



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 3, September 2015

Worship Services September 2015

10:30 a.m. Sept. 6

**“Dreaming a Better
World for Workers”**

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Utopian imagination has historically been an important part of the international labor movement. Utopian experiments in community are also a part of Unitarian history. This Labor Day weekend we examine the history of utopian visions and wonder together – are we dreaming big enough as we imagine Beloved Community?

9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sept. 13

“Building the

Beloved Community”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

In the early 20th century the philosopher Josiah Royce coined the phrase Beloved Community to talk about a larger vision of justice and flourishing for all. The phrase became deeply meaningful to Martin Luther King Jr. in his work and informs us today as we imagine a world made whole. As we prepare to spend the year contemplating the work of building Beloved Community, join us to explore the history and philosophy of this compelling phrase.

9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sept. 20

**“Beloved Community
Starts with Us”**

Chalice Circle Leadership Team

The development of deep relationships and spiritual growth are essential ingredients to Beloved Community. When we are each more whole, we move more easily toward a world made whole. Join our Chalice Circle Team to reflect on how we build connections, starting with us.

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Starting Sunday, Sept. 13

Join us for worship at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.

Same sermon, same stories, different styles

9 a.m. service

Interactive, intimate, family-friendly

At 9 a.m. the chairs will be arranged in a circle to enhance the feeling of intimacy. We will share joys and sorrows in a spoken-aloud format and add other interactive elements to the service when possible.

Together we will create an expectation that movement is welcome, and a beautiful visual order of service posted on a board will help youngsters and all of us know what’s coming next.

Music will vary in style, with special performances from musical church volunteers and regular offerings from small vocal ensembles.

This will be a family-friendly service with no concurrent religious education program, but childcare will be available.

11 a.m. service

Inspirational, reverent, familiar

At our 11 a.m. service, chairs will face forward, and there will be less expectation of interaction. The children will be present for the first 15 minutes, which will include a story for all ages and a clergy-led ritual of joys and sorrows, and they will then exit to their regular religious education classes.

Music will vary in style with special performances from musical church volunteers and regular offerings from the choir.

Nursery care and our full religious education program for preschool through high school will be offered at this time.

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This church year, all year, we will be exploring the idea of...

Building the Beloved Community

“Since the office of religion is to aim towards the creation on earth of the Beloved Community, the future task of religion is the task of inventing and applying arts which shall win all over to unity, and which shall overcome their original hatefulness by the gracious love, not of mere individuality, but of communities.”

– Josiah Royce

The phrase Beloved Community was coined by the early 20th century philosopher Josiah Royce to name what religious traditions across the ages have called many things: the promised land, heaven on earth, the kingdom of God, Inter-being. The phrase Beloved Community was later adopted powerfully in the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It represents the greater world community we seek to create, the calling of a world made whole and human community made just. The Beloved Community is that greater vision of the flourishing of all beings... *and* the Beloved Community is something we model and rehearse in our own human communities, when we seek to widen our circles and live out the spirit of love.

All year we’ll be exploring together this idea of Beloved Community, and each of our monthly worship themes will delve into a characteristic of this world made whole. Beloved community is deep, compassionate, hopeful, just, faithful, challenging, dynamic, diverse and more.

In the life of a congregation, building the Beloved Community means welcoming diversity, extending solidarity, deepening our connections and covenants, engaging in intersectional justice work, fighting racism, living sustainably, growing our own souls, and so much more.

Join us for a powerful year of reflection, action, growth, and love.

See you in church!
Rev. Molly

For further reflection on our worship theme...

Wise Words

“Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.”

– bell hooks

“There is another element that must be present in our struggle that then makes our resistance and nonviolence truly meaningful. That element is reconciliation. Our ultimate end must be the creation of the beloved community.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“The Beloved Community is not an organization of individuals seeking private and selfish security for their souls. It is a new adventure, a spontaneous fellowship of consecrated men [and women] seeking a new world.”

– Clarence Skinner

Want to reflect further?

Check out these resources...

Awakening the Heart of Beloved Community by Audri Scott Williams

Growing a Beloved Community: Twelve Hallmarks of a Healthy Congregation by Tom Owen-Towle

The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice from the Civil Rights Movement to Today by Charles Marsh

Spiritual Defiance: Building a Beloved Community of Resistance by Robin Meyers

The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible by Charles Eisenstein

September Worship, continued

9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sept. 27

“A Winding Journey”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Beloved community is our desired destination, but it is also the road itself – a road that winds and dips and curves through familiar and unexpected terrain. Join us as we prepare ourselves for the journey.

Forum for September 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.

Sept. 6

Marian Hjelmfelt and Dorothy Watson will present a program honoring the lives of notable women as mothers, wives and caregivers, paying particular attention to their contributions as social organizers and volunteers.

Sept.13

Psychologist Wayne Anderson will discuss how far we have moved beyond Freud in our understanding of dreams. Modern methods of brain scanning have advanced our understanding significantly. We now know more: why we dream, what kinds of stories occur in our dreams, what dreaming does for our mental health, how dreams affect our creativity, and how trauma victims can rework their nightmares.

Sept. 20

Psychologist Wayne Anderson will present on "Treating Trauma Victims: Lessons from the Field." From 1995 until 2010 he made 26 trips into trauma zones with the International Center for Psychosocial Trauma to train teachers, doctors and mental health workers. Many problems needed to be solved for the team to be effective, and much was learned about the best techniques for helping victims overcome the effects of trauma.

Sept.27

Our speaker will be Sandy Davidson, a UMC Curators' Teaching Professor of Journalism and Adjunct Professor, School of Law, and an expert on communications law. She will present on issues she finds relevant to present conditions in this highly political period. In her recent Osher lectures, she focused on the invasion of privacy by the press, individuals and corporations. In her lectures on "Newsworthiness" and "Privacy: Going, Going...Gone?" she explored privacy rights, from drug tests for school children and pregnant women, to phone privacy, thermal imaging, security cameras and drones.

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.*

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Interior and Exterior Design

Yes, there is a team for that, too, and we would love your input. We are a small, informal group, and we don't meet very often now because we haven't had a big project going since we did the exterior sign.

Our next project will be a new "Joys and Sorrows" table. Can we come up with something which will make this ritual of connection feel even more sacred, something that subtly complements our values and is accessible to all?

Recently we added new end tables to the greeting area when the old coffee table gave up the ghost, and not long ago we found our beautiful greeting area chairs from a used furniture dealer. We also selected and installed the tile in the family bathroom when the old flooring failed.

As the church moves to a two-service schedule, space planning issues may emerge. There are minor things we deal with, such as the need for a new bookcase for the blue hymnals. And then there is the messy bulletin board issue – we really need someone to maintain it. Any volunteers?

If you have an interest in joining this team – whether you like the design side or you like to do things like painting and setting tile – or if you have an idea or two, please contact Janet Groat by email at uucc.design@gmail.com.

President's Perspective

UUCC needs your time and talent

In the Russian folktale of the Little Red Hen, the eponymous mother bird and her chicks find a piece of grain and, rather than eating it straight away, decide to plant it as seed to ultimately make wheat bread. For each step of the process – the planting, the harvesting, the baking – the hen asks her fellow farm animals for help. Each time, she is refused. Finally, when the bread is ready, she asks, “Who will help me eat the bread?” Not surprisingly, all the farm animals want to.

Like Aesop’s fable of the ant and the grasshopper, the story here takes a punitive tone – the hen refuses to share the bread, the farm animals are sorry, yada yada yada. To me, though, what happens in the story up to this point is more interesting. We see the dilemma between the value of community (the bread) and the often-invisible effort it takes to create that value (the various tasks performed by the hen and her chicks). The animals who turn the hen down might do so because they’re jerks; but they also might not realize how tasty the bread will be, or how much work goes into it, or that it really wouldn’t kill them to take a few minutes out of their day for great bread.

We all are part of something special here at UUCC. Our church community creates a radically welcoming space for learning, fellowship, spiritual exploration and social action for all of Central Missouri. The fact that I feel I must have left something out of that last sentence (and almost surely did) illustrates how many wonderful things happen in this community.

Each of us, I think, has to consider what we can do to help keep those wonderful things happening. Ideally, it’s a mix of your time, talent and treasure. As this church year begins (our annual budget runs from July 1 to June 30), I’m asking people to consider the first two: time and talent.

We are lucky to have plenty of both in this community. To use them effectively, we need good leaders. Our church operates under a “policy governance” model, which I hope to explore in future articles. But the gist of it is that as a modern nonprofit organization, the church leadership consists of a Board of Trustees and its committees – that generally handle vision, fiduciary oversight and policies – and the ministry, led by our minister – that handles day-to-day operations of the church. Again, I probably left some things out of that last sentence, but that’s the overall gist.

At this time, we have the following leadership needs:

1) UUCC has a Nominating Committee, accountable to the Board of Trustees, in charge of nominating people for open board and committee seats. Currently, there is one opening on the Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee itself currently has four members, and we are looking for at least one additional member, but more would be welcome. Please contact me at jmilarsky@gmail.com if you are interested.

2) We also have a Stewardship Team (which falls under the ministry) looking for new members. This critical team keeps our church financially healthy. Interested folks should contact Steve Scott by email at sscott@scottlawfirm.com.

3) Finally, the church Audit Committee (which reports to the board) is looking for members. This committee performs audits of church finances each year. Please contact me at jmilarsky@gmail.com if interested.

With enough of us chipping in, we’ll make some great “bread” this year.

– Jeremy Milarsky, 2015-16 President

Grounds Team highlights

The Grounds Team would like to thank everyone who has assisted in maintaining the grounds. And there is more to be done:

- Native planting day to be held in the fall. Many hands make light work. We will keep you posted.
- Continued removal of invasive honeysuckle from the woods – often on Fridays at 8:30 a.m.
- Continued planning of an area behind the church in the woods to include a small and safe fire pit for meditation, etc.
- Continued mowing of the UU grounds.
- Removal of part of the fence to allow for ease of access to the city park next door.
- Addition of a sign to point the way to the city park.
- New drainage placed to protect the Memorial Garden from rain run off.
- Native plants placed in the front bed to honor our seventh principle.

Monthly meetings are held at church at 9 a.m. every second Saturday. For more information, contact Patty Daus at pdaus@mchsi.com.

Programs and Events

First Sunday Potluck – Sept. 6

On the first Sunday of each month we gather for our “First Sunday Potluck” immediately after the worship service. Please bring a dish to share so we’ll have enough for our guests!

Men’s Group – Sept. 12 and 26

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.

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 – Sept. 11

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Sept. 11 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. – Sept. 9

The Conversations, Etc. women’s group will meet at noon on the second Wednesday, Sept. 9, 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 – Sept. 21

Our Meatless Monday UU Potlucks are scheduled at 6 p.m. on third Mondays in the church Greeting Area. Everyone is welcome! Contact Kathie Bergman or Lisa Guillory for details.

Reel UUs – Sept. 15

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.

Kaleidoscope – Sept. 19

Join Kaleidoscope at 6 p.m. Sept. 19 at the church as we celebrate M’bon, also known as the Feast of the Second Harvest, or the Grain Harvest. For just an instant, Earth stands balanced between light and dark, and then we tip into the darkness of winter. The ritual will be followed by a potluck. All are welcome.

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.

Chalice Circles



Joining together for deeper connection and spiritual growth

Are you looking for a place to build deeper connections with the congregation and with your own spiritual journey? Well... the search is over!

Our **Chalice Circles** meet monthly to connect and grow from further reflection on our worship themes.

Chalice Circles are formed based on availability and are led by supported facilitators trained in reflection and conversation. **Chalice Circles** are open to anyone age 16 or older, are made up of 7-10 individuals each, and are open to newcomers. Groups meet once a month (or more often, at the discretion of the group).

Registration begins Aug. 30. For more information, visit with our team in the Greeting Area or contact us at chalicecircle@uuchurch.net.

Ministry is what we do together

UU Life Writers Fall 2015

“If They Ask Me I Could Write a Book...”

Books have chapters and so do our lives. This fall the UU Life Writers is starting its 15th (yes, 15th!) year together. We have a book, too, as each year has been a chapter with themes and prompts for our writings.

This fall we will write individual books with chapters about the ages and stages in our lives.

The group is open to all comers. You do not have to be a published or accomplished writer. The fun is just in writing our stories, listening to others' stories, and enjoying writing.

We meet in the Centering Room at 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of each month. The fall dates are:

- Sept. 19
- Oct. 3 and 17
- Nov. 7 and 21
- Dec. 5 (and maybe 19)

Call or email Fran Reynolds for further information (573-443-4336, freynolds@centurytel.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 Leaders.

Grieving Circle

Big 'L' Love

Julius Lester, author, musician, novelist and civil rights activist, who for 32 years taught in the Afro-American Studies department and later in the Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, wrote:

“The highest tribute to the dead is grief and gratitude, because both lie in Love.”

We agree, because real gratitude humbles our selves and exalts the loved. Many people in grief write a gratitude journal. This practice, often suggested by therapists, focuses one's emotions toward positive memories to help alleviate the pain. As the journal writing progresses, the sorrow lifts, and we remain grateful for our loved one's presence in our lives.

Our Grieving Circle this month will center on the big “L” Love, as we share our gratitude for whom/what we have lost. We shall raise the love as we listen deeply to one another, as we comfort and support one another through each step we take toward healing. We will exalt our beloved by spending precious time together in their memory.

Join us, no matter where you are in your grief journey. Gatherings will take place in the Sanctuary at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.

This small group ministry is facilitated by Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Barbara Carter and Maria Oropallo.

2015-2016 R.E. teachers needed!

Teachers are still needed for the Potter, Schweitzer, Thoreau and Adams Family classes.

In addition, two more Service Sunday volunteers are needed.

Please help us make this transitional year a success by volunteering.

You can contact me by email at dre@uuchurch.net. Thank you!

– Shanon Dickerson, DRE

Welcome to all!

An invitation to join UUC

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 after the 11 a.m. worship service. To reserve your place in the class, contact Jan Swaney by email at jjswan56@gmail.com

Our presence on the web

Go to
<http://uuchurch.net>

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

Green Sanctuary Team news



The Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17. Tickets will go on sale in the church Greeting Area on Sunday, Sept. 20, both before and after worship. Please buy your tickets as early as possible so we can better estimate the quantity of food needed. Volunteer signup sheets will be at the ticket table. This is a large event that takes many hands to go smoothly. Please volunteer for activities that include setup, food preparation, entertainment, preparing appetizers, setting up wine and drinks, and clean up. We need lots of volunteers. Contact Chelsea Otten and Lisa Guillory, co-chairs. **See more information on the next page.**

Church cleaning and paper product supplies are gradually being replaced with environmentally friendly products. As conventional petroleum-based cleaning products are used up, they will be replaced with “green” products in restrooms, kitchen, etc. Contact Lisa Guillory with any questions or comments.

GST is a strong supporter of the city switching to automated trash collection. This is an important social justice issue regarding employment hazards and worker health. Please read Jan Weaver’s letter in the July 17 *Columbia Daily Tribune*.

Vegetarian potluck for Meatless Mondays occurs on the third Monday of each month. The September potluck is scheduled at 6 p.m. Sept. 21 at the church. In keeping with UUA Ethical Eating Guidelines, we’ll be discussing water usage on American farmland.

The next GST meeting will be held at Lisa Guillory’s house at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8.



LAID BACK LABOR DAY

4-7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7, 2015

A potluck picnic, friends, and miscellaneous fun.

What better way to spend Labor Day than doing nothing much with friends and family?

Join us near the Native Garden behind the church.

Bring a dish to share, chairs or a blanket, and games/drums/other fun stuff as you desire.

New to the church?

This is a great way to get to know us!!



Local Harvest Supper Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015

"Harvest time is a time of joy."

– *Sunday Adelaja*

Purchase tickets by Oct. 11
Childcare provided in the nursery

The Local Harvest Supper will take place this year on Saturday, Oct. 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and wine. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. After dinner and dessert, we will have musical entertainment, and possibly some poetry and storytelling. An entertainment chairperson is still needed so if you are interested in organizing the entertainment or playing an instrument, singing, storytelling, etc., please contact Lisa Guillory at lisa.a.guillory@gmail.com or Chelsea Otten at chelsea.otten@gmail.com.

Tickets will go on sale Sunday, Sept. 20. They can be purchased in the Greeting Area both before and after worship services. Ticket prices are kept low and only cover the cost of purchased food, and the majority of the ticket sale monies are spent at the Columbia Farmer's Market on the morning of the event, buying delicious locally grown produce. If you have a financial hardship and need assistance to purchase tickets, please contact Church Administrator Kathie Bergman at uuchurch@uuchurch.net. Or if you cannot get to church to buy tickets, contact Chelsea Otten or Lisa Guillory.

What about making pies the night before the event? That has yet to be decided because we may have an alternate idea for preparing desserts. We'll have more information about this in the October *Searchlight*.

Why do we celebrate the local harvest? Missouri farmers grow an abundance of food. It is more ethical to buy food locally rather than food that has been shipped thousands of miles. This type of event is held in England, and several years ago Ellen and Ian Thomas thought it was a good idea to introduce this tradition to our church. Buying food ethically fits our UU values.

We need lots of volunteers to make this event run smoothly. At the ticket table each Sunday there will be signup sheets for the various jobs such as food preparation, cooking, setting up the sanctuary, and cleanup. When you purchase tickets, please sign up to cover at least one shift. We can't do this without you, and it's a lot of fun to work together and a good way to meet church members. We appreciate the volunteers who make the Local Harvest Supper possible!



Come join us for a fabulous feast for the
Festival of Sharing

at the Shepard Park Picnic Pavilion
2717 Shepard Blvd.

6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18
(Feel free to come early to enjoy tennis, soccer,
playground equipment and the nature trail.)

Menu

Fabulous Salads
Fabulous Beverages
Fabulous Food
Fabulous Desserts

Everyone is welcome.
Bring the whole family for playground fun.

Adults – \$10
Families – \$30
Youth under 18 – \$5
Kids under 5 – free



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

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Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

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Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee Downtown

Wednesdays 1-4 p.m.

By appointment (including evenings and weekends)

Email: minister@uuchurch.net

Kathie Bergman, Administrator

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

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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.