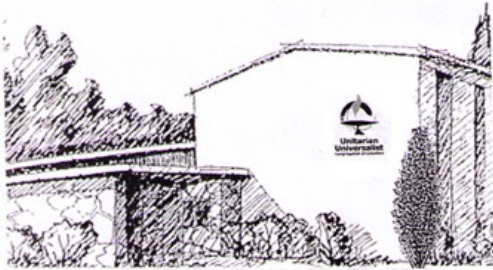




The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

November 9, 2022



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

Sunday Schedule

Forum: 9:30 am

Worship: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

November 13, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“After the mid-terms, which path will America take?”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“The First Thanksgiving”

Rev. Dr. Neal Jones

November 20, 2022

9:30 am Forum Topic

“What Education is Necessary?”

11:00 am Sermon Topic

“A Culture of Katundu”

Rev. Stephen Robinson

*The Forum meets on Sundays
in the Library*

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, December 11**, for publication on **Wednesday, December 14**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uucc@uucolumbia.org.

UUCB Blessing of the Animals Anita Grossman

On what could only be described as a gorgeous Sunday afternoon, members and friends of the UUCB gathered to honor their pets and animal companions at the annual Blessing of the Animals. Every year the event seems to grow and this year was no exception. Besides more than 20-25 dogs (hard to count because they kept moving!), we had a gorgeous pair of guinea pigs and three brave members brought their cats!

The grounds on the Heyward side of the church had been transformed by our dedicated sexton, Bill Dolley and his assistant UUCB attendee, Matt. We had a welcome station with snacks, cat and dog toys for the animals as well as wonderful human treats. A tent had been dedicated to Reverend Stephen Robinson from which to officiate, and a seating section was provided for people to settle in with their animals during the festivities. During this time Dede Hurson played her dulcimer which added a peaceful mood to the event.



Reverend Stephen provided everyone with a written program with which we were guided through hymns, prayers and responsive readings. The first important objective of the service was to give each participant an opportunity to come forward and name an animal/s who was no longer with us, and to light a candle in thanksgiving and remembrance. This was a rare opportunity that many took advantage of. The focus of the service, the actual “Blessing” of each animal present, was then executed by Reverend Stephen with tenderness and thoughtfulness. It must be noted that the animals, without exception, behaved throughout the service, as though they felt the importance of the process.

Given the continued success of this event, it is the hope of the Animal Ministry to continue the Blessing of the Animals for many years to come!



UPDATED

UUCC COVID 19 Health Protocols

Effective October 9, 2022

As the community transmission risk for COVID has decreased from High to LOW in Richland county, the Reopening/COVID committee has changed the recommendations regarding the mask policy.

1. Masking is now optional in all the church grounds rather than strongly recommended
2. We encourage you to determine what is your risk tolerance and if you are in one of the following categories, you may want to continue to wear a mask: unvaccinated, older than 65, weak immune system, chronic medical illness, essential work/job description (i.e. being off work for 7-10 days is not an option)
3. Optional masking rules also apply to singing and choir, but make sure you are vaccinated, not recently exposed to COVID, etc. if you choose to sing without a mask. (i.e. “sing responsibly”)
4. Continue to abstain from attending in-person services if you have recently had COVID or you been exposed to somebody with COVID until cleared by your physician
5. Notify the UUCC administrator, uucc@uucolumbia.org, if you were diagnosed with COVID infection shortly after attending an event in the UUCC buildings. Names of affected persons will remain confidential.

UUCC Sunday Services Access

In-Person Sunday Services

Sunday services will be in-person and streamed for those who are not able to attend in person.

- The Heyward and kitchen doors will be closed Sunday. Please use the main or patio doors.
- Water is allowed in a covered container.

Streaming Service Only (no interaction) Via YouTube:

1. Open the browser on your Internet-connected device (computer, laptop, smartphone)
2. Click on this link https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMjepgcaZx8UMNn2Gb_nxX35q4bfVyUM or paste it In the search bar, hit ENTER
3. Watch the service being streamed from the UUCC sanctuary

Shall We Change Unitarian Universalism?

Make Your Voice Heard!

Go to our web site (uucolumbia.org) if you would like to have input about significant changes proposed for Unitarian Universalism, including the elimination of our principles. There's a letter to the congregation with history, timelines, and how to register for a feedback session. Do this right away if you want to be heard because **the last session is November 14!** Click on this link for the letter: <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/make-your-voice-heard-a-letter-to-the-congregation/>

You can also find there a side-by-side comparison document showing the old and proposed Article II, the part of UU bylaws that contains the principles, by clicking this link: <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Article-II-proposed-changes-2022-11-07.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the co-chairs of the Denominational Connection Committee, Pat Mohr and Linda Brennison, at DenomConn@uucolumbia.org.

Thanksgiving Day Potluck

Thursday, November 24

As an annual tradition that goes back many years, UUCC will be hosting a Thanksgiving Day potluck gathering. We encourage everyone to join us and please bring your family and friends. We'll gather for socializing at **1:00pm with dinner beginning about 2:00pm**. Turkey and ham will be provided, and a small donation will be taken to cover the meat costs.

Jim Kimbler is the organizer of this potluck. Please sign up at the Membership table on Sunday or email jim.kimbler@me.com with answers to the following questions:

1. How many are in your group?
2. How many in your group will want turkey?
3. How many in your group will want ham?
4. What food would you like to bring?
5. ****Can you prepare a turkey or ham ready to serve? You will be reimbursed.**
6. Can you be at the church at 11:00 am to help with setup?
7. Can you stay after to help with clean up?

****If you sign up to bring a turkey please bring it already carved and ready to serve. (Platters are available at the church if you should need one.)**

If you have a Thanksgiving traditional food we would love to have a taste!

Some suggestions for foods to bring to add to our Thanksgiving Feast:

Dressing (stuffing)
Vegetarian or vegan alternative entree
Mac and cheese
Veggies
Mashed potatoes and Gravy
Sweet potatoes
Vegetables
Salads
Fruit
Cranberries
Rolls and butter
Pies, cakes, and the list goes on...



Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring any other beverages you may want to add to our beverage table.

News and Notes

UUCC Forum Discussion Group, Sunday's, 9:30-10:45am

The UUCC Forum meets every Sunday in the Library. We start with a brief catch-up and social time (about 15 minutes), so if you are a little late (15 min), it's okay. Our topics are mostly about current items and issues. Text Jeanette Walton at 803-466-0594 with any questions and to receive an email prior to the meetings with suggested links.

After Service Social Hour First Three Sundays of Each Month

Please join us in the social hall after service for refreshments on the first three Sundays of each month through December. Please consider joining our kitchen crew as we'd love to be able to offer refreshments every Sunday of the month! Contact Connie Quirk at kitchen@uucolumbia.org.

UUCC Adult Choir Fall Schedule

The UUCC Adult Choir has resumed regular rehearsals and will sing in services every other Sunday morning. All adult and teen singers are welcome to participate. Next rehearsal and performance: Sunday, November 20, 9:30-10:30am. Please contact UUCC Music Director Anna Hamilton to be added to the choir email list for additional information and a fall schedule: music@uucolumbia.org

Help Deck Our Halls! November 25, 10am

It's almost time to give our building a dose of holiday spirit. If you have a little time to spare on Friday, November 25, starting at 10:00am, your hands could help make light work of getting the job done. The more people we have, the more will be decorated. Not up to climbing a ladder or making a bow? We could also use some refreshments to keep us going. Contact Lis and Phil Turner (connection@UUColumbia.org) with questions.

UUCC Holiday Party, Friday Evening December 16, 6-9pm

The UUCC Annual-except-for-the-COVID-lockdown Holiday Party is back on and scheduled for the evening of Friday, December 16. It is sponsored by the Membership Committee and hosted by Lis and Phil Turner at their home. Put it on your calendar and be thinking of a dish you would like to bring. Specific details will be forthcoming. Contact Lis and Phil Turner (connection@UUColumbia.org) with questions.

UUCC Book Club Sunday, December 18, 6:30pm, Zoom

The UUCC Book Club meets every other month via Zoom. Peck and Rebecca Drennan will facilitate a discussion on *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. The UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC.

We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Phil Turner if you have questions or would like more information: connection@uucolumbia.org.

ENCORE Men's Choral Group

ENCORE is a men's choral group that enriches the philosophies and services of UUCC. We sing at one service a month and rehearse on a Sunday morning. ENCORE is open to men who like to sing and can carry a tune. Most of our work is two- and three-part music that is easy to learn and perform. Come join us! Contact Richard McLeod at worshipchair@uucolumbia.org.

More News and Notes

UUC New Story Circles: Fun & Fellowship; Newcomers Welcome!

Please bring a “cherished object” to tell about.

-Tuesdays 2-3pm UU Library

Contact Sandra Merritt: [864-706-6418](tel:864-706-6418)

-Wednesdays 2nd & 4th 7-8pm via Zoom

Contact Nancie Shillington-Perez: [803-553-2280](tel:803-553-2280)

-(Wednesdays 10am, in its 3rd year-is full, numbering 12)

For basic information call: Barbara Smith: [828-421-7685](tel:828-421-7685)

Exploring Spirituality, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm, Library

Come with questions rather than answers. It will be both faith-friendly and no-faith friendly. All are invited to join us with open minds and hearts. We only ask that participants come with a spirit of curiosity, wisdom, and compassion...and sense of humor too. Text Rebecca Drennan at 415-377-1791 with any questions.

UUC Men's Breakfast Group 2nd Thursdays, 9am

The UUC men's breakfast group will meet at a local restaurant or a member's home at 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. If you are interested, please contact Phil Turner for more information: connection@uucolumbia.org.

Gaia's Rising CUUPS Thursday Nights, 7:30pm

Join the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) Thursday nights at 7:30pm in the UUC library. Contact Katy Long at katylong25@gmail.com

Science and Religion Discussion Group 2nd Thursdays, 8pm

Spirited discussion of books about a subject where science and religion overlap. Books are selected by consensus. Meets at 8pm on the second Thursday every month. Contact Dean Smith deanjaysmith@yahoo.com.

UU Humanist Group, Last Thursdays

Join us at 7pm on the last Thursday of each month in classroom 8. Discussions cover a wide range of topics of interest to Humanists. Contact Dean Smith deanjaysmith@yahoo.com.

Limited Building Access for Weekly Rental

Please refrain from entering the Social Hall, Sanctuary, Foyer and Kitchen to honor the privacy of the Tai Chi classes that will take place every Tuesday morning through January 2023 from 10:20 to 11:40am.

UUCC Social Action

Vote Forward

The **Social Action Committee** thanks everyone who participated in the VoteForward pre-election letter-writing campaign! With your help, we sent out as many as 220 pieces of mail to encourage people to vote their values.

Social Action Committee Meeting, Sunday, November 27

Please join us in the Sanctuary after service. Contact Kevin McKinney/Connie Quirk at socialaction@uucolumbia.org.

Please Donate to the Inclement Weather Center

The Social Action Committee is again soliciting donations of lightly used clothing - especially hats, gloves and coats - current magazines, unused personal-sized toiletries, backpacks and luggage (with wheels) for the [Inclement Weather Center](#). The facility is now being called the Rapid Shelter Columbia Overflow as small sleeping units are being set up outside the larger shelter building. The city-funded shelter, managed by Transitions, is **open for adults from November 1 to April 1** when the temperature falls below 40F. Please bring donations to the church but pick up of a sizable donation can be arranged. Also, volunteers will be needed during shelter check-in during the early evening. Contact Tom Clements at tomclements329@cs.com, or cell 803-240-7268.

Harvest Hope Food Bank Donations Needed

To support the good work that Harvest Hope is doing to feed hungry people in the Midlands, please bring your donations, such as any canned food items; rice; pasta; disposable baby diapers. **Do NOT bring expired food, opened items, glass containers, or fresh produce.** The Harvest Hope grocery cart can be found under the windows in the social hall.

With the election over, it's time to turn toward the holiday season. We'll kick it off with the rescheduled **Social Action Listening Party, this Friday, November 11, at 7pm.** Enjoy fellowship, music, and refreshments as we listen to songs from Kevin McKinney's latest album, *Damage*. Bob Gillespie will MC, and Kevin will answer your questions about songwriting and producing recordings at home. Doors will be open from 6:30, and admission is free. But donations to benefit the Social Action Committee will be gratefully accepted! Please RSVP to Kevin McKinney to help plan refreshments.

Here at UUCC the "holiday season" also means, in part, our annual "**Guest At Your Table**" program. GAYT seeks to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues and works to benefit thousands of individuals in more than 20 countries. You can virtually 'meet' four of these grassroots partners—the "guests" in Guest at Your Table—here: <https://tinyurl.com/UUCC2022GAYT>

The international orientation of GAYT is perfectly complemented by "**Families Helping Families.**" Under the sponsorship of the Palmetto Project and WIS-10, this year FHF expects to provide holiday assistance to approximately 3,600 local individuals in need. UUCC will be 'adopting' two single-parent families of four, and two elders. Their information will be on ornaments on our FHF Christmas Tree, beginning November 13; presents are to be delivered to UUCC by 1:00pm on Sunday, December 4th.

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

Fun Time at The Mountain

This year's retreat at The Mountain was so very special. Quite a few first-timers participated and experienced the beauty that so many of us already know. The weather was just perfect, even with our on and off rainy trip home. The fall colors were spectacular and, of course, The Mountain staff was welcoming. The new chef, Michael, prepared delicious food and even sent some home with us. For more information about The Mountain go to <https://www.themountainrlc.org>

Many thanks to all who made it enjoyable for the group with a special thank you to Barbara Bates Smith who led us in a Story Circle on Saturday evening.

Mark your calendars for next year's retreat scheduled for October 27-29, 2023.

Fall/Winter UUA World Magazine

The annual Climate Justice Conference (May 2023) at The Mountain would like your copy of the just-published Fall/Winter UUA World Magazine "*Facing the Climate Crisis*" once you are finished with it.

Please drop off your copy in the UUCU foyer and The UUCU Mountain subcommittee will forward them. Thanks so much. uucc@uucolumbia.org

Songwriting Retreat

Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay are holding a songwriting retreat at The Mountain from December 1st through 4th. If you haven't heard their music, go to frictionfarm.com for a taste of their incredible talent. To register, call 828-526-5838 or go to themountainrlc.org.

November Share the Plate Recipient: Harvest Hope Food Bank

Half of our cash collection this month goes to *Harvest Hope Food Bank*, whose mission is to provide for the needs of hungry people by gathering and sharing quality food with dignity, compassion, and education. Harvest Hope has continued to increase the scope of its operations and now provides food, comfort, and hope to hungry individuals and families in the Midlands, Pee Dee, and Greater Greenville regions of South Carolina. They will be represented by JoAnne Johnson, Faith-Based Giving Manager, on November 20th.

If sending a check, please write “Share the Plate” in the memo line or you can give by either going to our website, uucolumbia.org, and clicking on the ‘donate’ bar at the top of the page, or entering “abundant.co/uucc/give” in your browser. Please be sure to select “Share the Plate.”

Share the Plate Collection for October 2022

Thanks to your generous giving to Share the Plate, we sent a check to our October 2022 recipient, Cotton Branch Farm Animal Sanctuary, for \$814. The Social Action Committee appreciates your participation in making this a successful program.

Sunday Flowers Program

Would you like to share your flowers for our Sunday service in recognition of a birthday, anniversary, or a special memory? You will provide your own floral arrangement. Just let us know the date you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary by sending an email to the Worship Committee worshipchair@uucolumbia.org. Please include your name, phone number, and the date you would like to bring your flowers. You will be contacted to confirm the date and details.



UUC Accepts Contributions Electronically

Please note that your online contributions are not posted to the UUC account until the second business day after you make them. You may give by either going to our website, uucolumbia.org, and clicking on the ‘donate’ bar at the top of the page, or entering “abundant.co/uucc/give” in your browser.

If you should have any questions or need help, please contact our Administrator, Andrea Dudick, at uucc@uucolumbia.org or 803-799-0845 Thank you for your generosity.

Recordings of Sermons on Website

Please go to our website (uucolumbia.org) and look on the right-hand side of the Home Page. Select the Service Archive link and scroll down to the sermon you’d like to see. When on that page, simply select the play button, sit back and enjoy the sermon.

UUC Music on YouTube!

You are invited to visit the UUC Music Coordinator's YouTube page to view and listen to music from services and performances from our talented UUC Musicians.: [UUC Music](#)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Please Join Us for the Following CYRE Events

Sundays in November There will be no CYRE Sunday programming in November. Children and youth will be in service with their families each Sunday. Childcare for the youngest members (0-5) will be available.

Potluck: Thursday, November 10 CYRE invites families to bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner from 6 to 8pm in the social hall. We will provide a fire on the patio for s'mores. **RSVP** to Jonathan White. We need your help with this one, but we look forward to more time together. Please join us.

November Committee Meeting has yet to be scheduled, but anyone interested in participating in CYRE activities or the general planning of such activities is invited to attend.

Thank you for being a part of our growing program. Feel free to drop us a line and let us know how you and yours are doing. We are always open to ideas and hope to be providing just what you need from a religious exploration program for children and youth and community at UUC.

Contact Jonathan White, CYRE Chair, with questions or for clarification: rechair@uucolumbia.org or to be included on a mailing list to know ahead of time when to plan for CYRE programming.



COMMITTEE CHAIRS & BOARD LIAISONS 2022/2023

Committee/Chair Email	Chair/Board Liaison
Adult Religious Education <i>AdultREChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Rebecca Drennan/ <i>Jean Capalbo</i>
Animal Ministry <i>anitaj48@aol.com</i>	Anita Grossman/ <i>Subcommittee</i>
Building and Grounds <i>BandGChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Phil & Lis Turner/ <i>Regina Moody</i>
Caring and Hospitality <i>CaringChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jane Lawther & Cheryl Soehl/ <i>Jean Capalbo</i>
CYRE <i>REChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Jonathan White/ <i>Nancie Shillington-Perez</i>
Denominational Connections <i>denomconn@uucolumbia.org</i>	Linda Brennison & Pat Mohr/ <i>Karen Brown</i>
Endowment <i>philip.turner@unt.edu</i>	Joe Long/ <i>TBA</i>
Finance <i>FinanceChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Robin Scherer/ <i>Ginny Verne</i>
Green Sanctuary <i>kdmsooboy@gmail.com</i>	Caroline Eastman/ <i>Caroline Eastman</i>
Kitchen Committee <i>kitchen@uucolumbia.org</i>	Connie Quirk/ <i>Subcommittee</i>
Leadership Development <i>leaderdev@uucolumbia.org</i>	Patty Drews & Nancie Shillington-Perez
Membership <i>Membership@uucolumbia.org</i>	Donald Cooper & Annette Flavel / <i>Nancie Shillington-Perez</i>
The Mountain <i>Joan.l.watterson@icloud.com</i>	Joan Watterson/ <i>Subcommittee</i>
Personnel <i>PersonnelChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	JP Flood
Social Action <i>SocialActionChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Kevin McKinney & Connie Quirk/
Technology Services <i>tsc@uucolumbia.org</i>	David Roof/ <i>Caroline Eastman</i>
Worship <i>WorshipChair@uucolumbia.org</i>	Richard McLeod/ <i>Marc Drews</i>

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	On Hiatus	7:00 pm	
Board Meeting	Wednesday, November 16	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Chair Yoga	On Hiatus		
Children & Youth RE Committee	TBA	7:00 pm	
Choir - UUC Columbia Rehearsal			
Choir – Prism (women)	TBA	6:30 pm	
Choir - Encore (men)	TBA	9:30 am	Classroom 9
Christian Heritage	TBA	Noon	
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Thursdays	7:30 pm	Library
Funeral Consumers Alliance	Cancelled	5:30 pm	
Forum	Sundays	9:30 am	Library & Zoom
Green Team	TBA	12:15 pm	Sanctuary
Knit or Not	Cancelled	2:00 pm	
Membership Committee	TBA	2:00 pm	
Visitor Orientation	TBA	12:15 pm	Classroom 8
Science & Religion	2nd Thursdays	8:00 pm	Classroom 8
September Set	On Hiatus	Noon	
Social Action Committee	Sunday, November 27	1:00 pm	Sanctuary & Zoom
Technology Committee	TBA	6:00 pm	
UU Animal Ministry	TBA	12:15 pm	Classroom 8
UU Book Club	Sunday, December 18	6:30 pm	Zoom
UU Humanist	Last Thursdays	7:00 pm	Classroom 8
UU Partner Church Committee	TBA	12:30 pm	
Women's Book Club	TBA	7:00 pm	
Rentals			
La Leche League	Cancelled	6-8pm	
Tai Chi* 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Tuesdays	10:30 am	Social Hall
Men's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Women's AA I	Cancelled	6:30 pm	
Men's AA II	Cancelled	5:00 pm	

***Limited Building Access Requested for Weekly Rental** Please refrain from entering the Social Hall, Sanctuary, Foyer and Kitchen to honor the privacy of the Tai Chi classes that will take place every Tuesday morning through January 2023 from 10:20am to 11:40am. Access is available via the coded double doors on the Heyward side. Please contact our Administrator, Andrea, with any questions uucc@uucolumbia.org

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

President, Deb Matherly
President Elect, Marc Drews
Treasurer, Ginny Verne
Secretary, Karen Brown
Members at Large:

president@uucolumbia.org
president-elect@uucolumbia.org
treasurer@uucolumbia.org
secretary@uucolumbia.org
Jean Capalbo, Caroline Eastman, Emilio Pérez -Jorge,
Regina Moody, Nancie Shillington-Pérez
pastpresident@uucolumbia.org
financechair@uucolumbia.org

Past President, Pat Mohr, ex officio
Finance Chair, Robin Scherer, ex officio

UUC Staff

Minister
Music Director
Administrator
Bookkeeper
Sexton

Rev. Stephen Robinson, *revstephen@uucolumbia.org*
Dr. Anna Hamilton, *music@uucolumbia.org*
Andrea Dudick, *uucc@uucolumbia.org*
Michele Currie, *bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org*
Bill Dolley, *uucc@uucolumbia.org*

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Phone — Office (803) 799-0845

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

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