



# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

May 10, 2017



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 2

### May 14, 2017

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

What would the Americas be like if Europeans hadn't conquered it?

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

"My Brother's Keeper," by Richard McLeod

### May 21, 2017

#### 9:30 am Forum Topic

Dogs and other animals as pets?

#### 11:00 am Sermon Topic

"Beyond This Place, There Be Dragons," by Rev. Jennie Barrington

## Unigram Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, May 21**, for publication on **Wednesday, May 24**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).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

*"The time is ripe for looking back over the day, the week, the year, and trying to figure out where we have come from and where we are going to, for sifting through the things we have done and the things we have left undone for a clue to who we are and who, for better or worse, we are becoming. But again and again we avoid the long thoughts.... We cling to the present out of wariness of the past. And why not, after all? We get confused. We need such escape as we can find. But there is a deeper need yet, I think, and that is the need—not all the time, surely, but from time to time—to enter that still room within us all where the past lives on as a part of the present, where the dead are alive again, where we are most alive ourselves to turnings and to where our journeys have brought us. The name of the room is Remember—the room where with patience, with charity, with quietness of heart, we remember consciously to remember the lives we have lived." [Frederick Buechner, from his book, A Room Called Remember: Uncollected Pieces]*

Dear Members and Friends,

Perhaps the most important thing professional ministers do is planning, creating, and leading memorial services. There are specific questions and conversations a minister talks with people about when planning a memorial service, whether for their loved-one, or for themselves. We will all have the need to do so at some point in our lives, for a family member or close friend. As your Interim Minister, I want to provide you with the information you'll need and the opportunity to talk opening and honestly about memorial services. A congregation or "church home" is one of the few places where people feel allowed, and even encouraged, to talk about such things.

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The choices we make about what to include in a memorial service won't always be *our* favorite passages. Those choices should be a tribute to the person we are honoring, as their fullest best self, and in the complexity of the life they lived. Ministers are often asked to write and officiate a memorial service for someone they've never met, possibly won't even see a photograph of. (Though I always really try to find a way to see one or more photographs of someone I have never met. Even one photograph can tell us so much about the person, their spirit, and what they loved.) So we ask the person's loved-ones some questions-- We try to get a clear picture of who that person was, their spirit, their loves and losses, accomplishments and favorite memories, and how they will want to be remembered. I always ask if the person was a sports fan and, if so, of what team or teams. What gave the person joy? And what did they struggle with? What has given you joy? And what obstacles and challenges have you overcome? I ask if the person has a favorite scripture passage, poem, or other piece of writing that I can include in the service. When little has been discussed beforehand, loved-ones often say to me the twenty-third psalm or the Lord's Prayer. But 'most everyone has a favorite few lines they re-read regularly. If only we would make the time to let them show it to us... It's posted by their computer or on their refrigerator or up beside their kitchen window. To ask the person where and when they found these lines is to hear and honor their struggles and joys.

I also always ask the loved-ones if they have a sense of what the person believed happens after we die. Then, in what I say, I can honor what they believed. What most people say is that the person believed they would be reunited in spirit with their loved-ones who passed on before them. We name those people, and even, sometimes, pets. Some people believe in reincarnation. Being able to name a place where the person felt close to God is helpful. Who else was with them in that place? Family, friends, neighbors, the beauty of the animal kingdom and nature? When we listen to those answers, we can picture the person's most spiritual relationships. When these things have not been discussed beforehand, the minister's job is harder, and the service may not be as fitting. It won't be as deep and full a presentation of the person's life. And choices may be made that are inappropriate.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, I preached about how helpful it is to think, in advance, about what you'd like your memorial service to be like, and to write down those thoughts. For that worship service, we provided a hand-out of questions you can think about, and talk with your loved-ones about. That worship service, and the hand-out, are now posted on our website [Thank you, Lis Turner!] This is the link to the hand-out:

<http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Planning-Memorial-Service-Handout-UUCC-Website.pdf>

And the full hand-out is also printed in this issue of the Unigram. Some of you have talked with me, and given me your notes about what you would like your memorial service to be like. I am keeping those notes in a special place in the Minister's Study. If more of you would like me to save that information for you, please just let me know.

Planning a memorial service beforehand isn't really about our deaths, it's about our lives. It's about looking at what has given your life meaning –through the struggles and the joys- and noticing the threads that kept running through it. One of the threads through my life is that I have always, for as far back as I can remember, felt called to tell good stories, in the hope that they will be helpful. Let's not leave the preparation of the final words that will be said about us to loved-ones who may, understandably, be distraught, distracted, and not very articulate. While we dwell together in peace, please tell us the story of your life.

With care and cheer,  
Rev. Jennie (“It's a privilege to be here.”)

Planning a Memorial Service  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of  
Columbia, South Carolina  
The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister  
Spring, 2017

What is your full legal name:

What is your date of birth [month, day, year]:

What nicknames have you been known by in your life, and why:

Where were you born? Where did you grow up? What other places have you lived?  
Which of those places did you love, or dislike, and why?

What are your parents' names and places of birth and heritage?

List the names of your siblings, spouses, children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, nieces or nephews:

What is your religious affiliation? Are you a veteran? Are you a sports fan? What teams? What groups, clubs, or other organizations have you been part of? What are your hobbies or other recreational activities?

What, to you, are the greatest accomplishments of your life? And what have you most loved doing? What regrets do you have? And what are some things you have strongly disliked, or struggled with?

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What have your careers or vocations been?

What obstacles and challenges have you overcome in your life?

What has made you feel happiest and most alive?

What are your favorite pieces of writing: scripture, poetry, prose, song lyrics? Who have your favorite authors been?

What are your favorite pieces of music? Are there pieces of music that you strongly dislike that you do not want included in a commemoration of your life?

How would you sum up your character, spirit, or the ethical code by which you live?

Is there a certain place, or type of setting, where you would like your service to take place? Somewhere out-of-doors? In a church, or not in a church?

Are there people or animals you have loved and lost that you wish to name?

Are there threads or themes that have run through your life that you wish to name?

What do you believe happens to a person after they die?

**Directions**  
**Reflections**  
**Exploration**

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”  
– **George Orwell**

We can all most likely agree that an understanding of historical figures helps us form a deeper appreciation of the courage and sacrifices many of them made to build the foundation on which we now stand. And if we read often and with diverse interests we can meet new role models, new heroines who have stood up to unbelievably terrifying experiences to do and say the right thing. And I think we need these people more today than perhaps we might have needed them just a short time ago. Fortunately, I have been introduced to Francis Ellen Watkins Harper who played a role in speaking out for social justice at a time when life was even more unjust than it is today. And she did it with the odds against her.

This amazing woman was born to free African American parents in a slave state while slavery was still thriving. This meant she could have been mistaken for a slave at any time and taken away from her family. And slave catchers were roaming northern states at this time in great numbers because the slave owners were fighting hard to keep their “rights” to own people. Like most times of history, the greater the opposition to an institution or other accepted norm becomes, the greater the pushback to hold on and try to buttress the dying ways. (Feels a bit familiar, doesn’t it?) But I digress from our Miss Harper. While living under these stressful circumstances this young woman, who became well-known for her eloquent speaking, began to speak out loud and clear about the injustices of slavery. At a time when she could be arrested, she chose to speak out, in public forums, for the rights of her fellow African Americans. Life was a struggle for our Ms. Harper. In addition to growing up during a time when her opportunity to learn to read and write were thought by most to be nil, she grew up learning. In addition to being a woman of color, she grew up making a living on her written and spoken word. You can almost sense her feisty attitude, her “I’m going to prove you wrong” attitude. And she did prove those folks wrong. She pursued a career in public speaking when even white men were having a hard time making a career out of that line of work. She published works when even white men and women were struggling to do so. She chose this career out of necessity. Ms. Harper became widowed early in her marriage. She was forced to leave her two children with relatives while she took off to make a living on the circuit of speakers and she made it work. She spoke with such deep conviction and empathy that she became a driving force in the abolitionist movement. And although she was the leading African American poet of the nineteenth century, she has all but been forgotten. May we lift up her memory and gain courage from her.

*Of course, I don't know very much  
About these politics,  
But I think that some who run 'em,  
Do mighty ugly tricks.*

*I've seen 'em honey-fugle round,  
And talk so awful sweet,  
That you'd think them full of kindness  
As an egg is full of meat.*

*Now I don't believe in looking  
Honest people in the face,  
And saying when you're doing wrong,  
That 'I haven't sold my race.'*

*When we want to school our children,  
If the money isn't there,  
Whether black or white have took it,  
The loss we all must share.*

*And this buying up each other  
Is something worse than mean,  
Though I thinks a heap of voting,  
I go for voting clean.*

Stephanie Palmer-Smith, DRE

**SOURCE** | Francis Ellen Watkins Harper, "Aunt Chloe's Politics," poem, 1872, in *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, vol. C, 5th ed., ed. Paul Lauter (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006), 568.



## Candles of Community

We celebrate Janet Swigler's recent artistic accomplishment: Her quilt, "Room for Magic" received a Merit Award at ArtFields!

## Thank You

### Howlmore Animal Sanctuary

The Share the Plate check arrived and we are delighted to receive this very generous donation. Katie, our pug, and Willow, the adorable kitten, are both very proud to tell everyone at the sanctuary about their visit to UUCC. We are very grateful for your support. Sincerely, Linda Moore and Jayden Howell

### Bark to the Park

On Saturday, April 8, Pawmetto Lifeline's annual walk and fundraiser, "Bark to the Park" was held at Finley Park. The Animal Ministry wishes to thank all who donated (some quite generously!) as we collected over \$1000! Pawmetto Lifeline uses this money for, among other things, the rescue of animals from shelters where they would face certain death. They also have a very active, essential, as well as effective, spaying and neutering program.

As for the walk that morning, you can see from the photo, taken by The State just before the walk, that it was a gorgeous day and our Animal Ministry team was happy, enthusiastic and anxious to get started!



Pictured above beaming, left to right, are Anita Grossman, Brianna Clifford, Tim VanDenBerg, Danielle and Emerson VanDenBerg, Tiffany Rushton, Nancie Shillington-Perez and her daughter Mercedes. Not pictured, but also participating were Laura Culler and Susan Culler.

## Ride Request

Jan Kelly will need rides to and from church from Harbison each Sunday starting May 7. Susan Robinson and the Whitakers have been taking turns, but Susan is leaving Columbia indefinitely at the beginning of May. Make a new and interesting friend. If you live in the Harbison, St. Andrews, or Irmo areas, Jan needs your help. Taking turns will mean sharing the responsibility.

Some of you may have received an e-mail invitation from Susan from the [www.lotsahelpinghands.com](http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com) site. If you agree to be a volunteer in the "Driving Ms. Kelly" group, you will be able to see a calendar with open dates. Through this y'all can easily coordinate the rides. If you would prefer to communicate or coordinate this another way, but can help, please contact Keitha at [uukeitha@gmail.com](mailto:uukeitha@gmail.com) or 803-605-8625.

## From the Website Corner

I hope that by now you have formed the habit of going to our web page any time you need some information about anything to do with our congregation. I have made a few changes and wanted you to be aware of them. First, I have added an information bar at the top of the Home Page. Most of the time, it will appear as it does now, saying: *Visit our events page to see what's happening*, followed by a link to that page. That link will take you to the page with listings of important upcoming events in the life of our congregation. You may close out that information bar by clicking on the X on its right-hand side. Please note that this page does not usually contain information about Social Action activities (tirelessly worked on by Linda McLeod and Laura Hartwig) or about Religious Education (beautifully kept up by Keitha Whitaker). Information for these activities can be found under the Social Action and Learning tabs respectively. Back to the bar...my main purpose for putting it there is to have a place to put urgent or important messages. For example, if our annual picnic were to be cancelled due to rain, notice of that would be found in that information bar.

The other thing I have changed is the Testimonials section. It is a small thing, but makes a big difference. The 4 testimonials I have will now show up 3 per page in random order, changing for every page. They look great and really personalize the site, but **I really need more to have a greater impact**. Please consider looking at what we have (found on every page except the Home Page) and sending me a photo (I will take it if you need help with that part) along with your brief statement of what this congregation means to you/ why you attend our services. You can do it individually, as a couple, as a family, or just as a group of friends. It would have such a powerful impact on our website. Lis Turner (mslisturner@gmail.com)

## UUCC Member Honored by Columbia Council of Neighborhoods

Congratulations to Sara Williams who was honored by the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods at their 10th annual Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony held at Seawells on April 27. Sara was recognized by the Edisto Court Community and was named Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year.

The Columbia Council of Neighborhoods is a volunteer, community-based umbrella organization which coordinates the activities of approximately 90 city neighborhood organizations. While Columbia is socially and economically diverse, all neighborhoods have similar needs. CCN serves as a clearing-house for information, provides a forum for discussion of neighborhood issues, and fosters the education of neighborhood leadership.

CCN committees are actively addressing such quality of life issues as drugs, crime, and toxic waste. CCN now provides a link between neighborhood groups and city officials, enhancing the process of identifying neighborhood problems, and setting priorities for solutions. The unusual features of CCN are that each group defines its own community boundaries—instead of some government agency imposing a uniform size or shape—and that each group participates voluntarily. These concepts of self-definition and participation create a real sense of ownership and empowerment.



**You are invited to join us as we explore how our society treats people of different races. Please bring your family and friends. This is a free event sponsored by People for Reconciliation and co-sponsored by UCC.**

**FREE event....Open to the general public!**

## **Equal Justice... ...Is It Possible?**

**May 21, 2017**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Columbia (UCC)**

**2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205**

**3:00 - 6:00 PM**

People for Reconciliation's purpose is to promote racial harmony, create understanding, raise consciousness regarding the existence of racial bias, examine social and economic disparity, promote acceptance and empathy among human beings, support and conduct non-partisan research, education, and sponsor informational activities to increase public awareness.



# News and Notes

May 14<sup>th</sup> “My Brother’s Keeper” [Richard McLeod] Do we all deserve to be who we are? If we are the fortunate, how do we treat the unfortunate? What obligation do we have to those who, through no fault of their own, lead less than ideal lives?

May 21<sup>st</sup> “Beyond This Place, There Be Dragons” [Rev. Jennie preaching] In this worship service we will honor the “bridging” of our children and youth as they complete one stage of their learning and development, and move on to the next. The service will be enhanced by selections from, *Letters to a Young Poet*, by Rainer Maria Rilke. We will also thank our CYRE volunteers.

May 28<sup>th</sup> “Confucius and a Life of Significance” [Rev. Jennie preaching] One thing we can still honor and take to heart from the teachings of Confucius is the importance of honoring our elders and ancestors. On this, the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, join us in gleaning more insights from this ancient teacher and tradition.

June 4<sup>th</sup> “The Shakers” [Rev. Jennie preaching] On this, our Annual Meeting Sunday, after the worship service, we will gather to give attention to the essential business, officers, and accomplishments of our religious community. In the worship service, we will look to The Shakers to learn what they, as a religious community, created, cultivated, and preserved.

## Ministerial Search Committee Update

The ministerial search committee thanks the congregation for its patience and support. We remain steadfast in the process and hopeful that we will find the best fit in this round. On April 18th the committee met to review a new set of applications. From that set, we identified four individuals for follow-up interviews via video conference. We are excited about their overall quality, depth, and breadth of experience. We have invited two highly qualified candidates for confidential face to face interviews with the Search Committee. These are taking place this week.

## All Pledge Cards are Needed Now, for our 2017-18 Fiscal Year

Dear Fellow Members and Friends of UUC:

Our theme, Giving on the Side of Love, has highlighted the many ways our congregation is worth investing in, and is vitally needed by our members and beyond our walls. We need pledge cards from all members and friends as soon as possible, to plan what our wonderful professional staff and committees will be able to do next year. What we can do depends critically on the pledges we receive. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, won't you please do so, remembering its importance to our congregation and the services it provides both to us and to the wider community? We have much to look forward to this year, including a newly-renovated building and a new minister. But what we can do depends on you and your generosity. *You may email your 2017-18 pledge in confidence to our Administrator at [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).*

All our thanks, Joe Long, Finance Chair.

## UUA General Assembly and Candidates for President

Dear Members and Friends,

This year's UUA General Assembly will be from June 21st - 25th, in New Orleans. Our congregation has four delegates total: Stephanie Palmer-Smith, Pippin Whitaker, Keitha Whitaker, and Bob Whitaker. At our denomination's website: [uua.org](http://uua.org) you can find information on all the possible things our delegates will be voting on. After you inform yourself, you can talk to our delegates about what you think and feel.

One of the things delegates will be voting on is a new President of the UUA. All 3 candidates are women. Here are their websites: Rev. Susan Frederick Gray <http://susanfrederickgray.com/>; Rev. Jeanne Pupke <http://www.jeannepupke.com/>; and Rev. Alison Miller <http://www.alisonforuuaforpresident.org/>

If you have any questions about this year's "GA," you are also always welcome to ask me.

Thank you, Rev. Jennie



### Welcome Neighbors Banner

Don't miss the big Welcome Neighbors banner that is now hanging on the brick wall at the front entrance to our church. The Social Action Committee is very excited about finally completing this project after much discussion and research to be sure it was exactly what we wanted. There was much input from many in the congregation and a unanimous agreement that this was the sentiment that we wanted to express to the community to tell everyone that UUCC welcomes all people. We also believe it makes a statement about immigration and refugee acceptance. Thanks to all who had a part in making this happen.



### Seeds of Hope Time is Here Again

It will soon be time for that opportunity to volunteer for Seeds of Hope. For those of you who are new to UUCC, Seeds of Hope is a wonderful fresh market held in front of our church from June 18 to August 6. Every Sunday we sell fresh produce from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. as part of a community wide program to assist low income farmers. It is a great time for our neighbors walking by to stop and make a purchase and see the smiling faces of the two different volunteers that work the produce stand each Sunday. Of course our own members and friends look forward to this each year as a chance to buy fresh fruits and veggies and help out our returning Farmer Louis Reid. This program is one in which many Columbia churches participate and we have been involved with for many years. Bauer Westernen has chaired this project for several years and

has offered to do it once again. It is now time to start signing up for those Sundays that you can serve as a smiling face representing UUCC. Please send an email to Bauer at [bauerwesternen@yahoo.com](mailto:bauerwesternen@yahoo.com) to let him know when you are available. The updated schedule will be available on the website but you will have to sign up with Bauer.

### Return of Zsolt!

With great fanfare and complete delight, The PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE announces, as a result of the successful CABARET 2017 in January, we've extended an invitation to REV. ZSOLT SOLYMOSI, minister of our Beszterce partner church, to come again for a week, in April 2018. As you'll recall from his visit in 2015, his time with us was great fun, inspiring, and memorable in many ways for both adults and youth... And following it, interest was piqued for 13 of us to make an unforgettable pilgrimage to Transylvania... Who knows what may flow from this return visit. At this time, I can just say there's great excitement in both Old and New Worlds!!!

### Children & Adult Chalice Lighters Needed



Please celebrate a special event by becoming a Chalice Lighter. Having a birthday? An anniversary? New to UUCC? UUCC longtimer? 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.

### Friendship Dinners

Our Friendship Dinners are very popular and we would like to add more hosts to our roster as these seem to fill up as soon as they are offered. You pick the day and time, set the menu/theme and let the good times roll. These can be such fun and are a great way to get to know each other on a deeper level. Please see any member of the Membership Committee (look for the blue ribbons on name tags) or visit the Welcome Table for more information and the sign-up sheets or contact Patty

Drews, [membership@uucolumbia.org](mailto:membership@uucolumbia.org) or 931-6799.

## **Transitions Volunteers Needed Second Saturday of Each Month**

UUCC 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.

## **Harvest Hope**

As we head into the summer months and school will soon be letting out Harvest Hope will have an increased need for food supplies. Canned vegetables and fruits, canned juices, peanut butter, canned meats, and pasta. With children out of school they will not be getting that extra reduced and free meals program that they get during the school year. This means the meals they get at home will be limited. Your increased donations will be very helpful in filling up the shelves. Also there is always a continued need for baby and adult diapers. Remember NO GLASS CONTAINERS please. We cannot deliver those to Harvest Hope. Also, if you use plastic grocery bags, please save them and bring them in for Harvest Hope. They never have enough. They use these to bag up groceries for various purposes. They are always in need of more. Thanks.

## **SSL T-shirts**

Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts will be ordered this week. If you have a special size or style you want ordered please email Linda McLeod at socialaction@uucolumbia.org. Shirts will be sold at church on Sunday, May 21, after the service, but will be available as soon as the new order arrives next week. Be sure you get yours while they last.

## **Writing Group**

The Writing Group meetings are suspended until further notice.

## **UUCC Art Exhibit: The Art of Recovery**

The art in the social hall this month is The Art Of Recovery from the SC Department of Mental Health.

This program gives individuals from across SC living with mental illness an opportunity to show and sell their art work. All sale proceeds go directly to the individual artist. To inquire about purchasing, please call (803) 898-8581.



**It's time for the  
Annual UUCC Picnic  
SATURDAY MAY 13th  
11am - 3pm  
At Suzi Garland's Home  
Bring a dish to share, chairs, drinks.  
So we can properly plan,  
Please sign up at the membership table.**



## **Christian Heritage Group, Tuesday, May 16**

The Christian Heritage Group will meet Tuesday, May 16, at Jenny Beale's home at 11:00 a.m. The address is 114 Wembley St., Columbia 29209. We will be discussing the formation of the New Testament. Come join us if you would find this discussion interesting. If you have any questions call Jenny at 776-2625.

## **Adult Choir Schedule**

We will rehearse and sing **Sunday, May 21, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary** and again on **Sunday, June 4, at 9:30 a.m.** Bill Moody, Director

## **Visitor Orientation, Sunday, May 21**

Our next Visitor Orientation class will be held on Sunday, May 21 in the UUCC library. We will begin about 15 minutes after service and usually end in about 45 minutes. Light refreshments are served. If you are new to the UUCC, or have come for a while and have questions then this session is for you. This class is designed to help familiarize you with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and answer any questions you might have. For more information contact Patty Drews email: [membership@uucolumbia.org](mailto:membership@uucolumbia.org) or 803-931-6799

## **UUCC Book Club, Sunday, May 21**

The next UUCC Book Club discussion is 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 21. Rebecca Drennan will facilitate a discussion on “Benjamin Franklin: An American Life” by Walter Isaacson. We will meet at a member’s home. The UUCC Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCC. We welcome new and returning participants! Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu)

## **September Set is at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 26: Please Note Start Time of 6:00 p.m. for the Summer Months**

Our monthly September Set for our UUCC Seniors will be held Friday, April 28. 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](mailto:jacapalbo@gmail.com) or Pat Mohr at [patmohr@mindspring.com](mailto:patmohr@mindspring.com).

## **Ramadan Iftar Dinner, Friday, June 2**

The Atlantic Institute and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia will host an Iftar dinner at UUCC on Friday, June 2. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast by not consuming food or water until after sunset. Once the sun sets Iftar - or fast breaking - dinners

take place each night. This is an important time not only for those who participate in Ramadan because of their faith but also an important time to share this tradition with friends from different backgrounds over delicious food and through lively conversation. It is truly a special time when people of all backgrounds come together and share in the Iftar experience, learning about different cultures and faiths in the process. Please join us to hear what Dr. Akif Aydin has to say about his Muslim experience during Ramadan. Please come dressed comfortably and be ready to learn and eat. There will be a dialogue lead by Dr. Aklif Aydin and Q&A portion starting at 7:30 p.m. with dinner being served at sundown (about 8:30 p.m.) Please register to attend at <http://bit.ly/ramadan-uucc> to reserve your free ticket now.

Atlantic Institute will provide the specially butchered and prepared meat and UUCC will provide the sides of salads, vegetables, and fruit. Please be watching for a notice to sign up to help with this wonderful opportunity for a cultural exchange.

## **CYRE Spring Planning Meeting Rescheduled: Saturday, June 3**

Our CYRE committee meeting will be held Saturday, June 3 from 9:00 a.m. - noon in the Social Hall.

## **Wear Orange Day - Gun Violence Walk, Saturday, June 3**

Join us on Saturday, June 3 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the SC Statehouse Grounds, 1100 Gervais St, for **Wear Orange Day - Gun Violence Awareness Family Friendly Fest and Walk**. Deck yourself out in orange and join us for a family-friendly walk around the Statehouse! We'll start at 9:00 a.m., then we'll enjoy music, speakers, fun kids activities and a BYO picnic. Come on out to honor our survivors and the many lives lost to gun violence, and take a strong stand against gun violence in our community!

## **UUCC Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 4**

Please save the date for UUCC’s Annual Meeting following service on Sunday, June 4.

## Notice of Meeting Date Change for Social Action Committee, Wednesday, June 7

Social Action Committee meeting date has been changed due to a conflict with Annual Meeting date. Our new meeting date will be Wednesday, June 7, with a 6:00 p.m. potluck followed by a 7:00 p.m. meeting. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 4 at 12:30 p.m. and please be sure to attend the Social Action Committee meeting on June 7.

## Women's Book Group, Tuesday, June 13



The Women's Book Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 on Tuesday, June 13 to discuss *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Chubon, 776-0784 or [sjchubon@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjchubon@sc.rr.com)

## Chair Yoga, Tuesdays & Thursdays: Summer Schedule

Chair Yoga classes on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons will take a break for the summer after the last week in May (last class before the break is June 1). Stay tuned for Chair Yoga to resume in Fall 2017, assuming there is continued interest. In the meantime, join us during the month of May at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays (Ruthie Saunders will lead) and/or 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays (Bonnie Stronach will lead). Please contact Ruthie Saunders [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu) if you have questions or comments.



## Art for All Group, Thursdays



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 UUCC 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

## 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).

## Hold Off on Winter Shelter Donations Until October but Keep Gathering Toiletries

The Social Action Committee wishes to thank to everyone who donated toiletries, magazines and clothing for the Inclement Weather Center (winter shelter) over the past months. **The shelter is now closed for the season.** We encourage you to hold further donations until late October or take them to the Transitions homeless shelter or elsewhere. For more information contact Tom Clements, cell 803-240-7268, [tomclements329@cs.com](mailto:tomclements329@cs.com)

# Romania trips in 2017

Announced by our National Partner Church Council

Two open Partner Church trips to Romania are planned. Your UUPCC Partner Church Committee wants you to know of these opportunities from the National Partner Church Council. The September one may even include a visit to our own little Partner Church in Beszterce, it seems. **Registration deadlines are in May**, so you must act soon!

Brochures and itineraries are at <http://www.uupcc.org/pilgrimages/pilgrimage-opportunities>

## **Cross Cultural Transylvania Pilgrimage with Khasi Unitarians from N.E. India August 16-29, 2017**

The Unitarian Union of NE India asked the UUPCC to organize a pilgrimage for its members this August, and they want to share their journey with you. Two weeks visiting historic Unitarian places, medieval cities, castles, and enjoying the pastoral beauty of central Transylvania – all for under \$100/day.

Registration closes: May 15, 2017 - 11:30pm

Price: from \$1245/person

## **2017 Transylvania Thanksgiving Pilgrimage (on a budget) September 16 - 28, 2017**

Two life-changing weeks in Transylvania for under \$1,150! This is the same quality Unitarian pilgrimage that the UUPCC has been facilitating for two decades – but at 60% of the price. We replace hotels with dorms & guest-houses, eat village meals, and take advantage of “shoulder-season” rates.

Beginning and ending in Kolozsvár/Cluj, you will visit the most significant of the Unitarian holy places... *spend the special Transylvanian Thanksgiving weekend with your partner congregation.* Those without a partner in Transylvania can stay in a beautiful Unitarian village with other pilgrims. Plus we offer an optional 4 day/3 night pre-trip to Budapest, and a 6 day/5 night post trip extension to Maramures & the Painted Monasteries of Bucovia.

Registration closes: May 27, 2017 - 1:00am

Price: from \$1,095/person

# Religious Education

## Hogwarts School of Magic and Fun Sign-up

Registration for Hogwarts is currently open to families and friends of UUCC. Choose July 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> and/or July 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>! Please reserve your child's space before our rolls are filled! The cost to members for registering your child for one week is \$150.00 with a deposit of \$75.00 required at time of registration. Contact Stephanie at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org)



## CUUBS

And our elementary outings group is off! We will be gathering for fun and comradery over the summer months to expand our UU experience. Please see the sign-up sheet on the CYRE table in the Social Hall to either assist and/or sign up your children.

## We Are UUs Summer Program for Youth

Is your 13 – 17 year old ready to deepen their UU identity? Our UU summer camp will provide games and stories to help them deepen their faith while enjoying their UU friends. We will cover topics such as UU history, spiritual practices, and decision making. “Camp” will run the week of Tuesday June 13 – Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> in the evenings with an over-night lock-in on Friday night. Please see the sign-up sheet at the CYRE table in the Social Hall.

## CYRE Calendar

Sunday May 14 – Closing Celebrations and Crossing Over

Sunday May 21 – Bridging and Teacher Appreciation

Sunday May 28 – **NO CYRE**

Saturday June 3 – CYRE committee Planning Meeting

Sunday June 4 – Summer CYRE begins!

Sunday June 11 – CYRE heading to Spain!

CYRE is grateful to:

*Beck Sullivan and Cindy Blackman for co-chairing a successful Beltane Crafters' Faire*

*Lis Turner for healthy and delicious snacks*

*Bonnie Stronach and Bill Dolley for their contribution of a beautiful rocking chair for our nursery*

*Sharon Matchett for donation of another beautiful rocking chair for our nursery*

*Parents and cast members of “The Choice to Save the World” Thank you for your acting, singing, and patience.*

*Nancie Shillington-Perez and Mercedes for lending their beautiful talents to our earth day celebration*

*Jim DuPlessis for all the pictures of our CYRE activities and postings on Facebook*

*Gail Dawson, Lauren McColleston, and Meg White and all others who helped make our Easter celebration fantastic.*

**UUCB Board of Trustees**  
**Summary of March 15, 2017 Meeting**

The Board of Trustees met March 15, 2017 from 6:30 to 7:40 PM

**Treasurer's Report**

Bob Whitaker reported that we are in good shape financially with pledges just under expectation while non-pledge giving, plate collections and fund-raising are over the expected figures. Capital Campaign payments are at \$110,709.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Technology Services**

We have a donation of \$5,000 to purchase a service for hearing impaired members and friends. David Roof is working with the donors to find the right fit for our sanctuary.

**Building & Grounds**

We have a newly installed HVAC system in the library. Phil painted over the burn marks on the wall and ceiling of the stage. The work day postponed because of a memorial service has been rescheduled for April 1.

**Membership**

The New Member Dinner is scheduled for March 25. Our membership is over 200 again.

**CYRE**

Hogwarts Camps have been announced. The planned OWL class has been postponed until one more person applies. The car wash was postponed due to snow.

**Building Renovation**

Richard reported that group informational meetings with the congregation and staff have occurred. Richard will meet with Peck Drennen and incorporate feedback ideas from those meetings into the plan.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was clarified that our annual meeting will be held June 4, 2017.

**Ministerial Search Committee**

The Committee has reported that they only have one candidate left. They plan to make an offer to that individual March 30. They would like direction from the Board about how to proceed if their offer is not accepted. After some discussion the Trustees agreed to have the Search Committee initiate Round 2 of the UUA search process.

**Delegates to GA**

Phil reported that Pippin Whitaker has rejoined our congregation and would like to be considered as a GA delegate. The Board agreed to accept her offer.

Minutes recorded by Joan Watterson, summarized by Sandy Chubon



# Meetings & Rentals

Art For All Group	Thursdays	10:00 am	Social Hall
Board Meeting	Wednesday, May 17	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Chair Yoga	Tuesdays	11:00 am	Social Hall
	Thursdays	1:00 pm	Social Hall
Children & Youth RE Committee	Saturday, June 3	9:00 am	Social Hall
Choir	Sunday, May 21	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, May 21	12:15 pm	Library
Science & Religion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, May 26	<b>6:00 pm</b>	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	TBA	7:00 pm	Classroom
Technology Committee	Wednesday, June 7	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Thursday, June 14	5:00 pm	Classroom # 5
UU Book Club	Sunday, May 21	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, June 13	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Suspended for Summer	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

**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)

