



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 7, March 2014

Worship Services

March 2014

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 2

**“Generosity as a
Spiritual Practice”**

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Giving can connect us to others, to our own feelings of fulfillment and gratitude, and to the reality of justice and love that we dream about. We’ll explore how we can cultivate an attitude of abundance through a regular practice of generosity. Also, stay for potluck and cake as we celebrate our accomplishments in the past year and our dreams for even greater engagement with our mission in the year to come!

Sunday, March 9

“With Heart & Mind”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

This Sunday we explore contemplative and devotional practices from the world’s religious traditions. How do we engage intellect and emotion as we create a full-bodied spiritual life? What practice might work for you in the pursuit of spiritual growth and well-being?

Sunday, March 16

“How the Light Gets In”

Lay-Led by UU Life Writers

UU Writers have used writing as spiritual practice for many years. The stories for this service reflect how writing is “like opening a window to the soul.” Join us for this literary service – always a favorite!

(Continued on page 2)

Our March Worship Theme:

Spiritual Practice

“Life is just a chance to grow a soul.”

– *A. Powell Davies*

I’ve never seen a growing thing that didn’t need food, and water, and sunlight in order to grow. If life is just a chance to grow a soul, then one of the most important things we can do with our days is to pay heed to the care and nourishment of our own souls and those around us.

What feeds your spirit? Is it meditation or prayer, journaling or dancing, running or communing with the dog? Is it storytime with the kids, or playtime with the grandkids, or seeking wisdom from your elders?

The world’s traditions all acknowledge that the care and feeding of the soul requires discipline and regular practice, in order for us to take root and truly flourish. This month we reflect on the many ways that we can create the time and conditions in our lives to grow souls that are more expansive, more connected, and more centered in the spirit of love.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

Notice: Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 9, 2014 in the Sanctuary After Worship

The Board of Trustees has called this special meeting at which the only item of business will be the first of two membership votes on replacing the endowment funds policy now appended to the bylaws with a new, shorter provision. See page 4 for more information.

Highlights of What’s Inside

Worship Theme Materials; YRUU Schedule	2
Minister’s Message; Forum Schedule	3
President’s Perspective	4
Programs and Events	5
Additional News and Events	6
<i>Reflections</i>	7
Expanding Heart, Mind and Soul	9

March Worship Theme: *Spiritual Practice*

Worship Services for March 2014

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, March 23

Very special guest preacher Rev. Carl Kenney

Carl W. Kenney II was named North Carolina's top serious columnist by the North Carolina Press Association in 2011 for his work in the *News & Observer*. He earned a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master of Divinity from Duke University, and is a Fellow of Pastoral Leadership and Development at Princeton Theological Seminary. He has served congregations in Missouri, Louisville, Ky. and Durham, N.C.

Sunday, March 30

"Embodied Practice"

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Faith traditions the world round have acknowledged the role of the body in the life of the spirit through positions in meditation and prayer, practices of yoga, tai chi, and other moving meditations, and other bodily forms. We'll explore some of these practices in the pursuit of a more integrated experience of the spiritual journey.

YRUU March Schedule

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is our youth ministry program for high-school aged youth. Jamila Batchelder (256-8688) is the adult advisor. Meetings are generally from noon to 2 p.m. in the lower level of the church.

Sunday, March 2

Guest Speaker: Prof. Moises Arces speaking on the Political situation in Honduras.

Friday, March 7, 6 p.m.

Games Night with Junior Youth

Sunday, March 9

Laser Tag

Sunday, March 16

Workshop: Capoeira with Jill Hartliep

Sunday, March 23

Service: Cleaning Church Nursery

Sunday, March 30

Hike and Spring Ritual at Pinnacles State Park

Wise Words – Spiritual Practice

"We live, in fact, in a world starved for solitude, silence, and private: and therefore starved for meditation and true friendship."

– C.S. Lewis

"It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

– Mahatma Gandhi

"The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large."

– Confucius

"If you want to find God, hang out in the space between your thoughts."

– Alan Cohen

Want to reflect further?

Check out these resources, all available to borrow at the church...

Everyday Spiritual Practice by Scott Alexander – Reflections on more than 40 spiritual practices from around the world provide doable options for every temperament.

Simply Pray by Erik Wikstrom – A Unitarian Universalist exploration of the practice of prayer.

Peace is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life by Thich Nhat Hanh – The wisdom of Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh.

Spiritual Practice with Kids...

Planting Seeds: Practicing Mindfulness with Children by Thich Nhat Hanh – Thich Nhat Hanh's methods of mindfulness interpreted for children.

A Child's Book of Blessings and Prayers by Eliza Blanchard – Spiritual reflections for kids by a UU minister.

Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting by Michelle Richards – An exploration of values and spiritual practices for UU families.

Minister's Message

Sharing Our Successes

Our Committee on Ministry is charged by the Board with seeing to the health of the “shared ministry” of the church, and we continue to converse about what that means. I’ve had a thought lately that it has something to do with a sense of ownership and pride in our ministry – a sharing of our successes as well as our responsibilities.

So I invite you this month to think about an experience you’ve had at the church this year that you feel proud of or that you would like to celebrate... Was it a particularly fun Sunday school class that you taught or helped with? Was it a wonderful conversation in your chalice circle or during coffee hour? Was it an especially enriching Forum or Conversations discussion, Writers’ Group session, or Book Group? Was it an act of service and compassion at our shelter, or Loaves and Fishes, or the Festival of Sharing? Was it a planning meeting that yielded the beginnings or the completion of a new program?

Think about the richness your experience added to our life together, and how it moved us closer to our mission of radical welcome, deep connection, and a world made whole. And then, go ahead, feel a little pride! You did that. You shared in the successful ministry of our church.

In faith, Rev. Molly

Forum Schedule for March 2014

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, March 2

“Sisters in Song,” the history of women hymn writers (including some UUs) – presented by Leslie Clay.

Sunday, March 9

“Mental Health Court and Alternative Sentencing Courts” – presented by Judge Christine Carpenter.

Sunday, March 16

“Mental Health Services at Burrell Behavior Health” – presented by Craig Valone.

Sunday, March 23

“General Aging Issues and Work of the Boone County Council on Aging” – presented by Jessica Macy.

Sunday, March 30

“Aeronautical Engineering and – a Woman in a Traditionally Male Field” – presented by Bonnie Johnson.

Exploring Spirituality Group 9 a.m. Sundays

On the last Sunday of every month, we will do a Socrates Circle as we have been doing them for the past several months. On other Sundays, we will have a predetermined topic and a presenter who will introduce and set up/facilitate discussion. Everyone is welcome. No fees or registration required. Free childcare is available in the nursery.

New to Unitarian Universalism?

Here are two opportunities to get to know us better:

On the second Sunday, March 9, the Membership Team will offer “Discover UU.” This is a 20-30 minute session after church to answer questions you might have. Whether you are new to Unitarian-Universalism, or coming from another UU church and wanting find where you fit here, we welcome you.

Think you might be ready to join, but still have some questions? On Sunday, March 16, from noon to 2 p.m., we will offer “Membership 101,” which includes more in-depth information. Lunch (vegan) and child care will be provided, so we do request an RSVP. Email or call Barbara at oakshaven@socket.net or 696-1784.

UCC bylaws revision votes scheduled March 9 and May 18

By Steve Scott, 2013-14 President

In January's Searchlight, I provided a status report on the progress our Board of Trustees has made toward implementing policy governance, and I reported that a Bylaws Revision Task Force was working on updating our bylaws to conform to policy governance principles and make other desirable changes.

The task force has now completed work on bylaws revisions, and the revisions have been reviewed and approved by the board. As a result, our members will be voting whether to adopt the revisions at congregational meetings on March 9 and May 18.

Under policy governance, the board develops policies and delegates to the minister as chief of staff the direction of the day-to-day ministries and operations of the church. The revised bylaws will specifically recognize and define these changed roles of the board and the minister.

But that's not all – the revised bylaws also will bring our governing framework up to date and make other desirable changes that church leaders have been discussing for some time.

A significant change will be providing for three-year instead of two-year terms for Board of Trustees members. The revised bylaws will call for three trustees to be elected to three-year terms annually so that the nine-member board ultimately will consist of three first-year, three second-year and three third-year members.

Experience has shown that the current two-year terms of trustees are too short because it usually takes about one year for a trustee to learn everything he or she needs to know to be an effective board member, leaving only one year for truly effective leadership.

A second major problem with two-year terms is that they often compel the selection of first-year board members as officers, thus requiring them not only to learn about board business but also to quickly become familiar with their many official duties. With three-year terms, it will be possible to select officers who will be more prepared to assume their duties after a year or more on the board.

Another significant bylaws change will replace the current "Endowment Funds Policy," appended as an addendum to the current bylaws, with a new shorter provision. The current policy was adopted in 2007 in the wake of an expenditure of some endowment principal on capital improvements without a congregational vote, and it was designed to require approval of endowment principal expenditures, and any amendment of the policy, at two separate congregational meetings two months apart. The policy needs to be updated, but the requirement for two congregational votes has inhibited updates.

The new bylaws provision would require that endowments be administered under a policy approved by the board and adopted by the members at one congregational meeting, and it would allow expenditure of endowment principal with approval by members at one congregational meeting – thus making it more feasible to expend endowment principal in an emergency. The provision also will mandate that the guiding principles for endowment management be prudent investment and preservation and enhancement of value.

Wiley Miller, a primary advocate for the current endowment policy in 2007, served on the Bylaws Revision Task Force, and he concurs with the task force's recommendation of the new provision.

Because the current endowment policy requires two membership votes to change it, there will be a special congregational meeting after worship on March 9 for the first vote on that change. The second vote will take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 18 in conjunction with a vote on the overall revision of the bylaws. Members will be provided with more information before those meetings.

Many thanks to the members of the Bylaws Revision Task Force who worked so diligently to bring our bylaws up to date and conform them to policy governance. I chaired the task force, and the other members were Walter Gassmann, Lisa Guillory, Allen Hjelmfelt, Victoria Knapp, Wiley Miller and Courtney VanLacy.

Programs and Events

Men's Group

The UUC 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 at noon Wednesday, March 12. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Contact Melinda Farhangi at 445-6325 if you have questions.

Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 14 at a location to be announced. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 or the church administrator if you have questions.

Book Table

The Book Table is open the second, third and fourth Sundays before and after worship. Newcomers might want to check out the many books on Unitarian Universalism. Parents might want to note the many books on effective parenting and on being a UU Parent. There are books by our own authors, plus books on theology, meditation, current events and just living.

UU Life Writers

The UU Writers will meet Saturday, March 1 and Saturday, March 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Centering Room. "Writing as Spiritual Practice" is the theme for the winter/spring session. All are welcome. For further information contact Fran Reynolds at 443-4336 or freynolds@centurytel.net.

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 second Sunday of the church year. The products will be available in the lobby before and after worship on March 9. Purchases support coffee time after worship and help fund programs for our youth.

If you are interested in working at our fair trade sale table, please contact Ellen Thomas at 999-4615 or ellen.thomas@centurytel.net.

First Sunday potluck – March 2

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.

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

Planning to attend the potluck? In addition to your potluck item, please remember to bring 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 need help; times are still tough for many. Thanks.

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

Generosity campaign starts March 2, ends March 31

Each year our congregation votes in May to approve our budget for the following fiscal year. We consider our budget a moral and missional document – expressing our priorities and our care of the ministry of our community. But our budget would not exist without your generosity.

Our budget is funded each year by pledges from our members and friends who commit to give a specific amount over the course of that year in order to give the church a reliable source of income during the fiscal year. Your pledge is essential to help us plan for what kind of work we can fund in the coming year.

This year we have set a goal of \$245,000 in pledges

with the hope that we can increase our staffing in order to keep up with the wonderful growth we've been seeing. We hope that you will consider giving generously and turning in your pledge card promptly to the office or online, so that we can count on you.

Our pledge drive will begin with a celebration on March 2 and will end by March 31. In that time, we will be sharing our exciting goals for the coming year, and we will help you discover how you can be part of living our full mission. Let us know if you have any questions.

– 2014 Generosity Team Co-Chairs
Margaret Harder (268-1226)
Maria Oropallo (639-9696)

Honduras fundraising exceeds goal

Thank you everyone for your tremendous support for the Honduras latrine project! With the great success of the Founders Day Trivia Night to benefit the latrine project and the February Faith-to-Action collection, the Honduras group has exceeded its fundraising goals. In fact, we can dream big and support additional projects, help pay toward the group's room and board while building latrines, and keep some money to put toward a scholarship fund for the next trip (hopefully in 2016).

Please don't miss what should be a very interesting presentation by Professor Moises Arce from MU's political science department. Dr. Arce is an expert on Latin America, with a special interest in the politics of economy and protest, and he will update us on the current political situation in Honduras. It will take place at 1 p.m. March 2 (after potluck) in the Library.

Contact me at alliegassmann@socket.net if you have questions.

– Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team

Potluck celebration March 14 for winter shelter volunteers

Please join us for a potluck celebration of our UUCF-FOR shelter experience on Friday, March 14 at 6 p.m. at the church. In addition to a potluck dish to share, feel free to bring your own beverage.

We would like all who participated in (or contributed to) the shelter in any way (if only in spirit) to come together to celebrate our involvement in this service and to share with one another our reflections about the experience.

Our Mission

In the spirit of courageous love, we forge a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world.

Exploring a Pagan presence at UUCF on March 23

Are you interested in a re-energized, re-invented, re-defined Pagan group within the church? Imbolc didn't work due to the machinations of Nature, so I am again announcing a meeting to discuss what kind of presence we would like to have in the church. Let's try for Ostara.

Join me March 23 after worship to talk about the whats, whens and whys of such a presence, and how (or if) you feel you could contribute to make such a group go and grow. We will find a table or a room, and talk until we run out of either ideas or time. Bring the kids – they can play while we talk.

– Barbara Carter, 573-696-1784 or oakshaven@socket.net.

Reflections

Service Sunday - Used Toy Clinic



Service Sunday, March 2, 2014, will be a used toy clinic! This is your big chance to clean out the toy box and book shelf. Bring your gently used books and toys to church by March 2. We will clean them up for their second life, and donate them to Goodwill.

Be sure to come to church on Sunday!

3rd Sunday Lunch...Crafting Greeting Cards

On March 16 we'll gather downstairs after church for a light lunch. Afterwards we'll get out the crafty supplies and create greeting cards for the Caring Ministry team to use. Hope you can join us!



March 2014
Lisa Fritsche
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Wed. 9-3 and Sun. 8-12

Important Dates:

March 1 - Jr. Youth return from Mini-Con

March 2 - Used Toy Clinic Service Sunday

March 7 - Jr. Youth & YRUU game night

March 16 - 3rd Sunday Lunch – creating greeting cards

April 6 - Birthday Bags Service Sunday

April 13 - Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Donations Needed for April Service

Sunday...Birthday Bags for Rainbow House

Once again we will assemble Birthday Bags for the Rainbow House! Kids living at the Rainbow House shelter may not be able to celebrate their special day in grand style. So, we will help! We are gathering birthday party goodies to provide these kids with birthday fun. To do this, we need help from the congregation. Please bring one (or more!) of the following to church by Sunday, March 30: **Cake mix, canned icing, birthday candles, 9x13 disposable pans, party hats, party plates, party napkins and party blowers.** Our kids will assemble these supplies, and add their own personal touches to the birthday bags.





See you at church!

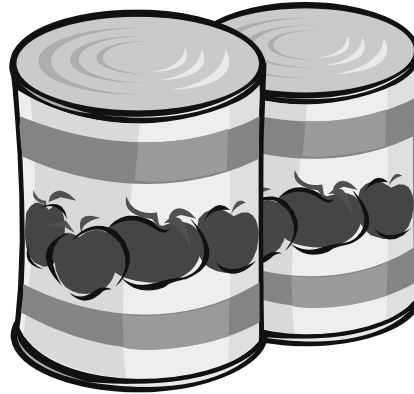
Thank You, Thank You!

- Mystery Friends participants
- Jenny Bossaller, Jr. Youth leader
- Carol Arnold, Centering singer
- Rose Baka, nursery organizer



Canned Food Needed!

Believe it or not, Easter is right around the corner. On Easter morning, our kids will be hunting for canned goods in the back woods. So.....we need some canned goods for which to hunt! You need to bring your donations by **Sunday, April**



13, but it wouldn't hurt to start bringing them now! After the cans are found by our kids, they will find their way to the Central Missouri Food Bank (the cans, not the kids.)

Teachers... Mark Your Calendars!

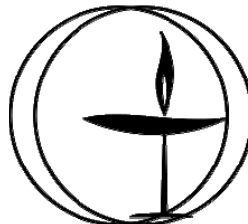
The annual THANK YOU breakfast for teachers and their families will be held on Sunday, April 13. You won't want to miss this tasty event!



Something to Think About in March... Spiritual Practice



Write down something you are thankful for, every day for two weeks.
Sit still for two minutes, concentrating on nothing but your breathing.



YRUU & Jr. Youth Gathering

Our two youth groups will gather for some fun and games on Friday, March 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. Pizza will be eaten, and connections will be made. What more could a church ask for?



Green Sanctuary Team offers 'Web of Life' classes in accreditation effort

Our Green Sanctuary Team is progressing with an application for UCC to become a candidate church for Green Sanctuary Accreditation.

To deepen our knowledge of how our choices affect all to whom we are connected, we will be going through the "Web of Life Curriculum" designed by the UU Ministry for the Earth at UUA. The curriculum covers all aspects of environmental justice and guides us to explore our congregation's impact on our local community and beyond.

The classes are open to all, but space is limited. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday March 16, 1 to 5 p.m., at the church:

Session 1: Gratitude for Our Place In the World

Session 2: Mindfulness of the "Stuff" of Life

Sunday March 30, 1 to 5 p.m., at the church:

Session 3: Mapping Congregational Impact

Session 4: Ethical Reflections on Our Place in the Web of Life

Friday April 11, 6 to 9 p.m. (at Lisa or Patty's house, with pot luck supper):

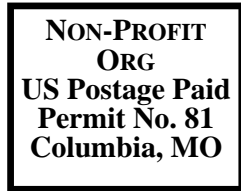
Session 5: Lessons Learned, Next Steps, and Evaluation

Registration will be first-come, first-serve. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jan Weaver at weaverjc@missouri.edu.

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.

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

Desiree Long, Music Director

Kathie Bergman, Administrator

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: uuchurch@uuchurch.net

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



2013-2014 Board of Trustees

Steve Scott, President

Mary Denson, President-Elect

Maria Oropallo, Past President

Gregg Suhler, Treasurer

Ene-Kaja Chippendale, Secretary

Qhyrrae Michaelieu

Mary Beth Schillinger

George Bunyea, Jr.

Pack Matthews

The Searchlight is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri from September through June.

Submissions:
Email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net,
or mail to Church Administrator.

The deadline for submissions is noon on the third Monday of each month for the following edition.