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

February 24, 2016



2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205  
803-799-0845 • [www.uucolumbia.org](http://www.uucolumbia.org)

## Sunday Schedule

**Forum:** 9:30 am in the Library

**Worship:** 11:00 am-12:15 pm

**Nursery:** Available during service for infants through age 3

### February 28, 2016

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

If humans had a sixth sense, what would it be?

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

*A Place to be Our Best Selves*, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

### March 6, 2016

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

How to tell if you're depressed.

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

*Fit to be Tied* (co-led by the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman and Rev. Jennie Barrington)

## Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, March 6**, for publication on **Wednesday, March 9**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).

## Minister's Meditation

### The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister

*"Most people lead lives of quiet desperation." (Adapted from the words of Henry David Thoreau)*

Dear Members and Friends,

I got a lovely phone call from a friend of a friend. She is Unitarian Universalist, and this summer, she will be retiring and moving to our fair and friendly city. She is doing wise and careful planning for this next chapter in her life. That planning includes not only her material and physical needs, but also emotional and spiritual care and support. She is beginning to plan now so that, once she arrives in Columbia, she will have communities of "like-minded people." I am happily anticipating the time my new friend will get to spend with me, and with all of you.

When I told our Director of CYRE, Stephanie Palmer-Smith, about the phone call, she said, "How nice to know that someone new is coming here." "Exactly," I replied. Then a few minutes later it occurred to me how nice, and how very important, it was for our soon-to-be-new-member to know that *we* are here-- as the solid, strong, brave, hardy, and lively Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, South Carolina. She looked us up --my new friend did-- and she found that, where there might have been nothing, there was and is a Unitarian Universalist congregation that has been both a sanctuary for liberal thinkers and bonfire of activism, for over sixty-five years. Praises Be! UUCC has been here, and still is here, and will continue to be here for decades hence!

Continued on Page 2

Imagine, for a moment, if our UU congregation were not here at all. In fact, your leadership and I would like you to imagine that all month long. If UUCC were not here, there would be such a desperate need for all that it is and does that someone would have to begin to create it from scratch. Someone would have to put an ad in *The State* that asked, “Are you a UU and don’t know it?” and plan a meeting in a rented space, just like our founders did in the late 1940s. Then they’d have to see if enough people turned out to be a viable group. And they’d have to figure out how to organize themselves. That little group would soon dream of owning their own building and grounds, so that landlords would not turn them away because of the inclusive, progressive programs they were holding. Our founders *were* turned away, including for their activities advocating for racial equality. And UUCC still hosts programs speaking out against racism-- two even in my short time serving you, and one this evening on the UUA’s choice for a “Common Read” book: *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson.

Beginning this Sunday, and all during the month of March, your leaders and I will be presenting to you this year’s Pledge Drive: “*A Place to be Our Best Selves.*” It’s going to be a lot of fun! And it will be many opportunities for you to tell us what brings you to UUCC, what keeps you coming to UUCC, and your hopes and dreams for UUCC. I admit that it is a harsh question to pose to you: “What if our congregation were not here at all?” Contemplating that question really gives me pause. But it also makes me feel deeply grateful that UUCC is here, and is on such solid footing, and is doing so much good, for our members and friends, and in the wider community. Contemplating the many ways UUCC enriches people’s lives, including my own, makes me want to invest in it, for its current worthy endeavors, and so it will continue to make people’s lives better for many years to come.

Those are conversations worth having-- Indeed, they will be the most important conversations we’ll have in UUCC’s “church year.” So please sign up to attend a cottage meeting (there are clipboards in the foyer), so we can hear what you value, and what you hope for, for UUCC. Your leadership and I promise we will listen much more than we talk. And we will make careful note of what you have to say. You will influence us, and be part of shaping the direction of UUCC’s future. So please come to a cottage meeting, and speak right up, and help guide UUCC in flourishing into *its* fullest best self.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts,  
Rev. Jennie (“It’s a privilege to be here.”)

# Community Conversations

Patty Drews, Co-President

On Sunday, February 21, our Social Action Committee hosted its second in a series of Community Conversations. The topic was Talking to Children about Issues of Race, moderated by Dr. Marilyn Izzard of USC Upstate and our co-president (and my husband), Marc.

The event served to demonstrate why I, like so many of our members, am proud to be a part of this congregation. The purpose of the event was for participants to gain a greater understanding of the issue and to leave better equipped to have conversations with their children about race. The planners organized a very successful event that showed the UUCC knows how to get things done right.

Some highlights from the panelists included:

Dr. John Dozier, USC's Chief Diversity Officer, reminding us that "talking about race is not racist. We must teach our children how to talk about race. Unless we are uncomfortable, we are not learning. It is ok to be uncomfortable. We need to offer our children a world perspective."

Sheriff Leon Lott emphasized that "children watch what we do. We are role models. We all have an obligation to teach our children to talk about race. Children pay attention and they do not understand why we accept unfairness. Our children can be the teachers of their parents."

Sheriff Lott asked, "Where is the media for this very important conversation?" Adding that we can get tremendous coverage for political rhetoric over the weekend but no one is wanting to promote the importance of community members coming together to engage in these conversations.

Helen Nelson Grant, Richland School District Two's Chief Diversity Officer stated that "we must acknowledge our own biases and then work toward ameliorating these biases. We should look to our own actions and how we transmit our biases to our children. Our biases keep us from us forming relationships. She also spoke about stereotypes of poverty within racial groups - racial biases within racial groups. Separation, self-segregation, occurs naturally but inclusion requires effort and purpose. Purposeful inclusion brings strength and is well worth the effort."

UUCC member Dr. Pippin Whitaker shared that everyone soaks up the biases of our community. "We swim in our culture and we do not see our bias. We must be willing to be uncomfortable in order to confront our biases. We must address the patterns of collateral damage caused when one in three Black men spend time in jail. We need to talk with our children about bias and racism in ways that promote creativity and hope."



Panelists: Sheriff Leon Lott, Dr. John Dozier, Dr. Dan Wuori, Mrs. Helen Grant, Dr. Pippin Whitaker, Ms. Mary Lynn Diggs

# Community Conversations, continued

Dr. Dan Wuori, Deputy Director of First Steps to School Readiness, added that young kids have a true sense of fairness. "We can have compelling conversations with young children about slavery, discrimination, and unfairness. We need more conversations with our kids. Our conversations do not need to be shielded. We can have powerful, authentic, and respectful conversations about difficult topics with young children."

Ms. Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Director, talked about socioeconomic and its connection with racial perspectives. "We must consider the limited opportunities resulting from living in poverty. We must help our children to feel comfortable taking about race and unfairness."

The panelists superbly shared stories and suggestions that helped all of us think deeply and consider ways to engage children in the topics of race relations.

The event was another example of how several of our various committees come together for the good of the congregation. From the outstanding display of books to the organization of the refreshments to the tech support to the Social Action Committee and its publicity support who informed the community through various media venues about the discussion, including the posters, everyone shared their talent and support to ensure the event's success.

This is what the UCC is all about, pulling its resources and talents to get things done and to get things done right. This week we will kickoff our annual pledge drive and it is in that spirit that we will move our congregation forward in the coming year.

We get things done and we get things done right. As we consider our pledges for the coming fiscal year, please ask yourself, "what can I do to help get things done?" It is through our pledges that we build our budget that will help us continue to get things done right.



## Directions

## Reflections

## Expressions

*“There are so many older people who are living far away from their younger family members and too many younger children are growing up without grandparents around. I frequently see that when members come back (to the CYRE wing) to help out, regardless of their previous doubts about their abilities, the smiles on their faces express their sense of well-being. It’s kind of like stepping into the fountain of youth for them. They become a washed in the children’s energy and enthusiasm.”* **Bethany Storlazzi, CYRE educator, mother, wife and all around wonderful UU!**

Like many of my fellow UUCC members I grew up at a time when grandparents, great aunts and uncles and other elders lived close by. They were part of our family celebrations, Sunday dinners and impacted our lives in ways we may only start understanding and appreciating later in life. They enriched our lives, teaching us crafts and cooking while preserving our family histories through story-telling. I learned to crochet from my Grandma, sew from my Grammie, and was thoroughly entertained by the story-telling of my great Uncle John. We weren’t such a transient society at that time nor did we spend such a great amount of time finding our entertainment in front of a TV. It was common to have regular interactions with family members from all generations.

But things have changed. People move around a lot more leaving their extended families behind. Many children grow up not having weekly or even monthly interactions with people from earlier generations. And they are missing out on an integral piece of their development. Well informed parents, who recognize their children’s needs to have these special relationships will seek them out from other sources. And our congregation here at the UUCC is rich with this source of love, experience, and caring. We have members who take the time to cultivate relationships with our children and youth to not only give but to be on the receiving end. As so many people have experienced, being with youth is very beneficial. While we can become energized from their activity, we are also awed by their creativity and passions. We keep a part of our youthful selves alive by interacting with these younger members, creating for ourselves a richer and more meaningful existence. Sometimes these experiences can lessen depression or prevent it all together. The positive impact of shared time between older adults and children is for all of us.

I thank all of you who have been a positive influence on our children and youth here at UUCC and I look forward to welcoming many more of you into our rich and active CYRE programming. Do you have a passion for social action? Mentor one of our older children at the Sunday “Food Not Bombs” project. Are you interested in fun and games? Play “Who’s Who at the UU” with our youth. Do you have an idea or a burning passion for something you would like to facilitate for us? We would love to have you. Put a little dance in your step, a little fire in your kiln. Enjoy the uplifting energy of our children and youth.

In Acceptance and Peace,  
Stephanie Palmer-Smith, DRE



## Candles of Community

*We express our support and concern for ...*

**Linda Doctor**, who is feeling much better and sends her sincere thanks to the Congregation for its support.

**Bea Crabtree**, who is at Palmetto Richland.



# Cabaret 2 Photo Gallery

The melodies and memories linger on:



One final time, The Partner Church Committee wants to thank everyone who participated in any way in our CABARET evening. The net total for this event: \$1,500, (thanks to some generous donations for otherwise big overhead costs.) How wonderful for us, UCC, to feel we can make a real difference for our Beszterce Partner Church, and it's dedicated minister, Rev.Zsolt Solymosi!

# News and Notes

**February 28: “A Place to be Our Best Selves” (Rev. Jennie preaching)** Please join us for this rousing kick-off of our Annual Pledge Drive, and for the fun festivities afterward!

**March 6: “Fit to be Tied” (co-led by the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman and Rev. Jennie)** Please join us for this visit from Rev. Alderman, our Ministerial Settlement Representative, and stay for the Q & A session afterward, to learn all about the UUA’s Search Process. Rev. Alderman’s sermon will be about the steps to a long-lasting relationship. It will be of interest to everyone, but people interested in being on the search committee are especially encouraged to attend.

**Brief Biography of the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman:** The Reverend Ann Marie Alderman is in her third year as the Developmental Minister with the UU Church of Greensboro. She has served churches in Florida, Pennsylvania, and in Eastern North Carolina. Her undergraduate studies were in religion at Florida State University and her theological studies were at Vanderbilt Divinity School. After earning her M.Div., she spent several decades in “alternative” careers, including as an automobile mechanic. For nearly twenty years she managed her family’s wood flooring business in their home town of Jacksonville, Florida. By mid-life the urge to find a deeper purpose began with her move to Savannah, Georgia. While living there, she found the giant welcome offered by the tiny Statesboro, GA UU fellowship. That welcome was a way back to her call to the ministry and a way in to this great Unitarian Universalist way of being! She has served as a Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) for the Transitions Office of the UUA since 2014, working with congregations and their search committees in the Southern Region.

**March 13: “Listening to the Spirit” (by Guest Speaker Sallie Prugh)**

## **No September Set Potluck this Friday!**

We had our September Set potluck last week, but will return to the regular schedule of having them on the fourth Friday in March. The next September Set potluck will be on Friday, March 25.

## **Canvas Kickoff Party Sunday!**

Help us celebrate the beginning of our Pledge Drive with a mimosa party in the Social Hall following service this Sunday, February 28. Light refreshments, orange juice and mimosas will be served along with our usual coffee.

## **Pledge Canvass “Cottage Meetings”**

I hope you’ve noticed by now that we’re doing the pledge canvass differently this year. We’re holding a series of small meetings, mostly in members’ homes, and therefore called “cottage meetings.” The purpose of these meetings is a conversation among members, the Board, the Finance committee, and often the minister about what we find valuable here at UUCC, and how best to make these things happen. In order to not overwhelm the hosts, we do need members to pick a particular meeting in advance. We’ve tried to scatter the meetings over the Columbia metro area, and most of March, so there should be at least one that’s convenient for you. There are two at UUCC on weekend afternoons, with child care, and easily accessible. We started the signup process on February 21, and hope to come close to completing it on February 28, during the canvass kickoff party. We’ll have a table there where you can pick your meeting and sign up for it; won’t you please join us at these meetings?

Joe Long, for the Finance Committee.

## **UUCC Young Adult Group**

Are you between the ages of 18 - 24? Would you like to be a part of a group of people your age whose minds are as open as yours and who are committed to social action?

Then email Stephanie Palmer-Smith, our DRE at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org). She will pass on your contact information to a Young Adult leader.



## Toiletry Donations Needed for Homeless

The Social Action Committee is collecting personal toiletry items to be used by homeless clients utilizing the Inclement Winter Center (IWC) here in Columbia. Small, unused personal-sized toiletry items - like you can find at hotels and motels during your travels - can be left by the food collection area at the entrance of the UUCC Social Hall.

The IWC, funded by the City of Columbia and staffed by employees from Transitions and volunteers, is operated during nights from November 1 and April 1 when the temperature dips to 40 degrees or lower. Volunteers are needed on nights the shelter is open to help with general shelter tasks. Contact Tom Clements of the Social Action Committee for more information about your donations or volunteering, 834-3084, [tomclements329@cs.com](mailto:tomclements329@cs.com).

## Collections Continue for Book/Media Sale



Book and media collections continue. The proceeds from this project will be put to good use as they help pay for our Boston Heritage Trip. On Sunday, May 1 we will be an indoor/outdoor shoppers' paradise. The *Beltane Crafter's Fair* will be held outside while our annual Book and Media sale will be going on inside the Social Hall. Make sure your neighbors and relatives put this date in their calendars.



## Harvest Hope Food Donations

The Social Action Committee is happy to report that the UUCC continues to fill our Harvest Hope food basket weekly. This basket is delivered each Monday to Harvest Hope where it is used in the distribution of groceries to the many hungry people who come to the food bank for help. The food basket can never get too full so please don't forget to bring your donations each week. They need items

such as canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, rice, cake mixes, and other non-perishable foods (no glass please).

## Recruiting Social Action Mentors

CYRE students are interested in direct social action. Do you have a passion for direct social action? If so, would you like to share that passion with our youth? Children who want to serve need adult mentors. Please see Stephanie or contact her via email at: [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org).

## Adult Choir Practices & Sings Sunday

The Adult Choir will practice at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 28 in the Sanctuary and sing during the service.

## Fair Trade Coffee Sales

Would you like to support our teen Boston Heritage Trip while enjoying monthly selections of top grade fair trade coffee? Then see our Coffee Sales Representative in the Social Hall after Sunday's service.



## Transitions Training

Mandatory Transitions training is being offered at 6:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at their facility at Main and Calhoun. Anyone can volunteer to serve at Transitions. They are always in need of more help either in the library on Friday afternoons (see Phil Turner) or serving meals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month (see Bob Whitaker). The training takes less than one hour. TRANSITIONS NEEDS YOU! Please contact Sharon Pinckney at [spinckney@transitionssc.org](mailto:spinckney@transitionssc.org) to register for a class.

## Adult Religious Education: The Common Read, Tonight

Each year the UUA selects a book for all congregations to read and discuss. This year the Common Read is "Just Mercy" by Brian Stevenson, which addresses the impact of mass incarceration. Here are some sample reviews: "Just Mercy is every bit as moving as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways maybe more so." "(It) demonstrates, as powerfully as any book on criminal justice that I've ever read, the extent to which brutality, unfairness, and racial bias continue to infect criminal law in the United States." "The stories told within these pages hold the potential to transform what we think we mean when we talk about justice." Join us tonight, Wednesday, February 24 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

## Gaias Rising CUUPS, February 25

Join us on Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the UUCC Library for *Full Moon with Candy and Lewis*. A full moon is the lunar phase that occurs when the Moon is completely illuminated as seen from the Earth. This occurs when the moon is in opposition to the Sun (when it is on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun; more precisely, when the ecliptic longitudes of the Sun and Moon differ by 180 degrees).<sup>[1]</sup> This means that the hemisphere of the Moon that is facing the Earth (the near side) is almost fully illuminated by the Sun and appears round (while the far side is almost completely unilluminated). For more info contact Lewis Richardson l\_c\_r\_1@live or 803-729-4319

## Upcoming Coffeehouse: Peter Case

Saturday, February 27



Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m. Please make reservations at 200-2824 or [www.uucoffeehouse.org](http://www.uucoffeehouse.org).

## UUCC Book Club, Sunday, February 28

The next UUCC Book Club meeting is on Sunday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m.



Bauer Western will facilitate a discussion on *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence* by Karen Armstrong. We will meet at a member's home. The UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu)



## Chair Yoga Continues in March

Chair yoga entails about 45 minutes of real yoga but it takes place mostly seated. It is ideal for people who want to improve flexibility but who do not like (or, for physical reasons, cannot do) the typical yoga class. Chair Yoga will meet in the UUCC Social Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays in March, *however, we will not be meeting on Tuesday, March 15. If you are new to the group* and have questions or would like to participate, please contact Ruthie Saunders [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu).

## Transitions Volunteers Needed Second Saturdays of Each Month

UUCC has a recurring obligation to help serve the evening meal at Transitions Homeless Recovery Center, 2025 Main Street in Columbia, on the second Saturday of every month. If you've not been to the Transitions orientation (6:00 p.m. on every 2nd and 4th Monday), please volunteer anyway! Bob Whitaker will vouch for you until we can get everybody to that orientation. Contact Bob at [bob-whit46@gmail.com](mailto:bob-whit46@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Consultant Weekend, Sunday, March 6

Sunday morning, March 6 is our opportunity to learn about the UUA's search process. Our "Ministerial Settlement Representative" (our "MSR") is the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman. Rev. Alderman will preach and lead worship focusing on the process of being in search, we will share a meal, then she will do a presentation and answer questions for the whole congregation. Rev. Jennie will attend to hear members' questions, feelings, and concerns. We hope everyone will turn out to learn more about our upcoming process to find and call a new settled minister. Anyone who is interested in serving on the search committee should certainly attend worship and the meeting on Sunday, March 6. On Saturday evening, March 5, our MSR will meet with the board and Rev. Jennie to review their responsibilities and role in the search process, and best practices for forming and guiding a search committee.

## Women's Book Group, March 8



The Women's Book Group will meet March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, 776-0784. [sjchubon@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjchubon@sc.rr.com).



## Baby Shower, Sunday, March 20

Welcome Baby Tripp! UUCC ladies of all ages are invited to join us for a (rescheduled!) baby shower for our beloved RE Assistant Morgan Hanes on Sunday, March 20 at 1:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Morgan is registered at [buybuybaby.com](http://buybuybaby.com). Please RSVP by March 13 to [seymourbarbie@gmail.com](mailto:seymourbarbie@gmail.com) or (803) 447-0862. Childcare will be available only by advance request.

## September Set, Friday, March 25

Our monthly September Set for our UUCC Seniors will be held Friday, March 25. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall with conversation and getting to know each other better. Bring a dish to share and join in the fun. Long time and new members and friends are welcome. We hope to see you there. Contact Jean Capalbo at [jacapalbo@gmail.com](mailto:jacapalbo@gmail.com) or Pat Mohr at [patmohr@mindspring.com](mailto:patmohr@mindspring.com) with any comments or questions.

## You Have a New Calendar

Don't forget to write in the dates of the annual UUCC retreat at The Mountain. Activities and fun for the entire family! Details will be posted later. For now, reserve the dates: September 16-18. See you there!



## Amazon Smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0509045> and support UUCC every time you shop.

## Sitting with Sadness - A Conversation, Meditation and Mindfulness Group, Mondays

The purpose of this group is to allow a safe place to experience your sadness and to grieve, to share your experience with the group if you feel moved to do so, to silently sit in meditation, and to learn about "mindfulness." Led by Nyna Dalbec, who has a lifetime of experience with mindfulness and meditation, this non-religious, rotating group will meet **Mondays from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.** You may participate for as many weeks as you find helpful. There is no fee. To register and find out more, please contact Nyna at [nyna.dalbec@me.com](mailto:nyna.dalbec@me.com)

# UU Animal Ministry

**Sunday, April 3, following services,** the Animal Ministry will once again be sponsoring a **Vegan Cook-off**. The entire congregation is invited and this is a *complimentary event (no charge!)*.

Because we had such a good response from the congregation in the past, we are encouraging you all to bring a vegan dish (plant-based) to share, and thus enter the competition. Attendees will vote on their favorite dish, and prizes will be awarded! *But we want you to come, even you don't bring a dish! Bringing a dish is absolutely optional!* We only ask that if you plan to bring a dish, please contact Anita

Grossman ([anitaj48@aol.com](mailto:anitaj48@aol.com)) or any member of the Animal Ministry, prior to the day of the event, to assist us in pre-planning, table setup, etc. More details will follow. In the meantime, let Anita Grossman know if you have any questions. Don't be put off by the word "vegan." It simply means a dish that does not contain animal products; but the Animal Ministry will be available to assist with recipe ideas.

**Saturday, April 9,** we are also looking forward to the following weekend, because we plan to once again participate in Palmetto Lifeline's fundraiser, **Bark to the Park**. Be sure to check your OOS and the next UNIGRAM for more information about Palmetto Lifeline, its causes, and on how donate or to register for the walk.

**Late May or June,** we are hoping to have the third in our series of **movies** that support plant based dinning. These evenings, which are held at UUC, are co-hosted with Columbia Veg, the local vegetarian group and include a small potluck prior to the movie and during intermission. We offer these movies as a *complimentary event (no charge)*. *There is absolutely no requirement to bring a dish to the potluck.* An optional discussion follows the film, which has in the past provided lots of resources.



# Religious Education

## Children & Youth Religious Education Calendar

Sunday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> –11:15-Regular CYRE for ALL ages  
12:30 – 2:00 7 – 9 OWL

Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> 10:20 Children's Choir Rehearsal and performance during service  
Children's Chapel for grades Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup>  
RE classes: Middle and High Schoolers

## Family Science Night, Friday, March 18!

Join us for an evening of science fun as we explore the ecosystems of South Carolina



right here in our Social Hall. Activities will include an exploration

of: symbiosis, limiting factors and other

ecological principals that will help you understand why certain animals live where they do. The event is on Friday, March 18 for K-5 students and their families. Pizza will be served at 6:00 p.m. and your explorations will begin soon after. Come for the fun and learning and leave with a model of a South Carolina Ecosystem! The event is limited so RSVP by Monday, March 14! RSVP to: [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) with Family Science Night in the subject line.

## Full Service Children's Chapel Sunday, March 6

Children's Chapel will meet Sunday, March 6 during regularly scheduled RE time. This is the Service our children have been gearing up for in their past classes as they will be going through an entire service from Prelude to Postlude including Offertory. Their hard work will pay off as they act the role of ushers, readers, and leader of our benediction with all the rich flavor of our services. *We want to remind parents that offerings will be collected. Please send your child(ren) to class that day prepared to put a small amount of change into the offertory collection.* Help them have the best Children's Chapel experience they can have.



## Thank You!

**Gail Dawson** and the HSYG for hosting such a successful and fun Chocolate Auction  
Our wonderful and talented RE teachers and volunteers (you are WONDERFUL!)

**Kristen Ashcraft** and **Jay Bloodworth** for their continued leadership of our middle school OWL program

**Sarah Pregnall** for her continued service in leading our Child's Choir program

**Morgan Hanes** for her caring service to our HSYG

**Regina Moody** for her expertise in developing a wonderful bibliography of titles to assist our families as they educate their children on race and **Tameka Phillips** for her guidance on the project

**Nancie Shillington-Perez** for her skillful and talented direction of the Heart Communion service

**Rev. Jennie** for her loving and clear leadership and all her assistance with our multigenerational services  
The HSYG and MUUGS for their attention and participation

**Erin** and **Katie** for their loving care of our youngest UUCC members

**Keitha Whitaker** for her strong leadership of the CYRE committee (My mentor!)

**Charles Storlazzi** for slicing and serving Birthday cake last Sunday.

**Meg White** for baking and serving Birthday cake last Sunday.

**Amy Medlock-Green** for her help in collecting books for the sale

**Amy Jones** and **Adam Z.**, my sister and nephew, for all of their assistance with: snack preparation, painting, organizing, cleaning, cooking etc. for our programs and betterment of RE space

**Fran O'Toole**, who is always present to assist our ongoing projects

And last but not least, **Bethany Storlazzi** for her assistance and guidance at all times



**HOMELESS HELPING HOMELESS**

COLUMBIA | SOUTH CAROLINA

— PRESENTS —

# SILENT VOICES

An evening of spoken word and musical acts

**PERFORMED BY HOMELESS ARTISTS**

To give a glimpse of their lives on the streets and to show  
how we are all more alike than different.

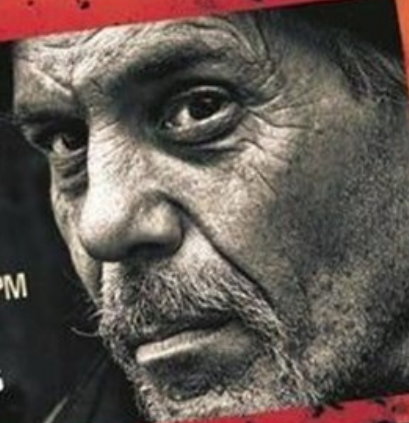
**THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 25, 2016**

TAPP'S ART CENTER  
**1644 MAIN STREET**

Silent Auction: 6PM | Performance: 7PM

**\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION**

Call 360-9784 or 318-6985  
FOR MORE INFORMATION



# **UUC Board of Trustees**

## **Summary of January 20, 2016 Meeting**

The Board of Trustees met January 20, 2016 from 6:30 to 9:47 PM.

### **Interim Minister's Report**

We are asked to do an Appraisal of the Interim Process three times during the interim ministry. The first deadline is February 15. Rev. Jennie shared her assessment of our progress and there was considerable discussion about it. Board members submitted their completed assessments to the Board Secretary to be compiled for submission to Boston along with Rev. Jennie's.

**Reflection on the Start-Up Weekend** Board members offered a critique of the experience held January 8-10, facilitated by Marguerite Mills. Attendance was good, larger than Ms Mills has seen at previous Start-Up programs. The meetings were well-facilitated and respectful; the food was good. There were also some shortcomings; the format was not well suited for that size group; there was a disconnect between Friday evening and Saturday morning. Some attendees thought Rev. Jennie's sermon on Sunday morning was more helpful than the prior discussions.

**Update on Ministerial Settlement Weekend** This event is scheduled for March 5 & 6 with Rev. Ann Marie Alderman as our consultant/facilitator. She will meet with the Board on Saturday evening to talk about our role in the process of searching for and selecting a settled minister. On Sunday morning Rev. Alderman will preach and after the service we will have a meal and she will explain the process of selecting a search committee and how the congregation participates in the search process.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Linda Brennison reported that the total revenue shortfall for the fiscal year to date is \$5,505.31, a significant decrease over last month's shortfall of \$9,138.30. Expenses are 2% under budget. Staff compensation and committee expenditures are under budget. Operating expenses are on target. The improvement in pledges received probably indicates that people donated more before the end of the year for income tax purposes.

### **Pledge Drive**

Joe Long reported that the annual canvass will begin February 28. The Finance Committee is planning to have cottage meetings in members' homes during the first half of March.

### **Building Renovations**

Peck Drennan presented drawings and more information about building renovations. There is asbestos in the social hall ceiling and in part of the ceiling in the RE wing. Both of these areas can be covered. New lighting is needed in the RE hallway along with new hardware for the doors and possibly some new doors. Peck reported there are major air quality control issues in the RE wing. There are several tests needed for substances in the air (cost \$1,400-\$1,500). The duct work needs cleaned; equipment will be placed in the air space to scrub it for three days (cost \$3,435). Another issue we will need to address is how to create separation between the sanctuary and the social hall.

### **Committee Reports**

**Technology Committee – UUC Website** Considerable frustration was expressed about the delays in getting the new website up and operating. It currently presents a poor picture of our congregation and is not likely to attract the kind of minister we are hoping to obtain. Regina Moody reported that the people working on the new UUA framework are having difficulty because that framework needs to be modified to match our programs. They need to eliminate some categories/headings and make other adjustments which require judgment about the template. The Board voted for the Co-Presidents to select an ad hoc group to accelerate work to get the website up and running.

### **New Business**

**Congregational Poll** The UUA is asking congregations to vote on Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) to be added to the 2016 General Assembly agenda. One will be selected and adopted for four years of study, reflection, and action. The four proposed for this year are: a national conversation on race, the corruption of our democracy, climate change and environmental justice, and ending gun violence in America. Board members will receive a ballot to vote on those issues.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

# Meetings & Rentals

Board of Trustees Meeting	Wednesday, March 16	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Bon Voyage	Every Wednesday	7:00 pm	Member's Home
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, March 13	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Choir	Sunday, February 28	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night (starts with dinner)	Wednesday, March 2	6:00 pm	Dinner in the Social Hall
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Every Thursday	7:30 pm	Library
Forum	Every Sunday	9:30 am	Library
Green Committee	TBA	6:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Knit or Not	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Membership Committee	Sunday, March 13	12:20 pm	Classroom #8
New to UU Class	TBA	12:15 pm	TBA
Science & Religion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, March 25	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Wednesday, March 2	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Technology Committee	Wednesday, March 2	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, March 9	6:00 pm	Classroom # 7
UU Book Club	Sunday, February 28	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	Contact: Lee Minghi, 798-0904; Carita Barr, 782-0053; or Susan Robinson, 446-0675	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Women's Book Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Tuesday, March 8	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
<b>Rentals</b>			
Sitting with Sadness	Every Monday	7-8:15 pm	Social Hall
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Every Thursday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Meditation	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Library
Men's AA	Every Tuesday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Agnostic AA	Every Sunday	5:00 pm	Library
Women's AA	Every Wednesday	6:30 pm	Library

## The Six Sources of Faith for Unitarian Universalists

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

### UUC Board of Trustees

Co-Presidents, Marc & Patty Drews

*president@uucolumbia.org*

President-Elect, Phil Turner

*president-elect@uucolumbia.org*

Treasurer, Linda Brennison

*treasurer@uucolumbia.org*

Secretary, Sandy Chubon

*secretary@uucolumbia.org*

Members at Large, Donald Griggs, Janet Swigler, Richard Culler, Tim VanDenBerg, Patrick Saucier

Past President, Regina Moody, ex officio

*pastpresident@uucolumbia.org*

Finance Chair, Joe Long, ex officio

*financechair@uucolumbia.org*

### UUC Staff

Interim Minister

Rev. Jennie Barrington, *interim@uucolumbia.org*

Administrator

Andrea Dudick, *uucc@uucolumbia.org*

Director Religious Education

Stephanie Palmer-Smith, *dre@uucolumbia.org*

Bookkeeper

Ginny Verne, *bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org*

Custodian

Jeff Kruse, *uucc@uucolumbia.org*

Religious Education Assistant

Morgan Hanes, *reassist@uucolumbia.org*

**Address:** 2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

**Phone** — Office (803) 799-0845

**Special Events Line** — (803) 200-2824

Help us update our mailing list. To delete or change your address, Email: *uucc@uucolumbia.org*

**Office Hours** — Mon.– Fri. 9:15 am – 1:45 pm

Like us on Facebook: *www.facebook.com/uucolumbia*

**UUC Forum:** *http://uufc.19.forumer.com*

**Website:** *www.uucolumbia.org*

