

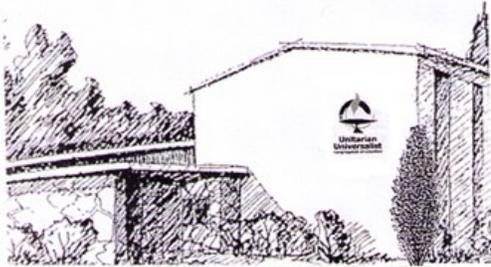


The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

November 14, 2018

Message from our Board President



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

November 18, 2018

9:30 am Forum Topic

The concept of perceived social isolation: just how significant are social interactions to human health and fitness? What happens when these interactions or relationships are not present or functional?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Gratitude Makes A House A Home”

by Rev. Pat Jobe

Cornbread Communion/Chili Cookoff

November 25, 2018

9:30 am Forum Topic

What is wrong with “cultural appropriation”?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Living a Life of Passion”

by Victor Gascon

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, December 9**, for publication on **Wednesday, December 12**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.*

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

I have always enjoyed watching movies featuring a Messianic archetype, especially during times of despair. The fantasy of a savior-like figure arriving to rescue the helpless characters from imminent peril is enticing and satisfying. Films like *Metropolis*, *The Matrix* and *Pale Rider* are timeless classics in my library and are a welcome respite on the gloomiest of days.

As we begin the conversation about filling our minister vacancy, I have been thinking about the tempting notion of searching for a magic elixir to heal our wounds and move us forward. Thinking about what we are missing leads me to thoughts of what we already have at radio station UUC.

If you love animals as much if not more than humans, aspire to a vegan lifestyle and are not afraid to lobby our state legislature to improve animal rights, then perhaps station 97.7 - the UUC Animal Ministry - is for you.

If you are a middle-school student interested in *The Twilight Zone* and visits to the Rosewood Dairy Bar, try 105.7, a sample of our UUC CYRE program.

Do you enjoy cooking for others and visiting our house-bound friends and members? Try 88.1, the Caring & Hospitality Committee.

What about drinking coffee while partaking in a healthy debate about weighty issues of the day? Try 107.5, the UUC Forum.

Continued on Page 2...

How about reading books and then discussing the content? Maybe 93.5, the UUCB Book Club, is a good fit for you.

Would you like to center yourself, find peace of mind AND get great exercise? Why not join the weekly Tai-Chi group at 101.3.

Do you have a mind for numbers, understanding spreadsheets, and formulating budgets? The Finance Committee is waiting for you at 96.9.

Who among us doesn't enjoy self-help maintenance and landscaping projects? If that sounds like you, locate our Building and Grounds Committee at 103.9.

I hope everyone spends some time contemplating and discussing the various options we have for addressing our ministerial needs. We will have our next Congregational Conversation following service on December 2nd.

And, don't forget that a more detailed station guide for radio station UUCB can be found at our website, <uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com>. Make your plans, and sample.

Looking for you somewhere on the dial.
Tim VanDenBerg

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UUCC BOARD

What's Happening at the UUCC now and what's planned?

We are frequently asked about the current well-being of the UUCC as well as plans for bringing in a new minister. This board is planning another after-service conversation with the congregation in December, when we will address all of your questions. Until then, we are offering this information sheet so we can all begin our December discussion on the same page.

Are we looking for a full-time settled UU minister right now?

No. We have serious financial restrictions because of the lawsuit lodged by our recent minister; these restrictions will continue to some degree until the suit is resolved. Income is down also, but we're hoping that annual pledges and pledges for the capital drive for renovations will resume by the end of the year. The UUCC needs your money, your time, and your positive spirit now more than ever!

What kind of minister should we consider?

We have several options, some of which we can pursue right now; others might have to wait until next year. Right now the Worship Committee is doing our Sunday services with lay leaders and guest ministers in the pulpit. We may choose to continue this option for a while, but here are other possibilities:

- Contract minister. We could contract with any minister (UU or other) for a specified number of sermons per month + pastoral work (with no benefits). This might be an option for the rest of FY 2018-19.
- Interim minister. This would take place in the spring through UUA. The search is shorter and less expensive than the search for a full-time settled minister. The UUA recommends that an interim minister serve for two years, which is the time that Jenny Barrington was with us. The minister is often a professional interim and doesn't remain with the congregation after the two-year period.
- Developmental minister. This is the newest, customized UUA category of ministers. It matches congregations with a minister to address specific goals set by the congregation. Such a minister serves for 3-5 years, but unlike interim ministers, may be called permanently by the congregation.
- Full-time settled UU minister. This minister is called by the congregation to serve the congregation full-time (salary + benefits). This can happen through a UUA search as it did for three of our ministers (Jeff Liebmann, Patrick Price, and Mark Allstrom); through a seminary or other organization (e.g., Alban Institute); or through open advertising or word-of-mouth (e.g., Roger Sizemore, Chris Robinson, Doug Reisner, and Neal Jones). We might also consider a minister who does not have UU credentials with the understanding that they would acquire them soon (as Neal Jones did).

We will be asking for your feedback about these options in the near future. We will also be asking for input about other operations of the UUCC, including our Sunday services, leadership, programs, and Religious Exploration. As a Board, though there may be personnel issues that we cannot share, we will take every opportunity to be transparent and to keep you apprised of events and engaged! If you have questions, complaints or suggestions, please take advantage of our newly formed Right Relations Committee (Co-chairs: Kevin Meredith & Emilo Perez) or ask board members directly.

Your UUCC Board,

President: Tim VanDenBerg

President-elect: Linda Brennisson

Treasurer: Bob Whitaker

Secretary: Bob Gillespie

Board Members: Mary MacLachlan, Richard McLeod, Pat Mohr, Terrence Sullivan, Jeanette Walton

Ex-Officio members: Richard Culler (past president) and Caroline Eastman (Finance Committee Chair)



Candles of Community

Our thoughts and concern go to...

Jim DuPlessis, whose father, Bernard Louis DuPlessis, Jr. died on October 29, 2018. Bernard was a father 5, and 85 years old.

Amy Jones, who is currently in the hospital undergoing tests.

Did you know that giving through your IRA may help you save on taxes while providing support to our beloved UUCC Congregation?

If you are 70½ or older you are likely familiar with the **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)**. Each year, the IRS requires you to withdraw a certain amount from your IRA whether you need the funds or not, and you pay income tax on that withdrawal unless you have it sent directly to a charity, such as UUCC.

For some IRA account holders, the required minimum distribution amount is more than is needed for living expenses, and it can generate an unwelcome tax burden.

For others, there are more than enough assets available inside their IRA plans to both meet retirement needs and make a more generous charitable gift than might otherwise be possible.

Consider these factors when deciding whether an IRA Charitable Rollover is right for you:

- The IRS allows donors 70½ or older to transfer amounts directly from their IRA to charity each calendar year.
- An IRA Charitable Rollover can be used to meet all or part of an IRA required minimum distribution.
- You pay no income tax on the rollover gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your taxes, and it is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts.

You can use an IRA Charitable Rollover to make an outright gift to UUCC as well as to make a payment on an existing pledge.

Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA, and specify that you want to make an IRA Charitable Rollover to UUCC.

Be sure to notify our Administrator, Andrea, about your plans by phone or by email to uucc@uucolumbia.org as the funds will be sent directly by your IRA plan administrator. Advance notice will help ensure that your gift is properly credited to where you want it to go.

If you have any questions about utilizing the IRA charitable rollover, please don't hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Bob Whitaker, at treasurer@uucolumbia.org, or our Finance Committee Chair, Caroline Eastman, at finance@uucolumbia.org.

Thank You

Service

Many thanks to Koty, Drew, Mercedes, Santiago, and Nohl for sharing their ability to speak Spanish with us during the welcoming for our service on November 4. We also appreciate Alvin Steingold's reading in Hebrew and allowing the entire congregation to participate in remembering the 11 victims of the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh as well as friends and family members that we can only hold dear in our hearts and our memories.

Outdoor Group

Thank you to John Logue for helping those who participated in the Outdoor Group's hike at the Congaree how to better identify certain plants and trees. Among dozens of other things, John found evidence that a flying squirrel had snacked on a nut and explained the likely purpose for those knees on the floor of the floodplain. It was a perfect day to further appreciate and respect the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part! Many thanks, John!!



Social Action

As I look back over how much the Social Action Committee has accomplished this year, I'm thankful for The Committee that made these things possible. For Jeanette, who signs us up for NAMI each year, and so much more. For Bauer, who runs the Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market each year. For the 70 UU's who came out to support reasonable gun legislation at the March for Our Lives. For Robin & Ivy who helped us have such a wonderful pride parade. For Linda who handled the Share the Plate program and Guest at Your Table event. For the kitchen committee who helped us through so many events. For Bob who continually runs the Transitions dinner program and Phil who handles the Transitions library program. For Joan who takes our donations to Harvest Hope and organizes our volunteer days there. For Tom who takes our donations for the Inclement Weather Center and volunteers there. For Connie & Kevin who have been our immigration/Refugio ambassadors. For Joseph who introduced us to the Walk A Mile In Their Shoes -Sexual Trauma Services event. For all those who show up at the events and work silently in the background and are always there to lend a hand. For all those who aren't named here because I'm simply running out of room/time but are vital to making the SAC year so successful. Thank you! I couldn't do it without you! Laura Hartwig, Social Action Committee Chair

Guest at Your Table

Thanks so much to all of those who helped our *UUSC "Guest at Your Table" Potluck Fundraiser* including the kitchen committee and all those who donated. We raised over \$850 to send to UUSC. As a reminder, UUSC staff are in El Paso right now meeting with partners to prepare for an immediate response to those from the migrant caravan who are seeking asylum from the brutal violence in Central America. Your donations will help them in their work for human rights. Visit UUSC.org to learn more about their work.

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Thank You...Continued

Blessing of the Animals

On a gorgeous sunny afternoon on November 4, pets and their owners gathered outside at UUCC with eager anticipation to await the **Eighth Annual Blessing of the Animals**.

They would not be disappointed, for our minister, Candace Chellew-Hodge treated the ceremony with dignity and respect, as well as interjecting humor when it was appropriate. In the first part of her talk she remembered the animals who could not be present, for whatever reason, and then went on to bless those creatures who are suffering, hunted, abused and those who live in fear. After this prayer, she changed tempo and shared her wonderful musical talents with us, and performed a song she had written especially for the occasion.

Next came the really emotive and compassionate part of the service where Reverend Chellew-Hodge invited members of the group to bring their animals up individually for what turned out to be a very special and personal talk and blessing. A sort of peace passed over each animal (even my rambunctious Harry!) as she stroked the animal and gazed into his/her eyes while speaking softly.

Each animal was allowed to choose a toy, compliments of the Animal Ministry to distract and occupy him/her at the event, as well as to take home. Cat toys (fabric fish with catnip sewn into them) were taken home by their owners to their cats. (Compliments of the talents of Marie Hunt!).

A rather splendid table was laid out with a variety of treats for dogs and cats as well as an abundance of people vegan treats of homemade cookies, chips and other delectable items.

Thanks go to Jean Capalbo for the raffle of one of her custom pet portraits. The lucky winner was our own Andrea Dudick!

This event could not have been organized, publicized and executed without the hard work of the members of the Animal Ministry. Anita Grossman, Chair Person of the group, wishes to extend a special shout out to Linda Brenison and Patty Drews, who each worked courageously throughout this process, and attended to each detail with precision. Anita also wishes to thank Marilyn Miss, who arrived 2 hours early and stayed an hour after everyone went home, making sure all attendees signed the attendance sheet! Thanks also to Laura Culler for pitching in and being the "go to" person as we needed special tasks completed. And last but not least, she wishes to thank Rita Marie Rhodes, our newest member, who contributed food, dog bowls and was a tremendous help throughout the ceremony.

It goes without saying, this event could not have taken place without the expert skills of Bill Dolley who set up our tables and banner and then afterwards, returned to UUCC to take everything down. Perfect job, Bill! We so appreciate what you do for us!

Anita Grossman, Chair
Animal Ministry



Candace with Willie & Jean



Candace with Anita and her pups





Denominational Connections – November 14, 2018

New Monthly Webinar Series from the Southern Region -- for congregational leaders and members. No cost to attend but **pre-registration is required.** Save the dates for these webinars:

Stewardship, January 17, 2019, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Eastern Time. *Planning Your Pledge Drive – Late!*

Your pledge drive needs to happen soon, but it is late and you still don't have a drive leader, or maybe just got one in place! What are options for congregations when they don't have time for: volunteer recruitment, good planning, identifying strategies that fit, creating effective messaging, or coordinating with other parts of the congregation? We will present 11th-hour strategies and learn from each other's experiences. Register [here](#).

Justice, February 20, 2019, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Eastern Time. Registration opens soon.

Leadership Resources, March 21, 2019, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Eastern Time. Registration opens soon.

Also new from your Southern Region Staff – Virtual Open Office Hours -- We invite you to come and talk with us from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (EST) on the fourth Thursday of each month** (except November and December, due to holiday schedules). This is an open Zoom meeting:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/876011174>

Join from Telephone: US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 876 011 174

Feel free to drop in to introduce yourself, say hello, ask a question, share some good news, or fill us in on congregational updates on **January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, and June 27.** We look forward to seeing you! New to Zoom? Learn more [here](#).

Fall 2018 Chalice Lighters

We're pleased to announce two Chalice Lighter calls! Your generous contributions will help [Horizon UU Church](#) (Carrollton, TX) build a community garden and help [UU Church in the Pines](#) (Weeki Wachee, FL) purchase their first building! Learn more, including how to contribute:

[UU Church in the Pines](#)

[Horizon UU Church](#)

Meanwhile, please check out our [Denominational Connections](#) pages for updates and connect with our wider UU world. Find the latest news on immigration justice and the UUA and information about *Get Out the Vote Project Grants* [here](#). Please, visit us often on [Facebook](#). If you have questions or suggestions or *if you feel called to join this committee*, please contact me at denomconn@uucolumbia.org. Keitha Whitaker, Chair, Denominational Connections.



Upcoming Services

November 18

“An Ubiquitous Sense Of Gratitude ”

Rev. Pat Jobe

Rev. Jobe has a long history of quoting Melody Beattie on gratitude. There is so much to say on this delicate subject, but Jobe feels Ms. Beattie knocked the ball out of the park with her riff on the subject. Here's the quote: "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." The annual cornbread communion and chili cookoff will not only give us a chance to socialize and be grateful, but will draw our attention to some of the challenges around the work of gratitude. Come to laugh and consider some deep issues.

November 25

“Living a Life of Passion”

Victor Gascon

December 2

“Fueling the Light of Hope in the Shadow of the Petty Tyrant”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

The story of Hanukkah is that it was a very dark time in the life of the Hebrews. There was a tyrant on the throne, Antiochus Epiphanies, who treated them poorly. They were basically slaves, and he desecrated their temple. A leader by the name of Judas Maccabeus led a revolt called the Maccabean Revolt. They attempted to restore the temple again. The holiday of Hanukkah celebrates the restoration of the temple as a place of hope during the dark time, and the miracle of the oil keeping the lamps lit for 8 nights, even though they only had enough oil for one night. That is why 8 candles are lit during Hanukkah.

December 9

“Maneki Buddha: Recovering From Being Wronged”

Joseph Eisenreich

All of us have been wronged in one way or another and the desire to stamp our feet and demand restitution is incredibly strong. There is a way, though, to find compassion for ourselves and for those who wronged us.

Bio:
Joseph has been a member of the UUCU for a couple of years and feels excited to finally have someplace he can consider a "spiritual home" for not only himself but his two daughters. He and his husband met at USC, where he studied theatre, then moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he got an MA in Comparative Literature examining the ways literature can aid in formation and maintenance of a national identity. Specifically, his culminating research was in post-fascist Japanese literature. He is currently back at USC, pursuing an MAT in Mathematics with the hope of being one of the more unique math teachers in the Columbia area who infuses his mathematics classroom with the humanities as much as possible. His passion is education and he believes, firmly, that people will do the right thing if they just have all the information.

He has been a practicing Zen Buddhist and has had an interest in Shinto and Animism for a couple decades, as well as reading Tarot for almost 20 years.

News and Notes

Our Administrator Will Be Out of the Office on Friday, November 23

Share the Plate Votes Due November 18

Don't miss your chance to vote your choice for the 2019 Share the Plate recipients in all eleven categories. Ballots and nominee information can be found on the table in the foyer or online at <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/justice/share-plate/>. It's just that simple so no excuses. The UUC Share the Plate program has given approximately \$83,000 to charities and social justice organizations since 2011 by using our voting process. It is up to you to decide who we will share our loose plate offerings for 2019. Make sure you are a part of this important process.

UUC Transitions Library Volunteer Staff

For the past 7 years, UUC has staffed the Transitions Library from 4-5 p.m. on Fridays. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of providing a much-needed quiet area, recreational reading, and a source of information to the clients of Transitions. The work is fun and involves checking materials in and out and re-shelving. It is a great way to get to meet folks from a variety of backgrounds who have in common a lack of housing.

There is a group of UUC volunteers who staff the library during our slot, but we need a couple more so that each person only has to serve once every two months. Phil Turner schedules volunteers and provides the training. Please email him (pturner@unt.edu) if you are interested or have questions. Thank you!

**See Page 16 for
Social Action Events**

Unigram Ongoing Publishing Schedule

The Unigram is published once a month, on second Wednesdays. Please submit all articles and announcements by the preceding Sunday.

Annual UUCC Chili Cook-off, This Sunday!



It is here again!! The Annual UUCC Chili Cook-off is this Sunday, November 18, following service. Three categories of homemade chilis from our membership include: meat, vegetarian, and vegan. Some are spicy hot, some not. Come sample them all and help choose the winners: Best with Meat, Best Vegetarian, and Kid's Favorite. Requested Donations are \$10 for each adult, \$5 for each child/youth, with a \$25 max per family. Proceeds support the Boston Heritage Trip. For more information, or to submit a late entry, please e-mail Richard Culler at rculler99@yahoo.com.



Families Helping Families

Sun, November 18- Sun, December 9th

Look for the holiday trees in the social hall this Sunday! We will once again be sponsoring four in-need families through the Palmetto Project. The families they serve are referred by social service organizations as having special needs beyond their staff's ability to help. Often the breadwinner has been laid off, become disabled, or forced to spend limited savings on a medical emergency. With many, the consistent lack of food in the home has become so significant as to affect the health of the family members. Take a tag with a gift request and sign the tag out on the forms on the table. **Return your wrapped gift with a gift receipt and with our tag attached no later than Sun, Dec 9th.** People are encouraged to team up to cover the costs of the larger requests. We will be delivering the gifts on Monday, Dec 10th. Contact SocialAction@uucolumbia.org with any questions.

Membership Committee, November 18, 1:00-1:45 p.m.

Have you ever been told that you have a nice smile? We need people to help greet people at the doors and/or at the Welcome Table after service. All are invited to join the Membership Committee for their meeting. Enjoy the Chili

Cook-Off, vote for your favorite chili, then join us at 1:00pm in room Priestley/8. Questions? Contact membership@uucolumbia.org.

Christian Heritage Group, November 20

The Christian Heritage Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 20 at 12:00 noon in Room 8 of UUCC. Bring a light lunch or snack for yourself if you would like to stay and eat or chat after our hour-long meeting. We will be discussing "What is Progressive Christianity, and am I (whether I know it or not) one of its adherents?" If you are interested in our group, do come join us. Questions - call Rebecca Drennan at 415-377-1791.



Holiday Decorating, November 30

We'll be decking our halls on Friday, November 30, and could use your help if you have some time to spare between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. that day (hoping it won't take that long, but reserved the place, just in case). Lis Turner will be in the social hall after this Sunday's service with the supplies and directions for making wreaths. All wreaths need to be ready to hang on the 30th.

Our budget is small, so Lis is looking for help from any of you who would be willing to give or loan some special symbol of your holiday tradition. This is a time when most religions celebrate our coming out of the darkness and turning toward longer days of light. I think we have Christianity covered, but if you have a seasonal Jewish, Pagan, Buddhist, etc. symbol of your holiday roots, we would try to display it prominently. Contact Lis Turner at mslisturner@gmail.com

UU Little Elves, December 2, Need Donations and Participants



On December 2, we'll have the UU Little Elves crafting and shopping event for children. We need donations of gently used items that the children can buy for their parents in the Santa Shop for about \$1.00.

Look for the donation box on the table near the DRE office. This **fun** event for children gives parents a break as the Holiday Season begins. It will be held from 11:30 am to 3 pm. For more information, contact Beck Sullivan at rechair@uucolumbia.org.

Dances of Universal Peace, December 7

Please join in Dances of Universal Peace [DUP] on Friday, December 7, from 7-9 pm in the Social Hall. DUP are free and we are happy to accept small donations to support the Dances. Sponsored by the universalist Sufi Ruhaniat International order, the DUP are active meditative practices honoring the positive spiritual energy in the world's many different faith traditions.

For each dance, our mentored leader teaches us a sacred phrase, its meaning and melody, and the motions of the dance. Then we are led to chant and move through several iterations of the dance, to deepen our spiritual connection to the universe. This month our themes will be thankfulness, remembrance, love, and peace. In our usual two-hour session we typically do several dances and share some blessings, prayers, and poetry. Expect respectful hand-holding, eye contact, and occasional hugs as part of the dances.

After dancing, we socialize a while over refreshments. To let us know you're coming, or for any information, please contact Marguerite at [<mff426@gmail.com>](mailto:mff426@gmail.com), or 803-743-0731, by Friday morning 12/7. Of course you are welcome even without replying!

DUP is most first Fridays [but no dance in January or July:] 12/18, and in 2019: 2/8 [second Friday this time], 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6, etc. For more information about DUP, see <http://www.dancesofuniversalpeacena.org>

September Setter's Holiday Gathering December 9, 3:30-5:30pm



Julian and Lee Minghi look forward to sipping egg nog with you on Sunday, December 9, starting at 3:30 till 5:30 pm, 883 Pine Forest Court, 29210. Beverages provided. Please bring finger goodies for the holiday table. Advance word as to whether yours will be sweet or savory will be helpful, along with your rsvp. Minghi@sc.edu, or alminghi@aol.com. We will have the added treat of having Richard at the piano. Julian and Lee Minghi

Funeral Consumers Alliance, December 11

On Tuesday, December 11, the Funeral Consumers Alliance of SC will meet at 5:30 p.m. in Room 10 at the UUCC.

Funeral Consumers Alliance of SC Seeks Volunteers

Would you like to learn about the funeral industry and help people save money while still obtaining dignified and meaningful funeral services for themselves and their loved ones? You can do that by volunteering a few hours a month with the Funeral Consumers Alliance of SC.

Members of our congregation founded the Funeral and Memorial Society of the Midlands in 1993 to help fellow UUs with funeral planning. A few years later, we affiliated with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance and broadened our service area to the entire state. We are one of 70 affiliates serving 38 states from coast to coast.

Our volunteers survey funeral home prices in the state's major metropolitan areas, produce a semi-annual newsletter, maintain a website and Facebook page, monitor a telephone and email response line, counsel people on funeral matters, deliver educational talks to groups, and occasionally offer workshops on funeral planning.

We are a group of volunteers who do this because we want to help people become informed consumers of funeral goods and services. If you would like to find out more about us, call Tony Ganong at 803-787-9585 or email him at scfunerals@gmail.com.

Women's Book Group, December 11

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM in Room 10 to discuss *Sharp Objects* by Gillian Flynn. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon at 776-0784 or sjchubon@sc.rr.com

UCC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch Time Again, December 13, 12:00



It's time for our **Ladies Lunch Buunch** again at **Arabesque, 2930 Devine Street**. What a fun way to get together with our UCC friends for a holiday visit. We had twenty at our

first gathering in spite of Hurricane Michael changing our date. Remember that the menu is vegan/vegetarian friendly with a wide variety of other choices. We found the service to be fast and prices reasonable. They have reserved our special room for us and this time they are doing the setup in tables of six rather than one long table where we can't see from one end to the other. This way we can mix and mingle a little easier. Please feel free to bring a friend if you like. We enjoyed meeting some new ladies last time. Hope to see you there by signing up at the Membership table or sending an email to Linda McLeod at bonneylass44@gmail.com no later than Monday, December 10.



Holiday Party, December 15

The Membership Committee invites you to an evening of holiday fun at the Turner's home (204 Running Fox Rd., Columbia 29223) on Saturday, December 15, starting at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share, also wine or beer, if you like. Soft drinks will be provided. There will be a foosball table there, so we can have a bit of competitive fun and, weather permitting, there will be a fire pit for s'mores fun. Questions? Contact Lis Turner mslis2002@yahoo.com or 940-395-6562.

UCC Book Club, Sunday, January 20

The next UCC book club discussion is **6:30 pm on Sunday, January 20**. Carolyn West will facilitate a discussion on "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Sanders. We will meet at a member's home. 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

Now is a Great Time to Join the UCC Book Club!

The UCC Book Club, established in July 2012, is beginning its annual process of selecting books to discuss for the upcoming year, so now is a good time to become an active participant by nominating three fiction or nonfiction books (one will be selected by majority vote). The person nominating the book that is selected facilitates the discussion for that book. The group meets monthly on Sundays from 6:30 -8:00 pm, typically at a group member's home, to discuss that month's book selection. (Note that not all group members host meetings and not all UCC Book Club participants nominate books and facilitate discussions.) The UCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of the UCC.

Book nominations are due to Ruthie Saunders by Monday, December 3. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ruthie Saunders rsaunders@sc.edu



"Life is a cabaret, old chum, come to the CABARET!" The Partner Church Committee presents the excitement of the Cabaret on **February 3**, and now is the time for the talented and gutsy to sign up to perform. Can you sing, dance, play the oboe, recite Shakespeare, or have other talents to share? Contact Richard McLeod, let him know, and start rehearsing richardmcleod@bellsouth.net!



Spring Yard Sale:

Don't Get Rid Of That Stuff...Yet!

UUCC will have a Yard Sale this Spring, so hold on to all of your unbroken, working, unwanted items until then. Anything you have except large appliances and clothing will be accepted as long as they are in reasonably good condition. This year books will be welcomed.

We cannot accept items until the week of MAY 12.

If you would like to join in the fun of taking in, arranging, pricing, or selling, and getting to know our UU community, let Jean Capalbo know at (803)799-1001 or jacapalbo@gmail.com.

Knit or Not Group, Mondays, 2:00 p.m.

Do you knit or have other needle-craft you would like to share? If so, you are invited to join us for our weekly Knit or Not meetings on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in classroom 10 of the CYRE wing. Or if you are interested in learning to knit or crochet, we have folks who can help with the basics.

Insight Meditation Community of Columbia Meets Mondays

Join us on Monday evenings in the UUCC Library. Meditation instruction at 6:30, silent sitting at 7:00 and Dharma talk at 7:30. Free and all are welcome.

Chair Yoga, Wednesdays

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 enjoy (or for physical reasons cannot do) the typical yoga class. No special clothing or equipment is needed.

The class will meet every Wednesday through November 14 in the UUCC Social Hall 11:00-11:45 am. We will not meet in December but will start again on January 9, 2019.



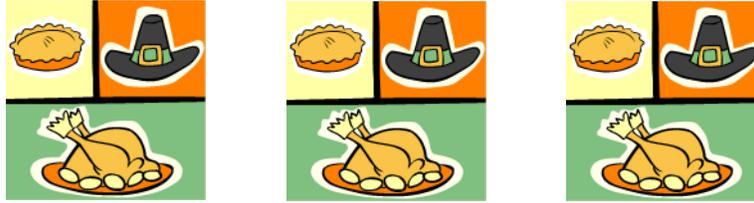
Art for All Group, Thursdays



If you are interested in working on your art with others for support, encouragement and feedback, then this group is for you. We meet weekly on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - noon in the UUCC Social Hall. Bring your own supplies and prepare to enjoy the company of other artists at no cost. No instruction provided. Contact Ruthie Saunders at rsaunders@sc.edu if you have questions.

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 Johnnie Nelson at 729-4319 or l_c_r_1@live.com for more information.



Our Thanksgiving Dinner Gathering is Growing Won't You Join Us? Sign-up or email

See the list on the Membership table of what people are bringing

In an annual tradition that goes back many years, UUCC will be hosting a Thanksgiving Day potluck. We'll gather for socializing at **1:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, with dinner beginning about 2-2:30.** Turkey will be provided, and a small donation will be asked of those who partake.

Organizers of the potluck are Linda and Richard McLeod. If you want to attend sign up at the Membership table or, email Linda at bonneylass44@gmail.com with answers to the following questions:

1. How many are in your group?
2. How many in your group will want turkey?
3. What food would you like to bring? (see below for ideas)
4. Can you prepare a turkey ready to serve? You will be reimbursed.
5. Do you prefer to show up early for setup starting at 10:00 am?
6. Can you stay a little late for cleanup?

Some suggestions of foods that have not been offered or we need more of:

Pies, cakes, or desserts

Ham or alternative to turkey

Mac and Cheese

Mashed Potatoes

Dressing (we only have one pan so far)

Salads

Social Action

Next Social Action Meeting Sunday, December 16 at 12:30 pm in room 8. All welcome. Please join us. Email SocialAction@uucolumbia.org with any questions.

Silent Voices -Voices of Power, November 15

Homeless Helping Homeless presents this powerful evening of spoken word and musical acts performed by homeless artists. Guest artists include UUC's own Tom Turnipseed, Sara Williams and John Starino. Silent Auction 6pm, Performance 7pm at the Tapp's Art Center, 1644 Main St.

This Thanksgiving, Give Your Time To Detainees Who Don't Have Much To Be Thankful For

El Refugio, the little yellow sanctuary which houses family and friends who visit people at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA, will be opening their doors to house people Friday night, November 23 and will remain open until Sunday morning, November 25. Volunteers are so important to many of these refugees who have lost hope. Connie and Kevin from our congregation are planning on volunteering again that weekend, and encourage you to do the same. Find out more about El Refugio here: <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-little-yellow-sanctuary-in-the-shadow-of-ice/> and see the CNN report on Stewart Detention Center here: https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2018/08/us/ice-detention-stewart-georgia/?utm_content=chapter_03. Contact SocialAction@uucolumbia.org for more info.

Harvest Hope Food Donations Needed

Please bring your donations, such as canned soups, vegetables, fruits, juices, peanut butter (in plastic jars), and pastas for Harvest Hope Food Bank and leave them in our shopping cart in the social hall. Another item always needed is disposable diapers – NO adult sizes.

Inclement Weather Donations Needed

The Social Action Committee is collecting clean and gently used or new gloves, warm hats, winter clothing, magazines and unused personal-sized toiletries for clients using the shelter. Please place your donations in the basket in the social hall. For more information contact Tom Clements, tomclements329@cs.com, cell [803-240-7268](tel:803-240-7268).



Want a UU T-shirt? Orders due January 27

We are taking orders now for We Side With Love t-shirts. Short sleeve are \$8. Long sleeve are \$10. Please email SocialAction@uucolumbia.org with your size and sleeve length preference. I will need all money by Sun, Jan 27. Shirts will be delivered to the service on Sun, Feb 10. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks to David Bryan for ordering these shirts for us!

Please check our website for new events posted almost daily: bit.ly/social-action.

Religious Exploration

CYRE Committee Meeting December 16

The next CYRE committee meeting will be December 16 from 12:30 to 1:30. If you're interested in supporting CYRE, please contact Beck Sullivan rechair@uucolumbia.org.

The Mountain CONs - Register ASAP

The Mountain is a great place where UU kids and teens get together for a fun-packed weekend in the relaxing and refreshing mountain air. It is a rejuvenating and awesome time with excellent food for all food diets! There are scholarships available to help cover the \$100/teen fee (please give me a call and we can get you paid for with full or partial scholarship).

*** Right now, I've heard from 7 high schoolers who are interested. I strongly recommend signing up now instead of waiting until the deadline because spaces may get filled. When you register, you should be able to put your congregation down so that they will know that we are a group. Come join us!!

Dec 7th-9th HIGH SCHOOL: Deadline to register Nov. 23

Register Here

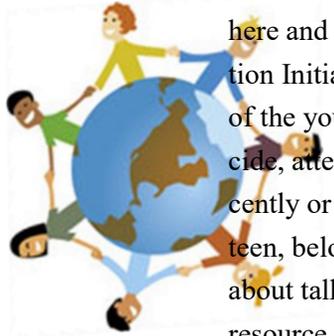
<https://themountainrlc.org/event/intermediate-youth-con-2018/>

UU Little Elves

Need Donations and Participants

On December 2, we'll have the UU Little Elves crafting and shopping event for children. We need donations of gently used items that the children can buy for their parents in the Santa Shop for about \$1.00. Look for the donation box on the table near the DRE office.

This **fun** event for children gives parents a break as the Holiday Season begins. It will be held from 11:30 am to 3 pm. For more information, contact Beck Sullivan at rechair@uucolumbia.org. A donation box is located near the DRE office door.



Suicide Prevention Training for Teens, Sat, November 17

One of our own UU young adults has been a volunteer here and recommended this SC Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative training. The coordinator asked me if any of the youth in this group has expressed thoughts of suicide, attempted suicide or lost someone to suicide recently or some time ago. In order to be sensitive to your teen, below is a link from their website to finding words about talking about suicide. This training is a great resource to young people and provides education on how to prevent suicide and be a good listener and discerning friend to someone who is in need. Please let McKenzie know privately if you have any personal concerns: reassist@uucolumbia.org.

<http://www.scyspi.org/find-the-words/>

Holiday Pageant, Upcoming Practice Schedule

Support a tradition and participate in the annual Holiday Pageant on Sunday December 16. This year the play will be Las Posadas, a story about refugees and welcoming strangers. Narrators and Singers especially needed. Thank you Nohl for stepping up!! Other High schoolers and Jr. High teens are needed!!!! Contact rechair@uucolumbia.org.

Practice Schedule: Sundays, 12:30-1:30pm

November 25: Sanctuary, December 2: Sanctuary, December 9: Sanctuary



The Gertrude Edge Pilgrim Travel Assistance Award to *Beszterce!*

Have you dreamed of traveling to Romania to explore our Unitarian roots? Would you like to deepen your connection with our rich history? Is the only thing keeping you from joining our pilgrims on their 2 week journey to Beszterce a lack of funds? Read on, my friends, as help is here! Thanks to the Gertrude Edge Pilgrim Travel Award and the Partner Church Committee, round trip airfare is available to one member or friend of the UCC for the pilgrim trip in July 2019! Interested? Follow the guidelines below to apply for this amazing opportunity!

Must be 18 or older to enter

Please write and submit a 200 - 300 word essay describing: why you would like to go, how the folks in Beszterce might benefit from a visit with you, and how will your travel to Beszterce benefit the UCC. Your essay, unsigned, must have your name on a separate piece of paper. **DO NOT SIGN THE ESSAY!**

Mail entries to:
Administrator UCC
2701 Heyward Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Entries due on or before January 1st

Please note: the winner is responsible for the expenses of this trip while in Romania. An estimated amount of money needed is approximately \$1,200.00

Last Call to Pilgrims to Transylvania

In September, the Unigram carried a proposal for an exciting pilgrimage to be led by Rev. Zsolt Solymosi in July 2019 and invited those interested to a meeting on September 23. As of now we number about 15. Before mid-January we need to settle on a solid list of participants as we will be asking for a \$500 or \$600 deposit to enable Zsolt to begin making necessary travel arrangements. January 9 is set for the deposit deadline. Hence we are reaching out again to the Congregation in case some of you may still be interested in joining this group.

The dates for the pilgrimage are likely to be 10 days in mid-July (probably from July 9), starting in Kolosvar (Cluj) and ending in Budapest. Sites included will be Beszterce (location of our Partner Church), Sibiu, Torda, Brasov, and Toroko (a mountain village). The roundtrip air fare will be at least \$1,600 and other expenses beyond the deposit around \$700.

If you wish to be added to the pilgrim group, please respond to me ASAP and certainly by January 4. Meanwhile if you would like any further information, please contact Yoli or Tony Ganong (ganong@bellsouth.net), who were pilgrims in 2016.

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Every Thursday	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	3rd Wednesday of month	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	January 9	11:00 am	Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, December 16	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Choir - UUCC (adult)	TBA	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Choir – Prism (women)	Thursdays	6:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Choir - Encore (men)	Sunday, November 18	9:30 am	Classroom #9
Christian Heritage	3rd Tuesdays	12:00 am	Classroom # 8
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Every Thursday	7:30 pm	Library
Funeral Consumers Alliance	2nd Tuesdays	5:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Forum	Every Sunday	9:30 am	Library
Green Team	TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Knit or Not	Every Monday	2:00 pm	Classroom # 9
Membership Committee	Sunday, November 18	1:00 pm	Classroom # 10
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, December 9	12:20 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, January 25	12:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, December 16	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Technology Committee	Wednesday, December 5	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Thursday, December 13	5:00 pm	Classroom # 10
UU Book Club	Sunday, December 16	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 th Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	TBA Lee Minghi, 798-0904; Carita Barr, 782-0053	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Women's Book Club	Tuesday, December 11	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Rentals			
La Leche League	3rd Tuesdays	6-8pm	Classroom # 10
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Every Thursday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Insight Meditation	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Library
Men's AA I	Every Tuesday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Women's AA I	Every Wednesday	6:30 pm	Library
Men's AA II	Every Sunday	5:00 pm	Library

UUCC COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Standing Committees	2018/2019 Chair	Meeting Date	Meeting Time/ Location	Membership Requirements
Adult Religious Education <i>AdultREChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Rebecca Drennan	First Wednesday	5:00PM Social Hall	Members and Friends
Building and Grounds <i>BandGChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Shannon Edwards	TBD	TBD	Members and Friends
Caring and Hospitality <i>CaringChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Keitha Whitaker	First Monday of each month	10:30 AM CYRE Wing	Members and Friends
CYRE <i>REChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Beck Sullivan	Sundays scheduled by CYRE Chair	12:30 PM CYRE Wing	Members and Friends
Denominational Connections	Keitha Whitaker	No Meetings	TBD	Members and Friends
Endowment	Phil Turner	Per the Chair (As Needed)	TBD	Members only; elected by the Congregation
Finance <i>FinanceChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Caroline Eastman	First Wednesday (Committee Nominated)	6:00 PM Social Hall	Members only; appointed by the Board
Green Sanctuary	Kevin McKinney	Third Sunday of each month	12:30PM CYRE Wing	Members and Friends
Leadership Development	Linda Brennon	Per the Chair (As Needed)	TBD	Members only; elected by the Congregation
Memberships <i>MembershipsChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Nancie Shillington-Perez	Every six weeks on a Sunday determined by the Chair	12:30 PM CYRE Wing	Members only
Personnel <i>PersonnelChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Marc Drews	Per the Chair (As Needed)	TBD	Members only; appointed by the Board
Shared Ministry	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Meeting at this time
Social Action <i>SocialActionChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Laura Hartwig	Fourth Sunday of each month	12:30 PM Sanctuary	Members and Friends
Technology <i>tsc@uucolumbia.org</i>	Donald Griggs	First Wednesday	6:00 PM CYRE Wing	Members and Friends
Worship <i>WorshipChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Marc Drews	First Wednesday	7:00 PM CYRE Wing	Minister and Members and Friends
Adhoc Committees				
Right Relations Committee <i>incidents@uucolumbia.org</i>	Kevin Meredith/Emilio Perez-Jorge	Per the Chairs		Appointed by the Board
Program Groups				
Animal Ministry <i>anitaj48@aol.com</i>	Anita Groszman	Usually the 3rd Thurs; see Chair	5:30 PM CYRE Wing	Members and Friends
The Forum <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jeannette Walton	Every Sunday	9:30 AM Library	Members and Friends

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, Tim VanDenBerg	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Linda Brennon	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
Treasurer, Bob Whitaker	<i>treasurer@uucolumbia.org</i>
Secretary, Bob Gillespie	<i>secretary@uucolumbia.org</i>
Members at Large: Mary Maclachlan, Richard McLeod, Pat Mohr, Terrence Sullivan, Jeanette Walton	
Past President, Richard Culler, ex officio	<i>pastpresident@uucolumbia.org</i>
Finance Chair, Caroline Eastman, ex officio	<i>financechair@uucolumbia.org</i>

UUC Staff

Administrator	Andrea Dudick, <i>uucc@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>

Address: 2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

Phone — Office (803) 799-0845

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

Office Hours — Mon.– Fri. 7:15 am – 1:30 pm

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Website: www.uucolumbia.org

