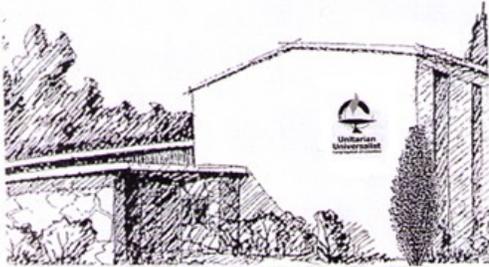




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

July 13, 2022



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

Sunday Schedule

Forum: 9:30 am

Worship: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

July 17, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“Pros and cons of the two-party system.”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“My Choice Not Yours”

by Laura Culler

July 24, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“What are the issues with gun control, and why can we not seem to curb gun violence in America?”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“What’s Your Story?”

by Barbara Bates Smith

*The Forum meets on Sundays
in the Library and via Zoom*

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, August 7**, for publication on **Wednesday, August 10**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.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 Rev. Stephen Robinson

One of my jobs as Minister at the UUCC centers around being the primary person who provides sermons on Sundays. I enjoy the collaboration with the worship committee around planning themes for our services each Sunday that speak to seasons of the year, topics connected to our practice of spirituality, and current events that impact us greatly. I am left with the challenge of crafting a sermon that provides inspiration, humor, thought provoking insights, challenge, and spiritual connection. I have a great deal of passion for this work and enjoy the process of being a voice who speaks to the issues facing this amazing group of people called the UUCC.

I am equally grateful that in collaboration with the worship committee, we decided for me to take the month of July to have the chance to do less speaking and do more listening. The poet, Rumi, describes the soul as, “a wide listening sky with thousands of candles.” As I take a break from being the sermon giver in July, we have dedicated this month to the “Voices of the UUCC.” Each Sunday in July, one of your fellow members brings a sermon and emphasis that allows their wisdom and voice to be heard. Five different Sundays provides five different unique and insightful perspectives from our own congregation. We are two Sundays into this, and I can affirm that the candles of my listening sky have been lit with two amazing services. If you weren’t able to attend, I encourage you to visit our YouTube channel and watch the services from July 3, as our resident botanist, John Logue, used images of nature to reflect on relationships, and July 10, as Ivy Coleman led us in an exercise, reflection, and inspiration about our fears and the ways those fears impact our lives. Thank you both for lighting the candles of our wide listening sky.

Continued...

We have so much left in store this month, as Laura Culler shares a sermon on July 17th, providing insight on the choices we make and responsibilities we all hold for making decisions. Barbara Bates Smith centers on the importance of your story and why sharing that story is important as she shares a sermon on July 24th. Mike Sullivan wraps the month up on July 31st, with a reflection on the work of the late Forrest Church, particularly lessons about Life and Death.

I have been the Minister at the UUCC for three and a half years now, and I constantly still have moments where I pause, and I am overwhelmed with the talent, wisdom, insight, and creativity gathered in this small congregation on Heyward Street. The voices of the UUCC emphasis in July gives so many of our folks a chance to shine. As they shine, they light the candles of our wide listening skies, and our chalice burns brighter than ever.

UUCC COVID 19 Health Protocols Effective July 3, 2022

Given the current ongoing community transmission in Richland County and based on recommendations from the Health Department if the COVID 19 community levels are HIGH, the Reopening/COVID committee has made the following changes and recommendations regarding the mask policy:

- 1. While masking is optional, we strongly recommend that masks are worn inside the sanctuary by persons 2 years and older**
2. This recommendation applies especially to people who are not fully vaccinated, or that have health conditions that put them at risk for complications of COVID 19 infection
3. Any singing will continue to require that masks be worn
4. No need to wear a mask outside the building
5. Please abstain from attending in person services if you have recently had COVID infection or if you have been exposed to someone with COVID (until cleared by your physician)
6. Notify the UUCC administrator (uucc@uucolumbia.org) if you were diagnosed with COVID infection shortly after attending an event in the UUCC buildings. Names of affected persons will remain confidential.

Our Voices Matter

Our denomination and our congregation are committed to speaking out about and working diligently for justice across so many dimensions- it's in our DNA! At the same time, our denomination and our congregation are navigating the challenges and opportunities of institutional change, in a deliberate effort to better reflect our shared values.

Are you enthusiastic, curious and/or concerned about potential changes in our broader denomination, and what these might mean for us in Columbia? Get ahead of the game, and on top of upcoming UUCC conversations, by going to padlet.com/a2sc/ga22. The opportunity to look at and respond to very early drafts of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) study commission's language, some theological discussion AND provide comments and feedback has been extended to all of us, not just General Assembly (GA) attendees, and is open until July 18.

Broad topics include: the purpose of the UUA; our freedom of belief; our values and implied covenant; inclusion; inspirations (sources); future hopes; and general feedback. (There will be many future opportunities for discussion and feedback, but this is a chance to weigh in "on the ground floor"- the chats and discussions at GA were very animated and diverse, and I'm guessing the comments UUA is continuing to solicit will be likewise.) Please make your-- and our-- voices heard. Take a few minutes or a few hours- your choice- enjoy!

I hope you will consider our denominational ties as a "both-and" proposition with our congregational and local fellowships and actions, not "either/or". Looking forward to our year ahead, growing together in understanding and commitment.

With warmth and love,
Deb Matherly, UUCC President president@uucolumbia.org

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.

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=PLMjjpgcaZx8UMNn2Gb_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

News and Notes

Green Committee, Sunday, July 17

Join us in the Sanctuary after the service on Sunday, July 17. Contact Caroline Eastman for more information green@uucolumbia.org.

UUC Book Club, via Zoom Sunday, July 17, 6:30pm

Join us for a discussion of *Underground – A Human History of the World Beneath Our Feet*, by Will Hunt. The UUC Book Club is open to all members and friends. Contact Phil Turner with questions or for more information connection@uucolumbia.org.

UUC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch Thursday, July 21, Noon, UUC

The UUC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch will meet for a potluck lunch at Noon on Thursday, July 21, in the social hall at UUC. To let us know you will be coming, so that tables can be set up, please contact either Mary Maclachlan or Joan Watterson, by phone, text or email. Mary Maclachlan, 803-348-4370, drmarymaclachlan@gmail.com or Joan Watterson, 803-381-7208, joan.l.watterson@icloud.com. Bill, Joan and Mary will do the setup. We hope that a few people can stay to be part of the cleanup.

Social Action Committee, Sunday, July 24

Join us in the Sanctuary after the service on Sunday, July 24. Contact Kevin McKinney or Connie Quirk at socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

Virtual Story Circle 10-11am Wednesdays

Story Circle will continue on Wednesdays from 10-11am. Questions? Call Barbara Bates Smith at 828-421-7685.

UUC Men's Breakfast Group 2nd Thursday, 9am

The UUC men's breakfast group will meet at a local restaurant or a member's home at 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. If you are interested, please contact Phil Turner for more information: connection@uucolumbia.org.

Gaia's Rising CUUPS Thursday Nights, 7:30pm

Join the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) Thursday nights at 7:30pm in the UUC library. Contact Katy Long at katylong25@gmail.com

July Share the Plate Recipient: Justice 360

Half of our cash collection this month goes to *Justice 360*, which promotes fairness, reliability and transparency in the criminal justice system for individuals facing the death penalty and juveniles facing lengthy sentences in South Carolina. They accomplish this by using resources and support for lawyers tasked with representing capital and juvenile defendants and representing individual clients. They advocate for policy change to address systemic flaws in the criminal justice system and educate the public to raise awareness about the administration of capital and juvenile sentencing in South Carolina. Justice 360 will be represented by Millicent Lann, Development and Outreach Coordinator, on Sunday, July 31.

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 Program

Would you like to share your flowers for our Sunday service in recognition of a birthday, anniversary, or a special memory? You will provide your own floral arrangement. Just let us know the date you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary by sending an email to the Worship Committee at worshipchair@uucolumbia.org. Please include your name, phone number, and the date you would like to bring your flowers. You will be contacted to confirm the date and details.

UCC Accepts Contributions Electronically

Please note that your online contributions are not posted to the UCC 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.

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.

UCC Music on YouTube!

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

UCC Annual Mountain Retreat, October 28-30

It is time to make plans to attend our annual Mountain retreat. After two disappointing years of not being able to have our “Mountain fix” due to COVID it will be glorious to go back again. This year we have the opportunity to save money by taking advantage of the Early Bird Special. For more information about The Mountain and to register go themountainrlc.org or call during office hours at 828-526-5838. If you have any questions, then please contact Ginny Verne at 803-606-6260 or Joan Watterson at 803-381-7208.

Social Action Committee

The social action committee at UUCC is in flux, for now. There are many reasons--the hiatus due to the pandemic; the consequent (justified!) reluctance to attend services; feelings of numbness and powerlessness with a political process so unresponsive to our voices and to people's needs. We see too many for whom enduring injustice is a way of life--especially BIPOC, LGBTQ, immigrant, houseless people, women, and even educators--and we are shocked and saddened. Our state's legacy of racism and classism weighs us down and acts as a barrier. We are divided from those who might help us, those whom we might help, or simply those whose perspectives could enrich our lives. But it is possible to bridge divides, reduce feelings of isolation, and join our efforts.

Early in 2021 our own Rev. Pippin Whitaker and Rev. Jean Heriot of Aiken UU formed the idea of a UU justice alliance. Joining forces with Rick Hahnenberg of the Spartanburg UU, who had also been investigating the formation of a state network, they formed SCUUJA (South Carolina Unitarian Universalist Justice Alliance)--the newest of 24 such state networks in the US. Since then, UUs from eight congregations have come together via Zoom to participate in Meetups, DRUUM circles, and presentations.

So in flux or not, we *can* feel less alone and more potent. For example, we here at UUCC can participate with SCUUJA via the UUA's "UU the Vote" program. In the coming weeks, the Social Action Committee will be making VoteForward letters available for you to personalize after each service; just add your message, and we'll send them off to an 'adopted' voter! And farther in the future, UUCC may wish to join other South Carolina UU congregations in covenant with SCUUJA.

Together, let us raise our voices to create more of John Lewis's "Good Trouble!"

Green Committee

It's July, 2022 in America, so headlines are grim. The Ukraine war drags on; there's been another public massacre; and the Supreme Court has effectively forced a pregnant 10-year old rape victim to be sent to Indiana for an abortion, because she missed the new Ohio cutoff date by 3 days. All of these issues are important (if depressing.) And all of them--and more--affect our lives and our world.

But as we swelter, let's remember some other story 'highlights' of the past year or so.

- June 30, 2021: Lytton, British Columbia burned to the ground, a day after reaching 121 degrees Fahrenheit—8 degrees above the all-time Canadian *national* record. Across the Pacific Northwest at least 1,037 died.
- July 12: European flooding began; 240 would die. Globally, the month would be the warmest July on record.
- July 20: Zhengzhou, China received 25.38 inches of rain in 24 hours. The rainy season would kill 347 Chinese people.
- August 29: Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana with 150 mph winds; US flooding would cost up to \$75 billion.

And so far in 2022 our West has seen:

- in Colorado: an exceptional *January* wildfire (\$500 million)
- in New Mexico: the Calf Canyon wildfire complex, ongoing since April 6 (~\$600 million in FEMA aid)
- Nevada: Lake Mead is at a record-low 1042 feet; the #1 water intake is now *above* the surface (\$1.3 billion spent for the deep #3 intake)

There was more, including record flooding in Australia, and a heat wave in India and Pakistan so severe that dehydrated birds literally fell from the sky. But enough! As the war burns huge amounts of fossil fuels, Covid wracks our economy and our psyches, and our idolatry of the power to inflict harm brings lethal violence, let's remember there's a war against the environment, too.

Ending that war, equitably, is fundamental. That may mean change in our own lives. We need to 'live well without living badly'--rejecting, perhaps, the seductive message that "more" will always make us happier. But we need systemic change, too; a just transition to cleaner energy, or an end to the 'plastic plague,' or appropriately scaling human activity to the environment, are inherently *social* outcomes. And that implies that we must protect democracy. Authoritarians like Mr. Putin will always prefer gas and guns to clean energy and cooperation, because both of the former are instruments of power and control.

Now, as never in living memory, American democracy itself is under threat. The next big test will culminate this November, and sadly, we aren't likely to face perfect options. But on each ballot there will be choices which are more favorable toward environmental peace and social equity, and other choices which are considerably less so. Surely we will choose what we think best. But in the words of the Serenity prayer, "grant us the wisdom to know the difference."

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & BOARD LIAISONS 2022/2023

Committee/Chair Email	Chair/Board Liaison
Adult Religious Education <i>AdultREChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Rebecca Drennan/ <i>Jean Capalbo</i>
Animal Ministry <i>anitaj48@aol.com</i>	Anita Grossman/ <i>Subcommittee</i>
Building and Grounds <i>BandGChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Phil & Lis Turner/ <i>Linda Brennison</i>
Caring and Hospitality <i>CaringChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jane Lawther & Cheryl Soehl/ <i>Tiffany Rushton</i>
CYRE <i>REChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jonathan White
Denominational Connections <i>denomconn@uucolumbia.org</i>	TBA/ <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>Ginny Verne</i>
Green Sanctuary <i>kdmsooboy@gmail.com</i>	Caroline Eastman/ <i>Deb Matherly</i>
Kitchen Committee <i>kitchen@uucolumbia.org</i>	Connie Quirk/ <i>Subcommittee</i>
Leadership Development <i>leaderdev@uucolumbia.org</i>	Patty Drews & Nancie Shillington-Perez/ <i>TBA</i>
Membership <i>Membership@uucolumbia.org</i>	Donald Cooper & Annette Flavel / <i>Jonathan White</i>
The Mountain <i>Joan.l.watterson@icloud.com</i>	Joan Watterson/ <i>Subcommittee</i>
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-Jorge</i>

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Cancelled	7:00 pm	
Board Meeting	Wednesday, July 20	6:30 pm	Online Meeting
Chair Yoga	On Hiatus		
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA	7:00 pm	
Choir - UUCS Rehearsal	On Hiatus		
Choir – Prism (women)	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Choir - Encore (men)	Cancelled	9:30 am	
Christian Heritage	TBA	Noon	
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Thursdays	7:30 pm	Library
Funeral Consumers Alliance	Cancelled	5:30 pm	
Forum	Sundays	9:30 am	Library & Zoom
Green Team	Sunday, July 17	12:15 pm	Sanctuary
Knit or Not	Cancelled	2:00 pm	
Membership Committee	TBA	2:00 pm	
Visitor Orientation	TBA	12:15 pm	
Science & Religion	Cancelled	7:00 pm	
September Set	Cancelled	Noon	
Social Action Committee	Sunday, July 24	1:00 pm	Sanctuary & Zoom
Technology Committee	TBA	6:00 pm	
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	
UU Book Club	Sunday, July 17	6:30 pm	Zoom
UU Humanist	TBA	7:00 pm	Classroom 8
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	
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, Deb Matherly
President Elect, Marc Drews
Treasurer, Ginny Verne
Secretary, Karen Brown
Members at Large:

president@uucolumbia.org
president-elect@uucolumbia.org
treasurer@uucolumbia.org
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Jean Capalbo, Caroline Eastman, Emilio Pérez -Jorge,
Regina Moody, Nancie Shillington-Pérez
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Past President, Pat Mohr, ex officio
Finance Chair, Linda Brennison, ex officio

UUC Staff

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Administrator
Bookkeeper
Music Director
Sexton

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Dr. Anna Hamilton, *music@uucolumbia.org*
Bill Dolley, *uucc@uucolumbia.org*

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