



The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

May 8, 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 3

May 12, 2019

9:30 am Forum Topic
What constitutes sexual harassment?
11:00 am Sermon Topic
“Redeeming Eve and Other Lessons in Scriptural Selectivity,” by Jeanette Leardi

May 19, 2019

9:30 am Forum Topic
Is it possible to escape the two-party system that has a ‘stranglehold’ on the country?
11:00 am Sermon Topic
“Bridging Ceremony/Multigenerational Service”
by McKenzie Scott
& Rev. Stephen Robinson

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, June 9**, for publication on **Wednesday, June 12**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Why I Pledge: A Community of One Heart and Soul

I finally watched the latest installment in the *Avengers* series last week. The movie was an emotional mix of humor, sadness, thrills, and romance. Something for everyone. In the days leading up to our viewing, it was really hard to avoid the many reviews, recaps, analyses, and critiques lurking around the water cooler and every corner of the internet. As difficult as it was to avoid details in advance, it has been even harder this past week to keep from offering my own observations and analyses.

In order to distract me from this temptation, I have also been spending time reviewing our UUC 2020 Budget. [SPOILER ALERT: for those of you wishing to wait until its June 2nd unveiling, you may want to skip ahead to the next article.] In general, our projected income and expense figures are not too far out of alignment with the past 6-7 years, especially when considering the decline in membership. Within those figures are many positive stories: funding for our outstanding staff, committee initiatives, and facility operations. As is true every year, many committee hours have been invested in assembling the details with more hours to go until we have an approved budget.

Unfortunately, however, pledges are down - \$11k less than last year and \$25k short of our pledge goal for this year, leaving us around \$40k short of our total budget need. What can we do about this deficit? For those in a position to help, increase our pledges. Our family had already increased our pledge this year by 10% and will be increasing it by an additional 10% in order to help close the gap.

I pledge my time and financial resources to the UUC because I am a part of the UUC community. I am committed to its continued growth and vitality and ability to affirm and promote the UU Seven Principles. By acknowledging this common purpose, and remaining in covenant with each other, I believe we are able to act as a community of one heart and soul and accomplish tasks and achieve goals that would be impractical - perhaps impossible - when acting independently

We are stronger together. We are the UUC. In peace,
Tim VanDenBerg



Candles of Community

Please join us in the sanctuary on Saturday, June 8, at 11:00 am for Rita Marie Rhodes' memorial service.



Thank You

Emilio Jorge-Perez for his contribution towards the purchase of a life saving defibrillator and two trauma kits and the research he did for the purchase. Also, many thanks to Emilio for conducting "Stop the Bleed" courses for the Congregation.

Suzi Garland and Shelly Bon for hosting the annual picnic at their peaceful and spacious home again this year with some 45 guests! We were very fortunate that the rain held off and no one left hungry!

David Bryan for using his truck to get the tables and the UUCU tent to and from the picnic. The Membership Committee also appreciates everyone that helped by planning, setting up, and/or cleaning up.

Bill Dolley for creating and painting the space for the Membership Committee's brochure rack that is now completely full and ready to serve our congregation's and visitors' needs. Bill also assembled the rack, saving the chair of the committee much time and frustration!

A Perspective

by Marc Drews

This week, our guest speaker was the honorable Mia McLeod, state senator representing Richland and Kershaw Counties. The following was to be included in the service as a prelude to the senator's presentation. Instead, being sensitive to the length of our service, a decision was made to include it in the Unigram.

Having entered the education profession in the mid-70s, I've had the chance to work during several state reform efforts from the EFA in 1977, The EIA in 1984 and the Basic Skills emphasis in the 80s; Act 135, Target 2000, the EAA, and SC Frameworks in the 90s, and the standards movement throughout the 2000s. The problems we are facing are systemic in nature and result from the collision of several factors facing our schools; including, to name just a few:

- The overall neglect of our system, despite the issues being highlighted in Corridor of Shame and lawsuits such as Abbeville vs. the State of South Carolina.
- The multitude of issues facing our rural communities in terms of equity and access of resources and support;
- The cries from teachers asking to lower class sizes, providing support to allow them to do their jobs, including trained mental health care providers to allow them to focus on instruction rather than disruption;
- The decline in the numbers of prospective teachers and the exodus of too many existing ones;
- The obsession on testing, that has done little to inform us of anything substantial since the release of the *Nation at Risk Report* thirty-five years ago; and
- The deterioration of the sense of purpose experienced by many children and their families and the general lack of confidence in their school systems.

In my roles, I have had the chance to listen to voices of many teachers. They are charged with many responsibilities, but what they enjoy most is to inspire the joy of learning, nurture imagination and creativity, and stimulate the sense of wonder and curiosity.

Teachers remind me that the love of learning begins early and always through play and conversations with caring adults. Puzzles, patterns, and playful interaction with their world establish children's sense of curiosity, as does reading, counting, sorting, identifying shapes, and estimating, all build a foundation that encourages problem solvers, children who can reason, and people who are empowered to make decisions.

However, the focus on an end-of-year standardized tests has resulted in many teachers trudging through curriculum in what can be easily perceived as the "Stepford Educators". Teachers have told me that they are seeing a tremendous increase in desk potatoes living in a state of ennui and those who are more interested in what's on a screen (that researchers have found to impair cognitive functioning and social and result in emotional disorders). Teachers say that they spend an inordinate amount of time with these issues, taking away from instruction and student interaction and engagement.

Continued...

A Perspective (continued)

Teachers have shared that what we need today, to alter the tide and truly address the issues of a "sea of mediocrity" shared in the 1983 *A Nation at Risk Report*, is a stronger and wider sense of advocacy for learning. The teachers are asking that families need to better understand how important it is that children enter classrooms—as well as libraries, museums, and even places of worship. — with a greater passion for why they are there in the first place.

Our challenge begins here in South Carolina. What do we envision as the purpose of our education system? What do we want the role of an education system to be? And what will we consider evidence that we are making a difference in the lives of our students?

The answers to these questions will begin discussions that needs to take place in schools and communities across the state. Leaders have an opportunity to engage all of us in a long-awaited dialogue to seriously address some of the lingering systemic issues facing our schools. These issues cannot be addressed in pieces. These are systemic issues that need to have several state agencies come together and target their efforts and resources to our state's children and their families.

Teachers are asking for help to seriously address issues of support, including adding counselors to address the staggering social and emotional issues interfering with the learning process. They are also asking that decision makers tackle the issues of excessive testing and the issues related to access to high quality teaching and learning.

Teachers want time to teach in an atmosphere of community, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

It's time to engage our teachers in a conversation and let their voices be heard.

Marc Drews and his wife, Patty, have been members of the UUCC since 2012. He has served on the UUCC Board from 2013-2016 and currently is the chair of the Worship and the Personnel Committees. A retired educator, he is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at EdVenture and serves as the President of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

CYRE Summer Schedule

Spirit Arts: exploring spirituality through art, music, movement, and story

Summer RE has been planned and should be a lot of fun!

We'll have a structured but not sequenced curriculum this summer. Each topic stands alone and will come with the opportunity for the children and youth to create something or express themselves through music or movement.

Classes will be split into two groups: MS and HS and Pre-K through 5th.

Teachers:

We need at least 2 teachers for each of the two groupings of students.

If you're interested in helping, but not ready for the demands of a class, this is a great chance to volunteer for Free Play. Children will play outdoors in good weather. When the weather is poor, we will have art supplies and games available indoors.

If you can help as a teacher/assistant, please contact Beck Sullivan, rechair@uucolumbia.org.

Resources:

We are gathering resources to be used by teachers as background information and resources that can be used while teaching the children and youth. If you have resources that will help, please contact Beck Sullivan, rechair@uucolumbia.org.

SEE SCHEDULE ON NEXT TWO PAGES

CYRE Summer Schedule

Date	Curriculum and Resources	Activity	Staffing
May 29	Free Play	Free Play	Need 4 Teachers
June 2	Harmony as a way to touch spirit. Resources: Gregorian Chant (?) Tuvan Throat Singers	Singing	Anna Hamilton Beck Sullivan Need 2 more teachers
June 9	Sacred Structures The Labyrinth. Resources: materials and instructions to build a temporary labyrinth in side yard Finger labyrinths	Outdoors build and walk a portable labyrinth.	Beck Sullivan Mckenzie Scott Need 1 more teacher (MS/HS youth will help build labyrinth and help younger children)
June 16	Free Play	Free Play	Need 4 teachers
June 23	Touching spirit through yoga Touching spirit through Tai Chi	One group experiences yoga. One group experiences Tai Chi.	Mckenzie Scott Need a tai chi volunteer for this week and next. Need pre-K – elementary teacher Need 2 MS/HS teachers (Mckenzie contacting possible tai chi teacher)
June 30	Touching spirit through yoga Touching spirit through Tai Chi	One group experiences yoga. One group experiences Tai Chi.	Mckenzie Scott Need a tai chi volunteer for this week and next. Need pre-K – elementary teacher Need 2 MS/HS teachers (Mckenzie contacting possible tai chi teacher)
Backup June 23 or June 30	Sacred Stories. Greek myths and many Gods Books: 2 books reserved at RCPL (this is a backup lesson)	Make a god; mixed media	Beck Sullivan Need 1 Pre-L - elementary teacher Need 2 MS/HS teachers

CYRE Summer Schedule, Cont.

July 7	Free Play	Free Play	Need 4 teachers
July 14	Our interconnected Web Book: creation book reserved @ RCPL	Reuse materials in mixed media art	Need 4 teachers
July 21	Traditions that love the earth Resources: still gathering	Create art in style of Aboriginal dot painting (on rocks or sticks or paper)	Need 4 teachers
July 28	Creation Stories Books: 2 books reserved @ RCPL	Illustrate a story or make your own creation story	Beck Sullivan Need Pre K -elementary teacher Need 2 MS/HS teachers
August 4	Free Play or no RE	Free Play	
August 11	Showing Spirit—painting and Spirituality Kandinsky, founder of Abstract Art Resources: Still gathering Book: Noisy Paint Box Elementary Art instructions	Create Abstract Art	Need 2 pre-K – elementary teachers Need 2 MS/HS teachers
August 18	Poetry as spiritual expression Look at the Psalms (Christian) and Rumi (Muslim). What makes a poem a poem? Resources: still gathering	Paint a poem	Need 2 pre-K – elementary teachers Need 2 MS/HS teachers
August 25	Exploring transformation as spiritual expression Resources: text and images of transformation masks from NW Native American groups; Bali masks. Halloween masks Many masks represent characters in trickster stories. Raven and Coyote stories, especially. Book: Raven Download a couple of Youtube videos about tricksters	Make masks	Need 2 pre-K – elementary teachers Need 2 MS/HS teachers
September 1	Free Play	Free Play	Need 4 teachers
September 8	Fall RE Begins		

News and Notes

Budget Planning

The Finance Committee will present its draft budget for 2019-2020 to the Executive Committee on Wednesday, May 8. After almost certain revisions, the budget will go to the Board for its consideration on Wednesday, May 15. The final budget for next year will be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 2.

Where do you come in? UUCC has traditionally had a separate meeting to discuss the budget in detail before the annual meeting. This allows us to focus on the budget and reduces the time required for the annual meeting. This meeting will be on Friday, May 31. Your participation and comments are welcome, but not required.

Remember that the budget is not just a bunch of numbers arranged in categories chosen by finance geeks. It's a planning document. What do we want to do as a congregation next year? What staff do we need? What do our committees need to be doing? What does our building need? What do WE need to be doing? After all, we are the UUCC.

Pledge Cards Due

If you have not yet submitted your 2019/2020 pledge, please call or email your pledge amount in confidence to Andrea Dudick, Administrator, at 803-799-0845 or uucc@uucolumbia.org.

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.

Right Relations Committee

The ad hoc Right Relations Committee has been dissolved and the Board is now looking into coordinating and enhancing congregational relations and communication through the implementation of cross functional teams. Please reach out to Board members or the past RRC chairs, Kevin Meredith/Emilio Perez if you have questions.

Share the Plate Collection for April 2019

Thanks to your generous giving to Share the Plate we were able to send a check to our April 2019 recipient, MIRCI, in the amount of \$1,074.75. The Social Action Committee appreciates your participation in making this a successful program.

**See Page 13 for
Social Action Events**

UUC Men's Breakfast Group, May 9



The UUC's Men's Breakfast Group meets at 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month. On Thursday, May 9, Don Dodson is hosting the breakfast at his home: 727 Dial Creek Road, Elgin, SC 29045 (we are not in Elgin but get our mail from there) 803-764-6440. If you plan on attending, please email Phil Turner pturner@unt.edu so Don can make sure to have enough food available. Ham and eggs will be served.

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. 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.

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.

Funeral Planning Workshop, Saturday, May 11, All Saints' Episcopal Church

Find out everything you wanted to know about planning a funeral in South Carolina. The Funeral Consumers Alliance of SC, headquartered at the UUC, is offering another planning workshop on Saturday, May 11. A new board member has invited us to hold this year's workshop at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1001 12th Street in Cayce, SC. The session will last from 9 a.m. until noon.

After a brief introduction on the history of American funeral practices, we will explain available funeral options, goods, and services, point out the benefits of advance planning, describe recent changes in the funeral industry and how they affect consumers, and spell out your consum-

er rights under the Federal Funeral Rule. We also will offer advice on money-saving strategies and ways of paying for a funeral.

The workshop fee is \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a couple, if you pre-register. Walk-ins are welcome, but the fee at the door will be \$15 per individual and \$20 per couple. Register by sending a check, payable to FCASC, to FCASC, 2701 Heyward St., Columbia, SC 29205. Please include your name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address, if available.

We will give you lots of useful printed information to take away, and you will leave with a rubber ducky to give your grandchild or other lucky youngster, or to play with yourself and feel pleased that you can now get your ducks in a row.

Women's Book Group, May 14

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 PM in Room 10 to discuss *Blaze* by Richard Bachman/Stephen King. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon at sjchubon@sc.rr.com or 776-0784.

UUC Book Club, May 19

The next UUC book club discussion is 6:30 pm on Sunday, May 19. John Logue will facilitate a discussion on *American Wolf*, by Nate Blakeslee. 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, May 21

The Christian Heritage Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 12 noon in room 8 of UUC. We will consider the Lord's Prayer. Is there more than one? Where does it come from? Bring a light lunch 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, May 24, 6:00pm

On the fourth Friday of every month the UUCC has a pot-luck 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, May 24!** 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, June 7

All are invited to Dances of Universal Peace [DUP] on Friday June 7, from 7-9 pm in the Social Hall. 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 connection to the spiritual energy of the universe. This month our themes will be planting, rebirth, remembrance, 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.

As DUP are free, we are happy to accept small donations to support the Dances. We dance on most first Fridays [but no dance in January or July:] 6/7, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6; in 2020: 2/7, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1, 6/5 etc. For local DUP information, please contact Marguerite at [<mff426@gmail.com>](mailto:mff426@gmail.com), or 803-743-0731. For more information about global DUP, see <http://www.dancesofuniversalpeacena.org>

Visitor Orientation, June 9, 12:20 p.m.

Our next Visitor Orientation will be held on Sunday, June 9, 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. For more information or to arrange child care (with at least 48 hours notice please) contact: Nancie Shillington-Pérez email: 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

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.

Spare Reading Glasses?

Please consider giving any reading glasses you no longer use to Janet Swigler. She will be traveling to South Africa in August and would like to give them to the artists and craftswomen who need magnifying glasses for their work. She will be collecting the glasses the last 3 Sundays of May and again later in the summer. Janet's contact info is jlswigler@aol.com or 608-1042. Thank you!

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.

The UUCC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch Taking a Summer Vacation

The UUCC Ladies LUUnch BUUnch is taking a summer vacation but will meet again on the second Thursday in September, September 12, at noon. Mark your calendars now so you will be sure to save that date. We haven't decided where we will meet but are open to suggestions for a place that can accommodate at least 20 of us in a private room. We also need to consider a menu that can offer vegetarian and vegan options. If you have any ideas please Linda McLeod know by email at bonneylass44@gmail.com. Have a wonderful summer and we can look forward to a fun time of catching up in September. Watch the August Unigram for where and when.



UCC Yard Sale - May 17, 18 & 19

Sign Up to Help

Friday, May 17, 8am-4pm: Saturday, May 18, 8am-3pm: and Sunday, May 19, after the service. We hope everyone is saving their unwanted but reasonably good stuff for our UCC Fundraiser Yard Sale! **Volunteers** will be needed the week before, May 13-16, to **help collect, price and stage** the social hall. On the days of the sale we will need several people to **help with customers and sales**. We are in special need of people with **trucks** to help with large transports from donors.

If you could spare a few hours to help with this big fundraiser, please see **Jean Capalbo** after services on Sundays to sign up for a shift. You can also call her at (803)799-1001 or (928)202-0286.

Items can be dropped off beginning Sunday, May 12, after the service. We are accepting everything that is clean and in working order. This year books, DVDs, CDs, etc. will be welcomed! We will accept clothes for small children only. No large appliances. Also, please save your grocery bags for use at the sale.

Yard Sale Storage Available

Anyone needing storage until time for the yard sale? We now have a 10X20 foot storage unit for that purpose. Contact Joan Watterson at joan.l.watterson@icloud.com or 803-787-7873 for key and directions.

Schedules

Take In Times (please note: take in times have changed, please contact Jean Capalbo to reschedule)

Sunday, May 12	after service-3pm
Monday, May 13	8am-2pm
Tuesday, May 14	1-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 15	1-8pm
Thursday, May 16	1-5:30pm

Yard Sale Times

Friday, May 17	8am-4pm
Saturday, May 18	8am-3pm
Sunday, May 19	after service

Social Action

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.

NAMI Walks Update

NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) provides support, education, and advocacy to hundreds of thousands of families, individuals, educators, mental health service providers, and law enforcement professionals each year. We walked and raised \$385 to support this great cause. There's still time to support our team here: <http://bit.ly/UUCC-NAMI>



Feeding the Hungry at Transitions: Saturday, May 11

UUCC has a continuing commitment to help serve the evening meal at Transitions Homeless Recovery Center, 2025 Main Street in Columbia, on the second Saturday of every month. Please arrive by 5:15, as the service window is 5:30 to 6:00. Park in the Transitions lot. Sign in at the Security Office. Remember to bring a hat unless you prefer to wear one of the disposable hair nets they provide. We have stools for anyone who might find it uncomfortable to stand for 30 minutes. Please email Bob at bobwhit46@gmail.com if you are available.

#PledgeToListen Day of Unity, Wednesday, June 12

In these times of tremendous polarization and alienation, Tarek approached Trump supporters at a Trump rally in Louisville, Kentucky and made a startling offer to a population known to fear Muslims and the Arab world: a free trip to Egypt. This trip became the centerpiece of the film, with a simple premise: help foster return to civility, deep listening, and authentic conversation. Join #PledgeToListen: www.FreeTripToEgypt.com

Showtimes: 7:30 PM, Regal Columbiana Grande Stadium 14, 1250 Bower Parkway, Columbia and 7:30 PM, Regal Sandhill Stadium Cinema 16, 450 Town Center Place, Columbia.

Savannah River Site Watch, June 14

– is organizing in Aiken, SC on June 14, on the US DOE's plans for a new nuclear bomb factory, to make plutonium "pits" – the core of nuclear weapons – at the Savannah River Site.

Social Action Committee Meeting: Sun, June 23

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

Seeds Of Hope Farmers Market: Mid-June thru Mid-August



10:30am-12:30pm. The Seeds of Hope project is an annual project in which UUCC sponsors a fresh market stand in front of the church beginning each Sunday from mid-June through mid-August. Last summer we sold over \$550 worth of produce for Farmer Louis Reid who has become well known to us over the years as the farmer that has supplied us with the fresh fruits and vegetables. The market is a nice invitation to the community as they are out on Sunday morning walks to stop by and pick up fresh produce from the smiling faces of the volunteers that assist for the UUCC. Sign up at: [Seeds of](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T-fQ3gvQ1HJSzzAMGtMkMb_poqD_bZRM2S7C1EbW-cE/edit?usp=sharing)

[Hope.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T-fQ3gvQ1HJSzzAMGtMkMb_poqD_bZRM2S7C1EbW-cE/edit?usp=sharing)https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T-fQ3gvQ1HJSzzAMGtMkMb_poqD_bZRM2S7C1EbW-cE/edit?usp=sharing

Please check our website for new events posted almost daily:

bit.ly/social-action

Hogwarts Registration is Open!

Register Now for Hogwarts Summer Camp

Hogwarts Summer Camp is almost here! The magic and fun for children ages 6 to 13 will be held 9 a.m. to 3 pm. Monday, June 17 to Friday, June 21, and Monday, June 24 to Friday, June 28. Older children are encouraged to apply to be prefects.

Snacks are provided but children bring their lunches. The cost is \$200 for UUCC members and \$250 for non-members. A sibling discount of 10% can be applied to additional children in a family. Hardship scholarships are available for members of the UUCC. For more information, see our RE Chair, Beck Sullivan, or fill out this quick form (<https://goo.gl/forms/RWmzHI0m9iHGo56C3>), and we'll get back to you.

Here are links to registration forms:

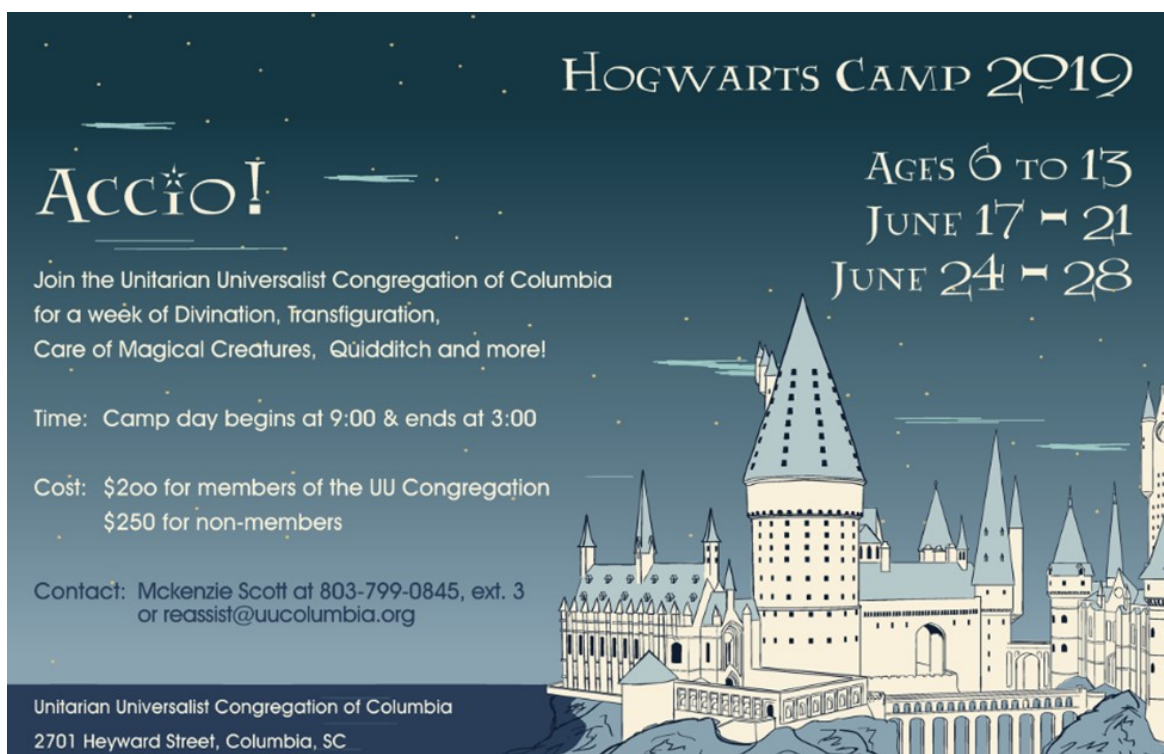
> Member form <<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WccG69Q1A8H3IWaqGUeUcdHEUDhXfR0Y/view?usp=sharing>>

> Non-Member form <<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eHfZMqPwFRK-BHSuvU-COuz7OGusePJr/view?usp=sharing>>

Download the form, fill it out and mail it with a check to: Attn: DRE | 2701 Heyward St | Columbia, SC 29205

We're also looking for adults to fill roles as "professors" and even "ghosts." The professors teach classes from "alchemy" to "transfigurations." Check this link for class descriptions. <<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oVimUbaqEUIgzLmRsBiUiKPZBLpsT6Y2/view?usp=sharing>>. Curricula are already available. You can also haunt the halls as a "ghost" (helper), with duties that might include shadowing, chaperoning, running errands and light kitchen duty. Contact Beck Sullivan at RE Chair <rechair@uucolumbia.org>.

Link to UUCC Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2068376419944420/?active_tab=about>

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. The text is in a white, serif font. The title 'HOGWARTS CAMP 2019' is at the top right. Below it, the dates 'AGES 6 TO 13', 'JUNE 17 - 21', and 'JUNE 24 - 28' are listed. On the left, the word 'Accio!' is written in a large, stylized font. Below it, the text reads: 'Join the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia for a week of Divination, Transfiguration, Care of Magical Creatures, Quidditch and more!'. Further down, it says 'Time: Camp day begins at 9:00 & ends at 3:00'. Then, 'Cost: \$200 for members of the UU Congregation \$250 for non-members'. At the bottom left, it provides contact information: 'Contact: McKenzie Scott at 803-799-0845, ext. 3 or reassist@uucolumbia.org'. At the very bottom, it says 'Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia 2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC'.

Religious Exploration

Middle School Local Buzz Outing, Sunday, May 12, 12:30-1:30

Simple and Fun, meet after service to walk together to the Local Buzz for a snack with your fellow middle schoolers. One more Chaperone needed. Contact McKenzie at reassist@uucolumbia.org

Bridging Ceremony, Sunday, May 19

All youth are encouraged to participate in singing during the service. Come to celebrate our graduating high schoolers, middle schoolers, and elementary schoolers as their worlds grow. Three Middle and High schoolers will be asked to help as Board members. Contact McKenzie at reassist@uucolumbia.org

Canoe Trip Down Cedar Creek Saturday, June 1, 9:30am-4:00pm

This is open to all Jr. high and High schoolers (friends welcome). If you have access to a canoe or kayak, please let me know and plan to bring it this day. This is still in coordination stage but I believe we have at least 16 canoe/kayak seats. 2-3 more chaperones are needed and encouraged. The cost should be free and plan to bring lunch/snacks. Contact McKenzie at reassist@uucolumbia.org

Creative Lock-In for Middle and High School, June 8, 6:00pm

Mark your calendars for the next lock-in! In addition to pizza and snacks, there will be art supplies and a art/creative projects, as well as access to outside before 11pm. If you have any ideas that you enjoy doing and want to share with the group, please let McKenzie know. Two chaperones will be needed for overnight and 2 more for 6-11pm.





Denominational Connections – May 8, 2019

****Four UCC GA Delegates Needed!** If you would like to attend GA as a UCC delegate, please contact Keitha Whitaker at denomconn@uucolumbia.org. Remember, you can also attend as an off-site delegate if you are unable to go to Spokane. Off-site registration is considerably less than on-site registration, but you will still need to receive credentials to serve as a delegate. If you are interested, please let me know.

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.

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-Ryw0Ua310bEBzGrMZsjs0Vc3rmBP/view>)

Submit nominations here: <https://fd8.formdesk.com/UUASR/LE2019/?>

[get=1&sidn=58e08c6d26a14a89bcdb0d23e93ffe84](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:

- ***Leadership Basics Webinar - May 16, 6:30 pm Eastern Time***

Join Kathy McGowan from the Southern Region and Renee Ruchotzke from the Central East Region to discuss the basics of congregational leadership and to explore some of the resources that are available for further leadership development. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMATudPNmWrvz765Lyp0iX9XDkwf9vCIGEQ0DgK_iNsh1g2Q/viewform

- ***Welcome to General Assembly 2019 - June 5, 7:30 pm Eastern Time***

This webinar offers an opportunity for Unitarian Universalists registered for our 2019 UUA General Assembly to gather information and learn together. Learn more and register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7f9nbR5sc5g02xR6CCkExW8_7r3qSEaSMWiVo1Kw4VEgL0w/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 **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/>)

This committee needs more members! *Time commitment is minimal*. Please talk with Keitha Whitaker or Anne Mellen about joining us! If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at denomconn@uucolumbia.org. Keitha Whitaker, Chair, Denominational Connections.



Cotton Branch Animal Farm Tour

On Saturday, April 27, nearly thirty UUCC members and friends traveled to Batesburg-Leesville to tour Cotton Branch Animal Sanctuary, visiting the animals, feeding them, and enjoying them in their natural environment.

Cotton Branch Farm Animal Sanctuary provides a safe haven for abandoned, abused, neglected, and elderly farm animals. There is a lack of sanctuary for farm animals, who make up 98% of the animals killed in the US each year.

"We exist to help those animals," said Evan Costner, who led our group's tour, and manages CB with his husband Josh.

The visit was organized by the UUCC Animal Ministry Committee. Evan reminded us to make compassionate choices in our everyday lives when it comes to what we eat, wear, and use for entertainment.

"By reducing demand for animal products, we can reduce the number of animals in need of rescue, and we can help reduce the number one cause of negative impact on our environment: animal agriculture," added Evan.

Whole Foods of Columbia donated a large amount of produce to help the animals, and the group really enjoyed feeding them.



Reflections on Time Well Spent

Seven members of the UUCC travelled to The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center to participate in the annual Easter work weekend. We find ourselves repeatedly drawn to the spectacular vistas, the spiritual growth and fulfillment, the warmth and devotion of the staff, and the comfort of wholesome and delicious food which are part of this amazing place.

Travel to The Mountain on Friday was challenging through severe thunderstorms, flooding roads, and tornado warnings. Several people either cancelled or delayed arrival until Saturday, but all the UUCC crowd made the final drive to the top of Little Scaly Mountain before bedtime Friday. The unusual weather continued Saturday with snow flurries lasting most of the day.

Because of weather considerations, the plans for chores were adjusted to allow us to spend most of our working hours either indoors or in sheltered areas. In spite of that change, there was much to keep us busy. We sanded and painted chairs in the recreation hall, worked on sewing projects for the living quarters, cleaned and organized supply and game closets, caulked and painted walls and ceilings in the dining hall, scrubbed the serving area and all the chairs in the dining hall, provided a deep cleaning to the cabins which were not currently occupied, cleaned winter debris from the beach area around the pond, and (perhaps the favorite chore of many) worked in the garden and greenhouse including starting seeds for the early planting of crops. After vacating our rooms on Sunday morning, the big focus was on readying all the accommodations for the arrival later that day of the participants in the annual Music Week at The Mountain.

But it wasn't all work. Each day before dinner we enjoyed social hour in The Commons where we could relax over popcorn and liquid refreshment of our choice while getting to know the participants from other UU congregations in the Southeast. Friday evening after dinner we gathered around a campfire (relocated to the rec hall fireplace) for s'mores followed by a slide show and narrative of the history of The Mountain. Saturday evening we were treated to an exceptional performance of guitar and vocals (to which many of us sang along) given by a Mountain regular. For many strong people who didn't need to immediately collapse into bed, this was followed by a game session. And all this activity was capped with an Easter morning sunrise service on Meditation Rock, led by Rev. Pat Jobe. It was a spiritually sustaining event in spite of the very bitter cold.

It seems always hard to leave The Mountain, but we did so feeling honored for the opportunity to give back in some very helpful ways to this magnificent place. If you have any questions about our weekend or The Mountain, please ask. All of us are happy to share our love of it.

Kathy Farnsworth
Jeanette Walton

Loretta Spencer
Marleen Trader

Joan Watterson
Jim & Ginny Verne

From the Executive Director of The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center

It's been a week since we came together and braved the snow. As I have been walking around the property I marvel on the amount of work we got done Easter weekend with a little help from our friends. The old saying is true "many hands make light work". I wanted to take a moment and say thank you, I appreciate every one of you. Your participation, membership, advocacy and love for this special place is inspirational. You are a huge part of our success and the reason The Mountain is a special place. Love you and look forward to seeing you soon, Theodore (Ted) D. Wisniewski

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	On Hiatus Until Fall		
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)	Sunday, May 12	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	TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Knit or Not	Every Monday	2:00 pm	Classroom # 10
Membership Committee	TBA	10:30 am	Classroom # 10
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, June 9	12:20 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, May 24	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, June 23	12:30 pm	Sanctuary
Technology Committee	Wednesday, June 5	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	Classroom # 10
UU Book Club	Sunday, May 19	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, May 14	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>
Treasurer, Bob Whitaker	<i>treasurer@uucolumbia.org</i>
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Finance Chair, Caroline Eastman, ex officio	<i>financechair@uucolumbia.org</i>

UUC Staff

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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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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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