



The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

August 14, 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

August 18, 2019

9:30 am Forum Topic

What -or who- would we be willing to lay our lives down for?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

"Religious Humanism," by Peter Kandis

August 25, 2019

11:00 am Forum Topic

What is 'faith'? What is 'truth'? How can faith be a path to truth when faith leads different people to different and inconsistent conclusions?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

"The Good Life Lived in Community"
by Andy Reese

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, September 8**, for publication on **Wednesday, September 11**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.*

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

Message From Our Minster

"Can We Be a Roaring Fork?"

Although the thermometers of Columbia still boast of heat well into the 90's, so many signs around us let us know that summer is coming to an end. Families sort through pictures from vacations. Teachers prepare classrooms that will soon be filled with the energy of young minds ready to learn. Excited freshmen move into university dorms and feel the independence of adult living.

At the UUCC, we celebrate a ritual that helps us reflect on the events of the summer and transition into the Fall. On Sunday, September 8, we extend the invitation to all to bring water that is meaningful from a place, event, or special occasion and participate in our Water Communion. This UU ritual began in the early 1980's as two Unitarian Universalist women, Carolyn McDade and Lucile Shuck Longview created a service that centered around the metaphor of water. This has become a tradition in the Fall each year for so many UU congregations to begin a new church year and unite around our good work.

As we celebrate the Water Communion at the UUCC, you will be invited to share some thoughts about the water you bring and pour into a large bowl. As we all pour our water, our individual contributions become tributaries of the larger body of water we create, symbolizing the way our unique selves connect together as one covenant community.

Continued...

In the breathtaking scenery of Aspen, Colorado, melting snow and hundreds of little streams all gather together to form the Roaring Fork River. Nature celebrates its own water communion as these many tributaries pour into the 70 mile river, which winds through the Colorado Western Slope and Roaring Fork Valley. This beautiful river provides sustenance to the web of existence around it and provides a home to hundreds of fish and other creatures. Communities of humans have gathered along the shores of the Roaring Fork and enjoy the rocky landscape created by its persistent flow that becomes powerful enough at the southernmost point for exciting rapids for rafters.

In addition to being a substantial river on its own, the Roaring Fork also serves as one of the major tributaries that form the mighty Colorado River. Thousands of tourists each year stand along the edge of the Grand Canyon and witness first hand how the Colorado River, over billions of years, has faithfully and persistently carved its mark into the earth and changed the landscape of the Southwest United States and Northern Mexico. Water...collected and communing together...shaping the landscape.

The bowl of water we will create in our worship service on September 8, from the many tributaries, symbolizes the river that we become when we support each other, help each other grow, and work together in covenant community. The UUCC provides a spiritual home to so many and nurtures the web of existence around us. When we work together, we become a powerful force for justice, equality, and reform in our culture. And when we join forces with hundreds of other congregations choosing to side with love, we become a mighty river that can persistently and faithfully change the landscape of our country. We can not lose hope. We must continue to believe our river can provide refreshment and healing in our toxic culture of division, fear, and violence.

Water...collected and communing together...shaping the landscape.

Rev. Stephen Robinson

Message from our Director of Religious Exploration

I am Scott Sargent, your new Director of Religious Exploration. I have lived in the Columbia area since 1974, with the exception of four years in Spartanburg while attending Wofford College, majoring in science. After graduation I began working for the American Red Cross Blood Services in Columbia. It was there that I met my wife Karen, who was working in their reference laboratory during that time. We have two adult daughters, Kara and Jess, both living out of state.

After nearly 25 years at the Red Cross I decided to continue my education, entering the graduate program in Religious Studies at USC. As a student I was asked to teach a section of their introductory class, and was surprised to discover that I really enjoy teaching! Upon graduation I accepted a position with the University, and have been teaching various Religious Studies courses over the past 11 years. It is difficult to believe that it is almost time for a new school year, but I will soon begin teaching two courses for the Fall semester: one section of our Religion 101 class, plus a course in Hindu literature.

Everyone I have encountered at the UUCC has been very welcoming, and I thank you for your hospitality. As you know, children and young adults are a vital part of any church, and the entire adult congregation has a role to play in nurturing the growth of their values. I look forward to work with you all in this important endeavor.



Candles of Community

Richard and Linda McLeod are very grateful for all of the kind thoughts, phone calls, emails and texts, and wonderful meals provided to us as we recover from the fire loss to our home. Your friendships are priceless and knowing that is the one thing we did not lose in the fire means everything to us. We will move into our temporary home at 5000 Forest Drive Apt. 1112, Columbia, SC 29206, for the next six months while we search for our new home somewhere closer to the church where we spend so much of our time anyway. We have decided this will be an excellent time to become condo dwellers and simplify our lives. Thanks to all of you for being our extended family.



Thank You

Senior Resources

Thank you for the \$1,015 donation you made to our Meals on Wheels program at Senior Resources. Your generous donation will provide 135 meals to our elderly home-bound neighbors. Thank you for the continued support! Sincerely, Pamela M. Dukes, Executive Director

Planned Parenthood

Thank you for your \$1,506.34 donation to Planned Parenthood South Atlantic and for helping us keep our promise to be there for our patients - **now more than ever**. As you know, we recently lost Title X funding, your support literally saves lives. We're so grateful for you all sharing your plate! Sincerely, Joyce Mitchel-Antoine, Vice President for Development

Harvest Hope Volunteer Day

Thanks so much to our volunteers who showed up to help Harvest Hope Food Bank on Saturday, August 3. They did a great job of representing the UUs! Thanks to Joan, Beverly, Jeanette, David, Ginny, Jim, Ceren, Charlie, and Kathy! We will need hearty volunteers again for a fun time at our next scheduled work day on Saturday, October 26, from 9-12.



Sign Up for Circle Suppers/Lunches by Friday, August 25

We have the Ladies LUUnch BUUnch, and the Men's Breakfast Group. This Fall, we will also have Circle Suppers/Lunches to provide an additional venue for getting to know one another in a more relaxed, quiet setting. This is how it works: People sign up and are assigned to a group of 6 -10 people, based on preferences, needs, and aspirations. The group or host selects date(s) and time(s) to meet, and members take turns hosting (at home, restaurant, or church). The designated host coordinates and provides the main entree when meeting at a home or the church.

There will be 3-4 monthly Circle Suppers/Lunches between September and December. **2nd Fridays** will be the church-wide suggested meeting date, though each group is free to set dates and times that work best for them. If anyone has to cancel, the host will invite others to fill-in.

Depending on preferences expressed, we expect to offer several options – possibly Young Adult, Adult, Family, or Parent groups – Vegan, Vegetarian, Omnivore – home-based, restaurant-based, church-based – lunch or dinner.

[Please control-click here and signup online by August 25th](#) we can get started in September. If you are technology-reluctant, sign up at the Welcome Table in the social hall, or send an email to circlesuppers@uucolumbia.org. Contact person: Karen Brown



News and Notes

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.

**See Pages 11 & 12 for
Social Action Events**

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.

Share the Plate Collection For July 2019

Thanks to your generous giving to Share the Plate we sent a check to our July recipient, SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, for \$879.50. The Social Action Committee appreciates your participation in making this a successful program.

Joe Long Opening Art Reception Saturday, August 17

You are invited to the opening art reception of Joe Long's nature photographs on Saturday, August 17 from 2:30-4:30pm in the Social Hall. Light refreshments will be served.



Boston Meeting, August 18

Teens will meet during the service from 11:15-Noon. Parents can join after service from Noon-12:45. Teens will continue to research fun activities to do. After service, dates will be decided and we can look at everyone's volunteer hours and requirements. Room 8. Please RSVP to McKenzie Scott at reassist@uucolumbia.org.

Visitor Orientation, Sunday, August 18, 12:20pm



Our next Visitor Orientation will be held on Sunday, August 18, at 12:20 p.m. in the UUC library, the detached building on Heyward Street with the red door. It usually lasts about 50 minutes, and light refreshments will be served. If you are new to the UUC, 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 childcare (with at least 48 hours' notice please) contact: Nancie Shillington-Pérez. email: membership@uucolumbia.org.

UUC Book Club, Sunday, August 18, 6:30pm, UUC Social Hall

The next UUC book club discussion is 6:30 pm on Sunday, August 18. Alvin Steingold will facilitate a discussion on *The Soul of America*, by John Meacham. We will meet at the UUC Social Hall. 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. We hope to see you there!

September Set, August, 23, 6:00pm

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 **6pm on Friday, August 23!** If you have questions, email or call Pat Mohr (patmohr@mindspring.com; 803-463-3504) or Jean Capalbo (jacapalbo@aol.com; 803-799-1001).

Membership Committee Meeting, Sunday, August 25, 12:30pm

The Membership Committee will meet in Room 10 to review specifics of our Bylaws as they pertain to members and friends, among other things. Questions? Contact membership@uucolumbia.org.

Christian Heritage Group, August 27

The Christian Heritage Group is a group of Post-Christian refugees. This month's meeting has been rescheduled to the fourth Tuesday, August 27, at 12:00 noon in the UUC library. You are welcome to bring a Brown Bag lunch or snack for yourself or to share. If you have any questions, call Don Cooper at (803) 466-5087 or e-mail at dnldcooper@gmail.com.

Dances of Universal Peace, September 6

All are invited to Dances of Universal Peace [DUP] on Friday September 6, from 7-9 pm in the Social Hall. Sponsored by the universalist Sufi Ruhaniat International order, DUP are active meditative practices honoring the positive spiritual energy in the world's diverse faith traditions. Each dance has its own chant and movements that are taught and led. Expect respectful hand-holding, eye contact, and occasional hugs as part of the dances. As we move through several iterations of each dance, we deepen our own connection to the energy of the universe. This month our special theme is celebration of a bountiful harvest. After dancing, we socialize a while over refreshments. DUP are free, and we are happy to accept small donations to support the Dances. If you are planning to come to this dance, please RSVP by noon on 9/6 to Marguerite at <mff426@gmail.com>, or 803-743-0731. For more information about North American DUP, see <http://www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org>.

Welcome Back Event!

Saturday, September 7, 6-9pm

Let's play ball, VOLLEYBALL!!! Join us in welcoming back our young adults, youth, and children to school by enjoying an evening of volleyball, badminton for children 12 and under, a campfire pit, and s'mores!! You don't need to play to attend. "Fans" are always appreciated! Please bring an appetizer, lawn chair or blanket, and a water bottle, keeping in mind that we will be outside the building on the lawn on Heyward Street. If you play guitar, bring it along to help accompany those that will sing campfire songs! Questions? Contact Nancie Shillington-Pérez at membership@uucolumbia.org.

The Women's Book Group

Tuesday, September 10, 7:00pm



The Women's Book Group will meet September 10 at 7:00pm in Room 10 to discuss *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon at 776-0784

or sjchubon@sc.rr.com

UUC Men's Breakfast Group, Second Thursday of Each Month

The UUC men's breakfast group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month (**next one is September 12**). This time we meet at the Lizard's Thicket on Beltline. If you are interested, please let Phil Turner pturner@unt.edu know so we can have space available.

Ladies Luncheon

UUC Ladies Luunch Buunch Fall Startup Tuesday, September 12

It's time to get together again for our Ladies LUUnch BUUnch starting Tuesday, September 12, at Noon. We will meet at Arabesque, 2930 Divine Street. This lunch gathering is open to all women of all ages. We have enjoyed many such occasions at different venues in the past. Arabesque offers a variety in their menu to include vegan and vegetarian options. We will have a private room but do need to know how many will be attending in advance. Please sign up at the Membership Table or email Linda McLeod at bonneylass44@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you all there and hope to see new faces as we get together after the summer break.

It's Mountain Time!! October 4-6

Please join us for a relaxing weekend at our UU camp and conference center on top of Little Scaley Mountain near Highlands, NC. The weekend includes six meals and two nights' stay- Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Accommodations range from hotel-type rooms in the lodge to the camper cabins with bunks and many choices in between. Costs are: Adults-\$190. Single occupancy-\$260. Youth 8-17-\$70. Under 8-free. Register online www.TheMountainRLC.org or call the office during working hours 828-526-5838. Questions-Joan Watterson- 803-787-7873 or joan.l.watterson@icloud.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.

The Buddhist Insight Meditation Community of Columbia Meets Mondays

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

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 UUCS Social Hall.

Bring your own supplies and prepare to enjoy the company of other artists at no cost. No instruction provided. Contact Linda Brennison at linbrenni@gmail.com 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

Seeds of Hope Summer 2019

We had another successful year helping Farmer Reed earn extra money. This year we sold over \$600 worth of fresh fruits and vegetables and charmed all the neighbors. Look for us again next summer with a new tent to provide extra shade. Thanks so much to Bauer and our volunteers. We couldn't do this without them!

Immigration Sponsors Needed

The Refugee and Immigration Center in San Antonio TX is looking for sponsors for immigrants being detained in Texas. If immigrants have someone to sponsor them while they are waiting for their asylum case, they can be released from the detention center. The Refugee and Immigration Center might be able to cover travel expenses from Texas to SC. If you, or anyone you know, might be able to help, please contact SocialAction@uucolumbia.org. Thank you!

Sanctuary Church Update

Clayton Memorial UU in Newberry has announced that they are ready to receive refugees for sanctuary. There is a reception room with a shower, a bathroom, and a bed, along with shades, etc. around the windows for privacy. We applaud their efforts and are on standby for any help they may need.

Immigration Raids in Mississippi

Our hearts are heavy with the news of immigration raids this week in Mississippi. If you'd like to help, Rev. Justin McCreary (minister serving the UU Church of Jackson, MS) suggests donating to the [Mississippi Immigrants' Rights Alliance](#), an organization with a long history of working to expand and protect the rights of immigrants and their families in Mississippi.

What can we do to help immigrants?

The Social Action Committee is creating a sub-group to focus on immigration issues. This group would find and summarize information and propose direction for us to take including how to work with other groups in seeking justice for the immigrants and refugees. The focus of this group would be to find out what we – both individually and as a congregation – can do. Initially we would want to meet for a brief period each week or two to find how we can get everyone involved. Anyone who is interested in this effort please contact JEANETTE.WALTON@bcbssc.com.

Social Action Committee Meeting: Sunday, August 25

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

Pride Parade Planning Meeting: Sunday, August 25

1-2pm in the sanctuary. This will follow the SAC meeting. We are discussing using a truck this year instead of a float due to reduced turn out expected at the parade because of the Mountain Retreat conflict. We want to save the \$375 and put that money to better use. Please join us to decide how we will decorate the truck and the logistics. We still expect this to be a fun parade and encourage as many people as possible to show up to represent the UUs at this important event.

Thursday, August 22: The Revolutionary Power of Diverse Thought by Elif Shafak August TedTalk at 6:30 pm, Cayce/West Columbia County Library, 1500 Augusta Rd, West Columbia, SC 29169. Elif Shafak is a Turkish-British novelist, essayist, academic, public speaker and women's rights activist. A native of Turkey, Shafak has experienced firsthand the devastation that a loss of diversity can bring — and she knows the revolutionary power of plurality in response to authoritarianism. In this passionate, personal talk, she reminds us that there are no binaries, in politics, emotions and our identities. "One should never, ever remain silent for fear of complexity," Shafak says. Presented by The Atlantic Institute. [Please RSVP Here](#)

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Social Action...continued

Tuesday, August 27: Rainbow Response Creating Safe Spaces for LGBTQ+ Refugees Resettling in the U.S. Join us to learn about the experiences and challenges faced by LGBTQ people who are fleeing from political persecution and violence in their home countries and are resettling in the United States. We will examine the roles that refugee resettlement agencies, as well as other organizations and community members, can play in supporting and welcoming people to their new home. Our speakers are Deborah L. Billings, PhD and Dylan Gunnels. Billings has worked in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout the world for the last 30 years. She currently is a consultant and adjunct faculty in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. Dylan Gunnels is a local activist, community builder, and entrepreneur who currently serves as the Refugee Services Coordinator for a local non-profit where he oversees job development and economic stimulus for the refugee/immigrant population in Columbia. You will leave with a new understanding of the processes people encounter to gain refugee or asylee status in the United States and how sexual identities shape people's experiences of resettlement. 6PM DINNER / 6:30PM PROGRAM REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1118 UNION ST, COLUMBIA. [RSVP for August 27th](#)

#RaisetheCap Rally Tuesday, August 27, 5-7pm

SC Statehouse Grounds (Main & Gervais) Columbia, SC. The Trump administration has radically slashed the number of refugees resettled in the US. Recently, reports surfaced that some Administration officials have proposed resettling zero refugees in 2020 – all during the worst refugee crisis in world history. Prior to this point, our #RaisetheCap Campaign has focused on asking Presidential candidates to commit to restoring the refugee ceiling to Obama levels, but now we are forced to take action to pressure our current elected leaders in the face of more radical reductions that would do long term damage to our refugee resettlement program in the US. Join us for a Sign Line from 5pm-6pm in front of the SC Statehouse followed by a Rally with Speakers on the SC Statehouse Steps. Tents with tables will have letters to sign and send to our elected leaders. Sponsored by the Carolina Peace Resource Center

Sunday, September 15: The Bail Trap: American Ransom- Screening and Discussion



1-3pm at UUC. Do you know how the money bail system contributes to systematic racism? Money bail is one of the main feeders of America's mass incarceration system – and yet something most Americans know very little about. Brave New Films is producing a series of short films to change that. The money bail system is broken: private companies achieve exorbitant profits by scavenging off of communities (primarily of color) living in poverty. Low-income Americans are sitting in jails for days, months, and even years for the most minor of infractions simply because they can't afford to pay high bond amounts. The reality is that the majority of people –over 70% -are in jails for one simple reason: being too poor. This is both morally and legally wrong. Film generously donated by Brave New Films. Event is FREE and open to the public. Please bring your friends.

Famously Hot Pride Parade: Friday, October 4

The 2019 Get Lit Night Parade will begin at 7:30pm. We will be having committee meetings to discuss this year's float decorations. Since it's another night parade, start collecting your glow in the dark paraphernalia and plan on wearing your yellow t-shirt. More info coming soon, but be sure to mark your calendar!

Harvest Hope Volunteer Day, Saturday, October 26

9am - Noon at their warehouse at 1117 Bluff Industrial Blvd., Columbia. Please wear closed toe shoes and wear your yellow t-shirts. Anyone 16 or over is welcome to sign up and 10 and over are welcomed with an adult. Email SocialAction@uucolumbia.org to sign up.

August 31, 7-9pm: God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse

A benefit to support the [Modjeska Simkins School for Human Rights](#) and the Joseph H. Neal Health Collaborative. The event will be held at Lower Richland High School, 2615 Lower Richland Blvd. in Hopkins. Details on [Facebook](#).

Please check our website for new events posted almost daily:

bit.ly/social-action

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH PILGRIMAGE OF UU CONGREGATION, COLUMBIA

Tour of Transylvania, Romania and Budapest, Hungary – July 9 to 20, 2019

Please pick up a copy of the full article with more photos in the foyer.

Five UUC members and a Methodist friend were privileged to tour with Rev. Zsolt Solymosi and visit our Beszterce Partner Church friends of 28 years. No words can fully describe this “pilgrimage,” but this article will attempt for now.



This trip was more than a tour; it was about relationship building and shared experiences. Our interaction with the P.C. friends included a worship service and dinner **as well as** a 3-day excursion. Our UUC spring gift, monies from the Cabaret evening, helped defray their expenses.

We began in Kolozsvár/Cluj where Rev. Zsolt works full time as Assistant Principal of János Zsigmond Unitarian School. Across the street from the school, in the newly renovated “House of Religious Freedom” we saw relics and a chalice used by Frances David, the father of Unitarianism. Another grant will pay for the erection of a statue of Frances David next to the Unitarian school.

In Beszterce, the partner church home city, Zsolt conducted a service in Hungarian and English. The pilgrims sang hymns in English and the members sang in Hungarian. After the service, the partner church group hosted us for dinner and presented us with handsewn bags and books about Transylvania.



The next day, both groups set out for a three-day journey to the northern Maramures region. Along the way to the city of Sighetu, we stopped at the **Barsana Monastery**, operated by a few Romanian Orthodox Nuns. The church was beautiful; the buildings were thatched and differently shaped.

On our first full day in Sighetu, the themes were both *death and resilience*. The **Merry Cemetery** brought an unconventional, humorous touch to death. We met the artist who paints these crosses in his workshop.

The bright blue crosses depict a narrative about person's life. Some are very funny, like the one about the grave of a man's mother-in-law where he feared she would come back from the grave to nag him as she did in life. This is the third most visited burial site in the world, behind the Taj Mahal and the Great Pyramids.

Our visits to a **Sighetu Communist Prison** (now museum), where 8,000 people died at the hands of the communists, and to the boyhood home of Elie Weisel were more sobering. In World War II the Nazis took control of the area and rounded up thousands of Jews, all bound for Auschwitz. Elie Weisel, 16, watched his mother and baby sister taken to the gas chamber. The Jewish population of the region is almost insignificant now.

Our third day with the congregation was highlighted by a steam train trip in the mountains! The P.C. group brought bags of home-made treats to share. Both groups enjoyed taking turns signing traditional songs along the way. We emerged from the trip holding hands, with arms around each other. The time with them was over but what memories we made!

Our last Romanian stop was the idyllic Unitarian village of Torocko, tucked between 2 mountains. Here we learned how to bake cinnamon cakes, visited a grain grinding mill, toured a cheese factory, and shopped for local crafts. The bell picture here in the Unitarian Church could be heard through the village each hour.



Then it was on to Budapest, almost a day's drive.

One of the highlights was a presentation by Zsolt on his last summer's Siberian road trip. Zsolt felt transformed by the experience and, sharing stories about people's generosity everywhere he went, said the trip brought home how much we prejudice. Instead, we must be open to other people, realizing how much we have in common.

We visited **St. Stephen's Basilica**, Hungary's most important church, where supposedly the first King of Hungary's sacred right hand is interred. We also re-visited the big **Unitarian church** with its lovely wooden walls and pulpit.

Our visit to the **Dohany Street Synagogue** was a highlight of our Budapest time. The second largest synagogue building in the world, it holds 3,000. Its Byzantine-Moorish style is most unusual. It was designed by a Christian because no Jewish architects were available. Usually temples are built in the round, with the Torah and pulpit for the rabbi in the middle. Here a compromise was made to place the pulpits in the middle among the congregants, though the architect planned them to be up front like a traditional Christian church.

Continued....

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH PILGRIMAGE... Continued

It also has an organ, though musical instruments are forbidden to be played by Jews on the Sabbath, so the organist is a Christian. The building is so different that their form of Judaism has the name: "Neolog Judaism."

An outside memorial garden pays tribute to those lost in the holocaust. In all, 400,000 Hungarian Jews were murdered by the Nazis. A silver weeping willow tree has known victim's names on each leaf. There is also a wall dedicated to gentiles who tried to hide and shelter them. Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands, is remembered especially.

During our 2016 visit, Zsolt discussed the holocaust but this time he helped us feel it. We gained more admiration for the resilience of our Bezsterce congregation through the war, the occupation of the Nazis and the rule of the communists. Nevertheless, the beauty and elegance of Budapest swept over us too. The last evening together was a happy celebration with gypsy music and dancing at the **Matyas Pince** restaurant.



Twelve memorable days together left us closer to each other, to Zsolt and our Bezsterce friends. And we know that there is still so much more of Romania and Hungary still to see! Zsolt invites more pilgrims to come in the near future!



Denominational Connections – August 14, 2019

Immigration Raids in Mississippi

Our hearts are heavy with the news of immigration raids this week in Mississippi. If you'd like to help, Rev. Justin McCreary (minister serving the UU Church of Jackson, MS) suggests donating to the Mississippi Immigrants' Rights Alliance, (<https://yourmira.wpcomstaging.com/>) an organization with a long history of working to expand and protect the rights of immigrants and their families in Mississippi.

From the Southern Region:

Virtual Open Office Hours from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (EST) on the fourth Thursday of each month is hosted by The Southern Region. 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. We look forward to seeing you! This will be 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

Webinar on Democracy & Electoral Justice 2020

Join the UUA Organizing Strategy Team for a Webinar on Democracy & Electoral Justice 2020 - **Wednesday, August 14th, 7 pm ET/4 pm PT**. Register here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5By975QBUE4M9HgJUHEyBILUZkUQPfEec6qfQ4Ao-DA0eWQ/viewform>.

We will explore strategies and share resources from now through Elections 2020 and beyond, focusing on three phases of engagement: from massive voter registration, ballot initiatives and advocacy, and all out Get Out the Vote!

SR Monthly Webinar Series

The Southern Region staff team offers a series of webinars for congregational leaders and members. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. Save the dates for these upcoming webinars:

- **Board Officers - Roles & Responsibilities with Rev. Dawn Cooley - August 7, 7:30 pm Eastern Time**
As new Boards get going, many officers elected to their position are wondering what their responsibilities are. Though there are differences between congregations, this webinar will go over the general responsibilities of Board officers: President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjDbosvVP_OglRd5NY36tJjs7xugONGraSMSMNzqVjHrPpgg/closedform
- **Covenant-Based Classrooms and Relationship-Centered Religious Education with Natalie Briscoe - August 15, 7:30 pm Eastern Time**
Teaching the youngest UUs about covenant and relationship is an important step in their religious education. Using a child-centered model of discipline and putting our Faith at the heart, we will explore how to model UU community in RE Classes for children and youth. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfGHRilLdyMzrCx0k_Jyu7WQzv6vuBUHyV9bR1WEiMpawAGg/viewform

Chalice Lighter Update

- Applications for our Fall 2019 Chalice Lighter calls are now being accepted. The **deadline to apply is August 15th**. This is a firm deadline.
- Learn more about the Southern Region Chalice Lighter program here: <https://www.uua.org/southern/chalice-lighters>
- Submit an application for Chalice Lighter funding here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJxFbAd-isJ5MqY0M3E24GjJBEUG7x1EYne2vMxnwam217A/viewform?c=0&w=1>
- Sign up to become a Chalice Lighter here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQ-2rjUbvIkOHboV1kIHxsZ19HG5fs1uSp1MRthnOXxyH4Q/viewform?c=0&w=1>



Continued...

Denominational Connections—Continued

Braving Space - Congregational Leadership Retreat - September 6-8, Highlands, NC

How do we identify our deepest values? How do we recognize the things in us that get in the way to living out those values? How do we amplify our deepest values in the world? How do we know what the value is that we need to focus in on to make ourselves and the world a better place? Join Kathy McGowan and Connie Goodbread for this opportunity to talk of deep values and explore what we, individually and as a movement, are being called to be and do in the world.

Register soon as space is limited and filling up quickly! **Registration deadline is August 30.**

Learn more and register here: <https://themountainrlc.org/event/braving-space/>

Job Opportunities

The Unitarian Universalist Association is hiring. Current openings include a new Congregational Life Field Staff position for the Southern Region. View current UUA job openings here: <https://www.uua.org/jobs>. Find congregational and related organization job openings here: <https://ministrysearch.uua.org/jobs-board>.

There's a LOT more! View the entire Southern Region August Newsletter here: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/2?ui=2&ik=c822b0d363&view=lg&permmsgid=msg-f:1641402704534229817>.

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/>)

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**](mailto: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 # 8
Chair Yoga	On Hiatus		
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	TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Knit or Not	Every Monday	2:00 pm	Classroom # 10
Membership Committee	Sunday, August 25	12:30 pm	Classroom # 9
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, August 18	12:20 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, August 23	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Sunday, August 25	12:30 pm	Sanctuary
Technology Committee	Wednesday, September 4	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	5:00 pm	Classroom # 10
UU Book Club	Sunday, August 18	6:30 pm	Social Hall
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, September 10	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
Buddhist 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.

UUCC Board of Trustees

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President-Elect, Richard McLeod	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
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Office Hours — Mon.– Fri. 6:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

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