



The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

April 13, 2016



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

Sunday Schedule

Forum: 9:30 am in the Library

Worship: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Nursery: Available during service for infants through age 2

April 17, 2016

9:30 am Forum Topic

What is the definition of middle class?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

The Philosopher William James and Pragmatism, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

April 24, 2016

9:30 am Forum Topic

Are politics really changing?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

All Nature Sings (Reflections on Animism), by Rev. Jennie Barrington

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, April 24**, for publication on **Wednesday, April 27**. Items submitted after the deadline will not be published. Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Minister's Meditation

The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister

"The child looked with surprise as the stone rolled down of its own accord, and stared in wonder at the small pyramid of pebbles shaking and leveling themselves. Only then did she become aware she was shaking too, but she was still more confused than apprehensive. She glanced around, trying to understand why her universe had altered in some inexplicable way. The earth was not supposed to move." [from, The Clan of the Cave Bear, by Jean M. Auel]

Dear Members and Friends,

Earth Day is coming right up on April 22nd. For Unitarian Universalists, striving to stay in right-relationship with the earth is an important way that we live out our religious and ethical beliefs and values. And Earth Day has its spiritual aspects, too. There are many possible topics that a UU minister can preach about on the Sunday closest to Earth Day. This year, for April 24th, I've decided to preach about animism. The earliest forms of religions in the world were based on the belief that the natural world is alive with souls or spirits. This way of being religious is called, "animism," whereas religions based on the written text of a sacred book are called, "historical religions." In their book, *Religions of the World*, Lewis M. Hopfe and Mark R. Woodward write:

"The belief that nature is alive with spirits that have feelings and can be communicated with is one of the most common to human religious experience. In many basic religions (also called primal

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religions), people believe that they are not the only spirit—that animals, trees, stones, rivers, mountains, the heavenly bodies, the seas, and the earth itself have *anima* (spirit). . . . The development of technology and the spread of historical religions have not eliminated these beliefs. . . . The list of animistic expressions is almost endless. Modern people place historic stones at the corners of their new buildings; they build expensive, elaborate, useless fireplaces. Christians bring evergreen trees into their homes to celebrate Christmas, even though there is no connection between an evergreen tree and the birth of Jesus; Muslims walk around the sacred black stone and kiss it during their pilgrimage to Mecca; Hindus bathe in the sacred river Ganges^{1/4} Christians and even secular Americans go on pilgrimages to the graves of presidents and rock stars; and on and on. The animistic understanding of life is one of the most pervasive and influential of all of the impulses of mankind—religious and non-religious.” [pp. 21,22]

Recently, I was lent the book, *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, by Jean M. Auel. Back when it was first published, in 1980, its fictional story of the first humans did not interest me (perhaps in part because it seemed that everyone was telling everyone that they just *had* to read it). But as soon as I read the first page this week, I became intrigued, charmed, and moved. I plan to finish reading it in time for it to illuminate my sermon on animism on April 24th. The whole sermon won’t be about the book, of course. And each person will glean something different from Ms. Auel’s saga, depending on their background and interests. But the book has reminded me of the many things we human beings need religion, and religious leaders, for. Life events happen to us all, some of them joyous, such as the birth of a child or a new love; some of them sudden and tragic, such as the loss of property, or a member of one’s family or beloved community. Religious ceremonies and rituals help us find, in those life events we cannot just brush aside, some measure of meaning, comfort, hope, and even beauty.

If, unlike me, you did read *The Clan of the Cave Bear* already, please let me know. (Email me at interim@uucolumbia.org or call the church office at 803-799-0845.) I would love to hear your thoughts about the religious and spiritual aspects of the book, or on animism in general. With your permission, I might include your thoughts in my sermon, without anyone’s name attached.

In the meantime, I hope you are appreciating this exceptionally beautiful spring in Columbia! As Stephen C. Jett wrote:

“The thoughts of the earth are our thoughts.
The voice of the earth is our voice.
The bodily strength of the earth is our bodily strength.
We are the sacred words of the earth.
It is lovely indeed.”

Rev. Jennie

Stewardship Statement

Tiffany Rushton

Good morning. I want to thank Joe Long for inviting me to speak today about why I am a Unitarian Universalist and why I believe in supporting this congregation.

I've titled this pulpit editorial: "The Accidental UU."

I believe I was raised as a UU, even if I didn't know it at the time. At the age of seven – two years after my biological parents divorced – my mother – who had been raised a Catholic – married a man who had been raised an Orthodox Jew. Over time, my mother migrated to the Episcopal church, and my two siblings and I attended with her. My stepfather's two children attended the local synagogue with him. Since neither my mother nor stepfather converted to the other's religion, we grew up celebrating Easter and Passover, Christmas and Hanukkah, and appreciating the similarities and differences of both faiths. This respect for the two religions practiced in my home is one of the reasons I believe that Unitarian Universalism became my faith of choice as an adult.

I don't recall knowing any UUs growing up, and it wasn't until the 1990s – when I was a student in college – that I became aware of the denomination. At that time, I was attending the American University in Washington, D.C., and was an intern at the Whitman-Walker Clinic, which provided health care services to the gay and lesbian community. One of my jobs was to help organize a memorial service for those who had died from HIV & AIDS. Many churches and community centers refused to host us because of the perceived stigma around the disease. It probably won't surprise anyone here that it was the **All Souls Unitarian Church** that embraced the cause and it was there that we hosted the event. During the service, people told heartbreaking stories of being turned away by their friends, family, and faith because they were gay or infected with HIV. They felt they were all alone. Sitting there that day, in a church that openly accepted the LGBT community, I felt as if I had finally found my spiritual home.

I have been attending UU services for more than 25 years. I've been a member wherever I've lived: California; Washington, D.C.; Michigan; Virginia; and now South Carolina. My husband and I were married in a UU church in Richmond, and have chosen to raise our two children – Emerson and Danielle – as members of this congregational family.

My reasons for being a UU have changed over time as both my lifestyle – from a college student to a working professional to a parent – and my beliefs have evolved. However, at every phase of my life, I have found the space and the freedom to explore and discuss and debate my beliefs within the diverse Unitarian Universalist community. This is why I no longer consider myself an "Accidental UU." Instead, I consider myself an "Intentional UU."

Like many of you, there are many competing demands for my time and there never seems to be enough time to do all the things I feel called to do. As a result, – what – and how – I give ebbs and flows. However, my commitment to stewardship – and sharing the Time, Talent, and Treasures I *do* have – never wanes. I urge each of you to find a problem or cause that inspires you and give in the best way you can.

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At different points in my life, I have been able to give more generously in one way or another. Right now, I serve on the board of directors for Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services because its mission is an extension of a cause I have supported for over 25 years. I am the chair for the Leadership Development Committee at this church because I believe in its charter and in developing the future leaders of this congregation. I also work full time outside the home for a software company, and founded its inaugural corporate philanthropy program, over which I now preside. I am a caregiver for our two young children, and volunteer at both of their schools. I also do my best to care for my stepmother, who moved in with us in June of last year. I am married to Tim VanDenBerg, who is a member of the board of trustees here, and I strive to support his efforts to make our world, our community and this congregation – a better place for everyone.

I also support church-sponsored events as often as my work, travel schedule, and other commitments permit – and I enjoy them all: from attending the writing club with my son, to marching in the annual Pride Parade, to supporting the animal ministry's Bark to the Park event, to the wonderful Cabaret fundraiser for our partner church, to last week's panel discussion on race relations.

Where else can all of my passions, my personal beliefs, and the people who help me discover my best self – converge? For me, that's an easy question to answer: Right here at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia.

So, as I wrap up my story, let me finish by telling you why I am a member *here* and why I believe it's a community worth supporting. Being a UU can be a lifelong commitment if you want it to be. And I want it to be. I want this congregation to grow and flourish and evolve and change. I want it to be here for me, for my family, for my children, and for my children's children.

As we head into the pledge season, I encourage you to find a committee or cause that you're passionate about –and give in the way that's right for you – whether it's your time, your talent, or your treasure – or a combination of all three.

If this is your first time with us – I hope you will consider coming back and visiting us again. If you've been coming for awhile, and have not yet become a member, I hope you'll consider becoming part of this very welcoming congregation – we would love to have you! And if you are already a member, I hope you will consider giving even more generously this year because the needs of this congregation – and the community we serve – are so very great.

Our family – including our two children who are 7 and 11 – submitted our pledge cards and have increased our financial commitment this year – not because it's easy – but because this is a community we believe in and we want to support it at a level that's consistent with our beliefs. I hope you feel the same way, and will give *intentionally* in whatever way you can.

Thank you for your time.



Candles of Community

We express our support and concern for ...

Jerry Cover, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery at Palmetto Baptist, Room 601. Please send good thoughts and wishes for a speedy recovery. He has no family here, just friends.

The Flood and a Blessing

by Chuck Hassel

It has been six months since my life was forever changed on October 4th of last year. A record rainfall caused 2 dams to fail and their water to surge into Lake Katherine a block from my home. I awoke to find my home in the middle of a fast flowing river. My 2 cats and I were evacuated by boat when the river was chest high inside the house. The water was gone the next day leaving my home, and most everything inside, destroyed. An army of volunteers came to my rescue. People I did not know from the Seacoast Church in Irmo showed up to carry out all the “debris.” They tore out the interior walls and flooring to prevent mold damage.

Also my wonderful friends from our UU Congregation were there to help. **Marilyn Miss** provided a place for me and my cats. **Joan Watterson, Regina Moody, Jim DuPlessis, Jeff Kruse, Patrick Saucier** and **Cecil Myers** helped to salvage many of my personal treasures. I don't think I could have made it without their love and support. I have been truly blessed.

Last week I moved into my replacement home to start a new phase of my life.

Thank You

The Animal Ministry would like to express its appreciation to **Linda McLeod** for her spirit of understanding and cooperativeness regarding the starting time of her Social Action meeting on April 3. Her flexibility allowed the Social Action committee members time to sample food in Vegan Cook Off, vote, and to still able to fully participate at the Social Action meeting. *Thanks, Linda!*

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Candles of Community, continued

Dear Lee and Julian,

I had no internet connection due to a school project I was leading in Budapest, to let you know that Juci neni passed away in peace, surrounded by all her family. I did the funeral service on Friday March 18, and I mentioned you and the entire Columbia church that she was in your hearts all this time. She had a great life, and a very good family. I attach you a picture I preached about.

With much love,

Zsolt

Yutsi neni was the oldest and much loved "mother" of the Beszterce Partner Church. Yutsii passed away in peace, surrounded by all her family. She is remembered as a pillar of the church, lugging firewood up the steep stairs in earlier years and arriving an hour early to light the stove. She hosted the 1990 visit of the Minghis in her home and her beatific picture from their 2014 visit is on the poster in the social hall. Our community covers many miles.



News and Notes

April 17: “The Philosopher William James and Pragmatism” [Rev. Jennie preaching]

April 24: “All Nature Sings” (Reflections on Animism) (Rev. Jennie preaching)

May 1: Beltane Service (The Senior and Junior Youth Groups, and Rev. Jennie)

Pledge Drive Update

We have received over \$176,000 in pledges. Thank you for your support of the funding goals for our budget. There are many pledge cards that have not yet been returned. Please get those cards in as soon as possible so we can finalize our budget. It is important that we know what funds will be available for our entire congregation, programs, and operating expenses.

You can email your pledge amount to uucc@uucolumbia.org. Pledge cards and envelopes are also available in the foyer and may be returned there, put in the collection plate, or mailed back. Thank you, Joe Long, Finance Chair

Thank You Volunteers!

It's Volunteer Appreciation Month! Please know that our great work is due to the many volunteers in our congregation. You know who you are and know that each of you is tremendously appreciated.

Harvest Hope Food Donations

The UUC Harvest Hope food basket is delivered each Monday to Harvest Hope where it is used in the distribution of groceries to the many hungry people who come to the food bank for help. The food basket can never get too full so please don't forget to bring your donations each week. They need items such as canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, rice, cake mixes, and other non-perishable foods (no glass please).

Meals on Wheels for Pets

Meals on Wheels has been delivering essential food to homebound seniors on fixed incomes for many years. But not everybody eats their meals. Many are giving up their meal for their pets. A beloved pet can be the only companion for many homebound seniors. The animal mission of our congregation asks you to give a thought to these animal companions and help to keep both well-nourished. Donate any unopened pet food or supplies in the Social Hall by the front doors.



Book/Media Sales Collection and Beltane Crafter's Faire



Check out the collection of books, video, and vinyl. That's right! Vinyl! Inviting all vinyl collectors to our sale! If you love the groove, you will want to check out what is available at our

Book and Media Sale. On Sunday, May 1st we will be an indoor/outdoor shoppers' paradise. The **Beltane Crafter's Fair** will be held outside while our annual **Book and Media sale** will be going on inside the social hall. Make sure your neighbors and relatives put this date on their calendars.



Beltane Crafter's Faire

Calling all crafters: Those looking to BUY, those looking to SELL, come to the UUC's annual Crafters Faire! This event will be held just after service on May 1st (during our Beltane Festival & book sale). Tables will be provided. Drinks and food will be for sale. All are welcome so help us spread the word. Contact Stephanie at dre@uucolumbia.org to secure a table.

UUCC Art Exhibit Runs Through May 1

Seasons of Nature; From Everglades Winter to Appalachian Spring, photography by Joe Long.

For decades, longtime UUCC member Joe Long has been a serious photographer of nature. With his precise scientific mind and customary hu-



tility, Joe writes “though some people seem to take it up [photography] and instantly become wonderful, I’ve had to work at it. I do think I’m getting better.”

UUCC Young Adult Group

Are you between the ages of 18 - 24? Would you like to be a part of a group of people your age whose minds are as open as yours and who are committed to social action? Then email Stephanie Palmer-Smith, our DRE at dre@uucolumbia.org. She will pass on your contact information to a Young Adult leader.

Recruiting Social Action Mentors

CYRE students are interested in direct social action. Do you have a passion for direct social action? If so, would you like to share that passion with our youth? Children who want to serve need adult mentors. Please see Stephanie or contact her via email at dre@uucolumbia.org.

Adult Choir Practices & Sings Sunday

The Adult Choir will practice at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 17 in the Sanctuary and sing during the service.

Amazon Smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0509045> and support UUCC every time you shop.

Gardening Group

Do you like getting your hands dirty and playing in the dirt? If yes, then our CYRE team needs your help with our garden! Let’s work together to work the soils that will help us grow a productive garden that could: provide food for people that are homeless, or a few vegetarian potlucks for the congregation, or...? The possibilities are endless!

Calling Artists for New Art Group



If you are interested in working on your art with others for support, encouragement and feedback, the Art Group is for you. We meet weekly on an ongoing basis

on **Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - noon** in the UUCC Social Hall. Bring your own supplies and prepare to enjoy the company of other artists at no cost. No instruction provided. Please contact Ruthie Saunders at rsaunders@sc.edu if you would like to participate or if you have questions.

Transitions Volunteers Needed Second Saturday of Each Month

UUCC has a recurring obligation to help serve the evening meal at Transitions Homeless Recovery Center, 2025 Main Street in Columbia, on the second Saturday of every month. Contact Bob at bobwhit46@gmail.com.

September Set, Friday, April 29

Our monthly September Set for our UUCC Seniors will be held Friday, April 29. (Yes, this month it is on the 5th Sunday). We will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall with conversation and getting to know each other better. Bring a dish to share and join in the fun. Long time and new members and friends are welcome. We hope to see you there. Contact Jean Capalbo at jacapalbo@gmail.com or Pat Mohr at patmohr@mindspring.com with any comments or questions.

Chair Yoga



Chair yoga entails about 45 minutes of real yoga but it takes place mostly seated. It is ideal for people who want to improve flexibility but who do not like (or, for physical reasons, cannot do) the typical yoga class.

Chair Yoga meets in the UUCC Social Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. **If you are new to the group** and have questions or would like to participate, please contact Ruthie Saunders rsaunders@sc.edu.

Birthday Sunday, April 17!

It's the day to sing Happy Birthday to our April born members. If you have an April birthday and would like your name on the banner send Stephanie (dre@uucolumbia.org) a quick note. And happy birthday to you!

April 17 Class on End-of-Life Choices

Please join us after the service on Sunday, April 17 for a short class (about 30 minutes) about how our own lives and those of loved ones might end. Doug Rice, from Compassion and Choices, the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit organization committed to improving care and expanding choice at the end of life, will lead the discussion and answer your questions. For more information, please contact Pat Mohr at patmohr@mindspring.com

UUCC Book Club, Sunday, April 17



The next UUCC Book Club meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 17.

Peck Drennan will facilitate a discussion on *A Short History of Myth* by Karen Armstrong. We will meet at a member's home. The UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: rsaunders@sc.edu

Upcoming Coffeehouse: Tish Hinojosa Saturday, April 30

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m. Please make reservations at 200-2824 or www.uucoffeehouse.org.



Every journey begins with that first step!

NAMIWalks supports the mission-driven work of our NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) organizations, which host education programs, facilitate support groups, provide mental health trainings, advocate for access to services, and offer a compassionate place to turn for the millions of Americans living with mental illness. With help from participants like you, so far this season across the United States NAMI has raised \$1,951,978.60. Join with others from our Columbia community to support NAMI on Saturday, May 7. Prep for the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. at Hope Plaza and the march begins at 10:00 a.m. Sign up at <https://www.crowdrise.com/unitarian-universalist-support-for-nami> or see Jeanette Walton or Cheryl Soehl for more information.

Second Annual Night at the Theatre, Saturday, May 7, Four Seats Left!

Front row seats, along with some in row two, to Town Theatre's production of *The Addams Family* are being made available as part of our 2016 Spring Fling. Tickets to the Saturday, May 7 performance (curtain at 8:00) may be obtained by sharing a \$40 donation per ticket.

This is a fundraising opportunity and 4 tickets remain. To reserve your seats please write a check payable to UUCC with the words "Fundraiser 5/7" in the memo line. Place in the Administrator's mailbox, mail it, or place in the collection plate.

The Addams Family is an entertaining and macabre musical comedy that features an original story and is every father's nightmare. Gomez and Morticia's daughter, Wednesday, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable "normal" family.

Women's Book Group, Tuesday, May 10



The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *Being Mortal* by Atul

Gawande. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, 776-0784. sjchubon@sc.rr.com.

Writing Group, Tuesday, May 10

Please join us for the UUCC Writing Group on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30–7:30 pm in Room 5.

Feel free to bring something that you have written and would like to share with the group. Each month we will discuss different writing styles, topics for writing, and share our stories, biographies, poems, songs and anything else we can imagine. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Seel at 803-776-7138 or chseel@bellsouth.net

UUCC Visitor Orientation, Sunday, May 15

Our next Visitor Orientation class will be held on Sunday, May 15 in the UUCC Library. We will begin about 15 minutes after service and usually end in about 45 minutes.

Light refreshments are served. If you are new to the UUCC, or have come for a while and have questions, then this session is for you. This class is designed to help familiarize you with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and answer any questions you might have. For more information contact Patty Drews at membership@uucolumbia.org or 803-931-6799.

Hogwarts Camp, June 27-July 1

To all Parents of Children ages 5 - 15, we are pleased to announce we are now enrolling students in our Hogwarts day camp which will be held the week of June 27th - July 1st, 9:00 a.m. though 3:00 p.m.

Registration is open on a first come first serve basis and will be limited. Register early! Contact Stephanie at dre@uucolumbia.org or 207-400-9428 for more information on registering. Let the magic begin!

Are You Longing for S'Mores Around the Campfire?

We will have them...and lots of other wonderful things. Join us for the annual UUCC retreat at The Mountain. **September 16-18.** You will be part of a weekend you may never forget. Mark your calendar now. More details coming very soon.

UU Animal Ministry

ANIMAL MINISTRY VEGAN COOK OFF

On Sunday, April 3, following services, the congregation was invited to partake in the Animal Ministry's Vegan Cook-Off that was held in conjunction with *Columbia Veg*, which is the local vegan-vegetarian group in Columbia. It would be difficult to estimate the total number attending, but the social hall was full and all the seats at the tables were taken.

We had a total of 12 vegan entries which, judging by the amount of the leftovers (none!), were delicious! Congregants were extremely cordial and happy to participate in the voting process that took place after everyone and sampled each dish.

The winners and their prizes were: First Place went to a member of Columbia Veg. He selected a vegan cookbook on "The China Study." **Patty Drews** came in Second Place with her delicious mushrooms and picked out a vegan apron. Third Place went to **Marilyn Miss** for her fruit salad. Marilyn received a kitchen tool that "spirals" vegetables for decorative cooking. And finally, our newest member, **Sarah Wax**, received a "Vegan Cupcake Cookbook" (yes, there *really is* such a thing). She made a yummy Mexican dish.

BARK TO THE PARK

On April 9, one of the most beautiful days on record, the UUCC Animal Ministry - Team Bruno (and friends) enthusiastically gathered for what has become an annual event to support Pawmetto Lifeline's **Bark to the Park**. On behalf of both Palmetto Lifeline and the Animal Ministry we want to tell all of you who supported this event, by donations and/or walking, how we appreciated your active involvement. So much so that I am proud to announce your efforts raised **\$1,435.00!!**

This money will support the Pawmetto Lifeline workers who go into shelters that still "euthanize" thousands of animals each year. They select a few fortunate cats and dogs, bring them to their facility, and then foster them in a home for two weeks. If ready, they begin to look for forever homes! You who have donated can pat yourselves on the back - this is an expensive program; you have done a very good thing!

We had approximately 20 donors/walkers to show up to walk. What was nice to see is that there were several "subgroups" that walked as families.

For fear of excluding anyone (and I DO mean FEAR, the kind that keeps you awake nights!) I am almost hesitant to list names of contributors, lest I leave someone out, but here goes:

THE "TEAM" (WALKERS) (In no particular order)

Linda Brennon, The Culler Family (Laura, Susan and Richard), Patty Drews, Anita Grossman, Sara and Monique Jackson, George Johnson, Patricia Mohr (with son and granddaughter), Mercedes Perez Shillington, Elizabeth and Kim Winslow, Ava and Grant Jackson, Tiffany Rushton, Tim, Danielle and Emerson VanDenBerg

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Susan Siegel (UUCC Animal Ministry), Carita Barr, Steve Burlison, The Dudick Family, Caroline Eastman, Debra Holder and The O'Bradovich Family



Religious Education

Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse

Training, May 3

Join our Director of Religious Education in attending a Mandated Reporting training being offered by the Children's Law Center of USC. The training is on Tuesday, May 3 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Kathwood Baptist Church at 4900 Trenholm Road. Please email Stephanie (dre@uucolumbia.org) if you would like to join her for this training.



Youth Group To See *Seussical*, Saturday, May 7

High School youth are invited to watch our very own Maggie O'Toole perform in *Seussical* at Harbison Theater (at Midlands Tech) on Saturday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m. The show is a mashup of Dr. Seuss's most famous books. If your youth can attend please e-mail Morgan Hanes at re-assist@uucolumbia.org so that tickets can be purchased in advance. We are not charging for the show. Those families coming from the Columbia area can meet at the church at 1:15 p.m., otherwise we'll meet out front of the Harbison Theater at 7300 College Street, Irmo, SC 29063, at 1:40 p.m.

Children's Choir

Did you hear? Maggie O'Toole and Nohl Johnson have stepped up to assist with the Children's Choir. In addition to adding their gifted voices to the choir, they are now assisting with selecting music and other important choir tasks. We all appreciate your efforts, Maggie and Nohl!

April 17 Rehearsal at 10:20

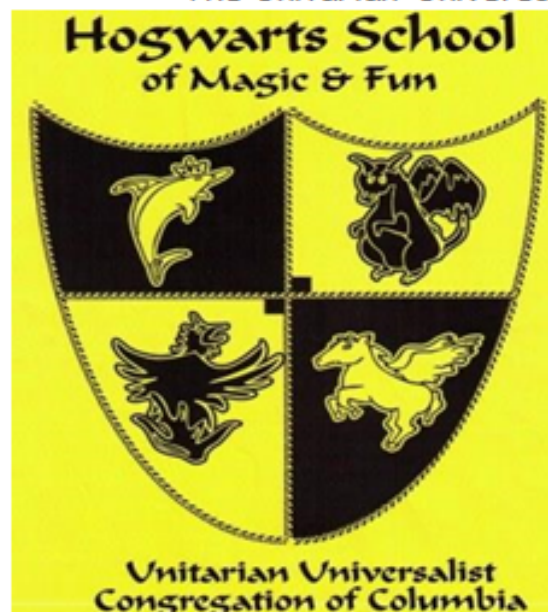
May 1 Rehearsal at 10:20 - singing during the service

May 15 Rehearsal at 10:20

May 22 Rehearsal at 10:20- singing during the service

Looking for some magic this summer?

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia *presents*



*Hogwarts
School
of
Magic and Fun*

June 27 - July 1, 2016

9 a.m.-3 p.m. ~ for children and youth ages 5-15

This camp offers a three-dimensional theatrical environment, giving kids (and adults!) an opportunity to live the fantasy. This magical week includes:

- 🌟 The return of Headmistress, Gail Dawson!
- 🌟 Team building through House projects and more.
- 🌟 Daily Quidditch matches
- 🌟 Crafting Magic
- 🌟 Wizard's Chess and House Songs
- 🌟 Exciting Wizard training in: Transfiguration, Herbology, Potions and MORE!

Registration is now open. Please email dre@uucolumbia.org for registration forms.

Are you interested in serving as an adult volunteer (hours flexible), or as a Head Student (ages 16-18). Contact Gail Dawson: gailzebub@msn.com

UUC Board of Trustees
UUC Board of Trustees
Summary of February 17, 2016 Meeting

The Board of Trustees met February 17 from 6:30 PM to 9:57 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Brennison reported that our revenue shortfall increased this month from \$5,505.31 to \$8,854.23. Revenues are under budget by 4.8%. Building rentals are over budget. No fund raisers to benefit the general budget have been held this fiscal year.

Ministerial Settlement Weekend is scheduled for March 5 & 6 with Rev. Ann Marie Alderman as the consultant/facilitator. She will meet with the Board on March 5 and she will explain the search process to all members of the congregation on March 6.

A question was raised about the role of the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) in the selection of a search committee for a settled minister. Our bylaws state that (1) we will use one of the search and candidating procedures recognized by the UUA and (2) that members of the ministerial search committee will be nominated by the LDC and elected by the congregation. Major questions remain about how/where the LDC's nominating function fits into the UUA process. Rev. Jennie agreed to inform Rev. Alderman about this dilemma before she makes her consultant visit in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee The Annual Canvass will begin with a celebration on Sunday morning, February 28. The solicitation of pledges and collection of signed pledge cards will take place in cottage meetings held in members' homes. Sixteen families have agreed to host cottage meetings; a member of the Finance Committee and a Board Member will attend each cottage meeting; Rev. Jennie will attend about half of them.

UUCWebsite Ad Hoc Committee Members of this group are Regina Moody, Donald Griggs, Caroline Eastman, Marc Drews, Andrea Dudick, and Brian Dudick. They have made progress this month and plan to launch the new website March 4, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Endowment Committee Member The Bylaws indicate there should only be one board member serving on the Endowment Committee; currently we have three. The Board voted to have Bob Whitaker replace Linda Brennison on the Endowment Committee. Another board member will rotate off the committee June 30.

Air Quality in RE Wing Board members agreed that we do not need to wait for a capital fund drive before we address the air quality issues in the RE wing. Peck estimated diagnostic tests costing \$1500 and air duct cleaning costing \$3425. Linda reported that we have a savings account set aside for "rainy day" problems. The Board voted to proceed with air testing and duct cleaning to be paid for by the UUC savings account, the total cost not to exceed \$5,000.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

Meetings & Rentals

Board of Trustees Meeting	Wednesday, April 20	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Bon Voyage	Every Wednesday	7:00 pm	Member's Home
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Choir	Sunday, April 17	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night (starts with dinner)	Wednesday, May 4	6:00 pm	Dinner in the Social Hall
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Every Thursday	7:30 pm	Library
Forum	Every Sunday	9:30 am	Library
Green Committee	TBA	6:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Knit or Not	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Membership Committee	Sunday, May 8	12:15 pm	Classroom #8
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, May 15	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, April 29	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Wednesday, May 4	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Technology Committee	Wednesday, May 4	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, TBA	6:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, April 17	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 th Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	Contact: Lee Minghi, 798-0904; Carita Barr, 782-0053; or Susan Robinson, 446-0675	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Women's Book Club	2 nd Tuesday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Tuesday, April 12	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Rentals			
Sitting with Sadness	Every Monday	7-8:15 pm	Social Hall
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Every Thursday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Meditation	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Library
Men's AA	Every Tuesday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Agnostic AA	Every Sunday	5:00 pm	Library
Women's AA	Every Wednesday	6:30 pm	Library

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

Co-Presidents, Marc & Patty Drews	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Phil Turner	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
Treasurer, Linda Brennison	<i>treasurer@uucolumbia.org</i>
Secretary, Sandy Chubon	<i>secretary@uucolumbia.org</i>
Members at Large, Donald Griggs, Janet Swigler, Richard Culler, Tim VanDenBerg, Patrick Saucier	
Past President, Regina Moody, ex officio	<i>pastpresident@uucolumbia.org</i>
Finance Chair, Joe Long, ex officio	<i>financechair@uucolumbia.org</i>

UUC Staff

Interim Minister	Rev. Jennie Barrington, <i>interim@uucolumbia.org</i>
Administrator	Andrea Dudick, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Director Religious Education	Stephanie Palmer-Smith, <i>dre@uucolumbia.org</i>
Bookkeeper	Ginny Verne, <i>bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org</i>
Custodian	Jeff Kruse, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Religious Education Assistant	Morgan Hanes, <i>reassist@uucolumbia.org</i>

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Special Events Line — (803) 200-2824

Office Hours — Mon.– Fri. 9:15 am – 1:45 pm

UUC Forum: <http://uufc.19.forumer.com>

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