



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

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Summer R.E. ...for children and adults!

A summer of learning and exploring awaits us at the UU Church of Columbia, with new learning opportunities for all ages.

We are offering Summer Sunday School for children for the first time in a one-room schoolhouse style, using an environmentally oriented curriculum created by our Green Sanctuary team. We look forward to sharing this exciting programming with your children, and we hope that adults of all ages will consider volunteering for a Sunday to help this new program thrive.

We will also be offering a new adult education series this summer – it’s a bit of an experiment I’ve come up with called “**Summernary: A Lay Summer ‘Seminary’ Experience.**” For six Saturdays over the course of the summer, those who are interested may gather to delve deeper into our ministry and heritage. See page 7 for more details.

I look forward to the opportunity to learn and reflect together!

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

Worship Services

June, July and August 2014
Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 1

“Down By the Riverside”

Peter Holmes and Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for our annual church campout and worship service down by the riverside, at Katfish Katy’s Campground. Our main worship service will take place by the river, and the same content, as well as Sunday School programming for children, will be offered at the church for those who cannot or prefer not to journey to the river.

Sunday, June 8

“Heaven on Earth?”

Courtney VanLacy

In Unitarian Universalism, we tend to shy away from ideas of an after-life or judgment day. However, what if we had to answer to our own version of St. Peter? What would we say if we died and had to fess up to our deeds? Did we do our best? We will explore afterlife narratives from different cultures and use them to reflect on our own UU attempts at creating a “heaven on earth.”

Sunday, June 15

“Embodying Creativity”

William Palmer and Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

In a service rescheduled from a February snow day, worship associate and scholar of creativity Will Palmer and Rev. Molly will join forces to explore creativity as a theological and practical concept... a generative force we can engage and embody in our own lives.

(Summer worship service schedule continued on page 2)

Highlights of What’s Inside

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The Searchlight will not be published in July or August. The deadline for the September issue will be Monday, Aug. 18.

Summer Worship Services

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, June 22

“On Being a Redneck UU”

Stephanie Dorman

What does Unitarian Universalism look and feel like to a 35-year-old white male low-wage blue collar worker who barely graduated from high school, has never traveled outside the Midwest, and won't even try to pronounce “Schenectady?”

Get a glimpse into some of the reasons Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed* and Payne's *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* feel offensive to the working poor. Explore what UUs can do to be more radically welcoming to folks who have little choice but to “survive on \$7.35.”

Sunday, June 29

“Populist or Progressive: How to Make the World (Our Community) a Better Place”

Scott Denson

Does reform work better from the bottom up or the top down or both? How does our faith in the worth and dignity of every human being affect our struggle to make the world a better place?

Sunday, July 6

“Silent Sacrifice – Golden Gift”

Kate Mears

We will consider the day-to-day gifts given almost without thought and the semantic difference between sacrifices and gifts.

Sunday, July 13

“Faith at the Edge”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Using the Celtic idea of thin places, Rev. Molly will explore the idea of moving our faith to the edge of what we know – and to society's frayed edges as well.

Sunday, July 20

“Pet Blessing”

Marianne Erickson

In this annual service, we pay special attention to the animals that enrich our lives. Pets are encouraged to attend if they will be comfortable; for those pets too shy to attend, bring a picture. We will also remember pets lost during the last year.

Sunday, July 27

“Hope and History Rhyme”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join Rev. Molly to reflect upon prophetic imagination, apocalyptic hope, and the UU journey to the Promised Land.

Sunday, Aug. 3

“It's a Surprise”

Tracey Milarsky and Melissa McConnell

Sunday, Aug. 10

“The Fire of Thought”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, Parker... all names from the literary and cultural movement known as Transcendentalism. But Transcendentalism was also an important reforming movement in Unitarian history. Join us to learn of this piece of our history.

Sunday, Aug. 17

“The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Corporation?!”

Steve Scott

Our first UU principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person, but the U.S. Supreme Court says corporations are people, too. Learn how the idea of corporate “personhood” has developed, why it is antithetical to what we stand for, and how we can fight for the principle that key human rights belong only to humans.

Sunday, Aug. 24

“Water Ceremony”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and DRE Lisa Fritsche

Join us for our beloved annual ingathering Water Ceremony, a lively multigenerational service marking the beginning of our program year. Don't forget to bring water with you from some meaningful location.

Sunday, Aug. 31

“Inequality and the Religious Left”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

There seems to be a resurgence in liberal religious activism across the country related to the indignity of extreme income and wealth inequality. What place has our faith in this critique?

Honduras Group ready to go

The 17 people who are traveling to Honduras June 12-19 to build latrines and forge deeper relationships with our Honduran sisters and brothers are set to go!

Those going are Paul Byland; Jeremy Duke and Eli Byerly-Duke; Walter, Allie, Gabriel and Leila Gassmann; Chris, Megan and Maddie Hayday; Kristine, Dan, Christian, Sam and Caden Smith; Jackie Verdun; and Sami Baugher.

If you have any used summer children's clothes, soccer cleats or school supplies to donate, please place them in the designated box in the greeting area or contact Allie.

Thanks for all your support over this past year of planning and fundraising!

Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team
447-3619, alliegassmann@socket.net

Notes from the Music Director

Many thanks to everyone who sang with the UU Singers this year, and I hope to see you back next fall.

We will start up with our traditional potluck at 6 p.m. Aug. 20, and we will rehearse regularly at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays after that.

Lost-and-found

The lost-and-found container at the church is located under the coat rack on the main level and is full to overflowing! If you have lost something, be sure to check there soon! The items left in the container on June 30 will be donated to a local charity.

Forum Schedule for June, July and August 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.

June 1 – Cleo Kottwitz will help us celebrate the 70th anniversary of Heifer International. Cleo, like Mel West, is a retired Methodist minister who has long been a program contributor for Forum.

June 8 – Hank Landrum, who taught history and advanced placement at Hickman High School for 30 years alongside George Frissell, will discuss his retirement seven years ago and his move to Westminster College to teach Asian Studies as an exercise in what he calls “intellectual renewal.”

June 15 – Mel West, the most Unitarian of all Methodist ministers, will kick off a summer trend. He will address “Cows, Collies, Chinch Bugs and Cockle Burs – things and experiences that set the values by which I have lived.”

June 22 – Bill Clark will follow in Mel's footsteps with “The Killer B's – Baptists, Barred Rocks, Baseball, Barbells, Birds and Beethoven – How I Became Who I Am.”

June 29 – We will take this hour to review the first 30 years or so of Forum, and determine where we go in the future as our average age must be close to 80.

If Forum has value, we must ensure that it continue as a vital part of the Unitarian Universalist experience. There's no better time to look into the future than June 29.

July 6 – Allen Hjelmfelt will hold court over the July 4 holiday weekend as he has done the past three years. His topic will be announced sometime in June.

July 13, 20 and 27 – Current plans are to have other members of the church bring their tales of what letters of the alphabet have shaped their lives.

Aug. 3, 10 and 17 – If the previous three programs are successful, we will continue them for as many as the first three weeks in August.

We will return to normal programming the final two weeks in August. Topics will be announced.

2013-14 was a year of major policy governance progress

By Steve Scott, 2013-14 President

2013-14 has been a year of major progress in the implementation of policy governance, a process that began several years ago and moved forward under the leadership of Gregory Brown, Rexanna Ipock-Brown, Stephanie Dorman and Maria Oropallo, among others.

Before policy governance, our Board of Trustees functioned as the global decider of almost all issues in our church. Under policy governance, the board develops policies and delegates to the minister as chief of staff the direction of the day-to-day operations of the church.

Two major milestones in policy governance development actually took place toward the end of the 2012-13 year with the approval by the congregation of our mission and vision statements and the adoption by the board of three major policies covering governance process, board delegation of management to the minister, and specified limitations on the minister's authority.

This year one major undertaking has been the review of all old board policies to determine which policies now fall within the realm of the minister's authority and which policies should still be the subject of board policies. Stephanie Dorman kicked off the process by compiling all old policies.

Last summer the board approved formation of a Policy Review Task Force, which I chaired, and the task force then reviewed all old policies to categorize them as board policies or administrative policies. In December, with Rev. Molly's concurrence, the task force's categorization of policies was approved by the board.

The policy task force then undertook the job of revising several existing board policies and writing some new ones. As a result, a gift acceptance/disposition policy has already been adopted by the board, and policies relating to the Peace Building Team, selection of delegates, reserved funds, and church membership are expected to be adopted by June. Another policy on scheduling board oversight tasks should be ready for adoption early in the next church year. In the meantime, Rev. Molly is working on revising administrative policies.

Many thanks to the other members of the policy task force, Mary Denson, Jeanne Murphy, Becky Scott, Joe Szucs and Andrew Twaddle, for their hard work.

Another major undertaking this year was reviewing and proposing revisions to UUCC's bylaws, which had not been revised for about 10 years. The review was prompted by the need to incorporate policy governance principles into the bylaws and deal with other possible changes in view of issues church leaders have been discussing for years.

Last summer the board authorized formation of a Bylaws Revision Task Force, which I also chaired. Other members were Walter Gassmann, Lisa Guillory, Allen Hjelmfelt, Victoria Knapp, Wiley Miller and Courtney VanLacy. I thank the task force for its diligent work, which led to proposed bylaws revisions being approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 18.

Also this year the board, with the leadership of Mary Beth Schillinger, revitalized and staffed the Personnel Committee. The committee's first task was to advise the board on pension plan options in view of the UUA's changes to the pension plans for our minister and staff members. Now the committee is hard at work revising our church's personnel policies, which have not been reviewed for many years.

In another major step toward policy governance, in February the board adopted "Ends Statements" based on the mission and vision statements. The ends statements describe the congregation's specific expectations for the direction of our church.

Finally, the last major step in implementation of policy governance got under way at the board's April meeting with the formation of a Strategic Plan Task Force. The strategic plan, when adopted, will detail the specific means by which our church will fulfill its mission over a five- to ten-year span. It may include plans for program and membership development, staffing, and capital-development.

In summary, it has been a busy and productive year, and I thank everyone who helped. I particularly thank Board of Trustees members, who spent many hours reviewing documents, meeting and discussing issues, and providing wise guidance for our church.

Reflections

Coming of Age Service...WOW!!!!

The COA youth dazzled the congregation on May 11 as they shared their faith statements from the pulpit. We were all very proud to be part of a church that encourages such deep thinking from its young adults.

June 2014
Lisa Fritsche,
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office hours resume in mid-August

Important Dates

June 1 - Summer Sunday School Begins!
Aug 23 - Teacher Training
Aug 24 - Multigenerational Water Ceremony

7th Principle Summer Sunday School begins June 1



Beginning June 1, the church will offer a one-room schoolhouse program centering on our 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Rising Kindergarten kids up to rising 6th graders will take part. Preschoolers will be welcomed in the nursery, and 7th-12th grade youth will be welcomed in the sanctuary or to serve as assistants downstairs. The lessons will be as follows:

- 6/1 - What are the foundations of the web?
- 6/8 - How does the sun tie us all together?
- 6/15 - The ground we walk on: why is it important?
- 6/22 - What is beyond the shade of a tree?
- 6/29 - Where does our water go?
- 7/6 - How do the sun, soil, water and animals look in the web?
- 7/13 - Does food come from the store or the farm?
- 7/27 - What is a pollinator and why is it so important to us?
- 8/10 - What is climate?
- 8/17 - Why "Unless"?

We are looking for four adult helpers each Sunday this summer.
Want to help?
You can find the link to our SignUp Genius on the church website (click the "Sign Up to Help" button at the top of the home page). Please visit and volunteer for two or three mornings!

Still hunting for six Sunday School teachers!

One teacher is still needed in our Thoreau class (3rd & 4th grades), three in our Potter class (preschool) and two in our Schweitzer class (K-2nd grade). Four Service Sunday helpers are also needed. If you can help, please plan on spending 9 wonderful Sundays in the classroom. Contact Lisa Fritsche (dre@uuchurch.net) if you want to help out the kids of the church!

Festival of Sharing

In the autumn, our church will participate in the Festival of Sharing, which is an ongoing social action project for our church. The project goal is to work with other religious groups to provide resources to people in need in Columbia, in Missouri, in the U.S. and internationally.

Both our September and October Service Sundays will revolve around building kits for the Festival of Sharing. On Sept. 7 we'll be packing up 50 "Readin' & Writin'" kits to be used around the state. On Oct. 5 we'll be filling 50 tote bags with supplies for "Schoolkits" to be used around the world.

Filling 100 bags of supplies will require help from the whole church community. Please, sign up to bring whatever you can! And be sure to bring exactly what is asked for... the Festival of Sharing people are very particular! (The SignUp Genius link can be found on the church website.)

Teachers Teachers Everywhere!

SUNNY Sunday was a success! Listed below are the teachers for the 2014-2015 church year:

Potter (preschool)

Kyna Byerly
OPEN
OPEN
OPEN

Schweitzer (K-2nd)

Melissa McConnell
Kara Braudis
Jack Andrews
OPEN

Thoreau (3rd & 4th)

Joe Collins
Kristin Peters
Suzanne Bowles
OPEN

Adams Family (5th & 6th)

Bill Horner
Michelle Kelly
Amy Ewing
Becky Scott
Amanda Rose

YUUTS (7th-9th)

Allie Gassmann
Jenny Bossaller
Melissa Collins
Todd Iveson

Service Sunday

Chelsea Otten
Gena Scott
OPEN
OPEN
OPEN
OPEN



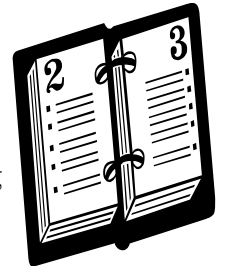
Nursery care for summer services

Once again nursery care for children up to age 5 will be available from 9 a.m. to noon on Sundays this summer.

Teacher training... right around the corner

Teachers, please mark your calendar for **Saturday, Aug. 23**. We will meet from 9 to 11 a.m. This is the gathering at which you will be briefed on what's happening in the classroom for the next year. You will also spend time with the other teachers in your class, and sign up to teach on specific Sundays, so be sure to bring your calendar! Childcare will be provided, if needed. A reminder note will go out in mid-August.

This meeting is REALLY IMPORTANT!



Jr. Youth Group!



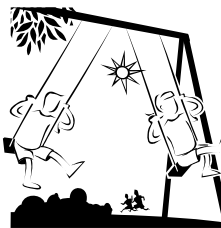
Starting in September, our Jr. Youth (6th-8th graders) will meet on the first Friday of each month. We'll watch movies, eat pizza, and generally have a fun time together. Watch your mailbox for a special invitation!

Remember your water

Our multigenerational Water Ceremony will be held on Aug. 24. Be sure to collect a bit of water from your summer adventures, and tell us your tales when our community gathers together at the start of the church year!



Time to update our playground



Our playground has been around for over 20 years, and it is time for a bit of refreshing. Would you like to join the team that decides how it will be improved? Please contact Lisa F. if you can help with this important project. In the meantime, Kevin Fritsche will be overseeing the construction of three comfy benches to set by the playground. We are looking for both sponsors and builders for this enterprise. Supplies for one bench will cost \$75. Can your family sponsor a bench? Half a bench? Please contact Lisa F. (dre@uuchurch.net) if you can make a donation. We will also need people handy with a hammer or screwdriver, or people who just want to come and cheer us on! Let Lisa know if you can help with construction as well. As soon as a work date is set, it will be announced.

Adult Religious Education Program

Summernary – A Lay Summer ‘Seminary’ Experience

Would you like the chance to deepen your engagement with your own faith formation, the practices of our shared ministry, and the history and theology of our tradition?

Join us for Summernary, a series of in-depth workshops engaging with the topics listed below. Each workshop will require a reading assignment and a writing assignment, to be completed before the session.

Participants may sign up for as many or as few sessions as they prefer. Each session will be on a Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except Aug. 23, which will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and will include lunch. The cost of \$25/session will include the book for that session and lunch. Scholarships are available – contact the minister to apply.

Register by email to Rev. Molly (minister@uuchurch.net) or online at goo.gl/fDHyuv.

The schedule is as follows:

- **Spiritual Formation** – June 15 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Explore your own spiritual biography, as well as discernment regarding the gifts you possess to share with the world.
- **World Religions** – June 28 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
With teacher of religion Courtney VanLacy, participants will seek to understand something of what drives several of the world’s religious traditions.
- **Unitarian Universalist History** – July 12 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Delve more deeply into the history of our rich tradition, using narrative, primary source documents, and biography.
- **Pastoral Caregiving** – July 26 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Discuss how to be a healing presence and how to give ministry amid loss, suffering, and joy as well.
- **The Liberal Theological Tradition** – Aug. 9 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ground yourself in both UU theology and our place in a wider liberal theological tradition.
- **Preaching & Liturgy** – Aug. 23 – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Participants will workshop a sermon they have prepared and discuss the art of preaching and liturgy.

Annual Congregational Meeting Report

At the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on May 18, 2014, the membership conducted the following business:

- The 2014-15 operating budget proposed by the Budget Team and endorsed by the Board of Trustees was approved.
- Jeremy Milarsky, Steve Scott, Gregg Suhler and Jan Swaney were elected to two-year terms on the Board of Trustees.
- Revised church bylaws were approved.
- Annual reports were received from the president, minister, and director of religious education.

In a special presentation at the end of the meeting, Music Director Desi Long, Church Administrator Kathie Bergman and Director of Religious Education Lisa Fritsche were recognized for their years of service. Desi and Lisa received gifts including chocolate and gift certificates. Kathie received the same gifts later as she was unable to attend. Both Desi and Kathie have been on staff for 22 years, and Lisa joined the staff 10 years ago.

Meeting details can be found at http://uuchurch.net/annual_meeting.htm.

Our Mission Statement

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

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 on June 11 and July 9. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

On Aug. 13 the group will meet at 11:45 a.m. at Mizzou North (the former Ellis Fischel at the corner of Garth and the Business Loop). Visitor parking is in the last two rows. Handicapped parking is next to the building. You can enter only through the easternmost doors. Meet Pam in the gift shop of the Museum of Art and Archeology and Museum of Anthropology. They are the first two rooms to the left when you come in the door. Then we will go downstairs for lunch in the new cafeteria. After lunch it will be back to the first floor for a tour of the new Cast Room.

Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at the Osaka Restaurant, 120 E. Nifong Blvd., at 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 13. Bring a book you have read to share briefly. The group also will meet Friday, July 11 and Friday, Aug. 15 at a place to be determined later. Contact Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 for more information.

Pagans: Exploring Our Presence

Interested in a re-energized, re-invented, re-defined Pagan group within the church? Join us on Sunday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m. If you have questions or comments, email or call Barbara, oakshaven@socket.net or 696-1784, or email Jeff at jeff@theordways.us.

Our Presence on the Web

Go to

<http://uuchurch.net>

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

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.

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.

UU Dining Group Announces Kick-off Dinner in September

The UU Dining Group's kickoff dinner and meeting will be held 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12 at the church for people who are interested in joining the program as well as current members. The meal will be provided at the kickoff dinner, and your presence is all that is required. New members are especially welcomed! If you plan to attend, RSVP to Linda Lou Brown (linda@katfishkaty-campground.com).

The goal of the UU Dining Group is to provide in-home dining opportunities from October through April for groups of eight, with good and often unusual food and pleasant conversation with interesting people. These dinners help us get to know each other better.

The couples and singles participating in the dining group prepare and bring food to the gatherings. Extravagant effort or expense with the food is not necessary. The preparation and cooking of the meals is supposed to be as much fun as the consumption of them. Members make their own food choices consistent with the monthly theme.

Annual Dining Group dues are \$15 per couple and \$7.50 per person for both regular members and substitutes.

For more information about the UU Dining Group, go to the church website or contact the church office at 442-5764.



Our 2014 FESTIVAL OF SHARING (FoS) Season

WHAT IS THE FESTIVAL OF SHARING?

An Interfaith, collaborative response to world hunger, poverty, and injustice.

We seek to raise awareness of root causes and address solutions.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

For our seventh year, we will join with 29 other faith groups in Missouri, to provide critical items to people in need. From May to October, we will create packs and kits, with items requested by trusted Missouri, national and international aid agencies. These agencies distribute our gifts for us, networking with the United Methodist Office of Creative Ministry.

WHY DO WE CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE?

We care about people living with injustice, poverty, hunger, high infant and maternal mortality, and crises.

We can make a difference, one kit at a time.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Visit the Festival of Sharing display table in the Greeting Area.
- Browse the information to find a project that speaks to your passion.
 - Adopt a project to do with others or by yourself.
 - Scan the clipboards for small group projects.
- Read our special announcements for specific projects.
- Share your ideas at one of our planning meetings.

RESOURCES & CONTACTS

- Festival of Sharing Display Table handouts
- Marian Hjelmfelt, UUCU Coordinator, hjelmfeltm@yahoo.com or 449-5118
- Office of Creative Ministries <http://www.UMOCM.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 Car-ing Ministry. Please call the church office at 442-5764.

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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.