



# 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 11, May 2016

## Worship Services May 2016

**Services at  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
except as noted**

**Sunday, May 1  
“Beltane”**

### **Kaleidoscope UU Pagan Group**

Join our UU Pagan Group Kaleidoscope to learn about Beltane – a Gaelic May Day festival held each year on May 1, halfway between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice.

**Sunday, May 8**

### **Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join Rev. Molly for her first Sunday back in the pulpit after parental leave.

**Sunday, May 15**

### **One Service Only at 11 a.m.**

#### **“Coming of Age Sunday”**

This semi-annual service is a wonderful opportunity to learn from the wisdom of some of our young people, as our Jr. High aged folks share faith statements developed through our Coming of Age program. Join us to celebrate this milestone and affirm our young people!

**Sunday, May 22**

### **One Service Only at 11 a.m.**

#### **“Flower Ceremony and Graduation Sunday”**

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

Bring a flower and join us for our annual flower ceremony as we mark the end of our program year and celebrate our graduating seniors and our bridging RE kids!

**Sunday, May 29**

### **One Service Only at 11 a.m.**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

## Nurturing Spirit and Service

Did you know our church has a motto? It is, “The Church Nurturing Spirit and Service.” Perhaps it should be, “Nurturing Spirit Through Service.”

We are pleased to introduce the Growth Through Service Team. Our team is beginning a new, lengthy process which we hope will allow everyone to find spiritual connections with and within the church. We want to offer everyone in the church a chance to find the spiritual rewards of service.

In our initial discussions, our team has realized that we don’t have a firm grasp on what the issues are. Some questions have come up: *If people are not involved, why? What obstacles exist? We have 50+ groups/teams in the church. Does having this many opportunities to volunteer feel overwhelming? Do people who want to volunteer know what is needed? How does a newcomer find out how to fit in? What happens when someone needs a break?*

How can you help? We will publicizing an online survey soon. We want to find out where our church members and friends experience problems, and ask how involved you are now. This will allow the team to find the best starting place for change. Please help us with this.

If you have suggestions or comments, please contact any of us on the Growth Through Service Team:

- Peter Holmes, [pfolmes63@gmail.com](mailto:pfolmes63@gmail.com), (573) 239-7789
- Shanon Dickerson, [dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net), (217) 371-3030
- Barbara Carter, [barbaracarter@centurylink.net](mailto:barbaracarter@centurylink.net), (573) 814-5507

– Barbara Carter

## Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, May 15, 2016  
after the 11 a.m. Worship Service  
in the Sanctuary**

**Details on Page 2**

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## Forum for May 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.*

**May 1:** A history of certain racist groups in Central Missouri. Presenter to be announced.

**May 8:** George Frissell will give us another look at the world's religions.

**May 15:** A member of the League of Women Voters will join us to talk about the upcoming elections.

**May 22:** From his personal experiences Bill Clark will introduce you to folks who have been imprisoned that he has met across the country.

**May 29:** Program to be announced.

### Summer Worship

Summertime is almost here, and it is time to think about potential lay-led services!

If you have a topic you would be interested in pursuing, keep an eye out for the sign-up board come May. If you have an idea for a topic, but aren't sure about how to go about developing it, please feel free to contact Will Palmer for more information at [wpdramaturgy@gmail.com](mailto:wpdramaturgy@gmail.com).

We look forward to all the thought-provoking summer services!

## Annual Congregational Meeting

May 15, 2016 after 11 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

Business to be conducted at the meeting is as follows:

1. Presentation of the proposed 2016-17 operating budget for approval by the members.
2. Election of Board of Trustees members.
3. Presentation of annual reports.

### Notes

- The proposed budget will be made available on the church website at <https://uuchurch.net/annual-meeting/> before the meeting, and members will be advised by email when the budget is available.

- The three candidates for three-year Board of Trustees seats are **Patty Daus**, **Peter Holmes** and **Todd Iveson**. A candidate is being sought to complete the remaining two years of the term of a board member who resigned. Information about and photos of the candidates will be posted on the same page on the website.

- Annual reports that become available before the meeting will be posted on the same page on the website.

- A proxy voting form will be available on the same page of the website for those who want to vote but cannot attend the meeting.



### Notes from the Grounds Team

May 1 is the next Grounds Team work day. The UU Sunday School children will be helping with grounds during their educational time, and the YRUU will be assisting the Grounds Team from noon to 2 p.m. planting native trees (Carolina Buckthorn and Blackhaw). All are welcome to assist.

The Grounds Team would like to give a big SHOUT OUT to Gretchen Maune, Crystal Buffaloe, Ruth Ngwenyama and Elaine Martin for their hard work on April 2 pulling weeds, cutting down tall grasses, and managing the meadow.

The Grounds Team encourages you to deepen your spirituality in the outside. Enjoy the natives in the landscape (run your hands over the fragrant mint planted by the stepping stones), walk the paths in the woods, meditate, sit in the Memorial Garden, listen to the birds, and/or join Peter Holmes every fourth Sunday at the fire circle to meditate.

The Grounds Team meets at 9 a.m. every third Saturday at the church. For more information, contact Peter Holmes at [pfolmes63@gmail.com](mailto:pfolmes63@gmail.com) or Patty Daus at [pdaus@mchsi.com](mailto:pdaus@mchsi.com).

## President's Perspective

# ***Important issues face church members in May***

With winter well behind us and summer heat on the horizon, it might be a little disconcerting to think that in terms of church governance, the “year” is almost at an end. UUCC operates its budget and board terms on a “church year” that begins July 1 and ends June 30.

Some very important decisions are made at the end of the church year, and the ultimate decision-makers are church members. To make these decisions – itemized below – we conduct the Annual Congregational Meeting. This year’s meeting will be held in the Sanctuary on May 15 immediately after the 11 a.m. worship service.

Church members will ultimately decide whether to pass the proposed church budget for 2016-2017 as proposed. The Board of Trustees reviewed a proposed budget at its April 21 meeting, and the final proposed budget will be posted on the church website at <https://uuchurch.net/annual-meeting/> as soon as possible. I want to share a few observations about the budget.

First, a big thanks to all of us who support the church through annual pledging. Obviously, not everyone can pledge, but those who do pledge make budget planning and fiscally responsible operation of the church possible. This year’s stewardship campaign was led by a hard-working Stewardship Team: Steve Scott, Chair, and Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Amie Burling, Ene-Kaja Chippendale, Steve Mudrick, Dennis Murphy, Jan Swaney, Jan Weaver and Marcus Jimerson. Approximately \$297,000 was pledged (99% of the campaign goal!).

Pledges make up 93% of the church income. Another \$20,000 or so comes from smaller items including grant funding, rental fees and Sunday collections from individuals who have not turned in a pledge card.

As our church has grown, so, too, has the need for professional services, particularly in ministry and religious education. Staff costs make up a little less than two-thirds of the proposed budget. Expenses related to our physical building are the next-largest spending category – almost one-fifth of the current budget calls for items like utilities, janitorial services, and setting money aside for long-term maintenance expenses. UUCC is fortunate enough to own the church building mortgage-free, but challenges remain. For instance, as a radically welcoming congregation, it is important to have an accessible space. Installing a church elevator, therefore, has been a topic of discussion for some time now.

In addition to voting on the budget May 15, church members will elect new trustees to the board. Three

new trustees are elected each year for three-year terms. Your church Nominating Committee hears from individuals interested in joining the board and proposes a slate of candidates. Candidates this year are:

- Patty Daus
- Peter Holmes
- Todd Iveson

Patty, Peter and Todd are all longtime members, and I am psyched to see them step up to join the board!

Additionally, we have one board seat that was made vacant by the resignation of Ramzie Siebuhr. There are two years remaining in her term, and the Nominating Committee is currently looking for someone to serve those years. If you’re interested in joining the board – and I encourage you to consider doing so (it’s fun!) – please contact one of the Nominating Committee members:

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

You can find their contact information on the church website at <https://uuchurch.net/directory/>. Alternatively, email me at [jmilarsky@gmail.com](mailto:jmilarsky@gmail.com) or call the church at 573-442-5764 and ask to be considered for a board seat. Prospective board members must be church members.

UUCC is a special place that belongs to all of us. Your church leadership is committed to transparency, ethics and good governance. That works best when we’re all engaged. I’m looking forward to seeing a big crowd at the annual meeting on May 15!

– Jeremy Milarsky, 2015-16 President

## **Parental Leave Team**

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon is on parental leave until mid-May, enjoying precious time with husband James and daughter Nora. She welcomes purely social phone calls and visits from church friends.

The Parental Leave Team (Allie Gassmann, Todd Iveson, Maria Oropallo, and Sam Otten – email [leaveteam@uuchurch.net](mailto:leaveteam@uuchurch.net)) is available to anyone who has organizational or administrative concerns or needs to get something off their chest that isn’t pastoral in nature. The team’s office hours are 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings.

Rev. Dottie Mathews is available at [pastoral-care@uuchurch.net](mailto:pastoral-care@uuchurch.net) for pastoral needs.

# Ministry is what we do together

## The Artist's Way at UUCC!

The Artist's Way at UUCC, facilitated by Marta Ferguson, will take place as two groups this summer, one of which will have childcare provided, though a small fee may be involved. We will meet for 13 weeks, from approximately May 14 to Aug. 7. Meeting times will be announced.

Stephanie Dorman has generously agreed to share her experience of *The Artist's Way* as follows:

"I explored Julia Cameron's manual for rediscovering creativity, *The Artist's Way*, with Marta Ferguson during summer 2009. Three-word phrases illustrated the experience: *Write morning pages. Trust my voice. Thank my champions. Still love coloring! Forgive old hurts. Reclaiming my health. Missing first mentors. I am aging. Surprisingly better handwriting! Shadow artist emerges. Affirm loved ones.*

"Three words greeted me each Tuesday evening in the space where we gathered: "Use this door." The phrase reminded me to open my mind widely while spending time with dedicated people focused on recovering their inner creative sprites in need of an invitation to come out and play.

"Coming through the door, I surprised myself with new insights on love, affirmation, and forgiveness for myself and for those closest to me. A classmate described a friend's reaction to the news she was taking this course: 'You'll come out a different person.' Seven years after traveling *The Artist's Way* with Marta, I still agree wholeheartedly."



## Honduras notes

The next UUCC Honduras Service Trip is scheduled for 2017. Please contact Allie Gassmann at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net) if you are interested and want to learn more.

Julie Ma from the microfinance organization Adelante wrote us the following upon receiving the UUCC donation: "This is amazing news! Thank you for your time in making this event (Trivia Night) happen and to everyone who has made a contribution. Thank you so much for all your work and dedication in supporting the women of Adelante in helping pull families out of extreme poverty, we truly appreciate it!"

## 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/GrievingCircleUUCC/?fref=ts>.

## Mindfulness Meditation

Mindfulness Meditation takes place from 10:05 to 10:35 a.m. every Sunday.

Sessions are held in the Centering Room on the lower level of the church except on fourth Sundays when the group sits 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.

We are hoping to build a group of UU members committed to regular meditation practice. For more information, contact Peter Holmes at [pfolmes63@gmail.com](mailto:pfolmes63@gmail.com).

## Feed the food barrel!

The food barrel, a Social Action Team project, is empty again.

This year it has been emptied twice, providing 206 pounds to the Central Pantry to help our neighbors.

Please continue to feed the barrel!

## A letter of thanks from the CROP Walk organizers

Thank you so very much for your leadership and generous participation in the 2015 Columbia CROP Hunger WALK & 5K Run – Faith Communities Fitness Challenge.

Together walkers, runners and their sponsors raised just over \$12,000. Seventy-five percent of this amount is being put to work by Church World Service to provide hunger and disaster relief and to help communities establish sustainable food production and access to clean water. Twenty-five percent will be put to work through local grass roots programs that fight hunger here at home. These include: Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen & Community Meal; Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry; Latter House Kingdom Ministries Food Pantry; and Fifth Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Feed the Community program

The 2016 Columbia CROP Hunger event will take place on Sept. 25 at Stephens Lake Park.



## 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 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.

The group meets at the church on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Marian Hjelmfelt at 573-449-5118.

### UU Book Discussion Group – May 13

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

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon on Wednesday, May 11, 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 May 7 and 21. All are welcome to come and write memoir. The group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Centering Room.

### Reel UUs – May 17

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](mailto:janepicurean@gmail.com).

### Kaleidoscope

The next meeting of the Kaleidoscope group will be in June. For more information contact Barbara Carter.

### 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.

## Green Sanctuary: Travel a Different Path



During May our Green Sanctuary Team is encouraging UUCC members and friends to "Travel a Different Path" to church. Suggestions are:

#### May 1 – Park and Walk

Park 1/4 or 1/2 mile away from church and walk the rest of the

way.

#### May 8 – Park and Walk + Carpool

Sign up for a carpool and then park 1/4 or 1/2 mile away from church and walk the rest of the way.

#### May 15 – Park and Walk + Carpool + "Come Along Café"

Repeat the May 8 procedure. If a significant other needs to be a church earlier than you, there will be quiet places set aside to work, read and/or socialize.

#### May 22 – All of the Above + Consider Walking or Biking

If possible, walk or bike to church. If not, repeat the above.

#### Good places to park and walk:

- The new overflow parking lot of Shepard School (less than 1/4

mile)

- Sterling Wyatt Park, at Old 63 and Shepard (about 1/2 mile)

- For a great walking adventure, Stephens Lake Park (use the southeast parking lot and the underpass along the Hinkson Creek), or the Grindstone Nature Area (be sure to use the trail under Stadium), both walks of about a mile to Sterling Wyatt Park, with beautiful creek views.

There are Columbia trail maps and bike maps in the Green Sanctuary corner of the Greeting Area to help you plan, or contact Ellen Thomas or Allie Gassmann for planning advice!

Be sure to join us between services on May 22 for a celebratory light breakfast!

### UUCC Mission Statement

*In the spirit of courageous love, we forge a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world.*

# REflections

**Shanon Dickerson**

Director of Religious Education

dre@uuchurch.net

573-442-5764

**Office Hours:** Sun. & by Appt.

## May Day Celebration

**Saturday, May 21**

**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

### Greeting Area

Do you have a meaningful piece of ceramic or pottery that is cracked or chipped, but you can't let go of it? Bring it to our May Day Celebration and help us create beautiful stepping stones for the church grounds.

Afterwards, we will enjoy ice cream and social time as we enjoy a lovely day in May together!



## Summer Sunday School

**June 5-Aug. 21**

**11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

This summer we will have a two-room Sunday School format focused on our Seventh Principle.

Come join us as we explore nature and learn to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



## Important Dates

**May 1** - Service Sunday & YRUU church yard work day

- YAC 10:15-10:45 a.m.  
in the Schweitzer Room

- RE Team Meeting  
12:30 p.m. in the  
Centering Room

**May 6-8** - COA Wilderness  
Retreat

**May 13** - Jr. Youth 6-8 p.m.

**May 14** - COA Celebration 7-  
8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**May 15** - COA Lay-Led  
Service

**May 21** - May Day  
Celebration in the Greeting  
Area

## April RE Photos!







## Follow Us Online!!

[www.UUCCSocialAction.org](http://www.UUCCSocialAction.org)

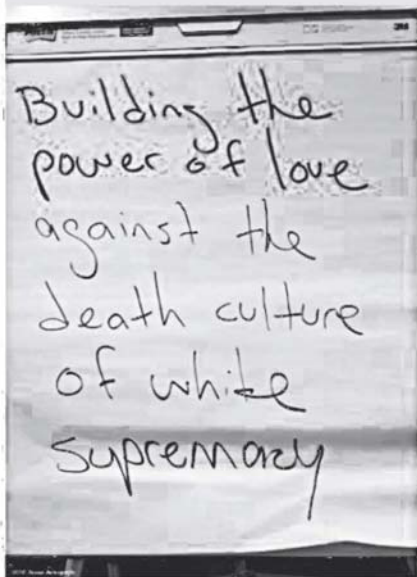
Sign up to receive email updates from us and follow our calendar.

# SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

## Upcoming Events

**May 7** Urbanaire: Fundraising event to benefit Promo, the statewide LGBT advocacy group

**May 7** Trail to a Cure: 5k run/walk or ride. Benefits go to help fight AIDS/HIV in Missouri.



Anti-Racism workshop with Chris Crass April 9<sup>th</sup> at UCC.



Thank you to all of our donors and the following sponsors:

- UUA
- HyVee
- Pizza Tree
- MU School of Social Work
- Rockbridge Christian
- Maloney Acupuncture
- First UU of STL

## Updates from the Social Action Team

The Unitarians of Columbia have been a busy bunch lately! Recently, we held a community wide workshop addressing racism and white supremacy in our culture. People left the workshop empowered to move toward social justice. Earlier in the month, members of the congregation attended a rally at the state Capitol to protest against SJR39, an anti-LGBT bill currently going to the House. We also hosted a political forum and discussed systematic issues with local politicians and candidates. The SAT also sponsored a social justice Seder with Hillel at MU. If you are interested in joining our efforts, please join the Social Action Team the first Sunday of every month starting in June, after service in the Forum Room.

## ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

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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](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net)

#### **Kathie Bergman, Administrator**

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Email: [dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net)

### **2015-2016 Board of Trustees**

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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#### **Submissions:**

Email to [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto: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.