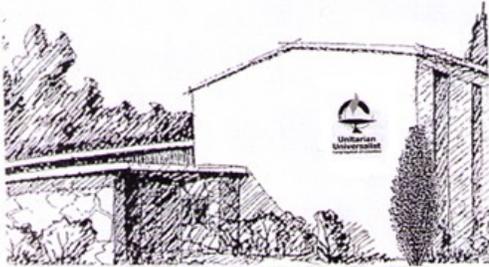




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

October 14, 2020



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

Sunday Schedule

Online Forum: 9:30 am

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

See Page 5 for Access Information

October 18, 2020

9:30 am Forum Topic

“This Week in the News...”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Celebration of LGBT History”

by Rev. Stephen Robinson

October 25, 2020

9:30 am Forum Topic

“This Week in the News...”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“The Sunshine of Trust”

by Rev. Candace Chellew

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, November 8**, for publication on **Wednesday, November 11**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Message From Our Minister

Reflections on an Empire

Mary Oliver’s poetry has often invited us to deeper thoughts and emotions in our worship services at the UUC and in our personal lives. Today I share a piece of her prose, a rare reflection from her on our culture in this country:

Of The Empire

We will be known as a culture that feared death and adored power, that tried to vanquish insecurity for the few and cared little for the penury of the many. We will be known as a culture that taught and rewarded the amassing of things, that spoke little if at all about the quality of life for people (other people), for dogs, for rivers. All the world, in our eyes, they will say, was a commodity. And they will say that this structure was held together politically, which it was, and they will say also that our politics was no more than an apparatus to accommodate the feelings of the heart, and that the heart, in those days, was small, and hard, and full of meanness.

© 2008 by Mary Oliver

From her 2008 collection, *Red Bird*, p. 46

Published by Beacon Press 2008

Continued...

When I hear the word “empire,” I think of moments in history classes, studying the many powerful civilizations that have risen to greatness and disappeared into history. We have the advantage of looking back with investigative and critical eyes, seeing the innovations and the rise to greatness, as well as the critical mistakes that led to their demise.

Mary Oliver’s reflection takes me to a point in the future, with a set of investigative and critical eyes looking back on the empire known as the United States. We have so much in our history that should stir our pride and our patriotism, as Ivy and Robin reminded us a few Sundays ago. ~~In spite of~~, no wait, because of our patriotism, we should take the opportunity to step back and take a holistic view of who we are and how we function. Empires can only survive if they are open to criticism, and if their laws are living documents that adapt and change to the needs of the people and the information gathered through science and experience. Our culture yearns for voices of intellectual reason, human compassion, open mindedness, welcoming acceptance, and social justice to sound the alert and be heard.

I am grateful that the UUCC continues to be a people who ring the bells that can startle us from our destructive sleep as a culture. Our voices will not be interrupted by bullies or silenced by unfair moderators. We know that history’s eyes are watching us, to see if we give up in the face of difficult challenges or continue to stay grounded in our hope and power. We can make a difference. We will make a difference. We are the UUCC.

Rev. Stephen Robinson

Thank You

I would like to thank all who donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund in honor of the birth of Luna. It gives me great pride to know that her life, from the very beginning, has been connected to the good work of the UUCC. The MDF has been a crucial well of support for many who are in need, particularly during this time of pandemic.

New Member Welcome

We are pleased to present Melanie Rosen, **our very first UUCC new member to have joined our community virtually!** We generally only introduce our new members at our New Member Joining Ceremonies, but this was a special milestone. If we were in the sanctuary perhaps, we would have celebrated with noise makers and awarded her a toaster as we did for the 200th member some 8 years ago. Melanie, we welcome you to our community and hope you will be very happy among us!

Melanie and her two cats, Otto and Babette, have relocated to South Carolina from Baltimore, where she was a member of the UU Church of Annapolis.

When prolonged pandemic shutdowns prompted her to search for employment out of the area, she knew she would move only to a location with a strong UU Community. Through Zoom, Melanie was able to start attending services and meeting UUCC members virtually, before she even found a job as a home health physical therapist in the Midlands area.

When she's not working out of her car, she enjoys adventures in dining, hiking and kayaking, campy burlesque, art of any kind, glitter, and mud.

Otto and Babette enjoy sunshine, catnip, and destroying important paperwork.



October Share the Plate Recipient: Cotton Branch Farm Animal Sanctuary

Half of our Share the Plate collection this month goes to the Cotton Branch Farm Animal Sanctuary which provides a safe haven for abandoned, abused, neglected, and elderly farm animals. While there are many shelters and rescue organizations for animal companions such as cats, dogs, and wildlife, there is a lack of sanctuary for farm animals, which make up 98% of the animals killed in the U.S. each year. cottonbranch.org. 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.

Share The Plate Offerings Received During Our Virtual Services (March through September 2020)

This is an update of our Share the Plate offering since we have had the need to join together in virtual services. Prior to that time our offerings averaged nearly \$1,000 monthly and you can see from these figures that we are considerably below our usual giving. We appreciate that our members and friends have not forgotten this important helping hand to our extended community during such a difficult time. Thank you for remembering our Share the Plate recipients each month.

March	Congaree Riverkeeper	\$630.50
April	MIRCI	\$578.75
May	Planned Parenthood	\$711.25
June	Free Medical Clinic	\$779.75
July	SCWREN	\$744.50
August	Palmetto Place Children’s Shelter	\$815.50
September	Harriet Hancock LGBT Center	\$843.50

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 during the pandemic. A beautiful virtual floral arrangement will fill the screen and a tribute will be read honoring the person or occasion. If you would like to send a picture of the person you are honoring, we will display it along with the flowers. If you 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 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.

UUCC 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. Thank you again for supporting UUCC and the community we’ve all worked so hard to nurture.

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.

UUCU Zoom Access Information "Meeting Info"

The access information for UUCU meetings delivered via the UUCU Zoom accounts can now be found on the UUCU 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-UUCU Zoom accounts may not be listed.

Scheduling UUCU Zoom Meetings Delivered via UUCU 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 UUCU has obtained two Zoom licenses for congregational use. The following are the steps to schedule a UUCU Zoom meeting using these:

Check the UUCU 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 UUCU 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 UUCU committee or be approved by the Board and the event must be placed on the official UUCU calendar by our Administrator, Andrea Dudick (uucc@uucolumbia.org).

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.



UUC Music on YouTube!

You are invited to visit the UUC Music Coordinator's YouTube page to view and listen to music from recent services and performances from our talented UUC Musicians. Go to: [UUC Music](#)

Need Publicity For UUC Events?

If you are hosting a UUC committee event that you would like advertised through our social networks, please email Laura Hartwig at publicity@uucolumbia.org with the details. And be sure to follow us so you don't miss out! [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#) [Twitter](#)

Virtual Buddhist Meditation, Mondays

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

Virtual Story Circle, Wednesdays 10am

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

UUC Zappy Hour, Wednesdays 5:30pm

Join with your fellow UUCers on Wednesday's at 5:30pm for conversations and catching up. No set agenda, but we explore themes like memorable vacation events, weather experiences, wackiest vacation photo, craziest airplane flights, etc. BYOB and snacks. Questions: Contact Phil Turner philtturner2009@gmail.com

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

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

Pet of the Month: UU Animal Ministry

Would you like to see a photo of your pet featured in the Unigram? The UU Animal Ministry is sponsoring a "Pet of the Month" in the Unigram each month. If you would like to see your pet featured in the Unigram, please submit a photo and brief bio of your pet to: Linda Brennison, Board Liaison to the Animal Ministry at pastpresident@uucolumbia.org.

UUCC Security Grant

The Department of Homeland Security, as part of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, has awarded UUCC a grant of about \$83,000 to improve our building's security. The grant, which is still subject to detailed review and administration through the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), is intended to cover measures to improve internal communications in event of an emergency, harden internal and external doors, control movement into the RE wing, and prevent vehicle intrusion into external doors. The current status is that we are waiting for SLED approval, item by item, while we prepare detailed plans and do preliminary work. The positions mandated by the grant and the people designated by the Board to fill them are Project Director (Joe Long), Official Authorized to Sign (Rod Brown, as the President of UUCC), and Financial Officer (Jeanette Walton, as the Treasurer of UUCC). We thank Nancie Shillington-Perez, David Bryan, and Bill Dolley for leading the preparation of the submittal.

Comments and queries should be directed to Joe Long at j-long@sc.rr.com.

Social Action

Virtual Social Action Committee Meeting, Sunday, October 25, 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. UUCC remains closed and recommends you stay home unless it's safe to go out. [You can sign up for all volunteer shifts here.](#)

Richland County Black Coalition (RCBC) Volunteers Needed

RCBC is a newly formed group of people in the Columbia area who are taking action to promote voter registration and participation in the elections. On a weekly basis they are distributing fruits and vegetables to people in poor communities and hosting cook outs with volunteers standing by to assist in explaining absentee voting and assist with registration. The coalition is in need of volunteers to assist with handing out food, voter registration and speaking to community leaders. If interested, please contact Elaine Cooper at 803-348-0911.

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. Click [HERE](#) to find out more about volunteering and support opportunities. Contact Elizabeth Igleheart about making donations and even pickup. Igleheart@TransitionsSC.org

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

Check our website for new events posted almost daily:

bit.ly/social-action

Caring Committee

October 14, 2020

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.

Highlighting Community Resources:

When Folks ask you where to find help:

START HERE: <https://sc211.org/>

United Way Association of South Carolina: Get Connected. Get Answers.
Type in zip code or location and get resources closest to folks asking for help.

AND HERE: <https://www.scjustice.org/>

Appleseed Legal Justice Center: A voice for low income South Carolinians for social, legal, & economic justice.
COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.scjustice.org/covid19/>

And for anyone who wants to be counted:

CENSUS

<https://my2020census.gov/>

Welcome to the 2020 Census

- It's quick and easy. The 2020 Census questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete. Please use the link above.
- It's safe, secure, and confidential. Your information and privacy are protected.
- Your response helps to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.
- Results from the 2020 Census will be used to determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and your political representation at all levels of government.

And if you want your voice to be heard – VOTE!

Find all you need to know here: scvotes.gov

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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. 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. **Moral support and a listening ear are always available.***

“Even in a swarm, one divergent voice can cause others to act independently. You are influenced by others, but do not be fooled — others are also influenced by you. That’s why your actions and choices matter not only for your own life, but for the behavior of those around you.”

Tali Sharot, cognitive neuroscientist

Denominational Connections

October 2020

A Word About "Turn, Turn, Turn: UUA Southern Region Virtual Assembly 2020

Saturday, November 14, from 11:00am to 3:00pm Eastern Time

Join your Southern Region staff team and sibling Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Southern Region for a day of collaboration and learning! UUA President Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray will be the keynote speaker in the morning. Registration fee: \$20 per person. Register at: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/z39qdei114dkya/> Afternoon workshops include:

- *Where Do We Go From Here? ~ Widening the Circle of Concern* with Rev. Ashley Horan, Kathy McGowan, and Rev. Nato Hollister
- *To Every Season ~ The Changing Congregational Landscape* with Natalie Briscoe and Connie Goodbread
- *A Time to Build Up ~ Small Group Ministry and Membership Paths 'Building Community, Virtually'* with Cameron Young and Lillian Drab-Braddick

Also, remember the UUA Common Read for 2019-2020

Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the UUA. Generally these books are picked for their relevance to initiatives for action developed at our annual General Assembly (just held on-line in June). The books picked for 2019-2020 are *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). Please consider checking out the Common Read at <https://www.uua.org/read>

Check Denominational Connections 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



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 anitaj48@aol.com	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 denomconn@uucolumbia.org	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 kdmsooboy@gmail.com	Kevin McKinney/ <i>Deb Matherly</i>
Kitchen Committee bonneylass44@gmail.com	Linda McLeod/Subcommittee
Leadership Development pastpresident@uucolumbia.org	Linda Brennison
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>pastpresident@uucolumbia.org</i>	Linda Brennison

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Cancelled	7:00 pm	
Board Meeting	Wednesday, October 21	6:30 pm	Online Meeting
Chair Yoga	On Hiatus		
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA	12:30 pm	
Choir - UUCC (adult)	TBA	9:30 am	
Choir – Prism (women)	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Choir - Encore (men)	Cancelled	9:30 am	
Christian Heritage	TBA	Noon	
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Cancelled	7:30 pm	
Funeral Consumers Alliance	Cancelled	5:30 pm	
Forum	Sundays	9:30 am	Online Meeting
Green Team	TBA	11:00 pm	
Knit or Not	Cancelled	2:00 pm	
Membership Committee	TBA	12:30 pm	
Visitor Orientation	TBA	11:45 pm	
Science & Religion	Cancelled	7:00 pm	
September Set	Cancelled	Noon	
Social Action Committee	Sunday, October 25	1:00 pm	Online Meeting
Technology Committee	TBA	6:00 pm	
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	
UU Book Club	Sunday, December 13	6:30 pm	Online Meeting
UU Humanist	TBA	7:00 pm	
UU Partner Church Committee	TBA	12:30 pm	
Women's Book Club	TBA	7:00 pm	
Rentals			
La Leche League	Cancelled	6-8pm	
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Buddhist Insight Meditation	Mondays	7:00 pm	Online Meeting
Men's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Women's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Men's AA II	Cancelled	5:00 pm	

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

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

UUC Staff

Minister	Rev. Stephen Robinson, <i>revstephen@uucolumbia.org</i>
Administrator	Andrea Dudick, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Director of Religious Exploration	Scott Sargent, <i>dre@uucolumbia.org</i>
Bookkeeper	Ginny Verne, <i>bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org</i>
Music Coordinator	Anna Hamilton, <i>music@uucolumbia.org</i>
Sexton	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

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

UUC 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

