



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 9, May 2014

Worship Services

May 2014

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 4

“Reluctant Surrender”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

What makes it so hard for us to surrender, and what resources might help us in our efforts to let go of our expectations and our desire for control? Join us to explore the role of surrender in our faith.

Sunday, May 11

“Coming of Age”

Lay-Led by Coming of Age Class

This semi-annual service is a wonderful opportunity to learn from the wisdom of some of our young people, as they share faith statements developed through our Coming of Age program. Join us to celebrate this milestone and affirm our young people!

Sunday, May 18

“Flower Ceremony”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
and DRE Lisa Fritsche**

Join us for a beautiful and celebratory multigenerational service. Our annual flower ceremony will celebrate the richness of our community as we reach the end of our program year. Please bring a flower to share in this beloved ritual. We will also join our Green Sanctuary team in dedicating our new solar panels!

Sunday, May 25

“Loosening Our Grip”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

How can we practice a fierce and passionate love for life and for others while still maintaining a light touch? Can we love this world without clinging to it? Join us to explore the balance between holding on and letting go.

May Worship Theme

Letting Go

A Unitarian is hanging off a cliff, perilously clinging to a loose branch, shouting for help. A voice from nowhere – perhaps from heaven or directly from the God of our prayers – answers the call, saying “LET GO!” The Unitarian responds, “Is anyone else there?”

– Unitarian joke as told by the Rev. Dr. John B. Wolf

This joke hits home for me... but I wonder if perhaps it could be told of any faith tradition. For all of us, letting go – of our attachments to people and things, of our sense of control, of our desperate need to know and understand – is hard! It takes incredible trust and faith. Will we be caught, or will we plummet to the ground?

Of course, as difficult as letting go can be, we learn early on that it is imperative, if we are to move through this life. We learn early and often that we are not, in fact, in control, and that life flows more easily when we recognize and accept all that lies outside our grasp.

This is the struggle, and the task, for most people of faith, whether it is expressed as a Buddhist practice of non-attachment, a Muslim practice of surrender to Allah, or perhaps a Unitarian Universalist tradition of leaning into mystery. Our lives are a constant dance of holding on and letting go. This month, let us lean in and learn to let go.

See you in church!
Rev. Molly

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

May 18, 2014, after Worship

On the agenda:

- Approval of 2014-15 Operating Budget
- Election of Board of Trustees Members
- Vote on Bylaws Amendments (see page 4)
- Receipt of Annual Reports

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May Worship Theme: *Letting Go*

Wise Words

“Most of our troubles are due to our passionate desire for and attachment to things that we misapprehend as enduring entities.”

– Dalai Lama

“When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be. When I let go of what I have, I receive what I need.

– Tao Te Ching

“Some of us think holding on makes us strong, but sometimes it is letting go.”

– Herman Hesse

“We must be willing to let go of the life we’ve planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.”

– Joseph Campbell

“You can only lose what you cling to.

– Attributed to the Buddha

“All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on.

– Havelock Ellis

Want to reflect further? Check out these resources...

Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go by Richard Rohr

Living Beautifully with Uncertainty and Change by Pema Chodron

Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor

You Are Here: Discovering the Magic of the Present Moment by Thich Nhat Hanh



UUCC'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 service*

At Katfish Katy's Campground
on the Missouri River

www.katfishkaty-campground.com

Potluck – Saturday 6 p.m. (approx.)

Sunday Breakfast – 7 to 9:30 a.m.

Riverside Service – Sunday 10:30 a.m.

You can come for any part, *e.g.* supper and campfire on Saturday, and/or breakfast and riverside service on Sunday, or the whole deal with camping overnight (no charge for camping).

The campsite is on the Katy Trail eight miles from Columbia, so cycling there and back is a possibility. Coming early and leaving late is OK.

Things to bring:

- Potluck dishes for Saturday supper
- Your own plates and utensils
- Balls, frisbees, playthings
- Songs, skits, poems, stories for campfire
- *Rise Up Singing* Songbooks
- Lots of children
- Donation for breakfast
- Folding chairs
- Sunshade or hat for service

YRUU May-June 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, May 4: MU Prof. Moises Arce will speak on the political situation in Honduras.

Sunday, May 11: Tie Dye Fundraiser.

Sunday, May 18: Yard work.

Sunday, May 25: Discussion: Anarchy.

Sunday, June 1: Planning Year-End Retreat.

Friday-Sunday, June 6-8: Year-End Retreat at Bergfried.

30% still have not pledged

Canvass goal is a stretch, but within reach

OK, everyone! Let's do this together: If you are able, stand up; otherwise sit up as straight as you can in your chair. Lift your arms above your head. Breathe deep. Now, reach for the ceiling. And, relax.

Feeling better?

Stretching is a form of physical exercise in which a specific muscle or tendon is deliberately flexed or stretched in order to improve the felt elasticity and achieve comfortable muscle tone. The result is a feeling of increased muscle control, flexibility and range of motion. Stretching is also used therapeutically to alleviate cramps.

In fundraising parlance, "stretching" is a way to stimulate our donor base to give a bit more so we can improve our church's responses and achieve a heretofore unknown strength to live out our mission. By stretching our fundraising goal this year, we hope to show our staff our deepest appreciation for their hard and often under-compensated work, increase our ability to quickly and effectively answer calls for justice, and expand our ability to "be a blessing in a world that sorely needs one."

As Unitarian Universalists, we are not comfortable with the status quo. We always see the bigger picture and strive to overcome the obstacles that bring love to life. We dream of a world where peace prevails, justice is served equally to all, and our religion justifies an attitude of ultimate optimism that resources are available for the achievement of meaningful change. We believe in hope and choose to act so.

Our 2014-15 canvass goal of \$245,000 was stretched by 15% over last year. We asked all of you to consider whether an increase of 15% over last year's pledge was possible. We have looked over the numbers of pledges received so far, and this is what we discovered:

- We gained a surprising number of new donations from people who pledged for the first time! Some of you are newcomers to UUCC, and others have been attending church for a while and have decided that UUCC has something worthwhile to offer the world and you want to be part of that effort. Yay!

- Of those who pledged, a full 31% increased their pledges this year! And what was more surprising was

that the increases ran from 1% to a whopping 67% increase, with an average increase of 20%. A very sincere "thank you!"

- Among those who pledged last year, 14% kept their pledges the same this year. Again, a very sincere "thank you" for supporting the work of this church.

- And, as life always presents hardships, adjustments and disappointments, some of you who pledged last year decreased your pledges this year. To you we say, "Life happens. And we hope we continue to be part of your joy and comfort in this time."

That leaves about 30% of previous pledgers who have not yet responded to our canvass outreach or follow-up calls.

We are still awaiting responses, and no matter which response group you fall into, we would like to hear from you. If you have questions about your pledge or the online pledging process, please contact me at moropallo@gmail.com or 639-9696.

– Maria Oropallo, 2014 Generosity Team Co-Chair

Forum Schedule – May 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.

May 4, 2014: George Frissell will present on Confucianism, continuing his series about the world's great religions.

May 11, 2014: David Leuthold and Steve Scott will share the program. David will present on "Seeking Meaningful Retirement." Steve will discuss proposed UUCC bylaws revisions to be voted on at the May 18 Annual Congregational Meeting.

May 18, 2014: Leslie Clay, will introduce us to "Sisters in Song – the history of women hymn writers, including some UU's." This program will be held in the upper level sanctuary of the church.

May 25, 2014: Ayaka Tsuruta, local concert pianist and teacher, will talk to us about the history of the piano and will honor us with a mini-concert. This program will be held in the upper level sanctuary of the church.

Bylaws revisions up for vote at May 18 annual meeting

By Steve Scott, 2013-14 President

Uucc's bylaws have not been substantially revised for 10 years, and the need to incorporate policy governance principles into the bylaws prompted the Board of Trustees last summer to authorize formation of a Bylaws Revision Task Force.

The task force was assigned not only to incorporate policy governance into the bylaws but also to conduct a thorough review of the bylaws and suggest other changes in light of issues that church leaders have been discussing for years. I chaired the task force, and the other members were Walter Gassmann, Lisa Guillory, Allen Hjelmfelt, Victoria Knapp, Wiley Miller and Courtney VanLacy. On behalf of the board, I thank the task force members for their diligent work.

The task force recommended a set of bylaws revisions to the board in February 2014, and the board approved them the same month. The revisions will be up for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on May 18, 2014. There was a preliminary vote at a special congregational meeting on March 9, 2014 which approved one portion of the bylaws revisions dealing with the endowments policy.

The complete text of the proposed bylaws revisions can be viewed side-by-side with the current bylaws at http://uuchurch.net/bylaws_revisions.htm. Following is a summary of major changes:

- New categories have been added to our statement of inclusion in Article 1, Section 5.
- Article 2 has been shortened but clearly affirms our commitment to the UU Seven Principles.
- Article 4, Section 2 specifies that congregational meetings will be conducted in accordance with rules of order adopted by the Board of Trustees rather than Robert's Rules of Order. The board has already adopted such rules, which are a greatly simplified version of Robert's Rules.
- Notice requirements for congregational meetings in Article 4, Section 5, refer to the relevant statutory requirements. The statutes require at least 10 days notice by first class mail to all members.
- Article 5, Section 1 has been rewritten and expanded to reflect the role of the Board of Trustees under policy governance.

- In Article 5, Section 2, changes are proposed in the composition of the Board of Trustees:

- One significant change would be providing for three-year instead of two-year terms for board members because experience has shown that the current two-year terms of trustees are too short. 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.

- This section would also provide that "No person may serve as a trustee at the same time as a spouse or domestic partner, or natural or adoptive parent, sibling or child also is serving as a trustee."

- Article 5, Section 4 would define the election process for the Board of Trustees. This subject is not covered in the current bylaws.

- Article 7, Section 2, would replace the current "Endowment Funds Policy," which is currently an addendum to the bylaws. This change was given preliminary approval at a special congregational meeting on March 9, 2014.

- Article VII, Section 2 of the current bylaws would be deleted in the revised bylaws because fundraising is now considered a ministerial function under policy governance.

- Article 8, Section 1, would define the minister's role under policy governance.

Please contact me if you have any questions after reading this article or studying the proposed bylaws revisions on our website.

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.

News and Events

Monthly Potluck Luncheon – May 4

Please mark your calendar and come to the “First Sunday Potluck” immediately following the worship service on May 4. Bring a main dish or a side dish to share.

UU Book Discussion Group – May 9

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 9 at Kojobaba, 601 Business Loop 70 in Parkade Plaza. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

UUCM Men’s Group – May 10, 24, 31

The UUCM 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.



Last Fair Trade Sale until September

The last sale of fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate until September will take place on **May 11**. The sales are sponsored by the Green Sanctuary group every second Sunday from September through May and feature products from the Equal Exchange Interfaith program.

You may make your purchase before and after worship in the greeting area of the church. We accept cash and checks. The funds we raise provide coffee during our social time after worship. The additional profits that we have made have gone to the Coming of Age program for our middle-school aged youth. Please support this worthy cause!

Conversations, Etc. – May 14

Conversations, Etc. will meet at noon Wednesday, May 14 at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Melinda at 445-6326 if you have questions.

Meditation in Nature – May 18

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.

Sharing Our Bounty

For the year, as of early April, 233 pounds of non-perishable food have gone from our food barrel to the Central Pantry, serving Columbia and Boone County. Thanks to all who have contributed, including the “9 Bean Soup” makers in Religious Education! Please continue to restock the barrel.

Easter food drive results

The R.E. Easter food drive, plus some from the upstairs barrel, provided 222 pounds of non-perishable food for the Central Pantry. Thanks to R.E. and others who brought the food.

Guest at Your Table

Last winter our church’s “Guest at Your Table” fundraiser for the UU Service Committee raised more than \$600. Thanks to the nine families and individuals who contributed, and thanks to those who sent in their contributions separately.

Honduras News

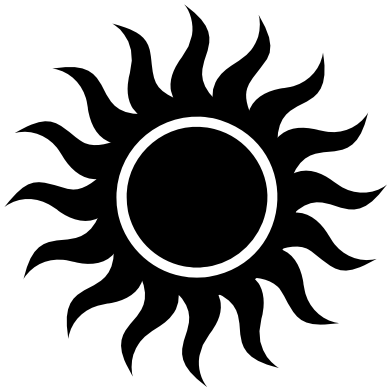
Please don’t miss what should be a very interesting presentation by Professor Moises Arce from MU’s political science department. Dr. Arce is an expert on Latin America, with a special interest in the politics of economy and protest, and he will update us on the current political situation in Honduras. It will take place on May 4 at 1 p.m. (after potluck) in the Library/Forum Room.

The Honduras group is collecting used summer children’s clothes, basic first aid supplies and Kindergarten and school supplies. You may place donation items in the red box in the wardrobe area, and please contact Allie Gassmann if you want a receipt for tax purposes.

Our Presence on the Web
Go to <http://uuchurch.net> for complete
Information on church activities and
our online calendar of events.

REflections

Welcome, Melissa Ensign-Bedford!



Have you heard the news? The church is going to offer Sunday school this summer! Our own Melissa Ensign-Bedford will be directing the one-room schoolhouse program, centering on our Seventh Principle: *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

Rising Kindergarten kids up to rising 8th graders will take part. Preschoolers will be welcomed in the nursery, and high school youth will be welcomed in the sanctuary. We are looking for four helpers for each Sunday.

Want to help? You can find the link to our Sign-Up Genius on the church's website. Please sign up for two or three mornings! Or, call or email Lisa Fritsche by the end of May.

Teachers Still Needed!



Would you like to join the dedicated team of teachers here at our church? Most teachers are a bit nervous the first time they sign up to teach a religious education class. Perhaps they fear they won't know the subject well, or they don't want to miss Sundays upstairs.

Our church asks teachers for only nine Sundays in the classroom each year. Plenty of training is provided, and classrooms are set up each week by Lisa (Director of Religious Education), ready to go as the teachers walk into their classrooms.

Several veteran teachers sign up year after year, but there is always room for more!

May, 2014
Lisa Fritsche
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Sun. 8-noon
and by appointment

Important Dates:

May 2-4 - Coming of Age
Wilderness Retreat

May 4 - Men's & Women's
Circles; Color-a-Smile Service
Sunday

May 10 - Coming of Age
Celebration Dessert

May 11 - Coming of Age Sunday
Service

May 18 - Flower Ceremony
Multigenerational Service

June 1 - First Day of Summer
Sunday School!

Nursery Care for Summer Services

Once again nursery care for preschoolers will be available on Sunday mornings this summer from 9 a.m. until noon.



Attention Parents: Be Sure to Sign up to Help in Our Classrooms

Our Sunday school program is a cooperative one. We depend on support from the whole church, but we especially rely on the parents of the kids in the program. If you are unable to sign up to serve as a teacher, please sign up to help as a classroom aide for five Sundays over the church year. Contact Lisa Fritsche (dre@uuchurch.net), and she can help you choose some dates!



Jr. Youth Group Will Fly Once More!



If you'll be in 6th, 7th or 8th grade next year, then our Jr. Youth Group is for you! We will meet in early September, welcome our new members, and make some plans for the upcoming year. Watch your mailbox in August ... a special invitation will be coming your way!

Time to Register Those Kids...On-line!

It is time to update our records! If you have not yet registered your kids, please go to the church website and complete a form for your children. Thanks for your help with this important project.

(http://www.uuchurch.net/re_registration.htm)



A Rainbow House Tale

While buying 18 packs of party hats for our Birthday Bags, the curious clerk asked what they were for. I explained about the bags we donated to Rainbow House each year. She told me that she had lived at Rainbow House. I was dumbstruck, not knowing what to say to her. As she bagged up the hats, she thanked me for what we were doing, and told me that the Birthday Bags would really mean a lot to the kids at the Rainbow House! How nice it was to hear that our Service Sundays really matter to people.



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Columbia, MO 65201-6132

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US Postage Paid
Permit No. 81
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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>



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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.