



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 8, April 2015

Worship Services

April 2015

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5

“Beauty Breaks In”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for an open-minded interpretation of the Easter Story, and a reflection of its relevance to Unitarian Universalist principles and practice. Could the idea of resurrection point us to the places where beauty and hope break through into the dark and difficult times of life?

Sunday, April 12

“A Celebration of the Earth at Springtime”

Green Sanctuary Team

Celebrate the season and the beauty of our earthly home with our Green Sanctuary Team. How can the beauty of spring deepen your relationship to nature and spirituality?

Sunday, April 19

“Spiritual Splatter”

YRUU High School Youth Group

Join us for our beloved annual youth group service. The youth will be exploring graffiti and self-expression. When is graffiti art, and when is it public nuisance? Who decides what is beautiful? And how does the act of creating art relate to our spiritual journeys?

Sunday, April 26

“On the Need for Beauty”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to consider the idea of beauty as a theological concept... and a spiritual necessity. What makes an experience beautiful? How does beauty sustain the spirit? And how can we find and create more beauty in our lives?

Our April Worship Theme:

Beauty

“The human soul is hungry for beauty; we seek it everywhere – in landscape, music, art, clothes, furniture, gardening, companionship, love, religion, and in ourselves. We feel most alive in the presence of the Beautiful, for it meets the needs of our soul.”

– John O’Donohue

It strikes you every now and then... a sense of beauty so unnameable and profound that you can do nothing but halt everything else and take it in. But it doesn’t always strike when you think it will. Certainly I have been brought up short by the color of the sky at twilight or the strains of a cello played with the genius of musical and emotional power. But I have also found beauty in a shouting chorus of anger and resistance or in the sight of heartbroken tears... even in the presence of death and decay.

The philosopher Alfred North Whitehead defined beauty as the experience of a perfect balance of harmony and intensity, peace and excitement, aliveness and surrender, rootedness and transcendence. It is an un-named and un-nameable place – a place between. It is where we hunger to be.

Where do you experience beauty? What feeds your soul?

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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April Worship Theme: *Beauty*

Wise Words

“We need beauty because it makes us ache to be worthy of it.” – Mary Oliver

“Whenever you are creating beauty around you, you are restoring your own soul.” – Alice Walker

“Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike. This natural beauty-hunger is made manifest in the little window-sill gardens of the poor, though perhaps only a geranium slip in a broken cup, as well as in the carefully tended rose and lily gardens of the rich, the thousands of spacious city parks and botanical gardens, and in our magnificent national parks – the Yellowstone, Yosemite, Sequoia, etc. – Nature’s sublime wonderlands, the admiration and joy of the world.” – John Muir

“Our hearts are drunk with a beauty our eyes could never see.” – George W. Russell

“That which is striking and beautiful is not always good, but that which is good is always beautiful.” – Ninon de L’Enclos

“Wisdom is the abstract of the past, but beauty is the promise of the future.” – Oliver Wendell Holmes

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

Truth, Beauty, and Goodness Re-framed: Educating for the Virtues in the Age of Truthiness and Twitter by Howard Gardner

Beauty: The Invisible Embrace by John O’Donohue

On Beauty and Being Just by Elaine Scarry

Notes on the Need for Beauty by J. Ruth Gendler

YRUU Easter Brunch April 5

YRUU’s annual Easter Brunch is scheduled after worship on Sunday, April 5, and will take the place of the April potluck.

Tickets are \$5/person and \$20/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 Greeting Area.

Proceeds benefit the YRUU program.

The Searchlight

Minister’s Monthly Challenge

*Notice beauty in unlikely places...
and try creating some beauty of your own!*

As UUs, we believe in the worthiness and connectedness of all creation. We believe that all creatures are beloved. It follows, then, that we are called to find beauty even where society might fail to notice it.

This month, be on the lookout for beauty. What unlikely places contain beauty when you remember to see the whole world as beloved? Where is beauty being ignored? Consider sharing that beauty with us via photograph, recording, or written description – either by posting online on facebook or twitter with the hashtag #uubeauty – or by sharing on a posterboard put up in the greeting area for the occasion...

And then consider... how can you *add* beauty to an unlikely or abandoned place?

– Rev. Molly

Exploring an additional worship service

Noon Sunday, April 12 • 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25

Have you noticed that the sanctuary often feels crowded on Sunday morning? Have you had trouble finding a place to park? Have you stood in the back of the room searching for a desirable seat?

And yet, do you long for there to be a place among us for all who seek our message and beloved community?

Folks who study church growth and dynamics tell us that when 80% of desirable seats are occupied on Sunday mornings, it is time to add another service or experience stagnation and declining attendance. (“Desirable” means the front row and the seats behind the columns don’t count!)

We have calculated that in our sanctuary, 80% of desirable seats is 104. Our average worship attendance in February was 126, well over the 80% threshold that

experts recommend as maximum

We’ve seen similar numbers for quite some time now – and yet we’ve discerned a desire to continue growing and including new folks in our mission and community. So it seems that if we are to make room for those who seek our message, it is time to add an additional worship service...

And we want your input! What are you looking for in a worship experience? What are your fears about adding a service? What are your hopes? Who isn’t among us yet, and how can we make space for them?

Join us at **noon Sunday, April 12**, or at **10 a.m. Saturday, April 25**, in the sanctuary to discuss these questions and more as we discern how to manage and continue the growth of our beloved community.

DRE search moves forward

The Director of Religious Education Search Team began accepting applications in early March and hopes to be interviewing candidates in April and May.

The job listing is posted at the national Liberal Religious Educators Association website, the MidAmerica Region of the UUA, idealists.org, University of Missouri and Columbia College career pages, and the Columbia Tribune.

If you are interested in the job or know of likely candidates, please do not hesitate to be in touch or pass along our listing, which can be found at <http://uuchurch.net/jobs.htm>.

DRE Search Team members are Carol Arnold, Heather Carver, Joe Collins, Adele Dorman (youth member), Kadie Elmore (youth member), Tracey Milarsky, and Dennis Murphy.

If you have questions or comments about our hiring process, please contact me or one of our search team members.

In Faith, Rev. Molly

Young Adults Group plans Passover Seder

Becca Kastner will host an exploration of the Jewish holiday of Passover at 6:30 p.m. April 3.

More details will follow, but RSVP soon to bmkastner@gmail.com because some special foods will need to be ordered.

All are welcome!

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.

UU Dining Group plans Springtime Dinner Party April 11

All Dining Group participants are invited to the annual Springtime Dinner Party at church at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Meat and drinks will be provided. Those attending the Springtime Dinner Party are asked to bring a side dish, salad, vegetable, dessert, or hors d’oeuvre to share – options will be suggested when you RSVP to Linda Lou Brown.

Newcomers are welcome to join the UU Dining Group at any time, including now! To join, send your **name, address, phone** and **email address** by email to Linda Lou Brown at Linda@katfishkaty-campground.com. Annual

Dining Group dues are \$25 per couple and \$12.50 per person for both regular members and substitutes. The major portion of the dues is spent on the Kickoff Dinner, Holiday Party, and the Springtime Dinner Party; a portion is also used to produce mailings and to attend to any other Dining Group business that arises.

Dining Group dues checks should be made payable to the church, with “Dining Group” noted on the memo line, and given to Church Administrator Kathie Bergman. Alternatively, call Melinda Farhangi at 445-6325 to arrange to pay dues.

Forum schedule for April 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 program ideas or would like to make a presentation at Forum, contact the coordinator, Bill Clark, at 573-474-4510.

Sunday, April 5

“When a Cop Pulls the Trigger.” In a reaction to the recent shootings of unarmed black men, Dr. Wayne Anderson, author of *Stress Management for Law Enforcement Officers*, will discuss the larger context in which shootings occur and officers’ reactions to them based on his work as a police consultant with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies.

Sunday, April 12

Dr. Zakiya Adair, Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, will present “Black Women Vaudeville Performers and Trans-Atlantic Theatre 1915-1940.” She will trace how talented black women such as Florence Mills and Josephine Baker broke free of the limitations placed on them by American theaters and made successful careers in France and England. (Dr. Adair is the 2013 Recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Scholar in Residence at Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York City)

Sunday, April 19

Drs. Carla and Wayne Anderson will present on “The American Civil Rights Movement as seen in Southern mu-

seums.” Based on their travels through the South as reported in their Venture Bound column in *The Columbia Daily Tribune*, they will focus on such places as Little Rock Seven, Rosa Parks Museum, and Birmingham’s Kelly Ingram Park where water hoses and vicious dogs were used against protestors.

Sunday, April 26

Dr. Wayne Anderson will present on “The New Jim Crow,” a discussion of how the criminal justice system has been used to disenfranchise black males by the use of drug enforcement laws with unreasonable stop and search, three strikes means a life sentence, and mere possession of drugs can mean a felony conviction. In the last thirty years we have gone from 300,000 imprisoned to 2,300,000 the largest prison system in the world. The lack of rehabilitation, the lack of voting rights, and the difficulty of finding work keep black males unable to realize their potential. Dr. Anderson has worked with prisoners in the Jefferson City Maximum Security Prison to help develop their rehabilitation program for drug and alcohol abusers.

Green Sanctuary Team news



The Green Sanctuary Team is committed to the issue of growing, consuming, and thinking about food in an ethical way. Several GS Team members and other UCC members participated in the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture workday held at Lucky’s on Saturday, March 14. An urban “milk crate” garden is in progress on the southeast corner of Lucky’s. What an awesome idea – check it out!

Thanks to Janice Smith for hosting another “bag-making” evening March 17. T-shirts donated by church members were cut and sewn into approximately 40 reusable cloth bags. The bags can be used to bring your dishes, utensils, and cups to potluck Sundays. We still need more T-shirts (not fabric), and will soon decide on a distribution plan.

The GS Team is encouraging the church to use environmentally friendly soaps, cleaners, tissues and other products. A rough draft of a new purchasing policy is in the works. Please contact Lisa Guillory with suggestions and ideas for this transition to products that are less toxic

to all living beings.

Earth Day is Sunday, April 19. The GS Team will sponsor a table to promote UCC’s values, programs and activities. Soon UCC members and friends will receive an email link for SignUpGenius. Please volunteer for a couple of hours to meet festival goers and chat about our environmental justice and social justice activities.

April 12 is the Green Sanctuary lay-led service. Come join us as we celebrate the Earth and share what spring means to us. We can’t wait for everyone to see the new Earth Banner!

The next GS Team meeting is at 7 p.m. April 7 at Lisa Guillory’s house. Our meetings are open to all.

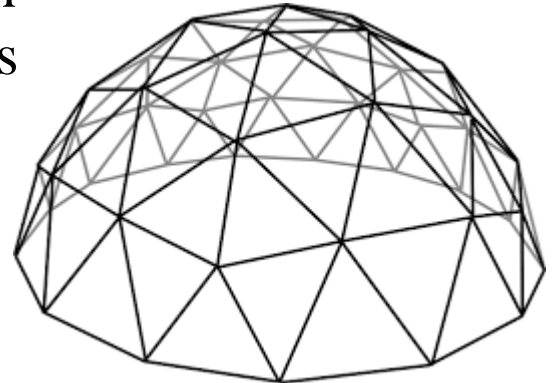


Reflections

April 2015
Lisa Fritsche,
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Office Hours:
Sunday 8 a.m.-noon & by appt.

Jr. Youth Playground Prowl!

The Jr. Youth Group will meet next on Friday, April 3 to romp at playgrounds around Columbia! Members, watch your mailbox for your official invitation with more information. Be ready for FUN!



IMPORTANT DATES:

April 3 - Jr. Youth meeting
April 5 - Easter food hunt
April 5 - YRUU brunch
April 19 - Earth Day

Thanks! To the Braudis family for the book *Celia*. To Karen Dwyer for the stash of rechargeable batteries.



What? No Third Sunday Lunch in April?

The third Sunday in April will be the celebration of



Earth Day!
Let's all head to Peace Park and join in

the spring festivities there.



“What’s This I Hear About Summer Sunday School?”

It’s true! Once again the church will offer Sunday school over the summer months. This summer’s Sunday school curriculum will focus on Dr. Seuss’ stories. The program will be offered in a one-room schoolhouse style for ages 5-12. Older kids can serve as helpers. Adult aides will be needed, so please be willing to offer your help when you are asked.

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

We're thinking about the 2015-16 church year! On May 3 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) - Naomi E., Clara, John, Shennie, Lara, Evie

Schweitzer (K-2nd) - Ruby, Alex, Kylie, Hazel, Keller, Lila, Corinne, Josh, Wyatt, Eva L., Leo B-D., Jonah, Caitlin, Amelie, Torea, Tyce, Griffin

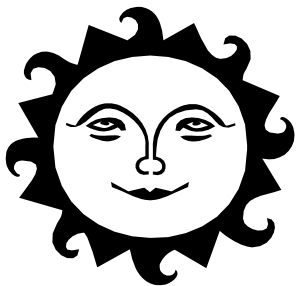
Thoreau (3rd & 4th) - Catherine, Ashlyn, Robbie, Syler, Katie, Zack, Clarity, Camden, Leo O., Lydia

Adams Family (5th & 6th)-Camille, Max, Lincoln, Charlotte, Emma, Shin, Piper, Levin, Maggie

YUUTS (7th & 8th)-Koh, Jack, Jacob F., Naomi G., Andrea, Ellie A., Ella, Ellie C-H., Eva E., Danny

Give Some Thought to Teaching Next Year!

SUNNY (Sign Up Now for Next Year) Sunday will be held on May 3. This is the date on which we sign up to teach during the '15-'16 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.

Be On The Lookout For Used Kids' Magazines

If you have old copies of children's magazines that you no longer need, bring them to church! Elaine Martin is collecting them for the Boys & Girls Club. *Ladybug, Zoobooks, Kids Discover, American Girl, Boys' Life, National Geographic Kids, Sports Illustrated Kids, Ranger Rick, New Moon, Cricket, Spider...*the list goes on and on. There will be a collection box on the table in the R.E. hall through the month of April.



Programs and Events

First Sunday Potluck – canceled

There will not be a potluck in April because the first Sunday is Easter and our YRUU high school group is planning its traditional fundraising brunch on April 5. Please support YRUU by purchasing your meal after worship that day! See page 2 for more information.

Fair Trade Sale – April 12

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.

UUC 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 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.”

Future dates are:

- April 4 and 18
- May 2 and 16, and maybe 30

For additional information contact Fran Reynolds at freynolds@centurytel.net or 573-443-4336.

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 – April 19

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.

Book Discussion – April 10

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. April 10 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. – April 8

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon April 8 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

YRUU is our church's high school youth group. It is open to all high school age teens, including those whose families are not active in our church.

The group meets most Sundays from noon to 2 p.m. and occasionally on other days and at other times.

For schedule updates, see <http://uuchurch.net/yruu.htm>.

Saturday, noon, April 4, 2015

Easter Brunch Lock In

Sunday, noon, April 5, 2015

Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Lay-led Worship Service Planning

Sunday, 10:30 a.m., April 19, 2015

Lay-led Worship Service, lunch afterwards

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26

Youth Conference at First UU in St. Louis

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The Newsletter of:
Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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.