



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • www.uuchurch.net • Volume 56, Issue 1, July 2016

Worship Services July 2016

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

Sunday, July 3

“Celebration of Poetry”

Intergenerational Service

DRE Shanon Dickerson

and Jamila Batchelder

Join Shanon and Jamila for an exciting intergenerational service focused on poetry.

Sunday, July 10

“Reading Our Way Whole”

Book Swap Service

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Have you ever read a book that provided you with healing or solace? Join us to talk about the role that reading can take in our lives. Bring a book that has been a source of meaning for you to share in our book swap, and leave with a book that has provided solace to someone else.

Sunday, July 17

“Where Environmental and

Social Justice Meet”

Lay Led Service with Steve Scott

Based on the book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* by Naomi Klein, Steve Scott will explain why environmental and social justice advocates need to recognize the common causes of the ills they are fighting and work together more closely.

Sunday, July 24

“The Five Smooth Stones

of Liberal Religion”

Lay Led Service with Maria Oropallo

To paraphrase Rev. Roberta Finkelshtein, theology, for many of us, is where the depth of our UU experience emerg-

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“The Peace of Wild Things”

The hot July days pass slowly and quickly all at once. May you find amid it all restorative moments of wildness, and stillness, and freedom, and love.

*“The Peace of Wild Things”
by Wendell Berry*

*When despair grows in me
and I wake in the middle of the night at the least
sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may
be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great
heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

I hope you will find a moment this month to rest in the grace of the world, and I hope you will join us here for a moment of peace.

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

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President's Perspective

By Jeremy Milarsky

I'm writing this column at a very sad time. It's been less than 24 hours since the mass shooting at an Orlando gay nightclub. Tracey and I are from Florida – we know the area well and have many friends in that state.

I don't really have the words to convey the utter sadness and frustration from this event.

I am, for what it's worth, very grateful to have the community we all share here at UUCC. I am grateful for the imperfect connections we enjoy on social media platforms, and being able to read the words of my friends and minister in that way.

For me, tragedies highlight the importance of community – and the importance of continuing support of that community in good and bad times.

While it feels a little strange to transition to housekeeping items in the wake of those thoughts, it's also part of my job. So I'll take this opportunity to announce a few Board of Trustees news items:

The board voted unanimously in May to reappoint me as church president for the 2016-2017 church year. This was not an easy decision. Ideally, the church presidency should change hands annually. Unfortunately, it was not possible to choose someone who was both willing to serve and had not served before. We expect to have a new president in the 2017-2018 church year. Meanwhile, I am grateful to my fellow board members for their trust.

The strategic planning process continues. Board members have scheduled a retreat to delve into the church's plan in July. Both incoming and outgoing members are invited. We're in the home stretch!

As this is the final column for this church year, I want to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing board members: George Bunyea, Jan Swaney, Jeanne Murphy and Ramzie Siebuhr. Serving on the board is not easy, but it is important and rewarding. Please join me in congratulating these individuals on their hard work.

Worship Services July 2016

(Continued from Page 1)

es. Theology is not, for us practitioners of progressive religion, based in a creed. It is not primarily about beliefs at all. For us, theology is a way to talk about meaning in the absence of the usual creedal structure. Based on an essay by James Luther Adams, we will focus on different aspects of our UU faith, a little UU history, theology, and ethics.

Sunday, July 31

“The Spirituality of Scruffy Hospitality”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

We can't wait until everything is perfectly set to offer our hospitality. How do we create a welcome that is genuine and radical, while still imperfect? And what would doing so mean for our spiritual lives?

Forum for July 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.

July 3

Allen Hjelmfelt will present his annual soft and easy Independence Day Weekend program guaranteed not to have exploding fireworks.

July 10

Shanon Dickerson, Director of the UUCC Children's Religious Education program, will catch us up on the upcoming changes in the R.E. program.

July 17

A member of the UUCC Social Action Team will present an overview of the work of the SAT in the recent months.

July 24

Dick Parker, UU and Forum member, will discuss “Reducing Columbia's Greenhouse Gasses.”

July 31

Rev. Mel West, retired Methodist minister and UU Forum member, will offer an informal discussion from a wealth of his past-decade experiences.



The Interdependent Web

The Grounds Team hopes that you enjoyed the first annual UU Yard Tour that was held in June. It was our way of launching Pollinator Week and sharing our love and knowledge of landscaping, native plants, and the environment in yards big and small, urban and rural.

The native flora that were planted at UUCC last year are coming up nicely as you can see, and we continue to try and stay ahead of the weeds. Join Patty and Jeanne on many Friday mornings to chat and pull. Smell the fragrant mint as you walk the stepping stones. Walk the footpaths in the woods behind the church and try to identify as many plants as you can.

The Grounds Team has been mowing, building check dams, managing the meadow, cutting wood and keeping the poison ivy at bay. If you would like to assist in the woods, please email Peter Holmes at pfolmes63@gmail.com.

The mowing signup can be accessed via the church website. Go to the home page, click the purple “Sign Up” button at far right, and then click the “Church Lawn Mowing” signup link. Here is a direct link to the signup’s location on the church site: https://uuchurch.net/sign-up-to-help/?sheet_id=29.

In September we are planning two work days to increase the growth of natives in the woods by decreasing the invasive honeysuckle, so sharpen your pruners. Invasive honeysuckle facts will be coming soon.

Grounds Team meetings are held at the church on the third Saturday of each month from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The team invites all interested folks to attend the next meeting on July 16.

For more information about the Grounds Team and its events, please feel free to contact Jeanne Murphy at jmurphy1203@socket.net or Patty Daus at pdaus@mchsi.com.

Ministry is what we do together

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.

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, email Peter Holmes at pfolmes63@gmail.com

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

UCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday of each month. Please sign up to prepare food for this meal and/or to help set up, serve, and clean up. Please submit receipts for all food items to the Social Action Team so we can track what this ministry is costing our community. Some of your expenses may be reimbursed by the church.

Food items should be delivered to Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church, 702 Wilkes Blvd., between 4:30 and 4:45 p.m. on the day the meal is being pro-



vided. Please do not leave food items for Loaves and Fishes at UCC because of the difficulty of transporting these items. It is best to use disposable cooking pans (available in the UCC kitchen)

rather than cookware that must be returned to the owners.

Serving meals at Loaves and Fishes is a project of our Social Action Team. If you have questions, email Diane Suhler at drsuhler@ccis.edu.

Loaves and Fishes was started in the mid-1980s 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 groups.

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.

Kaleidoscope – Aug. 6

Join Kaleidoscope at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6 for the celebration of Lughnassad, the Feast of the First Harvest.

Tomatoes ripen on the vines. Watermelon juice runs down our chins. Peas, and beans, and collards, and turnips – a feast for the eyes and mind as well as the mouth. Celebrate with us.

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

UU Book Discussion Group – July 8

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, July 8 at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, 1903 Business Loop 70 E. Bring a book you have read to discuss.

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

Conversations, Etc. – July 13

The Conversations, Etc. women's group will meet at noon on Wednesday, July 13 at Jackie Byland's in Fayette. Meet at the NW corner of the Target parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring a salad. Call Pam at 445-0642 with your questions.

Hook & Needle Group

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.

Reel UUs - Third Week

The Reel UUs Film Group gathers during the third full week 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.

Email Janice Smith at janepicturean@gmail.com if you want more information.

UCC 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

What is the Caring Ministry Coordinating Team?

“At the heart of all that civilization has meant and developed is ‘community’ – the mutually cooperative and voluntary venture of man to assume a semblance of responsibility for his brother.”
– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Caring Ministry Coordinating Team is based on the belief that we are all inherently worthy of care and meaningful connections with others. This ministry provides support in times of celebration and challenge. Support may include cards, calls, visits, meals, and assistance with errands, transportation, or other needs.

The Caring Ministry Coordinating Team (CMCT) is an established ministry of the UU Church of Columbia. There are many church members and friends who perform and support caring ministry activities.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, contact Meredith Donaldson or Win Scott, or any member of the Caring Ministry Coordinating Team, our Church Administrator, or our Minister.

Many hands do make light work, and the work of your hands is needed and appreciated. Please consider joining our team and/or helping out periodically with a specific service or task. We have regular monthly meetings at the church on the third Sunday after the worship service. Also, you can keep in touch by reading your weekly UU email and the announcements in the order of service.

Growth Through Service Opportunities

Did you know... Each Sunday, our church needs about **44** volunteers to make our services successful? Fortunately, it only takes each member giving **1 hour** of service per month to meet this need!

Want to help out? Looking to Grow Through Service?

Serving your UUCC community is as easy as signing up to do a small task. Try your hand at one of the following:

Ushers: If you like people, want to contribute to our Sunday worship, and don't have a lot of extra time, you are a perfect candidate to usher. There's a checklist that tells you what to do and you get to see everyone at worship without having to search them out. All you need to do is show up by 10:30 a.m., follow the checklist, greet your friends, and enjoy the service.

Greeters: Work with our Welcoming Team and learn how to meet and greet our Sunday visitors/guests. Ask them to sign our guest register. Get them a name tag. Show them a friendly face that wants them to feel at home! If you have been inspired by Unitarian Universalism, this opportunity is for you.

Aiding in the Children's R.E. Program: Sign up to be the extra hands, eyes and ears that the R.E. teachers need! No training or prior experience is required.

Hospitality Service: Make coffee and lemonade and serve refreshments during the time following the worship service and/or clean up in the kitchen afterwards.

Please go to the UUCC website to sign up. At the top of the home page, just click the purple “Sign Up” button (shown below) at the far right of the row of buttons.

UUCC – The Church Nurturing Spirit and Service

Sign Up

FESTIVAL OF SHARING MISSOURI BABY BUNDLE PACKS



Would you like to provide one of these Baby Bundles with the items listed below?

These can be “new or like new”.

2 receiving blankets

2 undershirts or onesies

1 sweater or sweatshirt

2 sleepers (1 piece or gown)

8-12 diapers (cloth or disposable)

2 diaper pins (Only for cloth diapers)

Please use newborn to 6 month sized items. Place your Baby Bundle items in a 2 gallon zip lock bag. Bring it to the Festival of Sharing (FoS) Display in the Greeting Area.

Your Baby Packs will be distributed through MO agencies that have programs to support young mothers and babies.

MISSOURI STUDENT DENTAL PACK



Tooth decay (OUCH) is the #1 infectious disease in Children according to National Institutes of Health. It disproportionally affects disadvantaged and underserved communities. This is why we invite you to create these dental packs. They will be distributed by Missouri agencies, to families in need.

Each pack contains:

1 fluoride toothpaste, 6 oz or more,

2 adult sealed soft toothbrushes,

4 child size sealed soft toothbrushes and

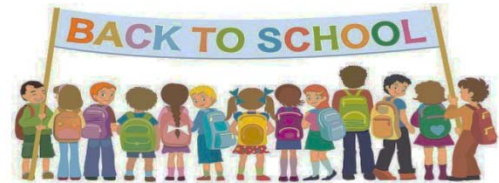
1 dental floss – any size.

Place items in a 1 Gal. zip lock bag and return it to the FofS display area in the Greeting Area.

Deadline for returning kits is Oct. 1, 2015

FESTIVAL OF SHARING MO READING & WRITING PACKS

*The Long-Term Solution
to Poverty Education*



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

1. Take a shopping list from the FofS Display.
2. Provide everything for one or more school packs or bring extra supplies, or
3. Add the items that are missing from some partially completed packs(s).
4. Return your partial or completed packs to a container under the display table.

MO BACKPACKS OF LOVE

You can make a difference for a child who is removed from home due to a crisis.



2 MORE OPTIONS

1. If you want to provide everything for a backpack, pick up a shopping list at the **FofS Display table**. When complete, return your backpack to the container **under the FofS Display Table**.
2. If you choose to adopt an *incomplete* Pack, go to the **FofS Display table**. A list will be attached to each incomplete backpack. It will show items still needed. Please take the incomplete pack, and add the needed items.
3. Next, provide the requested information on the Sign UP Clipboard. Return your gift to the **FofS Display table**. Please sign in your Pack, and place it under the Display Table.

QUESTIONS??

Contact Marian Hjelmfelt.

Reflections

HEIFER Read to Feed Summer Read-In July 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. In the Centering Room

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 livestock and training that will provide food and income to families around the world.

On 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 ReadtoFeed.org.



Summer Sunday School 7th Principle

This summer we will be exploring nature and learning to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Check out our schedule!



Program Dates

- July 3 - Intergenerational Service
- July 10 - Climate Change
- July 17 - Exploring the Outdoors
- July 24 - Play with Plants
- July 31 - Spirit in Nature
- Aug. 7 - UU in Nature
- Aug. 14 - Fun with Bugs
- Aug. 21 - Mindfulness

Shanon Dickerson
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Sun. & by Appt.

Important Dates

July 9 - HEIFER Read to Feed Read-In

Be on the lookout
for upcoming
summer family fun
announcements!



Change in Your Pocket June 5-Aug. 28

Sunday School Children and the Forum adult discussion group will collect change this summer to purchase and plant a native Dogwood tree together in the fall. This program is designed to go along with the Summer Sunday School theme and to link/bridge our children and the Forum group.



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Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

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Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

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Wednesdays 1-4 p.m.

By appointment (including evenings and weekends)

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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.