



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 8, April 2014

Worship Services

April 2014

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 6

“Spending Our Lives”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

The quest to “have it all” can obscure the reality that sacrifice is an inevitable part of the quest to live a good life. What do we give up in pursuit of our highest aspirations? What is worth spending our lives on?

Sunday, April 13

Graduation Sunday

DRE Lisa Fritsche and

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for this moving intergenerational service as we celebrate our eighth and twelfth grade graduates and our Sunday School teachers. Our tradition of parent letters to our high school graduates rarely leaves a dry eye in the house.

Sunday, April 20

“Sacrifice and Empire”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

This Easter Sunday, we will turn a critical eye upon the violence and suffering of the Easter story – how has its narrative of sacrifice served to reinforce the violence of empire? And what hope and joy might we find in the story through an alternate view?

Sunday, April 27

Youth Sunday

Lay-Led Service

A favorite every year – our high school age youth will lead us in reflection, contemplation, and song. Don’t miss their unique perspectives and wise words!

Our April Worship Theme:

Sacrifice

The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

– William James

What is worth giving your life for? This is no macabre question... whether we die or live for our highest aspirations or for some false ideal, we are all in the process of giving or spending our lives. Every day we take on some efforts and sacrifice others – and as we spend our days, so do we spend our lives.

Because we will sacrifice things in this life, whether we would wish to or not, it becomes critical that we address this question early and often: What is worth giving your life for? Without clarity about what we wish to sacrifice for, we all too easily sacrifice the things that really matter to us in service of the immediate or expedient.

So this month, I invite you to think big. What is worth dying for? What is worth living for?

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

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Our Presence on the Web

Go to <http://uuchurch.net> for complete information on church activities and our online calendar of events.

April Worship Theme: *Sacrifice*

Wise words:

“The really important kind of freedom involves attention, and awareness, and discipline, and effort, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them, over and over, in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day.”

– David Foster Wallace

“Gandhi’s Seven Deadly Sins: Wealth without work; Pleasure without conscience; Science without humanity; Knowledge without character; Politics without principle; Commerce without morality; Worship without sacrifice.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

“A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it.”

– Oscar Wilde

“The sacrifice which causes sorrow to the doer of the sacrifice is no sacrifice. Real sacrifice lightens the mind of the doer and gives him a sense of peace and joy. The Buddha gave up the pleasures of life because they had become painful to him.”

– Mahatma Gandhi



Want to reflect further?

Check out these resources...

On Sacrifice by Moshe Halbertal – A philosophical exploration of sacrifice as a force in religion, politics, and ethics. Halbertal, a Jewish philosopher, particularly explores the complex role of sacrifice as both a noble and destructive ideal.

Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire by Rebecca Parker & Rita Nakashima Brock – A theological work questioning the glorification of torture and suffering present in the story of crucifixion. This work will be the touchstone for our Easter sermon.

Overwhelmed: Work, Love, and Play When No One Has the Time by Brigit Schulte – An examination of the stress that comes from the quest to do and have it all, and an exploration of what we might need to sacrifice in order to ultimately live more fulfilling lives.

YRUU April 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, April 6

Planning our YRUU lay-led worship service

Friday-Sunday, April 11-13

Youth Conference at Eliot Chapel, Kirkwood

Saturday, April 19

Lock-in to prepare for Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 20

Easter Brunch Fundraiser

Sunday, April 27

YRUU lay-led worship service – Earth Day

Minister's Message:

New Opportunities to Serve

Are you looking for a way to connect more deeply to the ministry of our church? There are opportunities for you! We are particularly looking for curious folks who love to learn and creative folks who love to connect, as we create an Adult R.E. Team and a Fellowship Team to better coordinate these already strong and growing parts of our life together...

Adult Religious Education Team – Coordinate the overall offerings for adult religious education and spiritual development. Develop further opportunities.

Fellowship Team – Create regular opportunities for fun and fellowship among us. Be available to other teams who might like to plan fun events.

If you are full of great ideas, these teams are for you... Help us meet our mission to learn and connect! Contact me to serve on one of these teams (minister@uuchurch.net or 573-442-5764).

In faith,
Rev. Molly

Forum Schedule for April 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 April 6, 2014

Dan Viets, attorney and co-author of *Walt Disney's Missouri: The Roots of Creative Genius*, will talk about Disney's years growing up in Missouri and how they influenced his later work in films and theme parks.

Sunday April 13, 2014

Psychologists Carla and Wayne Anderson will discuss how "Design Changes Everything," focusing on how designers in the past and present create a more attractive and functional world in fields such as architecture, fashion, cooking and movie making.

Sunday April 20, 2014

Carla and Wayne Anderson will concentrate on designers of "Homes of the Future," featuring plastic houses, robot technology, zero-energy homes, prefab modular homes and the computer-based appliances and holograph chefs inside them.

Sunday April 27, 2014

Mary K. Shenk, Ph.D., MU Department of Anthropology, will be presenting on "Why People Have Fewer Children and What It Means for Global Population." She has conducted field research on the economics of marriage in Bangalore, South India, and is now working on a National Science Foundation-funded project on the causes of rapid fertility decline in rural Bangladesh.

Exploring Spirituality Group Discontinued

Exploring Spirituality is being discontinued because it has not been well attended recently.

An alternative program may be developed during the next program year.

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.*

Strategic planning will follow adoption of 'Ends Statements'

By Steve Scott, 2013-14 President

In February the Board of Trustees took another major step toward implementing policy governance by adopting "Ends Statements" (see accompanying article by Maria Oropallo).

The Ends Statements follow up on the congregation's Mission Statement, which captures our basic purpose, and the Vision Statement, which details the congregation's priorities over the next several years.

Now the board is getting ready to embark on the next step – formulating and adopting a strategic plan.

A strategic plan indicates the major means by which the congregation will fulfill its mission over a five- to ten-year span of time. It includes plans for program and membership development, staffing, and capital-development steps, like building programs and endowment funds.

Many alternative strategies could be faithful to the mission; through a process of strategic planning, the congregation, acting through the board, chooses one set of strategies it plans to stick with.

A strategic plan can take up to a year to create and may run several or many pages. Issues that should be considered for inclusion are program development, membership development, a capital plan, and a staffing plan.

When the strategic plan is in place, it will provide direction for the congregation, the board and the staff by setting out detailed program ideas, timelines, budgets, and specific staffing changes.

'Ends Statements' adopted by board

"Ends Statements" are a way to prescribe rigorous expectations for the organizational performance that the congregation (through the Board) wants to see. They are a way to describe the reasons UUCC exists. The ends are dynamic and should be used as guides by the board to evaluate and monitor our progress as a church.

In February 2014, the Board of Trustees adopted the following Ends Statements, prefaced by the [Mission and Vision Statements](#) adopted by the congregation last May:

1. UUCC is a warm and rich community. We live our radical welcome by inviting all who hunger for deeper connection into a mutual journey of growth and transformation.

2. UUCC embodies courageous love by challenging ourselves and working with others to be the change we want to see. Together we move outside our comfort zones as we work for justice and to help heal the world.

3. The members and friends of UUCC join with other congregations and groups in Columbia to work passionately for social change. In particular, we lead in the struggle for LGBTQ rights, distributive justice, and environmental sustainability.

4. Our members and friends of all ages, abilities, beliefs, and life experiences are seriously engaged with a lively process of faith formation, and their lives are marked by increased wholeness, inspiration, hope, and courage.

5. UUCC nourishes a spirit of curiosity, and open, reasoned, and critical inquiry.

An excellent description of why it is important to write good Ends Statements can be found in this [detailed discussion](#) on the UUA Governance page.

– Maria Oropallo, Past President and board member

The board will form a task force including members of the congregation to develop the strategic plan. Meetings of the task force will be open, and we invite members and friends to attend and make their views known.

At the same time the task force and board are working on the strategic plan, the board also will be taking the last major step in implementing policy governance

– formulation of a detailed oversight policy to fulfill the board's duty to ensure that the congregation's human and material resources are used for the benefit of its mission. The oversight policy will establish a plan for monitoring and evaluating that work so staff and lay program leaders are accountable, and so that the congregation learns from its experience. Input on oversight will be welcomed.

News and Events

The ice is gone (we hope)! Time to think about summer worship

We can all be thankful for that! No doubt we're also grateful that spring is near. And many of us will start to think ahead to summer – its longer, lazier days filled with less formal activities. That is certainly true for the Worship Associates, as we begin to organize summer services!

Summer at UCC means a veritable picnic of lay-led services! All we need are people willing to share a dish. That spiritual dish could be an appetizing inspiration, a thoughtful and hearty main dish, or a luscious, loving dessert. Perhaps our February theme of creativity has stirred something in you!

The beauty of pot luck is that you will have help

setting and filling the table. Rev. Molly will once again offer a brief training on worship for those wanting to do a service now (or in the future.) That workshop is scheduled for April 19. And, each service leader will have the help of a trusty Worship Associate. Think of us as sous chef – ready to help you organize the service, find musicians and readings and generally assist with whatever else you need.

Right now, all you need do is get in touch. Together, we'll pick a Sunday in June, July or August. We look forward to working with you!

For more information, contact Cande Iveson at 573-777-6947 or iveson@socket.net.

2014 Local Harvest Supper

As gardeners and farmers are starting to make their plans to plant, the UCC Green Sanctuary Team is thinking ahead to the harvest – the Local Harvest Supper, that is.

Chelsea Otten has generously agreed to co-chair the 2014 event. It would be a big help, and a lot more fun, for her to have one or more others committed to taking on the planning and leadership roles. Past leaders will be happy to pass on their experience and lessons learned, but aren't able to take the lead this fall.

Please consider stepping forward if you have enjoyed this event in the past, or are looking for a fun, rewarding way to get involved with the church. Nothing builds community like planning, cooking, and feasting together! If this sounds like you, please contact Lisa Guillory (lisa.a.guillory@gmail.com) or let Chelsea know of your interest.

A loss in our community

Long-time UCC member John Byland died March 6, 2014 after a long illness. He was surrounded by his family and has been held in love these past months by many friends and loved ones.

A memorial service to celebrate John's life will be held at the church at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 19. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Home Care and Hospice of Fayette.

Social Action Team hosting Loaves & Fishes April 20

UCC will be hosting the Loaves & Fishes dinner on Sunday, April 20.

We would welcome your help in preparing and/or serving this dinner.

For further information or to volunteer, please contact Diane Suhler at 443-0549 or drsuhler@ccis.edu.

Announcing UCC's eighth annual 'Down by the Riverside' campout and worship

Saturday 4 p.m. to Sunday noon

May 31 and June 1, 2014

Potluck supper, campout, breakfast, outdoor worship at Katfish Katy's Campground on the Missouri River

www.katfishkaty-campground.com

Potluck 6 p.m. Saturday, campfire 7 p.m. to whenever

Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Sunday

Riverside worship service 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Bike or walk to church for Earth Day, April 27

The Green Sanctuary Team encourages you to get out and enjoy nature and get a little exercise by biking or walking to church on Earth Day, April 27.

We will have a breakfast station at the roadside park on Old 63 across from the west end of Shepard Boulevard from 8:45 to 10 a.m.

How can you participate?

- Drive to the park, enjoy a light breakfast and conversation, and then bike or walk the one-half mile to church.
- For a little longer adventure, start at Stephens Lake Park or Grindstone Nature Area and use the new pedways to get to the breakfast station. Uphill on the way there means downhill on the way back!
- Bike or walk from home with a refreshment stop at the park.

Want help with your route? Contact Ellen Thomas (445-2928) or Ian Thomas (239-7916).

If Earth Day is postponed because of inclement weather, we will postpone, too.

Honduras Service Trip News

Twenty-one UUCS members and friends will be traveling to Honduras from June 12 to 19 to build latrines.

They will be taking along used summer children's clothes, basic first aid supplies and Kindergarten and school supplies. If you would like to donate such items, there will be a box in the greeting area where you can leave them for the group.

Professor Moises Arce will give his presentation about Honduras on May 4 after potluck because the original date was canceled due to bad weather.

Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 11 at ABC Chinese Cuisine, 3510 Interstate 70 Drive SE, Suite A. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 if you have questions.

YRUU Fundraising Event

YRUU's annual Easter Brunch will be held Sunday, April 20. Tickets are \$5 per person and \$20 per family.

Come for delicious food, the Easter Egg Hunt, and of course to see which prominent church member is chosen to dance in a bunny suit!

We will be accepting food donations in the week leading up to the brunch, so look for the food donation sign-up sheet in the lobby in April.

Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the YRUU program.

Web of Life curriculum begins

The Green Sanctuary Team has begun its classes presenting the Web of Life curriculum prepared by the UUA Ministry for Earth.

The first class, facilitated by Jan Weaver and Melissa Ensign-Bedford, was held March 16. Many of the Green Sanctuary Team members attended. Our goal was to learn about how our own experiences and expectations affect our conversations about environmental justice. Participants reflected and discussed our geographic identities and our sense of place with regard to our society, culture, and economy.

Our next class will be held March 30. Although this class is already full, we are planning to offer them again soon, so watch for announcements about upcoming learning opportunities.

The Green Sanctuary Team will have a booth at the local Earth Day celebration on April 27 in conjunction with the Social Action Team and Honduras Group. We expect the wooden latrine model you've seen in the foyer will make a great conversation starter at Earth Day!

We will need volunteers to staff the booth, so watch for an announcement for volunteer sign-up through SignUp Genius.

Reflections

St. Louis Mini-Con a Smashing Success!

Nine of our Junior Youth joined dozens of UU kids from the St. Louis area for a Mini Con focused on the plight of the homeless.



We made sandwiches, packed up donated supplies and cleaned a day shelter before heading out for a walk to see where services are offered to homeless people. The trip was capped off with a visit to the City Museum. A good time was had by all.

What? No April 3rd Sunday Lunch?

The 3rd Sunday in April will be Easter! Since we want everyone to attend the YRUU Easter Brunch, there will be no 3rd Sunday Lunch this month.

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!



This Month's Theme is Sacrifice



What in your life is so important to you that you would be willing to give something up to keep it the way it is? What exactly would you be willing to give up?

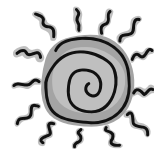
Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!

Kara Braudis and family gave us two beautiful, fluffy rugs for our Sunday school rooms!

Chris Abernathy, Kristin Peters, Heather Carver, Larry Lile and the Adams Family class helped cover for a missing Lisa when she was out of town!



'What's This I Hear About Summer Sunday School?'



It's true! This year the church will offer Sunday School over the summer months. This summer's Sunday School curriculum will focus on our seventh principle – respect for the interconnected web of all existence – and the lessons have been developed by our Green Sanctuary team as part of our mission to grow in environmental awareness and care for the earth. The program will be offered in a one-room schoolhouse style for ages 5-12. Classroom aides will be needed, so please be willing to offer your help when you are asked.

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

Important Dates:

April 6 - Birthday Bags Service Sunday

April 13 - Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Intergenerational Service, SUNNY Sunday and 8th & 12th grade recognition (BIG DAY!)

May 2-4 - Coming of Age Wilderness Retreat

Rosters for Next Year's Classes...Find Your Child!

We're thinking about the 2014-15 church year! On April 13 we will recognize our 8th and 12th graders as they get ready for changes in their lives.

Below you will find rosters for next year's classes.

Please let Lisa F. know if your child is on the wrong list!

Potter (3 & up) – Caitlin, Leo BD, Jonah, Amalie, Eden & Orion

Schweitzer (K-2nd) – Syler, Katie, Clarity, Camden, Leo O, Zack R., Ruby, Corinne, Alex, Kylie, Lila, Hazel, Corinne, Josh, Dontay, Wyatt, Eva L & Nathan

Thoreau (3rd & 4th) – Lydia, Piper, Levin, Maggie, Catherine, Robbie & Emma H.

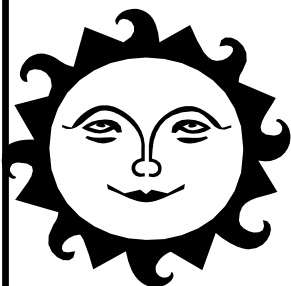
Adams Family (5th & 6th) – Zach L, Danny, Camille F, Ketti, Max, Lincoln, Emma R, Ellie A, Ella, Ellie CH & Eva E.

YUUTS – Maya, Mary Fran, Leila, Camille L, Emily, Isaac, Jack, Jacob F, Naomi, Noah & Andrea



Give Some Thought to Teaching Next Year!

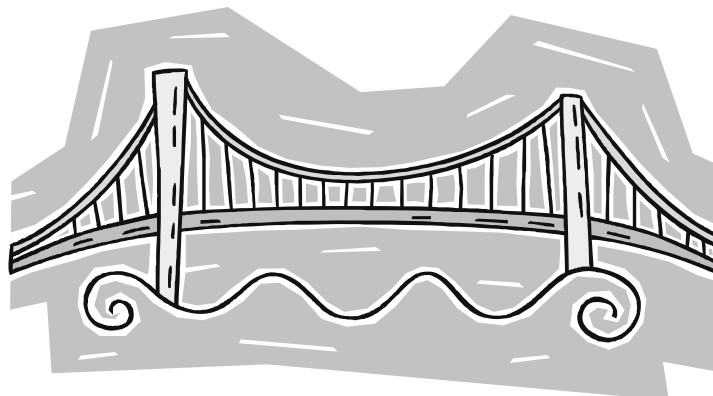
SUNNY (Sign Up Now for Next Year) Sunday will be held on April 13. This is the date on which we sign up to teach during the 2014-15 church year. Stop by and see the lesson books and decide where you will fit in.



We all hope that you will think about giving 9 or 10 Sundays a year to the kids of our church by volunteering for this important program.

We'll Cross That Bridge When We Come To It!

In the past the kids going into new Sunday school classes in the fall have had a chance to cross over a bridge in front of the congregation on the day we recognize our teachers. This year, however, the recognition day is coming very early. Since we want to avoid confusion for the kids, we are going to hold off on bridging until the first day of Sunday school in the fall...August 31. Weather permitting, we'll have a ceremony on the back patio before sending everyone off to their classes!



Expanding Heart, Mind and Soul

FAQ about the Spring Gala/Art and Service Auction

When? Saturday, April 12, 2014

What time? 6 to 10 p.m.

Program? Catered hot meal, wine and beer bar, *live* entertainment, *live* auction, silent auction, raffles, and dancing!

Who benefits? Social Action Team and UCC

Is it a dress up affair? Yes! The shinier the better!

Cost? \$25/person, \$50/couple. If you agreed to work the Gala, your ticket is free.

I can't easily afford the ticket price. Can I still come? YES! Pay what you can. This is a fundraiser for *your* church.

Child care? Yes. There will be child care (pizza, games and movies) for younger children and babies.

When is the absolute last day to contribute an auction/service item? April 6 (but we'll take items after that – just don't tell the organizers!)

What's been donated so far? Original paintings by members, gourmet breakfast in (your) bed, "something homemade" by our resident celebrity chef (Iveson), handmade pottery, sets of bound books, tickets to a show, I.T. services in your home, basket of wine selections, dinner for four, beautiful framed print of Alaskan landscape, art photos, and more coming in every day!



Who's planning all this?

Ene-Kaja Chippendale enec@focusonlearningcenter.com

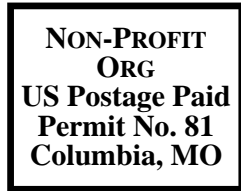
Melissa Collins collinsmj@missouri.edu

Maria Oropallo moropallo@gmail.com.

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

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

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