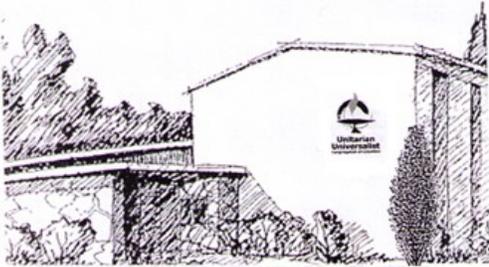




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

February 8, 2017



2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205
803-799-0845 • 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

February 12, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

Do children have a “right” to their ethnic heritage when they are adopted?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Common Ground Between Religion and Science,” by Rev. Jennie Barrington

February 19, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

The American way of war from Sherman to Vietnam and the Gulf War—acceptance of mass deaths—why?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Giving On the Side of Love,”
by Rev. Jennie Barrington

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, February 19**, for publication on **Wednesday, February 22**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.*

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Minister’s Meditation

The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister

*“But we need to search for and find --what we need to own and perfect into a magnificent, shining thing-- is a new kind of politics. Not the politics of governments, but the politics of resistance. The politics of opposition. The politics of forcing accountability. The politics of slowing things down. In the present circumstances, I’d say the only thing worth globalizing is dissent.” [Megan McKenna, *The New Stations of the Cross: The Way of the Cross According to Scripture*]*

Dear Members and Friends,

People are taking to the streets to advocate for issues from immigrant rights, to affordable health care, to women’s right to choose what happens to their bodies, to the rights of freedom of assembly and freedom of religion, especially the rights of Muslims. I am heartened and hopeful to see so many people demonstrating. Yet it is also easy for any of us to feel discouraged at times, and wonder if such demonstrations make a difference. I am writing to say that protesting *does* make a difference. In fact, there have been many times in world history that peoples’ protests were what made the most significant difference in effecting progressive change. But in order to make a real difference, these demonstrations will have to be sustained. So I’m pleased to share with you the advice of my colleague, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, in her post on the Rev. Tom Schade’s blog, The Lively Tradition. [<http://www.tomschade.com/2017/01/10-actions-for-avoiding-protest-burn-out.html>] These are Rev. Landrum’s 10 Actions for Avoiding Protest Burn-Out:

Continued on Page 2

1. Know your energy style.

Are you an extrovert or an introvert? Do large crowded protests energize you or deplete you? Do you like sitting down and composing letters to representatives and the press, or do you dread them? There is a lot of work to be done, and we need people doing a wide variety of things. So focus on the kind of activities that energize you, and don't beat yourself up for not doing everything.

2. Follow your expertise.

Do you have a lot of experience in an area that might be helpful? How can you use that strength? One great example is how lawyers responded to the immigration issue this week by going down to the airports themselves and helping people with legal aid on the spot. Are you a teacher? Maybe you can help with a teach-in. Are you a veteran? Share what you know about how this is not in America's security interests. Are you a writer? Write! If, like me, you're a great generalist, do a little of this and a little of that. There's lots of space for you in this movement, because we need people to be flexible and responsive, and a wide variety of skills are needed. There have been a lot of times campaigns, for example, have asked me to go door-to-door. I refuse. That's not my strength. But if you want someone to spend an hour spreading your message on social media, I'm your gal.

3. Find friends to do this with you.

Make a plan with a couple of friends who share your passion to engage in this together. You'll keep each other going and keep each other strong this way. Protests are easier and more fun if you've got friends to make signs with, share the drive with, and debrief with afterwards. Don't have good friends you can ask? Ask for some to partner with you in a Facebook group for local progressives, or in your place of worship.

4. Similarly, connect to community.

Engaging in social justice can be draining, and having a community of support with you can help. So find a spiritual community, and join in the local progressives. In the last week, I've found two local progressive groups on Facebook that I had no idea existed. In one case, that's because it didn't, and it's new. Joining them connects me to other people in my community with my values, and then when I go to events, I connect with the people there that I've been talking with online, so it gives a touchstone at the events, as well.

5. Set your limits for larger actions and smaller actions.

Are you going to get burned out if you protest every weekend? Know your limits, because there will hopefully be ongoing protests for quite some time. So if you engage once a month and that will be energizing for you and not burn you out, set that limit -- and keep to it. It's better to miss the next important big thing but have energy to sustain this. Similarly, even smaller actions can burn you out, because there are endless ones you can take. So set yourself a daily or weekly time limit for how much you're going to do.

6. Know your social media limits.

If you have Facebook friends like mine, all you have to do is open it and you'll be inundated with all the fear, despair, and bad news of the world. So know how much of that you can take before it depletes you. Then disconnect from it and do something energizing or community-building or just plain fun.

7. Find the places where victory is possible.

We need to engage in long-term resistance and protest even when victory isn't in sight, but we also need to have periodic wins. So make a point of prioritizing some places where victory is possible. And that brings me to the next point...

8. Don't forget the local.

With all the action going on at the national level right now, it's easy to forget about local issues. But local issues are where we can sometimes make a big impact, and it's important to have periodic victories as we engage in this work over the long haul. We can resist at a local level, too. Encourage and support your local government in standing up to oppression.

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9. Cut back when necessary.

If you find yourself burning out, don't be afraid to pull back. Yes, we need large numbers of people to resist and to protest. But I can count one friend who didn't march on the day of the women's march for every friend who did, and it was still the largest protest in history. And those friends who didn't march are hopefully energized by what they did instead and by seeing the wonderful photographs of their friends, and ready and excited to engage in the next thing. So allow yourself to cut back when you have to -- without apology.

10. Engage in a spiritual practice.

Practice something that keeps you calm and focused, and do it daily and/or engage in it before and after significant social justice work.

I couldn't have said it better myself. And Rachel Maddow would also agree. Recently she was interviewed by Ari Melber about the massive protests in airports all over the nation against the Presidential "travel ban." Mr. Melber asked Ms. Maddow: "What does protest achieve at a time like this, when some think, well, the crowds are just an activity?" Ms. Maddow's response brought me to tears. She said, "It is everything. At this point it is absolutely everything. The size of the protest movement, the character of the protest movement, the energy and creativity and fierceness of the protest movement is going to be the thing that determines what happens in terms of policy in our country over the course of the next year. It is going to determine: what they think they can get away with; what they feel like they have to answer for; what they have to walk back. They already walked back so many things they tried to get away with, because of the protests and the questions that they can't answer. The thing that will most determine the state of our country one year from today is the size of these protests now, and their sustainability."

Let's keep talking about these protests, and about the images and actions that are renewing and sustaining our hope.

Rev. Jennie ("It's a privilege to be here.")

President's Column

The phrase, "May you live in interesting times," has popped into my head recently. This curse, articulated by Robert Kennedy in a 1966 speech traces its modern roots to a letter from Sir Austen Chamberlain who claimed that there was a Chinese curse, "May you live in an interesting age." Of course, this phrase embodies the yearning for a familiar lifestyle, with limited changes, and where everyone knew their place. There are some who believe that this yearning tipped the scales in the election. The changes that society has experienced in the last 70 years have been unprecedented and we find ourselves caught in the backwash of that wave of change. I believe that tsunami generated by the seismic shift in society was inevitable but I am fearful of the damage that it might cause before it recedes.

The role of the Unitarian Universalist faith and of each congregation will be an important one as we cope. "Bastions" and "Islands" are terms that come to mind, but it is also very important that we do not wall ourselves off from those who might not share 100% of our beliefs. There are numerous activities underway to share our principles in a respectful but firm manner.

For me, a powerful antidote to the anxiety is the reassurance that I find in the work of this congregation. The social action and religious exploration activities are awesome. In addition, we are nearing the culmination of the ministerial search and I am grateful for the hard work of the search committee. I would like to make a special and heartfelt request to all of our members and friends to continue to be patient and supportive of the search process. We, as a congregation, committed to following the UUA search process and are spending considerable fiscal and human resources in that search.

The Building Renovation Committee has met and created an ambitious timeline. The generosity of this congregation has astonished my UU friends from other congregations! Very importantly, the BRC is scheduling sessions with various UUCS constituencies to gather input on the decisions that we must make as we move forward. Please consider participating in at least one of these sessions. There are, of course, physical, legal, and fiscal limitations to what can be done in these projects, but we are a creative congregation so come forth with your ideas!

Thanks to each of you for making the UUCS a refuge and an attractive place for a future minister.

"... it is our calling to use our heads and hearts ... to look at what is needed now and how we might collaborate (in) creating new possibilities in our world ... Let us go forward. There is work to be done: prayer, joy, courage, and strength are deeply needed. And we do know the way there. This is Wisdom's hour." *Rev.*

Bourgeault

Phil Turner, President

Directions

Reflections

Exploration

“To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.” Ella Wheeler Wilcox, poet

On the weekend of January 21 I and thousands of other women marched in Washington the day after our 45th president was inaugurated. For many it represented a protest of the inauguration of a man many find unqualified for this highest position in our nation. For others it meant something completely different. I marched because...

I marched for those who have no voice in our electoral process. Those who are disenfranchised due to the status of their citizenship, due to a past sentence just or unjust, and those who are too young to participate in an election, for those whose futures will be marred by myopic legislation geared towards tearing away our environmental protections as well as our hard earned civil rights.

I marched because my heart breaks when I think about gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people who have just recently gained their right to live as full American citizens through recent legislation granting them the right to marry the person they love. I don't want them to lose that right.

I marched because my melanin-rich brothers and sisters continue to be persecuted because of the beauty of their skin, because too many Americans want to identify them as less than worthy of our American rights. I will march until we have an equitable representation of white convictions as compared to black and brown convictions.

I marched because our indigenous people have to keep fighting for their meager land holdings that are left after our government continue to waltz on their treaties. Will we never honor their rights to their lands?

I marched because our stripped down governance of corporations has allowed a very inequitable distribution of wealth in our country. As the income discrepancies continue to grow, my need to speak out and be heard grows.

I marched because women worked long and hard to give me the right to vote and I honor them by fully participating in our American democratic process. And I marched to let it be known I won't stand by quietly and let the rights of ANYONE be trampled by unfair legislation or irrational executive orders. And I will continue to march and protest and rally and vote and diligently work on campaigns to get the vote out and write letters and make phone calls and make visits to our representatives because I see it not only as my right but as my duty as a citizen. And I want to set an example for those who come after me. Democracy is not a spectator's sport, it is something we need to nurture and feed. We need to claim our rights as citizens and participate in this great experiment.

And I will continue to march.

In solidarity!

Stephanie Palmer-Smith
Director of Religious Exploration

Miniature House Raffle

Our raffle started with a bang Sunday! Over half of the tickets are in circulation. The house is so detailed and expertly crafted, I am sure the tickets will sell like hotcakes. Tickets are \$3 each or four for \$10. If you can sell some tickets please get in touch with Stephanie at dre@uucolumbia.org or 207-400-9428.



News and Notes

February 12, 2017

“Common Ground Between Religion and Science” (Rev. Jennie preaching) Inspired by the writing of physicist Richard Feynman, this sermon will explore ways science and religion do not have to be in conflict. This service is part of Evolution Weekend, sponsored by the Clergy Letter Project. Each year in February, clergy and congregations take part in Evolution Weekend by advocating for the protection of high quality science education and religious freedom, through worship services and other events.

February 19, 2017

“Giving on the Side of Love” (Rev. Jennie preaching) Please join us for the festive and fun launch of our annual pledge drive. After the worship service, we will hear more about the many ways our congregation is so needed. And we’ll enjoy food, games, prizes and the TLC of this lovely caring community!

February 26, 2017

“My Favorite Famous Unitarian” (Rev. Jennie preaching) He was born in February, he helped to found the United Nations, he ran for President twice, he was a late-bloomer, and he had an endearing sense of humor. Come and learn what he might advise us about our political climate today.

Search Committee Update

People are curious to know where we are in the process of finding a new minister for our congregation. The information we collected from UUCC during the fall was sent to the UUA in Boston and was made available to potential ministers. Thirteen expressed interest in our congregation by sending us their Ministerial Record. We reviewed these carefully and decided to follow up with five of these with an interview via video conferencing. Then we decided to interview in person three of these. These candidates have been invited to a "pre-candidating" weekend so that we can meet them in person and assess whether they would be a good fit for our congregation. At this point the names are confidential so we can't reveal much more than this. On Thursday, March 30, we can extend an offer to our preferred candidate. We believe that UUCC is a highly desirable congregation and are seeking skilled candidates.



2017-2018 Canvass Kick-off Party! Sunday, February 19

The theme of this year's pledge campaign is *Giving on the Side of Love*. Help us to create an atmosphere that will be attractive and welcoming to our new minister, and to the people who come to us looking for a religious community motivated by hope and love, not fear.

Join us immediately after the service on February 19 for the 2017-18 canvass kick-off party! We'll provide the food and the mimosas (or orange juice, if you'd prefer). Door prizes for those present. You're welcome to make your pledge then (and we hope you will consider what you get out of UUCC, and what you can contribute), but it isn't required.

For more information please see any member of the Finance Committee: Linda Brennon, Caroline Eastman, Joe Long, Robin Scherer, and Bob Whitaker. See you there!

Seeking Recommendations

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is seeking your recommendations for members of next year's Board—Officers and Trustees—as well as Congregational committees—Endowment and LDC. We understand that 2017-2018 holds tremendous promise and challenge: welcoming our newly settled minister, recommitment to our principles, mission, and social justice outreach, and moving forward with building renovations and updating our leadership structure.

We are seeking congregational leaders who have a passion for Unitarian Universalism and for our congregation, who also have the skills, experience, and temperament to work together to make this religious community even better. Do you know someone who has great ideas and a willingness to dive in and solve problems? Who do you think would make a good leader for our congregation?

To review descriptions of the open positions and to recommend an individual, contact us in writing:
LDC@uucolumbia.org

New Sign: "All Are Welcome"

Have you seen our sign at the entrance to the church declaring "All Are Welcome"? This is part of our bigger campaign to show our Welcome and Tolerance attitude. Be sure to take a look and see. A banner of the same sentiment is being considered but cost is a challenge at this time.

Maintaining our 501(3)(c) Non-Profit Status

Our congregation is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization under IRS rules. This status means that we cannot participate in any substantive way in partisan political activities without endangering our non-profit status. That does not mean we cannot weigh in on issues like civil rights, women's rights, environmental problems, marriage equality, income inequality, etc. It means that we cannot endorse candidates for political office. To clarify the IRS rules, you may find the information provided by the UUA helpful when deciding what events or activities may be appropriate for our congregation: <http://www.uua.org/action/realrules>.

Operation Bed-Roll

Our CYRE Youth Group (middle and high schoolers) will be collaborating with the Midlands Collaboration on Operation Bed-roll Please Donate Plastic Bags to our CYRE. Place them in the green collection tub in the Social Hall. We are also in need of G size crochet hooks and folks who crochet! Your instruction will be invaluable and a life-time gift to our children and youth.



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 to volunteer.



Harvest Hope Continues To Be In Need

Items that are most wanted are: Canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, and soup. Always non-perishable items. A new item that Harvest Hope is always very desperate for are disposable diapers and adult diapers. They break up the packages and make small packages of 4 to distribute to each client just to help them get by. DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD ITEMS IN GLASS CONTAINERS - WE CANNOT GIVE THOSE TO HARVEST HOPE

Islamic Center Donations Needed

The Islamic Center has asked for help for the Muslim refugee families here in Columbia to assist with items that their food stamps will not cover. The Social Action Committee will provide a large box in the social hall to deposit your donations in through Sunday, February 12. Any help you can be is appreciated as you can imagine these are increasingly difficult times for these folks. We thank you and so do they. Some suggestions are: Toilet paper, Napkins, Paper towels, Kleenex, Sanitary napkins, Laundry soap for clothes, Dishwashing liquid for hand washing (dishwashers are not used), Aluminum foil, Plastic wrap, Plastic bags such as different sizes of Ziplocs, Lightbulbs, Household cleaning sprays etc.

UUCC Christian Heritage Group

An interest has been expressed in forming a very casual group of persons of Christian background to talk about our heritage. We hope to address issues such as "what I value most from my Christian experiences," "why I chose to become UU," "are there practices, teachings, etc., which I believe might benefit the UUCC," "how can I best live out my Christian ethos in the UU environment," and many, many more. We will meet for lunch and conversation at **11:30 on Tuesday morning, February 28**, at the J Peter's restaurant at 2005 South Beltline Blvd., just east of Richland Mall. We would love for you to join us. If you have questions, contact Jenny Beale at 803-776-2625 or Jeczbl14@aol.com or Ginny Verne at 803-786-7114 or jtverne33@att.net.

Facilitator Needed for Spiritual Practices Course

Adult RE would like to sponsor a course on Spiritual Practices. The course would be interactive and inclusive of all forms of spirituality. If you are interested in facilitating this course, please contact Pat Mohr at pat-mohr@mindspring.com

Chocolate Auction Baking Party, Saturday

Please join us in the UUCU kitchen for our community baking day on Saturday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m. in preparation of our Chocolate Auction. Basics – flour, sugar, cocoa, eggs, vanilla, butter, powdered sugar, baking soda, and baking powder will be provided. If you need specialty ingredients to make your creation, please bring them with you. Contact Stephanie at dre@uucolumbia.org for more information.

If you are baking at home, all donations need to be delivered to UUCU either Saturday morning, February 11 between 10:00 & Noon or as early as possible on the morning of Sunday, February 12, so we can prepare for the sale and auction. (Please package individual portions for bake sale items.) For questions or further info contact Gail Dawson: gailzebug@msn.com

Youth Groups to Bake & Deliver Valentine's Day Cookies, Saturday, February 11

Both youth groups will gather in the UUCU Kitchen on Saturday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m. to bake, decorate, and deliver Valentine's Day cookies to our friends at the Family Shelter. We will also be baking goodies for the Chocolate Auction. We will be delivering cookies to the Family Shelter at 1:00 p.m. and should return to the church by 2:00 p.m. PB&J sandwiches provided.

Adult Choir Schedule

We will rehearse and sing on **Sunday, February 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary** and every two weeks after. Bill Moody, Director

Chocolate Auction, Sunday, February 12

Sweets for your sweet? Our popular Chocolate Auction fundraiser will fall just two days before Valentine's Day this year and we hope to make it a sweet occasion for

all! Part bake sale, part silent auction, part cake walk, all proceeds will go to help fund the HSYG Boston trip. Join us immediately after service on Sunday, February 12 in the Social Hall for this delicious event and find a special treat for all of your special someones.

Women's Book Group, February 14



The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *Animal's People* by Indra Sinha. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, sjchubon@sc.rr.com or 776-0784.

Coffeehouse

After a nearly 25-year partnership with our congregation, the UU Coffeehouse has finally outgrown its charter as a program group. This needed reorganization is as much attributable to the program's success at bringing recognition to the artists who have performed under our roof as it is a sign of how much the Coffeehouse has expanded beyond the confines of 2701 Heyward Street and become a fixture in our wider community.

You may have noticed the recent announcements through social media that this endeavor will live on as the "Blue Moon Concert Series". One final event is planned for, Saturday, February 18 and we encourage you to show your love and support by sharing a few hours of your time visiting with friends, while enjoying good music. For more information about tickets, please search for the UU Coffeehouse on Facebook. If you want to know more about how you can support the Coffeehouse, please contact Tim VanDenBerg at bmember1@uucolumbia.org.

Final Concert at UUCU

February 18: Harpeth Rising

You can reserve tickets by leaving a message at (803) 200-2824. Tickets are \$17 at the door, but \$15 if purchased or reserved prior to the concert. Bring some extra money for the wonderful home-baked treats and hot coffee from our volunteer staff. You can even bring your own beverages! Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Shows start at 8:00 p.m. This show could possibly sell out so get your tickets early!

Friendship Dinners Begin in February; So Sign Up on Sunday!

The Membership Committee is offering a new way for us to gather in small groups so that we can get to know each other better. We are offering Friendship Dinners, where a host will determine the cuisine or theme and you will be asked to contribute either specific or general dishes from various categories. The sign-up sheets on the Welcome Table in the Social Hall will have all the details you need. It will be up to the hosts to determine the day and time, so these will be offered at different dates during the month. We encourage you to sign up for one or more of these in February, and volunteer to host one in a coming month.

Adult RE Short Course: *God Is Not One*, Beginning Sunday, February 12

This spring, a short course at UUCC will be devoted to the eight most broadly practiced world religions (Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Confucianism, Yoruba religion, Daoism, Hinduism, and Atheism). It will be based on the book *God is Not One* by Stephen Prothero (2010). This book is the successor to Prothero's best-seller *Religious Literacy*, which emphasizes the importance of a broad acquaintance with the world's religions in a modern America in which there are more Moslems than Episcopalians. The book provides a valuable background for UUCC's greeters, membership activists who help integrate new friends and members into the congregation, and in general for members of the committees and board of UUCC. The book is available from such sources as Amazon and addall.com. The course will meet from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Sundays in the Library. It will meet in six sessions, first on February 12, and continuing on alternate Sundays, with accommodations for other congregational activities as necessary. The instructor will be Don Cooper. Don's e-mail is dndlcooper@gmail.com, with mobile phone (803) 466-5087. If you are interested in participating in this short course, please contact him, preferably by e-mail.

Fun-Draiser Dinner February 17

There are only two seats left for the dinner given by Jean Capalbo and Ginny Verne. The February 17 meal will be Italian vegetarian with a shrimp starter option. You can

reserve your seat with \$40 payable to UUCC with "February 17 Fundraiser" on the memo line. For more information, contact Jean 803-799-1001 or Ginny 803-786-7114.

UUCC Book Club, Sunday, February 19

The next book club discussion is 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 19. Bauer Western will facilitate a discussion on "And Yet" by Christopher Hitchens. 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

September Set, Friday, February 24

Our monthly September Set for our UUCC Seniors will be held Friday, February 24. 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.



Animal Ministry Film, Friday, March 10

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. We will be showing the next film in our Ethical Eating series as it relates to plant-based eating. The movie is entitled "PlantPure Nation" and we will follow the same format as in the past, with vegan snacks before the movie and during intermission. THIS EVENT IS FREE AND EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO COME! Those who are willing and motivated, are encouraged, but NOT required, to contribute a vegan snack. Please don't hesitate to contact Anita Grossman with questions (anitaj48@aol.com).

Million Dollar Quartet Musical Fundraiser, Saturday, March 11

Get your front row tickets today to the Town Theatre's production of the *MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET*, a smash-hit musical inspired by the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

A \$40 donation to the UUCC will secure the very best seats in the house to experience the performance on Saturday, March 11, with curtain at 8:00 p.m. Place your check in the collection plate with **TT-3/11** (*that's Town Theatre March 11*) in the memo line. Limited tickets are available, so act today. In the past, ticket holders have gotten together for dinner before the show and that will be an option again this year. Contact Patty Drews, 931-6799 with questions.



NAMI Walks, Saturday, April 1

Save the Date of Saturday, April 1, for the annual NAMI campaign. NAMI is the National Alliance for Mental Illness and UUCC traditionally shows great support for this cause. Put it on your calendar and plan to walk in this annual event in downtown Columbia. Be thinking of ways you can help to be a part of this. The Social Action Committee is looking forward to your usual great participation as we encourage assistance to those in the mental health field.

Children & Adult Chalice Lighters Needed

Please celebrate a special event by becoming a Chalice Lighter. Having a birthday? An anniversary? New to UUCC? We would like to celebrate with you! Write:



dre@uucolumbia.org today to reserve your date or sign up on the clipboard found on the information table in the Social Hall.

Join Us For Lunch After Coffee Hour!

The Membership Committee has noticed that people have been arranging last minute group lunches after the service. Head over to the restaurant-of-the-day after coffee hour on Sundays when there are no other UUCC events scheduled for after coffee hour. Here is the current schedule. There are no lunches scheduled on the 5th Sunday. (Please Note: The Fourth Sunday is no longer Sato Japanese Restaurant):
First Sunday: *Arabesque Lebanese Cuisine*, 2930 Devine St.

Second Sunday: *Dano's Pizza*, 3008 Rosewood Dr.

Third Sunday: *Casa Linda Mexican Restaurant*, 2009 N. Beltline Blvd.

Fourth Sunday: *Miyo's Chinese Restaurant*, 3250-B Forest Dr.

Note: These restaurants are subject to change. We welcome feedback. Of course, these lunches will be "separate checks".

UUCC Governance and Structure Ad Hoc Committee

In June 2016 the UUCC Board established an ad hoc committee, UUCC Governance and Structure, to review, analyze, and recommend revisions to our UUCC governance structure, ensuring a clearer picture of who we are as an organization. We have been meeting regularly since June and sending monthly reports to the Board as well as to the other committee chairs in our congregation.

The UUCC Governance and Structure Ad Hoc Committee would like to know what questions, concerns or suggestions our members might have about how UUCC operates. Do you have ideas about governance that you would like to share? Has your experience in other congregations or faith communities given you some insight into governance that you feel might benefit UUCC? Do you have concerns or questions and are not sure where or how to share those concerns or ask those questions? We want to hear from you, our members. Please direct your comments, questions, concerns, or suggestions to our Chair, Keitha Whitaker, at uukeitha@gmail.com.

AmazonSmile: Free Money for UCC

Thanks to everyone who has been using AmazonSmile for the past year or so! How does AmazonSmile work to help our budget? Simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0509045>, and bookmark that address and use it every time you order something from Amazon. Our Congregation will receive 0.5% of the purchase price of whatever you buy. We have been getting on average about \$25 each quarter, but many members and friends may not be aware that UCC is eligible for this lagniappe!! Please note that this shopping experience is identical to the "regular" Amazon Site. You have the same selections, pay the same prices, and there is no charge to you or to UCC. Please contact Bob Whitaker at treasurer@uucolumbia.org if you have any questions, or sign in to <http://org.amazon.com> and click on the Help tab to see their FAQ topics.

Toiletry and Magazine Donations Solicited for Winter Shelter

Now that the Inclement Weather Center - the winter shelter for the homeless - is open for the season, the Social Action Committee is again collecting magazines and personal-sized toiletries. Please place your donations in the designated donation box at the entrance to the Social Hall. For more information about donating or about how to volunteer at the shelter on evenings when the temperature falls below 40 degrees F, contact Tom Clements, tomclements329@cs.com, cell 803-240-7268.

Religious Education

OWL Classes for Grades 4-6

These classes will begin as soon as we have two more students sign up. This class helps children develop an accepting and loving sense of self and of others. If you know of any 4-6th graders please talk to their parents about enrolling in this life-saving class.



Middle and High School Lock-In, February 25-26

All middle and high school youth are invited to a Lock-In beginning at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, February 25 through the start of Service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday the 26th. We will be “plarning” for Operation Bed Roll, playing Board/card games, making our own pizzas, watching movies, and spending FUUN time together. Please contact Stephanie Palmer-Smith dre@uucolumbia.org to fill out paperwork. Morgan Hanes will be sending out an e-mail with more details once your youth is signed up.

CANstruction...And the Winners Are.....

Our middle school students are the proud winners of the CANstruction competition but the competition was tight! All classes built amazing structures. To see pictures of the amazing works, please see the pictures on the bulletin board across from the office. With your support the children raised over \$500.00 for Harvest Hope. Thank you to all who supported CANstruction.

CYRE Calendar

- Saturday Feb. 11 Chocolate Auction set up and baking party!
- Sunday Feb. 12 CYRE, Chocolate Auction and Junior Choir Practice
- Sunday Feb. 19 CYRE
- Sunday Feb. 26 CYRE/Social Action



High School Class

UUA Southern Region Chalice Lighters Call

Dear Chalice Lighters and Friends of the Southern Region,

We're pleased to announce the first region-wide Chalice Lighters call! This call will support extending the ***Pledge to End Racism*** program from **First UU Church of Richmond** to all interested congregations in the Southern Region. This program is designed using a leadership development model so participants gain skills and develop competence in not only talking about racism, but in facilitating discussions about race, and then working together to organize ***Living the Pledge workshops*** for people throughout their community. Instead of just talking about racism, this program develops knowledgeable, passionate leaders who can do something to address it. The *Pledge* strengthens local antiracism efforts, brings congregations together with other faith communities with like commitments, and creates teams of people involved on the local level in making change in their own communities.

With generous donations from Southern Region Chalice Lighters and friends, the *Pledge to End Racism* organizers will be available to provide, at minimal cost, curriculum and consultation to fifty (50) or more congregations in organizing the *Pledge to End Racism* programs for their communities. This will include all the materials to develop *Living the Pledge to End Racism* workshops, select and train small group facilitators, and promote the program in your congregation and to your larger community - all with the goal of building a community-wide movement to end racism.

By spreading the *Pledge to End Racism* program throughout the South, Unitarian Universalist congregations can have a recognizable impact on the rise in racial tensions and division and can play an essential part in building stronger communities imbued with justice, equity, and compassion.

Donate today with this link:

Chalice Lighters Pledge to End Racism Donation Form

(https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/hf_xDmMfUCEngR5K-h0Ogg)

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, and Diners Club accepted

Or make a check payable to *First UU of Richmond - Chalice Lighters*

Mail to:

First Unitarian Universalist Church

1000 Blanton Ave.

Richmond, VA 23221

This Chalice Lighter call will end on March 6, 2017.

Thank You

Candy Johnson would like to thank all those that sent cards and well wishes, as well as provided meals during her fight with cancer and the loss of her brother. You are a great group of people, blessings.

Islamophobia Workshop

Our Islamophobia Workshop held February 5 was a great success with an attendance of nearly 90 people and even better news over half of them were from the local community. Manzoor Chema led a very informative and interactive presentation that was well received by the audience. There was much learned about Sharia Law and many questions asked and answered. Manzoor cleared up many myths and misunderstandings about Islam and we left the workshop enlightened. We appreciate the efforts of those of the Social Action Committee responsible for this event including Chair Grant Seuser, Jeanette Walton, Laura Hartwig, and Linda McLeod.

Cabaret

Showstoppers from Stage and Screen – now history and historic!

The biggest production, largest audience, loveliest ambience, and best gate...(approximately \$2,000 clear). This means that the UUCC Partner Church Committee is able to meet ongoing expenses supporting Beszterce and Rev.Zsolt's transportation and contemplate a new PC project.... Example: bringing Zsolt or a partner church Unitarian to visit, or enabling a UUCC member to make a pilgrimage otherwise beyond his or her budget, or sponsoring a scholarship at Zsolt's school,,or., meeting physical Beszterce needs not yet apparent....Choices, so heartening!!!

Several donations to the partner church came from folks unable to attend Cabaret. We are so grateful!

How to thank adequately everyone involved in making the event so successful, without omitting a key player??? So very , very tricky! Yet, here goes:

Richard, the show's creator, director, producer, who recruited and coordinated all acts, plus many behind the scenes aspects of Showstoppers from Stage and Screen, and the gracious cast members who contributed talent, time and treasure; and the production specialists who made them look good; Jean, and the pick-up crew she recruited arranging the magical ambience , lighting, tables, etc.; Stephanie, and Ceren, food and kitchen organizers with the dedicated, hard-working kitchen crew; And ALL the many creative COOKS whose handiwork made up the tempting food and dessert tables. And the many volunteers who set up and cleaned up. Thank you, Rev. Jenny and UUCC staff who supported this event in various ways. And the TRANSYLVANIAN PILGRIMS, who got involved in many ways, with the inspiration of the Beszterce folk vividly in mind. And the stalwart members of the partner church committee whose jobs ranged from obtaining prizes, publicity, decorating, and generally providing the glue that held the evening together.

And finally, of course, the appreciative, generous audience who made the effort such fun!

Thank you, each and everyone, for helping to make entertainment and generosity history!

Gratefully, your Partner Church Committee:

Cabaret co-chairs Jean and Susan; Carita, Donald, Yolanda, Stephanie, Ceren, and Lee

UUCC Board of Trustees

Summary of November 16, 2016 Meeting

The Board of Trustees met November 16, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:10 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Income is up in almost every category while Capital Campaign payments continue to increase. At the end of the first 1/3 of our fiscal year we have a positive variance of \$15,186.81. In comparison, last year at this point we had a negative variance of \$6,071.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Website Policies

The Board approved a Website Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions of Use of the Website document.

Coffee House

There was some discussion about how to handle the Coffee House checking account. It was agreed that Bob Whitaker can close the account and give Steve Fisher a cashier's check for the balance of the account. They have concerts scheduled through February 18, 2017. Donald Griggs will work with David Roof to be sure we have an inventory of the equipment.

Building Renovation

Richard Culler reported that he hopes to convene the Committee for Building Renovation early in December. Phil Turner and Rev. Jennie will be serving as ex officio members of the committee. Phil, Richard, and Quillin Davis met with Peck Drennan to discuss the potential timeline and his contract as the architect. The Finance Committee has been asked to research options for "bridge financing", ways to finance the work in advance of receiving all the money that has been pledged. Bob Whitaker will meet with BB&T personnel to get an estimate of the cost of borrowing money for the renovations.

Tree of Life Historical Marker

Plans are underway to place a historical marker on our grounds to honor the history of the Tree of Life Congregation. There will be a ceremony with the installation and dedication of the marker on December 11, 2016 at 2:00 PM.

Ministerial Search Committee

The Search Committee has requested the Board's approval of the contract they will use in negotiating with a settled minister. They need to submit the document on November 23. It is being circulated to the Board today. An electronic vote will take place after the Trustees have an opportunity to review the contract.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Thursdays	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	Wednesday, February 15	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Tuesdays Thursdays	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Social Hall Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	Wednesday, March 1	1:00 pm	Classroom
Choir	Sunday, February 12	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night	1st Wednesday of month	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	1st Wednesday of month	7:00 pm	Classroom
Visitor Orientation	TBA	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, February 24	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Wednesday, March 1	7:00 pm	Classroom
Technology Committee	Wednesday, March 1	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, March 8	5:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, February 19	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 th Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	Lee Minghi, 798-0904; Carita Barr, 782-0053; or Susan Robinson, 446-0675	TBA	
Women's Book Club	Tuesday, February 14	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Tuesday, February 14	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Rentals			
La Leche League	3rd Tuesdays	6-8pm	Classroom # 5
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

Presidents, Phil Turner	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Richard Culler	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
Treasurer, Bob Whitaker	<i>treasurer@uucolumbia.org</i>
Secretary, Sandy Chubon	<i>secretary@uucolumbia.org</i>
Members at Large, Donald Griggs, Tim VanDenBerg, Cheryl Soehl, Joan Watterson, Emilio Perez-Jorge	
Past Co-Presidents, Marc & Patty Drews, 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	Bill Dolley, <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

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

Website: www.uucolumbia.org

