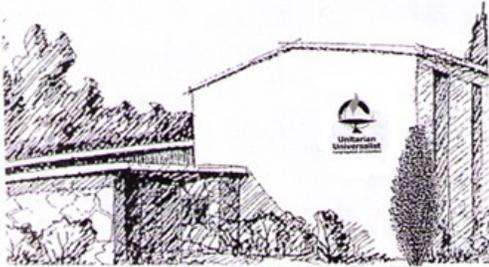




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

October 12, 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

October 16, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“Toxic Capitalism, Part 3”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Celebration of LGBT History”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

October 23, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“Issues and Events of Interest”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Affirming Our Affirmation”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

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

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, November 6**, for publication on **Wednesday, November 9**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Letter From Our President Deb Matherly

Dear Members and Friends,

Our board of directors met in retreat with Reverend Robinson on August 20 to reflect, confer, and work on a path forward. We established a new board covenant to begin each meeting: *We will treat each other as we would wish to be treated by listening to the opinions of all members with equal respect and responding in a kind and thoughtful manner.*

We agreed to focus on a single board goal: “The UUCC Board of Trustees will strengthen our support and care for the congregation.” We will lead this effort, with your help, by:

- Reactivating the Shared Ministry Committee
- Supporting Committees in coordination with one another and with the UUCC mission
- Implementing practices that demonstrate our gratitude to our members, friends and community
- Emphasizing welcoming as an important element of membership
- Promoting life-span growth and learning and opportunities for service for all ages
- Creating opportunities for emerging leaders

Reminder: “The mission of the UUCC is to nurture and respect each other in our spiritual growth and pursuit of meaning and to create a welcoming and engaging environment through which we work for positive change in the community and the world.”

Continued...

As you might expect, each of these six major action areas has sub-parts, and context, and most of the actions are interrelated, just as we as a congregation are interrelated. Figure 1 is my attempt to depict the interrelationships of our volunteer-led committees (not even including our subcommittees!) with each other and with our staff- who are all part-time, as a reminder.

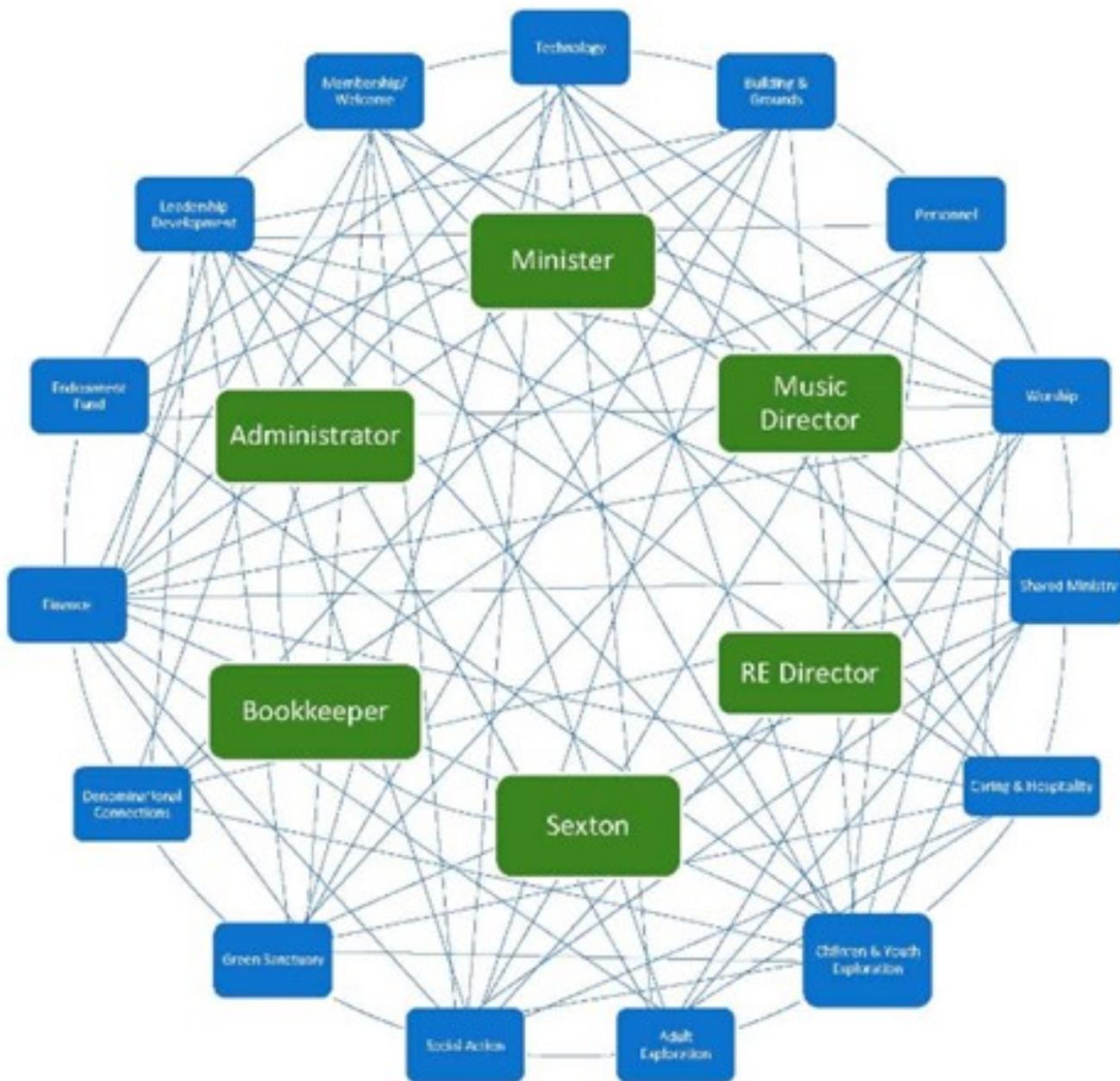


Figure 1 UUCC Committee & Staff Conceptual Interdependencies

Continued...

Figure 2 is my rueful reminder of one of my current tendencies- you have my permission and are hereby encouraged to smile, laugh with me, stop me, and/or skip over ruminations that don't interest you.

We are all emerging, at different paces and with different comfort levels, from the separation and challenges of the pandemic. We are remembering the joys and challenges of gathering in person, for worship, for service, for learning opportunities, and for fellowship and fun. Our in-person board retreat was the first full board retreat in two years. As a board we acknowledge many challenges, among board members, the congregation, and our overall place in time, paired with real opportunities for healing and growth.

Following are example questions that are implicit in our proposed strategies and sub-strategies:

How can we as a board support and lead the congregation—

- in healing relationships among one another?
- in truly listening to and better caring for one another?
- in encouraging flexibility, experimentation and inclusion as we revitalize our programs with children and youth, and strengthen and broaden our programs for adults?
- in being more consciously welcoming and inclusive as a congregation- in our greetings, our music, our worship, our activities, our interactions, and our follow-up with visitors, with friends, and with past members and friends?
- in consciously working to provide more support and visibility to our committees, working to demonstrate how all our “pieces” fit together to support our mission and one another?
- in forming a stronger, more resilient congregation?

The answer is obvious- the board cannot do this--not alone. However, working together as a congregation, with our minister, staff, and each other, we can do this. As a board we can offer some leadership, but a big part of our job as a board is getting out of the way / encouraging and enabling the actions and energy of committee members and friends to create, experiment, work together, and grow.

We're also relearning balance: Balancing nurture and safe spaces with intellectual, spiritual and social challenge and growth; balancing flexibility, innovation and experimentation with structure and the need to “write things down” so future members know what we did, why we did it, and how well it worked; balancing our deep care for one another with our deep need to be active in the broader community, addressing the challenges on all scales- local, regional, national and worldwide. Progress moves at the speed of trust.



Figure 2 Ruminations. Artist Barbara Egr

Continued...



The good news is- we're in this together, and as we continue to work, learn and play together, we can strive towards a "virtuous cycle" where our many connections, our caring, and our aspirations, reinforce one another, bring us into stronger community with one another, and help us all find our joy- See Figure 3, borrowed from the Crowdsourcing Sustainability Climate Journey. Even better news- we are not alone, as individuals or as a congregation; we can't and won't "do it all"- but we can make a difference, and we are making a much bigger difference together.

Figure 3 Intersections for Focus

Finally, I strongly encourage everyone to read the e-blast for new events popping up every week, and to read the Minister or President Message and Committee Updates in the Unigram every month to keep up with the great energy, enthusiasm, and new opportunities for fun, interaction, and participation that are emerging every month. Let's find more meaning and joy together this year!

With great love, respect, appreciation and hope for our year ahead, - Deb Matherly



Joy by Barbara Egr

UPDATED

UUCC COVID 19 Health Protocols

Effective October 9, 2022

As the community transmission risk for COVID has decreased from High to LOW in Richland county, the Reopening/COVID committee has changed the recommendations regarding the mask policy.

1. Masking is now optional in all the church grounds rather than strongly recommended
2. We encourage you to determine what is your risk tolerance and if you are in one of the following categories, you may want to continue to wear a mask: unvaccinated, older than 65, weak immune system, chronic medical illness, essential work/job description (i.e. being off work for 7-10 days is not an option)
3. Optional masking rules also apply to singing and choir, but make sure you are vaccinated, not recently exposed to COVID, etc. if you choose to sing without a mask. (i.e. “sing responsibly”)
4. Continue to abstain from attending in-person services if you have recently had COVID or you been exposed to somebody with COVID until cleared by your physician
5. 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.

UUCC Sunday Services Access

In-Person Sunday Services

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

- The Heyward and kitchen doors will be closed Sunday. Please use the main or patio doors.
- Water is allowed in a covered container.

Streaming Service Only (no interaction) Via YouTube:

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. Watch the service being streamed from the UUCC sanctuary

Thanksgiving Day Potluck

Thursday, November 24

As an annual tradition that goes back many years, UUCC will be hosting another Thanksgiving Day potluck gathering. We encourage everyone to join us and please bring your family and friends. We'll gather for socializing at **1:00pm with dinner beginning about 2:00pm**. Turkey and ham will be provided, and a small donation will be taken to cover the meat costs.

Jim Kimbler is the organizer of this potluck. Please sign up at the Membership table on Sunday or email jim.kimbler@me.com with answers to the following questions:

1. How many are in your group?
2. How many in your group will want turkey?
3. How many in your group will want ham?
4. What food would you like to bring?
5. ****Can you prepare a turkey or ham ready to serve? *You will be reimbursed.***
6. Can you be at the church at 11:00 am to help with setup?
7. Can you stay after to help with clean up?

****If you sign up to bring a turkey please bring it already carved and ready to serve. (Platters are available at the church if you should need one.)**

If you have a Thanksgiving traditional food we would love to have a taste!

Some suggestions for foods to bring to add to our Thanksgiving Feast:

Dressing (stuffing)
Vegetarian or vegan alternative entree
Mac and cheese
Veggies
Mashed potatoes and Gravy
Sweet potatoes
Vegetables
Salads
Fruit
Cranberries
Rolls and butter
Pies, cakes, and the list goes on...



Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring any other beverages you may want to add to our beverage table.

News and Notes

ENCORE Men's Choral Group, Practice & Sing, Sunday, October 16, 10am, Room 9

ENCORE is a men's choral group that enriches the philosophies and services of UUC. We sing for at least one church service a month and rehearse on a Sunday morning. ENCORE is open to men who like to sing and can carry a tune. Most of our work is two- and three-part music that is easy to learn and perform. Come join us!

Contact Richard McLeod at

worshipchair@uucolumbia.org.

Ladies LUUnch BUUnch, Thursday, October 20, Noon, Social Hall

The UUC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch will meet for a potluck lunch at Noon on Thursday, October 20, in the UUC social hall. RSVP to either Mary Maclachlan or Joan Watterson, by phone, text or email. Mary, 803-348-4370, drmarymaclachlan@gmail.com or Joan, 803-381-7208, joan.l.watterson@icloud.com. We hope a few people can stay to be part of the cleanup.

Social Action Committee, October 23

Please join us in the Sanctuary after service. Contact Kevin McKinney or Connie Quirk at

socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

UUC Book Club, October 23, 6:30pm

The UUC 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 UUC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUC. We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Phil Turner if you have questions or would like more

information: connection@uucolumbia.org.

Solomon-Tenenbaum Lecture on Anti-Semitism

The UUC committee for Adult Religious Exploration brings to your attention the Solomon-Tenenbaum Lecture on Tuesday, October 25, from 7-8:30pm. The lecture title is "Anti-Semitism Decoded". It deals with who is a Jew, and who hates or loves Jews. The Lecture will be presented by Dr. Sander L. Gilman of Emory University in Atlanta, and it will be moderated by USC's Dr. Agnes J. Mueller. The lecture will be presented at the USC School of Law, in the Karen J. Williams Courtroom, located at 1525 Senate Street, Columbia 29201. The lecture is free and open to the public, but preregistration is required. Details and information on registration can be found at [Solomon-Tenenbaum Lecture](#)

After Service Social Hour

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

UUC New Story Circles: Fun & Fellowship; Newcomers Welcome!

Please bring a "cherished object" to tell about.

-Tuesdays 2-3pm UU Library

Contact Sandra Merritt: [864-706-6418](tel:864-706-6418)

-Wednesdays 2nd & 4th 7-8pm via Zoom

Contact Nancie Shillington-Perez: [803-553-2280](tel:803-553-2280)

-(Wednesdays 10am, in its 3rd year-is full, numbering 12)

For basic information call: Barbara Smith: [828-421-7685](tel:828-421-7685)

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.

UUC Men's Breakfast Group 2nd Thursdays, 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

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.

Limited Building Access for Weekly Rental

Please refrain from entering the Social Hall, Sanctuary, Foyer and Kitchen to honor the privacy of the Tai Chi classes that will take place every Tuesday morning through January 2023 from 10:20 to 11:40am.

UUC Social Action

“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. Talk to Kevin, Connie, or Linda Brennon. It is an exciting time for the UUC Social Action Committee—we hope you join us! Kevin McKinney & Connie Quirk, Social Action Committee Co-Chairs socialaction@uucolumbia.org

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 through 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!

Please Donate to the Inclement Winter Center

The Social Action Committee is again soliciting donations of lightly used clothing - especially hats, gloves and coats - current magazines, unused personal-sized toiletries, backpacks and luggage (with wheels) for the [Inclement Weather Center](#). The facility is now being called the Rapid Shelter Columbia Overflow as small sleeping units are being set up outside the larger shelter building. The city-funded shelter, managed by Transitions, is **open for adults from November 1 to April 1** when the temperature falls below 40F. Please bring donations to the church but pick up of a sizable donation can be arranged. Also, volunteers will be needed during shelter check-in during the early evening. Contact Tom Clements at tomclements329@cs.com, or cell 803-240-7268.

UUC Green Committee

Showtime!

Birds can’t vote. Trees can’t vote. Butterflies can’t vote. Sharks can’t vote. Most of our interdependent web of existence can’t vote. But you can. And your vote can help preserve this web. This is the last Unigram before the November 8, 2022, General Election. Are you prepared to show up and vote?

Are you registered? You can check your registration status at scvotes.org. If you are not registered, you missed the deadline for this year’s general election. But you can still register for future elections and help get out the vote for this one.

Do you know what is on the ballot? You can get your sample ballot at scvotes.org. Surprise! There are constitutional amendments on the ballot which have gotten almost no media attention.

Do you know who you are voting for? If you have not decided, you can check out vote411.org. This is a nonpartisan presentation of candidates and their responses to questions sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Some of our incumbents have not bothered to respond. You can also check the candidates’ websites. UUC cannot endorse candidates because of our nonprofit status. You may find endorsements you are comfortable with on other organizational websites.

Do you know when and where to vote? The scvotes.org website provides information on your precinct location and voting hours. You also have the option for absentee voting or early voting. Early voting allows you to show up at a limited number of locations to vote in person during the early voting window. Absentee voting allows you to vote by mail if you cannot vote early in person.

Does your vote matter? Yes. Elections can be close. And you can also encourage others to vote. Check out the Social Action table on October 16 and 23 to help with the Vote Forward letter writing campaign to write nonpartisan letters to targeted voters.

Caroline Eastman, Chair, Green Committee, green@uucolumbia.org

Indian Classical Violin Concert at UCC

Saturday, October 22, 7pm

RUPAMVIOLIN.COM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF COLUMBIA

10-22

OCTOBER 22ND 2022
@7:00 PM

INDIAN CLASSICAL VIOLIN CONCERT

RUPAM GHOSH, VIOLIN WITH
RYAN SHAH, TABLA

2701 HEYWARD ST.
COLUMBIA, SC 29205

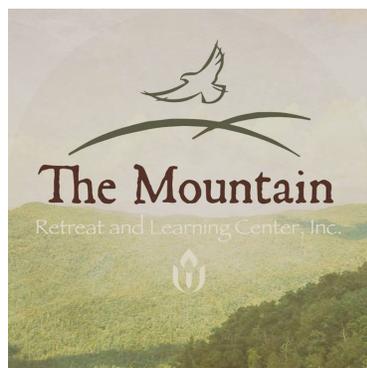
9ANDMUSIC.COM

You are invited to attend a concert featuring North Indian classical violinist, Rupam Ghosh with Ryan Shah, tabla. Learn more and listen here: <https://rupamviolin.com/>. All are welcome to attend. Donations will be accepted (suggested \$10 - \$20) to benefit the Bill Moody Performance Fund, which supports collegiate and guest music performances at the UCC. Contact UCC Music Director Anna Hamilton with any questions: music@uucolumbia.org

UCC Annual Mountain Retreat

October 28-30

It is time to make plans to attend our annual retreat at The Mountain (near Highlands, NC). 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.



October Share the Plate Recipient: Cotton Branch Farm Animal Sanctuary

Half of our cash collection this month goes to *Cotton Branch Farm and Animal Sanctuary*, which provides a safe haven for abandoned, abused, neglected, and elderly farm animals. While there are many shelters and rescue organizations for animal companions such as cats and dogs, and wildlife, there is a lack of sanctuary for farm animals, which make up 98% of the animals killed in the U.S. each year. The sanctuary will be represented by Josh Carpenter Costner, Director of Operations and Board President, on October 30.

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 September 2022

Thanks to your generous giving to Share the Plate, we sent a check to our September 2022 recipient, Harriet Hancock LGBT Center, for \$738. 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.



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](#)

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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Please Join Us for the Following CYRE Events

Sunday, October 16 is a day for children and youth to be in service. Childcare will be available.

Sunday, October 23 CYRE will meet during service in the CYRE wing to prepare for our roles in the music at the Day-of-the-Dead-connected service the following week, October 30. We will work on a performance coordinated by the church's Music Director, Anna Hamilton. Dr. Hamilton also plans to rehearse with any kids who can stay after the service for 20-30 minutes.

 **Saturday, October 29** we invite you to carve your Jack-O-Lantern with us. Bring a pumpkin (or two or three) to carve on the patio from 11 to 2. Show up when you can; leave when you are done. All are invited. Bring a friend!

Sunday, October 30 is an intergenerational service where everyone is invited to remember their dearly departed in a ceremony centered on the Day of the Dead and All Souls traditions. Kids will provide music that day. You *may* want to plan to arrive early (10:30) to get in a quick rehearsal.



November looks to be a slower month for CYRE with a few plans still in the works.

Sunday, November 6 is a day for children and youth to be in service. Childcare will be available.

 **Thursday, November 10** we tentatively plan to have another dinner evening for families. This time we want to try a potluck-style. CYRE will provide a fire on the patio for s'mores. Look for an invite in the coming weeks as we plan for food and festivity.

We hope to see you at some or all of these events. Thank you for being a part of our growing program. Feel free to drop us a line and let us know how you and yours are doing. We are always open to ideas and hope to be providing just what you need from a religious exploration program for children and youth and community at UUC.

Contact Jonathan White, CYRE Chair, with questions or for clarification: rechair@uucolumbia.org or to be included on a mailing list to know ahead of time when to plan for CYRE programming.



UUCC Partner Church

Rev. Zsolt Solymosi has shared a most special experience we at the UUCC have made possible for “healthy, hearty ones” in our partner church in Beszterce. How wonderful to provide them with an uplifting treat, as the bulk of our donations go for necessities of life. And anyone who has traveled with Zsolt knows what a treat it is! Lee Minghi, Partner Church Chair

Message From Rev. Zsolt Solymosi

A special Unitarian minivan travelled on a picturesque Transylvanian road-trip in mid-August, carrying members of the Beszterce Unitarian Congregation, your partner church in Romania. Following 2 years of patient protection against the pandemic, we finally had the chance to explore the amazing Western Carpathians, spending a wonderful weekend together. Our first stop was Csegez, the minister’s cottage house, the magic place where he moved two years ago, because of the scenic view and a peaceful bird choir that made him commute every single day to his challenging other vocation: the Unitarian High School in Kolozsvár. No wonder that congregants were so curious about place where he had found his inner peace.



After having learnt about the traditional conservation work that goes with the preservation of this ancient village house built in 1670, and also having a refreshing picnic in the meantime, we headed to our base camp, a villa at the entrance to the mountain area. Remember, if you are on a Transylvanian road-trip, then food, food and food is a never-ending part of the program. So, we finished the day with a special barbecue treat, getting ready for a spontaneous cinema evening: watching a documentary entitled “Rosia Montana, a town at the brink”, coincidentally, the village of our next day focus. The preparation of the story was essential, because this village, whose origins date back to Roman times, is at the center of a controversial mining

project, so far being successfully thwarted by civil movements. Fortunately, or rather, unfortunately, Rosia Montana possesses one of the largest gold and silver reserves in Europe (300 tons of gold and 800 tons of silver). While this precious metal used to be mined in the last 2000 years by traditional methods, a Canadian-based company decided to extract all this reserve in just 17 years, using cyanide-based technology. It is not very hard to imagine that after the extraction of the precious ore, they will leave up to 250 million tons of cyanide-laced tailings, stored in a 900-acre pond at the heart of a beautiful, untouched valley. In case the 600-foot dam were to collapse, we could say goodbye to the green Transylvania as we know it. The Unitarian Church in Romania has been fighting against the project, supporting the small and powerless local community. The Beszterce group visited this village, the local Unitarian church, as well as the beautiful sites around, hoping that the place would survive for the next generations to come.



On our last day of the trip, we visited to the newly restored, 700-year-old Unitarian church in Bágyon (partnered with West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Cleveland, Ohio), participating in its Sunday service. But that was not to be the end of our journey! We were lucky enough for our return trip to Beszterce to take us through the city of Kolozsvár (the birthplace of Unitarianism), and we had the chance to be part of the closing ceremony of the Hungarian Days of Kolozsvár, where, among 20,000 people in the audience, we enjoyed the operetta concert of the world-famous Budapest Operetta & Musical Theatre. There was a prognosis of 90% chances of thunderstorm, but as soon as the concert started, the rain stopped, leaving us surrounded only by the joy of music.



What a weekend it was! Our only regret was that you, dear members of the UUCC were not with us, singing song after song in the van and sharing a cup of the traditional “pálinka” (a very strong, homemade plum brandy). However, we are grateful that in part, it was your donation that made this trip possible, and our unique experiences along the way have left us with a hope and eagerness for the coming years: that you will visit us soon!

With much love, Rev. Zsolt Solymosi and members of the Beszterce Unitarian Congregation

Share the Plate Nomination Form for 2023

Members and Friends aged 16 and older are invited to nominate organizations to be our 2023 Share the Plate recipients. The UUCU donates half of our cash collections each month to a local charity or social justice organization chosen by our members. Thanks to our congregation’s generosity, we have donated over \$118,000 in Share the Plate over the past 12 years. Voting will take place in November to choose the recipients from among the top two nominees in each category.

Categories: There are 11 categories of recipients, each of which will be selected for one month in 2023. Members and Friends can nominate organizations in one or more categories, provided it is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is not affiliated with UUA. To confirm the status, check the organization’s website.

Category	Nominated Organizations	Website or Contact Person
Animal Shelters/Animal Services		
Children’s Services		
Food Banks/Food Support		
Environmental Issues		
Homeless Shelters		
Legal Aid		
LGBT Issues		
Mental Health Issues		
Physical Health Issues		
Social Justice Issues		
Women’s Issues		
Minister’s Discretionary Fund	Pre-selected	No vote necessary

Your Name: _____

Your Phone or Email Address: _____

We encourage you to place your nomination online at our website <http://bit.ly/share-the-plate> You may also place this form in the box labeled “Share the Plate Nominations” in the foyer.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 30, 2022

Information on Some Possible 501(c)(3) Share the Plate Nominees

Congaree Riverkeeper is affiliated with the [Waterkeeper Alliance](#), a global movement of on-the-water advocates who patrol and protect rivers and coasts all over the world. They work to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda, and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education, and enforcement of environmental laws. [congareriverkeeper.org](#)

Cotton Branch Farm Animal Sanctuary provides a safe haven for abandoned, abused, neglected, and elderly farm animals. While there are many shelters and rescue organizations for animal companions such as cats and dogs, and wildlife, there is a lack of sanctuary for farm animals, which make up 98% of the animals killed in the U.S. each year. [cottonbranch.org](#)

The Family Shelter, now under the umbrella of Homeless No More, is a nonprofit organization that believes family homelessness is entirely solvable. Their continuum of care - from emergency services to transitional and affordable housing - keeps each family together and meets their needs at the right time with the right services. By providing the support to move each family toward a permanent, self-sufficient solution, they can eradicate family homelessness and help parents and their children achieve lasting independence. [homelessnomore.org](#)

The Free Medical Clinic provides quality healthcare, at no cost, to residents of the community who cannot pay for such services and who have no health insurance. This clinic is their only option to have access to health care. The staff and volunteers operate six examination rooms, a pharmacy, a small laboratory, a classroom for patient education and meetings, a waiting room, and offices. Community partnerships are key to the Clinic's success in providing comprehensive medical services and the continuous evolution of their programs. These partnerships also allow them to connect their patients with services currently beyond the Clinic's scope. [freemedclinic.org](#)

Good Samaritan Clinic is a faith-based organization offering free health and dental care primarily to the Hispanic community in four South Carolina locations. With the dedication of volunteer physicians, nurses, interpreters, and administrative assistants, as well as the generous support of our funding partners, the clinic is able to serve our communities in the tradition of the Good Samaritan. [goodsamaritansc.org](#)

Harriet Hancock LGBT Center, located in the heart of Columbia, is the hub of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender activity in the Midlands of South Carolina. Our 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. [lgbtcentersc.org](#)

Harvest Hope Food Bank has a mission to provide for the needs of hungry people by gathering and sharing quality food with dignity, compassion, and education. Harvest Hope has continued to increase the scope of its operations and now provides food, comfort, and hope to hungry individuals and families in the Midlands, Pee Dee, and Greater Greenville regions of South Carolina. [harvesthope.org](#)

Justice 360 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. <https://justice360sc.org>

Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers hot nutritious meals to elderly, frail, and home-bound individuals. Meals are delivered with a smile by a caring volunteer five days a week. Individuals receiving Meals on Wheels are primarily the elderly in our community who cannot maintain an adequate, healthy diet, either because of transportation or financial constraints. South Carolina ranked #8 in the nation for seniors with food insecurity. [mealsonwheelsamerica.org](#)

MIRCI (Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc.) assists individuals with mental illness to recover in the areas of their lives impacted by their illness through housing, behavioral healthcare, and assistance with obtaining and managing their disability income. mirci.org

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is the nation's largest grass roots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. nami.org

Palmetto Association for Children and Families (PAFCAF) 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. pafcaf.org

Palmetto Place Children's Shelter provides a safe and nurturing environment for abused and neglected children and unaccompanied teens, offering them a broad range of services concentrating on personal healing and development. The shelter is open 24 hours each day of the year and provides medical and mental health care, crisis adjustment/transitional counseling, after-school tutoring, and recreational and social activities in addition to food, clothing, and shelter. palmettoplaceshelter.org

Pawmetto Lifeline (formerly Project Pet) was founded in 1999 with the mission of creating a No-Kill community in the Midlands of South Carolina. Too many companion pets were euthanized due to overcrowding and homelessness, and it is their mission to work toward giving these pets a future. They continue to strive toward the goal of a no-kill community and state through adoption, pet retention, rescue partnerships, and medical services. pawmettolifeline

Planned Parenthood has promoted for nearly 100 years a commonsense approach to women's health and well-being, based on respect for each individual's right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning. Contributions to Planned Parenthood Federation of America are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law. plannedparenthood.org

Transitions engages clients with various services and provides them a place to stay as they transition from the streets to permanent housing. They also partner with many community agencies that use their expertise to help clients reach their goals. As a result, clients receive services that enable them to stabilize their lives, increase their income, and secure permanent housing. transitionssc.org

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center fights for low-income South Carolinians to overcome social, economic, and legal injustice. Their goal is to influence policymakers to ensure the law is fair, to educate the public and their advocates about the law, and to assist attorneys in bringing systemic litigation where the law is unfair. www.scjustice.org

SCWREN (Women's Rights Empowerment Network) is a South Carolina-based network whose mission is to build a movement to advance the health, economic well-being, and rights of South Carolina's women, girls, and their families. We advocate, educate, engage community, and build coalitions. WREN strives to create a diverse and inclusive movement that amplifies voices and advances justice for all. scwren.org

SisterCare has a mission to provide services and advocacy for domestic violence survivors and their children, and to promote prevention of domestic violence through community awareness and training. It is the only organization that specifically offers shelter and support services for survivors and their children in Richland, Lexington, Kershaw, Newberry, and Fairfield counties. sistercare.org

Sustainable Midlands' mission is to encourage responsible growth, ensure access to local food, and establish a healthy environment for all Midlands communities. They encourage land use and transportation solutions, reinvest in our neighborhoods, and encourage lifestyle choices that protect our air and water and preserve our farms, forests, and open spaces. sustainablemidlands.org

Grateful Gathering

Gratitude & Resilience



Join us for an experience to learn together, have fun together, work together -- making connections with people and being nurtured by this special place, The Mountain.

Reflection • Community • Workshops • Celebration of Nature • Morning Service

Roots & Wings – What Does The Mountain Mean to You?

UU Eighth Principle – Addressing Racism & Oppression

Indigenous Connections and Understanding

Journaling

Labyrinth Presentation and Walk

Farm Tour – Regenerative Agriculture

Orienteering

Auction

Tour of The Mountain and Facilities Upgrades

Universal Dances of Peace, Gratitude, & Resilience

Sunday Morning Service - Resilience

Concert

Open Mic

.... and more

Youth track: Gratitude, Resilience, & Nature-Based Experiences

Wednesday, Nov 23 - Sunday Nov 27

Thanksgiving Weekend **The Mountain**
Retreat & Learning Center

Register at: TheMountainRLC.org

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>Regina Moody</i>
Caring and Hospitality <i>CaringChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jane Lawther & Cheryl Soehl/ <i>Jean Capalbo</i>
CYRE <i>REChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jonathan White/ <i>Nancie Shillington-Perez</i>
Denominational Connections <i>denomconn@uucolumbia.org</i>	Linda Brennison & Pat Mohr/ <i>Karen Brown</i>
Endowment <i>philip.turner@unt.edu</i>	Joe Long/ <i>TBA</i>
Finance <i>FinanceChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Robin Scherer/ <i>Ginny Verne</i>
Green Sanctuary <i>kdmsooboy@gmail.com</i>	Caroline Eastman/ <i>Caroline Eastman</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>Nancie Shillington-Perez</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/
Technology Services <i>tsc@uucolumbia.org</i>	David Roof/ <i>Caroline Eastman</i>
Worship <i>WorshipChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Richard McLeod/ <i>Marc Drews</i>

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 - UUCU Rehearsal			
Choir – Prism (women)	TBA	6:30 pm	
Choir - Encore (men)	Sunday, October 16	9:30 am	Classroom 9
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, October 23	1:00 pm	Sanctuary & Zoom
Technology Committee	TBA	6:00 pm	
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	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	Tuesdays	10:30 am	Social Hall
Men's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Women's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Men's AA II	Cancelled	5:00 pm	

***Limited Building Access Requested for Weekly Rental** Please refrain from entering the Social Hall, Sanctuary, Foyer and Kitchen to honor the privacy of the Tai Chi classes that will take place every Tuesday morning through January 2023 from 10:20am to 11:40am. Access is available via the coded double doors on the Heyward side. Please contact our Administrator, Andrea, with any questions uucc@uucolumbia.org

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, Robin Scherer, ex officio

UUC Staff

Minister
Music Director
Administrator
Bookkeeper
Sexton

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

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

