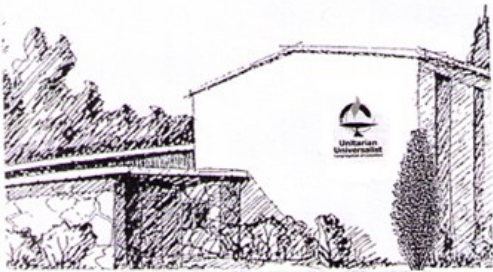




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

February 13, 2019



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

February 17, 2019

9:30 am Forum Topic

Opioid use in America: Is drug use something that we can regulate away?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

Is What We Are Doing All We Can Do?
by Rev. Pat Jobe

February 24, 2019

9:30 am Forum Topic

What are the implications of the changing demographics of the American population?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

Siding With Love Against Violence
by Rev. Stephen Robinson

Guidelines for Healthy Communication A Toolbox of Suggestions from The Right Relations Committee (RRC)

We all have been in situations when a difference of opinion, a misinterpreted gesture or expression, or perceived inappropriate behavior by others has caused a confrontation or conflict.

The following are some recommendations that the RRC has developed as guidance for improving our communication and our ability to resolve conflicts. When facing a possible conflict, before you speak up, be aware of what **you** are feeling and what the **other** appears to be feeling.

We moved on; knowing that we are the UUC—we are a community dedicated to our principles and our mission to nurture and respect each other in our spiritual growth and pursuit of meaning and create a welcoming and engaging environment through which we work for positive change in our community and in our world.

If You Find Yourself In An Argument Or Disagreement With Another Congregation Member, Keep In Mind These General Guidelines

1. Find a time and place to talk that is convenient for both parties and that has a quiet and relaxed atmosphere.
2. Take turns sharing/speaking and listening.
3. Decide in advance that you are going to give the other person the benefit of the doubt.
4. When you are sharing, keep it all about you. This means that you should describe how **YOU** experienced and felt about the situation, not try to convey the experience of a third party.
5. When you are listening, don't be thinking about your response or rebuttal. Just focus on hearing what the other person has to say.
6. After listening, restate in your own words what you understood the other person said. If you did not get it quite right, ask them to state their position again.

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, March 10**, for publication on **Wednesday, March 13**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Continued on Page 2...

7. Take turns sharing one thing you would like to see different and one thing that you can do differently. Let the other person know that what they think, feel, want, and need are just as important as what you think, feel, want, and need.
8. Collaborate on a plan to make those changes happen. Hardly ever is hearing “I’m sorry and won’t do it again,” completely satisfying.
9. Thank the other person for sharing and collaborating with you.

In addition to the above guidelines, please also keep in mind our 7 Unitarian Principles when interacting with other members.

RRC chairs: Emilio Perez-Jorge and Kevin Meredith.

You can reach us at rightrelationschair@uucolumbia.org

Approved by the Right Relations Committee 1/14/19

Message from Rev. Stephen Robinson

A few weeks ago, my wife Michelle, and our two daughters, Mary and Sarah, went to see Kinky Boots at the Koger Center. This was our Christmas present to Mary and Sarah this year (in case you didn't know, our family loves theater and especially musicals). Kinky Boots is a musical with lyrics and music written by Cyndi Lauper and a book by Harvey Fierstein. The show centers around the relationship between Charlie, the owner of a shoe factory struggling to save his business and Lola, a fabulous entertainer and wise hero. I won't give away spoilers here, other than to say the show invites self-reflection, open mindedness, and finding comfort and peace with yourself, while it thrills the audience with amazing singing and dancing.

Lola offers Charlie some wisdom at one point by pointing to what she calls her 6 step program to being a healthier self. Here they are:

1. **Pursue the truth.**
2. **Learn something new.**
3. **Accept yourself and you will accept others, too.**
4. **Let love shine.**
5. **Let pride be your guide.**
6. **You change the world when you change your mind.**

I have to admit that Lola on that stage at the Koger Center appeared to be a UU minister, beginning a Sunday morning service! These six steps aren't word for word replicas of the UU seven principles, but they are values and practices I have experienced at the UUCC. At the UUCC we have the wonderful experience of being a part of a community that encourages the pursuit of truth with the challenge to always being growing and learning something new! At the UUCC, we can relax and take comfort in the safety of acceptance, of ourselves and others. At the UUCC, we side with love and let it shine. At the UUCC, we celebrate pride. At the UUCC, we believe that spirituality is not threatened by critical thinking, but rather spirituality can be an act of the mind.

As we made our exit from the Koger Center after the show, I wanted to tell Lola that there is a place in Columbia, SC where her six steps are not only accepted and celebrated, but lived out on a daily basis. In our current culture that desperately needs messages that reinforce hope, positivity, acceptance, love, generosity, and care, the UUCC stands out like a pair of bright red, thigh high boots. As I move into the role of minister at the UUCC, I am so thrilled to begin this journey together. Often, we think about a minister being a leader that a congregation follows. My image and interpretation of minister, and particularly my work at the UUCC, is one who provides support and resources to the amazing, good work that is already happening here.

When we gather for worship each Sunday, we light the chalice, the UU symbol of our faith. I believe the worship experience in community each Sunday should also light the chalice within our hearts and serve as motivation, inspiration, clarification, and dedication of the good work we do every day. As your minister, I will be working with the worship committee, staff, and many others to help provide worship services which connect us to our inner selves, emotions, body, and mind, connect us to each other in the covenant of community, connect us to the web of nature, and connect us to whatever we understand as the image that transcends ourselves.

Continued on Page 4

Message from Rev. Stephen Robinson, Continued

As wonderful as life is within the UUCC, we do not live inside a bubble of protection. We are constantly touched by sickness, disease, death, broken relationships, grief and loss, internal struggles, family dynamics, and so many other bumps and bruises that are a normal part of life. As your minister, please know that I am here as a place of care in the midst of whatever you may be facing on any given day. I want to have an opportunity to get to know each of you better, build trust, so that I can dance with you on the highest peaks of life's celebrations and walk with you through the most difficult of life's valleys, and everything in between. It may sound cliché, but it also rings true, I am here for you.

So much of the good work of the UUCC gets done by dedicated committees, made up of people who volunteer their time, energy, and skills to this good work. I look forward to joining this dedicated and competent staff in providing support to the various committees. As your minister, I will be learning more about each of the committees and groups, so that I can serve as a source of education and consultation. Everything that happens at or in connection with the UUCC grows from a network of creativity, organization, and implementation.

The six steps of Lola come in the final song of the show, Raise You Up/Just Be. The lyrics speak firmly to my commitment and determination as I begin this journey together with you as your minister:

Feed your fire, to take you higher
We'll light you up like a live wire
Celebrate you, to elevate you,
When you struggle to step, I'll give a helping hand

Just Be!

Stephen



Candles of Community

The memorial service and reception for Maude Whitaker will be held on Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m. at UUC. Reverend Pippin Whitaker will officiate at her grandmother's service.

Thank You

Thank you to **Bill Dolley** for making our sanctuary a safer place by having installed two banisters, adding a metal plate to transition from the steps to the podium, and devising wedges of wood strategically placed under the podium for stability.

Thank you to **David Bryan** for taking the time to measure all the windows in the entire building in order to gather estimates to possibly have some of the surfaces covered in tinted film.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the great success of this year's **Chocolate Auction**. We brought in more than \$1,100 with a couple of outstanding silent auction payments and expenditures due. Congratulations to the hard-working parents and teens who planned, baked, and "barkered" for the auction. This is one of the most fun celebrations of the year and everyone in RE appreciates the contributions of time, baked goods, donations, and purchases. Proceeds from this fundraiser help fund the Boston Heritage Trip which will next happen in the summer of 2020. Enjoy your chocolate during Valentine's Day.



Wonderful Chocolate Auction Workers



Suzi Garland, Raffle Winner!



Denominational Connections – February 13, 2019

Get ready for *The Power of We!* General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be **June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington**. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

Registration and Housing Open March 1 -- GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at **9 a.m. PST** at www.uua.org/ga. If you would like to attend GA as a UUCC delegate, please contact Keitha Whitaker at denomconn@uucolumbia.org.

Monthly Webinar Series from the Southern Region -- for congregational leaders and members. No cost to attend but **pre-registration is required**. Save the dates for these webinars:

***Strengthening Your Congregation's Justice Work*, February 20, 2019, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Eastern Time.** Is your congregation committed to justice, and looking for ways to deepen that work in the world? Join UUSC Senior Grassroots Organizer Hannah Hafter to discuss effective models of congregational social justice organizing and hear an inspiring example of a partnership between a North Carolina UU congregation and a local immigrant justice organization. Whether your focus is on immigrant rights, racial justice, voter suppression, economic justice, or something else, the tools and strategies offered here will help you take your congregation's justice work to the next level. Speakers: Hannah Hafter, UUSC; Allison Mahaley, Love Resists and UU Congregation of Hillsborough, NC; and Marco Cervantes, Apoyo. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5HrUiUohVP-fEDKA1JIT3rHq8ezV9_lZpkkvHi64wgLyR7w/viewform.

***Special Programs for Youth with Natalie Briscoe*, March 21, 2019, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Eastern Time.** Natalie will discuss special programming for youth, including dynamic middle school programming, Coming of Age options, membership paths for Youth, Bridging Ceremonies, off-site activities, Camps around the Association, Leadership Schools for Youth, and integrating Youth into life of the congregation. Part information and part discussion, this webinar is also a space to share what has really worked well in your youth programs and find ideas from around the country for re-invigorating your programming and honoring the gifts Youth bring to the life of your congregation. Register Here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5HrUiUohVP-fEDKA1JIT3rHq8ezV9_lZpkkvHi64wgLyR7w/viewform<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckm5X0lcuqH7Co9Wr387f9rzrjMQBW0TYzUP-jpv4LOmRCfQ/viewform>.

Registration Is Open for Spring Online Leadership Courses

Deeper than a single webinar or workshop, the <https://www.uuinstitute.org/> offers core leadership courses online with on-demand materials. They are perfect for the congregation who wants to learn together at an affordable cost—only \$30 per course per semester. Courses open on **January 25, 2019**. For more information contact info@uuinstitute.org.

Continued...



Denominational Connections – Continued

Life Stories – Tuesdays in March! “In some religions, what’s authoritative is a sacred scripture or an official dogma or a revered tradition, but for UUs, our primary authority is our life experience – our own personal experience and our shared experience, past and present. Based on our experiences, we draw conclusions as to what makes life meaningful, purposeful, and worthwhile, and as we accumulate more experiences, we typically modify our conclusions.” (From Rev. Dr. Neal Jones in his presentation of this series several years ago).

Look for sign-ups and more from the Adult Religious Education Committee! For more info contact Rebecca Drennan at rebecca@creativetransformation.com.

Also, from your Southern Region Staff – Virtual Open Office Hours -- Feel free to drop in to introduce yourself, say hello, ask a question, share some good news, or fill us in on congregational updates on **February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, and June 27**. from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (EST)**. This is an open Zoom meeting:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/876011174>

Join from Telephone: US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 876 011 174. We look forward to seeing you! New to Zoom? Learn more here: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

Meanwhile, please check out our [Denominational Connections](http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/connection/denominational-connection/) pages (<http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/connection/denominational-connection/>) for updates and connect with our wider UU world. Find the latest news on immigration justice and the UUA and information about *Get Out the Vote Project Grants* here: <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/connection/denominational-connection/uua-connections/>. Please, visit us often on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/uucolumbia/). (<https://www.facebook.com/uucolumbia/>) If you have questions or suggestions or *if you feel called to join this committee*, please contact me at denomconn@uucolumbia.org. Keitha Whitaker, Chair, Denominational Connections.



Upcoming Services

February 17

“Is What We Are Doing All We Can Do?”

Rev. Pat Jobe

A subject that drives us all a little nuts. We have so many things on our lists. Our lives are a storm of demands and causes and issues. Where to turn? What to do? Retired UU minister Rev. Pat Jobe takes us back to a critical conversation he had with one of his members and digs up land mines of tough questions, which might just make us laugh too.

February 24

“Siding With Love Against Violence”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

We will continue our theme for the month of Side with Love, as we draw inspiration from the life of Sarah Keys Evans in a celebration of African American History month. Sarah Keys Evans modeled a non violence approach to siding against injustice and oppression. As UU's, we are called to side with love against injustice, oppression, and acts of violence everywhere, particularly the epidemic of gun violence that plagues our culture today.

March 3

“Embracing Transformation”

Laura Hartwig

Thinking Outside the Gender Box, Following Service

12:45pm. Join us for a community conversation that will help you understand some of the basics about the transgender community and learn how you can become a desperately needed ally. We will have four speakers and then a Q&A panel discussion. You are also welcome to attend our Sunday service at 11am for an introductory sermon. A light snack will be served in between. This event is FREE and open to the public. Please bring your friends and neighbors. I still need more people to bring food. Sign up to help here. Or contact SocialAction@uucolumbia.org for more info. This conversation is especially important after the release of the Report on the Experiences of Trans UUs.

March 10

“Wizard of Oz & Kung Fu Panda”

Ed Proulx

March 17

“Service on the Amount”

Rev. Pat Jobe

Canvass Kickoff

March 24

“Practicing Wabi-Sabi”

Patrice Gaines

March 31

Rev. Stephen Robinson

New Member Service/Reception

News and Notes

Welcome, Rev. Stephen Robinson...

As announced by our congregation's President, Tim VanDenBerg, at our service this past Sunday, the UUCC has a new staff member. The Reverend Stephen Robinson has been named our part-time minister, providing support for our services, pastoral care for members and friends and professional learning opportunities for committee members. Members and friends wishing to contact him may email him at RevStephen@uucolumbia.org.

Rev. Robinson is the Chaplain Manager at Prisma Health and is an ACPE Supervisor and has served our community as a guest minister quite often over the past several years. He lives in Irmo with his wife, Michelle, and two daughters, Mary Rose and Sarah. He is originally from Carrollton, Georgia. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Ancient Literature and Philosophy, and holds a Masters of Divinity from Mercer University.

Use of Minister's Office

The Minister's Office will now be used for counseling and small group meetings, please do not store items in it.

Membership at the UUCC

Have you been attending the UUCC for a while and considering making the congregation a larger part of your life? If you are interested in joining or have questions about membership, please contact membership@uucolumbia.org. You may also speak to the Membership Committee volunteer at the Welcome Table with the red tablecloth after the service.

Are You Missing Someone?

Do you know someone who has stopped coming to services? Please consider getting in touch with them to see how they are doing. If you don't feel comfortable doing this, please let someone from the Membership Committee (red ribbons attached to their name badge) know. If you need their contact information, you can ask our Administrator, Andrea, at uucc@uucolumbia.org.

UUCC Men's Breakfast Group

Several of us are thinking of starting a UUCC men's breakfast group and getting together weekly or as otherwise determined. No agenda or structure. As a starting point, we are proposing 9:00 a.m. on Thursday. The location will be determined depending on the number interested. If you are interested, please let Phil Turner pturner@unt.edu know.

**See Page 14 for
Social Action Events**

Meaning in Movies

February through May, the Membership Committee will show a series of movies, one per month, to spark discussions about the meaning and purpose of life. Our former pastor, Rev. Neal Jones, did this series this fall in his congregation, and he was willing to share his discussion questions with us! Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

Traditional religions typically rely on a sacred text for direction, such as the Bible, the Torah, or the Koran. Unitarian Universalists look for guidance wherever wisdom may be found, not only in religious texts, but also in the words and deeds of prophets and teachers, nature, history, literature, art, reason, science, personal experience, conscience, and even movies.

Friday, February 15, 6:30-9:00 p.m.: *About Schmidt*, Rated R

Warren Schmidt, portrayed by Jack Nicholson, has led a safe, predictable life working in the insurance industry in Omaha, Nebraska. Upon his retirement, he embarks on a journey to his estranged daughter's wedding, only to discover more about himself and life than he ever expected.

Friday, March 15, 6:30-9:00 p.m.: *Good Will Hunting*, Rated R

Our second movie in the series is about a genius janitor who is avoiding life and the caring counselor who helps him find it, featuring Robin Williams, Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, & Minnie Driver.

Friday, April 12, 6:30-9:00 p.m.: *Last Holiday*, Rated PG-13

Upon learning of a terminal illness, a shy department store sales clerk (Queen Latifah) decides to sell off all her possessions and live it up at a posh European hotel. In the process, she learns how to truly live, and she teaches others, as well.

Friday, May 10, 6:30-9:00 p.m.: *One True Thing*, Rated R

This drama, starring Meryl Streep (who was nominated for Best Actress), William Hurt, and Renee Zellweger, tells the story of how a mother's cancer diagnosis causes her family to reexamine the meaning of their lives.

Adult RE Classes on Religion & Violence in February

Is religion inherently violent---or is violence the exception to the rule? Come join us for four weekly classes using videos from The Great Courses series to discuss the relationship of religion and violence. Topics will range from martyrdom and demonology to racial and sexual violence to anti-semitism and Islamophobia to religious violence occurring across our country and in our homes.

The class will meet each Tuesday night in the UUCS Library at 7:00 p.m. throughout the month of February (2/5, 2/12, 2/19, & 2/26). In each of the 1.5-hour classes led by Angie Rabon, a long-time UUCS member, we will watch a Great Courses video followed by discussion. To sign up for the class or for more information email Angie at angiera-bon@earthlink.net.

Cookies, We Have Lots of Cookies!

Thanks to all of you for bringing so many cookies for our Sunday Social Hour but we are running out of cupboard space to store them. We won't need more cookies for a while, but will let you know when we do. What we would like are some **healthy snacks like fruit, veggies, cheese or humus**. (We have plenty of crackers). This would be a nice balance for those delicious cookies. Thanks to all of you for helping to make our Sunday gathering so special.

Missing Tablecloths

We are missing two long and one round of our white table cloths from our closet. If you took some home to launder would you please return them as soon as possible? We have several upcoming events for which we will need them. Please keep in mind that all of our tablecloths are to be used with the clear plastic covers that are in the pink box on the shelf next to the tablecloth closet. Please be sure always to cover the tablecloths so they don't need laundering. Thanks, Kitchen Committee.

UUC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch February 14, Noon

Our Ladies LUUnch BUUnch wanted to try something different this time so we have found the **Magnolia Buffett at 10052 Two Notch Road, Columbia**. This is a lovely new Chinese Buffet with a delightful array of Asian foods as well as some traditional fare (they even have mac & cheese.) The buffet includes sushi and a hibachi grill and works well for vegetarians and vegans with plenty to choose from. The price is \$8.99 for all you care to eat and the selection is excellent. They have a very large private dining room that is available for groups and we have tables reserved in that room. If you haven't joined this group of ladies before make 2019 the time to try us out. It is a fun time to get together with old friends and new. Sign up at the Membership/Welcome table to join us or email Linda McLeod at bonneylass44@gmail.com. We want to see you there!

Membership Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 17 12:30-1:30 p.m. Room 10. Do you have a flair for planning and decorating? The reception for this year's Joining Ceremony is in March, and we need people to help "throw a party" for our new members! All are invited to our meeting. Questions? Contact membership@uucolumbia.org.

UUC Book Club, Sunday, February 17

The next UUC book club discussion is 6:30 pm on Sunday February 17. Ruthie Saunders will facilitate a discussion on *The darker the night, the brighter the stars. A Neuropsychologist's odyssey through consciousness* by Paul Broks. . We will meet at a member's home. The UUC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUC. We welcome new and returning participants. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: rsaunders@sc.edu

Christian Heritage Group, February 19

The Christian Heritage Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 19 at 12:00 in room 8 of UUC. Forgiveness and empathy are central to the message of Jesus. What do they mean to us in today's world, and how are they practiced? Bring a light lunch or snack for yourself if you would like to stay and eat and chat after our hour-long meeting. If you are interested in our group, do come join us. If you have any questions, call Rebecca Drennan at 415-377-1791.

September Set, Friday, February 22, Noon

On the fourth Friday of every month the UUC has a potluck for seniors (self-defined: no ID required:-) that we call September Set. This is a great opportunity to simply talk and eat with old friends---and make new ones! Sometimes we will have a program after the meal, but usually we just catch up with what's happening in each other's lives.

No need to sign up; all you have to do is bring a dish to share with others. Hope to see you at our next September Set dinner at **Noon on Friday, February 22!** If you have questions, email or call Pat Mohr (patmohr@mindspring.com; 803-463-3504) or Jean Capalbo (jacapalbo@aol.com; 803-799-1001).

Dances of Universal Peace, Friday, March 1

Please join in Dances of Universal Peace [DUP] on Friday 3/1, from 7-9 pm in the Social Hall. DUP are free and we are happy to accept small donations to support the Dances. Sponsored by the universalist Sufi Ruhaniat International order, the DUP are active meditative practices honoring the positive spiritual energy in the world's many different faith traditions.

All chants and dances are taught and led. We move through several iterations of each dance, to deepen our spiritual connection to the universe. This month our themes will be remembrance, contemplation, and love. In our usual two-hour session we typically do several dances and share some blessings, prayers, and poetry. Expect respectful hand-holding, eye contact, and occasional hugs as part of the dances.

After dancing, we socialize a while over refreshments. To let us know you're coming, or for any information, please contact Marguerite at <mff426@gmail.com>, or 803-743-0731, by Friday morning 3/1. Of course you are welcome even without replying!

DUP is most first Fridays [but no dance in January or July:] 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6/2019, 2/7/2020, etc. For more information about DUP, see <http://www.dancesofuniversalpeacena.org>

A Peaceful Escape, Saturday, March 2 Steve Sloan Solo Guitar Concert

On Saturday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. at UUCC, you are invited to enjoy an evening of peaceful classical guitar solo music with guitarist Steve Sloan. The music in the concert and on his newly recorded album, *A Peaceful Escape*, will hopefully give you a sense of peaceful joy, and a moment to escape. *A Peaceful Escape* is currently available on iTunes, Spotify, and Amazon Music. CDs will be available to purchase after the concert. The concert is free and all are welcome!

Animal Ministry Movie, Friday, March 8



The Animal Ministry is proud to announce the next film in its series on adopting healthy life styles.

Our movie is entitled, *Eating You Alive - One bite at a time*, and will be shown in UUCC's social hall at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8.

Eating You Alive is a comprehensive look into why so many of us suffer from chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, many types of cancer and other ailments. It brings together evidence based science, expert testimony and inspirational stories of people who have reversed disease and discovered how a whole food plant based lifestyle can address and solve some of our world's most challenging problems - one bite at a time. Some of the experts featured include doctors Dean Ornish, Neal Barnard, John McDougall, Joel Fuhrman, Caldwell Esselstyn, to name a few.

This is an informative, fast paced and motivational film that can jump start your journey to wellness! *As with our other films, we will be serving plant based finger food at this event. Anyone who wishes to bring a plant based snack of their own to share with the group would be greatly appreciated. ("Plant based" simply means containing no animal products).*

This event is completely FREE; there is no charge for viewing the movies or for enjoyment the plant based snacks! Questions? Contact Anita Grossman (anitaj48@aol.com).

Women's Book Group, March 12



The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 PM in Room 10 to discuss *The Girl in the Spider's Web* by David Lagercrantz. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, sjchubon@sc.rr.com or 776-0784.



Mark your calendars for March 17!

Our annual Pledge Drive Kickoff Celebration takes place immediately following the service. There will be food, wine, door prizes and even green punch! See you there!

Linda Brennison, Finance Committee

New Member Joining Ceremony, March 31

The pleasure of your company is requested at the New Member Joining Ceremony and Reception hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia on Sunday, March 31, 2019, at twelve o'clock in the afternoon.

Childcare will be provided, if requested. Please notify Nancie Shillington-Pérez (membership @uucolumbia.org) at least 48 hours prior to the event.



Spring Yard Sale:

Don't Get Rid Of That Stuff...Yet!

UUCC will have a Yard Sale this Spring, so hold on to all of your unbroken, working, unwanted items until then. Anything you have except large appliances and clothing will be accepted as long as they are in reasonably good condition. This year books will be welcomed. **We cannot accept items until the week of MAY 12.** If you would like to join in the fun of taking in, arranging, pricing, or selling, and getting to know our UU community, let Jean Capalbo know at (803)799-1001 or jacapalbo@gmail.com.

Knit or Not Group, Mondays, 2:00 p.m.

Do you knit or have other needle-craft you would like to share? If so, you are invited to join us for our weekly Knit or Not meetings on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in classroom 10 of the CYRE wing. Or if you are interested in learning to knit or crochet, we have folks who can help with the basics.

Insight Meditation Community of Columbia Meets Mondays

Join us on Monday evenings in the UUC Library. Meditation instruction at 6:30, silent sitting at 7:00 and Dharma talk at 7:30. Free and all are welcome.

Chair Yoga, Wednesdays

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 enjoy (or for physical reasons cannot do) the typical yoga class. No special clothing or equipment is needed. We meet in the UUC Social Hall 11:00-11:45 a.m.



Art for All Group, Thursdays



If you are interested in working on your art with others for support, encouragement and feedback, then this group is for you. We meet weekly on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - noon in the UUC Social Hall. Bring your own supplies and prepare to enjoy the company of other artists at no cost. No instruction provided. Contact Connie Hudson at chudson2666@att.net if you have questions.

Gaia's Rising CUUPS, Thursdays

Join the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Library unless otherwise noted. Contact Candace at shewhowonders2000@yahoo.com for more information.

Social Action

Social Action Committee Meeting, February 24

12:30pm in the sanctuary. All welcome. Please join us! Any questions, please contact socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

Thinking Outside the Gender Box: Sun, March 3

12:45pm. Join us for a community conversation that will help you understand some of the basics about the transgender community and learn how you can become a desperately needed ally. We will have four speakers and then a Q&A panel discussion. You are also welcome to attend our Sunday service at 11am for an introductory sermon. A light snack will be served in between. This event is FREE and open to the public. Please bring your friends and neighbors. I still need more people to bring food. Sign up to help here. Or contact SocialAction@uucolumbia.org for more info. This conversation is especially important after the release of the Report on the Experiences of Trans UUs.

Harvest Hope Food Donations Needed

Please bring your donations, such as canned soups, vegetables, fruits, juices, peanut butter (in plastic jars), and pastas for Harvest Hope Food Bank and leave them in our shopping cart in the social hall. Another item always needed is disposable diapers – NO adult sizes.

Inclement Weather Donations Needed

The Social Action Committee is collecting clean and gently used or new gloves, warm hats, winter clothing, magazines and unused personal-sized toiletries for clients using the shelter. Please place your donations in the basket in the social hall. For more information contact Tom Clements, tomelements329@cs.com, cell [803-240-7268](tel:803-240-7268).

Feb. 23, 10am-noon and 1-4pm: Workshops – Organizing for Fair Maps, SC Progressive Network headquarters, 2015 Marion St. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter and Sen. Mike Fanning will be joined by experts in Census and redistricting to facilitate two workshops on the Network's plan to empower citizens to draw fair and competitive political districts. The event is free. Box lunches available for \$10 if you RSVP at network@scpronet.com. The Census workshop is 10-noon. The gerrymandering workshop is 1-4pm. All are welcome. You can share/Rsvp on Facebook.

Mon, Feb 25: TED Talk Dialogue Nights 6:30pm Cayce/West Columbia County Library, 1500 Augusta Rd, West Columbia, SC 29169. The Atlantic Institute is proud to explore a variety of topics focusing on culture and education. TED Talks are short and engaging and open the door for rousing discussions. We will begin by watching a pre-selected Talk and then open the floor for questions and discussion. We can then brainstorm on how to apply subjects to our daily lives. These Dialogue Nights will continue monthly. Our first TED Talk is: Why I have coffee with people who send me hate mail by Özlem Cekic. Please RSVP to: pludwig@atlanticinstitutesc.org

Tue, Feb 26: Openings Meeting This month, Pastor Bill Eiwen will join us to follow up with a discussion of one of Jim Dant's books – *This I Know: A Simple Biblical Defense for LGBTQ Christians* – exploring the biblical “clobber verses” that are often used to judge LGBTQ persons and issues. 6:00pm Dinner, 6:30pm Program, Kathwood Baptist Church, 4900 Trenholm Rd. Columbia, SC 29206 RSVP to Openings.Reservations@gmail.com

Wed, Feb 27: What Google Won't Tell You About Immigration Nationally-recognized immigrant rights leader Gaby Pacheco is currently the director of advocacy, communications and development at TheDream.US. Pacheco and three other immigrant students led the Trail of Dreams in 2010, a four-month walk from Miami to Washington, D.C. to call attention to the plight of immigrant families under the threat of deportation. While serving as political director for United We Dream in 2012, she spearheaded efforts that led to the DACA program. On April 22, 2013, Pacheco became the first undocumented Latina to testify in front of Congress, speaking to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the urgent need for immigration reform. 6-8pm Capstone Campus Room, Capstone Hall, 902 Barnwell St, Columbia, SC 29208 Register now

Tues, March 5: SC Advocacy Day Join SC Moms as we talk Gun Sense with our state representatives. We'll have a brief training session at 9am. Please wear red Moms t-shirt or a red shirt. **Time:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM **Location:** SC State House-Blatt Building-Room 108, 1105 Pendleton St, Columbia, SC 29201 RSVP: <https://south-moms.ngpvanhost.com/ngpvanforms/51814>

Please check our website for new events posted almost daily: bit.ly/social-action.

Religious Exploration

CYRE Meeting Sunday, February 17

The next CYRE Committee meeting is February 17 at 12:30 in room 8. Agenda items include the DRE position description and the Beltane/Spring Maypole Celebration. A full agenda will be emailed the week prior to the meeting.



RE Matching Grant

A member of the congregation has generously offered to match \$2,500 in donations for the Boston trip. This match includes the fundraising revenues, but you can also donate outside of the fundraisers. If you would like to meet some of this match, please write “Boston Trip” in the memo line of your check or on the envelope of your cash donation.

Boston Trip Housing Costs

One of the reasons the Boston Heritage Trip is more expensive than in past years is that the UUA sold its overnight facilities in Boston, which had provided very inexpensive housing to visiting groups.

Hogwarts Summer Camp is Coming!

Planning has begun for the summer camp. We will need to fill staff positions with adult staff and head students. Position descriptions will soon be posted in the RE wing and on the UUCC website. We will also need volunteer professors who can teach a class or two during the two weeks of the camp. Camp dates are June 17-21 and June 24-28.

INVITATION: LIFE STORIES MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26 UCC

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites you to four **Life Stories** sessions. These will be done in small groups on Tuesdays on March 5, 12, 19, 26 at the UCC. You have the option of choosing a morning group from 10-11:30 am or an evening group from 7-8:30 pm. Each will be facilitated by a volunteer with training in group process.

Recent Sunday services have included the sharing of life experiences. This kind of sharing helps us, as Neal Jones, our former minister explained, understand how life experience leads us to draw conclusions as to what makes life meaningful, purposeful and worthwhile. He thought that this is based on UUs finding their primary authority in their personal life experience rather than the traditional, authoritative sacred scripture, or an official dogma, or a revered tradition.

Several of us were participants in a **Life Stories** series led by Neal and found it not only provided spiritual insights, but also helped us connect with one another as individuals. We look forward to sharing these experiences with you. Please join us!

How it Works: People sign up to participate in small groups—no larger than eight, to explore life's stories.

What you will do: Meet weekly for four weeks March in March 5, 12, 19, 26 to explore a weekly question:

Come to the session prepared to speak briefly (under five minutes) to the week's topic and to listen carefully to your fellow participants.

March 5: Who are three people who have had the greatest impact on your life?

March 12: What have been three of the most important decisions you have made in your life?

March 19: Share two of your saddest and happiest experiences of your life.

March 26: If your life story were a movie or a novel, what would be the title and the main plot?

Contact—How to Sign Up: Email, Barbara Beeler at babssc@outlook.com, or sign up on the form we will have available each Sunday at the church at a table in the meeting hall.

Cost: Free

Questions: Contact Barbara Beeler at babssc@outlook.com

It's Back...and We're Excited

The annual Easter work weekend at The Mountain is coming soon. This event allows us to provide support for this wonderful venue while enjoying all the benefits of a weekend there, paying only the cost of our meals. This year The Mountain will be providing programs for children up to 14 years old while parents are doing volunteer work. Several UUC members are already signed up. More information including cost will be published soon, or feel free to talk with any of these people who attended last year:

Kathy Farnsworth; Chad Horton; Loretta Spencer; Jim & Ginny Verne; Jeanette Walton

What follows is from the article published in the Unigram after the 2018 Easter weekend.

Nine people from our congregation travelled to The Mountain and joined with about forty other hardy souls to help with the chores planned to ready the retreat center for spring and summer activities.

We washed, sorted, dusted, and scrubbed things from windows and walls to the game closet and the chairs in the Great Room. We cleaned branches and other debris and trash from the public road and the driveway up the mountain. Some very strong young people hauled tons (literally!) of dirt and gravel to fix up the area of the fire ring. One UUC member overcame many obstacles to re-purpose old drapes into new curtains for the dining room. Furniture was painted, new street numbers were installed, donated refrigerators were cleaned of their mold..... And before we left for home, a small group helped the housekeeper with readying the cabins and lodge rooms for the people arriving that afternoon.

But that was not all. Social hour before dinner each evening allowed us to get acquainted with other UU's who share our love of that wonderful place while enjoying snacks and a bit of liquid refreshment....as well as some community singing on the deck. Meals offered a tasty and wholesome variety. Those of us from UUC generally enjoyed them together, which allowed us to get to know our fellow congregants better. Some of us had not met before this weekend.

Friday night, in spite of the cold, some gathered around the fire ring and enjoyed the first of two clear nights of full moon while others played games in the warmth of the Common Room. As if to make up for the campfire chill, the weather on Saturday gave us temperatures high enough to keep us warm, but cool enough to be comfortable during our physical exertion.

Sunday after breakfast, packing, and clearing our rooms, we gathered for an Easter service and sermon led by Rev. Pat Jobe, minister of Greenville UU Fellowship. Lunch was a minor Easter feast including baked ham, sweet potato fries, glazed spice cake, boiled eggs (of course), and many other side dishes.

It is always hard to say good-bye to The Mountain but it was time to go. Six members of our party stayed for a hike on the 1.9 mile loop at nearby Whiteside Mountain before leaving the area.

Cabaret 2019 - A Rousing Success!

Nagyon köszönöm mindenkinek – Thank you all so very much! No words, Hungarian or English, can sufficiently thank everyone who performed, donated auction and raffle items, hors d'oeuvres and decadent desserts. An event like this requires a lot of willing hands! Thanks to those who helped clear the sanctuary and move hymn books and chairs after the service.

This is the only fundraising event the Partner Church Committee holds each year, so all efforts are directed to it. There was a large crowd despite conflicting with the Super Bowl! Clear profit appears to be a record, at over \$2,000. (We are still assessing costs.) These dollars will be sent, over time, to our Beszterce, Romania congregation to help Rev. Zsolt with his travel expenses and to meet other needs.

The Partner Church Committee dedicated this year's Cabaret to Gertrude Edge, founding PCC member, who was always generously and creatively a part of every fundraiser as well as all other PC endeavors. Her death in 2018 leaves a large hole!

Richard McLeod directed and produced the Cabaret, AGAIN, rehearsing, designing the program, and coordinating with the lights and sound and recording technicians, all with the help of Gail Dawson stage manager. In the sanctuary, transformed into a twinkling night club, the performers took us to Yellowstone Park, Broadway, Germany, a Pacific island, Africa, and Paris. Performers ranged in age from 16 to 90!

Jean Capalbo and Craig Chattin deserve most of the credit for masterminding so many details, including bringing in small cabaret tables and much shopping. Carita Barr helped with decorations.

Leadership in the kitchen was provided by Yolanda Ganong (Founding Partner Church Committee member) and Joan Watterson. Jane Lawther and Ceren Farr assisted them, spending most of the evening on their feet, replenishing plates and cleaning up.

Raffle and auction items were abundant thanks to these donors. Please patronize them and let them know you came because of their generosity.

Nickelodeon, Workshop, and Town Theatres
Nonnah's, Il Giorgione's, and Arabesque Restaurants
EdVenture Children's Museum
Salon Bella
Rosewood Market
Elite Ballroom (group dance lessons)
Nails by Teresa

Individual donors to whom we are grateful are:

J.P. Flood and Jane Lawther
Beth Ann Rocheleau
Craig Chattin
Lee Minghi
Ceren Farr



This partnership of 28 years is stronger than ever and a dozen Columbia UUs will travel (at their own expense) to visit again in July, 2019. Some members of the Beszterce church will travel with us for 2-3 days of the 10 day trip. If anyone else wants to join in, a deposit of \$500 is due NOW. For more information, contact Julian Minghi at 803-798-0904 or minghi@sc.edu.

Thanks to all! See you next year!



Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Every Thursday	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	3rd Wednesday of month	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Every Wednesday	11:00 am	Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, February 17	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Choir - UUCC (adult)	TBA	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Choir – Prism (women)	Thursdays	6:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Choir - Encore (men)	TBA	9:30 am	Classroom #9
Christian Heritage	3rd Tuesdays	12:00 am	Classroom # 8
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Every Thursday	7:30 pm	Library
Funeral Consumers Alliance	3rd Tuesdays	5:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Forum	Every Sunday	9:30 am	Library
Green Team	Sunday, March 10	12:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Knit or Not	Every Monday	2:00 pm	Classroom # 10
Membership Committee	Sunday, February 17	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Visitor Orientation	TBA	12:20 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, February 22	12:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, February 24	12:30 pm	Sanctuary
Technology Committee	Wednesday, March 6	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Thursday, March 14	5:00 pm	Classroom # 10
UU Book Club	Sunday, February 17	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 th Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	TBA Lee Minghi, 798-0904; Carita Barr, 782-0053	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Women's Book Club	Tuesday, March 12	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Rentals			
La Leche League	3rd Tuesdays	6-8pm	Classroom # 10
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Every Thursday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Insight Meditation	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Library
Men's AA I	Every Tuesday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Women's AA I	Every Wednesday	6:30 pm	Library
Men's AA II	Every Sunday	5:00 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

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UUC Staff

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Administrator	Andrea Dudick, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Bookkeeper	Ginny Verne, <i>bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org</i>
Music Coordinator	Anna Hamilton, <i>music@uucolumbia.org</i>
Custodian	Bill Dolley, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
RE Youth Ministries Assistant	Mckenzie Scott, <i>reassist@uucolumbia.org</i>

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

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

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