



The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

March 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

March 17, 2019

9:30 am Forum Topic

Science fiction v. science fact: What kinds of advances do we want to see happen in the next 50 years?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“An Overarching Field Of Love”

by Rev. Pat Jobe

March 24, 2019

9:30 am Forum Topic

If it is true that America has become a Kleptocracy, how can we restore Democracy in the Republic?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“Turning a Burden Into a Gift”

Patrice Gaines

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, April 7**, for publication on **Wednesday, April 10**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About UUC Money But Were Afraid to Ask

Our UUCC pledge drive traditionally starts in March -- this year the kickoff is after the service on Sunday, March 17. Since this is St. Patrick's Day, we're having an Irish themed event, with green food, shamrocks, rainbows, and pots of gold. Don't worry – not all of the food will be green! Pick up your pledge card and join the congregation for food, fun, and festivities.

What is our goal for this year? \$225,000. This amount is based upon historical data on income and expenses, with some modifications for anticipated changes.

Where does our money come from? Almost all of our income is from member contributions. Having these in the form of yearly pledges makes budgeting and planning for the year much easier. We do have some rental and other income.

How does our money get spent? Most of our money is spent on fixed costs, such as salaries, insurance, services, and utilities. As is the case in most households, only a limited amount is available for discretionary expenses.

Who decides what's in the budget? You do. For a large group this process takes some coordination, so your representatives handle the initial stages. The Finance Committee reviews income and expenses for the previous year and solicits anticipated expenses from committees and the Board. Based upon this input, the committee prepares a draft budget, which is presented to the Board. After Board approval, the budget is presented to the membership at the annual meeting. A budget meeting is held shortly before the annual meeting to allow those interested sufficient time to discuss the details.

Continued on Page 2...

When are these meetings? The budget meeting will be held on Friday, May 31, at 7 pm; the annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 2, after the service.

Who is on the Finance Committee? Caroline Eastman is the current chair. Members include Linda Brennison, Joe Long, Jeannette Walton, and Carolyn West. All committee members are approved by the Board, which is not the case for most committees. Our Treasurer, Bob Whitaker, is an ex officio member. Our Bookkeeper, Ginny Verne, provides essential support to the committee.

How much should I pledge? This is your decision. UUA has guidelines in the form of The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide; copies will be available at the kickoff meeting. We are asking that you consider increasing your pledge by 7% this year so that we can meet our goal for the year.

What is the pledge year? This is the same as UUCC's fiscal year – July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Contributions made during a fiscal year will be assumed to be for that fiscal year unless you specify otherwise.

How can I pay my pledge? Choose a method of payment convenient for you. This may be weekly or monthly contributions during the service. It may be a single lump sum, especially if you are making a qualified charitable contribution from a retirement account. [NOTE: Members age 70 1/2 and over may be eligible to use this mechanism to make tax-free contributions.]

Can I designate how my pledge can be used? Pledges are for the general fund, which allows the most flexibility in budgeting and planning. In some cases designated gifts may be made in addition to your pledge. Recent examples include the Boston trip matching challenge fund and the new hearing assist aids. Fundraising and similar supplemental gifts should be coordinated with the Finance Committee and the Board.

Can I contribute items to UUCC? If you have items you're ready to part with, you're in luck. Jean Capalbo is coordinating a yard sale this May. Almost anything except clothing and large appliances will be accepted. This is a fundraising activity that has been approved by the Finance Committee and is intended to supply funds in addition to our regular pledge-based operating budget.

What about the minister? We are fortunate to have Rev. Stephen Robinson serving as our contract minister. This status allows for part-time service [and pay] with clearly specified responsibilities. Contracts are reviewed on a regular basis.

What about the DRE? The number of children and youth in the program does not currently justify a full-time DRE. The board and appropriate committees are currently evaluating our situation and expect to make recommendations soon. In the meantime, CYRE chair Beck Sullivan and Youth Ministries Assistant McKenzie Scott are doing a great job providing religious exploration experiences for our children and youth.

What about the lawsuit? Our recent ministerial “divorce” has unfortunately led to legal action. Some of the expenses have been covered by insurance. The Board is doing what it can to minimize expenses and to allow us to move on in love and fellowship. As new information becomes available, it will be presented to the congregation.

What is the theme for this year? Dare to Dream! Spreadsheets, pledge cards, budgets, and checks can get impersonal and, quite frankly, dull. What's important is what we do with the money. What is your dream for UUCC? Whatever it is, it almost certainly requires some money. Your pledge can help our dreams come true.

Hogwarts Registration is Open!

If you're interested in coming to camp, pick up a registration form in the RE Wing or ask Beck Sullivan to email one to you. Her email is rechair@uucolumbia.org. McKenzie Scott will be taking the registrations.

If you're interested in volunteering or working for one or two weeks of the camp, position descriptions are listed in the RE Wing. Let Beck know soon that you're interested in working or volunteering.

A poster for Hogwarts Camp 2019. The background is a dark blue night sky with stars. On the right, there is a detailed illustration of Hogwarts Castle in yellow and blue. The text is in a white, serif font. The title 'HOGWARTS CAMP 2019' is at the top right. Below it, the dates 'JUNE 17 - 21' and 'JUNE 24 - 28' are listed. To the left, the word 'Accio!' is written in a large, stylized font. Below that, the text describes the camp activities: 'Join the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia for a week of Divination, Transfiguration, Care of Magical Creatures, Quidditch and more!'. It also lists the time, cost, and contact information.

Accio!

HOGWARTS CAMP 2019

AGES 6 TO 13
JUNE 17 - 21
JUNE 24 - 28

Join the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia
for a week of Divination, Transfiguration,
Care of Magical Creatures, Quidditch and more!

Time: Camp day begins at 9:00 & ends at 3:00

Cost: \$200 for members of the UU Congregation
\$250 for non-members

Contact: McKenzie Scott at 803-799-0845, ext. 3
or reassist@uucolumbia.org

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia
2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC



Candles of Community

We send our condolences to Katherine Mathisen and David Mathisen, children of UUCC member **Rita Rhodes** who died on February 14, 2019. Information regarding the memorial service will be forthcoming. Please send condolences to her children at 4017 Beverly Drive, 29204.

Thank You

Kitchen

Special thanks to J.P. Flood for crafting and installing the serving shelf between the kitchen and Social Hall and to Phil Turner and John Logue for installing the new kitchen counters.

Animal Ministry Movie Night on March 8

A smaller than usual group gathered on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall to be entertained and watch the informative movie, "*Eating You Alive - one bite at a time.*" It was felt that the rain and fog kept some folks away, but those who came watched attentively and participated in the lively discussion that followed the movie.

Another feature of the evening included a speaker, Stacy Shepanek, who heads up an organization called Vegan Outreach. She was a wonderful resource after the movie and not only discussed practical ways to adopt a plant based diet, but answered questions from the audience that were specific to individual concerns. One idea that came out of this discussion is to start having cooking lessons again, in the same fashion as we did a few years ago.

Another real "star" of the evening was the wonderful spread of plant based food that filled two tables in the social hall and included everything from sandwiches and fruit to a wide array of plant based desserts, with a huge bowl of popcorn in the center - and more! All of this food was lovingly made by the members of the Animal Ministry and their special guests.

A lot of work went into pulling this evening off from the setup to staying late to clean up the social hall. The chair of the Animal Ministry would like to thank committee members: Patty Drews, Linda Brennison, Susan and Larry Siegel, and Laura Culler. A special shout out goes to Nancie Shillington-Perez, who although not officially a committee member, arrived early to help and was the last one to leave! And just as we have been so very fortunate in the past to enjoy, once again Joan Watterson jumped in at the clean up time and helped us all to get home a little earlier! Anita Grossman, Animal Ministry, Chair



Upcoming Services

March 17

“An Overarching Field of Love”

Rev. Pat Jobe

Canvass Kickoff

“Maybe St. Patrick didn't drive the snakes out of Ireland, but the meanings of certain words have inspired Rev. Jobe to look at myth and magic and maybe take us to a place outside ourselves to a place of transcendence. Saints be praised!”

March 24

“Turning a Burden Into a Gift”

Patrice Gaines

Patrice has lived a life that once filled her with shame and guilt. But as she grew spiritually, she discovered there was no need for shame or guilt and that in fact her mistakes became gifts when she shared them with others to encourage and inspire them to believe that incredible change is possible within a lifetime. Thus, she crafted her life-- once filled with drugs, abuse and bad decisions-- to become a shining gift to the Divine and to her fellow humans.

March 31

“Obedience to Truth”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

New Member Service/Reception

*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 at least 48 hours prior to the event.

April 7

Flower Communion

Mckenzie Scott/Rev. Stephen Robinson

Become a New Member Now and Join the Celebration!

If you would like to be among the honored guests at the New Member celebration on March 31, please speak with the Membership Committee volunteer at the Welcome table with the red tablecloth after the service Sunday or contact membership@uucolumbia.org by Sunday, March 17.

News and Notes



Pledge Kickoff March 17!

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

**Our Next
Congregational Conversation
will be held April 7 at 12:30 p.m.**

**See Page 11 for
Social Action Events**

Membership at the UUC

Have you been attending the UUC 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.

Communication from the Right Relations Committee

The mission of the Right Relations Committee is to provide guidance to the Board and support to the congregation in the healing process and efforts to rebuild and maintain trust after a difficult year. You can contact our committee chairs at rightrelationschair@uucolumbia.org or in person by talking to Emilio Perez and Kevin Meredith.

Escorts to Cars After Evening Events

The Membership Committee asks that people find escorts to their cars after any evening event and that they use the lights in their cell phones to light their way. Emilio will be available after all of the Membership Committee's "Meaning in Movie & Discussion Nights", but we request that no one take the risk of going to their car without someone by their side.

Meaning in Movies

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. 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. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring any additional drinks or treats you would like.



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.

Register Now for Annual Easter Work Weekend at The Mountain

It's time to register for the annual Easter work weekend at The Mountain. Several of us from the UUCC have already registered. If you have been there, you know what a wonderful place it is. If you have never experienced our UU retreat center, this is a great opportunity to learn about it for a reduced price plus a bit of 'elbow grease.' It is also an occasion for meeting other UU's from around the southeast as well as strengthening bonds with fellow members and friends of the UUCC.

Check-in begins mid-afternoon on Friday, April 19 and we officially end the work weekend with a minor Easter feast at lunch time on Sunday, April 21. The Mountain staff gives us free accommodations in exchange for our help in preparing the retreat center for spring and summer activities and events. The cost of our meals (\$70) is all we pay. Those who wish to spend the weekend with us but not as part of the work group, may do so for \$190.

During our work time, The Mountain staff is offering programs for children up to age 14. Costs for this vary with the age of the child. To register or for additional information, call The Mountain at 828-526-5838.

UUCC Men's Breakfast Group Second Thursday of Each Month



The UUCC men's breakfast group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month (next one is Tomorrow—March 14). Location TBD, but

most likely the Lizard's Thicket on Beltline. If you are interested, please let Phil Turner pturner@unt.edu know so we can have space available.

Men of Encore! It's Time to Sing Again

We will be on Sunday, March 17, so be warmed up and ready. Gather for practice in room 9 at 10:00 am and sing for the 11:00 am service. See you then! Richard (richardmcleod@bellsouth.net)

Membership Meeting Sunday, March 17

Join us from 1:15-2:15 p.m. in Room 10 as we will make final plans for the New Member Joining Ceremony and Reception after this Sunday's Canvas Kickoff luncheon. All are invited to our meeting. Questions? Contact membership@uucolumbia.org.

UUCC Book Club, Sunday, March 17

The next book club discussion is **6:30 pm on Sunday, March 17**. Peck Drennan will facilitate a discussion on *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt (yes, it has been done before.) We will meet at a member's home. The UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC. We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Ruthie Saunders for more information rsaunders@sc.edu

Christian Heritage Group, March 19

The Christian Heritage Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 19 at 12:00 noon in room 8 of UUCC. We will consider the origins of Easter. Easter is the greatest and most ancient holiday of the Christian Church, with a long and complex preparation and a date of celebration which varies each year. 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.

Life Stories Sessions on March 19 & 26

Contact Barbara Beeler at babssc@outlook.com. *Do not enter through front doors because an AA meeting will be in progress. Go directly to the teal side doors on Heyward Street. Classes will be held in the RE wing.*

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 plot?

September Set, Friday, March 22
Please Note New Time: 6:00 p.m.

On the fourth Friday of every month the UUCC 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 **6:00pm on Friday, March 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, April 5

Please join in Dances of Universal Peace [DUP] on Friday April 5, 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 renewal, love, and peace. 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>](mailto:mff426@gmail.com), or 803-743-0731, by Friday morning 4/5. Of course you are welcome even without replying!

DUP is most first Fridays [but no dance in January or July:] 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>



Women's Book Group, April 9

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, April 9, at 7:00 PM in Room 10 to discuss *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon at sjchubon@sc.rr.com or 776-0784.

UUCC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch Meets
Thursday, April 11, RSVP by April 9



If you haven't had a chance to enjoy the UUCC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch we will meet again on **Thursday, April 11, at Noon, at Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia.** This will offer another variety to our eating-out experience welcoming all UUCC ladies with a delightful Greek menu that will include vegetarian and vegan options. Our luncheon gatherings have proven to be a fun opportunity of getting to know each other better as well as making new friends. If you haven't tried it, now is the time! Please sign up at the Welcome/Membership Table or email Linda McLeod at bonneylass44@gmail.com. We must have our count in by Tuesday, April 9 to reserve the private dining room.



UUCC Annual Picnic Saturday, May 4
11:00 - 2:00 pm

Suzi Garland and Shelly Bon have graciously invited us to have our annual picnic again this year at their place. This is a marvelous way to meet new people and visit with those you already know. Look for a RSVP list/potluck sign up next month. Please contact Nancie Shillington-Pérez at nancierr@sbcglobal.net with questions.



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.

Visitor Orientation - Sunday, May 5

Our next Visitor Orientation will be held on Sunday, May 5, at 12:20 p.m. in the UUCC library, the detached building on Heyward Street with the red door. It usually lasts about 45 minutes, and light refreshments will be served. If you are new to the UUCC, or have not come for a while and have questions, this session is for you. This class is designed to help familiarize you with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and answer any questions you may have. Nancie Shillington-Pérez at membership@uucolumbia.org.

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 UUCC 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 Through March 27



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 UUCC Social Hall 11:00-11:45 a.m. **Chair Yoga will not meet April through August. We will start again in the Fall if there is interest.**

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 UUCC 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.

Choirs at the UUCC

Please join us in song! Singers of all levels of experience are invited to participate in choral opportunities at the UUCC: Adult Choir, Encore (Men's Choir), Prism (Women's Choir), and the Junior Choir. All are welcome as we bring voices, hearts, minds, and intentions together in the beauty of music. More information about our choirs and rehearsal schedules can be found on the UUCC webpage, www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/, under "Worship" *Music at the UUCC*. You may also contact UUCC Music Coordinator, Anna Hamilton, at music@uucolumbia.org.

Social Action

Social Action Committee Meeting, Sunday, March 24

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

About that UU World article about trans people...

In my sermon Sunday, March 3rd, I recommended that people read the brand new article in UU World. I assumed that because it was in UU World, it would have been a thoughtful, well written article. Well, I was wrong. Thank goodness I have friends who are smarter than me who pointed out that there were several problems with the article. I apologize for misleading people and hope that you will read this article instead: <http://bit.ly/trans-article>. Here's to moving forward despite our mistakes and trying to do better. Please feel free to speak to me if you have any questions. -Laura Hartwig socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

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.

Scholarship Available: Modjeska Simkins School for Human Rights

March 18-June 29 (Alternate Mondays) The Modjeska School is a civic engagement institute designed to help citizens of all ages learn how to promote democracy and justice in South Carolina. Participants are guided by Modjeska's fighting spirit as they take on issues of economic and social injustice that keep our state at the bottom of too many quality-of-life rankings. The school's curriculum is designed to address real-life problems we face in communities across our state that have been analyzed by the SC Progressive Network's Education Fund. Find out more here: <https://www.scpronet.com/modjeskaschool/> Contact SocialAction@uucolumbia.org for more info on the scholarship.

Walk A Mile In Their Shoes, April 11



Walk A Mile In Their Shoes is an evening of our community coming together to support Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands. Walkers are encouraged to wear the opposite gender's shoes, but of course not required. Find out more about shoes **here**. Walk A Mile begins at the South Carolina State House Grounds, on the main lawn facing Gervais Street and Main Street. When you arrive at the State House, you will see the registration table. If you did not collect your t-shirt at the t-shirt pick up dates, you can pick it up there. Our UUCC group will meet near the registration table. Please wear your yellow UU t-shirts.

Registration is \$15. Please note that you need to register for the walk BEFORE you join our team.

www.walkamilesc.com.



NAMI Walks, Saturday, May 4

10am Finlay Park. Join or support our team here: <http://bit.ly/UUCC-NAMI>

Fair Maps: Sun, May 5, 12:30-1:30pm



The problem: Gerrymandered Maps SC Fair Maps is a bipartisan coalition of individual advocates and organizations working to empower voters in the Palmetto State by passing legislation to create a citizens' commission that would draw district lines. That power now rests with lawmakers, who draw "safe" districts to benefit themselves and their parties rather than the people they were entrusted to serve. We plan to help them by circulating a petition in March. Be on the lookout for more info. Get more info on their website: fairmapssc.com/ Join their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/631723933934921/>

Continued...

Social Action continued

Other Social Action Events:

Expand Medicaid Rally, Saturday March 23

11:30am-2pm at the State House. Expanding Medicaid is a matter of life and death for the hundreds of thousands of people who would become eligible for equal access to health care. Participants will be able to participate in a brief die-in on the lawn in front of the statehouse and then line up along Assembly Street to protest together. Our speaker line up for this event is evolving and will be released later, but includes John Pavlovitz as our keynote speaker. John is a NC pastor and author, known for his social and political writings from a liberal Christian perspective. (<https://johnpavlovitz.com/>). Note: This is a permitted peaceful protest. It is child-friendly. Please refrain from using profanity on signs and while attending. Some signs will be available, but you should feel free to bring your own. Remember that the State House laws prohibit signs posted on stakes or sticks. We recommend arriving early to park nearby. This event will be during March Madness weekend here in South Carolina, and heavy traffic downtown should be anticipated.

An Afternoon with Bakari Sellers – Racism in Education, Sunday, March 31

2pm. SC Education Association Building, 421 Zimelrest Dr., Columbia, SC. Presented by People for Reconciliation. FREE.

Please check our website for new events posted almost daily:

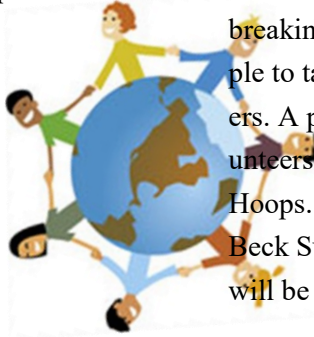
bit.ly/social-action

Religious Exploration

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.



UUC Columbia Maypole Celebration, April 28

We need people and resources for the Maypole Celebration, Sunday, April 28. We need help setting up and breaking down tables. We need at least 2 grills and people to take turns grilling hamburgers and veggie burgers. A plate of food and drink will be \$5. We need volunteers to help with the Maypole, bubbles and Hula Hoops. If you're interested in helping, please email Beck Sullivan at rechair@uucolumbia.org. The event will be from Noon (after service) to 2pm.

Middle School Outing to Local Buzz

Sunday, March 17, 12:30-1:30 pm

Just for Middle Schoolers, walk to Local Buzz after service and walk back together. It's simple and fun! Bring lunch money and walkable shoes. Another chaperone is needed. Please contact McKenzie at reassist@uucolumbia.org to RSVP.

Climb Upstate, Saturday, March 23

10-4pm

This event is FREE for all the teens. This climbing gym in Spartanburg has several climbing walls designed for top-roping and several low walls for bouldering. Ping pong and corn hole will also be there for fun! If you don't have any previous climbing experience, no problem! They will have instructors belaying and answering questions. In bouldering, there are climbing holds on low walls and mats under the walls in the instance that the climber falls. One more chaperone is needed. Please contact McKenzie at reassist@uucolumbia.org or Chad Horton at culturethroughtime@hotmail.com.



Denominational Connections – March 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.

Chalice Lighter Updates

Applications for our Spring 2019 Chalice Lighter calls are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is March 15th. This is a firm deadline. Learn more about the Southern Region Chalice Lighter program here. Submit an application for Chalice Lighter funding here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJxjFbAd-isJ5MqY0M3E24GjBEUG7x1EYne2vMxnxwam217A/viewform?c=0&w=1>.

Music Leadership Certification Program

The Music Leadership Certification Program (MLCP) is a program of the Unitarian Universalist Associate (UUA) that summons music leaders to their calling of music ministry, enriches their service to Unitarian Universalist congregations, and enhances their professional perspective and skills. Over the course of the three year program, music leaders in our congregations develop a foundational understanding of three main areas of knowledge: music skills and resources, UU heritage and values, and leadership and interpersonal skills. The deadline to apply is March 15th. For more information, as well as the application form, visit the website at <https://www.uua.org/careers/music/certification-requirements>. Contact Pat Kahn, Professional Development Programs Manager at pkahn@uua.org if you have questions.

Southern UU Leadership Experience - October 20-25, Wirtz, VA - Nominations are now open for our next immersion leadership development opportunity, Southern UU Leadership Experience (SUULE). Sending a team to a Leadership Experience is an investment in the future of the congregation and in the future of Unitarian Universalism. Please consider which current and emerging leaders would help your congregation benefit most from this experience and nominate them for SUULE 2019. This is a team building experience - Ministers and other religious professional should be part of the team. Download the complete SUULE packet to learn more about this leadership development opportunity. (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MQO-Ryw0Ua310bEBzGrMZsjsVc3rmBP/view>)

Submit nominations here: <https://fd8.formdesk.com/UUASR/LE2019/?get=1&sidn=58e08c6d26a14a89bcdb0d23e93ffe84>. Nominations will be open until May 1.

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:

***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-fEDKAIJIT3rHq8ezV9_1ZpkkvHi64wgLyR7w/viewformhttps://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckm5X0lcuqH7Co9Wr387f9rzrjMQBW0TYzUP-jpv4LOmRCfQ/viewform.

Continued

Denominational Connections – Continued

*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.

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** 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.



Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Every Thursday	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	3rd Wednesday of month	6:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Chair Yoga	Wednesdays through March 27	11:00 am	Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA	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, April 14	12:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Knit or Not	Every Monday	2:00 pm	Classroom # 10
Membership Committee	Sunday, March 17	12:30 pm	Classroom # 10
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, May 5	12:20 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, March 22	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, March 24	12:30 pm	Sanctuary
Technology Committee	Wednesday, April 3	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Thursday, April 11	5:00 pm	Classroom # 10
UU Book Club	Sunday, March 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, April 9	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

Presidents, Tim VanDenBerg	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Linda Brennon	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
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UUC Staff

Minister	Rev. Stephen Robinson, <i>revstephen@uucolumbia.org</i>
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>

Address: 2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

Phone — Office (803) 799-0845

Office Hours — Mon.– Fri. 6:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

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