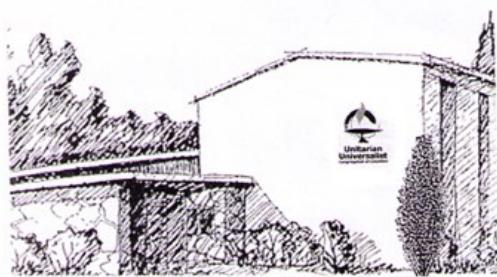




# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

April 27, 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

## May 1, 2016

### 9:30 am Forum Topic

Is single payer the best insurance plan?

### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

*Beltane Multigenerational Service*, by the Senior & Junior Youth Groups and Rev. Jennie Barrington

## May 8, 2016

### 9:30 am Forum Topic

Should state colleges be free?

### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

*Mother's Day*, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

## Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, May 8**, for publication on **Wednesday, May 11**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).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**

*"Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.  
And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears.  
And how else can it be?"*

*...When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.*

*When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight." (from Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*)*

Dear Members and Friends,

I've been thinking over the past nine months. Our time together has been very rich, and you all have become very dear to me. When I contemplated each of the months in their turn, I realized right away that each one had some sorrows and some things we celebrated and should feel proud about. Indeed, as the great mystic Kahlil Gibran wrote, our joys and our sorrows are all intertwined.

I have loved getting to know you better through our conversations at special gatherings at the church and in your homes; at committee meetings and September Set; on Water Communion Sunday, the Blessing of the Animals ceremony, and the Gay Pride Parade; at CYRE events like the Chili Cook-Off, at the Cabaret to benefit our Partner Church in Transylvania; and during the Christmas Eve service, one of my favorite memories of our "church year."

Continued on Page 2

In August, we regretfully accepted Nancie Shillington-Perez's resignation as Director of CYRE. Even as I was sad about that, I greatly enjoyed working with the Personnel Committee on finding a new DRE. Our work took many weeks; we were very thorough and thoughtful. And joyfully, in November, Stephanie Palmer-Smith came on board as UUCC's new Director of CYRE.

October, of course, was the historic flood, which severely disrupted our lives. Yet there was much I felt so happy and proud about that month. That weather disaster really brought us together. I will never forget our Sunday together after the flood. In the following months, you rose to the occasion and helped others in so many ways. And I know we all felt so grateful that our building and grounds escaped the harm that so many buildings in Columbia suffered.

This year I've also had the great pleasure of working with Pippin Whitaker, our Student Chaplain. Her assistance with pastoral care in the aftermath of the flood was invaluable. And she and I also trained a team of Pastoral Care Associates. They and I have continued to meet regularly and work together. Pippin will begin an official internship in a different congregation this summer. You should be proud to have been part of her ministerial formation, as her Sponsoring Congregation.

In January, we had our Start-up Weekend, with record-high attendance. We reviewed our goals and priorities for this Interim Period, and contributed to a timeline of UUCC's history. Later that month, we took a stand against gun violence in South Carolina, signing letters during the worship service advocating for more restrictive laws about background checks.

Also beginning this winter, I taught a class here about developing your own theology. The members who took the class each wrote and shared their "credo statement" or statement of philosophy of life. And in February, we held a Community Conversation on Talking with Children about Issues of Race, and also a Common Read on the book, *Just Mercy*. And our multi-generational worship service on Valentine's Day was the delightful Heart Communion service.

In March, we had our visit from our Ministerial Settlement Representative, the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman. She explained all of the basics we needed to know about forming a search committee and taking part in the UUA's process to search for a new settled minister. And we kicked-off our Annual Pledge Drive, with the theme of "A Place to be Our Best Selves," including several Cottage Meetings, giving you the chance to express what you value about UUCC, and your hopes and dreams for its future.

This month, I've been meeting with the board and the Nominating and Leadership Committee about filling the open positions for the upcoming year. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, you will hear the names of people who have graciously accepted these important roles, including a slate of names for the Search Committee. You will also receive the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the worship service. Please mark your calendars now, and please make every effort to attend! We will vote on, not only the leaders mentioned above, but also on the budget for the next fiscal year. And the worship service that morning will be an honoring of our graduating seniors, in a ceremony which is sure to be beautiful and moving for all ages.

When I look ahead to our next year together, I could write as much, and probably more, about all of the fun and enriching undertakings we will collaborate on, in groups large and small. But before we can move on to all of that, we must give our attention to completing the work of this year, well and caringly. So I dearly hope to see you on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. And I thank you all, most kindly, for the full and fulfilling year you've given me here in "Cola."

With care and cheer, Rev. Jennie "It's a privilege to be here."

## **Directions**

## **Reflections**

## **Expressions**

*“....I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty. In the wilderness, I find something more dear and connate than in streets or villages.”* Ralph Waldo Emmerson

Pagan – from the Latin *paganus* – country-dweller.

I am a Unitarian Universalist for many, many reasons. I adamantly believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings, of justice, equity and compassion in human relationships and on through our seven abiding principles. But my journey to acceptance of all the seven principles began in a life affirmed through my encounters with the wonders of nature. I always felt more at ease with myself and more closely connected to the sacredness of life while I was having a nature experience. Hiking, kayaking, swimming in rivers and lakes has always allowed me to be free and in the moment. Recognizing this led me full circle back to seeking religious affiliations in my life and has led me to daily working on practicing adherence in the 7 principles. I wonder where I would be today if not for the spiritual fulfillment I have always experienced while out in the natural world. I am not sure I would have made it back up to principle number 1 and therefore to this wonderful UU congregation.

Given my history it will come as no surprise that I have a deep respect for the traditions of pagans as passed down throughout all human civilizations over thousands of years. For it is from those early humans whose lives were so fundamentally affected on a daily basis by their environmental surroundings that some of our most meaningful ceremonies have evolved. Take Beltane for instance. Long before there was any understanding that our earth was a rotating orb, revolving around the sun, early peoples noted that they could rely upon the return of longer periods of daylight – daylight that fed the earth and made the growth of all plants possible. Sunlight– the source of all energy in our world was revered and celebrated in a truly no-holds-barred kind of way. I am pleased that as a UU I can celebrate the sun’s lengthening stay, our growing daylight and the early story of how Brigit bestowed upon Bel, the sun, the power to grow and cast out the monsters of darkness. I do not have to worship the gods and goddesses of earlier times yet I can celebrate with joy the beliefs some of our fellow UUs hold dear. And I do not have to give it any less credence than, say, my life long celebration of the birth of a baby in a manger. I love being a UU!

Namaste my friends!

Stephanie Palmer-Smith

# **Stewardship Statement**

## **Caroline Eastman**

The slogan we have adopted for our pledge drive is "A Place to be Our Best Selves." I prefer to think of UUCC as a place to be our true selves. We can't be our best selves unless we are first comfortable with our true selves. UUCC is a place where we can find and accept our true selves and be with others who not only accept our true selves but encourage us to be our best selves.

Many of the people here came from other faith traditions. I didn't. It was my parents who made that journey. My mother rejected the trinity of her childhood. My father rejected the strict pacifism of his. They found their true selves in a Unitarian fellowship in Atlanta; my sister and I attended the RE program there.

When they moved to Columbia, Missouri, they helped found the UU congregation there. Robin Carter and I were married there in a UU service with a borrowed church and a borrowed UU minister. After our marriage we visited the occasional church but did not choose to join any. After many years of marriage we realized that sharing a home and a tax return did not necessarily mean sharing a spiritual path. He was comfortable with a meditative style of worship and joined a Buddhist group. I joined what is now the UUCC when I realized that the structure and principles were ones that felt right to me.

Over the years I have been involved in various UUCC committees and activities, which has helped me strive to be my best self by involving myself with others. I taught in RE for a while after watching my sister and young nieces at a UU service in Massachusetts and realizing that parents with young children really need some help from the rest of us. I have been able to use my professional skills on the tech committee and elsewhere. I'm retiring from USC this May and expect UUCC to help me navigate that life transition. I hope that UUCC has helped you find both your true selves and your best selves. And that you, in turn, will help UUCC find its best self through your contributions of time, of money, and of love.



## Candles of Community

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

We are sad to let you know that Susan Robinson's mother has died. Susan and her family are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Susan would welcome cards and telephone calls of sympathy.

## Thank You

**Howlmore Animal Sanctuary:** Thanks so very for the donation to Howlmore Animal Sanctuary. We are enormously grateful for the generosity of your membership. Sincerely, Linda Moore and Hayden Howell.

**Jim and Ginny Verne:** We would like to thank the many generous people of UUCC who gave donations in honor of our fiftieth wedding anniversary. We are most blessed to be a part of this very special community. Unless your contribution specified otherwise, it will be placed in a reserve fund to provide support for persons and families who wish to attend the UUCC fall retreat at The Mountain, but who cannot afford to pay the full cost. Again, thank you all for your generosity. Jim and Ginny Verne

# News and Notes

## Pledge Drive Update

We have received over \$198,000 in 2016/2017 pledges. Thank you for your support of the funding goals for our budget. There are many pledge cards that have not yet been returned. Please get those cards in as soon as possible so we can finalize our budget. It is important that we know what funds will be available for our entire congregation, programs, and operating expenses.

**You can email your pledge amount**

**to [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).** Pledge cards and envelopes are also available in the foyer and may be returned there, put in the collection plate, or mailed back. Thank you, Joe Long, Finance Chair

## Treasurer's 2015/2016 Budget Update for 3/31/2016

Pledges needed: \$162,046

Actual Pledges received: \$154,636

Shortage: \$7,410

To all who pledged to support the UUCC for 2015/2016:

If you have not paid your pledge or are behind in your pledge, please consider how much your promise means to the livelihood and continued viability of the Congregation. Pledged funds represent 85% of the income of the UUCC. Failure to receive pledges can create a serious lack of funding for all the UUCC's wonderful activities, not to mention the salaries of our minister and staff.

So, if you have pledged to support the UUCC, please be sure your payments are up to date. With grateful appreciation, Linda Brennison, Board Treasurer.

## Thank You Volunteers

It's Volunteer Appreciation Month! Please know that the great work we accomplish in our community is due to the many volunteers in our congregation. Always remember that each of you is tremendously appreciated.

## Harvest Hope Food Donations

The UUCC Harvest Hope food 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.

## Proselytizing our faith? No way, you say!

But do you have website design and/or maintenance expertise along with some time to volunteer (from a few hours to an on-going specific commitment)? UUCC needs your skill. Contact Andrea ([uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org)) for information about how you can help publicize and promote our congregation!

## Chalice Pins For Sale Sundays

We have some nice UU chalice lapel pins that will be in a basket at the greeter table. We are asking for a \$5 donation for each pin with all proceeds going to CYRE.

## Sunday Greeters Needed

Don Dodson is now coordinating the greeter program and looking for volunteers who would like to join our merry little group. Greeters have options of dates when they volunteer and it is usually from 10:30- 11:00 a.m. when services start. Occasionally we need someone from 10:00-11:00 a.m. For many visitors this is their first impression of UU and a personal “good morning” and “welcome” always helps in creating a welcoming atmosphere. Please contact Don at ddodson@sc.rr.com.

## UUCC Art Exhibit Runs Through May 1

*Seasons of Nature; From Everglades Winter to Appalachian Spring*, 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.”



## 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.

## Calling Artists for 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 **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 Saun-



ders at rsaunders@sc.edu if you would like to participate or if you have questions.

## Chair Yoga, Tuesdays

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 meets in the UUCC Social Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. **If you are new to the group** and have questions or would like to participate, please contact Ruthie Saunders rsaunders@sc.edu.



## Transitions Volunteers Needed Second Saturday 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. Contact Bob Whitaker at [bobwhit46@gmail.com](mailto:bobwhit46@gmail.com).

## September Set, Friday, April 29

Our monthly September Set for our UUCC Seniors will be held Friday, April 29. (Yes, this month it is on the 5th Sunday). 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.

## CYRE Committee Retreat, April 30

Our CYRE committee will meet this Saturday morning, April 30, to discuss goals, set new goals, and make plans for the summer CYRE program. This important meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. Brunch will be provided!

## **Upcoming Coffeehouse: Tish Hinojosa**

### **Saturday, April 30**

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).

### **Beltane Crafter's Faire, May 1**



Calling all crafters: Those looking to BUY, those looking to SELL, come to the UUCC's annual Crafters Faire! This event will be held just after service on May 1st (during our Beltane Festival & book sale). Tables will be provided. Drinks and food will be for sale. All are welcome so please help us spread the word. Contact Stephanie at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) to secure a table.

### **Book/Media Sales and Beltane Crafter's**

#### **Faire, May 1**

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<sup>st</sup> 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!

### **Every journey begins with that first step!**



NAMIWalks supports the mission-driven work of 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**. Prep for the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. at Hope Plaza and the march begins at 10:00 a.m. 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, Four Seats Left!**

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 4 tickets remain. To reserve your seats please write a check payable to UUCC with the words "Fundraiser 5/7" in the memo line. Place in the Administrator's mailbox, mail it, or place in the collection plate.

*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.

### **Adult Choir Practices & Sings May 8**

The Adult Choir will practice at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 8 in the Sanctuary and sing during the service.

### **Women's Book Group, Tuesday, May 10**

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, 776-0784. [sjchubon@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjchubon@sc.rr.com).

## **Writing Group, Tuesday, May 10**

Please join us for the UUCC Writing Group on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30–7:30 pm in Room 5. Feel free to bring something that you have written and would like to share with the group. Each month we will discuss different writing styles, topics for writing, and share our stories, biographies, poems, songs and anything else we can imagine. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Seel at 803-776-7138 or [chseel@bellsouth.net](mailto:chseel@bellsouth.net)

## **UUCC Picnic, Saturday, May 14**

Plan on attending the second annual picnic at Suzy Garland's beautiful property in Pine Ridge, West Columbia. We will gather for fun, food, games and fishing on **Saturday,**



**May 14 from 3:00 p.m. until...** Rain date is set for Saturday, May 21. Bring a pot luck picnic dish, lawn chairs, Frisbees, nerf balls and musical instruments. Our fishing pro, Dot Brown, will provide instructions and poles for kids at Suzy's pond. Campfire with s'mores and singing after dinner. Be there or be square.

## **UUCC Visitor Orientation, Sunday, May 15**

Our next Visitor Orientation class will be held on Sunday, May 15 in the UUCC Library. We will begin about 15 minutes after service and usually end in about 45 minutes. Light refreshments are served. If you are new to the UUCC, or have come for a while and have questions, then this session is for you. This class is designed to help familiarize you with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and answer any questions you might have. For more information contact Patty Drews at [membership@uucolumbia.org](mailto:membership@uucolumbia.org) or 803-931-6799.

## **UUCC Book Club, May 22**



The next UUCC Book Club meeting is Sunday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Drennan will facilitate a discussion on

*Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. We will meet at a mem-

ber'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).

## **Solar Power Demonstration, Sunday, June 12**

Phil and Lis Turner have recently installed solar panels and they are holding an open house on Sunday, June 12 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. A representative from ReNu Energy Solutions will conduct a tour of the installation and present information on the location of homes where solar makes sense, costs, tax credits, and the SCE&G incentive program.

Any orders for solar panels from ReNu Energy will result in a \$500 contribution to the UUCC. If you are thinking about a solar panel installation or are just curious to see one in action, this is a good opportunity. Please let Phil or Lis know that you are coming so we can make sure we have space ([pturner@unt.edu](mailto:pturner@unt.edu)).

## **Register Now for Hogwarts Summer Camp**

Hogwarts Summer Camp registration is going on now. Do you have a young wizard whose magic needs a little brushing up? Or do you have a little wizard-want-to-be who needs to learn the craft? Camp runs **June 27 - July 1, 9:00 a.m. though 3:00 p.m.**

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

## **Are You Longing for S'Mores Around the Campfire?**

We will have them...and lots of other wonderful things. Join us for the annual UUCC retreat at The Mountain. **September 16-18.** You will be part of a weekend you may never forget. Mark your calendar now. More details coming very soon.



You are invited to an opening reception for "Connections,"  
an exhibit of the most recent quilt artwork by Janet Swigler.

The reception will be Sunday, May 8, 2:30-4:00PM,  
at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia.

An added bonus will be the quilt, "R.Q.,"  
created by a group of after-schoolers from Rosewood Elementary School.

It might be the perfect outing for your Mother's Day afternoon — I hope to see you!

Janet Swigler

# Religious Education

## Beltane Service Run-through

On Wednesday, April 27 the high schoolers and middle schoolers will practice the Beltane Service and the Beltane Ritual/Play from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you have any questions email Stephanie at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org).

## Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse Training, May 3

Join our Director of Religious Education in attending a Mandated Reporting training being offered by the Children's Law Center of USC. The training is on Tuesday, May 3 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Kathwood Baptist Church at 4900 Trenholm Road. Please email Stephanie ([dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org)) if you would like to join her for this training.

## Youth Group To See *Seussical*, Saturday, May 7

High School youth are invited to watch our very own Maggie O'Toole perform in *Seussical* at Harbison Theater (at Midlands Tech) on Saturday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m. The show is a mashup of Dr. Seuss's most famous books. If your youth can attend please e-mail Morgan Hanes at [re-assist@uucolumbia.org](mailto:re-assist@uucolumbia.org) so that tickets can be purchased in advance. We are not charging for the show. Those families coming from the Columbia area can meet at the church at 1:15 p.m., otherwise we'll meet out front of the Harbison Theater at 7300 College Street, Irmo, SC 29063, at 1:40 p.m.



## Children's Choir

Did you hear? Maggie and Nohl have stepped up to assist with Children's Choir. In addition to adding their gifted voices to choir they are now assisting with selecting music and other important choir tasks. We all appreciate your efforts, Maggie and Nohl!

- 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 May 1<sup>st</sup> BELTANE!

9:00 Beltane table set up  
9:30 Beltane Service run through  
10:20 Choir Practice  
11:00 Service  
12:15 Maypole dancing  
12:15 – 2:30 Beltane Crafter's Faire and Book and Media Sale

Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> Last CYRE for Spring 2016

Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> Closing Celebrations in CYRE

Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> Multigenerational Service/Bridging Ceremony

**UUCC Board of Trustees**  
**UUCC Board of Trustees**  
**Summary of February 17, 2016 Meeting**

The Board of Trustees met February 17 from 6:30 PM to 9:57 PM.

**Treasurer's Report**

Linda Brennison reported that our revenue shortfall increased this month from \$5,505.31 to \$8,854.23. Revenues are under budget by 4.8%. Building rentals are over budget. No fund raisers to benefit the general budget have been held this fiscal year.

**Ministerial Settlement Weekend** is scheduled for March 5 & 6 with Rev. Ann Marie Alderman as the consultant/facilitator. She will meet with the Board on March 5 and she will explain the search process to all members of the congregation on March 6.

A question was raised about the role of the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) in the selection of a search committee for a settled minister. Our bylaws state that (1) we will use one of the search and candidating procedures recognized by the UUA and (2) that members of the ministerial search committee will be nominated by the LDC and elected by the congregation. Major questions remain about how/where the LDC's nominating function fits into the UUA process. Rev. Jennie agreed to inform Rev. Alderman about this dilemma before she makes her consultant visit in March.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Committee** The Annual Canvass will begin with a celebration on Sunday morning, February 28. The solicitation of pledges and collection of signed pledge cards will take place in cottage meetings held in members' homes. Sixteen families have agreed to host cottage meetings; a member of the Finance Committee and a Board Member will attend each cottage meeting; Rev. Jennie will attend about half of them.

**UUCCWebsite Ad Hoc Committee** Members of this group are Regina Moody, Donald Griggs, Caroline Eastman, Marc Drews, Andrea Dudick, and Brian Dudick. They have made progress this month and plan to launch the new website March 4, 2016.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Endowment Committee Member** The Bylaws indicate there should only be one board member serving on the Endowment Committee; currently we have three. The Board voted to have Bob Whitaker replace Linda Brennison on the Endowment Committee. Another board member will rotate off the committee June 30.

**Air Quality in RE Wing** Board members agreed that we do not need to wait for a capital fund drive before we address the air quality issues in the RE wing. Peck estimated diagnostic tests costing \$1500 and air duct cleaning costing \$3425. Linda reported that we have a savings account set aside for "rainy day" problems. The Board voted to proceed with air testing and duct cleaning to be paid for by the UUCC savings account, the total cost not to exceed \$5,000.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

# Meetings & Rentals

Board of Trustees Meeting	Wednesday, May 18	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, May 8	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night (starts with dinner)	Wednesday, May 4	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
<hr/>			
Membership Committee	Sunday, May 8	12:15 pm	Classroom #8
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, May 15	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, April 29	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Wednesday, May 4	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Technology Committee	Wednesday, May 4	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, May 11	6:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, May 22	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, May 10	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.

### UUCC 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 Brennison	<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>

### UUCC 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

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](http://www.facebook.com/uucolumbia)

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

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

