

SUMMER
SERVICES
•2017•



**THE UNITARIAN CHURCH
IN CHARLESTON**

“Building a welcoming home for spiritual freedom that enriches our lives
and serves our world.”

TO OUR VISITORS

Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship. Visitors are encouraged to make your presence known by the use of a red mug, as signal that you are new among us. Please sign a guest card and place it in the collection plate or leave at the Welcome Table, just inside Gage Hall. Visitor packets are available there to provide information about our congregation.

PARENTS

Childcare and children's activities are available every Sunday. However, grade school children and youth who might enjoy the worship service are welcome to participate. Following the service, all children and youth may be picked up from the Annex, behind Gage Hall, until 11:45 p.m. Children and youth are welcome during Coffee Hour.

THE BOOK OF LIFE

This is a shared journal in which we record the significant events of our lives (births, deaths, celebrations and transitions). It is located near the lectern and is available through the Prelude. Entries are read aloud during the Meditation portion of the service. All are welcome to participate.

PARKING

As you may have discovered, parking can initially be difficult. However, convenient options do exist. Please stop by the Welcome Table in Gage Hall for specific instructions.

SAFETY

In the unlikely event of an evacuation, the Safety Team will alert the congregation and guide those in the first two rows and the choir to exit through the Chancel. All others will leave through the Archdale exit. If you need assistance, raise your hand so the team can identify and help you.

Restrooms are located in Gage Hall, beside the stage.
There are no restrooms in the Sanctuary.

ABOUT OUR SUMMER SERVICES

June 25 - September 3

10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Each summer we invite local speakers and church members to share their views, stories, music, and voices. These services are often more experimental than the more traditional services held in the Sanctuary during the regular church year. Our way of faith draws insight from many sources and contends there is wisdom to be found in all world religions, so summer services sometimes offer perspectives from other traditions. We consider the opportunity to craft these thought-provoking services an honor and a privilege. We hope you will leave wanting more—having answered some of your questions and inviting you to question some of your answers! Enjoy this Summer Series and thank you for joining us on the journey.

Hillary Hutchinson & Bernadette Victor
Co-Chairs, Worship Services Committee

Welcome to our Summer Series. These services, brought to you by the Worship Services Committee, are intentionally creative and diverse. You may not see much of me as the congregation grants me time away for reading and respite. While the minister is ultimately responsible for the pulpit, the summer allows a broader consideration of what brings anyone into a faith tradition. I trust that your encounter with us will emphasize that we have more in common than what separates us. Though our activities slow down, and the minister and some members may not be present every Sunday, we remain a vital community—marked by freedom and friendship, seeking truth and meaning together. Thank you for attending, and I hope you continue to join us during the regular church year.

Rev. Danny Reed
Minister

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

June 18

Church Picnic

James Island County Park, Stono Shelter

Dress Comfortably!

10:00 a.m. arrival, 11:00 Service, drum circle to follow

“Exploring Native American Spirituality”

Would you enjoy hearing the Cherokee creation story told by one of our own tribal chiefs? Or learning a Cherokee chant? Afterwards, participate in a drum circle lead by Healing Hearts of Charleston. There will also be a craft table for the kids. This year’s church picnic promises to be both unique and fun. Bring a dish to share, a lawn chair, and any percussion instrument you may own. If you don’t own one, feel free to create one. See you there.

Summer Services 2017 Begin ***10:00 a.m., Sanctuary***

June 25

“An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land”

Herb Silverman

Have you experienced any culture shocks living in the Bible Belt, and are your shocks similar to mine? What are the good shocks and the bad shocks? I will pose questions from my recent book, which include my personal experiences and thoughts about Charleston, my introduction to Unitarians, and my interactions with them. Beware, because I name names.

July 2

“America the Beautiful?”

Rev. Gail Collins-Ranadive

In honor of our nation’s birthday, Rev. Gail will share insights from her book, *Nature’s Calling: the Grace of Place*, a narrative of the interim ministries she served in landscapes all across the country. Fair warning: Her Charleston year turned her into a climate activist.

There will be a follow up workshop on how you, too, can respond to the challenge of climate change on both a personal and political level. Copies of her book are available through the Green Sanctuary committee.

**The children will begin in the Sanctuary and be sung to their classrooms in the Annex.*

August 13

“When People Could Fly”

Natalie Daise

How do we deal with racism? Natalie Daise is a blossoming playwright and has been working with her son on a play about Trayvon Martin influenced by the folktale “When the People Could Fly.” This theater workshop-style reading will be a great opportunity to share both the original folktale set in modern times from a young black man from Charleston committed to social advancement.

August 20

“Love Justice Out Loud”

Kat Morgan

Social justice is a UU tenet. So why do we often stay silent about things that matter? What keeps us from speaking? How do we bridge the gap between our love for justice and our need for comfort? Why is saving face sometimes more persuasive than saving lives? And how do we free our tongues?

August 27

“Secular Humanists and the UU”

Alex Kasman

What do Secular Humanism and Unitarianism have in common? In what ways are they different? Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry President Alex Kasman will challenge you with information (dating back to 600 BCE) and questions, including some on the topic of ethics.

September 3

“August Ramblings”

Rev. Danny Reed

Rev. Danny can’t possibly know in June what might need to be said in August. Why, anything could happen. And it probably will. Join the minister as he shares his annual summer sermon.

Summer Services 2017 End

September 10

**Annual Pancake Breakfast
Gage Hall, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

THE SANCTUARY AND WINDOWS

Construction began in 1772, but was stalled during the Revolutionary War. The church was repaired and dedicated in 1787. In 1852, the original structure was renovated in the Gothic Revival style, featuring the fan-vaulted ceiling in the nave and chancel, and painted glass windows.

The 1852 painted glass centerpiece depicts Moses the lawgiver and Aaron the priest, flanking the covenant ark. Above them are the Four Evangelists—biographers of Jesus: (l to r) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Upper panels aside the Chancel include floral cross designs, and the Alpha and Omega, from the Book of Revelation.

The Hebrew lettering on the bottom north and south panels is an abbreviated version of The Shema Israel, “God is One,” as found in Deuteronomy. The opposing panels feature the Greek phrase from St. John’s Gospel, “God is Spirit.”

The memorial tablets speak for themselves and honor beloved ministers and lay leaders throughout the long history of our church. Two portraits hang in the rear of the Sanctuary—Rev. Samuel Gilman on the south side and Mr. Alva Gage on the north. Rev. Gilman (1791-1858) was the first “avowedly Unitarian” minister of our church and served from 1819-1858. Mr. Gage (1820-1896) was a prominent member and successful local businessman (one of the pioneer ice men of the South). His significant stewardship carried the church through many years of financial hardship. Gage Hall is named in his honor.

The Sanctuary was declared an “America’s Treasure” by the U.S. Department of the Interior and underwent a major restoration in 2010. The entrance ramp in the southwest corner was added in 2011.

THE ORGAN

Our Allen organ was built in 2005 and installed here in 2010. It features French Romantic specifications, a three manual French terrace console, sixty-four stops and eighteen speakers. The organ was made possible through the generous support of members and friends.

Our congregation was founded in 1772. The cover image depicts our Sanctuary building as it looked following a major 1852 renovation. The tower and corner spires were lost in the earthquake of 1886. The outer rings represent the 1961 consolidation of the American Unitarian Association, (est. 1825), and the Universalist Church of America, (est. 1866).



Membership in this church is open to all who choose to walk with us in the spirit of love and in the search for truth. We have no creedal requirements for membership. To become a member one completes the Pathways Class and signs the Membership Book in the presence of the minister or an officer of the church. If you wish to explore membership, please speak to Rev. Danny Reed or Membership Coordinator, Carol Oates.

STAFF

Reverend Danny R. Reed, Minister

Reverend Nancy Pellegrini, Community Minister

Reverend Jacqueline Collins, Minister Emerita

Hillary Hutchinson, Summer Service Program Coordinator

Amy Ball, Accompanist

Sandra Selvitelli, Administrator

Melissa Zahler, Religious Education Assistant

Janet Watts, Director of Religious Education

Amanda Gabriel & Rafael Martin-Navas,

Carol Oates, Membership Coordinator

Childcare Providers

Joe McCormack, Sexton

VESTRY 2017-2018

Sue Weller, Chair

John Hyatt

Zachariah Conover

Jonathan Lamb

Erica Hattings

Mark Madden

Tommy Hughston

Diane Narkunas

Nolan Prestwood, Treasurer

Gail Schiffer

The "Principles and Purposes" were written in 1984 as bylaws to direct the work of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Since then, the statement has become a source of inspiration for individuals as well. They are one attempt, among many, to describe the religious freedom we aspire to practice and preserve.

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

The right of conscience and the use
of the democratic process within our congregations
and in society at large;

Justice, equity and compassion
in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement
to spiritual growth in our congregations;

The goal of world community with peace,
liberty, and justice for all;

A free and responsible search
for truth and meaning;

Respect for the interdependent web
of all existence of which we are a part.