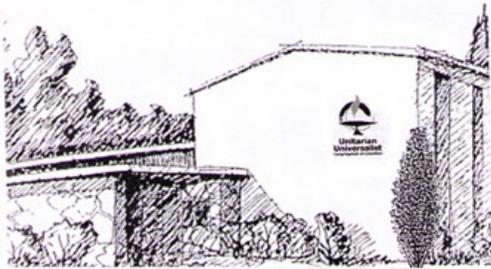




# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

March 23, 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 2

### March 27, 2016

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

What is the future of the U.S. economy?

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

*Easter Sunday*, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

### April 3, 2016

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

What current sacred cows should we question?

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

*Flower Communion Sunday*, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

## Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, April 3**, for publication on **Wednesday, April 6**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).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

*"Each generation, in its turn, is a link between all that has gone before and all that comes after. That is true genetically, and it is equally true in the transmission of identity. Our parents gave us what they were able to give, and we took what we could of it and made it part of ourselves. If we knew our grandparents, and even great-grandparents, we will have taken from them what they could offer us, too. All that helped to make us who we are. We, in our turn, will offer what we can of ourselves to our children and their offspring." [Fred Rogers]*

Dear Members and Friends,

Have you noticed the flowering trees? They are my favorite thing about living in the South. They freshen up how everything looks, as we drive along familiar roads, stroll along the sidewalks, and go in and out of the buildings, homes, and our church during these lovely spring days. All of the different flowering trees in Columbia, especially the dogwoods, have made my spirit feel more refreshed. Growing up in New England, we just didn't have any flowering trees that you'd write home about [nor write a newsletter column about].

The beauty and richness of the flowering trees appeared to burst out suddenly out of nowhere. But we know that their full blossoming was actually a long time in the works. They began from tiny seeds, and they survived and developed through changes in the weather

Continued on Page 2

and seasons. Your congregation, too, is blossoming in many ways that took seed months ago, or even years and decades ago. In the above quote, that wise minister and expert on child development, Fred Rogers, is writing about how our ancestors contributed to who we are today. He was writing about individuals. But the same is true for a congregation. Our predecessors have contributed to what is good about UUCC today.

During this month of our Annual Pledge Drive, the Finance Committee, the Board, and I are lifting up the many things that make UUCC worth investing in. You are helping with that important effort, when you speak up at the Cottage Meetings and let us know what brings you to UUCC, what keeps you coming back, and what your hopes and dreams for UUCC's future are. Here are some of the major accomplishments that your financial support has made possible:

- Marriage Equality. We have long been known as a safe haven for people who are gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. We officiated gay unions before they were legal, and gay marriages once they became legal in South Carolina, and nationally.
- We advocated for welcoming refugees from Syria, with letters to the Governor and the media.
- On the state-wide "Standing Up Against Gun Violence" Sunday, we signed letters to our state's leadership urging stricter background checks for gun purchasers.
- We have hosted several discussions on issues of race and racism.
- Both recently and for many years, members of UUCC protested the Confederate flag on the State House grounds, and so did their ministers, especially on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. This past summer, we and our wider community finally got to see the flag being taken down and removed from the State House grounds for good.
- We have supported our "partner church," a Unitarian church in Transylvania, financially, and with caring letters and cards.
- UUCC assisted members, friends, and neighbors during the historic flooding of October 2015 with kindnesses, hands-on help, and financial assistance.
- Our Social Action committee developed its "Share The Plate" program, through which over \$50,000 has been donated in the last five years to:

The Minister's Discretionary Fund, our Partner Church, Howlmore Animal Sanctuary, the Congaree Riverkeeper, Planned Parenthood, Meals on Wheels, South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice, Palmetto Place Children's Shelter, the Harriett Hancock Center, the Free Medical Clinic, the Columbia Family Shelter, and the UU Service Committee.

All of these accomplishments contribute to UUCC's identity, making it profoundly needed in our lives and in the wider world, and making it uniquely worth investing in. We will be wrapping up the pledge drive at the end of this month. Won't you please make time this week to consider the many ways UUCC has contributed to making us who we are, and pledge the best you can, that it may continue to flower and grow for the generations to come.

Affectionately, and in faith,  
Rev. Jennie

**In appreciation to those who rekindle our inner light**  
A Message from Patty and Marc Drews, UUCC Co-Presidents

*Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner light."*

*---Dr. Albert Schweitzer*

Every year at this time, members of the UUCC are asked to pledge to support our congregation as part of our annual canvas. The results are the basis of the development of our annual budget that ensures our great work grows. Our spiritual health and our financial wellbeing are closely related.

Over the past year, we have frequently used the phrase "We are ALL the UUCC" meaning, quite simply, that each of us makes our congregation what it is.

Our congregation depends greatly on both financial and human capital. Our pledges make sure our basic needs are met. We need our outstanding staff to be compensated fairly. We need to ensure that the building is well maintained and bills are paid. We desperately need our CYRE programs to enrich the lives of our children and youth. We really need to continue to enhance our many programs that support our mission to nurture and respect each other in our spiritual growth and pursuit of meaning and to create a welcoming and engaging environment through which we work for positive change in the community and the world. These are some of the things that help keep our inner light lit.

To do these things and more, everyone must be good stewards and give what they can to help make these things happen. And many of us want much more... We'd like to see the restrooms updated, as well as the CYRE wing, the sanctuary, and social hall, too. But these 'wants' must take a backseat to our needs (staff, building, utilities, CYRE, etc) and most pressing items in our budget. So let's make it happen so we can begin addressing other wants that are important to us.

As you consider your pledge as a member of this outstanding congregation, please think about other ways that you are supporting the UUCC, as well. Your time and talent are also valued and appreciated. So please find ways to give that extend beyond the pledge.

As UUs, we are a reflective and thoughtful community. Consider the questions below and use your personal responses to help guide your thoughts as you determine your pledge for the upcoming fiscal year.

- What does commitment to the UUCC mean to you?
- What keeps you coming and investing in the church community?
- What connections do you seek in being a part of our UU community?
- What kind of commitments would you like to make to the community and how do you see yourself becoming more involved in our congregation?

We have been very proud to serve as the Board's co-presidents during this year of transition. We do what we do because we want to be more than just members. We want to be contributing members. And more than that, we want to be contributing members who share not only our financial support, but our time, talent, and love.

Yes, one thing about UUs that is very special to us is that we love. We love differently and love many different things. Our passion for our community and our causes runs deep. We stand on the side of love and our commitment to keep loving in an effort to make this world a better place is what being a Unitarian Universalist is all about. It's about keeping one another's inner light lit.

So why do we give and why do we encourage others to give? To use the words of Lao Tzu, founder of Taoism, "Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."

By sharing and committing to your pledge to the UUCC, we create love. In the end, there is nothing more important. We encourage our UUCC family to share the love. There is no better way to give thanks to all those who help keep our inner lights lit.

**D**irections  
**R**eflections  
**E**xpectations

*Every religious tradition on which we draw has a reverence for life. We are a part of an intricate web of life. Every tradition on which we draw teaches that the ultimate expression of our spirituality is our action. Deep spirituality leads to action in the world. A deep reverence for life, love of nature's complex beauty and sense of intimate connection with the cosmos leads inevitably to a commitment to work for environmental and social justice."- Peter Morales*

Spring is the time of year when one can draw upon the awakening of nature to celebrate our part in the intricate web of life. Taking a walk among the many showy trees adorning our sidewalks or hiking in the woods with some of this spring's first flowers is a great way to celebrate the role we play in nature. Or maybe you like to really get involved by playing in the soil and planting some seeds. Or would you like to join our youth as they celebrate spring by attending the Carolina Wildlife Baby Shower on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with our MUUGS and HSYG?

There are numerous ways to rejuvenate the soul, the spirit, your well-being . I hope you, one and all, have an opportunity to smell, see, hear, taste, or touch some of the wonders of spring. And may it feed you and awaken in you a greater ability to appreciate your role in the intricate web of life.

Whatever you choose, I hope you enjoy this beautiful season and allow this renewal to put a spring in your step and love in your heart. And may you find ample opportunities to share your warmth and love with those in need.

Namaste, my friends!

Stephanie Palmer-Smith

# Recommendations for Search Committee

Please share up to three names of members you would trust to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee.

If you are unable to submit your recommendations for the Ministerial Search Committee via email, please complete this page and mail to our Administrator at 2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205.

By completing this document, you are indicating that you have reviewed the responsibilities of the search committee found on our Ministerial Search page under the News tab on our website. You may also contact our Administrator for a copy.

If you are interested in serving on the Search Committee, please contact our Administrator for an application.

Thank you for your participation in this very important step in the process of selecting our new UUCC minister.

\* Required

Member Sharing the Recommendations \*

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Recommendation \*

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Recommendation

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Recommendation

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# Stewardship Statements

## Patrick Saucier

I have been given this opportunity to give a pulpit editorial on what this congregation means to me in relation to becoming my best self. I don't know what my best self actually is, but I am thankful to this congregation because it is a place where I can be an authentic self. In our recent startup meeting I heard many people say that they appreciate this congregation because they can come together with like-minded people. I want to turn that notion around, and say I appreciate this congregation because I can be my authentic self with different-minded people. In this place and with you I feel free to speak and act on my conscience without having to be guarded or fear being ostracized. It is a precious thing to me to be part of a community where people can say what is truly in their hearts and minds, even when they disagree, and still care for and appreciate each other. Thank you!

## Phil Turner

Unitarian Universalism is rare among world religions. Most of us have migrated from elsewhere and this makes our gathering of like-minded people different from other religions in the world.

The practitioners of most religions are born into the practice, but UU's have largely *decided* to join. We are, in some ways, all "born again". We have made a choice to join a group and that group, our Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, is the sum total of those choices and more.

I was raised a Catholic and, like so many of us, I went through a period of searching for a new spiritual home. When I walked through the doors of that small fellowship in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 36 years ago, I knew that first day that I was home.

When we moved to Columbia almost five years ago, my first contact with UUCC was when I showed up to a building and grounds workday. They must have sensed that I had a weak mind and a strong back because we were immediately embraced and involved. Of course, the UU reputation is that if you stop in asking for change for the parking meter, you find yourself on a committee.

I chose Unitarian Universalism and it has been the foundation of my spiritual and social life. I have found that the investment of my time and my finances in this unique community has given me an amazing return.

In the upcoming year, we face significant challenges as a congregation. Choices that we make in meeting these challenges will shape the congregation for years to come. I am humbled and grateful to be a part of this community as we create the future together.

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# Stewardship Statements, con't.

## John Starino

Good Morning, my name is John M. Starino. I am here today to speak of my sense of this “Place to Be Our Best Selves,” which is the theme for this year’s pledge drive. Since I can be a person of many words, I will be brief. I began coming here on a regular basis when I became a caregiver for my parents in 2001, at that time it was for Sanctuary. I am the only child to my parents. My mother told me she needed help since both of them were in their 80’s. Prior to my mother speaking with me, my father’s ailments sent him to the Emergency Room 4 times during the first 3 months of 2001. It was soon after, I and my family here, undertook relocating my parents from Connecticut to Lexington, SC and I did my best for three years until their natural expiration with dignity, each in 2004. The main point then of being my best self encompassed: “How could I look myself in a mirror and deny my mother her wishes?” My parents were a team, a nursing home was out of the question. This son had to bring out his best. On the one hand it was a trial at times, some mistakes were made as well. There was a strong amount of courage and faith which I found to instill within me for this process. In closing this experience gave me the impetus to be the writer, author, poet and performance artist I am today. Many of us know and hopefully learn to grow even during later years in life to become more than routine. I know by our first principle I find my belief in The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person a fact and how with my volunteer efforts and work within our Worship Committee the best place I can be my best self. At this time of transition for our Congregation, I pose the question for you to think and step up also of how you may bring out your best self as well. As Utah Phillips said of our country, “[we] are tremendously wealthy.” This congregation is tremendously wealthy enriched with many of whom I believe will bring out their best Self. I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you this morning about this subject which is important to me. Thank you.

# Thank You

I would like to thank everyone at UU who sent me a card, telephoned me, visited me, or just sent me good thoughts after my accident in September. If I tried to list everybody, I'd be sure to leave someone out, but I do want to send very special thanks to Marilyn Miss and Marie Hunt. I am still recovering, slowly, but I'm so much better! **Marky Deese**

On behalf of the **Family Shelter**, I want to express my sincere appreciation for helping us provide living expenses for the families that stay in our Shelter. Your generous gift of \$992 ensures that we are fulfilling our mission of providing a stable living environment for homeless children and their families. In addition to living expenses, we offer family and youth enrichment programs to help strengthen our families while they live with us and increase the chances of them achieving and maintaining independent living when they leave our program. Sincerely, Stephanie Stuckey, Executive Director.

Hi Morgan, just wanted to touch base to tell you how grateful we are for all the youth group efforts on Sunday. Isn't it wonderful that the weather decided to cooperate? The trail looks so much nicer and the cemetery is beautiful. Please convey my thanks to everyone. Linda Moore (of **Howlmore Animal Sanctuary**)

# Human Trafficking: Under Our Nose

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 10, from 3 to 5 p.m.**, for the opportunity to learn about a problem that is "right under our noses": Human Trafficking.

Our third Community Conversation will address specific components of the effort to eradicate human trafficking, which can potentially affect ANY of us, particularly young and vulnerable children and teens.

Panelists will include an attorney who helped write the state's recent laws; a law enforcement officer; a victim's advocate; and a survivor of human trafficking.

Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists and moderators, Richland County Councilman Jim Manning and UUCC Co-president Marc Drews. Manning, a social worker by profession, has focused on the growing problem of human trafficking in our community and state.

Light refreshments will be available, and guests are invited to peruse the resource table for additional information. Childcare will be provided with a confirmed reservation; please contact our DRE, Stephanie Palmer-Smith, at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org).

This third Community Conversation is co-sponsored by the UU Social Action Committee and AAUW (American Association of University Women) – Columbia Branch.



## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Under Our Nose**

**A Community Conversation  
sponsored by the  
Social Action Committee of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Columbia  
and the American Association  
of University Women  
AAUW Greater Columbia**

**APRIL 10, 2016  
3:00 P.M.**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia • 2701 Heyward Street • Columbia, SC 29205  
More Info: 803-799-0845**

# News and Notes

**March 27: “Easter Sunday” [Rev. Jennie preaching]**  
This sermon will give us a Unitarian Universalist perspective on the Easter story, especially as found in early Christian art.

**April 3: “Flower Communion Sunday” [Rev. Jennie preaching]** Flower Communion is a beautiful and uniquely Unitarian ritual. It represents that we each have things we contribute to, and receive from, our “church family.” Please bring a flower or green to contribute to the common arrangement. At the end of the service, we will take a different flower to bring home. [We will have extras in case anyone forgets!]

**April 10: TBA, [Guest Speaker: Roger Ray]**

**April 17: “The Philosopher William James” [Rev. Jennie preaching]**

## Pledge Cards Are Coming!

If you have not attended a cottage meeting, your 2016/2017 pledge card is in the mail! A return envelope is enclosed for mailing or you may place your completed card in the offering plate on Sunday. In order to complete our 2016/2017 budget, we need all pledges returned promptly. Thank you!

## 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).

## Meals on Wheels for Pets

Meals on Wheels has been delivering essential food to homebound seniors on fixed incomes for many years. But not everybody eats their meals. Many are giving up their meal for their pets. A beloved pet can be the only companion for many homebound seniors. The animal mission of our congregation asks you to give a thought to these animal companions and help to keep both well-nourished. Donate any unopened pet food or supplies in the Social Hall by the front doors.



## Book/Media Sales Collection and Beltane Crafter's Faire



Check out the collection of books, video, and vinyl. That's right! Vinyl! Inviting all vinyl collectors to our sale! If you love the groove, you will want to check out what is available at our Book and Media Sale. 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 on their calendars. As for crafters and hawkers of special wares, please notify Bethany at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) to sign up for a table. Reserve yours now!

## 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.

### **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, March 27 in the Sanctuary and sing during the service.

### **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.

### **Gardening Group**

Do you like getting your hands dirty and playing in the dirt? If yes, then our CYRE team needs your help with our garden! Let's work together to work the soils that will help us grow a productive garden that could: provide food for people that are homeless, or a few vegetarian potlucks for the congregation, or...? The possibilities are endless!

### **Calling Artists for New Art Group**

If you are interested in working on your art with others for support, encouragement and feedback, the Art Group is for you. We meet weekly on an ongoing basis



on **Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - noon** in the UUCC Social Hall. Bring your own supplies and prepare to enjoy the company of other artists at no cost. No instruction provided. Please contact Ruthie Saunders at [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu) if you would like to participate or if you have questions.

### **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).

### **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@transitionscc.org](mailto:spinckney@transitionscc.org) to register for a class.

## 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 or Pat Mohr at patmohr@mindspring.com with any comments or questions.

## Easter Chapeau Parade, March 27

Following Easter service this Sunday we will parade our beautiful Easter bonnets and hats out through our front doors to the yard where children will participate in the annual egg hunt. What? You don't have a decorated hat to wear? That's ok! Our CYRE classes will be preparing lovely Easter crowns just for you. Pick one up on your way out the door. Won't you join us? Here's a little song to get you in the mood. **Enjoy!** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoLpe-H4tZ4>

## 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. **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).

## Birthday Sundays Cake Bakers!

Please sign up to bake cakes for the April Birthdays! The more bakers the merrier! Were you born in April? Please submit your name to Stephanie at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) to add your name to our April Birthday Banner!

## MUUGS Lock-in

**Saturday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m.** starts the fun for the MUUGS lock-in. Students will get to enjoy the pizza party they won in the CANstruction competition, walk to the Dairy Bar, play games, and just have a great time together. Please let Bethany or Stephanie know if you would be interested in chaperoning this group overnight or helping them with breakfast Sunday morning. We would love to have your company!

## Women's Book Group, April 12



The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *A River Runs Through It*, by Norman MacLean. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon at 776-0784 or [sjchubon@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjchubon@sc.rr.com).



## April 17 Class on End-of-Life Choices

Please join us after the service on Sunday, April 17 for a short class (about 30 minutes) about how our own lives and those of loved ones might end. Doug Rice, from Compassion and Choices, the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit organization committed to improving care and expanding choice at the end of life, will lead the discussion and answer your questions. For more information, please contact Pat Mohr at [patmohr@mindspring.com](mailto:patmohr@mindspring.com)

## UUCB Book Club, Sunday, April 17

The next UUCB Book Club meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 17. Peck Drennan will facilitate a discussion on *A Short History of Myth* by Karen Armstrong. We will meet at a member's home. The UUCB Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCB. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu)



## Every journey begins with that first step!

NAMIWalks supports the mission-driven work of our NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) organizations, which host education programs, facilitate support groups, provide mental health trainings, advocate for access to services, and offer a compassionate place to turn for the millions of Americans living with mental illness. With help from participants like you, so far this season across the United States NAMI has raised \$1,951,978.60. Join with others from our Columbia community to support NAMI on **Saturday, May 7**. Sign up at <https://www.crowdrise.com/unitarian-universalist-support-for-nami> or see Jeanette Walton or Cheryl Soehl for more information.

## Second Annual Night at the Theatre, Saturday, May 7

Front row seats, along with some in row two, to Town Theatre's production of *The Addams Family* are being made available as part of our 2016 Spring Fling. Tickets to the Saturday, May 7 performance (curtain at 8:00) may be obtained by sharing a \$40 donation per ticket.

This is a fundraising opportunity and tickets will be reserved by writing a check payable to UUCB with the words "Fundraiser 5/7" in the memo line. Place in the Administrator's mailbox, mail it, or place in the collection plate. Deadline is April 4 with email confirmation by April 6.

The Addams Family is an entertaining and macabre musical comedy that features an original story and is every father's nightmare. Gomez and Morticia's daughter, Wednesday, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable "normal" family.

## Hogwarts Camp, June 27-July 1

To all Parents of Children ages 5 - 15, we are pleased to announce we will begin enrolling students in our Hogwarts day camp which will be held the week of June 27th - July 1st.

Registration is open on a first come first serve basis and will be limited. Register early! Contact Stephanie at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) or 207-400-9428 for more information. Let the magic begin!

## What?? You've Never Made a Retreat with the UUCB??

You owe it to yourself to change that. We will be at The Mountain **September 16-18**. We are looking forward to seeing you there. If you'd like more information, contact Joan Watterson at [joan.l.watterson@icloud.com](mailto:joan.l.watterson@icloud.com).

# UU Animal Ministry

On **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 again encouraging you all to bring a vegan dish (plant-based) to share, and thus enter the competition. Yes, attendees, after sampling the entries, will vote on their favorite dish, and prizes will be awarded! (*But, hey, we want you to come, even if you don't bring a dish!*). **Bringing a dish is absolutely optional!!**

**Just a few important guidelines to keep in mind when you are preparing for this event:**

- *No desserts or sweets. We will do an event at a later date that will feature only desserts and sweets.*
- *Remember while sampling, that you will be **tasting** the preparations; so from that prospective this is not really a potluck in the traditional sense. We will not be intending to provide a meal, per se. Having said this, I am confident that no one will go away hungry!*

We also ask if you plan to participate, that you email Anita Grossman ([anitaj48@aol.com](mailto:anitaj48@aol.com)) or call ([803-699-3251](tel:803-699-3251)) her or any member of the Animal Ministry, prior to the day of the event, to assist us in pre-planning table setup, etc.

Please let Anita know if you have any other questions or need clarification about any details.. Don't be put off by the word "vegan." It simply means a dish that does not contain animal products. The Animal Ministry will be happy to assist with recipe ideas. This event will be, as in many of our past events, held in conjunction with **Columbia Veg**, our local vegetarian group. (They have already registered 12-14 people that plan to participate, so the completion is on its way!).

## **BARK TO THE PARK:**

**On Saturday April 9, Palmetto Lifeline** will be holding its annual fundraising walk, **BARK TO THE PARK**. We plan to once again participate as the Animal Ministry team and would like to encourage you all to come and join us! The registration fee goes to support the organization which saves thousands of unwanted dogs, cats, puppies and kittens from certain death by finding them forever homes. More information on registration and other details to follow in the next OOS.

Down the road, hopefully in **late May or June**, we are planning to have the third in our series of **movies** that support plant based dinning. These evenings, which are held at UUCC, 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 **complimentary events. (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.



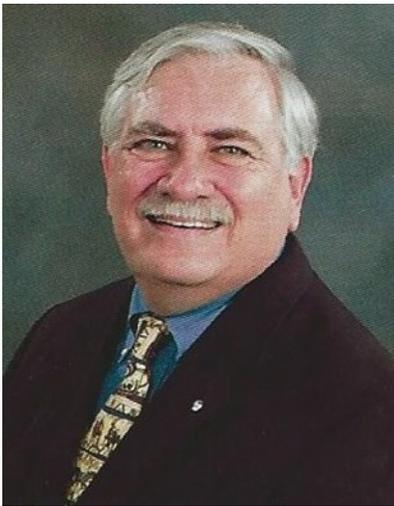
# *Seasons of Nature;*

From Everglades Winter to Appalachian Spring

March 27, 2016 – May 1, 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

Joe Long



For decades, longtime UUCC member Joe Long has been a serious photographer of nature. With his precise scientific mind and customary humility, Joe writes “though some people seem to take it up [photography] and instantly become wonderful, I’ve had to work at it. I do think I’m getting better.”





# Denominational Affairs



Beginning with this issue of the Unigram we will be including a section on Denominational Affairs. We are a stand-alone, independent congregation in many ways, having no clerical hierarchy to oversee us such as bishops. However, we are connected to other U.U.'s that many of us may not be aware. There are abundances of resources; from the Southeastern District personnel and committees to our mothership, the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston. The purpose of this column is to feature some of those connections.

This issue will feature The Mountain, the beautiful camp and conference center located near Highlands, NC.

Back in the 1970's a committee from SUUSI (Southeastern UU Summer Institute that will be discussed in a future issue) was put together and charged with locating a site somewhere in the southeast where they could set up a summer camp for UU kids that could be used during the off season for other gatherings. After searching for over two years they settled on Little Scaley Mountain in the Appalachian Mountain Range. In the beginning, congregations were invited to come for work weekends when people would sign up for a variety of jobs – cooking, cleaning paths, repairing cabins, etc. Fond memories came from working alongside other congregations. The Mountain's summer camp program has been thriving for 35 years – nurturing kids from ages 7 through high school. One of their most popular offerings is The Mountain CONs that take place in the fall and spring. They are offered for high school, junior high and elementary groups. More on The Mountain in a later issue.

# Religious Education

## Children's Choir

The children will be singing their hearts out for us this spring. Here is the Children's Choir Schedule till the end of May!

**April 3** Rehearsal at 10:20- singing during the service

**April 17** Rehearsal at 10:20

**May 1** Rehearsal at 10:20 - singing during the service

**May 15** Rehearsal at 10:20

**May 22** Rehearsal at 10:20- singing during the service



## Children Youth Religious Education Calendar

### Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>

-ALL CYRE! Join us for a day of decorating bonnets.

Meet in your classrooms for instructions.

-Egg Hunt for ages Nursery – 12 Parent – please accompany your children as childcare is NOT provided.

**-NO OWL CLASSES!**

### Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>

-Flower Communion- A Multi-Generational Service

-Children's Choir will perform

**-NO OWL CLASSES!**

-Carolina Wildlife Center Baby Shower for all MUUGS and HSYG. 12:30 – 2:30

## Thank You

Gareth Fenley for subbing in our CYRE program

Patty Drews for co-chairing Science Night

Ginny Verne for her wonderful coconut cake celebrating March birthdays

Ron and Gertrude Edge, Marilyn Miss, Gareth Fenley, and Phil Turner for participating in our first "Who's Who in the UU(CC)? (& Patrick Saucier for agreeing to write better questions.)

Barbie Seymour for throwing a lovely shower for little Tripp and family

Fran O'Toole for taking on the permanent role of snack coordinator

Terrence and Beck Sullivan, Jonathan White, Jim DuPlessis, Andrea Dudick, Erin Lowry, Bethany Storlarzzi, Steve Lize, and Morgan

Gauthreaux Hanes for agreeing to stay with the CYRE program in the future. I would like to have **11 more!**

Jim DuPlessis for filming the Children's Chapel on 3/6 and posting on FB

Amy Jones and Adam for their continued help with cleaning, sorting, prepping, etc (The kids loved the Gopher Tortoise burrows, Adam!)

Keitha Whitaker for subbing in Children's Chapel

Meg White for talking up Science Night

Morgan Gauthreaux Hanes for organizing and driving youth to Howlmore Animal Sanctuary

Erin Gibson and Katie Boone for their love and caring of our nursery children and for coming for extra hours

Sarah Pregnall for sticking with Children's Choir

Maggie O'Toole and Nohl Johnson for helping with Children's Choir

Amy Medlock-Greene, Patty Drews, and Kristen Ashcraft for posting great pictures on FB of our Science Night!

And Chalice lighters for February and March: Wesley and Hazel Kuswa, Cora Hall, Lucy and Gracie Kistner-Drennan, Kwaidan Duncan, Emerson VanDenBerg, Stafford Dudick, Arwen Collins, and Carlos Lopez

# 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, April 20	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Bon Voyage	Every Wednesday	7:00 pm	Member's Home
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Choir	Sunday, March 27	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night (starts with dinner)	Wednesday, April 6	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, April 3	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, April 6	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Technology Committee	Wednesday, April 6	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, TBA	6:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, March 27	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, April 12	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 Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Grateful for the religious pluralism that enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. We covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part

If these principles reflect your understanding of the world and appeal to your sense of spiritual fulfillment, we invite you to consider membership in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia. If you would like to discuss membership or if you would simply like more information, please speak to any member of the Membership Committee or of the Board of Trustees.

### UUC Board of Trustees

Co-Presidents, Marc & Patty Drews	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Phil Turner	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
Treasurer, Linda Brennonson	<i>treasurer@uucolumbia.org</i>
Secretary, Sandy Chubon	<i>secretary@uucolumbia.org</i>
Members at Large, Donald Griggs, Janet Swigler, Richard Culler, Tim VanDenBerg, Patrick Saucier	
Past President, Regina Moody, ex officio	<i>pastpresident@uucolumbia.org</i>
Finance Chair, Joe Long, ex officio	<i>financechair@uucolumbia.org</i>

### UUC Staff

Interim Minister	Rev. Jennie Barrington, <i>interim@uucolumbia.org</i>
Administrator	Andrea Dudick, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Director Religious Education	Stephanie Palmer-Smith, <i>dre@uucolumbia.org</i>
Bookkeeper	Ginny Verne, <i>bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org</i>
Custodian	Jeff Kruse, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Religious Education Assistant	Morgan Hanes, <i>reassist@uucolumbia.org</i>

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

**Phone** — Office (803) 799-0845

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

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

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

Help us update our mailing list. To delete or change your address, Email: [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org)

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**Website:** [www.uucolumbia.org](http://www.uucolumbia.org)

