



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 10, April 2016

Worship Services April 2016

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

**Sunday, April 3
Rev. Mel West
Guest Preacher**

**“Translators Needed –
Full-Time Job”**

In a world filled with so many languages, and so many and varied methods of communication, how can we best communicate the language of faith in such a way that it is understood and embraced? Rev. West will share from his lifetime of experience, mostly with stories, and offer all full-time work as translators.

**Sunday, April 10
Chris Crass
Guest Preacher**

Chris Crass is a nationally renowned activist and educator, and a Unitarian Universalist leader for justice. After presenting a workshop on Saturday, April 9, Chris will join us in our pulpit on Sunday morning – don’t miss it! He is the author of *Towards Collective Liberation: Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Praxis and Movement Building Strategy*.

**Sunday, April 17
Lay Led Worship
Green Sanctuary Team**

Join our Green Sanctuary Team to go deep into the role of the natural world in our spiritual lives.

**Sunday, April 24
Earth Day
DRE Shanon Dickerson
and Multi-Generational
Worship Team**

Join us for a fun and moving multi-generational service, engaging all ages in a celebration of Earth Day and a reminder to love and care for our earthly home.

A note from the Parental Leave Team

**(Allie Gassmann, Todd Iveson,
Maria Oropallo and Sam Otten)**

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon is on parental leave, enjoying this precious time with husband James and daughter Nora. She welcomes phone calls and visits from church friends that are purely social in nature.

The Parental Leave Team (leaveteam@uuchurch.net) is glad to be available to anyone who has organizational or administrative concerns or needs to get something off their chest that isn’t pastoral in nature. Our office hours are every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 p.m.

Rev. Dottie Mathews is available at pastoralcare@uuchurch.net for pastoral needs.

Are you ready to join the church?

A New Member Ingathering will be held during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 3.

If you have attended the Membership 101 class or have had a private conversation with Rev. Molly about joining the church, you are invited to join at this service. Please call the church at 442-5764 or email us at uuchurch@uuchurch.net if you are interested – or simply come to the service.

If you want to join but cannot be present for the formal ceremony this time, you can also become a member by contacting Rev. Molly or any member of the Welcoming Team (wearing “Greeter” tags).

We hope you are enjoying your time with us and will consider this next step in entering deeper into our church community.

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Second Sunday Finger Food Feast

Sunday, April 10

10-11 a.m.

“Spring Fling”

Bring a spring-y snack to share and explore our church grounds for your favorite sights of spring!

Finger foods only, please.

Foods that require utensils may not be served.

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.

The Artist's Way at UCC!

In her 1992 book *The Artist's Way*, filmmaker Julia Cameron argues for creativity as a spiritual practice. A veteran of 12-step groups, Cameron designed *The Artist's Way* as 12-step recovery to the creativity all of us enjoyed as children and most of us set aside as we age in favor of work, study, and media-dominated leisure.

Cameron argues that those selves we dreamed of in our early years – the selves we still imagine – can still be integrated into the adults we are without radical relocations and life changes. Artistic talents or leanings are not necessary to participate in *The Artist's Way* – just curiosity and a desire to more fully inhabit our adult lives.

UCC member Marta Ferguson has previously facilitated Artist's Way groups through Orr Street Studios and is interested in launching a group this summer here at UCC. She will hold two informational meetings during the coffee hour between services on Sunday, April 10, and Sunday, April 17. For more information, see:

- Cameron's website: <http://juliacameronlive.com/the-artists-way/>, or
- Marta's own syllabi for her previous Artist's Way groups: <http://www.wordhound.com/pmwiki.php?n=Syllabi.TAWDesc>.

Forum for April 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.

April 3

Wayne Anderson, professor emeritus of psychology, will present “Comic Artists as Philosophers,” a short history of comic strips that use humor to examine the meaning of life. Special attention will be given to “Calvin & Hobbes” and “Pogo.”

April 10

In his 45 years of teaching human sexuality, Wayne Anderson has noted that a frequent topic has been the influence of evolution on human behavior. With new developments in the control of genetics, the topic now has become, “What modifications of DNA are possible, and what does it mean for our future as humans?” He will discuss with the Forum some of the possibilities.

April 17

Psychologists Carla and Wayne Anderson will present a TED talk by Amy Cuddy: “Your body language shapes who you are.” This 18-minute presentation takes a look at how others see us based on our body movements. They will also examine what the body language of presidential candidates tell us about them.

April 24

Travel writer Wayne Anderson will discuss how travelers have been putting together lists of “must see” world wonders for years and have now expanded the lists from the seven wonders to 100. Anderson will share some of his favorite experiences in his travel to many of these wonders of the world.



Stewardship 2016

Final 2016 stewardship report

With great joy and pride in our community, the Stewardship Team thanks all who pledged and helped make this year's annual stewardship campaign a big success!

At the beginning, we set an ambitious goal of 100% pledging, and we received a record 171 pledges – a remarkable 92.4% of 185 potential pledgers! Your pledges show that we truly understand the need to build bridges within our community and outside our walls.

Total pledges were \$297,080 – a fantastic 99% of our challenging \$300,000 target! This will allow us to meet anticipated needs for the 2016-17 fiscal year and enhance our ability to build bridges into the larger community. We plan to substantially increase our ministries budget and create a fund to provide multi-

culturalism training for church members.

More facts:

- Excluding our largest pledge, the average pledge for 2016-17 was \$1,536, a very slight decrease from the 2015-16 average of \$1,544.

- While some pledgers had to reduce their pledges, 59 pledgers more than compensated by increasing their pledges.

- Also of great help were 24 first-time pledgers.

We hoped for a good result, but with your help, we have demonstrated for the second year in a row that we understand the importance of building Beloved Community.

Thanks again to everyone!

– Steve Scott, Stewardship Team Chair

Green Sanctuary Team



Green Sanctuary and UUCC will be represented at the Columbia Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 24 at Peace Park. We need volunteers for hosting the booth. It's easy to talk about social justice at the booth because the latrine model is quite the conversation starter! Please sign up through the UUCC website to help host our booth.

With spring comes more opportunities to walk and bike. In May, GS will again sponsor and promote "Travel a Different Path." Check the GS bulletin board in the Greeting Area for ways to participate.

We will conduct an Earth Day Mini-Bioblitz on Saturday, April 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Mini-Bioblitz is sponsored by the GS and Religious Education teams. We welcome all ages, and there will be snacks and coffee in the Greeting area.

Have you noticed environmentally friendly hand soaps in the restrooms? GS is gradually replacing all

cleaning products and soaps with non-toxic, plant-based products that do not harm humans, animals and plants. Examples of plant-based products are: Bio-Kleen, 7th Generation, Meyer's, CitraSolv. Donations of plant-based products are very much appreciated!

GS meetings have moved to the church. Anyone is welcome to join our meetings. We meet on the second Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. Our next meeting will be held April 12 in the lower level.



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.

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 – April 8

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 8 at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss.

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

Conversations, Etc. – April 13

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon on Wednesday, April 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

UU Life Writers' Group will meet April 2 and 16 – continuing our "Writing with the Bard" (William Shakespeare that is!). All are welcome to come and write memoir.

The group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Centering Room.

Reel UUs – April 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.

Kaleidoscope – April 30

Join Kaleidoscope at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 30 at the church as we celebrate Beltane. May baskets and garlands of fresh green leaves hang upon our doors, a blessing on our homes for a plentiful harvest to come.

The ritual will be followed by a potluck. All are welcome.

Ministry is what we do together

Honduras Notes

The Honduras Team put on its third annual Trivia Night on Jan. 23. Thanks to the generous donors and participants, almost \$3,000 was raised.

So far the Team has sent \$500 for health clinic repairs in El Pital, and once a septic tank has been built, \$500 more will be sent for adequate windows and doors that meet the Health Department requirements.

Clinic repairs are currently the most urgent need of the communities in the area, so more Trivia Night funds will go towards repairs and supplies in the future.

\$1,000 from Trivia Night proceeds and a Faith-to-Action collection was sent to the microfinance group Adelante that is working in the communities where the UUCC groups have done their service work.

Our next UUCC Honduras service trip is planned for 2017. If you are interested or just want to learn more about what we do, please join us for a **potluck at church on April 23**. We will eat at 4:30 p.m. and watch the uplifting Honduran film "Revolutionary Medicine: A Story of the First Garifuna Hospital" at 6:30. We hope to see you there!

– Allie Gassmann
Social Action Team
alliegassmann@socket.net



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 <https://uuchurch.net/grieving-circle/>.

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

Over **25** UUs attended
UUA One Read author
Bryan Stevenson's lecture at
MU's Jesse Hall on 3/20 [get a
copy of the book at the book
sale table]

"...justice is what
love looks like in
public." Cornel
West

**The next meeting of the Social Action Team is
April 3 from 12:30-2:00 PM**

**SOCIAL
ACTION
TEAM**



We need volunteers for Trail to a Cure event
on May 7. Email SocialAction@uuchurch.net if
you'd like to participate.

The current leadership of the Social
Action Team is:
Janice Smith, Chair; Jackie Marcink,
Communications Coordinator; Jeff
Richter, Economic Justice Coordinator;
Wiley Miller, Anti-racism and Justice
Coordinator; Stephanie Dorman,
Education Coordinator; Amie Burling,
Finance Coordinator; Tessa Summers,
LGBTQ Justice Coordinator.

INTERESTED IN HELPING LEAD THE
CHURCH'S SOCIAL ACTION TEAM?
CONTACT US AT
socialaction@uuchurch.net

**Anti-racism
workshop with
Chris Crass
April 9 and 10.**

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



Look for
Faith-to-Action changes in
the future.

Reflections

Shanon Dickerson

Director of Religious Education

dre@uuchurch.net

573-442-5764

Office Hours: Sun. & by Appt.

Just Mercy Project

**Sunday, April 3
10:15 - 10:45 a.m.
Schweitzer Classroom**

Just Mercy is part of this year's UUA read. You may have noticed several events at church referring to this book like the Valentine's Day Service and the Graffiti Wall in the sanctuary. During the upcoming adult book discussion on *Just Mercy*, we will work on our own project relating to the text. Come make water color greeting cards for prisoners to send to their loved ones.



Earth Day Mini-Bioblitz

**Saturday, April 23
10 - 11:30 a.m.
Greeting Area**



Green Sanctuary and RE will be hosting a Mini-Bioblitz to celebrate Earth Day, April 22. This event is open to all ages! We will gather in the Greeting Area for donuts, coffee and juice and then begin our nature adventure together. We hope you will join us!

Important Dates

Apr. 1 - Jr. Youth Game Night with YRUU 6-8 p.m.

Apr. 2 - COA Urban Farm Project 10 a.m.-noon

Apr. 3 - *Just Mercy* Project 10:15 a.m. in the Schweitzer Classroom

Order of Service Sunday in Sunday School

Apr. 8-10 - YRUU Con in St. Louis

Apr. 23 - Earth Day Mini-Bioblitz 10-11:30 a.m. starting in the Greeting Area

Apr. 24 - Mystery Friends Big Reveal 12:30 p.m. in the Centering Room

Apr. 30 - Thank You REception 6:30-8 p.m. in the sanctuary

March Photos!



Reflections...continued

Mystery Friends Big Reveal **Sunday, April 24, 12:30 p.m.** **Centering Room**

For all who participated in this favorite 6-week intergenerational program, your mystery friend will finally be revealed! Enjoy light refreshments and a time of connecting with your new friend.

Remember, the exchange of letters does not require any monetary gifts. However, if you would like to give your Mystery Friend a token of love and friendship at this Big Reveal, please feel free to do so. We ask that everyone spend \$0-\$5 on this gift (something beautiful and hand-made, chocolate, or something else that expresses your gratitude in a big way with little to no money).



Thank You REception

Saturday, April 30,
6:30-8 p.m.
Sanctuary

A reception will be held to thank all of those who aided or taught in Sunday School this year!

Please plan for a fancy evening of refreshments, relaxation, and appreciation for your hard work and commitment to our RE program. We will have a special Thank You gift for all who attend!

Babysitting will be provided so that all volunteers may enjoy a beautiful evening together! If you need babysitting services, please contact Shanon by 5 p.m. Friday, April 22.



YRUU



Thank you to everyone who attended YRUU's Annual Easter Brunch! Your support of this youth program is much appreciated!

As always, our teens have been busy. In addition to their lock-in and brunch, YRUU hosted a lay-led service and received free tickets to attend the T/F film, *Sonita* (see photo on left), last month. They look forward to hosting a game night for Jr. Youth, attending a workshop on Non-Violent Communication and going to the upcoming Spring Con in St. Louis, April 8-10.

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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)

Email: minister@uuchurch.net

Kathie Bergman, Administrator

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

Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: uuchurch@uuchurch.net

Visit our Website: <http://uuchurch.net>

Desiree Long, Music Director

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

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Email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net,
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