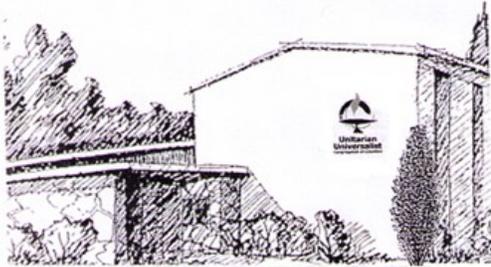




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

December 27, 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 3

December 31, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

Open Forum

11:00 am Sermon Topic

The Real Work of Christmas,
by Rev. Jeff Liebmann

January 7, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

What was the structure of the cosmos before the big bang? What is the future of the cosmos?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

Cells of Awareness,

by Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, Jan. 7**, for publication on **Wednesday, Jan. 10**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

There will not be a Unigram published on January 24, the only Unigram published in January will be on January 10.

Pulpit Ponderings Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Many of us will shed no tears for the demise of 2017. This past year challenged our patience, our emotional stability, and our resolve to seek justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. I am no fan of New Year's resolutions. This year, however, I think we can all agree on one resolution – that we do whatever it takes to make 2018 better than 2017.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia can serve as an excellent vehicle to achieve that resolution in the Midlands and beyond.

- We can continue to welcome marginalized peoples, providing sanctuary from bigotry and fearmongers.
- We can increase the frequency and volume of our prophetic message to South Carolina that we will no longer tolerate the immoral actions of those who undermine our democracy, attack our basic human rights, and poison our planet.
- We can work together and in coalition with others to improve the safety net for the poor and the oppressed in our region.
- We can reach out to disaffected Christians, as well as people of other faiths or no faith tradition at all so that they may find in our walls the religious community they seek.

The tasks before us are numerous and substantial. They are also vital to our own spiritual survival and that of this nation.

We have a purpose. We have the will. We are developing the strategic directions toward which to steer our commitments. All we need now are the resources to do everything it takes to accomplish our goals.

Continued on Page 2

A church can be many things. First, a church must offer people a community of love and engagement, where we listen to each other, care for each other, and help each other. Without that bedrock of love, no structure can long survive the challenges we face.

A church must educate, and in the case of Unitarian Universalist congregations, help develop our powers of critical and creative thinking. Our story *is* a story for all ages, not just children. Our spiritual journey never ends, not so long as one child goes hungry, one woman faces abuse, one man endures unjust imprisonment.

Most important, a church is a nexus not only of belief, but of action. What we collectively believe as individuals will never rise above the importance of what we can do together as a community. That is why 2018 matters so deeply to the history of this congregation here in Columbia. This year, we have the opportunity to help this state reclaim its damaged moral authority; we have the chance to reach out to hundreds of people seeking a community that will feed their spirit and catalyze change; we have the potential to join with thousands weary of leaders who only exemplify hypocrisy, greed, and a slavish obedience to special interests.

I have asked our ministry committees to submit aggressive budgets for the coming year – budgets that will provide them the resources to pursue initiatives that will make a difference. I will be working with your Board and Finance Committee to craft a bold budget built on a foundation of love that will give voice to our dreams and strength to our actions. And this spring, we will work together to find the means to fund that budget.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia can become a beacon of warmth and enlightenment guiding the way for the lost and the troubled. Together, in this new year, we can achieve the promise that lies within us through our worship, our learning, our caring, and our loving commitment.

News and Notes

December 31 New Year's Eve "The Real Work of Christmas"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

For two months we have withstood the bombardment of TV commercials and the Bacchanalia that is Christmas in America. Well, what next? Needles are falling, bags of wrapping paper are at the curb. The real work of Christmas is ready to begin.

January 7 "Cells of Awareness"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

Many people label Unitarian Universalism as heresy. But is it heresy to explore incongruities between dogma and practice? Is it heresy to make a choice between conflicting faith messages? Is it heresy to reject fundamentalism in favor of those who celebrate free will faith and reason?

After the service, lunch will be available for \$5 in the Fellowship Hall. Then, at 1:00, join us for a Boston Declaration Teach-In. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Teach-In as we discuss this statement that will have far-reaching implications for people of all faith traditions.

A panel will present the Boston Declaration and lead a discussion on this prophetic call for people of faith to reclaim the public arena from those who preach hate, violence, and oppression. The panel will include one of the original signers of the Declaration, Rev. Jeff, and members of our Christian Heritage Group. As a group, we will then discuss ways our congregation can respond to the Declaration, and ways of moving forward. For those who cannot attend, the event will be livestreamed on the UUC Facebook page.

January 14 Martin Luther King Jr. Day "Hope Reborn"

Rev. Jeff Liebmann

We have perhaps never needed to welcome in a new year more than 2018. But how can we keep this new year from replicating the disappointments of 2017?

The January 10 Unigram will be a "double issue" because there will not be a Unigram published on January 24. Please submit your articles covering the next several weeks by Sunday, January 7, to uucc@uucolumbia.org. The following Unigram will be published on February 14.

From the Finance Committee

As we near the end of the calendar year, the congregation's financial leadership would like to remind you that your contributions must be received in the office by Friday, December 29, or deposited in the collection plate no later than Sunday, December 31, to take them as deductions on your 2017 income taxes. To help our hard-working Administrator out, the sooner the better!

Depending on what Congress does with the current Tax Reform bill, your contribution may benefit you much more if it's made in 2017 rather than in 2018, so we encourage you to consider paying ahead.

Money is not our focus here, but it is necessary to do all the things we want to do, for each other and the world, and we greatly appreciate your generosity. Bob Whitaker, Treasurer; Joe Long, Finance Chair



We would like to send a personal birthday greeting to anyone that would enjoy hearing from us. All you need to do is stop by the Welcoming Table (with the red tablecloth) after Sunday services to put your first and last name on the date of your special day on a calendar that will be out each week from now through the end of January. If your address has not been updated since 2016, then please provide that too. Then it will be announced that it will be put out again periodically after that. If you would like to include the year of your birth, we can do the math to figure out how many years wise you are! Contact Ceren Farr or Nancie Shillington-Pérez at membership@uucolumbia.org.

UUC Green Team

The UUC Green Team is rebooting! If you want to help create a more sustainable church and community, then you are invited to be part of the Team, either as a member or supporter. To join or to learn more about the Team, contact Kevin McKinney by email kdmssooboy@gmail.com or phone (678) 267-0108.

Temporary Help Needed

Everyone deserves a vacation; especially our hardworking staff. To make it possible for our administrator to be away for more than a few days at a time, we are seeking someone to serve as fill-in staff when she is away for longer periods. MS Publisher experience preferred. For more details, please contact Richard Culler at president@uucolumbia.org or Andrea Dudick at uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Organizers Needed for Annual Picnic

This fun, community building, activity needs volunteers to find a venue, submit announcements to our administrator, take RSVPs, and order chicken. The picnic was postponed due to bad weather earlier this year. Let's make sure to continue making memories with our fellow UUs! Please contact Nancie Shillington-Pérez at nancierrr@sbcglobal.net if you would like to see this event take place this spring!

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 UUC Social Hall.

Bring your own supplies and prepare to enjoy the company of other artists at no cost. No instruction provided. Contact Ruthie Saunders at rsaunders@sc.edu if you have questions.

UUC Women's Choir, Thursdays

You are invited to join the new UUC Women's Choir! We meet every Thursday from 7:00-8:00 p.m., in Classroom 5. Please contact Anna Hamilton, our new Music Coordinator, at music@uucolumbia.org with questions or if you are interested in singing with the group but unavailable for the Thursday rehearsals.

Gaia's Rising CUUPS, Thursdays

Join the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Library unless otherwise noted. Contact Lewis Richardson at 729-4319 or l_c_r_1@live.com for more information.

UUC Art Exhibit: "Quilted Fascinations"

Please join Janet at her reception on Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 p.m.



"Quilted Fascinations," a show of quilted art by Janet Swigler, will be on exhibit through January 22. The body of work in "Quilted Fascinations" uses images from the artist's surroundings and nature's organic shapes that have been enlarged and abstracted. It is constructed using the medium of quilting—a sandwich of a top, batting, and backing all quilted together.

Janet's work has been exhibited at the SC State Fair, winning three awards; Gallery West in West Columbia, S.C.; juried into USC's McKissick Museum twice; ArtFields 2015–2017, winning a Merit Award in 2017; and Anderson Arts Center Juried Show twice. Janet was chosen as an artist-in-residence for the S.C. State Parks in 2014 and 2017. Contact Janet at jlswigler@aol.com or 608-1042 to schedule a private showing.

No photography please.



Fellowship Lunch, Sunday, January 7

On Sunday, January 7, we ring in the New Year with a new opportunity for deeper gathering. Immediately after the service, lunch will be available for \$5 per person in the Social Hall. So, stay and talk with friends and share holiday stories. If people enjoy this shared meal, we may make this a more regular event. Afterwards, at 1:00, join us in the Sanctuary for a Teach-In on the Boston Declaration.

Women's Book Group, Tuesday, January 9



The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, January 9, to select books to read in the new year. Participants are encouraged to bring several suggestions of books which they recommend for reading next year. If you have a copy of the book, bring it along. If possible, find out whether the public library in your county has the book available. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, sjchubon@sc.rr.com or 776-0784.

Chair Yoga Returns Beginning Wednesday, January 10

We are delighted to welcome two additional, experienced yoga instructors for Chair Yoga at the UCC: Debbie Gillikin and Linda Campbell! Chair Yoga at the UCC will start up again on Wednesday January 10 at 11:00 a.m. The Winter session meets on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and runs Jan 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, beginning with Debbie as instructor. We anticipate holding Spring and Summer sessions, as well.

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. This class is fun and benefits mental and physical well-being. No special clothing or equipment is needed—come as you are. There is no cost for the class. We welcome new and returning participants! If you have questions, please contact Ruthie Saunders rsaunders@sc.edu or 776-6608.



UCC Book Club, January 21, 2018

The next book club discussion is **4:30 pm** on Sunday January 21, 2018. (We skip the month of December.) Bauer Westernen will facilitate a discussion on “Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right” by Arlie Russell Hochschild. **We will meet in the Social Hall at the UCC for this discussion.** The UCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UCC. We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: rsaunders@sc.edu

A Special September Set at Noon on Friday, January 26



All of you over 50 are invited to a catered luncheon on our regular day, Friday, January 26, at Noon. Soup, sandwiches, dessert and beverages will all be provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Jean Capalbo at [803-799-1001](tel:803-799-1001) or jacapalbo@gmail.com or Pat Mohr at [803-463-9468](tel:803-463-9468) or patmohr@mindspring.com. Let's jump start this new year with good cheer, good food, and life news!

The Mountain Retreat: October 2018

Those who attended the Mountain annual retreat this year had a great time. Next year we hope to have a record-breaking group and even more fun. We were able to reserve a prime spot for our 2018 weekend, so mark your calendars for October 5-7, 2018. Reminders will be coming in the future.

Social Action

Boston Declaration Teach-In, Sunday, January 7

At 1:00 on Sunday after the service, a panel will present the Boston Declaration and lead a discussion on this prophetic call for people of faith to reclaim the public arena from those who preach hate, violence, and oppression. This discussion may lead to future consideration of this historical document by the congregation and by other people of faith across the country. For those who cannot attend, the event will be livestreamed on the UUCC Facebook page.

Social Action Meeting RESCHEDULED for Sunday, January 28

The January 7 meeting has been cancelled. Please join us on Sunday, January 28 at 12:30 p.m. in Classroom 5. Any questions can be directed to SocialAction@uucolumbia.org. Also, we would really like to have a good showing at the Progressive Summit. If you haven't purchased your ticket already, please be sure to do so at <http://www.progressivesummit.org/>. They have just announced Reverend Al Sharpton as their keynote speaker.

Palmetto State Progressive Summit: Fri & Sat, Feb 2 & 3, 2018

Join hundreds of social justice advocates, labor organizers and grassroots activists for training, networking — and the catalyst we all need to make real progress. There will be over 40 sessions, with nationally known speakers and some of the most brilliant strategists and effective organizers from South Carolina and around the country. Registration includes all sessions, Saturday lunch, beverages, and a registration bag with lots of goodies. It will be the largest gathering of progressives in South Carolina, all working together to build a permanent progressive political majority in the Palmetto State.

Find out more or register now at <http://progressivesummit.org>

Inclement Weather Center Donations

The Social Action Committee is soliciting donations of current magazines and unused personal-sized toiletries for the Inclement Weather Center, the winter shelter for the homeless, which is managed by Transitions. The shelter is open during winter months when the temperature falls below 40F. **Please no clothing or shoes without advance arrangement.** Place donations on the left after entering social hall, in the marked receptacle. For more information about donations or volunteering, contact Tom Clements at tomclements329@cs.com or 803-240-7268.

3 *PIANISTS*

*SUNDAY
JANUARY 28, 2018*

7pm

at the

*Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Columbia
2701 Heyward Street*

*Matthew Ganong
Anna Hamilton
Richard McLeod*

*Refreshments and raffle
following program
benefitting
the UU partner church in
Romania*

*\$20 pp suggested
donation*

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
from Classical to Broadway



Religious Exploration

Coming of Age

Has your faith played a big role in your life? Are you interested in sharing your religious experiences with our youth? Our youth will embark on a semester long journey through our Coming of Age program and we need mentors to experience that journey with them. If you would like more information about the mentor role, please contact Stephanie at dre@uucolumbia.org or 207-400-9428.



Canned Food Collection for CANstruction

CANstruction, a competition between CYRE classes, gives the children and youth a way to raise money and food for the Harvest Hope Food Bank. Canned food from the congregation will be collected through January 31. Please deliver your cans to the CANstruction box in the Social Hall. The CYRE will build sculptures using the cans on the last Sunday of January.

Recruiting High School Teachers!

CYRE will be conducting 2 high school classes beginning in February. Would you like to help make the process of becoming a young adult a spiritually fulfilling community event for our congregation? Please contact Stephanie, dre@uucolumbia.org or 207-400-9428 to express interest.

CYRE Calendar

Sunday Dec.31 – CYRE – High Schoolers to work on service writing and all other students will meet with substitute DRE (to be announced)

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Thursdays	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	3rd Wednesday of month	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Wednesdays, beginning January 10	11:00 am	Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Choir (adult)	TBA	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Choir (women)	TBA	7:00 pm	Classroom # 5
Choir (men)	TBA		
Christian Heritage	3rd Tuesdays	11:00 am	Classroom # 5
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, January 14	12:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Visitor Orientation	TBA	12:45 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, January 26	NOON	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, January 28	12:30 pm	Social Hall
Technology Committee	Wednesday, January 3	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, January 21	4:30 pm	Social Hall
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, January 9	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Suspended	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>
Music Coordinator	Anna Hamilton, <i>music@uucolumbia.org</i>
Custodian	Bill Dolley, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
RE Youth Ministries Assistant	Mckenzie Scott, <i>reassist@uucolumbia.org</i>

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Office Hours — Mon.– Fri. 7:15 am – 1:45 pm
UUC Forum: <http://uufc.19.forumer.com>

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