



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • [www.uuchurch.net](http://www.uuchurch.net) • Volume 54, Issue 9, May 2015

## May – the door into summer, opening into possibility

The month of May is the door between spring and summer, a door that opens into possibility, from seed to blossom. As we pause at the threshold of summer, I give you this blessing from the Celtic poet John O’Donohue, who believed in the power of threshold moments for transformation and blessing:

*May you awaken to the mystery of being here and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.*

*May you have joy and peace in the temple of your senses.*

*May you receive great encouragement when new frontiers beckon.*

*May you respond to the call of your gift and find the courage to follow its path.*

*May the flame of anger free you from falsity.*

*May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame and may anxiety never linger about you.*

*May your outer dignity mirror an inner dignity of soul.*

*May you take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.*

*May you be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul.*

*May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.*

See you in church! **Rev. Molly**

### May Worship Schedule

Page 2

### Annual Meeting

May 3 after worship

Board election

Budget approval

Details on page 7

### ‘Down by the Riverside’

May 30-31

Katfish Katy’s

Campground

Details on page 11

## Sign up for summer lay-led worship

With summer right around the corner, it is time to consider signing up to lead a summer service. There is a poster board for sign-up in the Greeting Area with available dates and spaces for you to list your name and your lay-led topic. Feel free to team up with others to lead a summer service if that is more your style.

Also, note that Rev. Molly will be leading a Lay-led Worship Training Workshop for those considering leading services either this summer or in the future. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 16, with breakfast provided. Childcare will be available upon request – please request by May 8, 2015. If you are unable to attend the workshop but interested in leading a lay-led service, please see Rev. Molly.

If you have questions about either leading a summer service or attending the training workshop, please contact either Rev. Molly ([minister@uuchurch.net](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net)) or Will Palmer ([wpalmerdrama@yahoo.com](mailto:wpalmerdrama@yahoo.com)).

### What’s Inside

May Worship; DRE Search; Child Dedication .....	2
Celebration Invitation; Forum Schedule .....	3
Ground Team’s Dreams and Plans.....	4
Honduras News; Leadership Workshop; Grieving Circle .....	5
Stewardship Success .....	6
Annual Congregational Meeting; All-Church Garage Sale .....	7
Green Sanctuary Team News.....	8
Reflections .....	9
“Down by the Riverside”; Programs and Events .....	11

# May Worship Schedule

## *Services begin at 10:30 a.m.*

**Sunday, May 3**

**“Crossing the Threshold”**

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

Certain times and places in our lives mark a threshold between the known and the unknown. Where do we find the courage to make that crossing? Join us for a multi-generational service in which we will honor our graduates and thank our Sunday School teachers.

**Sunday, May 10**

**“What’s Your Ministry?”**

**Committee on Ministry and Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join your Committee on Ministry to explore how we all share the mission and ministry of our community. We will take this chance to appreciate our wonderful volunteers and to explore what gifts each of us brings to the work of our beloved community.

**Sunday, May 17**

**Flower Communion – “Watch us Bloom”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and Heather Carver**

When you sow seeds of compassion, love itself will bloom. Bring a flower from home to share in our beloved annual Flower Communion ceremony, and join us as we honor Lisa Fritsche upon her retirement after 11 years of service as our Director of Religious Education.

**Sunday, May 24**

**“Memory and Imagination”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

As we live into unprecedented times, we pause to consider the contributions of our ancestors and imagine the lives of those to come. When it comes to our lives, our church community, and our very planet, how can we adapt to a changing world in a way that honors past and future generations?

**Sunday, May 31**

**“Down By the Riverside”**

**Peter Holmes and Green Sanctuary Team**

We’re taking church outdoors! Our main worship service this Sunday will be down by the riverside at Katfish Katy’s Campground on the Katy Trail at Huntsdale. We’ll start at our usual 10:30 a.m. time. Please bring a camp chair if you are able and dress for the sun.

For those who cannot or would prefer not join us at the campground, the same service content will be delivered at the church by Todd and Cande Iveson.

In case of inclement weather, the main service will be moved to the church.

## **DRE position expanded, re-advertised**

Thanks to our stellar stewardship drive, we have been able to expand our Director of Religious Education position all the way to 35 hours/week year-round, with a commensurate salary and benefits package. We are re-advertising the job with these changes, and we would love your help getting the word out!

If you know of likely candidates, please do send them to our website, where our job listing is front and center as a blue link at the top of the home page at <http://uuchurch.net>.

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

If you have questions or comments about our hiring process, please do be in touch with me at 442-5764 or by email to [minister@uuchurch.net](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net), or contact one of our search team members.

In Faith,  
Rev. Molly

## **Child dedication** **Sunday, June 7**

Rather than holding Christian-style baptisms or christenings, most UU congregations have child dedication ceremonies for infants and children.

At UUCC, our child dedication ceremony includes a blessing for the life of the child, a covenant between parent and child, and a promise by the congregation to support and nurture the child and family. It is a beautiful moment of celebration and commitment.

We will be holding a child dedication ceremony during worship on Sunday, June 7. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Molly.

# An Invitation

You are cordially invited to:  
A Celebration Lunch  
Honoring Lisa Fritsche, Director of Religious Education  
On the Occasion of Her Retirement  
Noon Sunday, May 17, in the Sanctuary.  
Please do join us!



*If you would like to contribute to this celebration, please email Kathie Bergman at [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net) by May 8.*

## Forum schedule for May 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 474-4510.*

### **Sunday, May 3**

The Rev. Molly Housh Gordon will visit with us about some ideas for future church services and the ideas being put forth concerning the expansion to two services on Sundays – and how that could affect Forum. Her visit is exploratory. Please turn out for this one!

### **Sunday, May 10**

Paul Wallace will return to discuss “The Screwed-Up Middle East and the Rest of the World.”

### **Sunday, May 17**

Dave Schenker will make his annual visit and will discuss “Homer’s Odyssey” and the long journey home from war.

### **Sunday, May 24**

Bill Clark will present the first of a two-part journey back in time when he grew up in a very segregated community and in the Southern Baptist Church, was a part of the first units in the Army in 1952 to be inte-

grated, and came to Columbia to be involved at the street level as integration came to Columbia in the late 1950s.

### **Sunday, May 31**

Bill Clark will continue leading the discussion from the previous week. He will welcome your questions and observations both weeks.

**Now Showing...**  
Reel UUs  
Film & Discussion Group



**Third Tuesdays  
Ragtag Cinema**

**Join us next on May 19  
(Film title and showtime TBD)**



## *Donations gratefully received by our Honduran partners*

Since the Trivia Night in January to raise money for the residents of the Cangrejal River Valley in Honduras, the Honduras Group has been able to make generous donations to three entities.

\$1,000 was donated to the micro-finance organization Adelante. This amount will allow five women in the villages where UUCC groups participated in projects and built latrines to learn about micro finance in weekly classes and to start saving and spending money towards bettering their lives.

\$250 was donated to the health clinic in El Pital. In Honduras this amount goes a long way, and they were able to purchase asthma medication, several kinds of antibiotics, vitamins, and basic medical supplies. When these supplies are used up, we will send them another \$250.

\$1,000 was sent to the Juan Pablo Segundo Sewing

Cooperative and Community Center, and with it and the loan described below, they purchased a new vehicle in order to be able to deliver their wares around the country. Their sales went down significantly when their vehicle broke down over a year ago, and the new vehicle will make a huge difference for many families in the area.

We sent the cooperative \$1,000 as a loan, which is to be repaid by making school uniforms for children who can't afford them and wouldn't be going to school without them. Principals and teachers in the schools will be working together with the women of the cooperative to identify the children in need.

Many thanks to the members and friends of UUCC who donate so generously – it is making a huge difference in one of the poorest countries in our hemisphere.

– Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team

### **Upcoming Workshop: 'Healthy Conflict Resolution'**

**9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 2**

**Breakfast provided**

**Childcare available with advance request  
(Request by April 30)**

The Committee on Ministry (COM) invites you to its quarterly leadership breakfast and training.

The topic of this event will be "Healthy Conflict Resolution." The training will be led by your Peace Building Team from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 2 in the Greeting Area at church. The event is open to all, no matter your role in our shared community.

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.

### **Grieving Circle launched**

Grieving Circle is a new small group recently launched at UUCC. It is a safe, affirming place for those with broken or aching hearts to share their grief, whether out loud or in silence.

Our Grieving Circle will meet twice per month, once for a daytime meeting and once for an evening meeting:

- **Daytime:** 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.
- **Evening:** 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month.

This group will be open on a drop-in basis, so that anyone may come or not as they feel moved. There will be a chalice lighting and a reading to provide some structure, but the main purpose of the group is to be present together and accompany each other through the winding path of grief.

Grieving Circle is open to those grieving *any* kind of loss. All are very welcome. The group is co-facilitated by Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Maria Oropallo, and Barbara Carter.

Our May meetings will be held at **1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13** and **7 p.m. Thursday, May 28** at church. All are welcome at one or both.

# Stewardship 2015



## We Outdid Ourselves!

With great joy and pride in our community, the Stewardship Team thanks everyone who pledged and helped make this year's annual stewardship campaign a truly astounding one.

At the outset, we set an ambitious goal of 100% pledging, and we received a record 164 pledges – a stunning 96% of potential pledgers. Wow! Your pledges show that our community truly understands that we are all in this together.

Here are two more amazing facts:

- Excluding our largest pledge, the average pledge this year was \$1,544, an increase of 40% over last year's average of \$1,103.
- We received pledges from a record 33 first-time pledgers.

And a final stunning fact: We not only reached, but surpassed our \$260,000 dollar goal to fully fund our needs in the coming church year. **Total pledges are now \$287,625!**

Your generosity will allow us to substantially expand our Religious Education staff position, provide adequate resources for our many wonderful ministries and programs, and make a modest start on rebuilding badly depleted reserve funds needed for unforeseen and emergency expenses.

We hoped for a good result, but with your help, together we all picked up our oars and sailed this campaign right off the map into the kind of abundance we only dreamed about.

Thanks again to everyone!

– In Spirit and Service, Steve Scott, Stewardship Team Chair

# Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

May 3, 2015 – After Worship in the Sanctuary

The Board of Trustees has scheduled the Annual Congregational Meeting after the worship service on May 3, 2015. Business to be conducted at the meeting is as follows:

1. Presentation of the proposed 2015-16 operating budget for approval by the members.
2. Election of Board of Trustees members.
3. Presentation of annual reports.

## Notes:

- a) The proposed budget will be made available at [http://uuchurch.net/annual\\_meeting.htm](http://uuchurch.net/annual_meeting.htm) before the Annual Meeting, and members will be advised by email when the budget is available.
- b) The candidates for the three open Board of Trustees seats are Mark Johnson, Ramzie Siebuhr and Janice Smith. Information about and photos of the candidates have been posted on the same page on the website.
- c) Annual reports that become available before the meeting will be posted on the same page on the website.
- d) Because of scheduling conflicts on other Sundays in May, the annual meeting had to be scheduled on May 3. There will be no “First Sunday Potluck” on May 3. Light refreshments and childcare will be available during the annual meeting.
- e) All members who became official church members at least 60 days before May 3 will be eligible to vote at the meeting.

– Steve Scott, UUCS Secretary

## All-Church Garage Sale – another way to be green – by re-using!



We will be having a church garage sale **Saturday, May 23**. We would love to get your help. Here are the tasks we need help with:

- **Sorting and Pricing:** *Tuesday, May 19*, 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m., 6:30-8:30 p.m.; *Thursday, May 21*, 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m., 6:30-8:30 p.m.; *Friday, May 22*, 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Working the sale:** *Saturday, May 23*, 7-10 a.m. and 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Hauling off remains, taking tables down, setting church back up for service:** *Saturday, May 23*, noon-2:30 p.m.

Please donate items that are clean and in good condition – especially clothing! Dirty and tattered just doesn't sell.

To help out, contact Qhyrrae (Kira) Michaelieu at 657-0231 or [qhyrrae@gmail.com](mailto:qhyrrae@gmail.com), or use the SignUp Genius on the church website.



The Transportation Group of Green Sanctuary Team has launched “Travel a Different Path,” asking congregants to be mindful of the environmental impact of cars. We want to draw attention to alternative transportation and ride-sharing.

We chose four Sundays to “travel a different path,” two in April and two in May. For **April 19**, we asked that people park a quarter to half mile away from the church and walk that distance to church. For **April 26**, we asked that people do the above plus carpool or explore carpooling options with neighbors.

Please join us in May for continued efforts to reduce the number of cars used to travel to church and to reduce parking lot use. For **May 3**, continue the above, and if your partner needs to be at church earlier or stay later, a quiet place will be provided to work or socialize while you wait. For **May 10**, continue the above and/or bike, walk, or wheel to church.

The pamphlet “Mindful Journeys” is available in the greeting area. Please pick one up and explore more options for traveling to church. The present average “people to vehicle” ratio is 1.7. As the congregation becomes more mindful of how we travel to church, we can improve that to a ratio of 2! If you have questions or ideas please contact Jan Weaver, Allie Gassmann or Ellen Thomas.

GS would like to partner with Slow Food Katy Trail and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture in their Harvest of the Month Program that takes place in several of Columbia’s elementary schools. Harvest of the

Month brings together farmers, students and teachers. Each time a farmer gives a short presentation, introducing students to local foods and teaching them easy preparation of seasonal produce and products.

We need volunteers to commit two hours once a month for nine months during the 2015-16 academic year to help students pour, stir, and cook, and to stimulate discussion about seasonal vegetables, healthy eating, and the importance of farmers. Please contact Lisa Guillory for more information.

“Down by the Riverside” is May 30-31 at Katfish Katy’s Campground at Huntsdale. The main worship service will be at the campground rather than at the church building. Arrive Saturday evening and bring a dish to share. Come share music and storytelling, and camp overnight if you like, or return in the morning for worship. Coffee, pancakes and sausages will be ready at 9 a.m. Sunday. If you would like to help plan the worship service, or help in any way, contact Peter Holmes.

GS is proposing a church purchasing policy for obtaining cleaning products that are less harmful to the environment. The rough draft of the policy is being reviewed, and recommendations for purchase and lists of products will be given to Church Administrator Kathie Bergmann.

Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 12. All are welcome.





# REflections

May, 2015  
Lisa Fritsche,  
Director of Religious Education  
[dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net)  
573-442-5764  
Office Hours:  
Sunday 8 a.m.-noon and by appt.

**“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 also will be needed, so please be willing to offer your help when you are asked.

## **Important Dates:**

May 3 - SUNNY Sunday

May 10 - Skyping with Senegal at Centering

May 17 - Flower Ceremony Multigenerational Service

May 31 - No Sunday School... we will all be “Down by the Riverside”!

June 7 - Summer Sunday School begins



**SUNNY  
Sunday!**



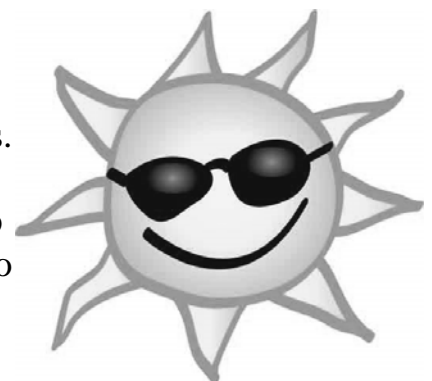
## **Nursery Care for Summer Services**

Once again nursery care for preschoolers will be available on Sunday mornings this summer from 10 a.m. to noon.

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 our RE director, 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! Please sign up on SUNNY Sunday, May 3.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.uuchurch.net/re_registration.htm))



### YUUTS to Visit Congregation Beth Shalom

Throughout the year our 7th and 8th graders have visited different faith communities all over Columbia. Their last field trip will be a visit to Congregation Beth Shalom on Friday, May 8. They have shared worship with Hindus, Buddhists, Greek Orthodox, Episcopalians and Evangelical Christians. It has been quite an enlightening year!

Join your church friends on May 31 at the "Down by the Riverside" Sunday worship service at Katyfish Katy's! Everyone is encouraged to attend!

### ***Ninth Annual 'Down by the Riverside' Campout and Worship***

**4 p.m. Saturday to noon Sunday  
May 30-31, 2015**

***At Katfish Katy's Campground  
on the Missouri River at Huntsdale  
[www.katfishkaty-campground.com](http://www.katfishkaty-campground.com)***

#### **Schedule**

- Potluck – 6 p.m. Saturday
- Campfire – 7 p.m. to whenever
- Breakfast – 9-9:30 a.m. Sunday
- Riverside Worship – 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Arrive Saturday evening and bring a dish to share. Come share music and storytelling, and camp overnight if you like, or return in the morning for the riverside worship service. Coffee, pancakes and sausages will be ready at 9 a.m. Sunday.

If you would like to help plan the worship service, or help in any way, please contact Peter Holmes.

### **First Sunday Potluck – canceled**

Because of the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled May 3, there will not be a potluck in May.

### **Fair Trade Sale – May 10**

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.

### **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 – May 17** ***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 239-7789 or [naturemeditation@yahoo.com](mailto:naturemeditation@yahoo.com).

### **Book Discussion – May 8**

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. May 8 at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

### **Conversations, Etc. – May 13**

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon May 13 at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

Call Melinda at 445-6325 if you have questions.

### **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 442-5764, or contact Meredith Donaldson or Win Scott, Team Co-Leaders.

## YRUU

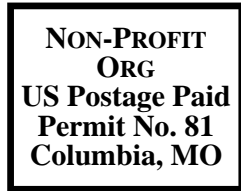
YRUU is our church's high school youth group. It is open to all high school age teens, including those whose families are not active in our church.

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>.

## ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

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



**Return Service Requested**

### **Our Staff**

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Office Hours: Mondays-Wednesdays 1-4 p.m.

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**Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth Religious Education**

Email: [DRE@uuchurch.net](mailto:DRE@uuchurch.net)

**Desiree Long, Music Director**

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**Kathie Bergman, Administrator**

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Visit our Website: <http://uuchurch.net>

### **2014-2015 Board of Trustees**

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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or mail to Church Administrator.

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