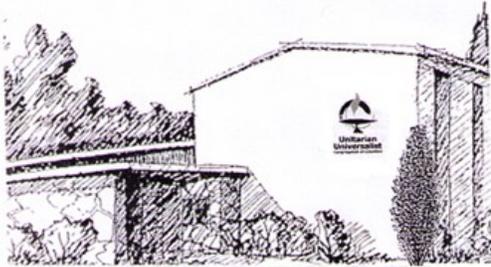




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

August 9, 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

August 13, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

“Ageism”-The gulf between young and old.

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Logic and Lawn Darts,” by Rev. Jeff Liebmann

August 20, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

Should we just be open?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Stages of Faith,” by Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, August 20**, for publication on **Wednesday, August 23**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.*

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

The Rev. Jeff Liebmann

When I was young, my mother loved listening to revivalists like Kathryn Kuhlman and Billy Graham. What she enjoyed most, however, were the hymns, songs like *The Old Rugged Cross* and *How Great Thou Art*. For her, religion was about love - about the constancy and stability of love as a life principle.

So when I hear people sing *Gimme That Old Time Religion*, I don't hear calls for fundamentalist dogma or ways to separate us because of how we live or believe. I hear a plea for stability - the reassurance that love will conquer all and get us through the most difficult trials.

If we are lucky, we have people in our lives that provide that kind of love. Jody and I share it, and we have brought it here to Columbia to share with you. As we move into our new house, we are not simply transferring possessions into a structure. We are building a home - a home we plan to inhabit for a long time.

This congregation has seen its share of instability in recent years. Sometimes change is a good thing as it encourages us to avoid getting stuck in old patterns that no longer meet our needs or help us achieve our goals. I sense that the changes you have experienced have prepared you for a period of redefining who you are as a church community and envisioning where you want to be 10, 20, even 30 years from now.

As your minister, I plan to revive that old time religion so we can do that work. I will harken back to the words of Arius and Origen, Francis David and the Polish Brethren, John Murray, William Ellery Channing and Theodore Parker, John Haynes Holmes and A. Powell Davies, Kenneth Patton, and others. My goals are to provide a stable foundation of spiritual leadership for you and for our children; to help you reach out into the community and find others seeking to walk the religious path with us; and to help UUCC become the voice of progressive religion in South Carolina through our public service and witness.

Yours in dedicated faith,
Rev. Jeff

Direction Reflection Exploration

The dust is beginning to settle back in the CYRE world as we hold wrap up meetings of our very successful Hogwarts camp. Through the outreach we did in promoting our Hogwarts Camp we provided an exposure of our faith to over 20 non-member families here in our small city. They may never set foot through our doors again yet they will carry throughout their lives a hint of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Of course, the children were treated with respect, their opinions and emotions were given attention and they cooperated in presenting to their parents a representation of what a group of children can accomplish in a short amount of time when they work together and create from their hearts. Yet they also practiced being in covenant. They learned that they have within them some answers that others want to hear and more importantly they learned that some questions do not have answers, only answers we can find for ourselves.

This camp is only made possible through the dedication of staff and volunteers who give of themselves without looking for anything other than an opportunity to serve. A huge thank you to our volunteers:

The Sullivan Family – your inspiration and dedication to the hardwork of creating our setting is magical in and of itself.

Keitha Whittaker whose Defense Against the Dark Arts course helped protect so many
Lis Jenkins

Ceren Farr whose assistance with snack was vital

Lis Turner, the weaver of tall yarns

Ginny Verne – whose incredibly edible Transfigurations are scrumptious

Bauer Western, who can see into the future

Bethany Storlazzi – Herbologist extraordinaire

Ron Edge – whose gadgets help us defy physical laws

Janet Swigler – the ghost with the most

Jenny Beale – the ghostly story teller

Marguerite Frongillo – Your moves were enjoyed by all

David Dawson and the other David – Professor Vladimir and his sidekick were a favorite

And to our staff:

Heads of House, whose love for their children made the weeks manageable, Erin Gibson, Brandi Mimbs, McKenzie Scott, and Evelyn Smith your dedication and patience make you some of the best child facilitators I have known

Head Students – Sophia and Nohl Storlazzi-Johnson and Ronan and Joseph Sullivan - Thank you for putting the children's needs before your own and for keeping them involved in the projects they worked on. Those children were touched by your gifts of attention

And as always, the success of Hogwarts is always contingent upon our head visionary, Gail Dawson. Gail – working with you is always inspiring but the magic you inject into projects is beyond comprehension. You make every task easier to bear while making everyday objects seem to have magical qualities. You are infused with a bit of Mary Poppins, perhaps?

Well, it is back to the world of everyday curricula review, sermon preparation and planning, emails, writing, and meetings – the things that make up my regular tasks but thanks to my Hogwarts experience, and to the help of the magic the above people have used around me, I go into our new CYRE year with a spark of renewal which is always a bit magical.

Stephanie Palmer-Smith
Director of Religious Exploration

Music Coordinator Position

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia (UUC) is in search of a music coordinator to serve under the supervision of the Minister and responsible for music programming.

The music coordinator shall work up to 40 hours per month, 12 months per year. The part-time music coordinator will plan the music program, in consultation with the minister and the worship committee, and work with them to define the vision for the music program. The following represents the responsibilities of the music coordinator.

- Work with all genres of music, including contemporary music and traditional hymns, in a setting where musical diversity is celebrated.
- Incorporate music, video clips and other creative elements designed to increase congregational engagement and visitor/guest participation.
- Schedule adult choir performances every other week after consulting with the adult choir director.
- Develop musical talent like youth choir, men's chorus, women's groups, beginner's choir, instrumental solos and groups, outside musicians.
- Recruit and schedule special music, soloists, ensembles and guest musicians.
- Arrange for a piano accompanist and song leader for Sunday services.
- Select and provide for special music (e.g., solo and group performers, prelude, and postlude).
- Submit details for Order of Service by Wednesday of previous week, following as closely as possible the speaker's topic of the week.
- Administer the music budget.

Professional Growth: In consultation with the Minister and Worship Committee, engage in professional education and development to enhance knowledge and skills as a music coordinator.

The UUC will provide the Music Coordinator with compensation of up to \$20/hour for up to 40 hours a month/12 months' employment, with a flexible work schedule, payable twice a month.

Interested candidates are invited to send a letter of interest to include experience and qualifications to personnelchair@uucolumbia.org by August 17, 2017.

News and Notes

August 13 [Logic and Lawn Darts]

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

When do we deem something too dangerous for our own good? In a land of free market capitalism and enormous individual freedom, we reserve banishment for only the most heinous products that threaten our health and well being. Or do we?

August 20 [Stages of Faith] Rev. Jeff Liebmann

We all travel unique religious paths. Some common landmarks exist, however, that many of us can identify in our journeys. Today will provide a framework we can use to share the stories of our travels -- and perhaps better understand your own odyssey.

August 27 [Reclaiming the "A-Word"]

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Atheists have long been considered troublesome and untrustworthy people. Many in this country consider a person lacking a God-centered theology as morally bankrupt or spiritually bereft. And the litany of books by writers such as Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins, and Daniel Dennett do little to endear the atheist cause. Perhaps the time has come for religious atheists to reclaim the A-word, and come out in support of the benefits of belonging to a religious community without an underlying belief in a supernatural being.



Welcome Our New Minister Sunday, August 13

Next Sunday, August 13, the Rev. Jeff Liebmann will be in the pulpit for the first time since he was chosen by the Congregation to be our settled minister. We invite you to join us after the service to enjoy some refreshments and welcome Rev. Liebmann and his wife, Jody, to Columbia and to our Congregation.

How Can You Help Hungry People?

Bring canned goods (fruits, vegetables, and meats), peanut butter in plastic jars, pasta, disposable diapers-children and adult sizes to add to our Harvest Hope basket. They also need plastic grocery bags to bag up the groceries. We deliver these goods every three weeks and like to have a nice big delivery for them. Please do your share to feed hungry people. Thanks from the Social Action Committee

Children & Adult Chalice Lighters Needed



Please celebrate a special event by becoming a Chalice Lighter. Having a birthday? An anniversary? New to UUC? UUC longtimer? 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.

Seeds of Hope

Another great summer for Seeds of Hope has come to a close. It was a shorter season this year but still very successful. Bauer Westernen did his usual excellent job of rounding up volunteers to work the fresh market in front of the church and our members were our best customers. We also enjoyed many of our neighbors passing by to stop and pick up the fresh produce and see our friendly faces. This is a wonderful project that we enjoy each year to assist Farmer Louis Reid and the Seeds of Hope Project. We don't have the final figures yet but it is estimated that we sold about \$1200 in the eight Sundays that we were in business. Thanks to all of you that worked in the hot sun and to all of our great customers.

Fair Trade Coffee Raffle Winner!

The winner of this month's Fair Trade Coffee raffle is Charles R. Page! All are encouraged to come to the table to learn about this win-win fundraiser for the High School Boston Heritage Trip and enter your name in next month's coffee raffle. Good Luck!

The Mountain Weekend

Our annual weekend retreat at The Mountain is fast approaching, September 29 through October 1. Don't be left out of a wonderful opportunity to get away, relax, get to know your fellow UUCC-ers and enjoy the lovely North Carolina mountains in the fall.

The Mountain encompasses its surroundings and provides rustic but comfortable living arrangements. The Lodge has rooms similar to a motel with two twin beds and a private bath per room. Some of the cabins have similar arrangements and the camp cabins are perfect for families with open rooms, bunk beds and a shared bathroom.

Activities can be as much or as little as you want. Our traditional activities are a getting-to-know-you gathering in the group meeting space Friday after dinner with games, ping pong and foosball and the Saturday evening campfire with s'mores and sing-along.

The all-inclusive prices are for 6 meals (dinner on arrival Friday-lunch on Sunday)

The prices have not changed. They are as follows:

Adult 2-night double occupancy- \$190

Adult 2-night single occupancy (private room)- \$260

Adult 1-night double occupancy, 4 meals (lunch on arrival, lunch on departure)- \$135

Adult 1-night single occupancy (private room)- \$170

Weekend charges for youth 8-17 \$70, 0-7 FREE

To register go to TheMountainRLC.org or call The Mountain during office hours at

828-526-5838.

More to follow. Questions call Joan Watterson-803-787-7873

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.

Christian Heritage Group, Tuesday, August 15

The Christian Heritage Group will meet Tuesday, August 15 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 8. Please bring your favorite dish to share with everyone at lunch. We will be discussing life after death. If you have any questions please call Jenny Beale at 776-2625.

A Total Eclipse of the Sun, Monday, August 21



Please join us at UUCC for a program and viewing of the 2017 total solar eclipse on Monday, August 21. We will gather for a Bring Your Own picnic at 12:00. You will need to provide your own backyard chair and we will have, if inventory lasts, glasses on sale the day of the event. Let's experience the eclipse together! Following the eclipse will be a program by Dennis Hands, a UU from Greensboro, NC. The following is taken from Dennis' bio on his website "An Island in the Sea of Mystery."

"I love to teach, and I love to learn. After 30 years in the Greensboro/Guilford County schools, I'm now teaching Astronomy at High Point University. I've been at HPU since 2008 and have participated in the growth of the Astronomy program. I also host on a regular basis at Cline Observatory on the Jamestown campus of GTCC. I serve as the chair of the Cline Observatory Advisory Committee. My astronomy presentations to community groups can be tailor-made for the audience. Recently I've made presentations about Pluto, astronomical models, and local opportunities in astronomy."

September Set is at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 25

Our monthly September Set for our UUCS Seniors will be held Friday, August 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.

Visitor Orientation, Sunday, August 27

Our next Visitor Orientation class will be held on Sunday, August 27 in the UUCS library, the detached building on Heyward Street with the red door. We will begin about 15 minutes after service and usually end in about 45 minutes. Light refreshments will be served. If you are new to the UUCS, or have not come for awhile and have questions, 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 or to arrange child care (with at least 48 hours notice please) contact: Nancie Shillington-Pérez at membership@uucolumbia.org or [803-553-2280](tel:803-553-2280).

UUCS Book Club, Sunday, August 27

The next book club discussion is 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 27. Phil Turner will facilitate a discussion on *Five Easy Theses: Commonsense Solutions to America's Greatest Economic Challenges* by James Stone. We will meet at a member's home. The UUCS Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCS. We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: rsaunders@sc.edu

Short Course: American Grace Begins September 3

What is the role of religion in modern America, and how do congregations work as social systems? A short course on the sociology of American religion, based on *American Grace* by Robert B. Putnam and David E. Campbell (2012) will be offered this fall at UUCS. The book is based on extensive surveys of religion and public life in America. Studies of congregations complement interview findings. The course should assist those who are active in religious groups to understand and work with the dynamics of congregations. The course will meet in the library for an hour and a half on alternate Sundays, starting at 1:00 p.m. after services. It will meet in seven sessions from September 3 through December 3. The instructor will be Don Cooper; his e-mail is dnlcooper@gmail.com, with a phone (803) 466-5087. For details, contact him before the end of August, preferably by e-mail.



Women's Book Group, Tuesday, September 12

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *The Guest Room*, by Chris Bohjalian. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon at 776-0784 or sjchubon@sc.rr.com.



Art for All Group, Thursdays

If you are interested in working on your art with others for support, encouragement and feedback, then the Art for All Group is for you. We meet weekly on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - noon in the UUCS 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 if you have questions

Religious Exploration

CYRE Water Day at Weston Lake

We are hosting a summer outing at Weston Lake on Saturday, August 19 for a day of relaxation and fun. Picnic, croquet, badminton, and swimming – we will have it all! Let’s play! Admission is \$4.00 per person.

All those who attended our “Hogwarts Beach Day” will get in free as we have a rain check from Weston Lake that will be used.



CYRE Summer Programming

We will be reliving our journeys over the course of the next two weeks as we create a timeline illustrating our adventures. Children and youth will write, draw, paint and discuss memorable journeys from summer 2017! To make this happen, I need a volunteer with skills in writing, painting, and or drawing to step up and assist Morgan and me! Please call me 207-400-9428 or email Morgan reassist@uucolumbia.org if you can help.

Solar Eclipse Glasses For Sale!

Are you prepared to view this once in a lifetime event? Our teens are selling NASA certified solar eclipse vision glasses AFTER service on Sunday. And if you would like to sell some glasses to assist with Boston Trip fundraising, please see Richard Culler.

CYRE Summer Wrap Up

We have been all over the world this summer from Taiwan to the Galapagos and our children and youth have enjoyed every minute of their adventure. A huge thank you to: Morgan Gauthreaux-Hanes for taking us to Scotland and Ireland, to Nancie and Emilio Perez for our adventures in Spain, Pat Mohr and Don Dodson for taking us all the way to New Zealand, Cindy Blackman for her German fun, Ginny Verne for taking us to Taiwan, and the McLeods for taking us to the Galapagos! The time you folks put into preparing your talks, gathering and presenting your souvenirs, and sharing your photos is greatly appreciated. Our children and youth had a great time “traveling” with you!

UCC Board of Trustees
Summary of June 21, 2017 Meeting

The Board of Trustees met June 21, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:24 PM. The meeting was chaired by Phil Turner.

Treasurer's Report

Our total revenue at the end of May was \$14,430 above projections. We currently have a positive variance of \$24,400.

Ad Hoc Committee on UCC Governance

This committee is finishing their work this week. Their final report was e-mailed to trustees this week. We will discuss it at the July Board meeting; Keitha will be present to answer questions. We will have further discussion of how to implement it at the board retreat day.

Building Renovation Committee

Richard reported that the construction plans called for using a steel beam in widening the opening between the sanctuary and the social hall (originally suggested in the Boudreaux Report ten years ago). Now that it is time to implement the plan we realized that such a beam would be quite heavy and there were questions about how we could get it into the building. The engineers have developed a new concept using a wood truss and replacing the masonry above the opening with a lighter exterior/interior wall. The additional design and incorporation with the existing plans will take about two weeks and delays opening the project for bids. The committee is finalizing a list of potential contractors.

Approval of Committee Chairs

The Board approved Committee Chairs for most of the standing committees. The CYRE Committee is having difficulty finding someone to volunteer as their chairperson.

Appointment of Endowment Committee Member

Sej Harman's death created a 1-year vacancy in this committee. The Board appointed Phil Turner to serve the rest of her term.

Approval to Invite Bids on Renovations

The Board voted to authorize the Committee on Building Renovations to select a list of reliable contractors and invite them to bid on our plans for renovations, rather than open the project to public bidding. When the bids are reviewed the Board will have final approval of the results and will approve the contract with the successful bidder before construction begins.

Approval of Bridge Loan Contracts

The Board voted to approve two bridge loan contracts (promissory notes) with two members of the congregation. The exact amount will be based on the gap between the cash received and the initial construction estimate, but will not exceed \$25,409 for each contract.

New Chair of the Committee on Building Renovations

Richard Culler agreed to chair this committee this year with the understanding that he would be relieved of that responsibility when he became President of the Board. Quillin Davis has volunteered to chair the committee in the new fiscal year. Richard will remain on the committee ex officio. Phil Turner will no longer have an automatic role on the committee but he has agreed to continue to serve to maintain continuity.

Building Renovation Expenses

Richard reminded us that Peck is donating his professional fees for our renovation project but he does need to be reimbursed for his "out of pocket" expenses. He has requested \$2500 for the engineer's work in designing the wall between the sanctuary and the social hall and \$309.70 for materials Peck has used. The Board voted to reimburse him from the Capital Campaign funds.

Music Coordinator Position

A position description has been developed for the music coordinator.

Minutes recorded and summarized by

Sandy Chubon, Secretary

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Thursdays	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	Wednesday, August 16	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Suspended for Summer		
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA		
Choir	Sunday, August 13	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	Sunday, August 20	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, August 27	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, August 25	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, September 10	12:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Technology Committee	Wednesday, September 6	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Thursday, August 10	5:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, August 27	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	TBA	
Women's Book Club	Tuesday, September 12	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Suspended for Summer	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Rentals			
La Leche League	3rd Tuesdays	6-8pm	Classroom # 5
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
Women's AA I	Every Wednesday	6:30 pm	Library
Women's AA II	Every Sunday	5:00 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, Richard Culler	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Time VanDenBerg	<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: Cheryl Soehl, Emilio Perez-Jorge, Mary Maclachlan, Linda Brennon, Rod Brown	
Past President, Phil Turner, ex officio	<i>pastpresident@uucolumbia.org</i>
Finance Chair, Joe Long, ex officio	<i>financechair@uucolumbia.org</i>

UUC Staff

Minister	Rev. Jeff Liebmann, <i>minister@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

Office Hours — Mon.– Fri. 7:15 am – 1:45 pm

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

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