



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 9, March 2016

Worship Services March 2016

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

Sunday, March 6

**Rev. Dr. Clanton C.W. Dawson
Guest Preacher**

Rev. Dr. Clanton C.W. Dawson Jr. is the Pastor, President, and CEO of Dawson Journeys Ministry, a multicultural, multigenerational ministry of hope, and the Pastor of the Mt. Calvary Freewill Baptist Church in Marshall, Mo. He is President of the African-American Clergy Coalition of Mid-Missouri and Professor of Philosophy at Columbia College and United Theological Seminary.

Sunday, March 13

Rev. Julie Taylor, Guest Preacher

The Rev. Julie Taylor, a community minister affiliated with Emerson UU Chapel in St. Louis County, provides services beyond the walls of the congregation. Her ministry has focused on disaster- and crisis-response nationwide. She serves as chaplain for the New York Air National Guard, 109th Airlift Wing. Home base is in St. Louis, where she directs the Unitarian Universalist House of Studies at Eden Theological Seminary.

Sunday, March 20

Youth Sunday

YRUU – High School Age Youth Group

Join us for our beloved annual youth group service, led by our witty and wise high school youth group. This is a favorite every year that you will not want to miss!

Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunday

Rev. Krista Taves, Guest Preacher

Join UU minister Krista Taves for a Unitarian Universalist interpretation of the ancient story of Easter, which we revisit each year. Rev. Taves currently serves as the Consulting Minister of the Unitarian Church of Quincy, Ill. and has also served our congregations in Canada, Louisiana, and Missouri. Krista's social justice passions include reproductive justice and racial justice. She serves as a volunteer pastoral counselor for Faith Aloud, which helps women facing an unplanned pregnancy or reproductive loss, and is active in the Black Lives Matter movement. She and her partner live in St. Louis.

Rev. Molly begins her parental leave

Our minister, the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, sent the following message to UUC members and friends:

James and I are overjoyed to share the news of the birth of our daughter Eleanor Elizabeth Gordon – Nora for short – on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 11:48 a.m. at 8 lb. 2 oz., 20.5 inches.

We are all healthy and happy as can be!

I have now begun my 12-week parental leave – it is a joy to have this special time with Nora, and I am grateful to be part of a community that works together to make that possible.

A reminder of contacts while I'm gone:

- Staff for all their usual functions.
- Rev. Dottie Mathews for any pastoral care needs at pastoralcare@uuchurch.net.



Rev. Dottie

- Your Leave Team – Allie Gassmann, Todd Iveson, Maria Oropallo, and Sam Otten – for anything else at leaveteam@uuchurch.net.



Allie



Todd



Maria



Sam

With lots of love from the whole Gordon family!

Molly

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Forum for March 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.

March 6

Jan Mees: NCLB vs. ESSA (No Child Left Behind and Every Student Succeeds Act) – the old, the new and the unknown.

March 13

Chrissie Fouts: Reproductive Health & Rights – What's At Stake.

March 20

Chris Morrey: The Sculpture in Front of the Church.

March 27

Donna Walter: Why I Sing.

Annual Easter Brunch

**Sunday, March 27 at
12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Please join YRUU for an Easter Brunch! Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Ticket sales begin Sunday, March 13. Look for the teens in the Greeting Area to purchase your tickets!

This year's menu will consist of delicious breakfast casseroles of all types. Of course, there will also be an Easter Egg hunt and a gift certificate for the winner of the precious Golden Egg.



We are a Welcoming Congregation

In March 2005 our church was officially recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a "Welcoming Congregation," a designation signifying our completion of a UUA-prescribed program to become more inclusive toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

Our effort was spearheaded by our former minister, the Rev. Bill Haney.

For more information about the UUA's Welcoming Congregation program, see <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>.

Want to be a delegate? Now is the time to apply

Our members who have been delegates to the Mid America Region Assembly and the UUA General Assembly have found the experience to be spiritually rewarding and highly educational. If you would like to be a delegate, now is the time to apply.

The Mid America Region Assembly will be held April 29-May 1 in St. Paul, Minn. This year's theme is "The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism." One of the speakers will be our former member Kenny Wiley, who is now *UU World* senior editor and Director of Faith Formation at Prairie UU Church in Parker, Colo. For more information, see <https://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>.

The UUA General Assembly will be held June 22-26 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme is "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect." For more information, see <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

We are entitled to five delegates to each of these assemblies. The Board of Trustees has already approved two delegates for each assembly, so there are three more slots open for each. The board will be selecting additional delegates starting in March.

If you are an official church member interested in becoming a delegate, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee, which is charged with recruiting delegates and recommending them to the board. Nominating Committee members are Jan Swaney, Kevin Fritsche, Maria Oropallo and Melissa McConnell.



Stewardship 2016

Campaign Status

At the halfway point in our 2016 stewardship campaign, we had received 87 pledges totaling just over \$163,000, or about 54% of our \$300,000 target.

As was the case last year, *our primary stewardship goal is to receive pledges from 100% of the estimated 185 potential pledgers* (individuals and households).

A pledge of only **\$30 or \$60 per month (\$360 or \$720 per year)** from all who have not previously pledged plus an **increase of \$5 per week in pledges from current pledgers** would meet the need. All pledges make a difference!

Our stewards will be making personal contact with all potential pledgers who have not submitted a pledge by noon on Stewardship Sunday, Feb. 28.

Why the \$300,000 Target?

Our stewardship theme this year is “Building Bridges, Building Community,” reflecting our year-long theme of building Beloved Community, which represents the greater world community we seek to create - the calling of a world made whole and human community made just. Beyond building community within our church, we seek to project our message and mission outside our walls.

- To build bridges into the community, we are planning a major increase in the ministries budget and a new fund to provide multi-culturalism training. These are projected to increase our pledging need by **\$6,000**.

- Normal increases in personnel, administrative and facilities expenses are projected to increase our pledging need by **\$10,780**.

While cash donations in the offering basket are greatly appreciated and are used to help support the church and its causes, they are unpredictable, and thus we cannot rely upon them when planning our budget. **Pledges allow us to plan our budget.**

Did You Know?

Religious Education: In 2016-17, we project spending an average of \$2,075 per week to pass on our UU values to the children of our church. This is equiva-

lent to about \$30 per week for each of the children enrolled.

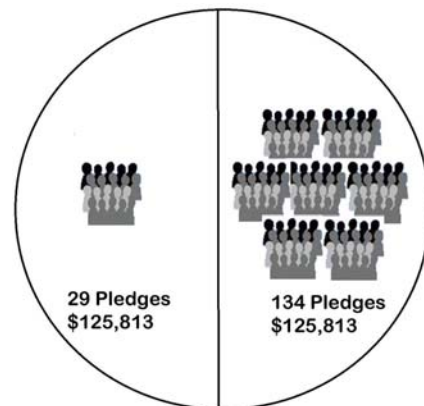
Ministries: In 2016-17, we project spending an average of \$2,189 per week on ministries that not only serve our own members and friends but also project our message and values beyond our walls.

Worship: In 2016-17, we project spending an average of \$1,904 per week on the worship that nourishes our souls.

Everyone who pledges contributes to all three of these program areas.

Pledging Distribution

For the current fiscal year, half of all pledges came from slightly fewer than 20% of pledgers, as illustrated by the following graphic:



As the graphic shows, our distribution of pledges is very bottom-heavy. This can cause serious shortfalls when people in the top 50% of the total amount pledged reduce their pledges or no longer pledge as a result of financial problems, moving, disaffiliation from the church, death, or some other reason.

Thus, the Stewardship Team encourages pledgers to move into a higher pledge range if they are able. By quartiles of total pledges, ranges last year were:

- \$10 to \$1,440 – 100 pledges
- \$1,500 to \$2,420 – 34 pledges
- \$2,500 to \$5,000 – 19 pledges
- \$5,000 to \$9,600 – 10 pledges

You are part of an ecosystem. What do you contribute?

*The UUCC Grounds Team, with assistance from
the Religious Education Team, presents*

Nature Night

on Saturday, March 12, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The centerpiece of this event is the film “Doug Tallamy Live,” an informative and inspiring presentation that empowers us to protect biodiversity by using natives and other beneficial plants in our own home landscapes (...back by popular demand after last year’s showing.)

While adults and older teens attend the film, younger ones will gather in small adult-led groups to engage in a range of traditional crafts with natural and recycled materials. Finally, all will come together for a *pot-luck meal* and time to hang out together.

Advance sign-up is required for children so that we can be prepared to host meaningful craft activities for 5-year-olds through teens and childcare for babies and toddlers. *Contact Carol Arnold (carol.reinert.arnold@gmail.com) or Shanon Dickerson (dre@uuchurch.net) by Friday, March 4 with children’s reservations.*



Green Sanctuary Team Updates

Columbia’s Earth Day Festival is scheduled Sunday, April 24. The UUCC Green Sanctuary Team is sponsoring a booth, and we need volunteers for set up the booth and spend time talking to passersby about green issues. Watch for an email blast in late March on how to sign up.

The recipient of the March 13 Faith to Action collection will be the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. A representative of CCUA will be at our Sunday service to tell us about CCUA’s “Planting for the Pantry,” which supplies fresh food for Columbia’s food pantries. To find out more about this great organization, see <http://www.columbiaurbanag.org>.

On April 2 from 9 a.m. to noon, Peter Holmes and Patty Daus will lead a group in honeysuckle eradication. We welcome any and all volunteers to help remove honeysuckle on the church property!

Volunteers in the kitchen will notice new environment-friendly cleaning products that do not harm water and fish. These plant-based cleaning products “suds” less but are still cleaning effectively. A good website regarding the environment and cleaning products is <https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/how-toxic-are-your-household-cleaning-supplies>.

The GS team will be holding a retreat on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Anyone with interest in helping us review our mission and brainstorm new ideas is welcome to attend. We will be planning our liturgical calendar and discussing combining the GS liturgical calendar with the worship themes decided by Rev. Molly. The retreat is 40 miles from Columbia, and participants will carpool from Allie Gassmann’s house. Contact Allie, Lisa Guillory, or Ellen Thomas if you would like to participate.

Programs and Events

Men's Group

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 call Wiley Miller at 573-864-8574.

Mindfulness Meditation

Mindfulness meditation will take place from 10:05 to 10:35 a.m. every Sunday in the Centering Room – except for fourth Sundays when the group will sit outside around the fire circle.

Meditators of all levels of experience are welcome. This will be mainly silent meditation with some instruction, if needed, and with brief selected readings from eminent teachers.

For more information, contact Peter Holmes by email at pfholmes63@gmail.com.

Kaleidoscope

Join Kaleidoscope at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 19 at church to celebrate Ostara. The Earth blooms again. The world is once again awake. Fresh greens enliven our mouths, and bunnies hop across the grass. The ritual at 6 p.m. will be followed by a potluck. All are welcome.

Kaleidoscope is an eclectic UUC group seeking to explore our relationship to the earth and the cosmos through the study and practice of shamanic and ancient religious traditions. For more information, email Barb Carter at barbaracarter@centurylink.net.

Membership 101

Visitors who would like to learn more about our church are encouraged to attend Membership 101 on March 13 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Centering Room on the lower level.

A light vegetarian lunch will be served, and childcare will be provided. Members of the church will give a brief overview of Unitarian Universalism, discuss the history of the UU Church of Columbia, its many current small group activities, and what it means to join this growing congregation.

RSVP by Thursday, March 10 to Jan Swaney at jjswan56@gmail.com

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.

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

Follow the group on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrievingCircleUUC/?fref=ts>.

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are small group ministries forming a network of small groups that meet regularly to deepen and strengthen interpersonal connections, encourage spiritual growth, and provide open, supportive and nurturing spaces. Each Chalice Circle has seven to 10 members and meets at least once a month.

For more information, contact the Chalice Circles Leadership Team by email at chalicecircle@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 Leaders.

Reel UUs – March 15

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

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.

UU Book Discussion Group – March 11

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

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon March 9 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

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



March 2016
Newsletter

Check out the new blog and Facebook page!

The Social Action Team is a busy bunch! It is our goal to inform and involve the congregation and the greater community in all that we do, sponsor, and participate in. If you'd like to follow the Social Action Team a little bit closer, then check out our blog at www.UCCSocialAction.org.

There you can also sign up to receive direct emails from the team and follow the calendar of events happening at the UCC and the community. If you are on Facebook, you can follow us there at our new page: www.facebook.com/SocialActionTeam/.

The next meeting of the Social Action Team will be held March 6 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Forum Room/Library. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

Anti-Racism Workshop and Sunday Service with Chris Crass

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 the UCC! Please register for this event at www.chriscrassworkshop.eventbrite.com.

Loaves & Fishes Meal

served by UCC volunteers

March 20 – 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Loaves and Fishes was started 30 years ago by the St. Francis Catholic Worker community and serves a free community meal seven nights a week from 5 to 6 p.m. in the basement at Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church in partnership with that church and more than 20 other local faith communities and other organizations. The UCC Social Action Team sponsors a meal one Sunday each month with the help of volunteers from our congregation. To sign up to help, go to the home page of the church website and click the "Sign Up" button near the top of the page.

Reflections

YRUU Annual Easter Brunch

Sunday, March 27 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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This year's menu will consist of delicious breakfast casseroles of all types. Of course, there will also be an Easter Egg hunt and gift certificate for the winner of the precious Golden Egg.



Nature Night

Saturday, March 12
4-7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Presented by the Grounds Team and RE Team, the centerpiece of this event is the film "Doug Tallamy Live." Back by popular demand, this informative and inspiring presentation empowers us to protect biodiversity by using natives and other beneficial plants in our own home landscapes.

While adults and older teens attend the film, children will gather in small adult-led groups to engage in a range of traditional crafts with natural and recycled materials. Then, we will all come together for a **potluck meal**.

Advance signup by March 4 is required for children to provide meaningful craft activities for 5-year-olds through teens and childcare for children under 5.

Mardi Gras Jazz Rep Lab

Friday, March 4
6:30-8:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

The Jazz Rep Lab will be hosting a family friendly concert benefit for RE with special audience involvement to keep children of all ages entertained.

There will be mask-making, a coffee/hot chocolate café and a children's parade. Bring an umbrella to participate in our special finale!

Anyone interested is invited to a special rehearsal from 6:30 to 7 p.m. March 4 at the church.

Babysitting will be provided, just in case, but we don't think you'll need it!



Shanon Dickerson

Director of Religious Education

dre@uuchurch.net

573-442-5764

Office Hours: Sun. & by Appt.

Important Dates

Mar. 4 - Mardi Gras Jazz Lab

Mar. 6 - RE Team Meeting

Mar. 6 - Apr. 17 - Mystery Friends

Mar. 11 - Jr. Youth Group

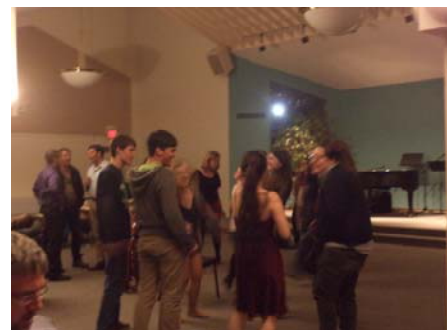
Mar. 12 - Nature Night

Mar. 20 - YRUU Lay-Led Service

Mar. 26 - YRUU Lock-In

Mar. 27 - YRUU Easter Brunch

Valentine's Dance Photos!



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2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

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Our Staff

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

Office Hours:

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

Wednesdays 1-4 p.m.

By appointment (including evenings and weekends)

Note: Office hours are suspended during Rev. Molly's parental leave

Email: minister@uuchurch.net

Kathie Bergman, Administrator

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

Telephone: 573-442-5764

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Email: music@uuchurch.net

Shanon Dickerson, Director of Religious Education

Office Hours: Sunday mornings and by appointment

Email: dre@uuchurch.net

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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.