



# 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 56, Issue 3, September 2016

## Worship Services September 2016

**Sept. 4 – 11 a.m. only**  
**“Throw-Away People”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

With the aid of the new book *White Trash: The Four Hundred Year Untold History of Class in America*, Rev. Molly Housh Gordon will explore the profound influence of class in America and in our tradition. How do we faithfully respond to our broader culture’s tragic and deeply ingrained belief that some people are disposable?

**Sept. 11 – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
**“Cultivating Spiritual Growth”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us to begin exploring our overarching theme for the year: cultivating spiritual growth. What is spiritual growth, exactly? How do we cultivate it, and how do we know it when we see it? *A Faith-to-Action offering will be taken for Festival of Sharing.*

**Sept. 18 – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
**“To Be of Use”**

**Guest Preacher Rev. Dottie Mathews**

The gifted poet Marge Piercy, in her poem of this same title, tells us that humans crave real purpose and meaning in this life of ours. We want to know we are doing something that has impact in the grand scheme of our existence. As this congregation begins exploring questions around the hallmarks of spiritual growth, we might well start with the foundational question, “Why does spiritual growth matter?” Come hear our new affiliated community minister as she offers some thoughts on this – and, you can also learn what an affiliated community minister is!

**Sept. 25 – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
**“The Self That Is Hidden”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

When we come to practice self-awareness, we must also decide which parts of ourselves we bare to the world, and which remain hidden. We must recognize, as well, that pieces of us are hidden to ourselves, though not always to the world. When it comes to our spiritual growth, how do we grapple with blind spots, defenses, and the hidden inner world? *A Faith-to-Action offering will be taken for Festival of Sharing.*

## *Spiritual Growth is cultivated by:* **Self-Awareness**

*“I have been and still am a seeker,  
but I have ceased to question stars and books;  
I have begun to listen to the teaching  
my blood whispers to me.”*

– Hermann Hesse

This month we begin with the first of the 12 qualities of spiritual maturity we will be exploring this year – self-awareness.

The ancient Greeks used the word “Sophrosyne” to describe a slippery concept that meant something like: a healthy state of mind, moderation, balance, and deep awareness of one’s true self. It is said to encapsulate two famous sayings from the Oracle at Delphi: “Nothing in excess” and “Know thyself.”

When we dive deep into the sacred text that is our own lives... when we listen to the teaching our blood whispers to us... when we know intimately the dark *and* light in the depths of our own selves... *then* we are able to find our own particular balance in this world and move with greater ease.

This month, join us as we explore the tools we might use to turn our gaze on one of life’s greatest mysteries: *Us*.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

## **Two Services Resume Sept. 11**

**Join us at 9 a.m. for our more intimate, interactive service, or at 11 a.m. for our traditional worship.**

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## President's Perspective

# *It's time to start thinking about future leadership*

By Jeremy Milarsky, 2016-17 President

Despite the next church year being more than nine months away (our budget and programming year begins July 1 and ends June 30), it's never too early to think about leadership.

Democracy is, after all, central to our Unitarian Universalist principles, and matching the right people to the right service roles (including leadership roles) is very important to our community.

Specifically for this article, I want to address the next three spots on your Board of Trustees. For background, the board needs to have nine members at any one time, each serving a three-year term. Each year, one "class" of members rotates off the board.

Here is the membership of the 2016-17 board:

**Terms ending June 30, 2017:** Jeremy Milarsky (President), Steve Scott (Secretary), and Gregg Suhler.

**Terms ending June 30, 2018:** Mark Johnson, Janice Smith and Melissa Ensign-Bedford.

**Terms ending June 30, 2019:** Patty Daus (Treasurer), Peter Holmes, and Todd Iveson (President-Elect).

At our Annual Congregational Meeting next spring, the congregation will elect three church members for three-year terms ending June 30, 2020 to succeed the three trustees whose terms expire next June 30.

UUCC benefits from a board that is both qualified and diverse. We want to lead our community responsibly while reflecting our diversity and community values. It's a great opportunity to give your time and talent!

If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact our Nominating Committee, co-chaired by me ([jmilarsky@gmail.com](mailto:jmilarsky@gmail.com)) and Maria Oropallo ([maria.r.oropallo@gmail.com](mailto:maria.r.oropallo@gmail.com)).

## *Ministry is what we do together*

### **Leadership Kickoff Breakfast**

**Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 to 11 a.m.**

Calling all team leaders, all interested volunteers, and all who wish to grow in leadership!

Join Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and your Committee on Ministry for a Leadership Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 to 11 a.m.

The primary purpose for this breakfast will be coordinating the work and schedules of our ministry teams for this program year. Bring your calendar, dates for any of your upcoming events, and the spirit of collaboration as we seek synergy, partnership, and understanding between our many groups!

### **Grieving Circle**

Grieving Circle meets at church every month on the **second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. (changed for September and all months going forward)** and on the fourth Thursday at 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. Come, share, listen.

Find more information at <https://uuchurch.net/grieving-circle/>.



## Forum for September 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.*

### Sept. 4

Wayne Anderson will present on “Women’s Equality: Why Is It Taking So Long?” With occasional sharp gains, women have made mostly slow progress in escaping from the box of social norms that viewed them as being limited human beings incapable of handling complicated jobs and their own finances. He will place emphasis on the great changes that took place in the late 1960s and early 1970s as some of the walls limiting them fell down and what is happening now.

### Sept. 11

Wayne Anderson will present on the book *The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey*. Rinker Buck not only gives a firsthand account of what it was like for him and his brother Nick in 2014 to drive a covered wagon pulled by a mule team across the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail but also introduces us to the problems faced by the 400,000 settlers, ranchers and entrepreneurs who made the journey between 1846 and 1869.

### Sept. 18

Yolanda Ciolli, publisher of AKA Publishing and Compass Flower Press, offers independent book publishing services to authors who want to see their work in print. She will discuss exciting news regarding self-publishing and the greater acceptance self-publishers’ books are getting from book stores. With the new print-on-demand technology, she can produce a high quality product equal to those produced by traditional publishers, and she provides access to global distribution channels via online retailers.

### Sept. 25

Wayne Anderson, a travel writer for *The Columbia Daily Tribune* who has visited 60 of the world’s top 100 wonders, will discuss his latest book, *Unforgettable World Wonders*, in which he recounts his visits to 45 of those wonders in 14 countries. We will take a look both at some of the most popular and at some of the most unusual wonders of the world.

## Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

### Membership 101 class – Sept. 18

What does it mean to be a member of this church? What should you expect from this congregation? What is expected of you? To get answers to these and many other questions, we strongly encourage all who are interested in joining UUC to participate in our Membership 101 class.

The next class is scheduled Sunday, Sept. 18 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Please join us! Childcare and a light lunch will be provided.

Reservations are required, so please contact Kevin Fritsche ([fritschek@missouri.edu](mailto:fritschek@missouri.edu) or 573-289-4536) by Friday, Sept. 16.



### UU Life Writers start on Oct. 1

UU Life Writers – the group that writes great stories!

We start this fall on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the usual 10:30 a.m. time.

The theme for this fall is “Potpourri,” meaning that each Saturday will be different. We will do Emerson and Thoreau in the spring.

So... for our first session we will *not* write “What I did on my summer vacation,” but something thoughtful, profound, informative or humorous about your summer experiences. Bring one or two postcards or pictures from those times. On the back write *one* word that “shows” your experience. Think about it!

All are welcome to come and write their life stories. Bring paper/pencil or pen. We write and share our stories... and drink coffee!

For more information contact Fran Reynolds (573-443-4336 or [Reynoldsf@missouri.edu](mailto:Reynoldsf@missouri.edu)).



# Green Sanctuary



## Green Sanctuary Team Report

During this time of unprecedented flooding in Louisiana, unprecedented wildfires in California, and strange weather patterns all around the world, the time for action is now!

Please join the Green Sanctuary Team for a **Simplicity Workshop on Sept. 11** after the 11 a.m. worship service. See more information in the box below.

Be looking for our fall **Mindful Journeys** activities, and consider taking a means other than a car to church in September and October.

Also coming up Oct. 14-17 is a **family camping weekend at Bergfried**. See more details in the article at right.

**Harvest Supper** this year will be a potluck at the end of October or in early November. Stay tuned!

We would love to have you join our team! We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Contact Ellen Thomas, Lisa Guillory or Allie Gassmann for more information.

### Simplicity Workshop

12:30 p.m. Sept. 11  
Centering Room

The Simplicity Workshop sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Team will focus on living simply to benefit the environment. Mark Haim will be the guest speaker.

Everyone is invited and welcome! Bring a brown bag lunch for yourself (beverages will be provided).

### Fun in the Forest

## **First Annual UUCC Campout Oct. 14-17 at Bergfried**

Fall colors, campfires, s'mores,  
singing, camping, hiking, music, games,  
and an outdoor Sunday Service

The first annual UUCC Campout is scheduled from Friday, Oct. 14 to Monday, Oct. 17. The campout will be held at Bergfried, a 600-acre tract near Hermann, Mo. owned by Eliot Unitarian Chapel of Kirkwood, Mo.

If you want to attend, please sign up at <https://uuchurch.net/sign-up-for-oct-14-17-campout/>.

We have the entire weekend reserved, so stay as short or as long as you like.

This is our first attempt at organizing a campout at Bergfried, and we hope to make it an annual event if we get enough interest. We are also hoping that it will be a special time for our members to make deeper connections with each other.

You can come and camp or stay in the cottage or a bunkhouse. The cottage has water, electricity, a double bed, two twin beds and three portable twin floor mattresses that can be used on the screened porch. There are two bunkhouses, one with four beds and one with five beds.

There will be a fee of \$3 per person for the weekend camping, and we will be asking for donations to help defray the costs of leasing the Bergfried property.

We will need plenty of organizing help. You can volunteer or submit questions by email to Peter Holmes ([pfolmes63@gmail.com](mailto:pfolmes63@gmail.com)) or Patty Daus ([pdaus@mchsi.com](mailto: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

### UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday of each month.

Please sign up on the church website to prepare food for this meal and/or to help set up, serve, and clean up.

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](mailto:drsuhler@ccis.edu).

### Men's Group – Sept. 10 and 24

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*

### Social Action Team

Interested in activism? Consider joining the Social Action Team!

Follow us at:

- [www.UUCCSocialAction.org](http://www.UUCCSocialAction.org)
- [www.Facebook.com/SocialActionTeam](http://www.Facebook.com/SocialActionTeam)

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

- <https://uuchurch.net/social-action-team/>

Let us know if you're interested or have questions by email to [SocialAction@uuchurch.net](mailto:SocialAction@uuchurch.net).

Our Fall Retreat is scheduled at 9 a.m. Sept. 10. This is a great time to join and get in on the yearly planning. See you there!

### Kaleidoscope

Join us Saturday, Sept. 17, at 6 p.m. at the church as we celebrate M'bon, the Second Harvest.

The grain is ripe, and ready to be harvested. A good harvest may mean the difference between abundance and starvation during the long winter months. Join with us as we travel toward the darkness.

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

### 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, time, film and location are announced each month in the weekly emails and on the website.

Email Janice Smith at [janepicturean@gmail.com](mailto:janepicturean@gmail.com) if you want more information.

### 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](mailto:pfolmes63@gmail.com)

### UU Book Discussion Group – Sept. 9

The UU Book Discussion will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9 at ABC Chinese Cuisine, 3510 I-70 Dr. S.E.

Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

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

### Conversations, Etc. – Sept. 14

Conversations, Etc. will meet at the church at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

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.

# CROP Hunger Walk on Sept. 25

This year's CROP Walk to alleviate hunger here in Columbia and around the world will take place on Sept. 25, starting at 2 p.m. at the Gordon Shelter at Stephens Lake Park.

The funds raised will benefit Church World Service (CWS) and five local partners: Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Russell Chapel Food Pantry, Latter House Food Pantry, Fifth Street Christian Church's Feed the Community program, and – new in 2016 – the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.

CWS works with partner organizations around the world. For instance, Melecio Cantoral Gonzalez in Honduras learned new farming techniques to diversify his crops. This helped him survive and even thrive in spite of changing weather patterns. He has passed his new knowledge on to his fellow villagers, and he is now in the position to help family and friends.

For more information and to pick up a fundraising packet, see Allie Gassmann at the CROP table on Sundays in September or email her at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net).

## Second report from 2016 UU General Assembly

### **Congregational Study Action Issues (CSAI) and Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW)**

by Peter Holmes

A large chunk of the business meetings at the 2016 GA was taken up making decisions about which CSAI to adopt and which AIW's to support. Amie Burling and I voted as delegates representing UUCC on these proposals. Four CSAI's were proposed, and we had to select one issue for study and action within our congregations as part of the larger denominational movement for the next four years. The proposed CSAI's were:

- 1. Climate Change and Environmental Justice**
- 2. A National Conversation on Race**
- 3. Ending Gun Violence in America**
- 4. The Corruption of our Democracy**

The CSAI that got the most votes was number 4, the corruption of our democracy. As corporations use "corporate personhood" and "money as speech" for their interests rather than people's needs, can a constitutional amendment be passed to protect us? Could this further UU work for social and environmental justice and help protect the health and safety of the people and planet?

Three AIW's were proposed and adopted by delegates:

- 1. Build Solidarity with our Muslims Neighbors**
- 2. Some Guns, All Guns: Legislating Appropriate Restrictions**
- 3. Stop The Hate: Protect and Support our Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Family**

The AIW process allows Unitarian Universalists to respond quickly to social issues deemed urgent. Adopted AIWs are used by congregations in local efforts to take action and recommend action through other departments of the UUA and other Unitarian Universalist groups.

I found myself thinking about all the many social issues our congregation is trying to address. Our energy often seems to be spread very thin and consequently we do not make much progress in any one particular area. What if we decided to adopt just one particular issue each year, put our own favorite cause aside, and all work together to really create change? Could we not be more effective in our actions by doing this?

## ***Shoppers – support the church with your purchasing power!***

If you shop at Schnuck's Supermarket in Columbia, here is an easy way to earn money for our church! Follow these steps:

1. Ask for a My Schnucks card at the Customer Service counter.

2. When next at your computer, go to Schnucks.com.

3. Hover over the "Programs" menu and select "Schnucks Fundraising" from the drop-down menu.

4. Click on "eScrip" in number 2 under "How It Works."

5. Fill in the form to become registered.

6. When you come to the choice of charities under "Select your school or non-profit," find "Unitarian Universalist-Columbia, Mo" in the drop-down list and click on the box to mark a check.

7. Then click Update.

That is all! Just keep your user name and password for the Schnuck's website in case you wish to return to it. UUCC will get a little bonus every time you shop at Schnuck's and show your My Schnucks card at the checkout.

## ***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.

**Cultivating Spiritual  
Growth  
Evening Retreat**  
*Friday, Sept. 23  
6-9 p.m.*

Start the church year off right with an evening retreat to spend time in silence, reflection, and conversation. Together we will take a deep dive into our yearlong theme of spiritual maturity.

Dinner provided. RSVP required by Sept. 16 to Rev. Molly Housh Gordon at [minister@uuchurch.net](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net).

**Chalice Circle  
Beginning of the Year  
Potluck**

*6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30*

If you are a member of a Chalice Circle or are interested in joining one of our Chalice Circle small groups, please join us for a beginning of the year potluck.

We'll start the year off right with a delicious meal and time to get to know one another before we delve deep into our groups. Please bring a dish to share!

# **Religious Education News**

It's that time of year again – RE classes start Sept. 11! Don't forget to register your child(ren) for Sunday School at <https://uuchurch.net/online-re-registration/>

## **Can you help?**

We still need several teachers and aides for our coming program year. The teaching load is lighter than ever this year, and the time with our kids and RE volunteers is a total blast! Contact Jeff Ordway to volunteer at [Jeff@theordways.us](mailto:Jeff@theordways.us).

## **RE Transition Team**

Your fantastic RE Transition Team is Jamila Batchelder, Melissa Collins, Corinne Mann, Melissa McConnell, and Jeff Ordway.

They are tasked with keeping our RE program running smoothly while we search for a new Director of Religious Education, doing things like coordinating and supporting teachers and nursery aides, preparing curriculum and supplies, supporting our youth program, and managing communications. Our program is in really good hands!

You can contact the team at [REtransition@uuchurch.net](mailto:REtransition@uuchurch.net).

## **DRE Search Team**

Your search team is Joe Collins, Paul Ladehoff, Tracey Milarsky, Dennis Murphy, Chelsea Otten, and Rev. Molly Housh Gordon. We are hard at work seeking our next Director of Religious Education.

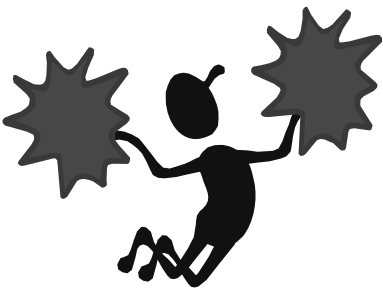
The job posting went live on Aug. 16. It was sent to the congregation and posted on the UUA MidAmerica Region site and the Liberal Religious Educators site, as well as several local job boards. We hope to receive applications by mid-September.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying, find the listing at <https://uuchurch.net/job-opportunities/> or contact Rev. Molly at [minister@uuchurch.net](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net).

## **Fun Planned for Middle School Kids**

It's time for the start of our Jr. Youth Group year! If you are in 6th, 7th or 8th grade, this is the club for you. You can look forward to social activities, service projects, pizza parties, etc, etc.

Our first meeting will be at the church on Friday, Sept. 9 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There we will plan activities for the upcoming year. Contact Lisa Fritsche if you are interested, then watch your mailbox for a special invitation, and be sure to bring your good ideas!





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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**

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)

#### **Betsy Fritsche, Sunday Morning Assistant**

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

### **2016-2017 Board of Trustees**

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*The Searchlight* is published monthly by the Unitarian  
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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.