



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 7, January 2016

Worship Services January 2016

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

Sunday, Jan. 3

**“La Befana and
Burning of the Grudges”
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon,
DRE Shanon Dickerson
and Jamila Batchelder**

Join us for an Intergenerational Burning of the Grudges Service. We will learn about the Italian Epiphany tradition of La Befana, and together we will burn away all the things that pile up and hide the light inside each of us.

Sunday, Jan. 10

“People Power”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to explore the role of power in systems of injustice and movements for justice. How do we discern how much power we have in any given situation? How do we rearrange dynamics of “power over” to those of “power with” that makes space for each person’s “power from within?” Can an exploration of power be a deeply spiritual exercise?

Sunday, Jan. 17

**“Nonviolence: The Only
Road to Freedom”**

**Anti-Racist and Justice Team
of Social Action Team**

Join us to honor the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and consider the calling of civil rights struggles in our time. We will particularly explore Dr. King’s philosophy of non-violence and how we can practice non-violence in our own lives.

(Continued on Page 2)

January Worship Theme

Beloved Community is... **Just**

“Justice is what love looks like in public.”

- Cornel West

Beloved Community, writ large, demands the impossible, or at least the very difficult: that every being have the capacity to thrive in a vast interconnected world. This is a complex vision, one that requires a sense of justice based less in black/white judgment than in a relational awareness centered in love.

When it comes to practicing ordinary acts of justice in our individual lives, we come up against further difficulty: We are small and can never see the universal picture. This is why I love Cornel West’s statement that justice is what love looks like in public. We can never know the full picture, and things are never simple, but when we are centered and in touch with our deepest selves, we can usually discern what the loving action is. This is why the pursuit of justice must be spiritually rooted. It requires our perpetual grounding in an ethic of love.

What would it look like if West’s words were the standard for our lives, separately and together – simply to exercise love, in private *and* in public, in an ever-expanding understanding of our interconnected lives?

Join us this month to explore this and many other questions about power, non-violence, mercy, and more!

See you in church!

In the pursuit of justice,
With love, Rev. Molly

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Founders Day Celebration – Saturday, Jan. 30



The Rev. William T. Haney
UCC Minister 1989-2010

*Please Join the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia
Saturday evening, Jan. 30, 2016
at 7 p.m. for a*
Founders Day Celebration

**Celebrating Our 65th Anniversary
and Honoring Our
New Minister *Emeritus*,
The Rev. William T. Haney**

*Welcome Bill and his family.
Learn about our history and legacy.
Celebrate our ministries.
Enjoy decadent desserts and jazzy entertainment.*

Worship Services
January 2016
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
(Continued from Page 1)

Sunday, Jan. 24
“Just Mercy”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to explore the relationship between justice and mercy and to consider this year’s UCC and UUA Common Read book, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stephenson, as he names the lack of mercy and justice in our contemporary criminal justice system.

Sunday, Jan. 31

**“Building Community,
Building Bridges”**

Founders Day Service

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to honor and celebrate our history and legacy with this Founders Day Worship service. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia. Where have we been, and where are we going?

***For further reflection
on our worship theme***
Wise words about justice

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

“No man suffers injustice without learning, vaguely but surely, what justice is.”

– Isaac Rosenfeld

“Corn can’t expect justice from a court composed of chickens.”

– African Proverb

“The greatest movement for social justice our country has ever known is the civil rights movement and it was totally rooted in a love ethic.”

– bell hooks

“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.”

– Frederick Douglass

Forum for January 2016

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.

Jan. 3: Steve Scott, UUCC Webmaster, will demonstrate how to get the most out of the church website as an information resource.

Jan. 10: Julia Gaines, chair of the MU School of Music, will present the brief history of percussion in music and use her mallets on a variety of things in a concert.

Jan. 17: Dr. Jack Colwill will return for Part II of his talk about the future of our health care system.

Jan. 24: David Leuthold will lead a discussion of “The Amazing, Stultifying and Occasionally Brilliant Array of Candidates” asking for your vote in March (Missouri Presidential Primary) and April (city issues and City Council).

Jan. 31: The Rev. Mel West will try to explain to us “What in the World Preachers Do.”



New Year's Day hike on Jan. 1 – meet at 1:30 p.m. at the church

Come join us at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 1 at the church to start an interesting and energetic walk in the good company of esteemed UU members. This is a chance to get off the couch, take a break from screen addictions, and burn off holiday calories.

The length and route of the walk will depend on the weather and who joins us, but we hope to hike at Three Creeks Conservation Area. Halfway through the walk, we will stop and build a small campfire.

Email Peter Holmes at pfholmes63@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Minister's Message

Parental Leave

Dear UU Churchers,

As James and I prepare with great joy to welcome our first child in mid-February, your Board and I have prepared a comprehensive plan for coverage during my parental leave, which your Board has adopted.

I will be on leave for 12 weeks beginning upon the birth of the baby, who is due on Feb. 14. This means I will return to full-time ministry in early May. While I am away, my duties will be covered in these ways:

- A professional pastoral care minister will be on contract for the entire time of my leave to provide pastoral care as needed and to support our Caring Ministry Team members, who will continue their great caring work.

- Worship services that I would have led will be led by exciting guest preachers, both from our local interfaith community and from our surrounding UU community. These preachers will be substantially supported by our Worship Associates.

- An Executive Team of four lay leaders will be appointed by the board to manage all of my administrative and executive capacities in my absences. This will include ongoing availability to the congregation to discuss any issues that may arise, support of our ministry teams, and support of our staff.

- All of your ministry teams will continue their wonderful work, as the shared ministry of our congregation truly depends upon “them/you!”

I am so grateful for the support and well wishes of the congregation as James and I prepare to become parents!

Be on the lookout in the February *Searchlight* for introductions and contact information for your Executive Team and Pastoral Minister.

In Faith,
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon



Building a latrine during UUCC's 2014 Honduras Service Trip

Honduras Ministry Trivia Night and Chili Cook Off

Saturday, Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia
2615 Shepard Blvd.

Tickets are \$20 per person or \$12 for students.
Purchase for a team of six for \$100.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or at the church on Jan 3, 10 and 17.

CASH prizes • Child Care • Silent Auction • 50-50 Raffles

**Confident in your chili? Bring chili to share by
5:45 p.m. for a chance to win a cash prize.**

Join us for a night of fun, prizes and good food!

**All proceeds go to support UUCC latrine building
and other partner projects in Honduras.**

For more information, please email Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net.

On Leadership

This is an article on leadership, and I struggled with the beginning. Fortunately, the Unitarian Universalist Association came up with a better beginning than I could. So I'm stealing theirs (from www.uua.org):

Leadership development in our congregations should be an extension of faith development. But our congregational leaders need more than technical training, they need a combination of skills and qualities to enable them to be both skillful and faithful. This nuanced difference in the meanings of the words "training" or even "development" could be described as "leadership formation."

How we choose our leaders, how we engage our community with its vast and nuanced resources, how we support and connect with each other – all of that, for me, ties into leadership development. And in this time of great change in the community that is the Unitarian Universalist Church, there are more than a few lofty goals. The stakes have seldom been this high, as I see it.

Put simply, we are a growing and changing community. With those changes comes great opportunity. More on point, those changes also come with great responsibility. We have to take a good hard look at how we approach leadership and how we choose leaders for this community.

Ideally, we should focus on leadership development – an ongoing process that inspires creativity and helps people discern their gifts and equip themselves with training – rather than simply reacting to vacancies.

This is a long-term goal. Quite frankly, we have a lot of work to do before we get there.

Meanwhile, we continue to have leadership roles that need to be filled – and a Nominating Committee to help fill them. Members of the Nominating Committee, charged with finding talent for church leadership roles, are:

- Kevin Fritsche
- Melissa McConnell
- Jan Swaney
- Maria Oropollo

Among the tasks for this year's Nominating Committee is the nomination of three new Board

of Trustees members for terms beginning July 1, 2016. Board members serve three-year terms. Board officers, including the church president, are appointed by majority board vote and serve one-year terms.

Generally, the Board of Trustees is a nine-member body serving as the chief governing board of the church. The board approves the annual church budget for submission to the membership, evaluates the performance of the minister (who is the chief staff member), and is responsible for articulating the church's mission and vision, among other things. Board members also are encouraged to help with the church's annual stewardship/fundraising effort.

Ordinarily three new board members are elected each year for three-year terms. However, because one of our board members, Ramzie Siebuhr, recently resigned, we also have a fourth, immediate, opening. An interim board member will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the board; this interim member will serve until June 30, 2016.

At the congregational meeting next spring, members will vote on candidates to fill the remaining two years of Ramzie's term that will end June 30, 2018 as well as three three-year terms that will end June 30, 2019.

Speaking for myself, service on the Board of Trustees is indeed "an extension of faith development." Please consider serving on the board and submitting your name to one of the Nominating Committee members, who can be reached through the church directory.

– Jeremy Milarsky, 2015-16 President

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.***

Ministry is what we do together

Social Action Team News

Diversity Breakfast

Plan to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Breakfast and related events.

The 2016 Columbia Values Diversity Breakfast will be on Thursday, Jan. 14. Our church will again be a major sponsor! Consider attending.

Related event information, including the MLK march on Monday, Jan. 18 should be in the papers and on the city website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Guest at Your Table

Our “Guest at Your Table” fundraiser for the UU Service Committee brought in over \$800. Thanks to those who contributed. If you didn’t get a chance, you can go to www.uusc.org to contribute.

Thanks to All

Thanks to everyone who gave to the Faith to Action collections in 2015.

And thanks to those who fed the food barrel – 260 pounds went to the Central Pantry between July 1 and Dec. 16 to help our neighbors (and us – people from our church have used it). Please continue to bring in food.

Happy New Year to All.

**More social action news –
page 9**



Non-Violent Communication Workshop on Sunday, Jan. 24

A light lunch and child care will be provided at this workshop sponsored by the Peace Building Team and the Anti-Racist and Justice Team of the Social Action Team after the 11 a.m. worship service on Jan. 24.

“Be the Peace” that you want to see in yourself, in your family, and in the world by developing the NVC skills that help make life and relationships more wonderful.

Everyone is welcome! Parents, teens, activists, adults... everyone will benefit.

Contact Caya Tanski-French for more details or to RSVP for the lunch (cayasadhana@yahoo.com).

Our presence on the web

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

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

Grieving Circle meets at church every month on the second Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and on the fourth Thursday at 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. Come, share, listen.

More information at <http://uuchurch.net/grieving-circle/>.

Follow us on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrievingCircleUUCC/?fref=ts>.

REflections

Let's Get Together!!!!

A Family Potluck is planned in the Sanctuary/Greeting Area on Friday, Jan. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m.



The plan is simple – eat, chat, watch *Despicable Me*, and enjoy spending time together. Bring your family and a covered dish to share!



December RE Photos

...see more on the
DRE FB page!



Shanon Dickerson

Director of Religious Education

dre@uuchurch.net

573-442-5764

Office Hours: Sun. & by Appt.

Important January Dates

3 - RE Team Meeting

8 - Jr. Youth Group

16 - Teacher Training

22 - Family Potluck



Teacher Training on Jan. 16

RE Teachers and Aides are invited to a Teacher Training Session in the Centering Room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16.

Join us for a time of learning, sharing, and growing together. Rev. Molly will lead us through a session on "Developing Our UU Selves," and then we will enjoy pizza and conversation together.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Programs and Events

Men's Group

The UUCC 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 call Wiley Miller at 573-864-8574.

Meditation in Nature

Come into the peace of wild things...

If you are seeking a more inward expression for practicing your faith, *Meditation in Nature* may be just for you.

The gatherings take place on the third Sunday each month from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. at the new fire circle behind the church. There will be a fire if it is cold.

UU Book Discussion Group – Jan. 15

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Jan. 15 at ABC Chinese Cuisine, 3510 I-70 Dr. S.E. Bring a book you have read to discuss.

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

Conversations, Etc. – Jan. 13

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon on Jan. 13 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 on hiatus in January

The Life Writers Group will not meet in January. In February it will resume meeting on the first and third Saturday each month at 10:30 a.m. in the lower level of the church.

Community Office Hours

Rev. Molly will be holding community office hours on Tuesdays 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.

Reel UUs – Jan. 19

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 and on the website.

For more information, contact Janice Smith at janepicurean@gmail.com.

Everyone is Invited to a

Baby Shower

Honoring Molly Housh Gordon and James Gordon

Saturday, Jan. 9 at 2 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia



We will welcome their sweetie-pie by sharing pie!

To help and/or contribute, please contact Corinne Mann, Sarah Williams, or Melissa Collins

Gifts are not necessary. If you do wish to give something, consider a cloth diaper or a wish or blessing for Baby Gordon!



Social Action Team Updates

“...the true measure of our commitment to justice, the character of our society, our commitment to the rule of law, fairness, and equality cannot be measured by how we treat the rich, the powerful, the privileged, and the respected among us. The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned.”

— Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*

Upcoming activism opportunities:

- Provide staffing for Room at the Inn for two weeks, Jan. 3-16
- MLK service at church on Jan. 17
- MLK commemorative march beginning at Douglass High School at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18
- Honduras Team Trivia fundraiser on Jan. 23
- Non-violent communication workshop in collaboration with Peace Building Team on Jan. 24
- Future Faith-to-Action collections for Minority Men’s Network and Missourians Against the Death Penalty

16 people attended the December meeting of the Social Action Team.

23 people attended the November meeting of the Social Action Team.

SAVE THE DATE

Chris Crass is coming on April 9 and 10, 2016.

Chris is a UU author, educator and movement builder who will give a four-hour workshop on “Anti-racist vision and organizing in white communities” on April 9. On April 10 he will be a guest in our pulpit.

You won’t want to miss this exciting social justice weekend at UUCC!

Social activism efforts in November:

- Pride Trivia night to support MidMO Pridefest on Nov. 7.
 - UUs raised \$100.
- MU student activism 10 p.m. prayer on Nov. 8.
- Fed the hungry at Loaves and Fishes on Nov. 15.
- Transgender Day of Remembrance service on Nov. 20.
 - Approximately 20 people attended, including many community members.
- UUSC Guest at your Table potluck fundraising event on Nov. 21.
 - Approximately 15 UUs attended.
- Planned Parenthood event on Nov. 30.
 - Approximately 12 UUs attended.
- Honduras Team film on Dec. 4.
 - 15 people attended.

**SOCIAL
ACTION
TEAM**

Room at the Inn

- Ruth Milledge is leading efforts
- UUCC will staff for two weeks from Jan. 3 to 16
 - Sign up at <http://www.roomattheinncomo.org/>

Fair Trade sales

Ruth Milledge is leading efforts.

Sale days will be announced.

Next SAT meeting 12:30-2 p.m. Jan. 3 in the Forum Room

THE SEARCHLIGHT

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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)

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2015-2016 Board of Trustees

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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