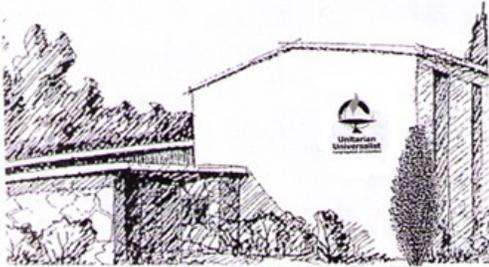




# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

August 10, 2022



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

## **Sunday Schedule**

**Forum:** 9:30 am

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

### **August 14, 2022**

**9:30 am Forum Topic**

“What is 'Christian Nationalism' and what are the dangers of it?”

**11:00 am Sermon Topic**

“Music: A Call to Connection with Dr. Anna Hamilton”

### **August 21, 2022**

**9:30 am Forum Topic**

“What is 'Critical Theory?’” (This is not a discussion of CRT.)

**11:00 am Sermon Topic**

“The Dilemma of Icarus and Daedalus?”  
by Rev. Stephen Robinson

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

## **Unigram Deadline**

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, September 11**, for publication on **Wednesday, September 14**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [uccc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uccc@uucolumbia.org).

## **Message From Our Minister Rev. Stephen Robinson**

### **“All Water is Welcome”**

The Summer is officially winding down. Youth of all ages have stocked up on school supplies, chosen the outfit for the first day, and are starting to feel the butterflies associated with the beginning of a new school year. College students are moving into dorms or apartments, and the university campuses that have been somewhat dormant for a few months will be buzzing with life and activity. At the UUCC, this time of year marks a gathering of ourselves back together from summer activities. Our RE program springs into action and we feel the buzz of energy and excitement surrounding the experience of spiritual community.

Each year, we observe a ritual that holds the meaning and purpose of this time of year. Water Communion or the Gathering of Water offers us a chance to center ourselves around this common element and ritual, to reconnect to each other, and recommit ourselves to the good work of the UUCC together.

We will observe this ritual in our regular worship service time on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to bring a container of water that is meaningful or that signifies an experience of the summer and pour that water into a common bowl. As we all share our stories and combine our water into a sacred basin, we honor our covenant of togetherness.

*Continued...*

As we prepare for this event this year, I am reminded of the song written by Pete Townshend, the British singer and songwriter responsible for most of the lyrics performed and recorded by the band, The Who. In one of Townshend's songs entitled, "The Ocean Refuses No River," he writes:

*The sea refuses no river  
And rain fills the gutters  
No time for stutters  
This is our chance  
To sing and to dance and to clown  
The sea refuses no river  
And rivers were sprung to drown*

What a beautiful metaphor to hold the meaning of one of our deep values and principles at the UUCC.

We Welcome All!

Our water communion acknowledges the diversity and uniqueness of each individual and welcomes them all into the community together. The sacred basin holds in tension all the gifts and beauty and worth of each person while celebrating the beauty of connectedness, oneness, and commonality. We are a welcoming congregation to all, and embrace the responsibility of that description. Welcoming all requires constant work and attention, to ensure that we are a space where all feel welcomed, where all needs are met, where all voices and searches for truth and meaning are celebrated and valued, where all members of the web of existence are honored. We must give our work and attention to meet the needs of children and youth, so that the UUCC meets the needs of families of all types. The doors of the UUCC must be a place where margins fade away for marginalized people, the moment they walk through the door. The ocean refuses no river, and the beloved community of the UUCC is big enough, strong enough, and most importantly loving enough to welcome all.

## **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](mailto: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](https://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](mailto: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](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

## **Canceled: August UCC Book Club**

The UCC Book Club is in the process of selecting the next iteration of books. Upcoming meetings will be announced soon. Contact Phil Turner if you have questions or would like more information: [connection@uucolumbia.org](mailto:connection@uucolumbia.org).

## **Visitor Orientation, Sunday, August 14 After Service, Room 8**

Come meet members of our Membership Committee and hear more about Unitarian Universalism and this congregation. We look forward to meeting you. Orientation starts about 15 minutes after the service, and lasts approximately 45 minutes. Light snacks will be served. Any questions can be addressed to [membership@uucolumbia.org](mailto:membership@uucolumbia.org).

## **Ladies LUUnch BUUnch**

### **Thursday, August 18, Noon, Social Hall**

The UCC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch will meet for a potluck lunch at Noon on Thursday, August 18, in the social hall at UCC. 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](mailto:drmarymaclachlan@gmail.com) or Joan Watterson, 803-381-7208, [joan.l.watterson@icloud.com](mailto: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.

## **Story Circle Demonstration, Thursday, August 18, 7pm, Social Hall**

Come check out a Story Circle demonstration/training led by Barbara Bates Smith, assisted by Philip Turner. Questions: call Barbara, [828-421-7685](tel:828-421-7685).

## **Green Committee, Sunday, August 21**

Join us in the Sanctuary after the service on Sunday, August 21. Contact Caroline Eastman for more information [green@uucolumbia.org](mailto:green@uucolumbia.org).

## **Social Action Committee Sunday, August 28**

Join us in the Sanctuary after the service on Sunday, August 28. Contact Kevin McKinney or Connie Quirk at [socialaction@uucolumbia.org](mailto:socialaction@uucolumbia.org).

## **Social Action Committee Needs Help!**

The UCC contingent in last year's Pride Parade was a real highlight--but the float we rented would stress our 2022 budget. Can you, or someone you know, help us out with a suitable substitute, such as a flatbed truck or trailer? Please contact Kevin or Connie at [socialaction@uucolumbia.org](mailto: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.

## **UCC Men's Breakfast Group 2nd Thursday, 9am**

The UCC 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](mailto: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 UCC library. Contact Katy Long at [katylong25@gmail.com](mailto:katylong25@gmail.com)

## **Science and Religion Discussion Group 2nd Thursdays, 8pm**

Spirited discussion of books about a subject where science and religion overlap. Books are selected by consensus. Meets at 8pm on the second Thursday every month. Contact Dean Smith [deanjaxsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:deanjaxsmith@yahoo.com).

## **Calendar Your Fundraising Event**

The Finance Committee works with our Administrator to make sure all fundraising events appear on the UCC calendar and that they are sponsored by a committee or program group. If your committee is scheduling a fundraiser, please contact [financechair@uucolumbia.org](mailto:financechair@uucolumbia.org) and cc: [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org) to be sure your event is on our calendar and in our publications. Although the Finance Committee does not approve fundraisers, we can answer questions about the UCC fundraising policy. Just email your questions to [financechair@uucolumbia.org](mailto:financechair@uucolumbia.org). UCC needs fundraising more than ever!

## **Thank You Kitchen Crew!**

A big THANK YOU to our Summer Kitchen Crew for their hard work on behalf of all congregants these last two months. Their commitment is completed. We are now looking for Fall kitchen volunteers. Some of us are staying on; however, the crew is too small to commit to offering refreshments every Sunday. So, we are asking for new volunteers that will commit to help August through October. Please email Connie Quirk at [kitchen@uucolumbia.org](mailto:kitchen@uucolumbia.org).

## August Share the Plate: Palmetto Place Children & Youth Services

Half of our cash collection this month goes to *Palmetto Place Children & Youth Services*, which unites private sector organizations that offer a wide continuum of services, including emergency shelter care, residential treatment, group care (intensive, intermediate and low management), therapeutic foster care, supervised independent living, wrap-around services, and community-based prevention services. Their mission is to provide education, support and leadership that strengthens the capacity of member agencies to produce positive outcomes for children and their families. Palmetto Place will be represented by Braylon on August 28.

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](http://uucolumbia.org), and clicking on the ‘donate’ bar at the top of the page, or entering “[abundant.co/uucc/give](http://abundant.co/uucc/give)” in your browser. Please be sure to select “Share the Plate.”

## July Share the Plate Recipient: Justice 360

Thanks to your generous giving to Share the Plate, we sent a check to our July 2022 recipient, Justice 360 for \$703.00. The Social Action Committee appreciates your participation in making this a successful program.

## 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](mailto: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](http://uucolumbia.org), and clicking on the ‘donate’ bar at the top of the page, or entering “[abundant.co/uucc/give](http://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](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org) or 803-799-0845 Thank you for your generosity.

## Recordings of Sermons on Website

Please go to our website ([uucolumbia.org](http://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.

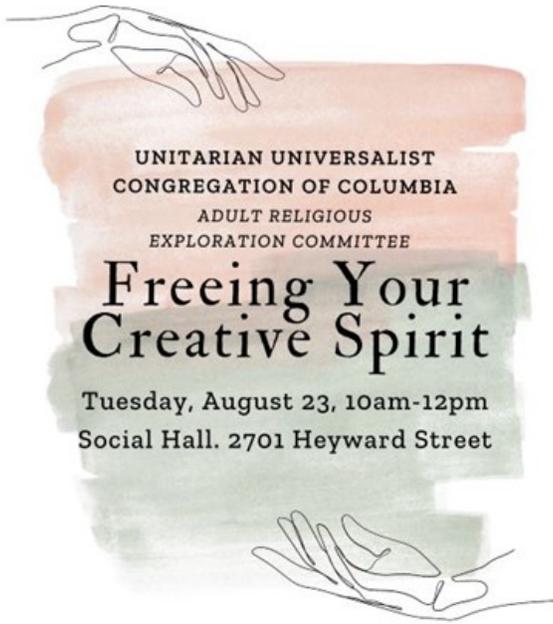
## UCC Music on YouTube!

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](#)

## Harvest Hope Food Bank Donations Needed

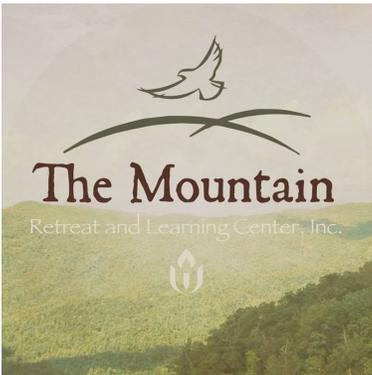


To support the good work that Harvest Hope is doing to feed hungry people in the Midlands, please bring your donations, such as any canned food items; rice; pasta; disposable baby diapers. **Do NOT bring expired food, opened items, glass containers, or fresh produce.** The Harvest Hope grocery cart can be found under the windows in the social hall.



UUCC Adult RE Committee invites you to have a hands-on experience with simple materials. In this two-hour session, participants will Learn something, (based on the work of artist Corita Kent from her book *Learning By Heart*.) The main objective, however, is to Enjoy a visual and creative experience in which we fit together the ordinary in unexpected ways. We will Make something, not necessarily a work of art, or any tangible thing for the refrigerator door. But, in our time together, with just ourselves, some sheets of paper, a crayon or two, some silence, and some words, we'll see what happens. There is no cost to participants. Facilitators: Regina Moody, Jean Lomasto and Jean Capalbo, e-mail Jean Capalbo at [Jacapalbo@gmail.com](mailto:Jacapalbo@gmail.com) to register.

Bring your Pets to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Animals. All animals are welcome as long as they are able to follow good citizen rules. We will assemble in front of the playground on the Heyward side of the church. Once again, we are honored to have Rev. Steven Robinson officiating. Please contact Anita Grossman at [anitaj48@aol.com](mailto:anitaj48@aol.com) with any questions.



### UUCC 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](http://themountainrlc.org) or call during office hours at 828-526-5838. Please contact Ginny Verne 803-606-6260 or Joan Watterson 803-381-7208 with questions.

# Green Committee

## Green Sanctuary 2030: Our Opportunity Assessment

The Opportunity Assessment is one of the major steps in seeking accreditation under the Green Sanctuary 2030 program. This document describes what we have done to address climate change issues, what we might do in the future, and what partners and resources we might have. The Green Committee is about to submit our Opportunity Assessment to the UUA Green Sanctuary Program.

**Very short summary:** We've done a lot. We can do more. We can do even more with partners.

OK, this is may be too short. So, here's a longer summary:

**Congregational Transformation.** We have a Green Sanctuary Committee and are seeking accreditation under the Green Sanctuary 2030 program. We have environmental services at least yearly. We have distributed environmental information through the Unigram, on our website, and through displays and tabling. We can expand our UUCC environmental awareness through cooperation with our many groups and committees.

**Mitigation.** We have computed our carbon footprint and taken steps to reduce this through increased energy efficiency, composting, reducing the use of disposable items, and promoting plant-based diets. We plan to monitor changes in our carbon footprint and encourage the computation of personal and household footprints. We could better support carpooling and vegan diets. We could consider the installation of solar panels or the purchase of carbon offsets.

**Adaptation and Resilience.** We have supported Congaree Riverkeeper through our Share the Plate program. Future possibilities include planting more native plants and assisting with the Rosewood Nature Trail. Effective action in this area generally requires engagement with the broader community, and we will seek opportunities for such activities.

**Environmental Justice.** We have provided support for several marginalized groups through our Share the Plate Program and assisted with food availability through several channels. Most of our justice work has not emphasized environmental justice, however, and we hope to expand in this direction. We need to engage in holistic thinking by considering the broader impacts of our environmental activities.

**Partners and Resources.** We have identified many potential partners and resources for this journey. We have classified them by scope – UUCC, UUA, Midlands, South Carolina, and Marginalized Groups. Some groups we are already working with, such as SCUUJA. We will explore possible joint efforts with other groups.

If you want an even longer summary, contact Caroline Eastman at [green@uucolumbia.org](mailto:green@uucolumbia.org), for the PowerPoint version we are submitting. Comments are welcome and will be essential as we move forward to an action plan. We hope to have some congregational discussions about the possibilities, many of which will require committee, board, or congregational support.

## 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>TBA</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
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, August 17	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, August 21	12:15 pm	Sanctuary
Knit or Not	Cancelled	2:00 pm	
Membership Committee	TBA	2:00 pm	
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, August 14	12:15 pm	Classroom 8
Science & Religion	Cancelled	7:00 pm	
September Set	Cancelled	Noon	
Social Action Committee	Sunday, August 28	1:00 pm	Sanctuary & Zoom
Technology Committee	TBA	6:00 pm	
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	
UU Book Club	TBA	6:30 pm	Zoom
UU Humanist	Thursday, August 25	7:00 pm	Classroom 8
UU Partner Church Committee	TBA	12:30 pm	
Women's Book Club	TBA	7:00 pm	
<b>Rentals</b>			
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*  
*secretary@uucolumbia.org*  
Jean Capalbo, Caroline Eastman, Emilio Pérez -Jorge,  
Regina Moody, Nancie Shillington-Pérez  
*pastpresident@uucolumbia.org*  
*financechair@uucolumbia.org*

Past President, Pat Mohr, ex officio  
Finance Chair, Linda Brennon, ex officio

### UUC Staff

Minister  
Administrator  
Bookkeeper  
Music Director  
Sexton

Rev. Stephen Robinson, *revstephen@uucolumbia.org*  
Andrea Dudick, *uucc@uucolumbia.org*  
Michele Currie, *bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org*  
Dr. Anna Hamilton, *music@uucolumbia.org*  
Bill Dolley, *uucc@uucolumbia.org*

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

**Phone** — Office (803) 799-0845

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

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Website: [www.uucolumbia.org](http://www.uucolumbia.org)

