



The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

January 25, 2017



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

January 29, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

Do we need political compromise? Why or why not and when?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

"Our Second Annual Standing Up Against Gun Violence Sunday," by Rev. Jennie Barrington

February 5, 2017

9:30 am Forum Topic

Is it possible that Congress will recover the ability to function adequately?

11:00 am Sermon Topic

"Blessed Hopelessness," by Candace Chellew-Hodge

Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, February 5**, for publication on **Wednesday, February 8**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.*

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

Minister's Meditation

The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister

"What am I searching for? Maybe it's the beliefs I had as a child, that the world is a nice place, that people are genuinely who they say they are, that life is not simply what it is, where the sun shines and the stars glitter for me. Where am I going? I do not know, but maybe I am just searching for those beliefs that lead to a happy ending..." (Virginia Alison)

Dear Members and Friends,

Last night I had a "mock interview" with your Search Committee. What a real pleasure that was! They have the perfect blend of seriousness, personability, confidence, flexibility, and charm. I continue to feel high confidence that they will be successful in UUCC's search for a new settled minister. They have surveyed our congregation and staff; analyzed that feedback as regards what type of minister will best match what you want and need; embellished that information with a beautiful "electronic packet" of detailed information about our congregation, city, and area; and done preliminary interviews. Our congregation, and the materials the Search Committee put together about it, are very appealing. Thirteen UU ministers expressed interest in us. Your Search Committee is now in the process of scheduling the "pre-candidating weekends," which will take place at neutral pulpit sites, in the coming weeks. Our "mock interview" was good practice for the in-depth interviews that are part of those weekends. Your Search Committee is being very thorough, and appropriately so.

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They are searching for the person who will be a happy success for this congregation, in this place, in these contemporary times-- what is generally called a sole parish ministry position. It's a really big job. And it is a different, more complex, job than it was a couple decades ago. More knowledge is needed now of UU Religious Education for children and youth, conflict management, anti-racism and multi-cultural awareness, advocating for the rights of LGBTQ people, safe congregations policies and practices, building renovation projects, pastoral care that involves a wider variety of conditions and ailments, supervising staff, contemporary worship elements such as power points, and even fluency with social media and twitter. Your diligent search committee is aware of UUCC's need for all of these aspects of professional ministry. And they are realistic about the fact that we never find everything we want in any one person. But they are holding to a high standard, with the goal that the next settled ministry will last for many mutually-enriching years.

In recent years, the UUA and the UU Ministers Association have been exploring the many aspects of "parish ministry" today. Here is some of what they have discerned in their "Excellence in Ministry" materials:

"Excellence in ministry is the capability and commitment of ministers, lay leaders and congregations to the increased health, vitality, and spiritual depth of our congregations and our tradition.

Tools for excellence in ministry include:

- preaching
- teaching
- pastoral care
- prophetic witness
- administration, and
- strong interpersonal skills

An excellent minister is able to:

- articulate and carry the vision
- lead cultural and institutional change
- deepen congregational life
- connect with the broader community in powerful ways
- nurture the beloved community
- encourage generosity
- reinforce healthy patterns and practices, and
- reinvent one's ministry in response to changing congregational need and context."

Continued on Page 3

Yet your Search Committee is not simply checking off boxes on a grid. They are searching for the more elusive qualities that will make for a companionable fit between that minister as a person, and all of you. As a seven-person team, your Search Committee has the collective knowledge and experience of your congregation to discern such a fit in all its intricacies. And that is something that no one person can do as well. The date on which search committees get to make an offer to a minister, inviting them to be their chosen Candidate is March 30th. May we await the news from that day with high hopes, confidence, and faith in David, Ann, Rebecca, Buzzie, Brian, Rod, and Linda, and faith in this time-tested good process.

With care and cheer,

Rev. Jennie (“It’s a privilege to be here.”)

News and Notes

January 29, 2017

“Stand Up Sunday - Against Gun Violence” (Rev. Jennie preaching) Congregations across South Carolina will stand together this morning to address the moral and public-health crisis of gun violence and take steps to reduce it that don't threaten the Second Amendment right to lawfully own guns. Last year over 1,000 congregations participated. We are proud to be part of this advocacy which is sorely needed in our state and our nation.

February 5, 2017

“Blessed Hopelessness” (Guest Speaker Candace Chellew-Hodge)

Bio: Rev. Candace Chellew-Hodge is the pastor of Jubilee! Circle. She earned her Masters of Theological studies at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. She is also trained as a spiritual director through the Omega Point program of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Her first book, *Bulletproof Faith: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians*, was published by Jossey-Bass in 2008.

February 12, 2017

“Common Ground Between Religion and Science?” (Rev. Jennie preaching) Inspired by the writing of physicist Richard Feynman, this sermon will explore ways science and religion do not have to be in conflict. This service is part of Evolution Weekend, sponsored by the Clergy Letter Project. Each year in February, clergy and congregations take part in Evolution Weekend by advocating for the protection of high quality science education and religious freedom, through worship services and other events.

February 19, 2017

“Kick-off and Celebration of our Annual Pledge Drive” (Rev. Jennie preaching)

Capital Campaign Update

We now have over \$194,000 in pledges for our building renovations. The board is 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. No gift is too small because it shows you care! Just fill out a pledge card (behind the sanctuary seats), or mail a check to the UUCC with "Capital Campaign" in the memo line, or send an email stating your pledge to our Administrator at

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.

Search Committee Update

People are curious to know where we are in the process of finding a new minister for our congregation. The information we collected from UUCC during the fall was sent to the UUA in Boston and was made available to potential ministers. Thirteen expressed interest in our congregation by sending us their Ministerial Record. We reviewed these carefully and decided to follow up with five of these with an interview via video conferencing. Then we decided to interview in person three of these. These candidates have been invited to a "pre-candidating" weekend so that we can meet them in person and assess whether they would be a good fit for our congregation. At this point the names are confidential so we can't reveal much more than this. On Thursday, March 30, we can extend an offer to our preferred candidate. We believe that UUCC is a highly desirable congregation and are seeking skilled candidates.



Pledge & Capital Campaign Statements Mailed

Statements of your pledge status as of the end of the second quarter of the congregation's fiscal year, and of your contributions during calendar 2016 for tax purposes, were mailed on Friday, January 13. The statements include your Pledges and payments toward our Capital Campaign. Some people will receive only the calendar year statement. If you have not received your statement and believe you should have, please contact our Administrator, Andrea Dudick, at 799-0845 or uucc@uucolumbia.org. Thanks for your contributions to our congregation. Joe Long, for the finance committee.

Adult Choir Schedule

We will rehearse and sing on **Sunday, January 29, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary** and every two weeks after. Bill Moody, Director

CANstruction Donations Due SUNDAY



Please leave your cans for Harvest Hope in the red tub in the Social Hall. The cans will be distributed to classrooms for use in their January 29 CANstruction projects. To encourage fun competition between the classrooms we need all the cans we can get. Not only will your canned goods provide much needed food sources for those in need, it will provide an avenue of learning and fun for our students. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Operation Bed-Roll

Our CYRE Youth Group (middle and high schoolers) will be collaborating with the Midlands Collaboration on **Operation Bed-Roll**. Operation Bedroll Morgan Gauthreaux-Hanes, our Religious Education Assistant, attended the meeting this past Sunday and will be following up with more details about the event. In the meantime, **Please Donate Plastic Bags** to our CYRE. Place them in the green collection tub in the Social Hall. We are also in need of G size crochet hooks and folks who crochet! Your instruction will be invaluable and a life-time gift to our children and youth.



Transitions Volunteers Needed Second Saturday of Each Month

UUCU 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 to volunteer.

UUCU Christian Heritage Group

An interest has been expressed in forming a very casual group of persons of Christian background to talk about our heritage. We hope to address issues such as "what I value most from my Christian experiences," "why I chose to become UU," "are there practices, teachings, etc., which I believe might benefit the UUCU," "how can I best live out

my Christian ethos in the UU environment," and many, many more. We will meet for lunch and conversation at **11:30 on Tuesday morning, February 28**, at the J Peter's restaurant at 2005 South Beltline Blvd., just east of Richland Mall. We would love for you to join us. If you have questions, contact Jenny Beale at 803-776-2625 or Jeczbl14@aol.com or Ginny Verne at 803-786-7114 or jtverne33@att.net.

Facilitator Needed for Spiritual Practices Course

Adult RE would like to sponsor a course on Spiritual Practices. The course would be interactive and inclusive of all forms of spirituality. If you are interested in facilitating this course, please contact Pat Mohr at patmohr@mindspring.com

Circus Animal Cruelty Protest Times

For the last eight years, Sophia Storlazzi has been our local protest organizer against animal circuses. When "The Cruellest Show on Earth" closes in May, they will be selling their animals to other organizations like the Shrine Circus. **New goal:** Stop the people from choosing to support other animal circuses when Ringling closes. Join Sophia in educating the public of the animal torture that is unknown or ignored. The protests are family-friendly and easy; protest/celebration signs will be provided, but handmade signs are welcomed. **Location:** Colonial Life Arena. **Protest Schedule:** Thursday, Jan 26 ~ 5:45-7pm; Friday, Jan 27 ~ 5:45-7pm; Saturday, Jan 28 ~ 9:45-11am, 1:45-3pm, 5:45-7pm; Sunday, Jan 29 ~ 12:15-1:30pm, 4:15-5:30pm. **Protest Event Page:** 2017 Ringling Circus Protests: Columbia, SC.

September Set, Friday, January 27

Our monthly September Set for our UUCU Seniors will be held Friday, January 27. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall with conversation and getting to know each other better. Bring a dish to share and join in the fun. Long time and new members and friends are welcome. We hope to see you there. Contact Jean Capalbo at jacapalbo@gmail.com or Pat Mohr at patmohr@mindspring.com.

Upcoming Concerts at UCC

January 28: Ultrafaux

February 18: Harpeth Rising

You can reserve tickets by leaving a message at (803) 200-2824. Tickets are \$17 at the door, but \$15 if purchased or reserved prior to the concert. Bring some extra money for the wonderful home-baked treats and hot coffee from our volunteer staff. You can even bring your own beverages! Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Shows start at 8:00 p.m.

CYRE Committee Meeting, Sunday, January 29

Parents, grandparents, guardians, and anyone interested in the direction of our Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) program is encouraged to attend our CYRE committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 29.

Social Action Meeting, February 1

The Social Action Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 1 with a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish and join with other committees. If you can't make it to the potluck please try to attend the meeting. We are discussing many very important actions that we are taking and we need all of you to help make important decisions. Hope to see you there.

UCC Potluck, Sunday, February 5

Please bring your favorite dish and join the together for a potluck supper on Sunday, February 5, after service. Potluck suppers are not just a great time to share a meal but a fun time to get to know each other better. Bring a hot dish (our ovens can keep them warm) a salad, a side dish, a dessert, or whatever food item you think others would enjoy. We will begin our meal as soon as all of the food is set out so plan on being a part of this delightful and delectable time of fellowship.

For those of you able to stay don't miss the Islamophobia Workshop following the potluck at 2:00 p.m.

Chocolate Auction Sunday, February 12

Sweets for your sweet? Our popular Chocolate Auction fundraiser will fall just two days before Valentine's Day

this year and we hope to make it a sweet occasion for all! Part bake sale, part silent auction, part cake walk, all proceeds will go to help fund the HSYG Boston trip. Join us immediately after service on Sunday, February 12 in the Social Hall for this delicious event and find a special treat for all of your special someones.

Goodies Needed for Chocolate Auction, February 12

Whether you make basic brownies or a gourmet gateau no item is too small for our bake sale or too large for the silent auction. All items will need to be in the fellowship kitchen either Saturday morning, February 11 between 10:00 & Noon, or Sunday, February 12 as early as possible so we can prepare for the sale and auction. (Please package individual portions for bake sale items.) So tie on your apron and bake with a loving spoonful! For questions or further info contact Gail Dawson: gailzebug@msn.com



Friendship Dinners Begin in February; So Sign Up on Sunday!

The Membership Committee is offering a new way for us to gather in small groups so that we can get to know each other better. We are offering Friendship Dinners, where a host will determine the cuisine or theme and you will be asked to contribute either specific or general dishes from various categories. The sign-up sheets on the Welcome Table in the Social Hall will have all the details you need. It will be up to the hosts to determine the day and time, so these will be offered at different dates during the month. We encourage you to sign up for one or more of these in February, and volunteer to host one in a coming month.

Women's Book Group, February 14

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *Animal's People* by Indra Sinha. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, sjchubon@sc.rr.com or 776-0784.



CABARET

Showstoppers from Stage & Screen
by first class performers

Sunday, January 29, 2017

UU Church, 2701 Heyward Street, Columbia



Delectable hors d'oeuvres & desserts!
A memorable, magical evening
YOUR TABLE IS WAITING
Raffle items & more!

Doors open 6:45pm
Curtain 7:30pm

Suggested donation \$20pp

Sponsored by the UUCC Partner Church Committee. Contact Susan 446-0675 or Jean 799-1001

UUCS Islamophobia Workshop, Sunday, February 5

Mark your calendar now for February 5, beginning with a potluck after our service so bring your favorite dish and join us. The potluck will be followed at 2:00 p.m. by a great opportunity for an education about Islamophobia. The workshop will be open to the community and will be teaching us about discrimination in many forms. It will be a worthwhile afternoon of learning for all of us. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to learn and exchange ideas. Now more than ever we need to be aware of this subject that threatens our nation. Grant Seuser, a very knowledgeable person on this subject, will be chairing this event.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Want to stop racism, discrimination, and Islamophobia? Come to this two hour workshop to:

- Define Islamophobia
- Identify anti-Muslim forces
- Provide real-life scenarios
- Identify how we can help
- Develop action steps
- Identify how Islamophobia operates in the U.S.



Sunday, February 5, 2017, 2pm

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia
2701 Heyward Street,
Columbia, South Carolina 29205

For more info, call 803-799-0845

Presented by The Center for New Community (CNC), a national research and advocacy organization that monitors organized racist movements and equips organizations to defeat these forces, and the UUCS Social Action Committee. For more information about CNC visit www.newcomm.org

Adult RE Short Course: *God Is Not One*, Beginning February 12

This spring, a short course at UUCC will be devoted to the eight most broadly practiced world religions (Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Confucianism, Yoruba religion, Daoism, Hinduism, and Atheism). It will be based on the book *God is Not One* by Stephen Prothero (2010). This book is the successor to Prothero's best-seller *Religious Literacy*, which emphasizes the importance of a broad acquaintance with the world's religions in a modern America in which there are more Moslems than Episcopalians. The book provides a valuable background for UUCC's greeters, Membership activists who help integrate new friends and members to the congregation, and in general for members of the committees and board of UUCC. The book is inexpensively available from such sources as Amazon and addall.com. The short course will meet from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Sundays in the Library. It will meet in six sessions, first on February 12, and continuing on alternate Sundays, with accommodations for other congregational activities as necessary. The instructor will be Don Cooper. Don's e-mail is dndcooper@gmail.com, with mobile phone (803) 466-5087. If you are interested in participating in this short course, please contact him before the end of January, preferably by e-mail.

Fun-Draiser Dinner February 17

There are only two seats left for the dinner given by Jean Capalbo and Ginny Verne. The February 17 meal will be Italian vegetarian with a shrimp starter option. You can reserve your seat with \$40 payable to UUCC with "February 17 Fundraiser" on the memo line. For more information, contact Jean 803-799-1001 or Ginny 803-786-7114.

UUCC Book Club, Sunday, February 19

The next book club discussion is 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 19. Bauer Westernen will facilitate a discussion on "And Yet" by Christopher Hitchens. We will meet at a member's home. The UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: rsaunders@sc.edu

NAMI Walks, Saturday, April 1



Save the Date of Saturday, April 1, for the annual NAMI campaign. NAMI is the National Alliance for Mental Illness and UUCC traditionally shows great support for this cause. Put it on your calendar and plan to walk in this annual event in downtown Columbia and be thinking of ways you can help to be a part of this. The Social Action Committee is looking forward to your usual great participation as we encourage assistance to those in the mental health field.

Children & Adult Chalice Lighters Needed

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



News from the UUCC Green Corner

City of Columbia Rain Barrel Workshops

The City of Columbia storm water department, in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, will hold free rain barrel workshops for City residents in 2017. These short, 30 minute workshops will teach attendees how to assemble and install a rain barrel and how to use a rain barrel to water their plants. Attendees who live within the City limits will receive one free rain barrel at the end of the workshop to take home and install.

Workshops will be held on Saturday, February 11, Saturday, March 11, and Saturday, April 22. For more information or to register to attend, visit www.bluethumbbrainbarrel.com



Join Us For Lunch After Coffee Hour!

The Membership Committee has noticed that people have been arranging last minute group lunches after the service. Head over to the restaurant-of-the-day after coffee hour on Sundays when there are no other UUCC events scheduled for after coffee hour. Here is the current schedule. There are no lunches scheduled on the 5th Sunday. (Please Note: The Fourth Sunday is no longer Sato Japanese Restaurant):
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: *Miyo's Chinese Restaurant*, 3250-B Forest Dr.

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

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.

AmazonSmile: Free Money for UUCC

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 UUCC 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 UUCC. Please contact Bob Whitaker at 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.

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 personalized 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, cell 803-240-7268.

Religious Education

Junior Choir, Sunday, February 5

Children and youth interested in singing with our Junior Choir will meet for practice on Sunday, February 5 at 10:20 a.m.! They will then sing during the service.

OWL Classes for Grades 4–6: Registration End Sunday

Registration ends this Sunday for OWL grades 4 – 6. Classes will begin with a mandatory parent orientation on Saturday, February 4. Classes will begin in February. Forms are available in the Social Hall at the CYRE table. Please contact Stephanie Palmer-Smith (dre@uucolumbia.org) or Keitha Whitaker (uukeitha@gmail.com) for more information. Please note that the mandatory parent orientation has been changed from Saturday, January 28 to Saturday, February 4 to allow extra time for registration.

Save the date: The 2016 Charlotte CON February 3 - 5

This is available for 9 – 12 graders and is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the connection our high schoolers have to our UU faith. For more information, contact Morgan at reassist@uucolumbia.org.



Middle and High School Lock-In, February 25-26

All middle and high school youth are invited to a Lock-In beginning at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, February 25 through the start of Service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday the 26th. We will be “planning” for Operation Bed Roll, playing Board/card games, making our own pizzas, watching movies, and spending FUUN time together. Please contact Stephanie Palmer-Smith dre@uucolumbia.org to fill out paper-

work. Morgan Hanes will be sending out an e-mail with more details once your youth is signed up.

CYRE Calendar

Sunday Jan. 29 – CANstruction

CYRE Committee Meeting: All Parents and Caregivers invited!

Sunday Feb. 5—Children’s Chapel grades Pre-K through 5th grade; first OWL class for grades 4 - 6
Junior Choir Practice and Sing

Saturday Feb. 11—Chocolate Baking Party!

Sunday Feb. 12-CYRE, Chocolate Auction and Junior Choir Practice

UUA Southern Region Chalice Lighters Call

Dear Chalice Lighters and Friends of the Southern Region,

We're pleased to announce the first region-wide Chalice Lighters call! This call will support extending the ***Pledge to End Racism*** program from **First UU Church of Richmond** to all interested congregations in the Southern Region. This program is designed using a leadership development model so participants gain skills and develop competence in not only talking about racism, but in facilitating discussions about race, and then working together to organize ***Living the Pledge workshops*** for people throughout their community. Instead of just talking about racism, this program develops knowledgeable, passionate leaders who can do something to address it. The *Pledge* strengthens local antiracism efforts, brings congregations together with other faith communities with like commitments, and creates teams of people involved on the local level in making change in their own communities.

With generous donations from Southern Region Chalice Lighters and friends, the *Pledge to End Racism* organizers will be available to provide, at minimal cost, curriculum and consultation to fifty (50) or more congregations in organizing the *Pledge to End Racism* programs for their communities. This will include all the materials to develop *Living the Pledge to End Racism* workshops, select and train small group facilitators, and promote the program in your congregation and to your larger community - all with the goal of building a community-wide movement to end racism.

By spreading the *Pledge to End Racism* program throughout the South, Unitarian Universalist congregations can have a recognizable impact on the rise in racial tensions and division and can play an essential part in building stronger communities imbued with justice, equity, and compassion.

Donate today with this link:

Chalice Lighters Pledge to End Racism Donation Form

(https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/hf_xDmMfUCEngR5K-h0Ogg)

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, and Diners Club accepted

Or make a check payable to *First UU of Richmond - Chalice Lighters*

Mail to:

First Unitarian Universalist Church

1000 Blanton Ave.

Richmond, VA 23221

This Chalice Lighter call will end on March 6, 2017.

UUCC Board of Trustees

Summary of November 16, 2016 Meeting

The Board of Trustees met November 16, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:10 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Income is up in almost every category while Capital Campaign payments continue to increase. At the end of the first 1/3 of our fiscal year we have a positive variance of \$15,186.81. In comparison, last year at this point we had a negative variance of \$6,071.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Website Policies

The Board approved a Website Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions of Use of the Website document.

Coffee House

There was some discussion about how to handle the Coffee House checking account. It was agreed that Bob Whitaker can close the account and give Steve Fisher a cashier's check for the balance of the account. They have concerts scheduled through February 18, 2017. Donald Griggs will work with David Roof to be sure we have an inventory of the equipment.

Building Renovation

Richard Culler reported that he hopes to convene the Committee for Building Renovation early in December. Phil Turner and Rev. Jennie will be serving as ex officio members of the committee. Phil, Richard, and Quillin Davis met with Peck Drennan to discuss the potential timeline and his contract as the architect. The Finance Committee has been asked to research options for "bridge financing", ways to finance the work in advance of receiving all the money that has been pledged. Bob Whitaker will meet with BB&T personnel to get an estimate of the cost of borrowing money for the renovations.

Tree of Life Historical Marker

Plans are underway to place a historical marker on our grounds to honor the history of the Tree of Life Congregation. There will be a ceremony with the installation and dedication of the marker on December 11, 2016 at 2:00 PM.

Ministerial Search Committee

The Search Committee has requested the Board's approval of the contract they will use in negotiating with a settled minister. They need to submit the document on November 23. It is being circulated to the Board today. An electronic vote will take place after the Trustees have an opportunity to review the contract.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Thursdays	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	Wednesday, February 15	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Tuesdays Thursdays	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Social Hall Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, January 29	1:00 pm	Classroom # 5
Choir	Sunday, January 29	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	TBA	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 nd Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, January 27	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Wednesday, February 1	7:00 pm	Classroom
Technology Committee	Wednesday, February 1	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, February 8	5:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, February 19	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 th 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, February 14	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Tuesday, February 14	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
Rentals			
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.

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

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