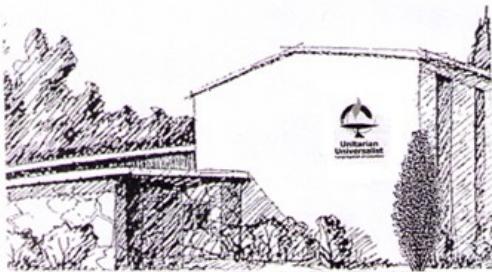




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

September 17, 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

September 18, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“Managing Dementia.”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Surrealistic Realism – The Life and Work of Frida Kahlo,” Rev. Stephen Robinson

September 25, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“Issues and Events of Interest”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Rosh Hashanah – Renewing the Covenant of Unity,” Rev. Stephen Robinson

The Forum meets on Sundays in the Library and via Zoom

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, October 9**, 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 *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uccc@uucolumbia.org.



Message From Our Minister Rev. Stephen Robinson

“Sound the Shofar”

The end of September brings a focus on a special time of the year for the Jewish community. Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of September 25 and ends on the evening of September 27, marking the beginning of the Jewish Year. One of the most recognized practices of Rosh Hashanah celebrations is the sounding of the shofar, a musical instrument made from the horn of a ram or similar animal. The sounding of the shofar intends to awaken the souls of those who have become complacent. It calls for a time of remembering and renewing the covenant, a celebration of unity and community.

If you have been to a service at the UUCC, you have heard phrases that speak to covenant, when we say things like, “we are a covenantal religion” and “thus do we covenant with one another.” A covenant is different than a contract, because it involves relationship. In fact, relationship is the foundation of covenant. Then the covenant articulates the promises made in the relationship and the commitments of how we are in relationship together.

Continued...

A covenant also serves as a reminder and a corrective for when we inevitably lose our way. Despite our best intentions, we often let fear, anxiety, and insecurity control how we relate to ourselves and to each other. In the real world, conflicts lurk around every corner of our interactions with each other, and the potential to hurt each other, offend each other, and cause impasse knocks constantly at the door. Our congregation may even be more susceptible to stepping on each other's toes and feelings, as we welcome diverse ways of thinking and making meaning. Despite love being the GPS that guides us, we know we have the potential to make wrong turns.

When we find ourselves off the path of love and community, we have to remember the covenant. We feel called to a renewing of that covenant, and prioritize right relationship over the need to be right. When we get complacent with our covenant, the sound of the shofar awakens us to recommitment and renewal. On Sunday, September 25, we will honor the spirit of Rosh Hashanah at the UUCC by reminding ourselves of our covenant and renewing ourselves to the commitments that makes this beloved community strong. Let the words of our covenant ring out like the sounding of the Shofar, calling us to our greater selves:

UUCC Congregational Covenant

In the spirit of love I promise to live and embody it.

There is spirit here. I promise to kindle and sustain it.

There is trust here. I promise to build and honor it.

There is forgiveness here. I promise to give and seek it.

There is hope here. I promise to feed and grow it.

Every human being is different. I promise to practice inclusiveness.

There is injustice throughout the world. I promise to actively oppose it everywhere.

Communication is important. I promise to communicate with kindness, candor, and honesty, especially with those with whom I disagree.

Everyone is suffering. I promise to extend compassion to all in times of need.

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=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

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 who 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@ucolumbia.org) if you were diagnosed with COVID infection shortly after attending an event in the UUCC buildings. Names of affected persons will remain confidential.

News and Notes

Blessing of the Animals Planning Meeting, September 18, After Service

The Animal Ministry will meet on Sunday, September 18, at 12:15pm immediately following services in Classroom 8. This is an open meeting (prior attendance not required) - **all are welcome** - to discuss planning for the upcoming Blessing of the Animals, scheduled for October 9. Please bring your thoughts and ideas for this event! Questions? Contact Anita Grossman, Committee Chair anitaj48@aol.com.

Our Administrator Will Be Out of the Office on Monday, September 19

Social Action Committee Sunday, September 25

Join us in the Sanctuary after the service. Contact Kevin McKinney or Connie Quirk at socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

Dinner with CYRE, Wednesday, September 28, 6pm, Social Hall

Please join us for "Dinner with CYRE" where families are invited to leave their dinner plans to us. We ask that they bring their appetites and a desire to meet new friends. Childcare, dinner, conversation, and games for kids will be provided. Wish us luck, and let us know if you have an idea to share as we try new ways to provide for our families and youngest UUs. Contact Jonathan White, CYRE Committee Chair, with questions or for clarification: rechair@uucolumbia.org.

UUCC Book Club, Sunday, October 23, 6:30pm

The UUCC Book Club will resume meeting every other month beginning Sunday, October 23, via Zoom. Angie Rabon will facilitate a discussion on *Behold, America: The Entangled History of "America First" and "The American Dream,"* by Sarah Churchwell. The UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC. We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Phil Turner if you have questions or would like more information: connection@uucolumbia.org.

UUCC New Story Circles Newcomers Welcome!

Every Tuesday 2-3pm at UUCC Library.
2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7pm
Every Wednesday 10am, in its 3rd year, *already full.*
barbarabatessmith@gmail.com, philturner2009@gmail.com

Exploring Spirituality, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm, Library

Come with questions rather than answers. It will be both faith-friendly and no-faith friendly. All are invited to join us with open minds and hearts. We only ask that participants come with a spirit of curiosity, wisdom, and compassion...and sense of humor too. Text Rebecca Drennan at 415-377-1791 with any questions.

UUCC Men's Breakfast Group 2nd Thursdays, 9am

The UUCC 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 UUCC library. Contact Katy Long at 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 deanjaysmith@yahoo.com.

UU Humanist Group, Last Thursdays

Join us at 7pm on the last Thursday of each month in classroom 8. Discussions cover a wide range of topics of interest to Humanists. Contact Dean Smith deanjaysmith@yahoo.com.

Calendar Your Fundraising Event

The Finance Committee works with our Administrator to make sure all fundraising events appear on the UUCC calendar and that they are sponsored by a committee or program group. If your committee is scheduling a fundraiser, please contact financechair@uucolumbia.org and cc: 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 UUCC fundraising policy. Email your questions to financechair@uucolumbia.org. UUCC needs fundraising more than ever!

After Service Social Hour, First Three Sundays of Each Month

Please join us in the social hall after service for refreshments the first three Sundays of each month through December. Connie Quirk kitchen@uucolumbia.org.

September Share the Plate Recipient: Harriet Hancock LGBT Center

Half of our cash collection this month goes to *Harriet Hancock LGBT Center*, which is the hub of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender activity in the Midlands of South Carolina. Their 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 center will be represented by Matt Butler on September 25.

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.”

Share the Plate Collection for August 2022

Thanks to your generous giving to Share the Plate, we sent a check to our August 2022 recipient, Palmetto Place Children’s Shelter for \$715.50. 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 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.



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.

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 services and performances from our talented UUCC Musicians.: [UUCC 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 Social Action Events

Vote Forward Letter Writing Campaign

We have kicked off our Vote Forward Letter Writing Campaign, which encourages voters in strategic jurisdictions to get out and vote this November. This is a non-partisan effort which attempts to reach voters who share our UU values. We all know how pivotal this election may well be, so we invite you to ‘adopt’ a voter and write them a brief note of encouragement!

We'll be in the Social Hall every Sunday up to and including Sunday, October 23, with template letters, envelopes, sample letters and sign-up sheets. It's easy, satisfying, and you can take letter templates home to complete at your leisure. Please join us!

"Damage" Album Release Party/Social Action Committee Fundraiser

Join us on **Friday, September 30 at 7pm** in the UUCC Sanctuary to celebrate Kevin McKinney's releasing a new album. He offered this event as a fundraiser to the Social Action Committee. You can hear the album, the stories within and behind it, and find out what it takes to create and record at home. It will be an informal evening, with refreshments and perhaps a surprise guest or two! Admission is free, but donations to the Committee will be appreciated.

"Git Lit" Annual Columbia Pride Parade

Join us downtown on **Friday, October 14** to ride our float or walk with us. We will gather on Laurel Street to decorate the float, beginning at 6:30pm. You can also help us prepare decorations in advance—it was a lot of fun last year! Talk to Kevin, Connie, or Linda Brennison. (Linda also has “Side With Love” shirts available for order in the Social Hall after service.)

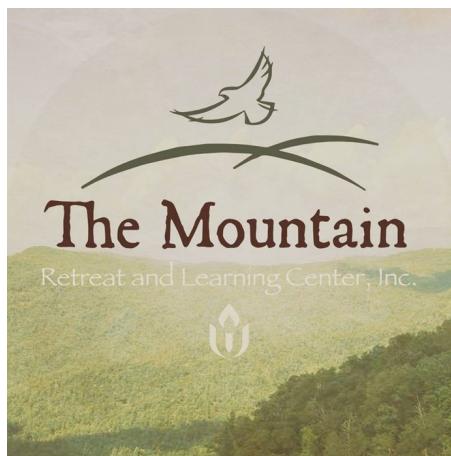
It is an exciting time for the UUCC Social Action Committee—we hope you join us!

Kevin McKinney & Connie Quirk, Social Action Committee Co-Chairs socialaction@uucolumbia.org

UUCC Annual Mountain Retreat

October 28-30

Hiking, great food, gorgeous waterfalls, quiet time on the deck with view of Blue Valley, Happy Hour with friends, watching sun come up over Monkeyface Mountain. Come join us at The Mountain! It is time to make plans to attend our annual retreat at The Mountain. Take advantage of special pricing for 3 days, 2 nights arriving for dinner Friday and leaving Sunday before lunch, or stay for lunch on Sunday for an additional \$5.00. Adult double occupancy-\$210. Adult single occupancy- \$310. Youth (12-17)-\$55. Children (4-11)-\$40. Toddler-3 and under-free. For more information about The Mountain and to register go www.themountainrlc.org or call during office hours at 828-526-5838. If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Verne at 803-606-6260 or Joan Watterson at 803-381-7208.



11th Annual Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 9 at 3pm

Rev. Stephen Robinson will officiate at this year's *Annual Blessing of the Animals!* All are welcome to attend with their animal/s for a special blessing. Leashes, crates or other means of staying in control of the animals is required for the safety of your pet and the other invited guests. The event will be held outside on the Heyward side of the church. Snacks will be served and animal toys will be distributed! Music on the dulcimer provided by Dede Hurson. Please contact Anita Grossman, Animal Ministry Chair anitaj48@aol.com with any questions.



All Are Welcome

CYRE Is Ready To Go!

The Children and Youth Religious Exploration (“CYRE”) Committee wants to show heartfelt appreciation to the congregation for the support and patience exhibited throughout the summer as kids have been in services with adults, and as we have welcomed new families with children of all ages.

This summer has proven that our congregation welcomes children and youth to enjoy and participate in our Sunday services with their families. Moving forward CYRE will continue to look a little like this. We are not planning consistent, every Sunday, grade level CYRE classes; rather, we are putting together a calendar of Sunday and non-Sunday events that we think will keep kids engaged and not be too taxing on parents.

The church now employs FOUR nursery workers who will be a huge part of our new direction we want to take to help everyone be comfortable in service on the weeks we do not have programming in the Religious Education wing for kids. These nursery workers will always provide childcare for the youngest kids, so they aren't bored in service. Janae, Sasha, Azaria, and Haley look forward to spending time with any child who needs a space to wiggle, move, craft, and play. Typically, this care will be open to infants, toddlers and children up to age 5, though they will welcome kids a little older who have not yet mastered the skill of sitting all the way through the big folks' service.

We hope the oldest kids learn to enjoy being in the service with adults on those days, so they grow up feeling more connected to the greater UU community. These experiences are valuable to even our youngest children as they learn to engage with the rituals and love of our worship community. We will continue to have a table in the social hall of toys and quiet games and crafts that children can borrow from and enjoy while they sit.

To supplement the experience of sitting in our all-age services, two or three times each month, CYRE will offer personalized experiences oriented towards our young members and friends in the CYRE wing during Sunday services. Children may also find a Sunday with special snacks during the social hour after service- just for them!

Finally, we want to share an exciting experiment we are planning that we hope will engage our families outside of Sunday mornings. On Wednesday evening, September 28, we will host “Dinner with CYRE.” Families are invited to leave their dinner plans to us. We ask that they bring their appetites and a desire to meet new friends. Childcare, dinner, conversation, and games for kids will be provided. Wish us luck, and let us know if you have an idea to share as we try new ways to provide for our families and youngest UUs.

Contact Jonathan White, CYRE Chair, with questions or for clarification: rechair@uucolumbia.org.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & BOARD LIAISONS 2022/2023

Committee/Chair Email	Chair/Board Liaison
Adult Religious Education <i>AdultREChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Rebecca Drennan/Jean Capalbo
Animal Ministry <i>anitaj48@aol.com</i>	Anita Grossman/Subcommittee
Building and Grounds <i>BandGChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Phil & Lis Turner/Regina Moody
Caring and Hospitality <i>CaringChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jane Lawther & Cheryl Soehl/Jean Capalbo
CYRE <i>REChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jonathan White/Nancie Shillington-Perez
Denominational Connections <i>denomconn@uucolumbia.org</i>	Linda Brennison & Pat Mohr/Karen Brown
Endowment <i>philip.turner@unt.edu</i>	Joe Long/TBA
Finance <i>FinanceChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Robin Scherer/Ginny Verne
Green Sanctuary <i>kdmsooboy@gmail.com</i>	Caroline Eastman/Caroline Eastman
Kitchen Committee <i>kitchen@uucolumbia.org</i>	Connie Quirk/Subcommittee
Leadership Development <i>leaderdev@uucolumbia.org</i>	Patty Drews & Nancie Shillington-Perez
Membership <i>Membership@uucolumbia.org</i>	Donald Cooper & Annette Flavel / Nancie Shillington-Perez
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/
Technology Services <i>tsc@uucolumbia.org</i>	David Roof/Caroline Eastman
Worship <i>WorshipChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Richard McLeod/Marc Drews

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	On Hiatus	7:00 pm	
Board Meeting	Wednesday, October 19	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Chair Yoga	On Hiatus		
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA	7:00 pm	
Choir - UUCC 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	TBA	12:15 pm	Sanctuary
Knit or Not	Cancelled	2:00 pm	
Membership Committee	TBA	2:00 pm	
Visitor Orientation	TBA	12:15 pm	Classroom 8
Science & Religion	2nd Thursdays	8:00 pm	Classroom 8
September Set	On Hiatus	Noon	
Social Action Committee	Sunday, September 25	1:00 pm	Sanctuary & Zoom
Technology Committee	TBA	6:00 pm	
UU Animal Ministry	Sunday, September 18	12:15 pm	Classroom 8
UU Book Club	Sunday, October 23	6:30 pm	Zoom
UU Humanist	Last Thursdays	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	Coming Soon	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.

UUCC Board of Trustees

President, Deb Matherly

President Elect, Marc Drews

Treasurer, Ginny Verne

Secretary, Karen Brown

Members at Large:

Past President, Pat Mohr, ex officio

Finance Chair, Robin Scherer, ex officio

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

UUCC Staff

Minister

Rev. Stephen Robinson, revstephen@uucolumbia.org

Administrator

Andrea Dudick, uucc@uucolumbia.org

Bookkeeper

Michele Currie, bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org

Music Director

Dr. Anna Hamilton, music@uucolumbia.org

Sexton

Bill Dolley, uucc@uucolumbia.org

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

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