



# 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 12, June 2016

## Worship Services June 2016

### **Summer services at 11 a.m. only**

**Sunday, June 5**

#### **“Self-Compassion in the Digital Age” Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

How do we practice self-compassion in an age that commodifies self-help and self-improvement as products marketed to us in various digital media? How do we love our neighbors and ourselves in a world of carefully crafted digital self-presentation?

**Sunday, June 12**

#### **“Down by the Riverside” Peter Holmes**

We’re taking church outdoors! Our main worship service this Sunday will be down by the riverside at Katfish Katy’s Campground on the Katy Trail in Huntsville. We’ll start at our usual 11 a.m. time. Please bring a camp chair if you are able and dress for the sun. For those who cannot or would prefer not join us at the campground, the same service content will be delivered at the church. In the case of heavy rain or storms, the main service will be moved to the church.

**Sunday, June 19**

#### **“Prayer Wheels”**

#### **Intergenerational Service DRE Shanon Dickerson and Jamila Batchelder**

Join Shanon and Jamila for a fun and meaningful Intergenerational Service to learn about the Tibetan Buddhist tradition of prayer wheels. Participants will have the opportunity to create their own prayer wheels to use during services or in their daily lives.

**Sunday, June 26**

#### **“Holding Space for Love” Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

What do you do when someone you love is struggling? How do you know what to say when there is nothing adequate to be said? Join us as we explore the idea of simply “holding space” for those we love.

## ***Nurturing Spirit and Service***

Each year in June, several thousand Unitarian Universalists from across the country gather to worship and learn together and to do the business of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is always an inspiring time (Mark your calendars now: General Assembly in June 2018 will be in Kansas City!)

This year’s gathering is in Columbus, Ohio with the theme “Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect.” The planners describe the theme as follows: “The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels – Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist – no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives.” [[uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga)] And the plans of the assembly include conversations and joint work with people of other faith traditions in the heartland area.

This month, as Unitarian Universalists from across the country consider what it means to live in an increasingly multi-faith world, perhaps we at home might consider the same question. How can we engage with the fullness of a multi-faith world? Do we truly recognize and celebrate that which unites us *and* the real differences of culture? What spiritual work helps us experience difference as a source of spiritual richness rather than a source of fear and division?

Just a few things to ponder, knowing that as you do, so do Unitarian Universalists of many backgrounds and experiences across this beloved tradition.

Happy June!  
Rev. Molly

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The Green Sanctuary Team is the sponsor of “Down by the Riverside” June 11-12. Details are on page 4 of this issue of *The Searchlight*.

Summer religious education classes will emphasize our Seventh Principle. Green Sanctuary Team members will be teaching three Sundays this summer during July and/or August. Suggested topics are bees and other pollinators, changing weather, and our connections to food and its production. Suggestions for other topics are welcome.

On Saturday, April 23, Green Sanctuary and RE partnered in our first-ever “BioBlitz.” A BioBlitz is a short-term exploration of one place to find and list every species that lives there. During our one-hour BioBlitz, we explored the church grounds with seven children and their parents. We found spring wild flowers, thorny trees, berry bushes, insects, spiders and birds. We also learned how to recognize poison ivy so we can protect ourselves in the woods, and we learned about invasive plants like bush honeysuckle so we can help protect the woods!

Bergfried Campground near Hermann is reserved Oct. 14-15 for a UUCC family camping weekend. Peter Holmes and Patty Daus are planning this event and welcome others as part of a planning team for activities both spiritual and physical. Save the dates on your calendar – the weather is fantastic that time of year, and leaves will just be starting to change color.

Last month the Earth Day Festival gave GS Team the opportunity to discuss our Seven Principles with festival goers. Several people expressed interest in attending our church, and we enjoyed discussing how our UUCC values support environmental concerns.

*Green Tip of the Month:* Pump liquid soap containers cause plastic waste, and many typical soaps contain harmful dyes and fragrances made from petroleum products. In addition antibacterial soaps in the home increase antibiotic resistant microbes, and children should not be frequently exposed to triclosan. At home consider replacing liquid soap plastic pumps with *plant-based bar soaps* – better for our families and better for the environment.

The next GS meeting will be held at Lisa Guillory’s house at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 14. All are welcome. Contact Lisa through messaging on Facebook for directions, or call 573-489-8036.



## Forum for June 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.*

### June 5

Sheila Kausler will take us behind the camera to learn about the Mediacom presentation of many of the forums and theater events in our town.

### June 12

Larry Brown, one of the country’s most interesting story-tellers, will tell us a few tales about the world around us.

### June 19

A representative from Veterans United Home Loans will explain the expanding role of this service in our community.

### June 26

Phil Steinhaus, chief executive officer of the Columbia Public Housing Authority, will update us on new projects, including the Patriot Place for veterans in need.

## **Farewell, Emily, and fare well...**

Our wonderful Sunday Morning Assistant Emily Woodall has accepted a job that requires her to work on weekends, so she has given notice that her last day with UUCC will be June 5. Please stop by the kitchen pass-through window to wish Emily well in her new endeavors! We will certainly miss her steady and skillful presence.

And, UU volunteers and friends, we will need you to step up and help out by setting up, serving, and cleaning up for our weekly hospitality service on Sunday mornings. Watch for a new sign-up on the church website for the summer weeks. At least two people will be recruited for each Sunday. Tasks are not complicated and you will become familiar quickly with many of the folks you usually only see across the room.

If you have a desire to lead a group of volunteers towards “radical hospitality,” a leadership role might be for you. Contact any of our staff to explore this possibility.

And, again, let’s do let Emily know that we thank her for her service to our community! If you’d like to send her a note or a message, her contact information is in the online church directory.

# ***And the Show Goes On***

One of the themes in the Oscar-winning 1998 movie “Shakespeare in Love” (at least for me) is how wonderful things can happen amidst chaos and uncertainty. The movie, in which a fictionalized William Shakespeare navigates romance, shows how in many theatrical productions, everything seems to be going wrong up until the very last moment. And then, almost miraculously, the show goes on.

I thought about this theme before and after our Annual Congregational Meeting, which convened after worship Sunday, May 15. I will confess I felt extremely ill-prepared. As president, I was in charge of chairing the meeting.

In my view, a chairperson for an official meeting has two very important responsibilities:

1. Strive to ensure everyone understands what is going on.
2. Strive to ensure everyone is heard.

These are lofty goals, and not achieved 100 percent of the time, but they are my priorities.

Despite my initial jitters, the other executive team members and church leaders were

on the ball. Secretary Steve Scott provided mentorship and ensured small details were addressed. Treasurer Gregg Suhler compiled the lion's share of the handouts and expertly fielded many of the complex questions about our church budget. Rev. Molly Housh Gordon assisted in facilitating a healthy discussion during the meeting. Church Administrator Kathie Bergman helped field some of the more nuanced budget questions. And others worked behind the scenes to ensure a productive meeting.

I remain in awe and gratitude for all of these efforts and those left unmentioned (but not unnoticed).

In the end, the members passed a budget for the next year and elected four new board members. Despite the chaos\*, the show goes on.

– Jeremy Milarsky, 2015-16 President

*\* Here I refer to the chaos of my own mind in terms of pre-meeting jitters, not the meeting itself. The meeting itself was very orderly, and everyone's behavior was superb.*

## **Honduras Service Trip in 2017**

The next UUCC service trip to Honduras is planned for early June 2017. This will be the fourth UUCC service trip to the same area in Honduras, and as in previous years, it will involve building latrines and building bridges of understanding and friendship. If you are interested and want to learn more, please contact Allie Gassmann at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net).

There will be an informational meeting in the fall.

## **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 us 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 is mainly silent meditation with some instruction, if needed, and with brief selected readings from eminent teachers.

For more information, contact Peter Holmes at [pfolmes63@gmail.com](mailto:pfolmes63@gmail.com).

### UUs Down by the Riverside

## **Potluck and Riverside Service**

**\Potluck: Saturday, June 11 from 5 to 9 p.m.  
Riverside Service: Sunday, June 12 at 11 a.m.**

**At Katfish Katy's Campground on the Missouri River  
[http://www.katfishkatys.com/area\\_map.htm](http://www.katfishkatys.com/area_map.htm)**

Come and enjoy our annual gathering at the Missouri River – a chance to enjoy the company of our church members and friends in a beautiful spot right on the banks of the river. We will have a campfire on Saturday if the weather is not too hot. Come early for the Sunday morning worship service and walk or sit by the river.

Linda Lou and Robert Brown no longer own the campground, but the new owner has given us permission to use it this year. However, there will be no camping and probably no water other than the water that we carry in.

Please bring food and drinks for the potluck and folding chairs if you want them. There will be picnic benches and tables to use. Also bring your own plates, cups and silverware. We will mainly be under the trees, like last year, but a sunhat might be a good idea.

For more information, contact Peter Holmes at 573-239-7789 or [pfholmes63@gmail.com](mailto:pfholmes63@gmail.com).

### **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.

## **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.*

### **Kaleidoscope – June 18**

Join Kaleidoscope at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 18 at the church as we celebrate Midsummer.

The power of the sun reaches its zenith, and the epic battle between the Holly King and the Oak King is rejoined.

The ritual will start at 6 p.m. and be followed by a potluck. All are welcome.

### **Reel UUs – June 20**

The Reel UUs Film Group gathers on the third Monday 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).

### **UUCC is Going Native!**

Seven UUCC members who have included native plants in their landscaping are opening their yards for a tour. Join us on Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. to learn about using native plants to create a beautiful and sustainable space around your own home.

This free, family-friendly event includes small city lots, suburban yards, and landscapes of several acres. It is a self-guided tour – visit the yards you choose during the three-hour time frame.

Detailed information and tour maps will be available at church from Sunday, May 22 until Sunday, June 12. You can also email Jeanne Murphy at [jmurphy1203@socket.net](mailto:jmurphy1203@socket.net) to request an electronic version of the information.

The UUCC Yard Tour is sponsored by your Grounds Team.

### **UU Book Discussion Group – June 10**

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, June 10 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. – June 8**

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon on Wednesday, June 8, at Pat Morrow's home, 407 Treetop. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

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

# Reflections

**Shanon Dickerson**

Director of Religious Education

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

573-442-5764

Office Hours: Sun. & by Appt.

## Important Dates

**June 5** - Summer Sunday School Begins!!!!

- HEIFER Summer Read to Feed Program Begins

**June 24-26** - Bergfried Trip for YRUU and 8th graders

## Sunday School 2016-2017

In collaboration with the Social Action Team, the RE Team has decided to move to a new curriculum for next year! This social justice curriculum is online and will allow us to put social justice projects into action, be greener in our impact on the environment through all online materials (only one hard copy available in each class), and allow parents online access to topics/questions/resources relating to Sunday School activities.

To learn more, go to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and enter the class title below in the search box to explore each class (please note we have changed the class ages to match the new curriculum).

**Potter (3-Pre-K):** Chalice Children  
**Schweitzer (K-1st):** Love Surrounds Us  
**Thoreau (2nd-3rd):** Love Will Guide Us  
**Adams (4th-5th):** Love Connects Us  
**YUUTS (6th-8th):** Heeding the Call  
**UUHS (9th-12th):** Will spend 7 weeks



learning about volunteer opportunities at church, which they will implement the rest of the year through service.

Of course, we are looking for teachers, aides and Service Sunday/Group Sunday volunteers for next year. We will need about four teachers and two aides per class to fill eight slots each and eight Service Sunday/Group Sunday helpers to fill eight slots each. Eight is great! We hope you can participate.

Contact Shanon Dickerson to sign up today!!

Thank you to everyone who helped in RE this year!!! We appreciate all you do to help our children learn & grow!



## Congratulations to all of our graduates!!!!

### High School:

Jacob Byerly-Duke  
Adele Dorman  
Leo Ewing  
Erin Hutton  
Ethen McConnell-Siebuhr  
Elaine Phillips  
Abbie Ries  
Selma Zweifel

### 8th Grade:

Koh Beatty  
Jack Dorman  
Jacob Fajen  
Naomi Garson  
Andrea Merritt  
Morgan Miller  
Cameron Reeves



# REflections...continued

## Summer Sunday School

### Program Description

This summer we have an exciting program planned! We will be exploring nature and learning to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We have nine sessions scheduled from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. June 5-Aug. 21. The Sunday School format will be that of a two-room school house. Potter (3-Pre-K) and Schweitzer (K-2nd) children will meet in the Potter Room, and the Thoreau (3rd-4th), Adams (5th-6th) and YUUTS (7th-8th) classes will meet in the Centering Room.



### Program Goals

1. Nurture a sense of wonder and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.
2. Engage children in direct experiences with and promote a better understanding of the web.
3. Provide meaningful ways to positively impact and promote the health of the interdependent web.
4. Explore faith through nature.

### Enduring Understandings

- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- Responsibility for our place in the web.
- Basic environmental concepts and processes.
- Understanding of how our actions create a chain of actions in the web.

Contact Shanon Dickerson if you would like to help out!

## HEIFER Summer Read to Feed June 5 - Aug. 28

HEIFER International is an organization with a mission to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

This summer, children can ask friends and family to sponsor them for each chapter, page or number of minutes they read from June 5 to Aug. 28. Money raised will go to the purchase of live-stock and training that will provide food and income to families around the world.

Mid-summer, Saturday, July 9 from 1 to 4 p.m., we will have a Read-In where children 3 and older can read under the stars or attend a story time in order to help meet their reading goals. Yummy snacks will also be served!

For more information, check out [www.ReadtoFeed.org](http://www.ReadtoFeed.org).



## RE Photos!

The **Social Action Team** wishes to **thank** the many  
**dedicated volunteers** serving the hungry at  
**Loaves and Fishes** soup kitchen each month.

*If you'd like to help feed the hungry in mid-Missouri, you may contribute to our church **Loaves and Fishes** fund by sending cash or check donations to **Kathie Bergman** at the church, with "**Loaves and Fishes**" in the memo line.*

Pictured below, from left: Diane Suhler, Scott Denson, Gregg Suhler, Linda Lou Brown, Caya Tanski-French and Nancy Boon. (Photo by Vic Myers)



The **LGBTQ activism team**, led by **Tessa Summers**, supported the  
**Trail to a Cure** event on May 7. The event is in **MEMORY** of those we've lost  
to HIV/AIDS, in **HONOR** of those living with HIV/AIDS, and in **HOPE** of finding  
a cure.

Pictured below: Kristen and Jeffrey Richter, left, and Elias Marcink.



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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**

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

Telephone: 573-442-5764

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

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

#### **Desiree Long, Music Director**

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

#### **Shanon Dickerson, Director of Religious Education**

Office Hours: Sunday mornings and by appointment

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.