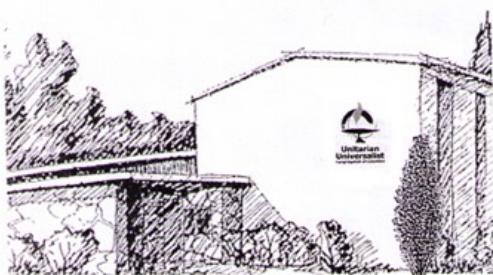




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

September 8, 2021



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

September 12, 2021

9:30 am Forum Topic

“This Week in the News”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Shaped by Tragedy”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

September 19, 2021

9:30 am Forum Topic

“This Week in the News...”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Why the 8th?”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

The Forum will meet on Sundays in the Library and via Zoom

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, October 10**, for publication on **Wednesday, October 12**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.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

As we celebrate this time of renewal and ingathering, the beginning of a church year, Rosh Hashanah, we long to put a difficult year behind us. We find ourselves still battling a virus and pandemic that is taking both lives and ways of life. Our church services continue to be a hybrid experience, with some of our members, friends, and guests gathering in person. We also provide a livestream and virtual call for our members, friends, and guests, who are making choices to not attend in person events. At the UUCC, our worship experience centers on including all, and creating a season of renewal for everyone.

I have shifted my hopes away from getting life “back to normal,” whatever that means, and focusing my energy on creating times of growth, enlightenment, and renewal, in the midst of and often in despite of our circumstances. Marge Piercy’s poem, “The Head of the Year,” sounds so relevant in 2021, as she invites us to “forgive the dead year” and find the “light that hides in our bellies.”

As we continue to endure and navigate a global pandemic, we can’t afford to lose sight of the work that calls us at the UUCC. We must work to renew our commitment to be our best selves, as we work to transform our world around us. May we nurture the light in our bellies, and let the transforming light of our chalice burn brightly.

Continued...

The Head of the Year

by Marge Piercy

The moon is dark tonight, a new
moon for a new year. It is
hollow and hungers to be full.
It is the black zero of beginning.

Now you must void yourself
of injuries, insults, incursions.
Go with empty hands to those
you have hurt and make amends.

It is not too late. It is early
and about to grow. Now
is the time to do what you
know you must and have feared
to begin. Your face is dark
too as you turn inward to face
yourself, the hidden twin of
all you must grow to be.

Forgive the dead year. Forgive
yourself. What will be wants
to push through your fingers.
The light you seek hides
in your belly. The light you
crave longs to stream from
your eyes. You are the moon
that will wax in new goodness.

(Piercy, Marge. “The Head of the Year”. *The Art of Blessing the Day*. Knopf; Reprint edition, 2000)

Rev. Stephen Robinson

UUCC Sunday Services Access

UUCC In-Person Sunday Services

Sunday services will be in-person and live-streamed for those who are not able to attend in person.

- Everyone 2 and over is required to wear a facemask at all times.
- The Heyward and kitchen doors will be closed Sunday. Please use the main or patio doors for entry.
- No food indoors.
- Water is allowed in a covered container.

Sunday Services- Instructions for joining us virtually:

If you cannot or prefer not to join us in person, we have two ways for you to still be with us. Decide on which way and then see information below for access.

A. Zoom interaction before and after streamed service:

For attendees who would like the opportunity to interact with others attending the virtual service, we have created a Zoom event that opens each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and will stay open until approximately 30 minutes after the service ends. If you wish, you may log out of the Zoom event and directly access the service on YouTube (see B-2 below).

Zoom log in for pre and post service: <https://zoom.us/j/95571103221>

Meeting ID 955 7110 3221 Phone number for audio only: 312 626 6799

B. Streaming service only

1. Open the browser on your Internet-connected device (computer, laptop, smartphone).
2. Click on this link https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMjepgcaZx8UMNn2Gb_nxX35q4bfVyUM or paste it In the search bar, hit ENTER:
3. After 10:45, click on the video “Sunday Service *Service Date*”
4. Watch the service being streamed from the UUCC sanctuary

If you live-stream Sunday services and would like a copy of the Order of Service emailed to you the Friday before, then please email Andrea Dudick at uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Membership Matters



Hi Folks! Would you like to know what membership is all about? Membership involves sharing your philosophy, listening to the perspectives of others, and building a supportive community together. Membership means making a commitment to this Congregation and agreeing to be in a relationship of giving and receiving. Membership offers a place to join in with others to do good works in the larger community. Membership results in lifelong learning, connections, and friendships.

Membership is open to those 18 years of age or older. If you'd like to know more about membership at UUCC, talk with any member of the Membership Committee on any Sunday or email membership@uucolumbia.org. We're easy to find. Look for the red "Ask Me" ribbons on our nametags. Please look me up on Sunday mornings after the service so we can become better acquainted. You may also email me any time at membership@uucolumbia.org.

Keitha Whitaker, Membership Chair

Denominational Connections Toolbox Webinar Series

Toolbox webinars are compact and efficient one-time training sessions that support congregations and congregational leadership. These webinars are conducted live, monthly on the second Tuesday (with occasional fourth Tuesday sessions), each lasting 90 minutes. Learn more and register here:

<https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/southern-region-20212022-toolbox-webinars/>

September 14, 2021 – RE Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

September 28, 2021 – Youth Advisor Training

October 12, 2021 – Congregational Stewardship Practices

November 9, 2021 – Dismantling White Supremacy Culture Within the Congregation

November 23, 2021 – Dismantling White Supremacy Culture with your Covenant

Bob Whitaker, Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee, 803-391-5639

Adult Religious Education

Adult RE Classes: Kything: An Ancient Practice of Celtic Christianity Thursday Nights in September, 7-8pm

Rebecca Drennan will be presenting September Zoom sessions on this ancient practice, asking ourselves, "How can we apply this to our present lives?" The practice of contemplative prayer and meditation spreads across time and all cultures and traditions. One might be far from religious practice, yet have a sense of the sacredness in ordinary life. These five sessions will focus on our awareness of the presence of God in ourselves, in others, and in all of creation.

We will meet the five Thursday evenings in September at 7pm ET on Zoom. We'll focus on some pertinent material and then process the material in breakouts, practice deep listening. Come prepared to offer your wisdom and compassion. To register call, text, or email Rebecca Drennan at 415-377-1791 or rebecca@creativedtransformation.com.

News and Notes

Need Publicity For UUCC Events?

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

Pride Parade Planning Meeting, Sept 12

The Social Action Committee is planning for the Pride Parade (October 22!) If you'd like to participate aboard the UUCC float, please contact Kevin & Connie to sign up! (Space is limited.) Or come to our planning meeting on September 12. socialaction@uucolumbia.org

UUCC Choir Resumes Thursday Rehearsals beginning September 16

You are invited to sing! The UUCC Adult Choir (adults and teenagers welcome) will resume weekly rehearsals, Thursdays 6:00-6:45pm via Zoom, September 16. All are welcome and no previous experience is necessary. Meetings open 10 minutes before the rehearsal start time (5:50pm.) We will resume virtual rehearsals this season with the hope and plan to soon be singing together in person! Please contact Anna Hamilton to be added to the UUCC Choir e-mail list for detailed information and access to virtual rehearsal links: music@uucolumbia.org

A Call for Artists:

Members and Friends of UUCC Joint Show

A joint show focused on work produced during the pandemic. Two-dimensional pieces wired for hanging on rods in the social hall. If interested, please call or text Regina Moody at 803-354-2025 by Friday, September 17. Show anticipated to hang from late September through the fall.

Virtual Buddhist Meditation, Mondays

The Buddhist Insight Meditation Community of Columbia, a UUCC 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 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. All welcome. Questions? Call Barbara Bates Smith at [828-421-7685](tel:828-421-7685).

UUCC Men's Breakfast Group

The UUCC men's breakfast group will meet at a local restaurant at 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. If you are interested, please contact Phil Turner for more information: philtturner2009@gmail.com

UUCC Yard Sale Postponed

Because of rising Covid contagion, the UUCC Yard Sale has been postponed. Jean Capalbo jacapalbo@gmail.com

UUCC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch Postponed

The UUCC Ladies LUUNCH BUUNCH gathering planned for September 14 will be postponed until further notice due to the rising Covid contagion. Linda McLeod at kitchen@uucolumbia.org

UUCC Fall Retreat at The Mountain

It is not too late to sign up for the UUCC Fall Retreat at The Mountain. September 17, 18 & 19. To register go on their website- www.themountainrlc.org or call the office during office hours 828-526-5838.

We are planning some fun activities and there is plenty to do on your own or with small groups. Questions contact Joan Watterson joan.l.watterson@icloud.com or 803-381-7208.

Blessing of the Animals, October 17, 3pm

Bring all your furry and feathered friends to UUCC for a special service and blessing by Rev. Stephen Robinson. The Blessing will be held outside on the Heyward St. side of our grounds. Due to the pandemic, we will not be serving snacks or drinks for humans. We will, however, have bowls of water for pets who get thirsty. Don't forget a mask for yourself and a leash or crate for your pet.



Patio Door Locks Have Changed

To allow easier locking and unlocking of the patio doors we have installed deadbolt locks on one side of each set of the double doors. This means that only one side of each set will open. To lock the doors, engage the dead bolt lock on each set of doors. To unlock these two doors when inside, turn the deadbolts and open the doors. We hope you will find this a simple solution to the difficulty so many of us have had to deal with in locking and unlocking the patio doors. Any questions should be directed to bandgechair@uucolumbia.org.

September Share the Plate Recipient

Half of our cash collection in September goes to Harriet Hancock LGBT Services, which is the hub of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender activity in the Midlands of South Carolina. The facility offers a variety of resources including a free lending library, meeting spaces for LGBT-supportive groups, and a directory of LGBT-friendly businesses, organizations, and counselors while also serving as the headquarters for the South Carolina Pride movement. The representative for September 26 will be Kimmah Dozier.

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. Please be sure to select “Share the Plate.”

Sunday Flowers for the Sanctuary

Would you like flowers in the sanctuary to recognize an upcoming birthday, anniversary, or a special memory. This can be done by making a \$30 donation to the UUCC Flower Fund or, if you prefer, you may bring your own arrangement. Contact Linda McLeod (kitchen@uucolumbia.org) for details on how to share in this opportunity to enhance our sanctuary and at the same time recognize a special day.



UUCC Accepts Contributions Electronically

Please note that your online contributions are not posted to the UUCC account until the second business day after you make them. You may 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 or need help, please contact our Administrator, Andrea Dudick, at uucc@uucolumbia.org or 803-799-0845 Thank you for your generosity.

New Chairperson Needed for Share the Plate Committee

We are **urgently** seeking someone interested in managing the Share the Plate program! Linda McLeod did a great job for 6 years, but has definitively resigned. Can you help? Or do you know someone willing to run this ‘well-oiled machine?’ Contact Kevin McKinney or Connie Quirk at socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

Recordings of Sermons 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.: [UUCC Music](#)

Social Action

Social Action Meeting, Sunday, September 26

Pending developments with Covid, the Social Action Committee will meet in person 15 minutes after the end of the UUCC service in the Sanctuary observing indoor Covid protocols. We will stream the event as well. Questions? Contact Kevin McKinney or Connie Quirk at socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

Please Donate to the Winter Shelter

The Social Action Committee is again soliciting donations of lightly used clothing - especially hats, gloves and coats - shoes, current magazines and unused personal-sized toiletries for the Inclement Weather Center, the “winter shelter” for Columbia’s homeless.

You may place your donations in the container in the Social Hall. The shelter, managed by Transitions, is open from November 1 to April 1 when the temperature falls below 40F. Last season, over 100 adults used the facility each night it was open. Please contact Tom Clements (tomclements329@cs.com, cell 803-240-7268) with any questions.

Feeding the Hungry at Transitions

Transitions continues to need volunteers to serve meals and other opportunities. Because of social distancing, they request that you sign up for a shift rather than show up. Contact Transitions at 803-708-4861 or click [HERE](#) to find out more about volunteering and support opportunities.

Harvest Hope Food Bank Volunteers Needed

As always, please make sure to take your own safety into consideration first before volunteering. [You can sign up for all volunteer shifts here.](#)

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

Check our website for new events posted almost daily:

bit.ly/social-action

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & BOARD LIAISONS 2020/2021

Committee/Chair Email	Chair/Board Liaison
Adult Religious Education <i>AdultREChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Angie Dodd Rabon/ <i>TBA</i>
Animal Ministry <i>anitaj48@aol.com</i>	Anita Grossman/Subcommittee
Building and Grounds <i>BandGChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Linda McLeod/ <i>TBA</i>
Caring and Hospitality <i>CaringChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jane Lawther & Cheryl Soehl/ <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>TBA</i>
Finance <i>FinanceChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Linda Brennison/ <i>TBA</i>
Green Sanctuary <i>kdmsooboy@gmail.com</i>	Caroline Eastman/ <i>Deb Matherly</i>
Kitchen Committee <i>bonneylass44@gmail.com</i>	Connie Quirk & Linda McLeod/Subcommittee
Leadership Development <i>leaderdev@uucolumbia.org</i>	TBA
Membership <i>Membership@uucolumbia.org</i>	Keitha Whitaker/ <i>Jonathan White</i>
The Mountain <i>Joan.l.watterson@icloud.com</i>	Joan Watterson/Subcommittee
Personnel <i>PersonnelChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	JP Flood
Social Action <i>SocialActionChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Kevin McKinney & Connie Quirk/ <i>TBA</i>
Technology Services <i>tsc@uucolumbia.org</i>	David Roof/ <i>TBA</i>
Worship <i>WorshipChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Richard McLeod/ <i>Emilio Perez</i>

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Cancelled	7:00 pm	
Board Meeting	Wednesday, September 15	6:30 pm	Online Meeting
Chair Yoga	On Hiatus		
Children & Youth RE Committee	Tuesday, September 21	7:00 pm	Online Meeting
Choir - UUCC Rehearsal	Thursdays, September 16	6-6:45pm	Online Meeting
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	Library & Zoom
Green Team	Sunday, September 19	12:15 pm	Sanctuary & Zoom
Knit or Not	Cancelled	2:00 pm	
Membership Committee	TBA	2:00 pm	Online Meeting
Visitor Orientation	TBA	11:45 pm	Online Meeting
Science & Religion	Cancelled	7:00 pm	
September Set	Cancelled	Noon	
Social Action Committee	Sunday, September 24	1:00 pm	Online Meeting
Technology Committee	TBA	6:00 pm	
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	
UU Book Club	Sunday, October 17	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.

UUCC Board of Trustees

President, Pat Mohr	president@uucolumbia.org
President Elect, Deb Matherly	president-elect@uucolumbia.org
Treasurer, Ginny Verne	treasurer@uucolumbia.org
Secretary, Beth Ann Rocheleau	secretary@uucolumbia.org
Members at Large: Jean Capalbo, Caroline Eastman, Emilio Perez-Jorge, Tiffany Rushton, Jonathan White	
Past President, Rev. Rod Brown, ex officio	pastpresident@uucolumbia.org
Finance Chair, Linda Brennison, 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	Michele Currie, bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org
Music Director	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

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

