

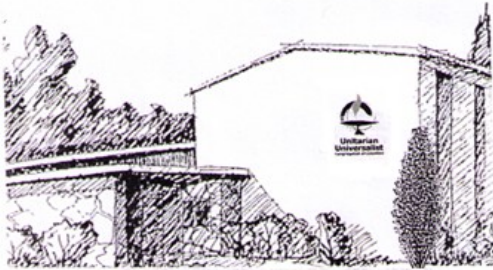


The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

July 22, 2020

Warm Greetings from New UUCS President



2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205
803-799-0845 • www.uucolumbia.org

Sunday Schedule

Online Worship: 11:00 am-12:15 pm
See Page 3 for Access Information

July 26, 2020

“Nurturing Your Prophetic Voice”
by Rev. Stephen Robinson

August 2, 2020

“Out of Chaos Comes Creation”
by Rev. Charles Rhodes

August 9, 2020

To be announced
by Rev. Candace Chellew-Hodge

It is my personal conviction that the breath of life that became uniquely you, and uniquely me, is sacred. Our lives count deeply. It is my faith that we each have an influence way beyond what we might fully grasp, even if we are unaware of this. It matters deeply who we are and how we are.

I remember long ago when I met with the UUA Fellowship Committee, the credentialing body for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. I sat at a long table full of imposing ministers and laity, who were quietly waiting to hear my best, moving five-minute sermon. I’d spent hours editing and re-editing the story of Michael Servetus’ execution. But what was much more challenging for me was having to answer questions like, “*How would you describe your spiritual journey?*”

I remember sharing how I struggled with feeling totally insignificant in light of the infinite, impersonal vastness of the Universe, and yet also, paradoxically, to sometimes have just a glimpse of being infinitely and deeply and personally connected, maybe even somehow known personally, somehow connected to this vastness. At those moments I was not just another fleeting particle of dust, but rather, I had some individuated, personal connection to the Universe. Of course, after sharing that, I expected the committee to politely thank me for coming in, and then send me away for counseling! To my pleasant surprise they all were nodding their heads, and a few were even teary-eyed! I was not alone in this Great Mystery!

My guess is that you, too, have felt isolated or insignificant at times during this pandemic. And like me, you may have felt overwhelmed by the political virus that threatens our nation, or felt exhausted in the midst of the cultural sea change sweeping our country. But you are not alone!

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, August 9**, for publication on **Wednesday, August 12**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Continued...

As we gather in our virtual UUCC, I am relieved and delighted to see the faces of so many people attending and celebrating together. Our Sunday services have been inspiring, but what is even more wonderful is that, in spite of the forced isolation caused by the pandemic, we are still finding ways to be connected with one another. We are not alone!

I know that at times each one of us will feel isolated, and yes, even insignificant and powerless. This is especially true, as day after day we wake up to our overwhelming new reality. We shake our heads that there are so many elected “leaders” who show such a shameless lack of honesty, of courage and common sense, such a shameless absence of compassion for their fellow citizens. Yes, I do believe that, more than ever, discerning, caring, informed seekers need one another.

It does matter deeply, that we stand together in these troubled waters. We need one another, and the world needs us. More than ever, what’s needed is a generous heart, an open mind, and the welcoming spiritual home that we create together.

It is an honor to be the new president of the UUCC, and I look forward to working with you, as we navigate these troubled waters. See you on Zoom soon!

Deep healing breaths to you!

Rod Brown, President

Online Sunday Services

ZOOM ACCESS INFORMATION FOR ALL ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

For audio only access using your phone:

Call +1-312-626-6799 US and enter the Meeting ID: 973 0743 7107

If you are accessing via smartphone, download the Zoom app and enter the meeting ID above.

For computer access:

<https://zoom.us/j/97307437107>

Please use your first and last name on your device and/or rename when you enter the meeting. If your device is not recognized, you may be placed back in the Waiting Room.

Sunday Services will be available beginning at 10:30am and the services will begin at 11:00am. Please consider accessing the service by between 10:30am and 10:50am to be sure your equipment is working.

On most Sundays, you will have the opportunity to participate in small group breakout rooms following service to socialize.

Sunday Service sermons will be recorded and available for viewing on our website as soon as possible.

UUCC Zoom Access Information "Meeting Info"

The access information for UUCC meetings delivered via the UUCC Zoom accounts can now be found on the UUCC website for Thursday-Wednesday of each week. To access this information:

Go to www.uucolumbia.org

Select the "News" tab dropdown menu and then "Meeting Info"

Password is "community" without the quotation marks

Please read the notes at the bottom of the listing. Meetings hosted on non-UUCC Zoom accounts may not be listed.

Scheduling UUCC Zoom Meetings Delivered via UUCC Zoom Account

While the pandemic is preventing us from being physically together, we can still come together to enhance connections and further our spiritual growth, as well as conduct the business of our congregation.

The UUCC has obtained two Zoom licenses for congregational use. The following are the steps to schedule a UUCC Zoom meeting using these:

Check the UUCC calendar at <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/news/calendar/> to determine availability for a date/time. NOTE: Two meetings can be held simultaneously (Z1 and Z2). You can schedule a recurring meeting, e.g., every Thursday 4-5 p.m., but make sure all these slots are available throughout the time period.

Contact Andrea Dudick by email at uucc@uucolumbia.org to confirm date/time slot availability.

You will be contacted via email by a UUCC Zoom Host with access information. The host will work with you to determine the assistance you might require in hosting your Zoom meeting.

The host will start the meeting and stay on as needed or leave the meeting making you or a designee the host.

NOTE: Use of the Zoom accounts follows the established policy on building usage, i.e., the use must originate from a UUCC committee or be approved by the Board and the event must be placed on the official UUCC calendar by our Administrator, Andrea Dudick (uucc@uucolumbia.org).



Candles of Community

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Sidnah Josephine Conner on July 6. Jo was an activist in many areas and a long time UUCC member before moving to Chattanooga, Tennessee, several years ago.

Sharing Our Abundance

July Share the Plate Recipient Women's Rights Empowerment Network

Half of our Share the Plate collection this month goes to WREN (Women's Rights Empowerment Network), whose mission is to build a movement to advance the health, economic well-being, and rights of South Carolina's women, girls, and their families. We advocate, educate, engage the community, and build coalitions. WREN strives to create a diverse and inclusive movement that amplifies voices and advances justice for all. If sending a check please write "Share the Plate" in the memo line or you can give by either going to our website, uucolumbia.org, and clicking on the 'donate' bar at the top of the page, or entering "abundant.co/uucc/give" in your browser. The representative on **July 26 will be Kate Mayer.**

August Share the Plate Recipient Palmetto Place Children's Shelter

Half of our Share the Plate collection for the month of August goes to Palmetto Place Children's Shelter, which provides a safe and nurturing environment for abused and neglected children and unaccompanied teens, offering them a broad range of services concentrating on personal healing and development. The shelter is open 24 hours each day of the year and provides medical and mental health care, crisis adjustment/transitional counseling, after-school tutoring, and recreational and social activities in addition to food, clothing, and shelter. If sending a check please write "Share the Plate" in the memo line or you can give by either going to our website, uucolumbia.org, and clicking on the 'donate' bar at the top of the page, or entering "abundant.co/uucc/give" in your browser.

You Can Donate Virtual Flowers for Sunday Service

Would you like a floral display to remember an upcoming birthday, anniversary, or a special memory? Sunday flowers are now possible, even during the pandemic. You will have a beautiful virtual floral arrangement filling the zoom screen and a tribute read honoring the person or occasion you want remembered. If you would like to send a picture of the person you are honoring, we will display it along with the flowers. If you should have flowers growing in your yard to use for the floral picture, please include it. Send an email request with a brief paragraph (50 words or less) of what you would like read about your remembrance and the Sunday date you would like recognized to Linda McLeod (kitchen@uucolumbia.org). She will get back with you with further instructions about payment of the \$30 donation. Your contribution to the flower fund will be moved to Share the Plate at the end of the applicable month. We hope you will share in this opportunity to remember loved ones, restore this part of our Sunday service, and increase our Share the Plate giving.

UUCC Now Accepts Contributions Electronically

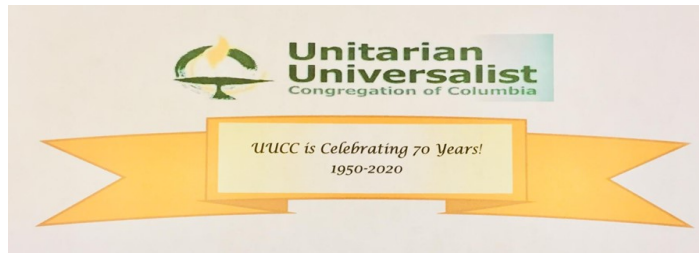
UUCC is a resilient community and although we've moved our ministry online during this crisis, we trust you will continue your generous support of UUCC and our community. Our eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple, safe and secure. It also allows you to designate your contribution to the funds you're most passionate about such as your Pledge and Share the Plate.

Give by either going to our website, uucolumbia.org, and clicking on the 'donate' bar at the top of the page, or entering "abundant.co/uucc/give" in your browser. If you should have any questions, need help, or more information, please contact our Administrator, Andrea Dudick, at uucc@uucolumbia.org or 803-799-0845, between the hours of 6am-Noon, Monday-Friday. Thank you for your generosity.

Through your contributions, we're able to share the message of our faith to our congregation and the larger community, giving people the strength and compassion needed to make it through difficult times such as these.

Please contact our Administrator, Andrea Dudick, so we can give you more information or help you get set up. Thank you again for supporting UUCC and the community we've all worked so hard to nurture.

News and Notes



Recordings of Sermons Available on Website!

Please go to our website (uucolumbia.org) and look on the right-hand side of the Home Page. Select the Service Archive link and scroll down to the sermon you'd like to see. When on that page, simply select the play button, sit back and enjoy the sermon.

UUCC Music on YouTube!

You are invited to visit the UUCC Music Coordinator's YouTube page to view and listen to music from recent services and performances from our talented UUCC Musicians. Go to: [UUCC Music](#) New items will be added weekly, so please keep coming back!

**See Pages 9-12 for
Social Action Events**

Virtual Buddhist Meditation, Mondays

The Buddhist Insight Meditation Community of Columbia, which had met in the UUCC Library, now meets on Zoom, Mondays 7:00-8:15pm. All are welcome. Please contact Jessica Kross, jkross943@gmail.com for access information.

Christian Heritage Group, 4th Tuesdays

Many Unitarian Universalists have come from Christian roots and experiences. While many of us have let go of dogma and doctrine which no longer nourish our spirits, we still long for some of the rituals which enriched and guided our lives. All discussion topics are welcome, whether spirituality, prayer, favorite hymns, or questions about faith and practice. The Christian Heritage Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at noon with a brown bag lunch. When we were meeting face to face, we were in the Library, but in these challenging times we meet by Zoom. Now we bring our brown bag to our desks. If you are curious, we invite you to join us for a session. Contact Rebecca Drennan at rebecca@creativetransformation.com and she will send you a meeting ID number. All are welcome.

Virtual Story Circle, Wednesdays, 10am

Story Circle will continue on Wednesdays through July from 10:00-11:00 a.m. All welcome. Questions? Call Barbara Bates Smith at [828-421-7685](tel:828-421-7685).

UUCC Zappy Hour, Wednesdays 5:30pm

NEW LINK: Check the "Meeting Info" page for access information

Join with your fellow UUCers on Wednesday's at 5:30pm through August for conversations and catching up. No set agenda, but we will explore fun events such as trivial pursuit. BYOB and snacks. Rotating breakout rooms 6-8 people. Questions: Contact Phil Turner philtturner2009@gmail.com

UUCC Men's Breakfast Group, 2nd Thursdays through December 2020

Come have a virtual breakfast with fellow UUCC men. Questions: Contact Phil Turner philtturner2009@gmail.com

Adaptive Living: From Fear to Love-- Pathways to Progress

Wednesdays through August, 12-1:30pm

It's not too late to join the 9-week virtual series "Adaptive Living: From Fear to Love---Pathways to Progress" sponsored by The Mountain. Dr. Rita Brodnax and Dr. Dudley Tower are donating their knowledge, skills, and time to help others cope during these days of crisis. The series is free to participants, although a donation to The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center will help them to replace revenue lost to the shut-down. To register go to <https://www.themountainrlc.org/adaptive-living> or phone 828-526-5838.

UUCC Book Club, Sunday, August 16, 6:30pm

Phil Turner will facilitate a discussion of *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*, by Nicholas Christakis. We will meet via Zoom. Zoom information will be forthcoming. 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

Caring Committee

In coordination with the Minister, the Caring Network provides leadership in physical and emotional support to Members and Friends in time of crisis and need.

The Caring Committee:

- Helps members and friends connect to the services they may need (food, medical care, transportation, mental health care)
- Creates and maintains a list of Members and Friends available to assist Members and Friends who may have an illness or other needs (Caring Network)
- Assistance may include: transportation to medical appointments, delivering meals, shopping, visits, a listening ear.
- Sends cards to let members and friends know that we are thinking of them in their time of need.
- Organizes and hosts receptions following Memorial Services for members or friends of the congregation.

If you have a special need or know of someone who does, please email caringchair@uucolumbia.org or call (or text to) 803-605-8625.

If you would like to help the Caring Network on an occasional or as needed and available basis, please email caringchair@uucolumbia.org.

*Please note that during this time of sheltering in place to prevent further spread of Covid-19 some activities of the Caring Network may be suspended. **Moral support and a listening ear are always available.** Visits, rides to medical appointments, shopping – all will be determined on a case by case basis with the safety of Caring Committee members and all members and friends of the congregation our primary concern. We are often able to help members and friends find community resources to fill the gaps in the services we usually provide in person.*



Social Action

Virtual Social Action Committee Meeting, Sunday, July 26, 1:00pm

If you would like login info, please contact socialaction@uucolumbia.org. Hope to see you all then!

Harvest Hope Food Bank Volunteers Needed

As always, please make sure to take your own safety into consideration first before volunteering. This is just an option for volunteering. UUCC remains closed and recommends you stay home unless it's safe to go out. [You can sign up for all volunteer shifts here.](#)

Feeding the Hungry at Transitions

Because we can no longer volunteer, please consider donating these things that Transitions needs:

- Brown lunch bags and plastic wrap
- Bottled water
- Heavy duty paper plates
- Cans of Lysol and hand sanitizer and liquid soap
- [Financial support](#)

[Sign Up for a One-Time Meal Service](#)

[Sign Up for Recurring Meal Service](#)

[I can help in the Clothing Closet!](#)

[Shop our Amazon Wish Lists](#)

Contact Elizabeth Igleheart about making donations - even pickup. EIgleheart@TransitionsSC.org

Save the Date: 2020 Pride Parade, October 16

As the situation stands right now, our Pride events this year are still scheduled for October 16 and 17. Please keep in mind this may change in the coming weeks as new information becomes available. We are also in the process of developing and introducing additional policies and procedures to aid in safety and social distancing during any Pride hosted events.

Social Action, continued

Harden Food Justice Initiative, July 31

Please contribute to the Harden Food Justice Initiative: Drive-Thru Market to feed our community and advocate for placement of a Black-owned food retailer in the former Save-A-Lot building on Harden Street. [This event](#) will be held 7/31 from noon to 7PM and is organized by Empower SC, Every Black Girl, and Good Trouble. If you're able to buy a food box for our Harden Street community, you can [donate here](#). You may also donate through CRJC via: Paypal – keelingsm@gmail.com or Venmo – @Sarah-Keeling-4. We will send your money directly to the Initiative. Donating is an easy way for white folks to show up for racial justice initiatives.



Please see the weekly Thursday eblasts for more Social Action events.

Please check our website for new events posted almost daily:

bit.ly/social-action

Social Action, continued



#VirtualUntilSafe ACTION WEEK

PLEASE SOCIAL DISTANCE & WEAR A MASK AT ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS.

Monday, July 27

Statewide Motor March Protest

Motor route will circle around the Governor's Mansion and the South Carolina State House.

Be sure to decorate your cars!

Tuesday, July 28

Statewide Letter Writing Day

Be sure to write your local and state elected officials, school board members, and district leaders. Let them know your concerns, state your stance, and thank those on our side.

Wednesday, July 29

Statewide Social Media Blitz

Upload pictures in your Red for Ed. Tag elected officials in your social media posts letting them know teachers demand respect and a safe environment to work in!

Thursday, July 30

Local District Demonstrations

Engage in motor marches or motor meet-ups at your local district offices. Either protest to ensure your leadership understands your desires for a safe working environment, or praise them for making plans that promote safety.

Friday, July 31

Statewide Video Day: "Why I'm #VirtualUntilSafe"

Create a video explaining why you are #VirtualUntilSafe. Post it to social media and tag your elected officials.

Social Action, continued

Anniversary of Confederate Flag Coming Down from the State House

Friday, July 10, 2020:

The confederate flag was finally removed from SC state house grounds in response to the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC by a white supremacist. Each year since, the Columbia Racial Justice Coalition (formerly SURJ) tries to reserve the state house grounds to prevent the confederates from raising the flag again. This year, the confederates were able to get the state house in the morning, but had some problems raising the flag. A much greater number of protesters showed up including our own Anna Hamilton and Tom Clements. Mark your calendars to attend this event next year.



Denominational Connections

July 2020

General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates. This year's GA was completely virtual due to the COVID situation.

Video from public events at GA can be found at www.uua.org/ga/2020

Summary of 2020 Business: <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/business-agenda>

Bob Whitaker became the new Chair of Denominational Connections in July

Please continue to check out our Denominational Connections pages for information and also check us out on Facebook.

It's a good time to read our Common Read

– *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015) and *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese (Beacon Press, 2019) are the new Common Read. Find out more about this year's Common Read at www.uua.org/books/read and stay tuned for the discussion guide.

[Denominational Connections](http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/connection/denominational-connection/) pages: (<http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/connection/denominational-connection/>) for updates and connect with our wider UU world. (<https://www.facebook.com/uucolumbia/>)

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at denomconn@uucolumbia.org.

Bob Whitaker, Chair, Denominational Connections.



Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	TBA	7:00 pm	Online Meeting
Board Meeting	Wednesday, August 19	6:30 pm	Online Meeting
Chair Yoga	On Hiatus		
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Choir - UUCC (adult)	TBA	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Choir – Prism (women)	Cancelled	6:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Choir - Encore (men)	Cancelled	9:30 am	Classroom # 9
Christian Heritage	4th Tuesdays	Noon	Online Meeting
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Cancelled	7:30 pm	Library
Funeral Consumers Alliance	Cancelled	5:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Forum	Cancelled	9:30 am	Library
Green Team	TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Knit or Not	Cancelled	2:00 pm	Classroom # 10
Membership Committee	Cancelled	12:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Visitor Orientation	Cancelled	12:20 pm	Library
Science & Religion	Cancelled	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Cancelled	Noon	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, July 26	1:00 pm	Online Meeting
Technology Committee	Cancelled	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	Classroom # 10
UU Book Club	Sunday, August 16	6:30 pm	Online Meeting
UU Humanist	Cancelled	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Women's Book Club	Cancelled	7:00 pm	Classroom # 10

Rentals

La Leche League	Cancelled	6-8pm	Classroom # 10
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Cancelled	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Buddhist Insight Meditation	Mondays	7:00 pm	Online Meeting
Men's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Women's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	Library
Men's AA II	Cancelled	5:00 pm	Library

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & BOARD LIAISONS 2020/2021

Committee/Chair Email	Chair/Board Liaison
Adult Religious Education <i>AdultREChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Angie Dodd Rabon/ <i>Jeanette Walton</i>
Animal Ministry <i>anitaj48@aol.com</i>	Anita Grossman/Subcommittee
Building and Grounds <i>BandGChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Shannon Edwards/ <i>John Logue</i>
Caring and Hospitality <i>CaringChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Keitha Whitaker/ <i>Tiffany Rushton</i>
CYRE <i>REChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Karen Brown/Jonathan White
Denominational Connections <i>denomconn@uucolumbia.org</i>	Bob Whitaker/ <i>Deb Matherly</i>
Endowment <i>philip.turner@unt.edu</i>	Joe Long/ <i>John Logue</i>
Finance <i>FinanceChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Caroline Eastman/ <i>Jeannette Walton</i>
Green Sanctuary <i>kdmsooboy@gmail.com</i>	Kevin McKinney/ <i>Deb Matherly</i>
Kitchen Committee <i>bonneylass44@gmail.com</i>	Subcommittee
Leadership Development <i>eperezjorge@sbcglobal.net</i>	Emilio Perez-Jorge/
Membership <i>MembershipChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	
Personnel <i>PersonnelChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Marc Drews
Social Action <i>SocialActionChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Kathy Farnsworth/ <i>Jeannette Walton</i>
Technology Services <i>tsc@uucolumbia.org</i>	Donald Griggs/ <i>Caroline Eastman</i>
Worship <i>WorshipChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Richard McLeod/Jessica Kross
Board Liaison to Staff <i>President@uucolumbia.org</i>	Linda Brennison

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.

UUCC Board of Trustees

President, Rev. Rod Brown	president@uucolumbia.org
President Elect, Pat Mohr	president-elect@uucolumbia.org
Treasurer, Jeanette Walton	treasurer@uucolumbia.org
Secretary, Beth Ann Rocheleau	secretary@uucolumbia.org
Members at Large: Jessica Kross, John Logue, Deb Matherly, Tiffany Rushton, Jonathan White	
Past President, Linda Brennison, ex officio	pastpresident@uucolumbia.org
Finance Chair, Caroline Eastman, ex officio	financechair@uucolumbia.org

UUCC Staff

Minister	Rev. Stephen Robinson, revstephen@uucolumbia.org
Administrator	Andrea Dudick, uucc@uucolumbia.org
Director of Religious Exploration	Scott Sargent, dre@uucolumbia.org
Bookkeeper	Ginny Verne, bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org
Music Coordinator	Anna Hamilton, music@uucolumbia.org
Sexton	Bill Dolley, uucc@uucolumbia.org
RE Youth Ministries Assistant	Mckenzie Scott, reassist@uucolumbia.org

Address: 2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

Phone — Office (803) 799-0845

Office Hours — Mon.– Fri. 6:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

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

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

Website: www.uucolumbia.org

