



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 10, June 2015

Worship Services

June 2015

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 7

“Don’t Stop Believing”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

In this multi-generational service, we will hold a dedication for several new babies, and we will explore together how we can maintain a belief in beauty and wonder throughout life.

Sunday, June 14

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Clanton

C.W. Dawson Jr.

We are very pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Dawson back to our pulpit. Clanton C.W. Dawson, Jr. is the Pastor, President, and CEO of Dawson Journeys Ministry, a multicultural, multigenerational ministry of hope.

Sunday, June 21

“Buddha’s Brain”

Larry Lile

Join lay leader Larry Lile to explore the meeting of neuroscience and spirituality. How can we train our brains to help us live with mindfulness and compassion?

Sunday, June 28

“A Dose of the Best Medicine”

James Cutts

Join lay leader James Cutts to explore the role of comedy, laughter, humor, and joy in our spiritual lives as we navigate the ups and downs of this life.

Summer Churchin’

*Green was the silence, wet was the light,
the month of June trembled like a butterfly....*

- Pablo Neruda

Summer emerges now, and the very world around us feels like a cathedral. You may be going regularly to the church of the woods, the lake, the garden, the backyard patio. I hope this tremblingly beautiful month in Missouri brings you refreshment and joy.

Our church community is also here for you and full of programs for the summer months! For the second time ever, we are offering summer Sunday School for our children in a one-room school house style at the usual 10:30 a.m. time.

For the first time, we will be holding our First Sunday Potlucks after worship in June, July, and August. We will also be offering exciting worship services from a variety of voices and lots of adult religious education programming (look through the newsletter for more details).

I will be in the office and in the sanctuary this summer save for travel time to our denomination’s General Assembly in Portland in late June and a vacation at the end of July. Pastoral care and caring ministry are available to you as usual.

As you find reverence and renewal through your many summer plans, we hope that you will find them among our community as well.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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Summer Adult Religious Education!

The Brown Bag Reading Group – ‘The Good Life’

Announcing the Adult Religious Education summer discussion series on “The Good Life”! Join us in the Centering Room from 12:15 to 2 p.m. for lunch and lively discussion of the following topics:

June 7: *What is the good life?*

June 21: *How much is enough for the good life?*

July 12: *What’s love got to do with the good life?*

July 26: *In living a good life, what do I owe others?*

Aug. 9: *How do aging and the different stages of life affect the good life?*



Each session will focus on a short reading (one to five pages) for discussion. Readings will be available before each session.

No need to register. Just come to those sessions you can or want to attend.

Childcare can be provided if requested in advance of the meetings.

Any questions can be directed to adultRE@uuchurch.net.

Lunch with TED

Do you watch TED talks? Do you wish you had conversation partners to discuss the ideas these talks raise? Join us!

Join us over your lunch hour the third Thursday of each month throughout the summer to watch a TED talk together and discuss. Bring your own bag lunch.

Your suggestions of favorite TED talks are welcomed by Rev. Molly at minister@uuchurch.net

This is a drop-in offering open to all.

Noon-1 p.m. on Thursdays:

June 18

July 16

Aug. 20



First Sunday Potlucks to continue through summer

We will be continuing our monthly First Sunday Potlucks through the summer!

Please bring a dish to share on the first Sundays of June, July, and August, and please sign up to help with set-up and clean-up!

Creating an anti-racism study group

I have heard from many of you a desire to engage with the national dialogue on race, emerging particularly after the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. and the protests following his death.

I share your desire. This summer, we will begin an ongoing study of race and racism in the United States and develop the tools to become anti-racist as individuals and as a community.

Meeting frequency and times will be determined by the availability of interested parties.

Contact me at minister@uuchurch.net to sign up.

– Rev. Molly

Minister's annual report to the congregation

Ours is a shared ministry. Each of us brings our gifts to this community, and together we are the ministers of the church, living its mission by our courageous love.

Therefore, my report is an accounting not of my own work alone, but of what we have accomplished together. You have much to celebrate, and I feel lucky and grateful to share this life and work with you!

Highlights of Our Year

Over the summer we offered summer children's religious education programming on Sunday morning for the first time ever. Aably led by Melissa Ensign-Bedford, this program provided valuable spiritual development for our kids in a one-room schoolhouse style through the summer months. A notable achievement of this program was the welcome of several new families, who joined our church after entering through the summer RE offering.

In August we dedicated our newly installed solar panels, which have been producing between 100 and 250 kilowatt hours of sustainable energy for our church each month since. Our Green Sanctuary Team has led us in numerous projects examining and lessening our environmental impact since then.

In September we launched a small monthly spiritual gathering at The Center Project, Columbia's LGBTQ community center, which we call The Center Your Spirit Project. Attendance has remained intimate but steady, and the space we have created there is deeply valued by those who participate.

We responded to the death of Michael Brown and the resulting nationwide conversation

regarding racial justice by co-leading rallies, dialogues, and other work. Through Faith Voices of Columbia, dozens of our congregation members entered into challenging and hopeful conversation with diverse members of our community regarding the work that lies ahead of us in pursuit of beloved community. We began to understand what solidarity might look like for us.

In October we convened an Adult Religious Education Team to refocus our energies on spiritual and intellectual exploration for adults. Their offerings continue to grow. We have also had wonderful organic leadership emerge in establishing a Young Adult Group, which has met for discussion and social events over the course of the year.

In the fall, we learned of Lisa Fritsche's upcoming retirement and engaged in a process of discernment resulting in the decision to expand our DRE job description to include work with YRUU and a bigger emphasis on multi-generational worship and community building. We plan to fill this position by August 1, 2015. We applied for and received a Chalice Lighters Grant from the MidAmerica Region of the UUA to fund this expansion of our DRE job description.

Your Stewardship Team led us in a record-setting stewardship campaign to fund our 2015-2016 operating budget. Showing us that we are truly "all in this together," 96% percent of you made a financial pledge to our congregation, helping us near our visionary 100% giving goal and blowing past our aggressive \$260,000 dollar goal.

(Continued on next page)

Minister's annual report (continued)

By The Numbers

- 18 is the number of new members who joined our church since our last annual meeting.
- \$10,231 is the amount of money we have given to causes we care about through our Faith-to-Action collections under the leadership of our Social Action Team. In relationship to our annual budget, this amounts to a 4% pledge to our surrounding community!
- 175 is the number of individuals we have served on any given Sunday morning, counting our average worship, forum, and religious education attendance.
- 178 is the attendance number for our 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning service on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015. This is an all-time high for a Sunday morning service.

Beyond estimation is the number of acts of love that we carried out into our community and our world this year, through formal church programs and individual acts of faith.

Upcoming Work

The following work lies ahead of us in the 2015-2016 program year:

- Hire, welcome, and support our new Director of Religious Education.
- Add a second worship service to manage and continue growth.
- Explore the idea of “Beloved Community” deeply as our year-long worship theme.
- Continue offering and engaging in further faith formation opportunities for adults.
- Focus our justice work through relationship-building.
- Create more opportunities for fellowship and fun.
- Engage with our board in continued strategic planning work.

Gratitude

Let us give thanks for our incredible staff: Kathie Bergman, Lisa Fritsche, Desi Long, and Emily Woodall. Their work has made ours possible this year in so many ways, and the gifts they bring to our community are innumerable.

This year we pause to give special thanks to Lisa Fritsche, upon her retirement, for her 11 years of service shaping and nurturing the spiritual lives of our children!

The volunteers that make this church run are too numerous to name individually, but I hope that we can each make time to give thanks weekly to volunteers who clean and organize the kitchen, take out the trash, fold the orders of service and newsletters, provide us with music, teach our kids, lead our youth, teach us, lead our chalice circles, run our small groups and activities, usher and greet on Sunday, organize our committees and classes and programs, and more. It takes all of us to make church happen, and I am grateful to each of you.

Honoring Those Now Gone

We held services for the following church members, who died this year. We mourn their loss but carry them with us always in memory and love:

- David Valentine
- Ruth Starman
- Hazel Breitenbach

It is with deep gratitude, love, and respect that I submit this report to you.

In Faith,
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
May 2015

UU Music Program Notes

The Sound of UU Music

Wow – what a great year this has been! Thanks to everyone who has sung in the UU Singers, played an instrument, been part of a small ensemble or participated in any other way.

It's time now for summer vacation, but don't forget that UU Singers will be starting up again in August with our traditional potluck/first rehearsal on **Wednesday, Aug. 19. Potluck** will start at **6 p.m.**, and we will start on music for the fall at 7 p.m.

Also anyone interested in being part of the Music Associates and helping to plan our music program is invited to our first meeting on **Sunday, Aug. 9 at noon**. Molly will be providing a light lunch. I will send out a reminder email announcement closer to the time.

And remember – if you haven't found your "place in the choir," August would be a great time to join us. Have a great summer.

– Desi Long, Music Director

Food Bank collections continue year-round

Thanks to all who brought food for the Easter food hunt and the upstairs food barrel.

And thanks to the religious education program for organizing the hunt and to the kids and parents for bringing the food!

You provided 233 pounds that went to the Central Pantry of the Food Bank for Central and North-east Missouri.

Unfortunately, hunger continues to be a major problem, so please keep feeding the food barrel during the summer!

Searchlight goes to year-round schedule

In the past *The Searchlight* has been published only from September through June.

Starting this summer, our newsletter will be published monthly year-round, including July and August.

The deadline for submitting information for the newsletter will continue to be the third Monday of each month.

For more information, contact Church Administrator Kathie Bergman at 442-5764 or uuchurch@uuchurch.net.

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 Meredith Donaldson or Win Scott, team co-leaders.

Forum for June 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 presentation at Forum, contact the coordinator, Bill Clark, at 573-474-4510.

June 7

Siao-Mei Wiedmeyer will discuss the contributions of the Columbia Friends of China, an organization which she helped found.

June 14

James Gordon, husband of our Rev. Molly, is an investigative journalist who will be with us to discuss his summer project and give us a peek at the life of a minister's spouse.

June 21

Cathy Richards, Boone County Public Administrator, talks of the toughest job you'll ever love... handling the problems of those in our county who cannot help themselves – and the problems of financing programs established by law but not funded by the same laws.

June 28

Susan Fales, former principal at Ridgeway School, is a leader in an effort to honor the school and former principal O.V. Wheeler and the nationally recognized Individually Guided Education (IGE) program.

Programs and Events

First Sunday Potluck – June 7

On the first Sunday of each month 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!

UUCU Men’s Group

The UUCU 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.

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 449-5118.

Meditation in Nature – June 21

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 – June 12

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet Fridays, June 12, July 10 and August 14 at 5 p.m. at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

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.*

Conversations, Etc. – June 10

Conversations, Etc. will meet at noon at church on Wednesdays, June 10, July 8 and August 12. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Melinda at 445-6325 if you have questions.

Community Office Hours

Community office hours will be scheduled only occasionally during the summer months.

Watch for special announcements in the weekly email announcements and in the order of service.

Rev. Molly will keep us informed of the date when regular community office hours will resume.

Meatless Monday Potlucks

Our first Meatless Monday UU Potlucks will be on **June 15 and July 20 at 6 p.m.** in the church Greeting Area – with potential for a continuing schedule on third Mondays.

Who? Everyone is welcome! There will not be childcare, but children are welcome to join us for the meal!

How? Bring a **meatless dish** to share (bring plenty), bring your recipe for the recipe exchange, and your own plates and flatware so we can minimize clean up!

This program is sponsored by the **UU Green Sanctuary Team** in order to promote intentional, mindful eating! Contact Kathie Bergman at 442-5764 if you have questions.

Next Honduras Service Trip Planned in 2017

The Honduras Group has decided that the next service trip to Honduras will take place in 2017.

The UUCU group will be going back to the same general area where we have worked in the past and will be working under the direction of the same people. Latrine building probably will again be the main emphasis of the work we do there.

If you are interested and would like to be involved, please contact Allie Gassmann of the Social Action Team: alliegassmann@socket.net.

REflections

Dr. Seuss Summer Sunday School



Beginning June 14, the church will offer a one-room schoolhouse program centering on the stories of Dr. Seuss.

Rising Kindergarten kids up to rising 6th graders will take part.

Preschoolers will be welcomed in the nursery, and 7th-12th grade youths will be welcomed in the sanctuary or as assistants

downstairs. The lessons will come from stories both familiar and unknown.

We are looking for three adult helpers for each summer Sunday.

Want to help? You can find the link to our SignUp Genius on the church's website. Please visit and volunteer for two or three mornings!

Still Hunting for Nine Sunday School Teachers for the Fall!

Two teachers are still needed in our Thoreau class (3rd-4th grades), two in our Adams Family class (5th-6th grades) and two in our Potter class (preschool).

One teacher is needed in our Schweitzer class (K-2nd grade). Two more Service Sunday helpers are also needed. If you can help, please plan on spending nine wonderful Sundays in the classroom.

Contact Rev. Molly if you want to help out the kids of the church!



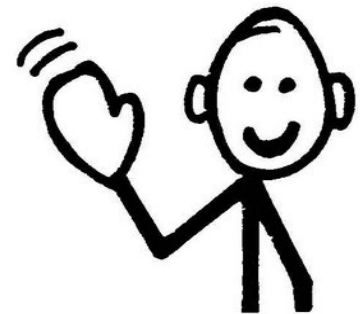
June 2014
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office hours resume in mid-August

Important Dates

June 14 - Summer Sunday School Begins!

Aug. 30 - Multigenerational Water Ceremony

Goodbye & thank you!



As this is my last newsletter page, I want to say goodbye to you all as I retire as your director of religious education.

The 11 years I have served the church have been nothing but enjoyable, and the best part has been getting to know the kids and families of the church. I will miss seeing everyone on Sunday mornings, and I treasure all of the connections made over the years.

I am confident that whoever takes over in the fall will receive the same sort of support you have given me!

– Lisa Fritsche

Teachers, teachers, everywhere!

SUNNY Sunday was a success! Listed below are the teachers for the 2015-2016 church year:

Potter (preschool)

Barbara Carter
Tracey Milarsky
OPEN
OPEN

Schweitzer (K-2nd)

Connie Ordway
Jack Andrews
Jamila Batchelder
OPEN

Thoreau (3rd-4th)

Kristin Peters
Amanda Rose
OPEN
OPEN

Adams Family (5th-6th)

Paul Ladehoff
Jonathan McFarland
OPEN
OPEN

YUUTS (7th-9th)

Michelle Kelly
Bill Horner
Becky Scott
Todd Iveson
Jeff Ordway

UUHS (9th-12th)

Allie Gassmann
Heather Carver
Jenny Bossaller
Melissa McConnell

Service Sunday

Gena Scott
Leanne Reese
Janice Smith
Amy Ewing
OPEN
OPEN



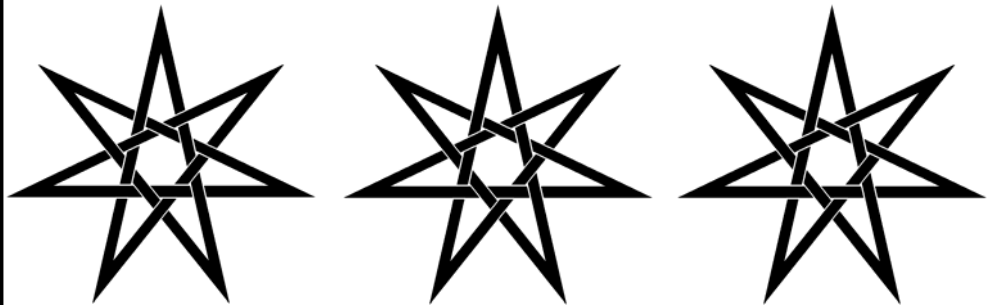
Nursery Care for Summer Services

Once again nursery care for children up to age 5 will be available on Sunday mornings this summer from 10 a.m. to noon.

Time to Register Those Kids...Online!

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)



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. 30. 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!



Green Sanctuary Team News



Your UU Green Sanctuary Team is considering a Bio Blitz (a 24-hour event in which you try to identify as many species as you can). We may do this once a month before church for about half an hour, and the data will be kept in a database. This information will be important as we transition to native plantings. Contact Jan Weaver or Melissa Ensign-Bedford if you are interested in participating.

As the GS team continues our Mindful Journeys project, the Transportation Team reminds everyone that there is a carpool signup sheet in the greeting area. In addition, consider driving part way and completing the journey with a different form of transportation. We look to improve our 1.7 people to car ratio! The fall will bring more interest and ways to promote less car use for church activities. And we are considering a congregational survey asking people to think about how the church's own parking spots should be allocated with regard to people with mobility issues, babies, visitors, etc.

Harvest Supper is being planned, and Chelsea Otten has agreed to chair the team. She is looking for volunteers to help decide the menu and other details. Please contact Chelsea if you want to work on this fun and rewarding event.

Message from the Grounds Team

Are you looking for a way to have a meditative experience in the midst of beautiful surroundings? Well, look no further. The Grounds Team invites you to mow away your troubles as often as you would like. Mowing the UU grounds on the riding mower (located in the UU shed) takes about 2.5 hours, and hearing protection is available. Please assist if you can. Sign up at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0E4BADAA22A31-mowing/13211498. For more information contact Ramzie Siebuhr at 314-484-1919 or siebuhr@live.com.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, June 6, the Grounds Team will be planting natives in the front bed. Please help turn our dream of valuing the interdependent web of life into reality. The more the merrier! For more information, contact Patty Daus at pdaus@mchsi.com, or any of the other Grounds Team members.

Fridays at 8:30 a.m., members of the Grounds Team will continue the battle to keep the invasive honeysuckle bush from taking over our natural area behind the church. The more help the better! For more information contact Peter Holmes at pfolmes63@gmail.com, or any of the other Grounds Team members. For more information on invasive honeysuckle: http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2011/08/cursebushhoneysuckle_2011.pdf.

The next Grounds Team meeting will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 13. For more information, contact any Grounds Team member.

– Patty Daus, Grounds Team Member



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Our Staff

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

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

Email: minister@uuchurch.net

Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth Religious Education

Email: DRE@uuchurch.net

Desiree Long, Music Director

Email: music@uuchurch.net

Kathie Bergman, Administrator

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: uuchurch@uuchurch.net

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

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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Email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net,
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