

The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • www.uuchurch.net • Volume 54, Issue 6, February 2015

Worship Services February 2015

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 1 "Amazing Grace" Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

What is grace, for a Unitarian Universalist? Join Rev. Molly to explore theological understandings of grace in the liberal religious tradition. Where do we find unearned gifts in our lives?

Sunday, Feb. 8 "Saying Grace" Worship Associates

Join us for an exploration of the many cultural and family traditions of "Saying Grace." How do you give thanks before a meal? How has your understanding of saying grace changed from your family of origin? How do we say grace as UUs?

Sunday, Feb. 15 "All Together Now" Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for a lively multigenerational Valentine's Day Worship. We will reflect on the value of community and the ties of love that bind our congregation, and we will kick off our annual stewardship drive.

Sunday, Feb. 22 "Guilt and Grace" Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

What does it look like to receive grace from another person? Often forgiveness comes to us as an unearned gift... Can we learn to truly accept it and let go of our own guilt?

Our February Worship Theme:

Grace

"Grace is something you can never get but only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring it about any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or earn good looks or bring about your own birth."

- Frederick Buechner

In some orthodox Christian theological traditions, God's grace is what saves us – even when we are sinful and unworthy, even when we don't deserve it. In these traditions, grace is a beautiful concept of the unconditional nature of divine love. But Unitarian Universalists generally reject ideas of original sin, and we believe in the inherent worth of every soul, so we don't seem to talk much about grace. I think this is a loss. Can we find our way back to grace?

Our liberal religious tradition says yes. In our tradition grace is not a supernatural salvation, but exists as an awareness of the unearned gifts of life all around us. We did nothing to deserve the beauty of the sunset or the taste of raspberries and cream, but here they are. We cannot earn the gift of forgiveness when we misstep, but so often, there it is.

We receive grace in our own theological tradition when our hearts leap in gratitude at the unearned wonder of life itself. We receive grace when we fail or fall but are loved and worthy anyway, no matter what. Perhaps this kind of grace saves us after all.

Gratitude for our lives and assurance of our worth enable us to live fully and love bravely. This is the gift of grace. Let us accept it graciously.

See you in church!

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Stewardship 2015 "All Together Now"

Our Goal: Pledges from All Individuals/Households

Your Stewardship Team has an ambitious goal for our stewardship campaign this year – pledges from all individuals/households able to pledge. The team has faith that enough will be pledged to meet our financial needs if we are able to show everyone the importance of pledges in planning our budget for 2015-16.

Realistically, with needs on the horizon to support an expanded religious education program and rebuild working capital, we estimate about 20% or \$50,000 more in pledges will be necessary for 2015-16, but we are confident we can reach this level of pledging with expanded participation.

For the current fiscal year, about one-third of our potential pledgers did not pledge. While many of them likely contributed cash in weekly offerings – which is greatly appreciated and helpful – such donations are variable and cannot be relied on in planning our budget.

Therefore, we aim to see a pledge of record from all who are able. Even a pledge of only \$1 per day (\$365 a year) from those who have not previously pledged would take us much of the way toward our anticipated financial need in 2015-16. Of course, we also hope current pledgers who are able will increase their pledges to meet the rest of the need.

This year we have developed "program budget"

Where does your pledge money go?

- Our average Sunday worship service costs about \$1,700.
- We spend about \$1,500 per Sunday on religious education \$23.50 per child in the program. This cost will increase next year with a full-time R.E. Director.
- The cost of our ministries is almost \$2,000 per week.

Included in these figures are staff and facilities costs of \$12,621 and \$1,843 a month, respectively.

While we could not function without and are grateful for our many volunteers, obviously volunteerism alone cannot sustain our beloved church.

Key Stewardship Dates

Feb. 15

Stewardship season officially begins at worship **Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.**

Beatles Karaoke and Sing-Along Party (See page 3 for more information)

Feb. 22

Stewards Training

March 15

Stewardship Sunday (Stewards will call on congregants who have not yet pledged.)

March 22

Last day to submit pledges

information that shows how much we spend in three broad categories: Ministries, worship and R.E. Some of that program budget information is reflected in the box at the bottom of this page, and more will be made available during the stewardship campaign.

Our campaign theme is derived from the Beatles' song "All Together Now," which was on the "Yellow Submarine" album – the cover of which inspired our campaign logo and colors.

The campaign will officially begin with a stewardship sermon at worship on Feb. 15, and we will begin accepting pledges that day.

Because we are a fun-loving church, the Stewardship Team is sponsoring a free Beatles Karaoke and Sing-Along Party at 7 p.m. Feb. 21, and pledges also will be accepted then. See page 3 for more information.

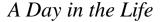
We anticipate many pledges will be received before and on Stewardship Sunday, March 15. After noon that day, our stewards will fan out across town to personally contact those who have not pledged by noon. All pledges are due by Sunday, March 22.

If you have any questions, please ask one of our Stewardship Team members: Steve Scott, chair; Rev. Molly Housh Gordon; Ene-Kaja Chippendale; Margaret Harder; Jeremy Milarsky; Steve Mudrick; Maria Oropallo; and Jan Swaney.

Questions also may be sent by email to stewardship@uuchurch.net.

Join Us *All Together Now* as we enjoy an evening of Fun and Fellowship with our UUCC Friends!

Saturday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia



Across the Universe

Blackbird

Can't Buy Me Love

Eight Days a Week

Give Peace a Chance

Hard Day's Night

Here Comes the Sun

I Want to Hold Your Hand

Michelle

Lovely Rita

Norwegian Wood



- Karaoke with *The Beatles*
- Decadent Chocolate Treats
- Cocktails!
- Child Care
- Game Room for older kids
- Sing, Dance
- Entertain your UU Friends!

Hosted by your UUCC Stewardship Team

To volunteer your best chocolate dessert or to help out with the event, please call or text Maria Oropallo at 573-639-9696, or email her at moropallo@gmail.com.

February Worship Theme: Grace

Wise Words

"Grace is not a strange, magic substance which is subtly filtered into our souls to act as a spiritual penicillin. Grace is unity, oneness within ourselves, oneness with God."

Thomas Merton

"All the natural movements of the soul are controlled by laws analogous to those of physical gravity. Grace is the only exception."

- Simone Weil

"Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we feel that our separation is deeper than usual, because we have violated another life, a life which we loved, or from which we were estranged."

Paul Tillich & Thomas Moore

"The winds of grace are always blowing; it is for us to raise our sails."

- Ramakrishna

"Grace is something good that comes into our lives unexpectedly and we know that we do not deserve it. When grace comes, even in little things, all life suddenly becomes better... to be in the presence of someone with grace is to become more gracious yourself."

John Coburn

"I do not at all understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us."

- Anne Lamott

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

Resurrecting Grace: Remembering Catholic Childhoods by Marilyn Sewell (UU author)

Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice by Erik Walker Wikstrom (UU author)

Beginner's Grace: Bringing Prayer to Life by Kate Braestrup (UU author)

Bless This Food: Ancient & Contemporary Graces from Around the World by Adrian Butash

Kickstart Religious Education Dinner

6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13

Join us for a spaghetti dinner for the whole family, with childcare provided.

We'll give you the update on our transition process as Lisa Fritsche retires and we move toward hiring a new Religious Education Director.

We'll hear your thoughts and dreams about the future of our Religious Education program.

We'll discuss how to make those dreams a reality through our financial and volunteer support.

You will have the chance to make a "leadership pledge" before we begin our stewardship campaign to express your investment in our R.E. community. This event is co-sponsored by your Religious Education Team and your Stewardship Team. All families affiliated with our wonderful R.E. program are encouraged to attend.

Please sign up at http://uuchurch.net/kickstart_re_dinner.htm or by sending an email to kynabyerly@socket.net.

Minister's Monthly Challenge:

Notice Grace

Do you notice the unearned gifts that come into your life? Where are you receiving grace from another person, or from life itself?

And what about giving grace? Look out for opportunities this month to practice unconditional love and random acts of kindness.

This month, notice grace – as you receive *and* give it!

In faith, Rev. Molly



Upcoming Workshop *Volunteer Coordination and Sharing the Ministry*

With Rev. Molly Housh Gordon 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 Light Breakfast Provided

(Childcare available upon advance request by Feb. 14)

The Committee on Ministry (COM) would like to invite you to its quarterly leadership breakfast and training. The topic of this event will be "Sharing the Ministry" and will focus on creating service opportunities and recruiting volunteers. The training will be led by Rev. Molly on Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 9 to 11a.m. in the Centering Room at church. The event is open to all.

The primary purpose of the Committee on Ministry is to promote the spiritual health and well-being of UUCC. In that role the committee is working to develop leadership, build commitment to shared ministry, and help our congregation work to fulfill the mission of our church.

Board settles on transition plan for 3-year terms

The Board of Trustees has settled on a plan for transition from twoyear to three-year board terms in accordance with amended church bylaws approved at the May 18, 2014 annual congregational meeting. The amended bylaws allow the board to facilitate the transition by, among other things, adjusting the terms of current board members.

Under the transition plan, Mary Denson and George Bunyea will have their terms extended by one year from June 30, 2015 to June 30, 2016, and Jeremy Milarsky, Steve Scott and Gregg Suhler will have their terms extended by one year from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2017. All of them have agreed to have their terms extended.

Three new board members will be elected at the annual congregational meeting in spring 2015 for terms beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2018, which will complete the transition to three-year terms in just one year from the time the bylaws were amended.

Our Presence on the Web

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

Forum for February 2015

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

Feb. 1

Bill McMillan will take us into the world of rocks.

Feb. 8

Rod and John Kelly will reprise a discussion of six years ago about growing up black in Columbia at the time of forced integration.

Feb. 15

Dr. Jack Colwill returns to update us on the Affordable Care Act and other things governmental.

Feb. 22

George Frissell will continue his discussion of Islam.

Need a Ride?

Do you need a ride to church on Sunday, or a church function at another time? We are coordinating rides as part of the Caring Ministry. Please call the church office at 573-442-5764 or contact Marianne Erickson, Team Leader.

Programs and Events

First Sunday Potluck - Feb. 1

On the first Sunday of each month from September through June, we gather for our "First Sunday Potluck" immediately following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share so we'll have enough for our guests!

Fair Trade Sale – Feb. 8

Fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate is available for purchase in the Greeting Area before and after worship every second Sunday from September through May.

UUCC Men's Group

The UUCC 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 Wiley Miller.

UU Life Writers Spring Writing Group

UU Life Writers is for people who like to write – and write memoir! One does not need to be a professional writer – or even an English major. We gather to write and share.

We meet the first and third Saturdays of every month in the Centering Room at 10:30 a.m. All you need are your favorite writing implements and paper.

The theme for the spring sessions is "Stepping Stones."

Dates are:

- Feb. 7 and 21
- March 7 and 21
- April 4 and 18
- May 2 and 16, and maybe 30

For additional information contact Fran Reynolds (<u>freynolds@centurytel.net</u> or 443-4336).

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.

Meditation in Nature – Feb. 15 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 who love nature.

For more information contact Peter Holmes at 573-239-7789 or naturemeditation@yahoo.com.

UU Book Discussion Group – Feb. 13

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb 13 at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

Call Pam at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

Conversations, Etc. – Feb. 11

Conversations, Etc. UUCC women's group will meet at noon Wednesday, Feb. 11 at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Melinda at 573-445-6325 if you have questions.

YRUU announces its 7th Annual Valentine's Day Family Dance



Saturday, Feb. 14 6 to 8 p.m. at UUCC

For all ages!

Refreshments will be provided.

Donations of any size are appreciated – they will go toward the YRUU's Summer Service Trip.

See <u>uuccyruu.weebly.com</u> for more

REflections

Donations Needed for March 1 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, Feb. 22:

- Cake mix
- Canned icing
- Birthday candles
- 9"x13" disposable pans
- Party hats
- Party plates
- Party favors
- Party napkins
- Party blowers

Our kids will assemble these supplies, and add their own personal touches to the birthday bags.

Mystery Friends...The Big Reveal!

After church on Feb. 15, all Mystery Friends,

young and old, should gather downstairs in the Centering Room to meet each other face to face! We'll have a snack, and play a getto-know-you game.



February 2015 Lisa Fritsche.

Director of Religious Education dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764

Office Hours:

Sunday 8 a.m.-noon & by appt.

Important Dates

<u>Feb. 1</u> - Project Linus Service Sunday

<u>Feb. 6</u> - Jr. Youth Loaves & Fishes dinner

<u>Feb. 15</u> - Mystery Friends Big Reveal (No 3rd Sunday Lunch)

Mar. 1 - Rainbow House
Birthday Bags Service Sunday

Project Linus Time!

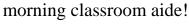
On Feb. 1 we'll be crafting blankets for Project Linus at Service Sunday! Everyone



is invited to come downstairs and lend a hand.

Are Your Hands the Helping Kind?

If so, please sign up to serve as a Sunday



Five are needed each

week, and it really is a fun job. Go to

http://www.signupgenius.com/

go/30e0e44afa72ea02-help1

Can't wait!

March 3rd Sunday Lunch... Deconstructing Machines

Start saving your broken small appliances! So far we've received a blender, a dust buster, a space

heater, headphones, a toaster oven, etc. Our budding engineers want to dig into these items and more at our March "3rd Sunday Lunch," so be sure to bring them to church by Sunday, March 15, and feel free to come join the fun!

Hope to see you at Sunday School this month! The more often you come, the more connections you will make, and the more fun you will have! IT'S **A PROVEN**





Jr. Youth Will Bake Lasagne for Loaves & Fishes

On Friday, Feb. 6, our Jr. Youth will meet at church to put together pans of lasagna to be served at Loaves & Fishes on Feb. 15.

Last month they had a CHOPPED contest, with Rev. Molly & James serving as judges.



Predictions & Resolutions for 2015

Resolutions:

Celebrate
Spend more time with family and friends
Be nice to family
More reading
Practice riding my scooter
Travel to Mexico
Keep up with work and schoolwork

Be healthy/healthier

Predictions:

Dinosaurs will come back to life
We will make snowmen
I will get a pocketknife for cub
scouts

We will have fun in Sunday school

Strategic Planning

Working on a guide to our future

Strategic The Planning team assembled the ideas and concepts derived from last fall's cottage meetings, and we are finding some major and minor themes running through the list. We appreciate all the people who came out to tell us what they want UUCC to be like in the near and far future.

Some concrete ideas:

- Two Sunday worship services
- Open a downtown location
- Develop a ministry on campus students
- Build a community garden on our property
- Reconstruct the deck

has • Live-stream our services Your thoughts?

If you were unable to attend a cottage meeting and you want your voice to be heard, consider participating in meetings being developed around a common time and place of interested people. We would like these meetings to take place in groups, not one-to-one. We have found that ideas and questions are best reviewed with others who share our goal of designing what UUCC will be like in 5-10-20 years.

If you would like to add your voice, please contact Mary Denson at 573-823maryc.denson@gmail.com 3757 to participate in a meeting.

UUCC Grounds Team Vision

Imagine our Unitarian Universalist Church set in a woodland garden that feels peaceful, welcoming, and fascinating. Where you feel at home and want to spend time exploring or just sitting and connecting with the vibrant life around you. Where you can take a walk along winding footpaths and discover little nooks and dells where somebody has placed a sculpture or built a stone cairn. Where you can sit in the shade and watch insects going about their busy lives, listen to the birds singing, and have a relaxed talk with friends. Imagine a wild, safe, playground for your children where they can explore and discover and learn to feel at home in nature.

This is what I want to create at UUCC. I want to make the gardens and woodlands attractive and accessible members of all ages so that the grounds become a natural extension of our church and of our worship. So that our worship and celebration is not confined to a building but expanded to include the rich resources of the wilderness that surrounds it. I want to create a beautiful and soulful woodland garden that will be an inspiration to everybody who visits it.

The Grounds Team meets every second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.

- Peter Holmes, Team Leader

Take a walk to the park – easy access created!

Members of the UUCC Grounds Team recently created easy access for our kids and parents to Shepard Boulevard Park, which is just east of our church's grounds.

A new sign near our church playground will direct through the rail fence and into the park. The trees along the newlyopened fence have been trimmed to provide a line of sight from the church grounds to the city park and playground.

We encourage our church families to take advantage of this welcoming and well-maintained public playground – it's right next door!

Green Sanctuary Team



(More Green Sanctuary News on Page 11)

Living the 7th Principle: Creating Our Own Wild and Wonderful Back Yard Gardens

Sunday, Feb. 8 – 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Vegan Chili Lunch and Childcare Provided

An inspirational video on landscaping for wildlife will be shared after church on Sunday, Feb. 8. Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home," presents the case that we all have the opportunity to protect biodiversity, and that a simple change in the way we look at our yards can make a crucial difference to wildlife. Filled with informative stories and vivid photos, this presentation is empowering for those of us who want to tend our yards in harmony with the natural world.

We'll follow up with a short discussion to share ideas, experiences, resources, and questions.

Please email Jeanne Murphy at <u>jmurphy1203@socket.net</u> or email the church office at <u>uuchurch@uuchurch.net</u> so that we can know how many to expect for lunch and childcare.

– Sponsored by the Grounds Team and the Green Sanctuary Team



Monthly Solar Panels Production Report

Your Carbon
Offset for this
month: 153 lbs
You have offset
the equivalent
of: 2 Trees

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
12/01/2014 - 12/07/2014	1.69 kW	18.8 kWh
12/08/2014 - 12/14/2014	1.40 kW	18.4 kWh
12/15/2014 - 12/21/2014	1.46 kW	10.8 kWh
12/22/2014 - 12/28/2014	1.54 kW	28.1 kWh
12/29/2014 - 12/31/2014	1.52 kW	24.5 kWh
	December 2014 Total:	100 kWh
	Previous Month Total:	164 kWh
	Year to Date:	945 kWh

YRUU Would Love Your Help!!

YRUU Regional Senior Youth Mini-Con Feb. 27-March 1, 2015 at UUCC

UUCC's YRUU youths are organizing and hosting a conference from Feb. 27 to March 1, 2015 for regional UU teens on the theme of "boundaries and consent."

Their goal is to increase understanding of this important topic and empower teens to become activists in creating a culture that respects consent.

The teens of our church have put in a lot of work, and it has already been a great opportunity for them to develop their leadership skills. But they still need the help of their church community to pull this off.

If you are interested in volunteering, we would love your help. We have many roles from helping in the kitchen to organizing supplies to overnight chaperoning. Please email me at jamilabatchelder@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating. Thank you!

- Jamila Batchelder, YRUU Advisor

Green Sanctuary Team News

Green Sanctuary sponsored a vegetarian cooking class that, at the request of some of the participants, turned out to be a vegan class! Joe Szucs, Rita Turner, Elaine Martin, Kathie Bergmann, Jeanne and Dennis Murphy and Corinne Mann chopped and stirred and baked and cooked! Another class will be held in the spring if there is demand for another one. If interested contact lisa.a.guillory@gmail.com.

The City of Columbia has begun taking plastic types 1 through 7. This is good news, but it begs a different use for the new cedar enclosure on the west side of the building. Please stop dropping plastic off at the church, unless you live out of town. As for that lovely cedar fencing... we need more refuse storage space, and discussion is ongoing about how to use the enclosure.

GS Team reminds everyone that bringing your own plates and silverware to potluck uses less hot water and electricity, helping to reduce the church utility bill. Taking your plates and silverware home and including them with your usual dish washing is more environmentally friendly than doing extra loads of dishes at the church.

GS will be sponsoring a table at Earth Day on Sunday, April 19. A SignUp Genius link will be sent to church members in March. Please sign up to volunteer an hour of your time to talk to festival goers about environmental justice UU style!

Columbia Faith Voices

Share, learn, build relationships, and make a difference in our community with Faith Voices of Columbia as we continue talks on Medicaid expansion, predatory lending, and race.

We have some incredible stuff planned and are hoping to share it with every one of you!

Please invite anyone who may be interested in these issues to join us!

For more information, contact Kadie Elmore at <u>Kadie.elmore</u> @gmail.com.

Join the fun with Hook & Needle Group

Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Already know how? Take a break and join our church's Hook & Needle Group.

Yarn, patterns and tutoring are available. We meet in the church on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Marian Hjelmfelt at 573-449-5118.

Community Office Hours

Rev. Molly will be holding community office hours every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee downtown.

Stop by to say hello, chat briefly, or settle in for a longer conversation.



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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.net, or mail to Church Administrator.

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