



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • www.uuchurch.net • Volume 55, Issue 2, August 2015

Worship Services August 2015 Services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 2

“Crossing the Threshold”

Kaleidoscope Pagan Group

UUCC’s Pagan group, Kaleidoscope, is hosting a ritual to celebrate Lughnasadh, also known as the first harvest. Join us to learn more about this traditional Pagan celebration, and to experience this ritual acknowledgement of the turning Wheel of the Year.

Sunday, Aug. 9

“#BlackLivesMatter”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

One year exactly after the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, we pause a year into a national dialogue on race and racism in our country to reflect on our own calling in this time. What is our calling to solidarity with the emerging Black Lives Matter Movement, and how can we best answer that call?

Sunday, Aug. 16

“Making Sense of Sin”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

What does Unitarian Universalism have to say about the theological concept of “sin”? Is it a useful word for naming social ills and personal transgression? Join Rev. Molly to explore this sinfully fascinating idea.

Sunday, Aug. 23

“The Spirituality of Martial Arts”

Jeff Ordway

Join lay leader Jeff Ordway in exploring the spiritual dimensions and lessons from martial arts.

Sunday, Aug. 30

Ingathering & Water Ceremony

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

and DRE Shanon Dickerson

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

Touching Inward Springs

After the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Portland this year, I found myself re-visiting a beautiful string of waterfalls just outside the city, which run alongside the Columbia River in the Columbia River Gorge area. Most were simply visible from lookout points, but one fall was just barely accessible by scrambling over a series of damp rocks. So scramble I did, and there I stood, after the exhaustion and nourishment of a week with 4,000 UUs, and let the spray from the falling water awaken and inspire my sense of beauty, awe and wonder at the marvels of this world.

Maybe it’s just the heat (though I think not), but it seems to me that summer sends us seeking out water. Sometimes we seek the peace of still waters, sometimes the excitement of roaring rapids, sometimes the balanced ebb and flow of the ocean. For me, this summer, it was the vigor of falling water spraying my face that awakened my spirit once more.

William Ellery Channing once said that the great end in religious instruction is not to teach doctrine, but to awaken the spirit, to train us to touch inward springs. In what remains of the summer, I hope you will find a time and a place to touch inward springs, and to find yourself renewed.

When you do – don’t forget to bring a sampling of water back with you for our annual Ingathering and Water Ceremony on Aug. 30.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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Social Action

Honduras Group rallying to support El Pital Health Clinic

The UUC Honduras Group received word in July that the La Ceiba Health Department is threatening to close down the El Pital Health Clinic because it found the clinic building to be in severe disrepair. The El Pital Health Clinic serves all three communities where the UUC Honduras service trip groups have built latrines, as well as many other communities in the Cangrejal River Valley.

The affected communities in the river valley have joined forces to try to raise enough funds to make the necessary repairs, but they are having a hard time with it.

So the Honduras group has sent the \$250 it had in reserve for the health clinic, plus an additional \$250 as a matching donation from the Hayday family. Group members are now individually trying to help out with fundraising. Watch for a possible clinic fundraising event at UUC in the fall.

– Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team
alliegassmann@socket.net



Summer Adult R.E.

Brown Bag Reading Group: The Good Life

The Adult Religious Education Team's summer discussion series on "The Good Life" will conclude in August.

The final session of the series will be held from **12:15 to 2 p.m. on Aug. 9** in the Centering Room. All are invited to join the discussion of "*How do aging and the different stages of life affect the good life?*"

Each session has focused on a short reading (one to five pages). Readings are made available before each session on the church website.

There is no need to register in advance, but don't forget to bring your brown bag lunch.

Questions may be directed to adultRE@uuchurch.net.

Childcare can be provided if requested in advance.

Forum for August 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. Forum coordinator: Bill Clark, 573-474-4510.

Aug. 2

The speaker will be Steffany Cooper, the founder and director of "Because Every Mother Matters," a program designed to help African mothers help themselves.

Aug. 9

By request, Bill Clark will review the many performance venues in Central Missouri and the groups that use them.

Aug. 16

A special "thank you" program to be announced.

Aug. 23

Joel Anderson, well-known area acoustic guitarist and chief of the legal staff for the state Social Services Department, will discuss guitars and play for us.

Aug. 30

Come to hear the history of the violin and a mini-concert by violinist Siri Geenan, concert master of the Columbia Civic Orchestra.

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.*

Programs and Events

First Sunday Potluck – Aug. 2

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!

UUCM Men’s Group

The UUCM 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.

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 at the church on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. For more information, call Marian Hjelmfelt at 573-449-5118.

UU Book Discussion Group – Aug. 14

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Aug. 14 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. – Aug. 12

The Conversations, Etc. women’s group will meet at noon Wednesday, Aug. 12 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.

Meatless Monday Potluck – Aug. 17

Our next Meatless Monday UU Potluck will be on **Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.** in the church Greeting Area. Everyone is welcome! Contact Kathie Bergman or Lisa Guillory for details.

Reel UUs

The Reel UUs Film Group plans to meet on the third Tuesday of each month to view a film and hold a discussion immediately following. Film and location will be announced each month in the weekly emails. For more information, email Janice Smith at janepicurean@gmail.com.

Anti-Racism Study Group

Join us as we seek individually and as a congregation to become more actively anti-racist.

Our study groups meet, for the summer at least, on either Monday or Thursday. Readings are assigned in advance of each meeting. You are welcome to join us for our upcoming meetings in the Centering Room at church.

Second Meeting – Thursday, Aug. 6 or Monday, Aug. 10

Find all readings for the second meeting at:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B22zPfUwojjeV2ZFTTIUNng5Y0k/edit>

Third Meeting – Monday, Aug. 24 or Thursday, Aug. 27

Find all readings for the third meeting at:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B22zPfUwojjeFItMTIVMnRaX2s/edit>

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 the month throughout the summer to watch a TED talk together and discuss. Bring your own bag lunch.

Rev. Molly welcomes your suggestions of favorite TED talks by email to minister@uuchurch.net

This is a drop-in offering open to all.

September Searchlight deadline

Because of vacation schedules, the deadline for submissions for the September *Searchlight* will be the second Monday, Aug. 8, instead of the usual third Monday.

Community Office Hours

In September Rev. Molly will resume her community office hours on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kaldi’s Coffee downtown.

She invites you to stop by to say hello, chat briefly, or settle in for a longer conversation.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING (F of S)

“ADOPT A KIT” and Make a Difference to Someone in Need

Deadline for turning in kits is Oct. 1, 2015

2 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

- Provide everything for one or more kits, or
- Add the items that are missing from one or more partially completed kits.

1. If you want to provide everything for a kit, pick up a shopping list at the **FofS display table**. When complete, return your kit to the container **under the FofS display table**.

2. If you choose to adopt an *incomplete* kit, go to the **FofS display table**. Each kit will have a list of items still needed. Please sign out the kit(s) you want with the information requested on the sign-out sheet. Return your gift to the **FofS display table**. Please sign in your gift and place it in the bin under the display table.

QUESTIONS??

Contact Marian Hjelmfelt at hjelmfeltm@yahoo.com or 573-449-5118



FESTIVAL OF SHARING

IMPORTANT DATES:

* **Thursday, Oct. 1:** Last day for all kits and packs to be left at church. If for some reason, you need more time, please let me know when you can bring them. Feel free to contact me at hjelmfeltm@yahoo.com or 573-449-5118.

* **Oct. 5-13:** Help needed to audit kits for required items, remove extras, determine if we can fill incomplete units, and label boxes for each kit or pack type. Contact Marian Hjelmfelt if you would like to help and share in good feelings about our caring congregation and the joy and benefits recipients will experience.

* **Oct. 17:** Ingathering at Sedalia State Fair Arena and grounds. Everyone is welcome to experience the interfaith activities and collaborative spirit that has energized our UUs who have attended. You may meet with representatives from some of the agencies we serve, see table displays from different churches, browse craft sales from developing countries and creative locals, eat at a food court, and bid at a quilt auction. Car-pooling will be available.

Ministry is what we do together

Grieving Circle

Grieving Circle is a new small group ministry 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 meets twice each month, once for a daytime meeting and once for an evening meeting. **Daytime:** 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday each month. **Evening:** 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday 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.

Kaleidoscope

UUCC's Pagan group, Kaleidoscope, would like to extend welcome to any who feel moved to join us for our more formal evening Lughnasadh ritual at the church at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2.

The ritual will be followed by a potluck, so please bring food to share.

Welcome to All!

An Invitation to Join UUCC

The mission of the Welcoming Team is to make visitors feel welcome, to guide people into membership, and to facilitate the integration of new members into the life of this congregation.

Every quarter the team conducts a "Membership 101" class for people interested in joining our church community. The next class is scheduled Sunday, Sept. 13 immediately after the worship service. To reserve your place in the class, contact Jan Swaney by email at jjswan56@gmail.com

MUUsical Notes

The summer is flying by, and soon it will be time to think about September! The UU Singers will be starting up again in August with our traditional potluck/first rehearsal on Wednesday, Aug. 19. The potluck will start at 6 p.m., and we will start on music for the fall at 7 p.m.

We are a friendly and open group – no auditions – and we welcome new voices in the choir. We generally sing twice a month and rehearse regularly on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. We will be singing at the 11 a.m. services.

Also, anyone interested in being part of the Music Associates and helping to plan our music program is invited to our first meeting at noon on Sunday, Aug. 9.

We will be planning the music for September with special attention to scheduling for the two services. Molly will be providing a light lunch. I'll make sure to get the information out to anyone interested who can't attend on Aug. 9. I'm looking forward to an exciting year.

– Desi Long, Music Director

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 Leaders.

Our Presence on the Web

Go to

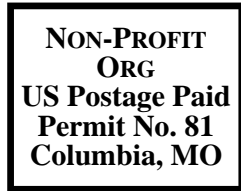
<http://uuchurch.net>

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

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Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

Return Service Requested



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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

The Searchlight is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri.

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 month's edition.