



# 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 55, Issue 4, October 2015

## Worship Services

October 2015

**Services begin at  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

**Sunday, Oct. 4**

**“All Creatures of the  
Earth and Sky” –**

**Blessing of the Animals**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon  
and DRE Shanon Dickerson**

Join us for an Intergenerational Blessing of the Animals Service. This service is a time when we rededicate ourselves to the care of other creatures and learn about the beloved animals in the lives of our fellow members and friends. You may bring your well-behaved pet in a carrier or on a leash or bring a photo of your pet. You may also bring a photo of any deceased pets you would like to honor during a time of remembrance.

**Sunday, Oct. 11**

**“Both/And People in an  
Either/Or World”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

One important task of spiritual community in our time is to create space that resists the polarizing forces of our national dialogue and instead sinks into the truth of paradox in our lives. How do we live as complex people in a world that wants us to be only one thing or the other?

**(Services continued on Page 2)**

**October Worship Theme:**

# Beloved Community is ...

# Deep

*“For a tree to grow tall, it must grow  
tough roots among the rocks.”*

*– Friedrich Nietzsche*

“The Trembling Giant” is a colony of Quaking Aspen trees in Utah that is classified as one of the single largest living organisms on the planet, as well as one of the oldest.

The reason for both classifications is this: because it shares one giant root system, this forest of around 42,000 Aspen trees is considered one living organism.

Above ground, the colony stretches up as individual trees, while deep underground, its roots connect each tree into one living thing. This vast root system renders the trees resilient to wind, drought, and fire, and even when the individual trees die, the single shared root system sends up more stems. So while each tree only lives for around 130 years, some scientists claim that the Trembling Giant itself could be as much as a million years old. A million years old, and the whole and its parts are all flourishing, because the colony is grounded in rich soil, deep of root, and intertwined.

So it may be for us.

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## Community Office Hours

Rev. Molly will be holding community office hours every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee downtown.

Stop by to say hello, chat briefly, or settle in for a longer conversation.

## Worship Services

October 2015

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

(Continued from Page 1)

**Sunday, Oct. 18**

“Stories from

Beloved Communities”

UU Life Writers

At the UU Church of Columbia, we believe that life itself is a sacred text for us to interpret and explore. Join the UU Life Writers group for this beloved service, as they share moving stories from their own lives and journeys.

**Sunday, Oct. 25**

“The Wild, Shy Soul”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

“The soul is wild,” writes Quaker leader Parker Palmer, “and the soul is also shy.” Join us to explore the importance of creating space to invite the wild, shy soul into our lives and our community. How do we find the courage and the vulnerability to go deep with our own spirits and with one another?

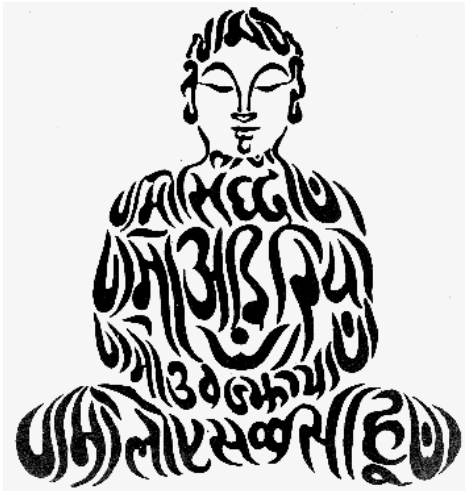
## Beloved Community is ... *Deep*

(Continued from Page 1)

Our congregation nourishes each other and the larger Beloved Community when we are grounded in the rich soil of spiritual depth and practice. The world we dream about takes root amid the paradox and the complexity that comes from our interconnection. It blossoms from the vulnerability of open hearts and the risk of real relationship.

We will only find Beloved Community when we are willing to venture down to the root, below the surface of our everyday interactions, into the questions that drive our souls, the truths that break our hearts, and the yearnings that urge our spirits on.

Join us this month, and let's go deep.



See you in church!

Rev. Molly

## For further reflection on our worship theme

### Wise Words

“It is not length of life, but depth of life.” – *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

“I am inviting you to go deeper, to learn and to practice so that you become someone who has a great capacity for being solid, calm, and without fear, because our society needs people like you who have these qualities, and your children, our children, need people like you, in order to go on, in order to become solid, and calm, and without fear.” – *Thich Naht Hanh*

“Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind.” – *Albert Schweitzer*

“We need a repeated discipline, a genuine training, in order to let go of our old habits of mind and to find and sustain a new way of seeing.” – *Jack Kornfield*

“At any moment, you have a choice, that either leads you closer to your spirit or further away from it.” – *Thich Nhat Hanh*

### Want to reflect further?

### Check out these resources...

*How to Love* by Thich Naht Hanh

*Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brene Brown

*Between the Dark and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life* by Joan Chittister

*What the Mystics Know: Seven Pathways to Your Deeper Self* by Richard Rohr

# Forum for October 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.

## Oct. 4

George Frissell will return for his semi-annual visit to review another of the world's religions.

## Oct. 11

David Webber, who recently returned from a teaching assignment in Korea, will visit with us about a new play he has written.

## Oct. 18

Consuela Johnson, Executive Director of Fun City, USA, will review the past year and outline plans for the youth program which has been around since 1970 – when a group of ministers and teachers founded this much-needed addition to our community. Rev. Mel West and his wife were among the founders.

## Oct. 25

Margaret Tollerton will return to update us on the program “Missouri Cures” and on stem cell research.



## Upcoming Workshop: 'Leadership Start-Up'

With Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

**9 to 11 a.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 24**

**Light Breakfast Provided**

**Childcare available with  
advance request**

The Committee on Ministry (COM) invites you to its first leadership breakfast and training of the church year.

This “Leadership Start-Up” Workshop will focus on building relationships between leaders of church programs and working together toward the vision and mission of our church.

The workshop will be led by Rev. Molly and will take place in the Greeting Area at church. All are invited to attend.

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.

## **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).

For more information, contact the Chalice Circles Leadership Team by email at [chalicecircle@uuchurch.net](mailto:chalicecircle@uuchurch.net).

## 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.*

## President's Perspective

# Planning, Strategically

Many of us have heard the old adage – most often attributed to Ben Franklin – that “if you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” This rings true at our church, where volunteers are working on a strategic plan to give our community direction in the coming years.

While strategic planning may seem at first like a dry activity, it can be a way for those interested in church leadership to get up to speed on where we're going and, importantly, a guide for those already in leadership positions to make decisions.

But guidelines of this level of importance cannot be crafted by a handful of people (however hardworking they may be). Any strategic plan of value for an organization like our church must be the result of wide collaboration.

Last year, the Strategic Planning Task Force, led by Mary Denson, hosted a series of “cottage meetings” to gather ideas from our community. As many of us

know, more people have joined us since then! In an effort to get input from newer members and friends, we're hosting a get-together with newer members and friends of the church. Please keep an eye out for an announcement in the next month's edition of *Searchlight*.

If you have ideas about where you would like to see our community in the next five to ten years, why not share your thoughts? We need good ideas! Shoot an email to Stephanie Dorman at [teacher@bestfx.net](mailto:teacher@bestfx.net).

By early next year, a strategic plan should be drafted. But honestly, this is a process that does not – and should not – end. As our community changes and grows, so, too, should our strategy. So we're going to keep listening, keep tweaking our plans and, ultimately, keep the leadership of UCC collaborative, transparent and effective.

– Jeremy Milarsky, 2015-16 President

## Honduras News

Even though the next UCC service trip to Honduras will not take place until 2017, we are staying in touch with our Honduran partners. The UCC Honduras group raised funds and gave sizeable donations to several groups and agencies in Honduras:

- **Adelante** is a micro finance organization, and five women in “our” communities are improving their own and their families' lives through participation in Adelante.
- **The sewing cooperative and community center in El Pital** was able to buy a reliable vehicle with our grant and is now able to sell its wares across the country again. The cooperative has already been able to pay back our loan by making school uniforms for children who can't afford them and would not be able to go to school otherwise.
- **The health clinic in El Pital** is under threat of closure due to its disrepair. A big community effort is under way to make the necessary repairs, and we were able to make some financial contributions to help.

The generous financial contributions of members and friends of UCC are making a big impact on three poor communities. I have been asked to convey our Honduran partners' deep gratitude and blessings to you. Above all, they know they have friends and allies who are rooting for them and who care for them. We too are enriched by their willingness to sacrifice and work hard to better their communities' lives and by the gift of their friendship and partnership.

– Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team  
[alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)

# Ministry is what we do together

## **CROP Hunger Walk and Run 2015 coming in October**

The CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk and Run is an annual nationwide interfaith event that combines fun and fundraising to raise money for hungry people in Columbia and throughout the world.

This year the run will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Twin Lakes Park. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and the run will start at 9 a.m.

The walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 18. Registration will start at 1 p.m. at Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church at Seventh Street and Wilkes Boulevard. Walkers will depart the church at 2 p.m. and take either a 0.9-mile family walk or a 2.2-mile challenge walk through downtown Columbia.

**Let's have a *big UCC presence* this year!**

For more information on CROP Hunger Walks, please visit [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

To pick up a form or to donate, visit the CROP table in the greeting area between services and after the 11 a.m. service between now and Oct. 17, or contact Allie Gassmann of the Social Action Team by email at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net).

## **Grieving Circle**

### **What We Do:**

We are here to support you in your grief.



We are present. We listen.

We let you talk and cry and talk and cry without putting a time limit on it and without judging.

We don't tire of hearing your "story."

We encourage expression of the facts, details and emotions related to the loss – because we believe it is a simple but profound method of living with your grief.

We ask, "How are you doing today?" No pressure or expectations – simply checking in. We just say, "I'm so sorry," and we cry with you.

Grieving Circle will meet at the church two times in October:

- Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. (note time change).
- Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.

Grieving Circle is facilitated by Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Barbara Carter and Maria Oropallo.

### **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.

Friends, help us find the right words to describe UUCC's present *and* future. Something along the lines of:

"The Beloved Community" – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A Revolution of Tenderness and Love" – Pope Francis

Send your ideas to:

[maria.r.oropallo@gmail.com](mailto:maria.r.oropallo@gmail.com)

## **Do you enjoy the sun on your face, a breeze at your back, and the company of others?**

The Grounds Team requests your help:

**Saturday, Oct. 3, at 9 a.m.**, to remove non-native plants.

**Saturday, Oct. 10, at 10 a.m.**, to plant native plants and lay down mulch.

**Every Friday at 8:30 a.m.**, to continue the battle against invasive honeysuckle. Join the fight!

## **Join the fun and go native!**

For more information contact Patty Daus at [pdaus@mchsi.com](mailto:pdaus@mchsi.com).

## **Our presence on the web**

Go to <http://uuchurch.net> for complete information on church activities and our online calendar of events

## Programs and Events

### Men's Group – Oct. 10, 24 and 31

The UUCS 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 – Oct. 9

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

Call Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

### Conversations, Etc. – Oct. 14

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

Call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6325 if you have questions.

### Life Writers Group – Oct. 3 and 17

The Life Writers Group meets on the first and third Saturdays each month at 10:30 a.m. in the lower level of the church.

This fall the group is writing individual books with chapters about the ages and stages in their lives.

### Reel UUs – Oct. 20

The Reel UUs Film Group gathers on the third Tuesday of each month to view a film and hold a discussion immediately following.

The film and location are announced each month in the weekly emails.

For more information, contact Janice Smith at [janepicurean@gmail.com](mailto:janepicurean@gmail.com).

### Are you wondering about the First Sunday Potluck?

We want to stay true to what we love about our congregation *and* nurture our wonderful growth... knowing there are many ways to create the deep connection and radical welcome we so value.

Our recent survey about alternative potluck formats will help us discern how we can continue to build community and break bread together in a way that fits the needs of our growing congregation!

On Oct. 4 we will experiment with one of the ideas – First Sunday Pastry and Finger Food Potluck – from 10 to 11 a.m. between the worship services. This activity will be in lieu of the usual potluck lunch. We hope you will want to participate! Bring food to share and enjoy this new way of fellowship on Oct. 4.

A final decision about the monthly potluck will be publicized as soon as possible.

### UU Book Table

The Book Table and cabinet are located adjacent to the sunny seating area in our Greeting Area that overlooks the meadow and wildflowers behind our church. Available are books on:

- Unitarian Universalist theology and history
- Peace-making and peace-building
- Parenting
- Meditation, poetry and spirituality
- Personal growth
- World religions
- Social issues and current events
- UU children's and teens' books.

The Book Table is designed as a service for our members, friends and visitors. Its purposes are to have books readily available to enhance current religious education programs in the church and to serve the reading interests of Unitarian Universalists.

# Reflections

## Great Big Spooky-Wooky Recycled Costume Contest



This is an event for all ages co-sponsored by Green Sanctuary and RE. Join us for a Great Big Spooky-Wooky Recycled Costume Contest on Oct. 18 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Greeting Area of the church. Have you seen *Chopped*? (Check it out on Youtube!) Well, here's the green form of it!

Participants will be given costume-making supplies with one hour to come up with the scariest, silliest, cutest, or craziest costume with their team. No experience is necessary as creative coaches will be standing by. Winners will receive amazing recycled rewards and UU fame! Costumes will be paraded at the Halloween Party on Oct. 30 (you are welcome to create and wear a recycled costume to the parade even if you can't make this event).

Help us prepare by bringing the items listed below to Shanon's office and sorting them in the appropriate bins. For more information, contact Patty Daus ([pdaus@mchsi.com](mailto:pdaus@mchsi.com)) or Shanon Dickerson ([dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net)).

Remember, bring clean, green items only – no glitter, spray paint, store-bought items, power tools, etc. Here are some examples of things to bring: egg cartons, bottle caps, plastic bottles, CDs, twist ties, soda tabs, aluminum cans, food cans, plastic grocery bags, cardboard bigger than a 5' x 5', TP or paper towel rolls, foam food trays, and clean foil from yogurt cups.

### Are you interested in giving a hand in Sunday School?

We still need aides to help in the Sunday School classrooms and with Service Sunday. If you are interested, please sign-up through one of the links below, which indicate the classroom/Service Sunday at the end. We will also place these links on the RE section of the website to make it easy to sign-up. We hope you will join us!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44afa72ea02-potter>  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44afa72ea02-schweitzer>  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44afa72ea02-thoreau>  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44afa72ea02-adams>  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44afa72ea02-yuuts>  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e44afa72ea02-service1>

**Shanon Dickerson**  
Director of Religious Education  
[dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net)  
573-442-5764  
**Office Hours:**  
Sundays & by appt.

### Important Dates

Oct. 2 - Jr. Youth Group  
Oct. 9-11 - COA Chalice Circle Retreat  
Oct. 18 - Great Big Spooky-Wooky Recycled Costume Contest  
Oct. 23 - YRUU Poetry Night  
Oct. 30 - Halloween Party

### YRUU Poetry Night!

On Oct. 23, YRUU will be hosting a Poetry Night from 7 to 9 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come show your support & enjoy the fun evening they have planned... bring a friend!



### Halloween Party!

An intergenerational Halloween Party will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 30. Recycled costumes will be paraded, pumpkins will be decorated and preparations for Día de los Muertos will be made for Sunday, Nov. 1. Come one, come all!



# The Good News Team invites you to breakfast

The strategic plan being developed by the Good News Team (a/k/a Strategic Planning Task Force) can best be described as an aspirational document with realistically attainable outcomes for the next five to ten years. The plan will address the question, “How do we strengthen our community, our faith?” Through programmatic approaches and constant evaluation, the plan will lay out how UUCC will satisfy the deep yearnings of its members to live our mission so all may work to achieve the greater good.

Some of the plan’s elements will concern infrastructure, brick and mortar, financial health and growth, and engagement with the larger community. The plan will also turn the magnifying glass inward – are we doing the best job possible to keep the church and our life-saving faith alive in Mid-Missouri?

What we’ve heard so far:

- Our Minister’s energy is astounding and makes us proud to be UU.
- The Chalice Circles helped me make friends.
- We are getting attention from the larger community and press. How do we increase this?
- There could be more opportunities for people be more involved in social action at church and through our programs.
- We need to find ways to build ownership of our environmental stewardship efforts.
- What about entrepreneurial ministries?

- How can we adapt to newer ways of doing things?

- Can we try to be a multi-site church?
- Is an annual budget process the most effective way to manage our finances?

These are but a few of the elements that will inform our long-range plan.

Have you been heard on the issues that constitute our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats?

Are you new to UUCC (within the last three years), and do you have opinions and wishes for how we can better live our mission in the next 5-10 years?

An opportunity to share your ideas with the Good News Team is coming soon, probably in the first part of November.

If you want to be specifically notified of the breakfast meeting, please contact Jeffrey Richter at [jeffrey.richter@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.richter@gmail.com) or Maria Oropallo at [maria.r.oropallo@gmail.com](mailto:maria.r.oropallo@gmail.com).

We will provide coffee, baked goods, fruit, pen and paper. You will provide your heart, your logic and your dreams.

We will try to estimate how many people may attend, but if you can commit to attending, drop a line to coordinator, Maria Oropallo.

If you wish to provide ideas, but cannot come to a meeting, please send your thoughts to Stephanie Dorman at [teacher@bestfx.net](mailto:teacher@bestfx.net).

## Plan to ‘Shift Gears’ in October

The Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary Committee invites members of the church to “*Shift Gears*” in October and use cars less to get around. We are especially interested in having people use cars less to get to church. Here are some suggestions to help.

**Park and Walk** – Park 1/4, or 1/2 or 1 mile away from church and walk the rest of the way.

**Carpool** – Check to see if someone is going your way and share a ride.

**Come Along** – If someone in your family is going early, tag along instead of coming later in another car.

**Walk** – If you live within a mile or two, explore walking routes to church and plan to walk.

**Bike** – If you have a bike and live within five miles, plan to bike to church.

**Offsets** – If none of these work for you on Sunday morning, offset your church trip with walking, biking or taking the bus someplace to which you normally drive.

By taking one or more of these steps, you are on the road to a more sustainable, just and joyful way to get where you are going. Check the Green Sanctuary Corner in the foyer for tips, ideas, and encouragement!





## Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper is Saturday, Oct. 17. Dinner is served family style and the sanctuary is transformed into a welcoming environment with simple fall decorations.

Tickets are on sale in the greeting area between the 9 a.m. service and 11 a.m. service, as well as after the 11 a.m. service.

This year we'll be using Patchwork Farms pork and farmer's market veggies to make a winter vegetable shepherd's pie, along with a butternut squash and apple bake. A vegetarian option also will be available. There will be appetizers before the meal, and pie for dessert (gluten-free options available).

It takes *many* hands to make this event successful. Please sign up for a volunteer shift when you buy your tickets!

*The final day to purchase tickets is Sunday, Oct. 11. Please buy your tickets early so the planning team can make appropriate estimates for food purchases.*

## Bulletin Board

Green Sanctuary has a new bulletin board layout. Check out our programs, ideas, and schedule of events on the GS bulletin board in the greeting area. Contact Jan Weaver if you have ideas and submissions for the display.

## 'Shift Gears'

The transportation subcommittee encourages everyone to participate in "Shift Gears" through the month of October. The goal is for congregants to drive fewer

cars to church and to find alternate ways to get to church, such as biking, parking farther away, and walking, carpooling, etc.

The subcommittee will collect data on the number of cars used each week and attempt to document improvement in the congregation's success at using fewer cars to get to church. See the bulletin board for our transportation ideas and more details about "Shifting Gears" on page 8.

## Grounds Team

The Grounds Team needs continued help trying to control invasive plants on church property. See the GS bulletin board and watch for email blasts that announce work days.

There are plans to improve another bed with native plants – working on easier beds first, then working toward those that have more difficult or larger plants to remove.

Kudos to the Grounds Team for the lovely plantings in the front bed.

## Support for Roll Carts

GS Team fully supports the conversion to automated roll carts for trash and recycling pick up. We encourage people to speak to other Columbia citizens about the social justice impact this will have with regard to worker safety. Be loud and vocal about support for an automated trash pickup!

## Next Meeting

The next GS Team meeting will be at Lisa Guillorey's house at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20.

## Meatless Monday Potluck – Oct. 19

The Meatless Monday UU Potlucks sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Team are scheduled at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of the month in the church Greeting Area.

Everyone is welcome! However, in order to support the continuation of this event, **we are asking for you** to indicate your interest in advance.

Please call Kathie Bergman at 573-449-3264 to make your reservation.



## ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

The Newsletter of:  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
2615 Shepard Blvd.  
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### **2015-2016 Board of Trustees**

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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Email to [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net),  
or mail to Church Administrator.

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