



The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

September 14, 2016



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

Minister's Meditation

The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister

""To truly cherish the things that are important to you, you must first discard those that have outlived their purpose. And if you no longer need them, then that is neither wasteful nor shameful. Can you truthfully say that you treasure something buried so deeply in a cupboard or drawer that you have forgotten its existence?" [Marie Kondo]

Sunday Schedule

Forum: 9:30 am in Classroom 8

Worship: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Nursery: Available during service for infants through age 2

September 18, 2016

9:30 am Forum Topic

U.S. Civil War: Avoidable?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

Being Civil in an Uncivil Culture, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

September 25, 2016

9:30 am Forum Topic

Is Rational Always Good?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

Laboring for Change, by David Matos

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, September 25**, for publication on **Wednesday, September 28**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Dear Members and Friends,

Our yard sale last week was wonderfully successful and enjoyable! The list of generous, hardworking people who made it so successful and enjoyable is very long! (Please read that list, in this issue of the Unigram, and give those people a big thank you!) At the top of that list is Jean Capalbo, whose sweet and calm demeanor pervaded our Social Hall for the many days of in-take, organizing, pricing, and moving around all of the yard sale's "treasures lost and found." My favorite thing about our yard sale was that I was able to talk with so many of UUCC's members and friends, when none of us were rushed, nor even surrounded by the busyness of Hospitality Hour. You are all always welcome to make an appointment to talk with me. I am generally at the church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. But even though those conversations I had last week were unscheduled, they were still important. Our yard sale gave me many opportunities to check in with our members and friends, and also simply say, "thank you," "your contributions to UUCC are really appreciated," and "we treasure you." The yard sale also raised over \$2,400! And some specialty items will be listed on e-bay, which will bring in even more additional funds. I am so pleased and proud of all of our recent fundraisers, and of everyone whose hard work and creativity has made them such a positive start to our church year.

Continued on Page 2

My other favorite thing about our yard sale is that I found a lost treasure, which recalled, for me, some delightful memories from my childhood. Did you see the stacks of old National Geographics? Well, when I was a little girl, my parents had National Geographics in a bookcase in our home. I had a favorite one that had a multi-page spread about cats, with charming stories, and photographs, both black-and-white, and in full color. I loved that issue of National Geographic! I knew exactly where it was in the bookcase. And I frequently took it down to see the cats and their charming relationships with the people in their lives. There were New York City policemen rescuing a cat from the top of a pole with a long pipe. There was a Japanese cat wearing its own custom-made kimono. There were cats being fed at the ancient ruins in Rome. There were photos of cats in motion. And color photographs of long-haired gray cats with amber eyes, and Siamese cats with blue eyes. The magazines in our Social Hall led me to Google, where I typed in, "National Geographic article about cats with photographs." Google then showed me that such a spread was in the issue from November of 1938. That issue was in our Social Hall! I bought it for three dollars. It is a treasure I had lost and forgotten. Because of our congregation, I found it, and now hold it dear.

Last night I called my mother to ask her about the National Geographics that were in our home way back then. She said, yes, she did remember that I had loved the issue with the cats. That issue I had loved was not the one from 1938. The publishers must have reprinted the spread in the 1960s. I asked my mother where our collection of National Geographics came from. She said that they were given to us by our neighbor, Margaret Somers. Margaret Somers was a Christian Science Practitioner and, as a women minister, she was my original inspiration to become a minister, myself. Margaret loved cats, and treated our family's cats with affection and respect, always calling them by name. My conversation with my mother, which began with a question about a magazine, led us to catching up about each other, and the family, friends, and neighbors in both our lives.

Gatherings in our congregation can inspire us to connect more deeply with UUCC's members and friends. And they can also prompt us to reach out and connect with loved-ones outside our church walls. Is there someone who you are feeling owes you a phone call or email? Reach out and connect with them. And if you don't connect with them right away, try again, and again. Conversations which, at first glance, seem incidental, can reaffirm who we are and what we are here on earth to do.

With thanks and care,

Rev. Jennie ("It's a privilege to be here.")

President's Column

In the July 27th Unigram, I pointed out that the UUCC would, in the near future, be making a choice between two “forks in the road”. One choice involves hunkering down and hoping for better days ahead. The other choice involved bold action with attendant risk of failure, but less risk in the long run, than inaction.

Well, it appears that the UUCC has made the choice and it is for bold actions and these actions will require congregational-wide involvement. Probably the most important of these is calling a settled minister. We are following the Unitarian Universalist Association process for ministers and congregations and I urge you to take the time to understand this process. Good information on the process can be found at uucolumbia.org under News/Ministerial Search. The Search Committee is working very hard and will continue to publish information on the status of the search.

Most importantly, they will be seeking input from all of the congregation to guide them. We all live very busy lives and the tendency in a process like this is to say, “Show me the candidates and I’ll let you know which ones I like and don’t like.” Please be aware that we will be presented at the end of the process with *only one candidate* on whom to vote, so it is imperative that each of us provides the search committee with our thoughts on what attributes we would like to see in our next minister.

One tool for providing this input is a focus group. The next two focus groups will be held on Wednesday, September 14 and Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. at UUCC. If you have not attended a focus group session, please plan on attending and actively participating in this session. NOTE: If you are unable to attend a session, please make sure that you complete the survey.

As we head down this exciting and challenging path, the participation of all will be important. The degree to which this congregation participates has always impressed me but I was never quite sure of what percentage of the membership are actively involved. The data are not quite all in, but over 63% of the membership are actively involved in committee, program group, or leadership activities. We are indeed the UUCC!

Life takes its color and quality not from the days, but from the dawns. Ralph Waldo Emerson
Unitarian Minister

Phil Turner

Directions Reflections Explorations

To see things in the seed, that is genius. Lao Tzu

It is a goal of this congregation to increase the number of children and youth exposed to our beloved UU principles simply because we believe the world would be a better place. And we have started off this CYRE year with the hope that we can sow the seeds we are entrusted with in the richness of our UU principles in as many ways as possible. We have on board many returning and talented teachers. Among those are: Erin Lowry, Andrea Dudick, Beck Sullivan, Jonathan White, Jim DuPlessis, Gail Dawson, Terrence Sullivan, Brandi Mimbs, Bethany Storlazzi-Johnson, Morgan G. Hanes, and Cale Ureda. We depend on these seasoned teachers to demonstrate best practices and to pass on the ease and grace that they impart with their lessons. And we welcome aboard some dedicated new teachers: Martha Weeks, Bauer Western, Justin Young, and Cindy Blackman. They all bring a depth of interesting experiences and will be great additions to the enhancement of our children and youth's understanding and practice of these valued principles. We look forward to the challenges of growing and maintaining the children and youth we are trusted to serve. We look forward to seeing what genius is within each and every seed and will do our best to bring forth the genius within. As there is no better gift to give our world than the gift of enlightened and serving beings, we go about the process of nurturing the genius of our seeds with loving intention. We appreciate your support of our work and welcome you to be a part of it.

Namaste, my friends!
Stephanie Palmer-Smith



Candles of Community

We express our support and concern for...

Janet Swigler, whose mother, Louise, died August 4 at the age of 95. She will be remembered as one who loved traveling the world as the wife of an Air Force fighter pilot, was dedicated to her family and community, and lived everyday by her Christian beliefs.

Thank You

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Thank you for your recent generous donation of \$847.88. We are so grateful for your support and we want you to know what a difference it makes to low-income people across the state! Thanks you so much for all you do to make our community a better place for all. Susan Berkowitz, Director

Baton Rouge Flood Relief

Thank you to everyone for the generosity shown by our members and friends for the \$1,040 donated to the flood victims of Baton Rouge, LA. This donation was gifted through the UU church in Baton Rouge. We thank all of you for your gifts and your caring thoughts during their most difficult time.

Seeds of Hope

All the totals have been added up from Seeds of Hope and we broke a record in sales of over \$1,500 for Farmer Louis Reid. A very big thanks to all of you who sat in the hot sun and worked our Fresh Market, selling produce for Mr. Reid as well as meeting friends and neighbors from our community. Thanks to **Bauer Western** for his organization of this effort.

Pride Parade

A very big thanks to **Jeanette Walton** and **Grant Seuser** for co-chairing the Pride Parade this year. They did a great job at coming up with new ideas for our beautiful float. The support of the Social Action Committee helped to make this a fun and exciting day. We weren't about to let a little hurricane scare us away. Thanks to everyone who donated candy, walked with us, carried banners, and rode on the float. You all made for a perfect day.

UUC Yard Sale

The UUC Yard Sale on Saturday, September 10, was a huge success thanks to the contributions and efforts of so many UUC members. The sale raised over \$2,500 for the church operating budget. Many of you donated and/ or bought items, but particular thanks go to all those people who put in time during the week organizing and pricing and then showing up in force on the day of the sale to sell, help customers, and clean up. Notably these were: **Carita Barr, Linda Brennon, Ann Cargill, Craig Chattin, Carol Dodson, Patty Drews, Andrea Dudick, Jim Duplessis, Sej Harmon, Chuck Hassell, Amy Jones, Mary and Morgan MacLachlan, Chris Maw, Regina Moody, Marilyn Miss, Julian and Lee Minghi, Pat Mohr, Stephanie Palmer-Smith, Susan Robinson, Patrick Saucier, Ruthie Saunders, Linda Saxon, Cheryl Soehl, Rennie Stahl, John Starino, Janet Swigler, Phil and Liz Turner, Jim Verne, Joan Watterson and Adam Zirklebach.** If I did not mention anyone who helped, please let me know, because it could not have been done without all of you! On behalf of the UUC, Thank You! Jean Capalbo

Share the Plate Nomination Form for 2017

Members and Friends age 18 and older are invited to nominate organizations to be our 2017 Share the Plate recipients. The UUCC donates half of our cash collections each month to an outside charity or social justice organization chosen by our members. Thanks to our congregation's generosity, we have donated over \$50,000 in Share the Plate contributions to community charities over the past five years. Voting will take place in November to choose the recipients from among the top two nominees in each category.

Categories: There are 10 categories of recipients, each of which will be selected for one month in 2017. Members and Friends can nominate organizations in one or more categories, provided it is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization. To confirm its status, check the organization's website to verify it is a 501(c)(3).

Category	Nominated Organizations	Website or Contact Person
Animal shelters/Animal services		
Children's services		
Food banks/Food support		
Environmental issues		
Health issues		
Homeless shelters		
International aid		
Legal aid		
LGBT issues		
Women's issues		
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Pre-selected	No vote necessary
UU Service Committee (human rights programs)	Pre-selected	No vote necessary

Your Name: _____ Your Phone or Email: _____

Email this information to socialaction@uucolumbia.org or place it in the box labeled "Share the Plate Nominations" in the UUCC foyer. Additional nomination forms may be downloaded at [www.uucolumbia.org/SocialAction/Share the Plate](http://www.uucolumbia.org/SocialAction/Share%20the%20Plate).

NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 2, 2016.

Share the Plate Past Nominees

The following is a list of finalists from last year's Share the Plate. These are to assist you in making choices for 2017. You are still free to choose any other non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that you may want. This is simply a list of organizations and their categories that have been considered in the past. You will notice too that they already have website information so it will not be necessary to look them up. Please feel free to continue to offer any other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that you want to include in the Share the Plate nominations. If you have any questions about this process there will be a table set up in the Social Hall with Share the Plate committee members ready to help you. Nomination forms are available on the table in the foyer and will also be at the Q/A table in the Social Hall. This is a very important opportunity for all members and friends to participate in. Remember that you must be 18 or over and you must include your name on the nomination form for it to be considered. **Let your choice be known. Who do you want to be a recipient for Share the Plate for 2017?**

SHARE THE PLATE NOMINEE FINALISTS FROM 2016

ACLU- aclusouthcarolina.org (Legal Aid)
Columbia Family Shelter- columbiafamilyshelter.org (Homeless Shelters)
Columbia Oral Health Clinic- columbiaoralhealthclinic.org (Health Issues)
Congaree Riverkeeper- Congareeriverkeeper.org (Environmental Issues)
Doctors without Borders- doctorswithoutborders.org (International Aid)
Free Medical Clinic- freemedclinic.org (Health Issues)
Harriet Hancock Center- lgbtcentersc.org (LGBT Issue)
Harvest Hope Food Bank- harvesthope.org (Food Banks/Food Support)
Howlmore Animal Sanctuary- howlmore.org (Animal Shelters/Services)
Jewish Food Pantry- jewishcolumbia.org (Food Banks/Food Support)
Lambda Legal lambdalegal.org (LGBT Issues)
Meals on Wheels- mealsonwheelsamerica.org (Food Banks/Food Support)
Planned Parenthood - plannedparenthood.org (Women's Issues)
The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center themountainrlc.org (Environmental Issues)
Transitions- transitionssc.org (Homeless Shelters)
SC Progressive Network- scpronet.com. (Legal Aid)
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center- scjustice.org (Legal Aid)
SC Beekeepers Association scstatebeekeepers.org (Environmental Issues)
SC Respite Coalition- screspitcoalition.org (Health Issues)
SisterCare- sistercare.org (Women's Issues)
UUCC Partner Church- (Our Sister Church in Romania) (International Aid)

News and Notes

September 18, 2016

Being Civil in an Uncivil Culture, by Rev. Jennie Barrington. Our culture could be said to have become less civil, including through increased use of social media and texting. This sermon will explore the value of face-to-face conversation, especially through caring congregations such as ours.

September 25, 2016

Building Today for Tomorrow, by Rev. Jennie Barrington. This morning we will celebrate why our congregation is so precious and needed. We will launch our Capital Campaign for building renovations with its theme, "Building Today for Tomorrow." The Adult Choir will also sing.

Harvest Hope in Critical Need of Canned Food Donations

The Social Action Committee put out a special call to help Harvest Hope fill their empty shelves and you responded. We thank you. In the last three weeks we have collected 261 pounds of non-perishable canned and boxed foods. This is the first time in 3 years that Harvest Hope has been down to bare shelves and in such desperate need of food. Harvest Hope is still in need and we know we can count on our Members and Friends to help others when asked. This picture is some of our members who help carry the food transported to Harvest Hope each week.



Choir Welcomes New Members

Adults and Youth (age 16 and above), if you enjoy singing and can match pitches, you would be welcomed in the UU Adult Choir. We rehearse and sing **Sunday, September 25, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary** and every two weeks after. Bill Moody, Director

UUC Congregation: We Need Your Help!

As you may know, the 2016-2017 operations budget is insufficient for the needs anticipated for the coming year. Your FRAT (Fund-RAising Team) has already staged a UU Coffeehouse concert and a garage sale to raise funds. Our next event is the **Holiday Bazaar on November 19**.

If you can help, please contact Jean Capalbo at jacapalbo@gmail.com. If you have ideas for fundraising contact any of the FRAT members. Sej Harman (sejharman@att.net; cell: 730-7208) Patrick Saucier (pjsauci@malibox.sc.edu; cell: 727-2499); or Pat Mohr (patmohr@mindspring.com; cell: 463-3504); Carita Barr, Don & Carol Dodson, Mike Kelly, Cheryl Soehl, or Reenie Stahl.

September Search Committee Focus Groups

The Search Committee will be facilitating focus groups during September. The outcome of these groups will help the Search Committee compile a portrait of our congregation to convey to prospective ministers. These meetings are scheduled on two Wednesday nights, September 14 and 28 in Room 8 at 7:00 p.m. These meetings will last about an hour and a half. Look for sign-up sheets and plan to attend one of these focus groups.



Breaking News

You asked for bigger and better bathrooms - they are on the way. You asked for upgrades to the RE wing - they are on the way. You asked for improvements to the sanctuary and social hall - they are on the way. Want to know more? Be sure to come to the UUC on Sunday, September 25, when all will be revealed.

Ask a member of your Capital Campaign team for additional information: Pat Mohr, chair, Don Dodson, Dot Brown, Kevin Meredith, Nancie Shillington-Perez.

Coffeehouse, Saturday, September 17



Come see folk legend Roy Book Binder perform on Saturday, September 17 at the UU Coffeehouse. Roy will bring his fantastic blues guitar stylings, folksy humor, and wonderful songs to share with us. You can reserve tickets on the UU Hotline (803) 200-2824, or purchase online at www.uucoffeehouse.org. Tickets are \$17 at the door, but \$15 if purchased or reserved prior to the concert. Bring some extra money for the wonderful home-baked treats and hot coffee from our volunteer staff. You can even bring your own beverages! Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Show starts at 8:00.

UUC Visitor Orientation, Sunday, September 18

Our next visitor orientation will be this Sunday, September 18, beginning about 15 minutes after the end of our service (around 12:15 p.m.) in the Library. Orientation generally lasts about 45 minutes and light refreshments are served. The orientation is designed to better familiarize you with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and to provide attendees an opportunity to share (if they desire) their path to spirituality and how they learned about us. We would love to see you there, don't hesitate to email or call with any questions. Patty Drews, UUC Membership Chair, 803-931-6799 or membership@uucolumbia.org.

September Set, Friday, September 23

Our monthly September Set for our UUC Seniors will be held Friday, September 23. 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 jacalbo@gmail.com or Pat Mohr at patmohr@mindspring.com

UUC Book Club, Sunday, September 25

The next UUC Book Club meeting is Sunday, September 25 at 6:30 pm. Alvin Steingold will facilitate a discussion on *Between The World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We will meet at a member's home. The UUC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUC. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: rsaunders@sc.edu

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Holiday Pageant: *Good King Wenceslas*

Good and noble people of the UUC, we beseech thee to come forward on the 2nd day of October in the year of our Lord, 2016 to express your desire to portray royalty or commoners in this year's holiday pageant, *Good King Wenceslas*. We shall commence at 12:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. We are in need of 7 adults, 5 youth ages 6-14, and various villagers. Questions can be addressed to Nancie Shillington-Perez at nancierrr@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome Our New Custodian: Bill Dolley!

We welcome our new custodian with great enthusiasm.



Passing the UUC Keys from Jeff Kruse to Bill Dolley at Jeff's farewell party.

Adult RE: Ken Burn's Documentary, Friday, September 30

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites you to a viewing of "Defying the Nazis – The Sharp's War" on Friday evening, September 30 at Phil and Lis Turner's home. Exact time and details to be announced. This Ken Burn's documentary shines a light on the courage and dedication Unitarian Minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife, Martha, displayed while serving in the newly founded Unitarian Service Committee. Their dedication to saving the lives of those the Nazis had designated as undesirables is remarkable, their sacrifices overwhelming. The viewing will be followed by discussion (and formulation of action?) Seating is limited. Please RSVP at dre@uucolumbia.org. View the trailer here: [The Sharp's War preview](#)

Adult RE Short Course: American Grace begins October 2

This fall, a short course at UUCU will be devoted to the sociology of American religion. The course is based on the book by Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell [American Grace](#) (2010, revised 2012). See reviews at www.americangrace.org. Putnam is a distinguished political scientist at Harvard University, while Campbell is an associate professor at Notre Dame.

[American Grace](#) is based on extensive surveys of religion and public life in America. Studies of congregations complement interview findings. The book assesses both the sociology of American religion and its directions of change. The course should assist those who are active in UU groups to understand and work with the dynamics of congregations. For instance, we will consider such issues as why members join congregations, why they stay, and why they leave.

There will be a charge of \$5.00 for the course, to cover the price of the copied materials and an outline of the text. The course will meet for an hour and a half on Sundays, starting at 1:00 p.m. after services. It will meet in six sessions, with the first class on October 2 and continuing on 10/16, 10/30, 11/6, 12/4, 12/18. The instructor will be Don Cooper; Patrick Saucier has volunteered to serve as a second instructor. Don's e-mail is

dnldcooper@gmail.com, with a mobile phone (803) 466-5087. Prospective participants should contact him before the end of September, preferably by e-mail.

Before the course starts, participants should obtain a copy of the paperback revision of the book (2012). Sources such as Amazon and addall.com can supply it at about half the list price.

Writing Group, Tuesday, October 11

Please join us for the UUCU 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

Women's Book Group, October 11

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *The Invention of Murder* by Judith Flanders. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, 776-0784 or sjchubon@sc.rr.com

Harvest Hope Volunteer Opportunity, October 15

Join members and friends on October 15 for a group service opportunity at Harvest Hope Food Bank. We will be packing food boxes for distribution to seniors in our community. Please follow the link on Sign Up Genius at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a45aeaa2da2fc1-harvest> or contact Cheryl Soehl at csoehl@soehl.com to register for this event. We will gather at 8:50 a.m. and work until about Noon.



K – 1 OWL

Do you have a child in grades K through 1st grade? Do you hope they formulate healthy attitudes about their bodies and their sexuality? Then don't wait! Sign them up for their very first **Our Whole Lives** class. The classes will meet for eight weeks in the fall. Dates and times will be planned with input from parents. A brochure and registration forms are available online at: <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/learning/our-whole-lives/> and at the CYRE table in the Social Hall after services. Feel free to share this information with your friends and family members who might be interested in these classes for their children. Classes will meet with a minimum of 8 students. Maximum enrollment is 12.

The initial parent/guardian orientation is planned for **Saturday, October 15**, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Parent/guardian attendance is required for enrollment of a child. The parent/guardian & child orientation will take place after lunch on the same date from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Attendance is mandatory for enrollment. We will provide lunch. You may bring a bag lunch for your family if you prefer. Please contact Stephanie Palmer-Smith, dre@uucolumbia.org, or Keitha Whitaker, re-chair@uucolumbia.org, for more information. **If you need child care for the orientation please contact Stephanie before Saturday, October 1.**

Animal Ministry Vegan Potluck, Sunday, October 16

SAVE THE DATE! At 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, the Animal Ministry will have another vegan potluck. This time, in addition to just collaborating with Columbia Veg, we will also be joined by members of the Progressive Network. We will feature a speaker that evening, Trisha Mandes, a former staff member at USC, who will discuss disease prevention and reversal as it relates to diet. More details to follow!

Dodson Fall Fling Fundraising Dinner, October 21

Don and Carol Dodson will host a Fall Fling Fundraising Dinner on Friday, October 21 at their home at 727 Dial Creek Road, Elgin 29045. The dinner will have an African theme and will be followed by a variety of international liqueurs. Cost is \$50 per person, payable in advance. Please make reservations ASAP by emailing: cdodson7@hotmail.com or ddodson@sc.rr.com or speaking with Don or Carol when at UU. These dinners have always been fun and help provide a little extra money to UU's coffers.

Fall Fun-draiser, November 12

Join us for dinner hosted by Jean Capalbo and Ginny Verne on Saturday, November 12 at Jean's home. The menu will be planned around a beef roast and a pumpkin-flavored dessert. Only 2 seats remain open, so hurry to reserve your place at the table with a \$40 contribution to UUCC. After the meal you will be asked to consider an additional donation. All proceeds go to the UUCC general fund.

Chair Yoga, Tuesdays & Thursdays



Chair Yoga is now twice a week. Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Both classes meet in the UUCC Social Hall. Come to either session or come to both. Chair yoga entails about 45 minutes of real yoga but it takes place mostly seated. The yoga instructors are Molly Jones and Ruthie Saunders. Please contact Ruthie rsaunders@sc.edu if you have questions.

Art for All Group, Tuesdays

If you are interested in working on your art with others for support, encouragement and feedback, then the Art for All Group is for you. We meet weekly 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 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 Whitaker at bobwhit46@gmail.com to volunteer.

Save Toiletries from Travels, for Homeless Shelters

The Social Action Committee urges you to use your discretion and bring back unopened toiletries from the hotels and motels you'll be staying in during your travels. Place them in the food collection baskets at the entrance to the Social Hall. They will be donated to homeless shelters as needed or saved for the Inclement Weather Center (winter shelter) when it opens on November 1. For more information, contact Tom Clements, 803-240-7268 or tomclements329@cs.com.

Religious Education

Junior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Sept.25 from 12:15 – 12:30 Children's choir meeting. All children and youth wanting to participate will want to attend this important meeting with their parents. Choir participation is open to children and youth who love to sing and/or express their musical abilities. Participation does NOT require attendance at all rehearsals and performances, however, regular attendance is certainly encouraged! Brandi and Nohl would like parents to weigh in on when choir practice should be held. A tentative practice/performance schedule, suggesting practicing the week before the performance and the morning of the performance, is being considered. Hard copies of schedules will be available this Sunday.



We express our appreciation to:

Summer volunteers: **John Logue, Ginny Verne, Regina Moody, Cheryl Soehl, and Linda Brennon.** Our children's lives have been enriched by your involvement.

Laura Culler for taking care of our cauliflower seedlings.

All the families who came out for our CYRE cleaning day!

Beck Sullivan for restoring order in our supply closet.

Amy Jones and Adam Zirklebach for their assistance with cooking and creating clean and orderly space in our CYRE wing

And to all of the CYRE Teacher Volunteers - Thank you for giving our children an opportunity to learn about religions, faiths, rituals, and spirituals practices. You are nurturing children in their exploration of living meaningful lives!

Registration for Fall CYRE Classes Continues

Please fill in a registration form for children ages 3-18 and hand it to your child(ren)'s teacher or to our DRE, Stephanie Palmer-Smith at dre@uucolumbia.org. The nursery is available for children ages 0-2 whenever CYRE is scheduled throughout the year and from ages 0-3 whenever there are no CYRE classes scheduled. Our DRE, Stephanie Palmer-Smith, dre@uucolumbia.org, is available before and after service as well as throughout the week to support you in your commitment to raising children who are encouraged to analyze and question their world.

CYRE Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 18 CYRE
CYRE Committee meeting
Sunday, Sept. 25 CYRE
Children's choir meeting 12:15-12:30
K-1 OWL registration continues

What a Great Pride Parade

UUCU made a great showing in the Pride Parade on Saturday, September 3, with nearly 50 members and friends riding and walking along side our very colorful float as they passed out candy and greeted bystanders. We were very well received by the record-breaking crowd of more than 35,000 in attendance. We thank Jeanette Walton and Grant Seuser for their work and commitment serving as co-chairs to achieve the success of this annual event. Many thanks also to those who pitched in the morning of the parade to help put the final touches on the float and all of those who were a part of our group.

Our Social Action Committee recognizes our role in the community and our need to have a presence in taking an active part in social justice events. We want the community to know who we are and what we stand for. It was evident in the parade that we were known for what we believe in as our group was cheered while our float went by. We want to be known as an organization that has an outreach for social justice.

Our webpage has many pictures of the great day. Here is one of the float.



Romania-Hungary Trip by UCC “Pilgrims” Strengthens OUR Long-time Partnership!

In August, twelve UCC members travelled 5,175 miles from Columbia to the home of Unitarianism: Transylvania. Though UCC has been Partner Church “friends” for 25 years, this was our first group visit. Only the Minghis had been twice before. Our trip was organized and guided by the dynamic minister, Rev. Zsolt Solymosi, (Pronounced “jsholt shoyeemoshi”) who was every bit as enthusiastic and gracious as when he visited us in spring 2015. He and his former student drove us in two vans, narrating, and their command of English making a huge difference!

No words can convey our feelings about this amazing experience, but we will try. The group will hold a special evening to “take you there” on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 7:00 pm.



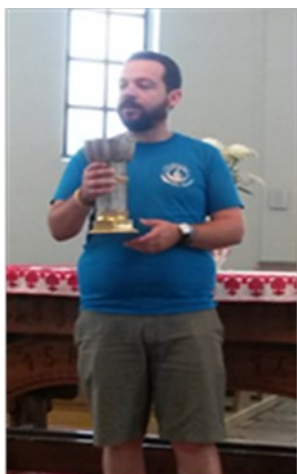
Transylvania is much more developed, at least in cities and towns, than we had expected. And it is so much more than the legend of Dracula, though we did go to the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler and viewed his castle from the outside. The people are emerging from many years of repressive government post communism, starting with the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu on Dec. 25, 1989 and improving somewhat with the ousting of the “communist era mind-set” leaders only 12 years ago. Romania joined the European Union in 2007.

Our Partner Church family is very small and aging. They and Zsolt are part of the Hungarian minority, whose history, language and culture is not favored by majority Romanians. Our tour focused on Hungarian history and sites, including the city of Torda. There the “Edict of Torda” was signed in 1568, laying the groundwork for the principle of separation of church and state that came west with the pilgrims. We loved meeting the members and thirty six of us squeezed into their tiny meeting room for a most moving service conducted in English and Hungarian by Zsolt.



We were delighted to see the sturdy wooden rail newly installed beside the steep stairs. UCC paid for this much needed item. Afterwards they hosted us to a special meal and six of us went home to stay one night with them in their homes.

Everywhere we learned about Francis David, the founder of Unitarianism, who died in prison for his beliefs in 1579. In Koloshvar (Romanian name: Cluj) we held the very chalice that he used for communion. We visited churches where

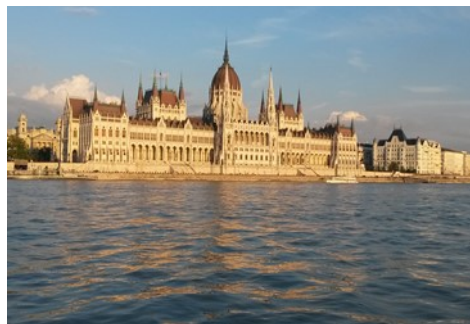


he had presided as Lutheran Bishop, in time converting them to Unitarianism as his views evolved. We frolicked for half a day in the bowels of a salt mine. We ate lots of gulash, fresh tomatoes like none we'd ever tasted, and other delicious foods, and every day before dinner we were expected to drink a jigger of their favorite liqueur: Palinka. We stayed a night in a tranquil, beautiful country village where almost everyone is Hungarian Unitarian. We paid only \$39 for the room, plus a huge dinner and breakfast at that country hotel. The exchange rate and Zsolt's efforts made the trip quite reasonable.

And then we went to the glorious city of Budapest, where a 13th UUCC pilgrim joined us. At the exquisite parliament building (which you see on that PBS ad for Viking



Cruises on the Danube) we learned about the glories and demise of the Austro-Hungarian empire and viewed the crown jewels, last used for the coronation of the King in 1916 before WW I broke it all up.



On the last day we celebrated the wedding of Jean Capalbo and Craig Chattin and were entertained by Gypsy musicians and dancers at their wedding feast at Matyas Pince.

What a romantic and wonderful way to conclude our visit!

Please come to our program on Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m. and begin to envision YOUR OWN PILGRIMAGE to this lovely part of the world!

YOUR UUCC pilgrims (L to R):

Back row...

Craig Chattin and Jean Capalbo, Partner Church minister, Zsolt Solymosi, Caroline West and John Logue, David Long, Lynn Shirley (member Washington Street UMC), Caroline Eastman and Shannon Edwards.

Front row...

Tony and Yolanda Ganong, Susan Robinson, Julian and Lee Minghi.





On Sunday, September 25, 2016,
we will remember the victims of America's
gun violence epidemic with
a series of live events from coast to coast.

Main Street United Methodist Church
1830 Main Street, Columbia, SC

Sunday, September 25, 2016
4:00pm – 6:00pm

Sponsored by:

FAITH COALITION ON GUN VIOLENCE
<https://www.facebook.com/faithcoalitionongunviolence/>

Find us on FACEBOOK:

**Concert Across America -
Columbia, SC**
<https://www.facebook.com/events/177523915991312/>

Admission is free

The Concert Across America to End Gun Violence, Sunday, September 25

The Faith Coalition on Gun Violence in Columbia, SC announced its participation in a national Concert Across America to End Gun Violence on Sunday, September 25. The Columbia, SC event will be one of several concerts held across the U.S., each connected via social media and online at www.concertacrossamerica.org. ***A CONCERT FOR REMEMBRANCE OF GUN HOMICIDE VICTIMS -*** Main Street United Methodist Church, 1830 Main Street, Columbia SC 29201, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

September 25 is the date designated by Congress in 2007 as a day of remembrance for murder victims. This nationwide event will bring together a network of organizations, activists and artists with the dual goals of keeping guns out of dangerous hands and making the issue of illegal guns on top of minds for members of Congress, the presidential candidates, and the American people as they go to the polls in November. For more information visit www.concertacrossamerica.org, <https://www.facebook.com/events/177523915991312/>

UUCC Board of Trustees

Summary of July 20, 2016 Meeting

The Board met on July 20, 2016 from 6:30 PM to 8:03 PM. The meeting was chaired by Phil Turner.

Staff Report

Andrea Dudick, Administrator, reported that 15 members were removed from the membership list on June 30. Two had moved away. The others are people who did not pledge or pay for 2015/2016. One new member joined in June. Our total membership is now 186.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Whitaker reported that they have not quite finished closing the books for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Based on information available now, we ended the year with a shortfall in pledges of \$12,500. Loose plate collections were about 20% lower than expected (\$2400). We had no large fundraisers during the fiscal year. Building rentals exceeded expectations by about 13% (\$1,269). Total expenses were almost exactly as planned. Our negative variance for the year is about \$18,000.

Workers' Compensation Policy

We have been buying a Workers' Compensation Policy from Church Mutual, the company that provides us with other insurance for the building, etc. ADP Insurance Agency, who does our payroll services, also offers a Workers' Compensation Policy which would cost us less and pay our employees more if they use it. After some discussion we agreed to change Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage from Church Mutual to ADP Insurance.

Committee Reports

Technology Services Committee Donald Griggs reported that Lis Turner has agreed to lead the web updating committee.

Personnel Committee Marc Drews reported that Jeff Kruse has resigned effective August 31. Jeff has prepared a list of the jobs/tasks/chores he does. The Personnel and Building & Grounds Committees will consider how best to cover Jeff's responsibilities.

Building & Grounds Committee has developed a plan to have a contractor with a work crew come in and clean out debris, weeds, vines, etc., trim some hedges, etc. They have identified a contractor they plan to hire. The Board agreed with the committee's plan.

Policy on Church-Sponsored Events was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Renovation Capital Campaign ad hoc Committee

Pat Mohr has agreed to chair this committee. The board agreed to designate Pat as a member of the Finance Committee.

Approval of Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs were approved. There is no chair for Denominational Connections.

Board Representative to the Leadership Development Committee

Cheryl Soehl was appointed to serve on the Leadership Development Committee this year.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Thursdays	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	Wednesday, September 21	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Tuesdays	11:00 am	Social Hall
	Thursdays	1:00 pm	Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, September 18	12:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Choir	Sunday, September 25	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night	1st Wednesday of month	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	Classroom # 8
Green Committee	TBA	6:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Knit or Not	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Membership Committee	1st Wednesday of month	7:00 pm	Classroom
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, September 18	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, September 23	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, October 2	12:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Technology Committee	Wednesday, October 5	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, September 14	6:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	4 th Sunday	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 th Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	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, October 11	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Rentals			
La Leche League	3rd Tuesdays	6-8pm	Classroom # 5
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.

UUCB Board of Trustees

Presidents, Phil Turner	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Richard Culler	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
Treasurer, Bob Whitaker	<i>treasurer@uucolumbia.org</i>
Secretary, Sandy Chubon	<i>secretary@uucolumbia.org</i>
Members at Large, Donald Griggs, Tim VanDenBerg, Cheryl Soehl, Joan Watterson	
Past Co-Presidents, Marc & Patty Drews, ex officio	<i>pastpresident@uucolumbia.org</i>
Finance Chair, Joe Long, ex officio	<i>financechair@uucolumbia.org</i>

UUCB 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	Bill Dolley, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Religious Education Assistant	Morgan Hanes, <i>reassist@uucolumbia.org</i>

Address: 2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

Phone — Office (803) 799-0845

Special Events Line — (803) 200-2824

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

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

Help us update our mailing list. To delete or change your address, Email: uucc@uucolumbia.org

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