



# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

December 12, 2018

## Message from our Board President

### Our Rainbow Nation

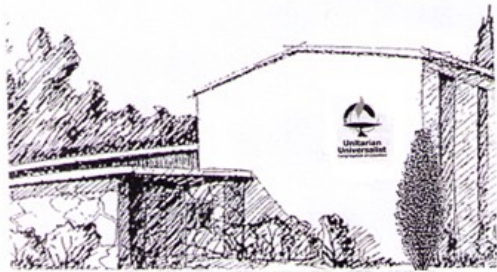
I met Desmond Tutu thirty years ago when he was in Washington, DC to testify before the House Subcommittee on Africa. At the time, he was serving as Archbishop of Cape Town and was testifying about South Africa's apartheid system, trying to raise our collective consciousness about his government's racist policies and to ask for our government's moral leadership and support. How naïve was I then to think that our country had already turned the corner on racism? To say that we have work to do is an understatement.

There is plenty of negative news, and negativity in general, to distract us from the good that surrounds us. A simple act of kindness can go a long way towards reminding each other that hope for a better tomorrow is possible. Let the other driver merge in front of you amidst busy traffic, volunteer to deliver Meals-on-Wheels, give out hugs to friends and family, smile, apologize.

Desmond Tutu seemed to glow, radiating love and compassion, as he entered the hearing room that day. May each of us locate our inner-Tutu, foster our best selves and carry this spirit out into the world to do good deeds.

In Peace,

Timothy VanDenBerg



2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205  
803-799-0845 • [www.uucolumbia.org](http://www.uucolumbia.org)

## Sunday Schedule

**Forum:** 9:30 am in the Library

**Worship:** 11:00 am-12:15 pm

**Nursery:** Available during service for infants through age 2

### December 16, 2018

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

Euthanasia as a personal health option - should government regulate, legislate or dictate personal choice, and, if so, at what level (state or federal)?

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic Annual Holiday Pageant: "Las Posadas" (The Inns)

Directed and Performed by UUCC Adults and Children

### December 23, 2018

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

What is the 'war on Christmas' all about?

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

"Authenticity"

by Rev. Steve Miller

## Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, January 6**, for publication on **Wednesday, January 9**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.*

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).



## Candles of Community

The memorial service for **Ruth Thacker**, who died on November 17, 2018, will be held at UUCU on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.

## Thank You

### Share the Plate, Harriet Hancock Center

On behalf of the Harriet Hancock Center board of directors and volunteers, thank you for the generous donation from Share the Plate. We also are grateful for your continued support over the years. Yours truly, Harriet Hancock

### Harvest Hope

Congratulations and many thanks to the wonderful people at UUCU for supporting Harvest Hope and donating 849 pounds of food during 2018! A reminder that Harvest Hope only distributes food and baby diapers. Please do not donate food in glass containers. Once again, thanks to all of you. Let's try for half a ton in 2019.

### Chili Cook-off

The Annual UUCU Chili Cook-off was held on Sunday, November 18, following the church service. Twelve pots of homemade chilis from our membership were donated and devoured. The three competition categories included six with meat, three vegetarian, and two vegan. The twelfth pot was donated by a good soul who wanted to help feed the crowd, but not compete. The winners were Linda McLeod for Best with Meat, Richard Culler for Best Vegetarian/Vegan, and there was a tie for Kid's Favorite between Quentin & Sabine McGrievy and Deb Matherly. Proceeds from the Cook-off support the Boston Heritage Trip. This year's event raised \$730. Many thanks go to all the volunteers who made this such a fun event.



### UUCU Little Elves a Great Success

Thank you to everyone who helped with UUCU Little Elves this year. We had great attendance with 17 children coming to shop, make crafts and watch a movie. We appreciate the donations of items for the Santa Shop. Children were able to shop for siblings, parents, grandparents, cousins, etc. We also had great volunteers who helped supervise craft making, gift wrapping, and movie watching. This is a great experience for the children (they love to shop on their own) and a great break for our parents of younger children. Look for it on the first Saturday in December in 2019.

### Jewelry and Scarf Sale

Thank you to Don Dodson and everyone who supported his Jewelry and scarf sale. Don raised \$530 for CYRE. Proceeds will be used for teacher and volunteer training.

Continued on Page 4

# Thank You, Con't.....

## **Holiday Gratitude**

We always have fun when we get together, even when we are working hard. And working hard we did! It is impossible to put up sparkly things without cleaning up the area first, so we started with the windows. Phil Turner got out ladders, a pole, buckets, rags, a squeegee, and various scrubbies and rags, to tackle the sanctuary windows. Linda Fennell started cleaning the lower windows in the sanctuary and then carried that talent and energy to the foyer and social hall, cleaning all windows inside and out. Regina Moody spent three days working on the woodwork in the pulpit area, getting it to be as good as it can be. Wreaths were our primary decoration vehicle, and it took many hands to create them. Special thanks to Ruthie Saunders, who created the prototype for the wreaths in the sanctuary and then made one more in addition to writing up detailed directions so that Susie Garland could replicate two more (as well as a stunning boxwood tree decoration) (apologies to both for the glitter all over the place and to Shelly for the glitter sliver in his foot!). Exterior wreaths were made by Jane Gillespie, Lis Turner, Patty Drews, and Gail Dawson. The latter two also put up all five wreaths, learning that thumb tacks are not always as sturdy as one would hope. Inside, Carolyn West, Nancie Shillington-Perez, Joan Watterson, and Patty Drews decorated the foyer with a curtain of ornaments that just shout "holiday fun"! Jean Capalbo and her husband, Craig Chattin, worked on hanging a tree banner to decorate our art wall. And, finally, thanks to Shannon and the building and Grounds Committee for their support. Clearly, it takes a village to Deck our Halls. Thanks to all!

Lis Turner, Holiday Décor Coordinator

## **Boston Heritage Trip Fundraising Yields Great Results**

We've had three successful Boston Heritage Fundraisers this fall and have raised \$1218.61. The August Car Wash brought in \$263, The Pancake Breakfast netted \$295.61, and the Chili Cook-Off brought in \$660. Thank you to all who have supported these events by getting your cars washed, by joining us for breakfast, and by donating and eating chili.

Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and high schoolers can join the success by signing up for the January 13 Pancake Breakfast and the February 10 Chocolate Auction. We need chairs for these events.



## Denominational Connections – December 12, 2018

### Registration Is Open for Spring Online Leadership Courses

Deeper than a single webinar or workshop, the [UU Leadership Institute](#) offers core leadership courses online with on-demand materials. They are perfect for the congregation who wants to learn together at an affordable cost—only \$30 per course per semester. Courses open on **January 25, 2019**. For more information contact [info@uuinstitute.org](mailto:info@uuinstitute.org)

[Centered Leadership, Part 1](#) [syllabus](#) [sample](#)

[Centered Leadership, Part 2](#) [syllabus](#) [sample](#)

[Strategic Leadership](#) [syllabus](#) [sample](#)

[Adaptive Leadership](#) [syllabus](#) [sample](#)

**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! 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 --** 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. from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (EST).** 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. We look forward to seeing you! New to Zoom? Learn more [here](#).

### Fall 2018 Chalice Lighters

Fall 2018 Chalice Lighters call ends December 15. Learn more, including how to contribute:

[UU Church in the Pines](#)

[Horizon UU Church](#)

Meanwhile, *Happy Holidays* and 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](mailto:denomconn@uucolumbia.org). Keitha Whitaker, Chair, Denominational Connections.



# Upcoming Services

## **December 16, 2018**

**Annual Holiday Pageant: “Las Posadas” (The Inns)**

**Directed and Performed by UUCC Adults and Children**

In a year where the plight of refugees is central in our sights, the UUCC presents its Holiday Pageant “Los Posadas,” which follows the wandering of Joseph and Mary as they try to find shelter in Bethlehem as refugees.

## **December 23, 2018**

**“Authenticity”**

**Rev. Steve Miller**

## **December 24, 2018, 6p.m.**

**Our Christmas Eve service for All Ages**

Poems, carols, and an enactment of *Star Mother’s Youngest Child*, short story by Louise Moeri. The forty-five minute service will provide a time for reflection and celebration. All are invited.

## **December 30**

**“Living a Life of Passion”**

**Victor Gascon**

## **January 6**

**“Boy in the Mirror”**

**Richard McLeod**

The first of a new year is a time for reflection, planning, and resolutions. In your individual lives and as a member of the UUCC, have a look in your mirror, ask that face where it's been and where it's going.

## **January 13**

**“A Transformed Life”**

**Patrice Gaines**

## **January 20**

**“Being More than an Ally”**

**Todd Shaw**

## **January 27**

**“On Prison Reform”**

**Lester Young with Laura Hartwig**

# News and Notes



## UUCC Membership

The Membership Committee will formally recognize people that become new members of the UUCC from April 2018 - March 2019 during our March 31 Joining Ceremony and Reception.

In the meantime, we welcome our newest members: David Bryan, Matthew & Jessica Wood, Deb Matherly, and Joseph Eisenreich.

Are you interested in learning more about becoming a UUCC member? Please contact Nancie Shillington-Pérez, chair of the Membership Committee, at [membership@uucolumbia.org](mailto:membership@uucolumbia.org) or anyone else on the committee about the simple steps to make that happen!

## Our Administrator Will Be Out of the Office on Monday, December 24

## UUCC Transitions Library Volunteer Staff

For the past 7 years, UUCC 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 UUCC 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](mailto:pturner@unt.edu)) if you are interested or have questions. Thank you!

## Are You Missing Someone?

Do you know someone who has stopped coming to services? Please consider getting in touch with them to see how they are doing. If you don't feel comfortable doing this, please let someone from the Membership Committee (red ribbons attached to their name badge) know. If you need their contact information, you can ask our Administrator, Andrea, at [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).

## More Volunteers Needed to Fold Weekly Order of Service

Our two wonderful volunteers, Marilyn Miss and Joyce Rodgers, are now retiring after several years of folding the weekly Order of Service.

Marie Hunt and David Byran have volunteered but we would like one or two more to share the schedule of folding each week's Order of Service after 1:45 p.m. on Fridays or anytime on Saturdays. Please contact Andrea Dudick if you would like to help ([uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org) or 803-799-0845.)

## See Page 13 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.



## UUC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch Thursday, December 13



The UUC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch is meeting tomorrow, December 13 at 12:00 Noon, at Arabesque, 2930 Devine and you won't want to miss the fun. All ladies are welcome and bring a friend if you like. If you haven't signed up we still have room for two or three more and we would love to have you join us. The reasonably priced menu at Arabesque has vegetarian/vegan options as well as a great variety of soups, salads and main entrees. We have arranged the seating this time to be in tables of six to allow us more opportunity for visiting. The holidays are a perfect time to make new friends and renew old friendships and this is the place to do it. **Just show up and you will be welcome. Hope to see you there.**



## Holiday Party, Saturday, 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](mailto:mslis2002@yahoo.com) or 940-395-6562.

## Christian Heritage Group, December 18

The Christian Heritage Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 18 at 12:00 noon in room 8. 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 *religion*, the word and the concept. What is the origin and basic meaning of the word? Does the same concept underlie all religions? If you are interested in our group, do come and join us. If you have questions, call Rebecca Drennan at 415-377-1791.

## UU Winter Sing Saturday, December 22



Please join us for the Second Annual Winter Sing at the UUC from 6-8 PM to celebrate the season in song! This informal sing-along event will include the music of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, St. Lucia's Day, and the Winter Solstice. You are invited to sing along and to enjoy performances by our UUC musicians. All are welcome, and this is a family-friendly event! Please bring a plate of cookies or treats to share. If you would like to request a favorite holiday song to include in the sing-along, please email the UUC Music Coordinator, Anna Hamilton, with your request by Saturday, December 8: [music@uucolumbia.org](mailto:music@uucolumbia.org)

## Our Christmas Eve Service for All Ages December 24



The program, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, will include poems, carols, and an enactment of *Star Mother's Youngest Child*, a short story by Louise Moeri. The forty-five minute service will provide a time for reflection and celebration. All are invited.

## Recycle Your Christmas Tree

After the holidays, don't let your Christmas tree end up buried with the trash – instead recycle it through the annual Grinding of the Greens program offered by Keep the Midlands Beautiful! Trees can be dropped off between December 26 and January 10. Then free mulch made from the recycled trees will be made available to the public at two locations in early to mid-January. Your congregational Green Team will keep you posted on where to take your trees, and where to get the free mulch! You can also check the 'Grinding of the Greens' page online: <http://keepthemidlandsbeautiful.org/grinding-of-the-greens/>



## Funeral Consumers Alliance, January 8

On Tuesday, January 8, the Funeral Consumers Alliance of SC will meet at 5:30 p.m. in Room 10 at the UUCC.

## Women's Book Group, January 8



The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 10 to discuss *Where All Light Tends to Go*, by David Joy. Anyone with questions

may contact Sandy Chubon at 776-0784

or [sjchubon@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjchubon@sc.rr.com)

## Chair Yoga, Wednesdays Starting January 9

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. We meet in the UUCC Social Hall 11:00-11:45 a.m.



## UUCC Green Team, Sunday, January 13

The Green Team invites all interested folks to join us for our monthly meeting in room 9/Murray on January 13 at 12:30 p.m. Contact Kevin McKinney, [kdmsoo-boy@gmail.com](mailto:kdmsoo-boy@gmail.com).

## UUCC Book Club, Sunday, January 20

The next UUCC 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 UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC. We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu)



Share Your Talents! Sunday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m., is the annual Partner Church Committee Cabaret. Join this extravaganza to display your talent of singing, dancing, flipping pancakes, or whatever you're famous for. Contact Richard McLeod ([richardmcLeod@bellsouth.net](mailto:richardmcLeod@bellsouth.net)) to sign up.

## Kitchen Help Wanted

Have you been enjoying our Sunday Morning Social Hour, our potlucks, our various receptions, and the availability of the assistance to your committees in planning an event involving food service? It is the pleasure of the Kitchen Committee to provide that service but we need a few more people on our team to share the load. We rotate our Sunday morning duties and the more team members we have the less often it becomes our "turn". We also need to be able to have enough to fill in when someone is out unexpectedly. Events that may require 3 or 4 of us to make sure everything goes smoothly need to be balanced among our team members. UUCC is a very active community and that is a good thing. Social interaction helps us all to know one another better and work together to build a stronger community. All of this activity needs support and the Kitchen Committee would be grateful for a few new faces. The commitment we are asking is one Sunday about every 6 weeks depending on how many new team members we have. We would also ask for your help with various events as they are announced and request for your participation is based on your availability. While we are doing all of this work we also have a good time with each other and all of the people we serve. The Kitchen Committee is a great team and we would be happy to have new members. If you are interested please contact Linda McLeod at [bonneylass44@gmail.com](mailto:bonneylass44@gmail.com) or stop by the kitchen any Sunday morning and see what we are doing.





unless otherwise noted. Contact Johnnie Nelson at



729-4319 or [l\\_c\\_r\\_l@live.com](mailto:l_c_r_l@live.com) for more information.

### **Spring Yard Sale:**

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

UUCS 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](mailto: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 UUCS Library. Meditation instruction at 6:30, silent sitting at 7:00 and Dharma talk at 7:30. Free and all are welcome.

### **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 UUCS Social Hall. Bring your own supplies and prepare to enjoy the company of other artists at no cost. No instruction provided. Contact Connie Hudson at [chudson2666@att.net](mailto:chudson2666@att.net) 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

## 2019 Share the Plate Voting Results

The voting is complete for the 2019 Share the Plate recipients. The Social Action Committee thanks everyone who voted this year with a total of 60 completed ballots being received. Below are the results showing the 2019 recipients for the eleven categories. Thanks to our congregation's generosity, we have donated over \$83,000 in Share the Plate contributions to community charities since 2011. Thank you for your participation in this program.

CATEGORY	NOMINATED ORGANIZATION	NUMBER OF VOTES AND 2019 RECIPIENT
Animal Shelters / Services	Cotton Branch Animal Farm	<b>28 - Recipient</b>
	Howlmore Animal Sanctuary	23
Children's Services	Palmetto Place Children's Shelter	<b>47 - Recipient</b>
	Big Brothers/Big Sisters	6
Environmental Issues	Congaree Riverkeeper	<b>38 - Recipient</b>
	Sierra Club	13
Food Banks/Food Support	Meals on Wheels	<b>33 - Recipient</b>
	Harvest Hope	20
Homeless Shelters	The Family Shelter	<b>34 - Recipient</b>
	Transitions	18
Legal Aid	SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center	<b>32 - Recipient</b>
	Southern Poverty Law Center	21
LGBT Issues	Harriet Hancock Center	<b>49 - Recipient</b>
	(Uncontested)	
Mental Health Issues	Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. ( MIRCI)	<b>32 - Recipient</b>
	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)	19
Physical Health Issues	Free Medical Clinic	<b>28 - Recipient</b>
	Good Samaritan Clinic	25
Social Justice Issues	Justice 360 Columbia	<b>28 - Recipient</b>
	SC Progressive Network	23
Women's Issues	Planned Parenthood	<b>37 - Recipient</b>
	Sistercare	16

## **2019 Share the Plate Voting Results**

### **Corrected Share the Plate Ballot Recipient Calendar for 2019**

Below are the 2019 recipients for Share the Plate and the months they will visit UUCC and tell us about their organizations. Thanks for your contributions and for participating in this process each year.

Category	Month	Organization
Pre-determined	January	Minister's Discretionary Fund
Social Justice Issues	February	Justice 360
Environmental Issues	March	Congaree Riverkeeper
Mental Health Issues	April	Mental Illness Recovery Center
Women's Issues	May	Planned Parenthood
Food Banks/Food Support	June	Meals on Wheels
Legal Aid	July	SC Appleseed Legal Justice
Children's Services	August	Palmetto Place Children's Shelter
LGBT Issues	September	Harriett Hancock Center
Animal Shelters / Services	October	Cotton Branch Farm Animal Sanc-
Physical Health Issues	November	Free Medical Clinic
Homeless Shelters	December	The Family Shelter

# Social Action

## 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](mailto:tomclements329@cs.com), cell [803-240-7268](tel:803-240-7268).

**Next Social Action Meeting, Sunday, December 16** at 12:30 pm in room 10. All welcome. Please join us. Email [SocialAction@uucolumbia.org](mailto:SocialAction@uucolumbia.org) with any questions.

## Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Service, Monday, December 17

**Join us** to honor individuals who have passed away in Columbia while experiencing homelessness. 5pm at the Church of the Apostles, 1520 Bull Street. Special thanks to the United Way of the Midlands, Church of the Apostles, and Needful Things Columbia SC.

## Clayton Memorial UU Church in Newberry Has Announced Sanctuary Status

We plan to support them when they let us know what their needs are. In the meantime, please post supportive messages to their website and Facebook pages to offset the negative messages they are receiving.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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 in room 8. If you're interested in supporting CYRE, please contact Beck Sullivan [rechair@uucolumbia.org](mailto:rechair@uucolumbia.org).

## **CANstruction in January**

Children should be ready to bring cans when our January RE classes begin.

CANstruction will be January 27. This is a fun event where RE Classes compete for the best construction made of cans and other donated food items. Congregation members vote with their dollars. The food and proceeds go to Harvest Hope Food Bank.





## **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 1<sup>st</sup>**

**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**

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## **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](mailto: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	Wednesday, 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)	TBA	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	Sunday, January 13	12:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Knit or Not	Every Monday	2:00 pm	Classroom # 10
Membership Committee	Sunday, January 6	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, January 13	12:20 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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, January 2	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Thursday, January 10	5:00 pm	Classroom # 10
UU Book Club	Sunday, December 16	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 <sup>th</sup> 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, January 8	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
<b>Rentals</b>			
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

## Our Congregational Covenant

- In the spirit of love and fellowship, we affirm:
- There is love here. *I promise to live and embody it.*
- There is spirit here. *I promise to kindle and sustain it.*
- There is trust here. *I promise to build and honor it.*
- There is forgiveness here. *I promise to give and seek it.*
- There is hope here. *I promise to feed and grow it.*
- Every human being is different. *I promise to practice inclusiveness.*
- There is injustice throughout the world. *I promise to actively oppose it everywhere.*
- Communication is important. *I promise to communicate with kindness, candor, and honesty, especially with those with whom I disagree.*
- Everyone is suffering. *I promise to extend compassion to all in times of need.*

## UUC Board of Trustees

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## UUC Staff

Administrator	Andrea Dudick, <a href="mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org">uucc@uucolumbia.org</a>
Bookkeeper	Ginny Verne, <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org">bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org</a>
Music Coordinator	Anna Hamilton, <a href="mailto:music@uucolumbia.org">music@uucolumbia.org</a>
Custodian	Bill Dolley, <a href="mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org">uucc@uucolumbia.org</a>
RE Youth Ministries Assistant	Mckenzie Scott, <a href="mailto:reassist@uucolumbia.org">reassist@uucolumbia.org</a>

**Address:** 2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

**Phone** — Office (803) 799-0845

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**Office Hours** — Mon.– Fri. 7:00 am – 12:00 pm

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