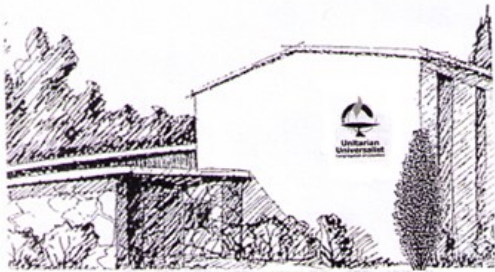




# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

November 23, 2016



2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205  
803-799-0845 • [www.uucolumbia.org](http://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

### **November 27, 2016**

#### **9:30 am Forum Topic**

Nuclear weapons: Suicide or survival?

#### **11:00 am Sermon Topic**

*The Salem Witch Trials*, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

### **December 4, 2016**

#### **9:30 am Forum Topic**

Why are atheists discriminated against in most countries?

#### **11:00 am Sermon Topic**

*In a House that becomes a Home*, by Rev. Jennie Barrington

The UUC offices will be closed  
November 24 and 25

### **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 *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.*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](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).

## **Minister's Meditation**

### **The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister**

#### **"Remarks in the Aftermath of the Election"**

Dear Members and Friends,

When I heard the results of the elections, in the early hours of Wednesday morning, I felt like I was on another planet. Almost everyone in our nation is shocked. And many people are grieving, especially if they worked on political campaigns. But I am not on that planet alone; none of us are on that planet alone. We have each other; we have organizations, local, regional, and national, that share our progressive values and mission; we have the Unitarian Universalist Association, and the Standing On the Side of Love movement, and Unitarian Universalists everywhere. And we have Planned Parenthood, and the Black Lives Matter movement, and the ACLU, and the NAACP, and coalitions against gun violence, and organizations that support immigrants and refugees. Now is a time for us all to clarify, articulate, and recommit to the peoples and causes our hearts call us to advocate for, and to volunteer, volunteer, volunteer.

When we are shocked, grieving, and aggrieved, we need to give extra attention to caring for ourselves and each other, tenderly. People have told me that they are feeling physically unwell, frightened, emotionally distraught, angry, depressed, unsteady, and/or overwhelmed. In the days ahead, please remember that I, and all of us, are here to listen, and to lend help and support. And we should

Continued on Page 2

keep in mind that everyone processes shock and grief on their own individual timeline. We are here to listen to you. And no one will push you to talk about these things when there are times when you can't do so. When processing shock and grief, try to stay in good habits, and try not to slide into unhealthy habits, because bad habits can become vices. Try to keep getting enough sleep, eat healthily, exercise regularly, and avail yourselves of things that are renewing to your spirit, including songs, poems, quotes, essays, and being out of doors. Try not to lose your sense of awe and wonder. Call up someone who loves you, even if you are not sure what you are going to say. And don't think that you are being overindulgent by saying some of the same things several times. That's how we process shock and grief. And it's going to take many conversations, over many months, for us to begin to make sense of the election season we have just been through, with its wretched rhetoric and behavior.

In the days ahead, we are all going to need extra caring, wisdom, and insight. I know that you, and the many new people who keep joining us, will find that caring, wisdom, and insight in our congregational home. Our congregation is more sorely and urgently needed than ever. It is the fount that strengthens, inspires, comforts, and renews us, as we journey through conflicted and chaotic times. I'll close with the benediction that my mentor, the Rev. Fred Lipp, spoke at the end of every worship service at First Parish Portland, Maine, Unitarian Universalist:

“Fix, oh, Lord, our steps-- so that we may stagger not in the uneven motions of the world-- but go steadily on our way-- neither censoring our journey by the weather we meet-- nor turning aside from anything that might befall us.”

I hope to see you at church soon,  
Rev. Jennie (“It’s a privilege to be here.”)

# President's Column

I have always been appreciative of our Unitarian Universalist community, but I am especially as I try to come to grips with the election results. I still have not watched any television news and read my first newspaper today. Kubler-Ross's stages of loss has been a good source of information and reassurance that what I am feeling is normal and there is a natural progression that will most likely occur.

The day after the election, I left on a business trip during which I had to meet with a significant number of people. Of course, the election came up and I found myself in conversation with people who hold very different views of the world. It was during those conversations, that the reading and discussions of our book club were helpful, especially Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*. These were good people whose 'moral taste buds' are different from mine.

In the midst of this holiday season, we have so much to be thankful for. The success of the Capital Campaign is beyond all expectations. As we prepare to "go public" with our UUCC profile to potential ministers, wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to state that not only have we met the financial goal, but that the overwhelming percentage of the members and friends have participated! Please know that gifts can be of any amount!

As we prepare ourselves for the post-inauguration world, we will reach out to each other to reassure and be reassured. I hope that we will seize the opportunity to reach outside our congregation to spread the message embodied in the UU Principles. Justice, Equity, and Compassion are not only concepts crucial to our civil society, they can be a beacon to attract members. I hope to continue reaching out but also remaining vigilant in the protection of our principles.

Lis and I became UU's in 1979, joining a very small fellowship in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Fred Westover, who was president at that time, would lead off each service by stating that, "We were a small band of religious liberals." This immediately conjured up an image of musicians in a garage and of 20 people on horses with flags emblazoned with "Tolerance" and "Inclusiveness". Thirty-seven years later, we are still a "band of religious liberals". I am so proud to be a member of this congregation and stand in awe of the work that each of you do to make us what we are.

Phil Turner, President

*Fall Seven Times and Stand Up Eight*

*-Japanese Proverb*

# Direction Reflection Exploration

*“We believe that humans seek meaning in life and organize into religious communities to pursue meaning as a common endeavor. We believe that sexuality can enrich life and is thus an essential concern of religious communities. We recognize that people can encounter the spiritual through sexual expression.”*

The Sexuality Education Task Force, The Unitarian Universalist Association and The United Church Board of Homeland Ministries: “The Advocacy Manual for Sexuality Education, Health and Justice”

Raising children presents many challenges. One of the most difficult challenges for some parents is helping their children develop and maintain a strong and healthy sense about their own sexuality, sexual orientation, gender, and supporting them in these journeys of self-exploration. This is one of the many reasons we, as a congregation, are so supportive of our OWL program. We know OWL recognizes and respects that parent(s) are the primary sexual educators of their children and we offer excellent support and guidance in this endeavor. And we know children are reaching puberty at earlier ages, making it more important to be prepared to help children understand and accept the changes their bodies will be going through even though they are still young children.

This spring CYRE will provide OWL classes for grades 4 -6. We have highly trained and caring teachers for this class. We have congregational support for this program. What we need are people willing to advocate for this program, people willing to help us get the word out and make this program one of our shining stars, one of our ways in which we influence and help grow young folks to be proud of themselves, accepting of themselves and others, and have enough knowledge to help them make good, long range decisions. Please be thinking about your children, grandchildren, your neighbors, your children’s friends, and any other children you can think of. Help build an OWL class that will give you and your children strong guidance and support in their journey. Get them registered and let’s give others an opportunity to experience this program. After all, we have something worth sharing.

In Peace,

Stephanie Palmer-Smith, DRE

# Search News

## Share Your Story

Share Your Story is an outreach offering of the Ministerial Search Committee for UUCC Members and Friends to share a private and personal video message with prospective ministerial candidates. Video messages will be 1-2 minutes in length and will not be edited or altered. The videos will be available through our congregation's Information Packet and any ministerial candidate reviewing the UUCC's congregational information will be able to view them. If you are interested in participating, messages will be recorded in the Administrator's office on the following dates and times:

- 1. Sunday November 27 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**
2. Sunday December 4 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
3. Sunday December 11 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

As you prepare to 'Share Your Story', here are a few things you may want to consider:

- At the start of your message, make sure you state your name and how long you have been attending UUCC along with any other personal information you feel is important.
- Try to limit your message to one or two topics such as:
  - One thing that I would like to see from a new Minister is...
  - One of the great things that I see going on at UUCC is...
  - The main opportunity that I see for a new Minister at UUCC is...
  - The main challenge that I see for a new Minister at UUCC is...
- Speak from the 'I' not the 'We' noting your own personal experiences.
- Be yourself and have fun!

## Call for Digital Pictures

The Ministerial Search Committee is currently compiling an Information Packet that will be presented to prospective Ministers. This Information Packet will contain important information about the UUCC and have a section dedicated to pictures of our church, our congregants, our facilities and activities we participate in. If you have any digital pictures that would be helpful to show a prospective minister what a great place the UUCC is, please send them on to the following email address: [uuccsearchers@gmail.com](mailto:uuccsearchers@gmail.com)

## Youth In Action

We are very proud of our Maggie who was selected to be a PAL (Peer Advocate Leader) for the elementary CON at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. In that role, Maggie led elementary groups through workshops and activities designed to help children and youth form a strong sense of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Thank you, Maggie, for your service.

## Thank You

Dear Friends, Thank you for your donation of \$1,175.72 to Palmetto Place Children's Shelter. This year we expanded the shelter. Our kids have moved in and instantly it felt like home. The expansion added 10 beds to the 20 we had. We know that our efforts are only possible because of the contributions we receive and we thank you again for believing in and support our mission. On behalf of our children and teens, thank you for your generosity and your commitment to our kids. Sincerely, Erin Hall, Executive Director

## Animal Ministry's Blessing of the Animals

The Animal Ministry had its annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, November 6. By all accounts, the event was deemed to be a success! We could not have asked for more perfect weather! Reverend Jennie began with a lovely tribute to animals and reminded us all not to take our pets for granted! A general blessing was then dispensed upon the animals as a group. What made the event even more special was the time and attention that Reverend Jennie took to bless each animal privately. We had approximately 30 dogs and two cats in attendance. Although it was hard to count, we had far more than 30 two-legged animals attending. Folks enjoyed the treats prepared by our Animal Ministry committee and the animals enjoyed playing with the toys and eating special treats.

We also had a special guest, Linda Moore from Howlmore, the sanctuary for cats and dogs with disabilities. Howlmore is the recipient of the proceeds from the raffle for the cat and dog baskets, recently sponsored by the Animal Ministry. We were able to raise \$212.80 for Howlmore, money which they will put to good use to serve their residents. Laura Culler was the winner of the cat basket and Andrea Dudick won the basket with the dog goodies.

The Animal Ministry owes a special debt of gratitude, first and foremost, to our Interim Minister, Reverend Jennie Barrington, who, in her presentation gave us a lot to think about when it comes to why our pets (and all animals) are worthy of blessings. She exuded love and compassion for each animal she came into contact with, as she blessed the long line of animals awaiting his or her individual blessing.

All of the animals behaved beautifully! One would give anything to know what they thought of the experience, but they seemed to enjoy this special attention from their owner/s and had fun with each other.

This event could never have happened without the dedication and hard work of the committee members of the Animal Ministry. As chair, I would like to give a shout out to Marilyn Miss, Laura Culler, Patty Drews, Sophia Storlazzi, Marky Deese, Linda Brennison, Linda LaRosa, Larry and Susan Siegel. A special thank you also goes out to Marie Huntt for making, and then donating the adorable catnip fish toys.



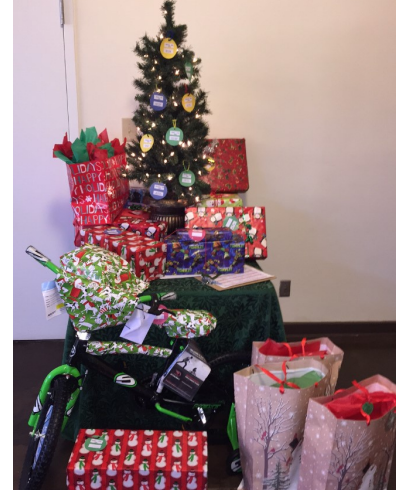
# Social Action

## Share the Plate

November 27 is the deadline for voting for Share the Plate. Ballots are available on the table in the foyer of the church, in the Unigram, and on the Social Action Webpage. Voting on the Webpage is very simple by just going to [uucolumbia.org](http://uucolumbia.org) and clicking on Social Action, go to the drop down for Share the Plate where you will find instructions for voting. Don't miss this important opportunity to select who you would like to have receive the Share the Plate collection in each category.

## Families Helping Families

There are still 8 names left on the Families Helping Families tree. We need your help in finishing up by choosing one of these names. Once you have made your choice just sign the register, purchase a gift for the name on the circle, wrap it, and **return it by December 4th**. Be sure that the circle with the name that you took is on the wrapped gift. This identifies who the gift is for. We want to help to make these four families will have a happy holiday. This will not happen without help from each one of you. Many thanks from the Social Action Committee to those of you that have already participated.



## Social Action Committee Meeting

Don't miss the Social Action Committee meeting, Wednesday, December 7. There will be a potluck at 6:00 p.m. followed by our meeting at 7:00 p.m. If you can join us for the potluck please bring your favorite dish but if you can't make it to the potluck please be sure to attend the meeting.

## Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War

This film has already been shown in our congregation once and is back by popular demand. The Social Action Committee will be sponsoring the showing on January 15, 2017, after the Sunday service. We plan to first enjoy a potluck meal and then the movie and discussion. Mark your calendar so you won't miss this second time around. Be watching for more details.

## 2017 SHARE THE PLATE BALLOT

Below are the 20 organizations (in 10 categories) that received the most nominations as Share the Plate recipients. Please vote for your choices with a check mark after that organization's name. You may select only 1 (one) per category. \*Name and signature required to vote\*

Category	Nominated Organizations	Vote for 1 (one ) in each category:
Animal shelters/ Animal services	Howlmore Animal Sanctuary	
	Pawmetto Lifeline	
Children's services	Family Connection of South Carolina	
	Palmetto Place Children's Shelter	
Food banks/ Food support	Harvest Hope Food Bank	
	Meals on Wheels	
Environmental issues	Congaree Riverkeeper	
	SC Beekeepers	
Health issues	Free Medical Clinic	
	SC Respite Coalition	
Homeless shelters	Columbia Family Shelter	
	Transitions	
International aid	Doctors Without Borders	
	Partner Church	
Legal aid	SC Progressive Network	
	SC Appleseed Legal Justice	
LGBT issues	Harriet Hancock Center	
	Lambda Legal Aid	
Women's Issues	Planned Parenthood	
	Sister Care	
<b>Minister's Discretionary Fund</b>	<b>Pre-selected</b>	<b>No vote necessary</b>
<b>UU Service Committee (human rights programs)</b>	<b>Pre-selected</b>	<b>No vote necessary</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Required)\*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Required)\*

Ballot may be placed in the Share the Plate Ballot Box in the foyer, mailed to UUC, or emailed to [socialaction@uucolumbia.org](mailto:socialaction@uucolumbia.org) or completed on our webpage at [www.uucolumbia.org](http://www.uucolumbia.org).

**VOTING DEADLINE NOVEMBER 27, 2016.**



## Information on Nominees for Final Ballot

**Columbia Family Shelter-** A shelter that provides emergency food, shelter, resources and hope to homeless families with children in the Midlands area. Started in 1979, this agency works towards the goal of providing a secure, structured environment where families can regain a sense of stability, responding to identified client needs with a variety of supportive services. For more information visit [columbiafamilyshester.org](http://columbiafamilyshester.org) is a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization

**Congaree Riverkeeper-** Congaree Riverkeeper is affiliated with the [Waterkeeper Alliance](http://WaterkeeperAlliance.org), a global movement of on-the-water advocates who patrol and protect rivers and coasts all over the world. We work to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education and enforcement of environmental laws. [Congareeriverkeeper.org](http://Congareeriverkeeper.org) a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

**Doctors without Borders-** provides assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters, and to victims of armed conflict. They do so irrespective of race, religion, creed, or political convictions. [doctorswithoutborders.org](http://doctorswithoutborders.org) a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

**Family Connection of South Carolina** – is a statewide non-profit organization that connects families of children with special healthcare needs or disabilities with helpful resources, support and education. [Familyconnections.org](http://Familyconnections.org). 501(c)(3) not-for-profit

**Free Medical Clinic-** The Free Medical Clinic, Inc. provides quality healthcare, at no cost, to residents of the community who cannot pay for such services and who have no health insurance. This clinic is their only option to have access to health care. The clinic is able to offer its services free of charge due to the efforts of dedicated volunteers and faithful financial support from the three area hospital systems, corporations (notably BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina), organizations (notably USC School of Medicine), the United Way of the Midlands, churches and individual donors in the Columbia . [freemedclinic.org](http://freemedclinic.org) a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.

**Harriet Hancock Center-** Located in the heart of Columbia, the Harriet Hancock LGBT Center is the hub of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender activity in the Midlands of South Carolina. Our facility offers a variety of resources including a free lending library, meeting spaces for LGBT-supportive groups, and a directory of LGBT-friendly businesses, organizations, and counselors while also serving as the headquarters for the South Carolina Pride Movement.[lgbtcentersc.org](http://lgbtcentersc.org) a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.

**Harvest Hope Food Bank-** The mission of Harvest Hope Food Bank 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.[harvesthope.org](http://harvesthope.org) a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization

**Howlmore Animal Sanctuary-** Howlmore Animal Sanctuary has been formed to provide for the rescue, rehabilitation, housing, and lifelong care of abused, abandoned, neglected, or otherwise unwanted dogs and cats. When appropriate, the animals cared for at the sanctuary will be made available for adoption into individual homes. In the absence of such a home, the animals at the sanctuary will be maintained throughout their lifespan. They rely on the donations from concerned and caring individuals. They receive no state or federal funding [howlmore.org](http://howlmore.org) a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.

**Lambda Legal-** Founded in 1973, Lambda Legal is the oldest and largest national legal organization whose mission is to *achieve* full recognition of the civil rights of **lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people** and those with **HIV** through impact litigation, education and public policy work.As a nonprofit organization, they do not charge clients for legal representation or advocacy, and receive no government funding. Lambda Legal is a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.[lambdalegal.org](http://lambdalegal.org)

**Meals on Wheels-** South Carolina rank #8 in the nation for seniors with food insecurity. Meals on Wheels has been meeting the nutritional needs of the homebound, elderly and disabled for over 40 years. [mealsonwheelsamerica.org](http://mealsonwheelsamerica.org) a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.

**Palmetto Place Children's Shelter** provides a safe and nurturing environment for abused and neglected children and unaccompanied teens, offering them a broad range of services concentrating on personal healing and development. The shelter is open 24 hours each day of the year and provides medical and mental health care, crisis adjustment/transitional counseling, after-school tutoring and recreational and social activities in addition to food, clothing and shelter. [palmettoplaceshelter.org](http://palmettoplaceshelter.org) 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.

**Pawmetto Lifeline- Pawmetto Lifeline** is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit animal rescue organization solving pet overpopulation in in the Midlands. There are over 16,000 homeless pets in the Midlands and over 10,000 are euthanized each year. Our plan uniquely positions us to correct this problem through four distinct initiatives: adoption, medical, rescue collaboration, and education efforts. [pawmettolifeline.org](http://pawmettolifeline.org) 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.

**Planned Parenthood-** for nearly 100 years, Planned Parenthood has promoted a commonsense approach to women's health and well-being, based on respect for each individual's right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning. - [plannedparenthood.org](http://plannedparenthood.org) Contributions to Planned Parenthood Federation of America is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law. 501(c)(3) non-profit

**SC Progressive Network-** A coalition of grassroots activists who have joined forces to promote social and economic justice in SC. Created in 1995 as a tool to engage South Carolinians in their communities and in their government, the Network connects people to each other and to resources designed to leverage the work of progressive organizations [scpronet.com](http://scpronet.com) 501(c)(3) non-profit

**Transitions-** Engages clients with various services and provide them a place to stay as they transition from the streets to permanent housing. Also partners with many community agencies that use their expertise to help clients reach their goals. As a result, clients receive services that enable them to stabilize their lives, increase their income, and secure permanent housing. [transitionssc.org](http://transitionssc.org) a 501c(3) non-profit organization

**SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center-** SC Appleseed fights for low income South Carolinians to overcome social, economic and legal injustice. [scjustice.org](http://scjustice.org) a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

**SC Beekeepers Association-** a private non-profit organization dedicated to education and advocacy ensuring that South Carolina beekeepers have the information & tools they need to meet the challenges of modern beekeeping. Their mission also includes public education as we strive to provide individuals, and public and private organizations with factual and up to date information about the honey bee, beekeeping, and its importance to our food supply. [scstatebeekeepers.org](http://scstatebeekeepers.org) 501c(3) non-profit organization

**SC Respite Coalition-** The mission of the SC Respite Coalition is to increase respite statewide for S.C. families of ALL AGES who have a member with ALL TYPES of special needs. It works to create a true respite system that makes respite services and providers easy to find, when possible providing small amounts of funding to help family caregivers purchase respite. Respite helps both family care giver AND receiver. [screspitcoalition.org](http://screspitcoalition.org) a non-profit, 501c-3 organization

**SisterCare-** Sistercare is a program of services for battered women and their children residing in Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, and Richland counties in South Carolina. [sistercare.org](http://sistercare.org) a 501(c)(3)not-for-profit organization.

**UUCC Partner Church-** Beszterce Unitarian Church was elected to become our "Partner Church" in Transylvania, Romania in October, 1990, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This is a unique charitable opportunity for us to honor our shared Unitarian roots as the UUCC remains their main source of outside help during these very difficult economic times in this area of Eastern Europe.

# News and Notes

## November 27, 2016

"The Salem Witch Trials," by Rev. Jennie

In the aftermath of the outcome of the Election, we are feeling tides of emotions, and our nation is in need of healing and reconciliation. The period of the Salem Witch Trials was a time when communities were divided, too, especially between those who welcomed new ideas, enterprises, and people from far off lands, and those who wanted to close themselves off from those things. Come hear what we can learn from the trials of early Salem, and apply to divisions in our nation today.

## December 4, 2016

"In a House that becomes a Home," by Rev. Jennie

We make the places in which we dwell homelike when we prepare to invite in family, friends, neighbors, and strangers who will become our new friends. These places include our apartments, houses, and congregational home. Spiffing up our homes means noticing and accepting the flaws and messiness around us, and in each other. This sermon will, with good humor, explore some ways family can dwell together tolerantly, graciously, and lovingly, while "accepting the things (and people) we cannot change." (The Adult Choir will also sing.)

## Harvest Hope in Need of Donations

Harvest Hope is one of the main sources that helps those in need in South Carolina. They can use non-perishable canned goods, financial donations, and volunteers. As always you can bring the canned goods to our food basket, which is inside the Social Hall and is waiting for your donation. To make a financial donation or volunteer go to the Harvest Hope webpage [harvesthope.org](http://harvesthope.org). Any help you can give will be appreciated.

## Toiletry and Magazine Donations Solicited for Winter Shelter

Now that the Inclement Weather Center - the winter shelter for the homeless - is open for the season, the Social Action Committee is again collecting magazines and personal-sized toiletries. Please place your donations in the designated donation box at the entrance to the Social Hall. For more information about donating or about how to volunteer at the shelter on evenings when the temperature falls below 40 degrees F, contact Tom Clements, [tomclements329@cs.com](mailto:tomclements329@cs.com), cell 803-240-7268.

## Capital Campaign Update

We now have \$183,000 in pledges for our building renovations. The board has already started planning the financing, and we have a Committee on Building Renovations to supervise the projects. We're on our way toward new bathrooms, a well-lit RE wing with decent floors, new ceilings in the social hall/sanctuary, and a sanctuary you won't recognize!

But other than raising as much money as possible, the essence of a successful capital campaign is engagement by the entire congregation. At this point, we still have pledges from only about 55% of the congregation; our goal is 100%. No gift is too small because it shows you care! Don't forget that a pledge could be doubled if given before November 30 when the matching opportunity ends. Just fill out a pledge card (behind the sanctuary seats), or mail a check to the UUCU with "Capital Campaign" in the memo line, or send an email stating your pledge to our Administrator at [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).

The Campaign will officially end on January 31, so whether you do it now or later, please don't forget us! We've made so many improvements to our "fixer-upper" over the past thirty years. Help us make it into a place we're proud to show people.

Your Capital Campaign Team: Pat Mohr, Dot Brown, Don Dodson, Kevin Meredith, and Nancie Shillington-Perez

## A Capital Party for You! December 4

Please join us after the service on December 4 for a Taco Party to celebrate the enormous progress we've made with our Capital Campaign for building renovations. This is our gift to this congregation to honor you for your contributions, ideas, and encouragement to improve our facilities. We'll have tacos for vegetarians and carnivores, mild and hot salsas, and ice cream to cool off your tongue afterward. Stay after the service and p-a-r-t-y with us!!

## **Ministerial Search Committee Survey Results**

The Ministerial Search Committee recently finished completing a congregational survey and the results are now available. The Search Committee conducted the survey during August, September and October of this year and the results will be used to provide the UUCC with a clear understanding of what our congregation desires from our next settled minister as well as to provide prospective ministers with an overview of our congregation. The survey results, along with a presentation, are available on the UUCC web site under the **News -> Ministerial Search** section or by using the following link: <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/blog/ministerial-search/>

## **UUCC Governance and Structure Ad Hoc Committee**

In June 2016 the UUCC Board established an ad hoc committee, UUCC Governance and Structure, to review, analyze, and recommend revisions to our UUCC governance structure, ensuring a clearer picture of who we are as an organization. We have been meeting regularly since June and sending monthly reports to the Board as well as to the other committee chairs in our congregation.

The UUCC Governance and Structure Ad Hoc Committee would like to know what questions, concerns or suggestions our members might have about how UUCC operates. Do you have ideas about governance that you would like to share? Has your experience in other congregations or faith communities given you some insight into governance that you feel might benefit UUCC? Do you have concerns or questions and are not sure where or how to share those concerns or ask those questions? We want to hear from you, our members. Please direct your comments, questions, concerns, or suggestions to our Chair, Keitha Whitaker, at [uukeitha@gmail.com](mailto:uukeitha@gmail.com).

## **Join Us For Lunch!**

The Membership Committee has noticed that people have been arranging last minute group lunches after the service. We'd like to make this a bit more formal to be sure that everyone knows about the lunch and, perhaps, can plan

ahead to be sure they are available. Just head on over to the restaurant-of-the-day after the coffee hour. So, here is the current schedule:

First Sunday: *Arabesque Lebanese Cuisine*, 2930 Devine St.

Second Sunday: *Dano's Pizza*, 3008 Rosewood Dr.

Third Sunday: *Casa Linda Mexican Restaurant*, 2009 N. Beltline Blvd.

Fourth Sunday: *Sato Japanese Restaurant*, 1999 N. Beltline Blvd.

Note: These restaurants are subject to change. We welcome feedback. Of course, these lunches will be "separate checks".

## **Thanksgiving Gathering at UUCC, November 24**

In an annual tradition that goes back many years, UUCC will be hosting a Thanksgiving Day potluck. We'll gather for socializing at 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, with dinner beginning about 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. Turkey will be provided, and a small donation will be asked of those who partake.

This year we will be joined by The Harriet Hancock LGBT Center! Named after longtime activist and co-founder of the South Carolina Pride Movement, the Center provides a safe and welcoming space for South Carolina's LGBT community and its allies.



Organizers of the potluck are Michelle Andra and Kevin Meredith. If you want to attend, email Kevin at [kemeredith@hotmail.com](mailto:kemeredith@hotmail.com) with answers to the following questions:

1. How many are in your group?
2. How many in your group will want turkey?
3. What food would you like to bring?
4. Can you bring a turkey (we'll need 3-4)? You will be reimbursed.
5. Do you prefer to show up early for setup (starts at 5) or stay a little late for cleanup?

## **Holiday Business Expo, December 3**

Chris Maw, UUCC Member, would like to remind us that the Home-Based Business Network of the Midlands is sponsoring a Holiday Business Expo on Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at UUCC. For more information, contact Chris Maw at 262-8646 or [chrisemaw.2015@gmail.com](mailto:chrisemaw.2015@gmail.com)



**UULE—Unitarian Universalist Little Elves—a Child-Sitting Celebration & Santa Shop! December 3**

Coming Saturday, December 3, from Noon to 4:30 p.m., the UUCC will offer FREE child care. Parents can free up this afternoon before holiday mayhem hits! Children will:

- Eat lunch
- Play games
- Make holiday crafts
- Bake holiday cookies
- Shop in the Santa Shop

Children can purchase holiday gifts in the Santa Shop for \$1 or less. To reserve a spot, please email Beck Sullivan at: beck.sullivan.sc@gmail.com . Reservations help with planning for enough food for lunch.

**Adult Choir Schedule**

We will rehearse and sing on Sunday, December 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and every two weeks after. Bill Moody, Director

**Dress Rehearsal for Pageant, Sunday, December 4, 12:45-2:45 p.m.**

All involved in the holiday pageant (actors, costumes & scenery, lighting & sound, and musicians) come to our last rehearsal before the day of the performance. Completely off script. Nancie will provide a snack during a break.

**Celebration with our Neighboring Jewish Congregation on Sunday, December 11, at UUCC**

Dear Members and Friends, Many of you know that, in 1985, we were fortunate to buy our building and grounds from our Jewish neighbors, the Tree of Life Congregation. We continue to love and appreciate Tree of Life to this day!



Please join us for a commemoration and celebration of Tree of Life’s proud history in Columbia, at our congregation (UUCC), on Sunday, December 11, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. “Historic Columbia” will be placing an historic marker on our grounds to honor Tree of Life’s history on the corner of Heyward and Woodrow. Rabbi Eric Mollo, and Rev. Jennie, and representatives from Historic Columbia and the Tree of Life congregation will speak briefly, and the media will attend. For the reception, Tree of Life will provide food from Groucho’s Deli, and we will provide beverages and desserts. We will also provide informal tours of our building and grounds. If you can help, please contact Lis Turner, Patty Drews, or Richard Culler. And please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this historic and joyful event on Sunday, December 11, at UUCC, at 2:00 p.m.

# Holiday Pageant

## Good King Wenceslas December 11

Hear ye, hear ye! Good and noble people of the UUCC, we beseech thee and all ye kin to attend this year's portrayal of *Good King Wenceslas* on the 11th day of December in the year of our Lord, 2016, commencing at 11:00 a.m. It would please the King if you were to extend this invitation to friends as well. Fare thee well!

## Fair Trade Coffee Crusade

We will again join the crusade for fair trade coffee this holiday season. Like many UU congregations throughout the US we will promote fair trade by encouraging our members to order their coffee through The Fair Trade Coffee Company. On Sunday please look for youth circulating brochures about the coffee and see one of them to place your order. In addition to supporting fair trade coffee practices this project raises funds for the Boston Heritage Trip 2018. For more information, please see Sara Williams.



## Chair Yoga, Tuesdays & Thursdays

### THURSDAY CLASS CANCELLED

**FOR NOVEMBER 24.** Chair Yoga is now twice a week on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Both classes meet in the UUCS Social Hall. Come to either session or come to both. Chair yoga entails about 45 minutes of real yoga but it takes place mostly seated. The yoga instructors are Molly Jones and Ruthie Saunders. Please contact Ruthie [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu) if you have questions.



## Art for All Group, Thursdays

**CLASS CANCELLED FOR NOVEMBER 24.** If you are interested in working on your art with others for support, encouragement and feedback, then the Art for All 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. Please contact Ruthie Saunders at [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu) if you have questions.



## Transitions Volunteers Needed Second Saturday of Each Month

UUCS has a recurring obligation to help serve the evening meal at Transitions Homeless Recovery Center, 2025 Main Street in Columbia, on the second Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Whitaker at [bobwhit46@gmail.com](mailto:bobwhit46@gmail.com) to volunteer.

## Save Toiletries from Travels for Homeless Shelters

The Social Action Committee urges you to use your discretion and bring back unopened toiletries from the hotels and motels you'll be staying in during your travels. Place them in the food collection baskets at the entrance to the Social Hall. They will be donated to homeless shelters or for the Inclement Weather Center (winter shelter). For more information, contact Tom Clements, 803-240-7268 or [tomclements329@cs.com](mailto:tomclements329@cs.com).

## AmazonSmile: Free Money for UUCS

Thanks to everyone who has been using AmazonSmile for the past year or so! How does AmazonSmile work to help our budget? Simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0509045>, and bookmark that address and use it every time you order something from Amazon. Our Congregation will receive 0.5% of the purchase price of whatever you buy. We have been getting on average about \$25 each quarter, but many members and friends may not be aware that UUCS is eligible for this lagniappe!! Please note that this shopping experience is identical to the "regular" Amazon Site. You have the same selections, pay the same prices, and there is no charge to you or to UUCS. Please contact Bob Whitaker at [treasurer@uucolumbia.org](mailto:treasurer@uucolumbia.org) if you have any questions, or sign in to <http://org.amazon.com> and click on the Help tab to see their FAQ topics.

## Children & Adult Chalice Lighters Needed

Please celebrate a special event by becoming a Chalice Lighter. Having a birthday? An anniversary? New to UUCS? We would like to celebrate with you! Write: [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) today to reserve your date or sign up on the clipboard found on the information table in the Social Hall.





## **UCC Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange December 11**

Shortbread, Sugar Cookies, Fruitcake Cookies, Russian Teacakes. Have you been dreaming of those tasty cookies you only get once a year? You know, the ones with lots of creamy butter and sugar; maybe some eggs and chocolate. You know the ones, right? Your Mom probably made them every Holiday Season. Yeah, those Cookies! Well, it is time to get that recipe out, prepare your shopping list to ensure you have all the right ingredients and stop dreaming about those cookies and get them baked! Our annual Cookie Exchange will be after service on Sunday, December 11 Be sure to bring at least ½ dozen cookies to share after service that Sunday and another ½ dozen bagged and ready to present to the Family Shelter as our youth will be ready to take some holiday cheer to their residents. Oh, what fun!



## **Please Note: TWO January 2017 Partner Church Events**

**Sunday, January, 8, 7:00 p.m.:** The 13 UCC Pilgrims' Report. An illustrated sharing of their memorable August trip to Transylvania with Zsolt as guide.

**Sunday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.:** Cabaret – Show stoppers of the stage and screen.

## **UCC Book Club, January 22**

The next book club discussion is 6:30 pm on Sunday January 22 (we skip December). Carolyn West will facilitate a discussion on “H is for Hawk” by Helen Macdonald. We will meet at a member’s home. The UCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UCC. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu)



## **Women’s Book Group December 13**

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *The Woman Who Walked into Doors*, by Roddy Doyle. Anyone wanting more information may contact Sandy Chubon, 776-0784 or [sjchubon@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjchubon@sc.rr.com)

## **September Set – Annual Egg Nog Party Sunday, December 18**

Mark your calendar for our Annual Egg Nog Gathering: Sunday, December 18, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Lee and Julian Minghi’s home. Details to follow.

## **Partner Church News**

Lee and Julian Minghi, just back in Columbia, bring warmest, loving greetings from Rev. Zsolt Solymosi. They connected in London, where Zsolt, wearing his educational hat, was invited for a week-long visit to the Unitarian Channing School. He is carrying our UCC greetings to Beszterce this very Sunday along with Minghi assurances that our UCC Christmas cards are on the way.

# Religious Education

## Junior Choir Practice Sunday Morning

The Junior Choir will practice Sunday morning, November 27.

## OWL for Grades 4 - 6

Classes for grades 4 – 6 OWL program will begin soon. Please see Keitha Whitaker or Stephanie Palmer-Smith to get your child registered for this most important class.



## Fall Youth CONferences at The Mountain

The Fall Youth Mountain CON weekends are approaching. Important dates for each age group are as follows:

Intermediate (6th – 8th graders): December 2 – 4

Senior High (9th-12th graders): December 9 – 11

Registration deadline: 2 weeks prior to start date

The CON weekend program is filled with a variety of workshops, activities, good food, a safe environment and warm, cozy cabins. Youth participate in all the activities, share with new friends in small get-to-know-you groups, bond during free time, contribute to times of fun and reflection and grow spiritually through worship. \$100 for each youth attendee. Contact Morgan Hanes at [morgan.gotro@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.gotro@gmail.com) with questions. For registration form go to <http://themountainrlc.org/event/elementary-youth-con-fall-2016/>

## CYRE Calendar

Sunday 11/27 **NO CYRE**

Saturday 12/3: 12:00 – 4:30pm UULE (see write up)

Sunday 12/4 CYRE

10:20am Junior Choir Rehearsal

12:45pm – 2:45pm Pageant Rehearsal

\*Children's Capital Campaign Pledge Cards Due



## UUCC Board of Trustees

### Summary of September 21, 2016 Meeting

The Board of Trustees met September 21, 2016 from 6:30 to 9:07 PM.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Pledge payments are still lower than expected; rentals were higher than planned. Fundraising is far ahead of expectations. We have a positive variance of \$1,284.

#### **Capital Campaign**

Pat Mohr is chairing the Capital Campaign committee. She reported to the board that the Campaign will begin September 25. The capital improvements are divided into three parts: remodeling the bathrooms, updating the RE wing, and turning around the sanctuary. Ruthie Saunders has constructed a model of what the sanctuary will look like when it is modified; the model is not done to scale but it is very realistic. The goal is to raise \$180,000 based on Peck's estimates.

#### **UUCC Coffee House**

Tim VanDenBerg reported that he met with the Coffee House leaders and he thinks we are back where we were when we began these discussions in 2013. They are not interested in running a business. Tim offered to hire a CPA as a consultant to help them get appropriate procedures set up if they would be willing to do what she recommends. They showed no interest in that idea. We have treated them as a program group but they have not fulfilled their obligations to report to the board. The status quo arrangement leaves us with liability concerns and a possibility of jeopardy to our non-profit status. The Board members agreed to send the Coffee House leaders a letter terminating their status as a program group. We will charge them \$80 rent (for the space and sound equipment) for each performance. They are no longer permitted to use UUCC as part of their name.

#### **Report on Congregational Participation**

Phil Turner has done a survey asking committee chairs and other leaders to identify people who have participated in at least one UUCC activity in the last six months. To date, 64% of our members have been identified as participants.

#### **Board Vacancy**

We have been functioning with only four members at large on the board this fiscal year because the Leadership Development Committee was not able to find a candidate for the position in May. This leaves us out of compliance with our bylaws. Board members agreed to ask the Leadership Development Committee to try to find someone to fill that position for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

# Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Thursdays	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	Wednesday, December 21	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Tuesdays Thursdays	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Social Hall Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, TBA	12:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Choir	Sunday, December 4	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night	1st Wednesday of month	6:00 pm	Dinner in the Social Hall
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Every Thursday	7:30 pm	Library
Forum	Every Sunday	9:30 am	Library
Green Committee	TBA	6:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Knit or Not	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Membership Committee	1st Wednesday of month	7:00 pm	Classroom
Visitor Orientation	Sunday, TBA	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, January 27	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Wednesday, December 7	7:00 pm	Classroom
Technology Committee	Wednesday, December 7	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, December 14	6:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	Lee Minghi, 798-0904; Carita Barr, 782-0053; or Susan Robinson, 446-0675	TBA	
Women's Book Club	Tuesday, December 13	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Tuesday, December 13	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
<b>Rentals</b>			
La Leche League	3rd Tuesdays	6-8pm	Classroom # 5
Sitting with Sadness	Every Monday	7-8:15 pm	Social Hall
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Every Thursday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Meditation	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Library
Men's AA	Every Tuesday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Agnostic AA	Every Sunday	5:00 pm	Library
Women's AA	Every Wednesday	6:30 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, Phil Turner	<i>president@uucolumbia.org</i>
President-Elect, Richard Culler	<i>president-elect@uucolumbia.org</i>
Treasurer, Bob Whitaker	<i>treasurer@uucolumbia.org</i>
Secretary, Sandy Chubon	<i>secretary@uucolumbia.org</i>
Members at Large, Donald Griggs, Tim VanDenBerg, Cheryl Soehl, Joan Watterson, Emilio Perez-Jorge	
Past Co-Presidents, Marc & Patty Drews, ex officio	<i>pastpresident@uucolumbia.org</i>
Finance Chair, Joe Long, ex officio	<i>financechair@uucolumbia.org</i>

### UUC Staff

Interim Minister	Rev. Jennie Barrington, <i>interim@uucolumbia.org</i>
Administrator	Andrea Dudick, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Director Religious Education	Stephanie Palmer-Smith, <i>dre@uucolumbia.org</i>
Bookkeeper	Ginny Verne, <i>bookkeeper@uucolumbia.org</i>
Custodian	Bill Dolley, <i>uucc@uucolumbia.org</i>
Religious Education Assistant	Morgan Hanes, <i>reassist@uucolumbia.org</i>

**Address:** 2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

**Phone** — Office (803) 799-0845

**Special Events Line** — (803) 200-2824

**Office Hours** — Mon.– Fri. 9:15 am – 1:45 pm

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

Help us update our mailing list. To delete or change your address, Email: [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org)

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**Website:** [www.uucolumbia.org](http://www.uucolumbia.org)

