



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

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Worship Services August 2016

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

**Sunday, Aug. 7
“Poetry of Witness”**

Lay Led Service with Marta Ferguson

The Poetry of Witness includes poems written by those directly involved in acute crises, like Hurricane Katrina, or long-running disasters, like the political instabilities in many African nations. Come hear some readings that give us the opportunity to listen to the voices of artists, advocates, activists, our friends and neighbors from around the block or around the globe.

**Sunday, Aug. 14
“Who Gets to Vote?”**

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

The 5th Principle adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association is “The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” Yet, the right to vote is under threat in Missouri. What is the faithful Unitarian Universalist response? Join us explore the past, present, and future of the struggle for voting rights for all.

Sunday, Aug. 21

“Ability, Disability and Accessibility”

**Lay Led Service with Gretchen Maune,
James Cutts and Hayden Kristal**

Join several young leaders to explore ability, disability and accessibility.

**Sunday, Aug. 28
WATER CEREMONY**

**Multi-Generational Ingathering Service
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us as one big multi-generational community as we launch our program year with our annual Water Ceremony Service. Bring water with you that is either symbolically or actually from a place that has nurtured your spirit during the hot summer months.

Cultivating Spiritual Growth

“You will be like a well-watered garden” – Isaiah 58:11

The word **cultivate**, used so often in agriculture to refer to preparing the ground and carefully growing plants, comes from the latin root *cultus*, which means “care, labor, worship, or reverence.” It is a rich metaphor for our spiritual lives, which require us regularly to till the soil, turning up new insights. Our spirits grow best with tender care, intention and attention, the nourishment of water, air, and earth, and even regular weeding!

This year, our overarching worship theme will be “Cultivating Spiritual Growth.” Each month we will be exploring different “qualities of spiritual maturity” as conceptualized by UU minister the Rev. Kendyl Gibbons. The qualities we will explore are:

1. Self-awareness in the service of intention
2. Willingness to offer Leadership and Service
3. Fluency in the use of Metaphor
4. A perspective of Gratitude, Wonder, Blessing and Generosity
5. Tolerance for Intensity and Ambiguity
6. The perception of universal connectedness
7. The serene surrender to reality
8. The capacity to acknowledge error and change
9. The ability to be in the presence of pain without panic
10. The consistent acceptance of mortality
11. Fidelity to Covenant
12. Attraction to Beauty, Mercy, and Justice

I hope each of us will find rich inspiration in our reflections together, and that together we may grow in spirit, like a well-watered garden.

See you in church!
Rev. Molly

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Forum for August 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.

Aug. 7

A fun, two-week journey with a major league baseball scout – one week in the United States and the second week in the international baseball world. Bill Clark will present.

Aug. 14

A celebration of the late Jim Vest's life with a reading of Jim's Forum presentation of some 15 years ago entitled "A Dialogue Between God and the Arch Skeptic." The entire congregation is invited. If the crowd is too large, we'll be in the sanctuary.

Aug. 21

The topic: "Had the world's greatest classical music composers chosen baseball as a career, what Hall of Famers would they most resemble?" Bill Clark will offer his list for discussion and dissection.

Aug. 28

A challenge: Who does a white, middle class, American male see staring back at him in the mirror? Bill Clark, a white, middle class, American male, will present.

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Columbia, Missouri



The Church Nurturing
Spirit and Service

President's Perspective

By Jeremy Milarsky

What's your ministry?

Decades ago, I was taking a class in the history of journalism, and I remember discussing some of the early 20th Century photojournalists. Many of them thrived in cities during the muck-raking era, and more than a few referred to taking photos of the squalid conditions and people as their "ministry."

At its core, "ministry" means (at least to me) spiritual work or service. In the system of policy governance adopted a few years back here at UUCC, we use the term to describe the day-to-day running of the church and actions that fulfill its overall mission. By contrast, that mission (and the vision/values which fuel it) are stewarded and articulated by the other side of policy governance: the Board of Trustees and its committees.

Put simply, ministry refers to the action of teams, while board responsibilities (financial oversight and mission/vision) are handled by the board and a few committees. There are hybrid groups that straddle the line between both – but mainly, the board is about the big picture, and the ministries are about day-to-day actions.

UUCC is no megachurch, so the bulk of our work is performed by volunteers.

The main trick in all of this is matching work to worker. In a perfect organization, everyone would be doing exactly what they are passionate about to the exact degree for which they have the capacity.

We'll probably never get quite there, but it'd be foolish not to try.

So what's your ministry?

Are you passionate about environmentalism? Check out the Green Sanctuary Team. Want to fight injustice with some of our community's superheroes? Try out the Social Action Team. Is shaping young minds your bag? Consider signing up to help with the Religious Education program.

The church website has details about these opportunities and more. I encourage you all to check them out at <https://uuchurch.net>.

Staff transition announcement from Rev. Molly

Dear UU Churchers,

I write to inform you of a staff transition. Our Director of Religious Education (DRE), Shanon Dickerson, will be leaving our staff effective Aug. 8 in order to take a position as the director of the study-abroad program for the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri. This is sad news for us, but fulfilling news for Shanon as she returns to her previous field and another kind of work that she is passionate about.

Shanon wishes me to communicate how much she values our congregation. She and her husband Tim do plan to remain a part of our community, as appropriate to this transition.

Our Religious Education Team, our Board, and I have met since receiving this news and are creating a plan for this transition that will insure the excellence of our Religious Education program continues without interruption. For now let me say that we are very con-

fidant that with our strong volunteer and budgetary resources, we are very well positioned to keep our program running smoothly as we engage in a search process for a new DRE. Our commitment to a top-notch Religious Education program remains one of our very highest priorities.

You – our members and friends – are our greatest resource, and I hope you will consider helping with this transition time by volunteering to teach RE or serve as a classroom aide in the fall. Shanon will be focusing her energy before her departure on getting us as well set up for the fall as possible. Please do be in touch with her at dre@uuchurch.net if you are able and willing to teach or aide.

If you have questions, concerns, or thoughts, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at minister@uuchurch.net or by phone at 573-442-5764.

In faith,
Rev. Molly

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 trained and supported facilitators 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 per month (or more, at the decision of the group)

Starting in mid-August you can **register** by clicking the signup button shown below at <https://uuchurch.net/chalice-circles/>. On Sundays from Aug. 21 through Sept. 18 you can also sign up or get more information in the Greeting Area, or contact us at chalice-circle@uuchurch.net.

Sign Up For A 2016-17 Chalice Circle



The Interdependent Web

The Green Sanctuary Team (GST) is enjoying interacting with the RE kids this summer! We will explore “UU in Nature” on Aug. 7, “Fun with Bugs” on Aug. 14, and “Mindfulness” on Aug. 21. Please sign up to aide in the summer class, as the nature themes are such fun to explore, and it’s gratifying to see the children’s growing awareness of our interdependence with nature.

We have reserved Bergfried Campground near Hermann for the weekend of Oct. 14-16. Come to enjoy a beautiful weekend in nature and recharge your spirit in the fall weather. Contact Peter Holmes or Patty Daus for more information.

The GST is working with Rev. Molly on an environmental calendar that will allow us to pair environmental topics with worship themes and topics for

the coming year. Stay tuned for topics, and we welcome suggestions for readings.

The GST will have a retreat in October on a day still to be decided. Please contact Lisa Guillory or Ellen Thomas if you’re interested in joining the team. We welcome new ideas, and coming to the retreat is a great way to get started, become acquainted with our members, and get involved with upcoming projects.

Peter Holmes and Kyna Byerly will be asking members to bring flowers or plants from their yards to help decorate the Sanctuary and Chancel. Our goal is to “beautify the sanctuary by bringing nature in.” We welcome donations of cut flowers from your yard – however, be mindful of the flowers that are most responsible for allergies!

Ministry is what we do together

Honduras Service Trip in 2017

Are you interested in the 2017 Honduras Service Trip?

Please join the Honduras ministry group on Aug. 28 after the 11 a.m. worship service for an informational meeting. We will meet in the Centering Room downstairs at 12:15 p.m.

The trip is planned for one week during the first half of June 2017 and will involve building latrines.

To see pictures and learn more about past trips, go to the church website. Learn about our 2014 trip at <https://uuchurch.net/2014-honduras-trip/>.

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/>.

Note: Starting in September, the Wednesday afternoon Grieving Circle will meet on Wednesday morning. Find more information in the September *Searchlight*.

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

UUCC 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 UUCC because of the difficulty of transporting these items. It is best to use disposable cooking pans (available in the UUCC 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 – Aug. 12

The UU Book Discussion will meet at ABC Chinese Cuisine, 3510 I-70 Dr. S.E., at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12.

Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

Conversations, Etc. – Aug. 10

Conversations, Etc. will meet at the church at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 10.

Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

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

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

UUA General Assembly 2016

I PUT MY HAND IN YOURS SO THAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER WHAT I CANNOT DO ALONE

At the end of July, Amie Burling and I attended the UUGA as delegates representing UUCC. Nearly 4,000 UUs from all across the country met in Columbus, Ohio for five days of workshops, worship, and a chance to come together and take strength from our collective energy.

Because we were meeting in Columbus, the theme for GA was "The Heartland: Where Faiths Connect." We come from different traditions, we make meaning in different ways, we have different life experiences, and we can still connect and grow together.

In one of the services we were asked to take a nearby person's hand and say the words, "I put my hand in yours so that we can do together what I cannot do alone." How about doing this at UUCC on a regular basis to remind ourselves why we go to church?

For me this exercise represented one of the most powerful insights that I carried away from the GA. One of the reasons that I go to church is to feel a sense of connection to other people – but also to feel connected to a larger purpose and to have an impact in the world by working as part of a group.

This is also true for our little church. We can only have a significant positive impact if we join with other UU congregations across the country and speak with one voice.

By attending GA I was able to widen my perspective about the importance of the work the UUA is doing as an organization and pay better attention to how our church might contribute. I am so glad that we are now paying our full dues to support the UUA financially (many other churches

are not).

There were many people at GA who are really devoted to spreading the UU gospel and taking action to address injustices. I had not been paying attention to the importance of this work until I went to GA. Now I have seen the light.

I would love our church to give time and energy to this enterprise. I hope more members of our congregation will make the effort to attend GA next year in New Orleans or in 2018 in Kansas City.

Please watch the Sunday morning worship where you might catch a glimpse of me singing in the choir: <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2016/worship/sunday>.

We're planning more reports on the UUA General Assembly, so look for the next installment in the September *Searchlight*.

– Peter Holmes

UUCC Camp Out

Oct. 14-17, 2016

Bergfried Campground

Fall colors, campfires, s'mores, singing, camping, music, games, and togetherness in the outdoors

Save the date – the first annual UUCC Camp Out is scheduled from Friday, Oct. 14 to Monday, Oct. 17.

We have the entire weekend reserved, so stay as short or as long as you like. The camp out will be held at Bergfried, which is near Hermann, Mo. and owned by Eliot Chapel.

Watch for more information in coming months. Questions may be sent by email to Peter Holmes at pfolmes63@gmail.com or Patty Daus at pdaus@mchsi.com.

Our presence on the web

Go to <https://uuchurch.net> for complete information on church activities and our online calendar of events

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.

Reflections

'Change in Your Pocket'
June 5-Aug. 28

Sunday School Children and Forum are collecting change this summer to 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.



Summer Sunday School – 7th Principle



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

Program Dates

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

Aug. 27 - Sunday School Teacher/Aides Training
9-11 a.m. in the Centering Room

Summer Sunday School Thank you!

Thank you to the Grounds Team, Green Sanctuary, aides and Melissa Ensign-Bedford for all of your hard work in making Summer Sunday School a success!



Sunday School Teachers and Aides Needed

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

Would you be interested in this exciting opportunity to work with the children of our church? If so, contact Shanon Dickerson to get signed up today! This opportunity will enable you to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, help our children learn and grow, and deepen your own spiritual growth. We will need about 4 teachers and 2 aides per class to fill 8 slots each and 8 Service Sunday/Group Sunday helpers to fill 8 slots each.

8 is great!!! We hope you can participate.



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Return Service Requested

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



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