



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • www.uuchurch.net • Volume 53, Issue 2, October 2013

Worship Services

October 2013

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 6

“The Web of Life”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Our seventh principle, declaring us to be bound up in an interdependent web of all existence, is not only an ethical statement, but a theological one as well. How does our worldview shift when we sink down into the depth of our interdependence?

Sunday, Oct. 13

“Ripples in the Web”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Given the magnitude of the climate crisis facing our world, one can easily feel helpless, but our belief in the interdependent web of existence affirms that even small actions make a difference. Join us as we explore how we can make ripples in the web.

Sunday, Oct. 20

“Green Sanctuary”

As our Green Sanctuary Team helps us begin our journey as a community to official Green Sanctuary Certification by the UUA, they will lead us in worship, reflecting on our deep connection to nature and all beings.

Sunday, Oct. 27

“Día de los Muertos”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

In this intergenerational service, we will gather as a community of all ages to remember the part of our web of life made up of our ancestors and loved ones now gone. We’ll learn about the Mexican tradition of Day of the Dead and make our own altar to the dead. Please bring any pictures or mementos that you would like to place on the altar.

October worship theme:

Interdependence

**“We celebrate the web of life, its magnitude we sing;
for we can see divinity in every living thing.”**

This is the first verse of a hymn we sometimes sing, celebrating our interdependence with all of creation in a great web of life. Interdependence is a central idea for Unitarian Universalists, both ethically and theologically. Our seventh principle states our moral responsibility to care for the “interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part.”

Our Universalist forebears passed down to us the theological claim that all of creation shares one source and one destiny – that wherever we are bound on this earth, we are bound together.

Our Unitarian forebears believed that we have the capacity to work together for the good – that through our unity we can manifest that which is holy and divine.

Given the centrality of interdependence to our faith, I invite you consider the web of life deeply this month. Bring it to bear in your thoughts, your meditation, your prayer, and your daily living. Wrap yourself in the web. Our hymn continues:

**“Of ancient dreams we are the sum; our bones link stone to star,
and bind our future worlds to come with worlds that were and are.”**

So it is. See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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October Worship Theme: *Interdependence*

Wise Words: Interdependence

“Spirituality is consciousness of infinite interrelatedness.”

– Felix Adler

“Look more deeply, and you will see yourself as multitudes, penetrating everywhere, interbeing with everyone and everything.”

– Thich Nhat Hanh

“Everything that is in the heavens, on earth, and under the earth is penetrated with connectedness, penetrated with relatedness.”

– Hildegard of Bingen

“I cannot exist without in some sense taking part in you, in the child I once was, in the breeze stirring the down on my arm, in the child starving far away, in the flashing round of the spiral nebula.”

– Catherine Keller

“Spiritual practice among Lakota peoples is grounded in the expression ‘All my relations,’ which proclaims that spiritual activity is not only for those immediately participating in it but for all beings everywhere.”

– Joan Halifax

Want to learn more?

Check out these books...

The Cosmic Dance: An Invitation to Experience our Oneness by Joyce Rupp

Invisible Lines of Connection: Sacred Stories of the Ordinary by Lawrence Kushner

Call Me by My True Names by Thich Nhat Hanh

One City: A Declaration of Interdependence by Ethan Nichtern

Interdependence exercises for every age

• An exercise from Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh:

Breathe out three times. See yourself holding a round orange tangerine that changes into a blossom on a tree. Sense how the tree is bathed in the light of the golden sun and then covered with soft cool rain. Notice how the blossom becomes a small fruit that grows into the tangerine. See and smell the tangerine in your hand.

Breathe out one time. Imagine yourself peeling the tangerine and eating a piece of it, knowing that as you do so, you are being part of the sun, the rain, the tree, and all of the Creation. Then open your eyes.

• Take a walk in nature. Meditate on your connection with all that you encounter.

• Take up one new action to nourish the web of life: composting, recycling, monitoring energy use, walking or biking instead of driving. Continue this action in a sustained way all month... maybe it will become a habit!

• Give thanks before each meal for the interdependent web that sustains you. Think of the sun and the air, the animals and people who have participated in bringing you this food.

When you come to a potluck, remember to feed our food barrel...

Planning on attending a First Sunday Potluck? In addition to your potluck contribution, please remember to bring one or more non-perishable food items for the food barrel upstairs near the coat rack. When the barrel is full, the food is taken to the Central Pantry, which serves Columbia and Boone County. Many of our neighbors still need help – times are still tough for many. Thanks.

Minister's Message

Green Sanctuary Certification!

This month we kick off our congregation's work toward Green Sanctuary Certification with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Green Sanctuary Certification is a multiple-year project of integrating care for the environment and connection to the earth into every aspect of our life together. This is not just a matter of recycling or changing our energy use; it is a matter of our spiritual lives and well-being. Recognizing ourselves to be connected and bound together with all of creation in a great web of life... that is a theological matter!

Just as all of life is connected and interdependent, so are the many programs and activities of our church, and I hope we can find **synergy** among us in pursuit of deeper care for the earth. Are you involved with an activity of the church? Do you have ideas about our relationship to the environment – spiritually, emotionally, and pragmatically? Talk to each other! Connect with other people and programs! And then, let other leaders, staff, and me know about the web of creativity that is emerging, so we can support new connections and new ideas.

Let's get interconnected,
Rev. Molly

Forum Schedule for October 2013

9 a.m. Sundays

The UU Forum, an adult discussion group open to the public, meets on Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. Conversation and light refreshments are offered along with the discussion. Childcare is offered at no charge in our nursery. If you have ideas for a program or would like to make a presentation at Forum, contact the coordinator, Bill Clark, at 474-4510.

Sunday, Oct. 6

George Frissell will lead a discussion about Hinduism in his continuing series on the world's religions.

Sunday, Oct. 13

Paul Wallace will continue his update on violence and terrorism from the Mediterranean to Pakistan.

Sunday, Oct. 20

City Manager Mike Mathes will discuss Columbia – present and future.

Sunday, Oct. 27

Tim Harlan will address issues of health care and social security affecting most Forum members.

YRUU October Schedule

World Religions: Off the Beaten Path

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is our youth ministry program for high school age youth. Jamila Batchelder (256-8688) is the adult advisor.

Noon - Sunday, Oct. 6

Guest Speaker: *Sufism* with Tom Batchelder

Noon - Sunday, Oct. 13

Activity: Fall Hike at Rockbridge State Park

Noon - Sunday, Oct. 20

Guest Speaker: *Sikhism* with George Frissell (Hickman High School History Teacher)

7 p.m. - Saturday, Oct. 26

Poetry Slam

Bring poetry to share, or just kick back and listen. Free event for all UUs. Snacks and drinks offered.

Noon - Sunday, Oct. 27

Activity: Samhain Ritual with Barbara Carter (Whole Earth Based Spirituality)

President's Perspective

UUCC Is Our Name, Social Action Is Our Game

By Steve Scott, 2013-14 President

Surveying this past year, I am astounded by the sheer quantity and variety of our social action efforts. But perhaps I shouldn't be surprised – although I am a relative newcomer to UUCC, I know we have a long social action tradition dating to the 1960s when our Social Action Committee got started.

Still, since Rev. Molly arrived in August last year, there has been a noticeable increase in our efforts, fueled both by her actions and by initiatives rising up from the congregation. It appears we have made a good start toward fulfilling the wishes we expressed during our ministerial search to better engage with the larger community, become more visible, and spread our UU message. At the risk of overlooking some of our accomplishments, here's what I recall:

Our Social Action Committee led the charge. This past year, for the first time, our church was a champion sponsor of the Columbia Values Diversity Breakfast celebrating the life and teachings of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Other MLK-related activities were the committee's lay-led worship service honoring Dr. King and a winter coat collection for the Wardrobe. The committee renewed our PrideFest commitment with a church booth staffed by volunteers. The Honduras subgroup finished fundraising for the river-crossing canasta, now completed, and is planning another service trip next year.

Other Social Action Committee activities included increasing our faith-to-action collections; providing meals for Loaves and Fishes, St. Francis House and Lutheran Children's Services; collecting food for the Central Pantry; participating in the CROP Walk/Run; coordinating our giving to the UU Service Committee's "Guest at Your Table"; hosting a breakfast for the living wage protesters on Aug. 29; and supporting Centro Latino by using their catering service for several church functions.

Our R.E. children also supported Centro Latino with their Sunday offerings this past year. At their Service Sundays, among other things, the children assembled birthday bags for kids at Rainbow House; made fleece blankets for hospitalized kids through Project Linus; cleaned and repaired toys and books donated to kids through Goodwill; and assembled Festival of Sharing personal hygiene kits and food packs.

In keeping with our "Welcoming Congregation" efforts, others were involved in LGBT issues. Melissa Bedford was a featured speaker at the 2013 PrideFest, and her remarks were later published in *The Columbia Missourian*. Rev. Molly participated in the interfaith worship services at the 2012 and 2013 PrideFests and helped organize the 2013 service. In February we made valentines for legislators who support LGBT equality, which were delivered by several of our members. In March some of our members took part in a fundraiser for PROMO, the statewide LGBT organization. In May, Rev. Molly received a Catalyst Award from the MU LGBTQ Resource Center for her advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQ community. And, of course, many of our members attended the 2012 and 2013 PrideFests and helped at our booth.

Our participation in the Festival of Sharing continues to grow. Last year at least 125 of our members and friends participated, and we contributed a total of \$3,635 which included 29 Missouri Packs and International Kits worth \$2,270 plus \$1,365 in cash. We appear to be on track for another successful Festival effort this year.

Other activities this past year have included helping with a phone bank, "Dialing for Dignity," to turn out progressive voters last November; studying how the "War on Drugs" disproportionately impacts minority groups through our Common Read program; advocating for Medicaid expansion in May; participating in the living wage protest on Aug. 29, which involved at least a dozen of our members; hosting and co-sponsoring the 2013 Sustainable Living Fair in September; and self-organizing on two recent occasions to pick pears and apples for the Food Bank.

Finally, our Green Sanctuary team is gearing up to achieve Green Sanctuary certification from the UUA in response to the congregation's desire to emphasize environmental issues that became apparent during the listening campaign that led to our new Mission/Vision Statements.

We've done a lot, but much, much more needs to be done to heal the world – and with more focus on our Mission/Vision priorities. How will you help?

Ongoing Programs and Events

UUCS Men's Group

The UUCS Men's Group meets on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of each month at 8 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. The group is open to all men. There are no fees and no reservations are necessary. The agenda is an open discussion of whatever is on the minds of those in attendance – and breakfast! For more information contact Mehdi Farhangi at 445-6325.

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet at the church Wednesday, Oct. 9 at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Contact Melinda Farhangi at 445-6325 if you have questions.

UU Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at Upper Crust, 3107 Green Meadows Way, at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 if you have questions.

UU Book Table – Fall Sale

The UU Book Table will be open again this fall on the second, third and fourth Sundays of every month. To clear the way for new arrivals there will be a 10% markdown on *all* books on the Book Table.

Suggestions are most welcome for additions to the Book Table.

UU Life Writers –

Fall 2013 theme is 'Home!'

We begin again – to write marvelous life stories on first and third Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Centering Room downstairs at church. Please bring paper and favorite writing tools. For further information contact Fran Reynolds at freynolds@centurytel.net or 443-4336.

Meditation in Nature

Come into the peace of wild things...

Meditation in Nature takes place at Gans Creek Wildlife Area every third Sunday from 9 to 10 a.m. Its purpose is to build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness, and it is open to all people who love nature. For more information, contact Peter Holmes at 239-7789 or naturemeditation@yahoo.com.

Fair Trade Sales

Sales of fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate are sponsored by the Green Sanctuary group every first Sunday of the church year.

First Sunday potluck: Oct. 6

On the first Sunday of each month from September through June, we gather for our "First Sunday Potluck" immediately following the worship service. We invite all guests to join us, whether or not they have brought food. Everyone pitches in, making light work of setup, serving and cleanup. We ask those attending to bring a main dish or side dish sufficient to serve six-eight people so we will have plenty of food.

Oct. 25: Friday Pie-Day!



Now with special programming...

Gather with us on the fourth Friday of the month for pie, conversation, and further learning about our month's worship theme.

Join us for pie at 7 p.m., and stay for our program beginning at 7:30. All ages are welcome. Pie will be provided.

Our Friday, Oct. 25 Pie-Day Program is... *The Seventh Principle in Film* with your Green Sanctuary Team.

Our Presence on the Web

Go to

<http://uuchurch.net>

for complete information on church activities and our online calendar of events.

Additional News and Events

CROP Hunger Walk and 5-K Run on Sunday, Oct. 6

This year's CROP Hunger Walk and Run will take place at 2 p.m. Oct. 6, starting and ending at the Missouri United Methodist Church at Ninth and Elm streets.

A CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk is an annual interfaith event that combines fun and fundraising to raise money for hungry people in Columbia and throughout the world.

There will be a 0.8-mile and a 2.2-mile walking route to choose from, and the run is a 5-K. Walkers and runners invite friends to sponsor them with contributions of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more. For more information on CROP Hunger Walks, please visit www.cwsglobal.org or the local site <http://columbiacrop.hungerwalk.webs.com>.

This year UGCC is an official sponsor of the CROP Hunger Walk and Run.

Look for the CROP Hunger Walk and Run table in the greeting area through Oct. 6 where you can pick up sponsor forms and get more information.

If you have questions, contact Allie Gassmann of the Social Action Committee at 447-3629 or alliegassmann@socket.net.



Plant Sale Oct. 13 to benefit UGCC Memorial Garden

There will be a sale of perennial plants and houseplants to benefit the UGCC Memorial Garden on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church.

Landscaping for a needed expansion of the Memorial Garden is planned for this fall. The work will be paid for in part by proceeds from the plant sale.

First conceived after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, our Memorial Garden was created in 2003 as a place of contemplation and memory. The garden was built thanks to generous donations from church members and friends, and its maintenance continues to depend entirely on donations.

If you have plants to donate, or if you'd like more information about the sale or the Memorial Garden, please contact Jeanne Murphy on Facebook or by email at jmurphy1203@socket.net.

Festival of Sharing Activities for October

What happens next?

1. Please turn in your kits by Oct. 1. If for some reason you cannot meet that deadline please contact Marian Hjelmfelt, and we can make arrangements for your later delivery.
2. All kits need to be audited – detectives are needed!
3. Extra items will be removed and used to make more kits.
4. Missing items will be listed and obtained to complete the kits – shoppers are needed and can be reimbursed.
5. Kits need to be boxed by type, labeled and sealed – volunteers are needed.
6. On Oct. 19, all kits need to be delivered to the State Fair Arena in Sedalia for transport to the appropriate aid agencies – drivers are needed. Being there will give you a glimpse of all of the great people and projects that make the Festival of Sharing possible.

Thanks for your generous support of the Festival of Sharing this year. You have made kits and given financial support that will provide care and hope to many of our worldwide brothers and sisters.

Will you help us in this final list of activities? You may reach Marian Hjelmfelt at hjelmfeltn@yahoo.com or 449-5118 for questions, suggestions or volunteering.

Need a Ride? Do you need a ride to church on Sunday, or a church function at another time? Margaret Tyler is coordinating rides as part of the Caring Ministry. Please call the church office at 442-5764.

Expanding Heart, Mind and Soul

'Fair Trade' – what does that mean, really?

For many years now, we have been able to serve organic and fair trade coffee and tea at our coffee hour and other church functions, paid for by the proceeds of the monthly coffee, tea, and chocolate sales. The additional profits that we have made have gone to the Coming of Age program for our middle-school youth.

In September, our worship theme was Our Mission, and Rev. Molly preached on the idea of a living wage at our Labor Day weekend service, so this seems like a good time to review why, as a congregation, we use these more expensive products, and why, in fact, they *are* more expensive than corporate coffee and tea.

All of our products come to us from the Equal Exchange Interfaith program, which was initiated by the Lutheran church as a way of increasing the awareness of Fair Trade issues in their congregations. The Lutherans are still the largest participating group, but a higher percentage of UU congregations participate than any other denomination.

"Fair Trade" is a label that can have a variety of meanings, depending on the certifying body. This is from the Equal Exchange website:

Our Guiding Principles

- ◆ *Trade directly with democratically organized small farmer cooperatives.*
- ◆ *Facilitate access to credit for producer organizations.*
- ◆ *Pay producers a guaranteed minimum price that provides a stable source of income as well as improved social services.*
- ◆ *Provide high quality food products.*
- ◆ *Support sustainable farming practices.*
- ◆ *Build a democratically-run cooperative workplace.*
- ◆ *Develop more environmentally-sound business practices.*

Notice the echoes of our UU Seven Principles?

There is lots of information on the Equal Exchange website about the various cooperatives from which their products are sourced. It is also interesting to note that Equal Exchange itself is among the largest worker-owned cooperatives in the United States, so the principles they seek in producing countries are in place in the company here, as well. Here is how they describe their philosophy for the company as a whole:

We believe that we should expect no less from ourselves and each other than we demand of our farmer partners. For that reason we have organized

ourselves as a democratic worker co-operative, now one of the largest in the country.

The concepts are quite simple:

- ◆ *the right to vote (one vote per employee, not per share);*
- ◆ *the right to serve as leader (i.e. board director);*
- ◆ *the right to information;*
- ◆ *the right to speak your mind.*

A worker cooperative is an alternative for-profit structure based upon standard democratic principles. It is not designed to maximize profits, nor returns to investors, but rather to bring to the workplace many of the rights and responsibilities that we hold as citizens in our communities. These principles include one-person/one-vote equality; open access to information (i.e., open-book management); free speech; and the equitable distribution of resources (such as income.)

While not all of the Equal Exchange products are organic, we have chosen to go with the organic products not only because of the environmental friendliness of organic agriculture, but also because of the improved working conditions for farmers who no longer have to handle poorly-regulated toxic chemicals, often without appropriate safety equipment, as happens in the large-scale conventional/industrial model of coca and coffee production. Industrial-type production replaces traditional shade-grown coffee – an integral part of a dynamic and sustainable ecosystem which benefits our migratory birds, as well as many tropical species – with chemical-intensive monocultures of sun-tolerant coffee cultivars.

Want to know more? There is an excellent overview of fair trade issues at <http://www.globalexchange.org/fairtrade/coffee/faq>.

While we love to have your support through our fair trade sales, we have heard from some members who have asked to be able to donate directly rather than buy coffee, tea and chocolate. In response, we recently added a donation jar at coffee hour for those who would prefer to contribute that way.

Thanks to all who support our project, and we would love to have others get involved. The once-a-month sales are fun and a good chance to chat with and get to know members of our community.

We welcome anyone who would like to help. Please contact Ellen Thomas at 445-2928 or ellen.thomas@centurytel.net.



Welcoming space is Design Team's goal

Ever notice our building? Does it make your spirits soar? Should it make your spirits soar? What is the cost of that soaring or sinking spirit?

These are the big questions we deal with on the Exterior/Interior Design Team. Mostly, we deal with much more mundane issues like where to place the visitor's information. The Design Team has identified the following important questions:

- ♦ Are we happy with the way we are using our space?
- ♦ What needs to be done to preserve the investment we have already made in the building?

During Rev. Sue's interim ministry, our board hired an outside consultant to review our building and grounds. UU minister Patrick Price opened our eyes to our lack of welcoming signage. The Design Team was formed with a mandate to make the building welcoming to newcomers. The need for signs was identified as one of the most critical elements to meet the mandate. One of the first tasks was to remove the "Do Not Enter" sign on the first driveway. "Go away" was not the message we wanted to convey! Also, the vestibule was such a mess that it was deemed very unwelcoming.

We needed to tell anyone who might be looking for our building that this is a special place. The sculptural sign was our first big project, and it involved spirited input from 20 to 30 church members. The original artwork inspiration came from one of our own, Dennis Murphy.

Interior signage is our most recent project. We hope you have noticed the new floor plan directory to the left of the kitchen pass-through window. This should make it easy for newcomers to find their way around. Of course, the most important question, "Where is the restroom?" is now graphically answered. This directory and the classroom signs should eliminate a lot of the tacky-looking temporary signs placed here and there. Clear directions and times for Forum, R.E. and the Socrates Circle are shown. These signs can easily be reprinted as changes occur.

After costly repair work to install weather-resistant carpet and stop the water infiltration in the vestibule, you will find that it is now a safe, functional space. A new bench makes it more comfortable for those people who are waiting for a ride.

A welcoming space for all is our goal.

– Janet Groat, Team Leader

YRUU youth and R.E. children get involved with 2014 Honduras trip

The youth in YRUU (9th through 12th graders) have decided to join the 2014 Honduras Trip for their summer trip, and all Sunday collections from the Children's Religious Education program will go toward the expenses of the trip.

It is truly wonderful to have the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of our young people as part of this endeavor!

All who are interested in or thinking about joining the trip are invited to the next meeting on Oct. 19. The Honduras group meets monthly to prepare for the trip by learning about Honduras, by growing spiritually, by strengthening the ties

among ourselves, and by planning for fundraising.

Fundraising is an important part of the process in order to pay for the materials needed for the latrine-building and other possible projects, to pay our coordinator in Honduras, and to help the UUCC group members pay their way. In the past the trip has cost about \$1,000 per person, including the flights, almost all meals, ground transportation and lodging.

For more information, contact Allie Gassmann of the Social Action Committee at 447-3629 or alliegassmann@socket.net.

REflections

October, 2013
Lisa Fritsche,
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Wed. 9-3 and Sun. 8-12

Trick or Treat for UNICEF



It's October, and for the youngsters of our church, October means one thing... trick-or-treating! On Halloween night, our kids will collect coins along with candy. Later this month all of the children will receive UNICEF boxes to take with them as they hit the streets on Oct. 31. The coins they receive will be pooled and sent off to

UNICEF, where they will do worlds of good.

Important Dates:

Oct. 6 - UNICEF Service
Sunday

Oct. 4-6 - Coming of Age
retreat

Oct. 20 - 3rd Sunday Lunch,
pumpkin carving!

Oct. 27 - Day of the Dead
multigenerational service...wear
your Halloween costume!

3rd Sunday Lunch - Pumpkin Carving

Please join your church friends at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21, for some Halloween fun! We'll begin by nibbling on a bit of lunch, followed by creating some scary jack-o-lanterns. We ought to be done by 1 p.m. You'll need to B.Y.O.P.A.F.C.T. (bring your own pumpkin and favorite carving tools), and RSVP to Lisa F. (dre@uuchurch.net) by Oct. 17 so there is enough food for everyone. Parents must stay with their kids, as lone children handling knives is too scary for us to even consider.

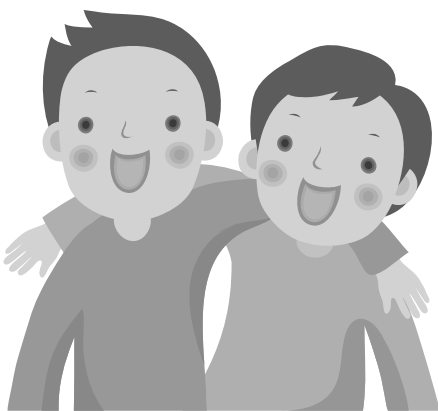


Day of the Dead Multi- generational Sunday Service

On Sunday, Oct. 27 we will explore the Mexican celebration of "Dios de los Muertos," or Day of the Dead. Be sure to wear your Halloween costume to church that day. Also, please bring a memory token, such as a photo, of a loved one who has passed away (animal or person) to put on our altar.



Welcome, Newcomers!



Let's give a warm, UU welcome to our new Sunday school friends! Adam, Robbie, Lila, Savannah, Bella, Camden, Kurtis, Avie, James, Abel, Eli, Emma, Olivia, Amalie, Lex, Leo, Ryan, Shin, Koh, and Josh! We are glad you are here!

Centering Collection Goes to Our Own Honduras Project

After our coins, bills and good wishes are dropped into the basket at Centering, they will be set aside to fund the building of latrines by our own church members on next summer's trip to Honduras. We hope to raise \$400 by the end of the church year, which will pay for two latrines. (By mid-September we had raised \$16.22) As the year goes on, you can watch the gauge in the Centering Room rise as the money comes in!



Let's raise lots of money and flush it down the toilet!

Thanks!

The Braudis family gave us a new book called *Sofia's Dream*. Carol Arnold gave us what seems to be a lifetime supply of markers. The Hutton family cleaned out their craft closet and filled ours up.

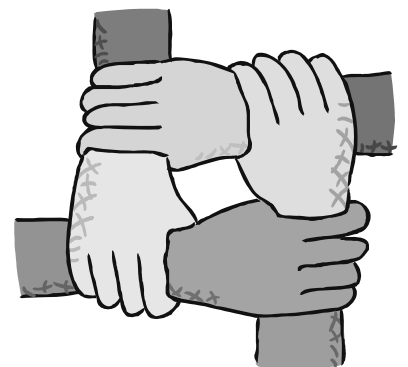


Don't Forget!

The more often your child comes to church, the more friends s/he will make, and the more excited s/he will be to come the next week!

Interdependence... We All Rely on Each Other

This month Rev. Molly will be talking about interdependence in the Sunday services. Talk to your kids about the ways they depend on others, as well as the ways they serve as helpers for others. At Centering this month we will share stories on this theme.



More FUN for All Ages

YRUU Poetry Slam Saturday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at UCC



Join in the fun! Bring some poetry to share at the microphone, or just kick back and listen.

Free event for all UCC members and friends!
Snacks and drinks available.

We are a Welcoming Congregation



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri is a welcoming congregation. Whatever the faiths you have known, or the flags of your heritage, you are welcome here. Whoever you are, and whomever you love, you are welcome here. And, whether you arrived by a short or a long route, you are welcome here.

The Rainbow Chalice above is emblematic of our recognition by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a church that welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

About Standing on the Side of Love

Standing on the Side of Love is an interfaith public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) and all are welcome to join.

Why

This is a time of great hope and possibility, yet our communities are threatened by the increased prevalence of acts motivated by fear and hate.

No one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their identities.

In public debates on immigrant justice, LGBTQ equality, and more, religious people stand on the side of love and call for respect, inclusion, and compassion.

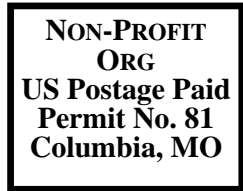
How

The Standing on the Side of Love campaign elevates compassionate religious voices to influence public attitudes and public policy.

Through [community activism](#), [social networking](#), and [media outreach](#), people across the nation are equipped to counter fear and make love real in the world.

THE SEARCHLIGHT

The Newsletter of:
Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132



Return Service Requested

Our Staff

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

Office Hours: Mondays 1-5 p.m., Wednesdays 3-7 p.m.

Community Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Email: minister@uuchurch.net

Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth Religious Education

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Kathie Bergman, Administrator

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Telephone: 573-442-5764

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Visit our Website: <http://uuchurch.net>



2013-2014 Board of Trustees

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