



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uuchurch.net> • Volume 56, Issue 5, November 2016

**November Worship**  
Services at 9 and 11 a.m.  
*(except 10 a.m. only on Nov. 27)*

**Sunday, Nov. 6**  
**“Breathe”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

One of the most intense election seasons we have seen is almost over, and Election Day is upon us. Join us for a time of breathing and embodied practice.... What are the spiritual tools available to us in times of great intensity?

**Sunday, Nov. 13**  
**“Neither/Nor”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

We live in a time of exciting and challenging ambiguity. A beautiful diversity of human expression is breaking down binaries and dualisms and modeling how to live with fluidity and flexibility. At the same time, a challenging array of intertwining problems now face humans in ways that are amorphous and not quite clear. How do we live with courage and love in a world of “Neither/Nor?”

**Sunday, Nov. 20**  
**“A Folk Thanksgiving”**

**Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us for our Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service, this year with lots of wonderful folk music! Plus, enjoy our annual sharing of cornbread communion (with additional allergy-friendly options).

**Sunday, Nov. 27**  
**One Service Only at 10 a.m.**

**Intergenerational Service Sunday**

**Potluck Lunch to Follow**

This Sunday after Thanksgiving, join us to give back at **10 a.m.** for an Intergenerational Service Sunday. Choose one of several service projects either on- or off-site, and gather back together at noon for reflection and a potluck lunch. (Leftovers welcome!)

*Spiritual Growth Is Cultivated by . . .*

## **Learning to tolerate Intensity and Ambiguity**

*“Take courage friends. The way is often hard. The path is never clear. And the stakes are very high. Take courage. For deep down there is another truth. You are not alone.”*

*– The Rev. Wayne Arnason*

This month we reach our third quality of spiritual maturity, “tolerance for intensity and ambiguity.” This one is intriguing, isn’t it? Two interesting words, two challenging qualities in our lives... but, what does it mean to pair them together?

When our Worship Associates gathered to discuss our themes, it was speculated that our tolerance for each of these things declines with the rise of the other. That is, when things are very intense, we desire them to be unambiguous and clear-cut. Similarly, when things are ambiguous or uncertain, we wish for them to be lower stakes and less in-our-face.

Spiritual maturity, however, requires us to acknowledge that, indeed, the stakes *are* very high and the path is *never* clear. Yet journey on we must.

Living as we do in a polarized country, a human-commodifying economy, and a climate-changed world, there is ambiguity for everyone, and plenty of intensity to go around. Yet it is ours to live in this time and place with courage and love. That is why we come together in community to grow in spirit.

These days, I turn often to Wayne Arnason’s beloved benediction printed above. The way is long. The path is unclear. The stakes are high. And yet, as we travel together toward growth, may we each know that indeed, we have partners for the journey and are never alone.

See you in church!  
Molly

### *Highlights of what’s inside*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| President’s Perspective: Thinking About Our Building..... | 2 |
| Forum Schedule; Pastry Auction; Pie Event.....            | 3 |
| Green Sanctuary Team; Harvest Supper .....                | 4 |
| Social Action Team.....                                   | 5 |
| Programs and Events.....                                  | 6 |
| Festival of Sharing; Poetry Night; Jr. Youth.....         | 7 |

## **President's Perspective**

# ***Exploring how our building can best serve our mission***

**By Jeremy Milarsky, 2016-17 President**

According to the summary of our church history (located conveniently on the UUCC website at [uu-church.net/church-history](http://uu-church.net/church-history)), it's been more than 46 years since the first worship services took place in our church building on Shepard Boulevard. Since then, the congregation has changed dramatically – in size and in character – and, with one major expansion, the building has met most of our needs.

But in the UUA's recommendation for strategic planning, ideally a church's facility should be linked to its mission. That is the question before our community today: How can our facility best serve our church mission of radical welcome, deep connection, and helping to heal our world?

In the coming months, your Board of Trustees will be working through a process to address this question. For the answer to even approach accuracy, that process needs to be as inclusive as possible. Therefore, we wish to begin the process with a conversation with the congregation. What needs have you recognized in our physical space? What would a physical space be like if it truly fit our mission?

We ask you to begin reflecting on these questions, and we are certain more questions will also emerge. We plan to meet as a congregation in January to have a productive facilitated conversation. The board or a board-created task force will then follow up with stakeholders and create a proposal for action.

Why is this the question of the hour? For one thing, the current facility is not very accessible. People unable to use the stairs must go outside the building to move from one level to another. So there is an urgent need for an elevator, which we recognize. Second, our building is aging and needs some significant repairs, maintenance, and renovations. Other things we might consider in our conversation are the size and demographics of our growing congregation and our location in relation to our mission. Of course, there are likely ideas we have not yet considered.

We want to have a visionary – and actionable – conversation about these questions and more. We hope you will begin to ponder these things and plan to join us in January.

## **Grounds Team made major progress toward 2015-16 goals**

Before the start of fiscal year 2015-2016, the UUCC Grounds Team created a list of projects we hoped to complete in the coming year. That prioritized list contained eleven items, and we imagined we might accomplish the top four or five. At our most recent team meeting, Grounds Team members reviewed that list.

We are thrilled to report that we (with the help of many dedicated volunteers) completed or made significant progress on seven of our priority list projects – and these projects were in addition to ongoing grounds maintenance activities like mowing, weeding, and watering!

Grounds Team projects completed in the last fiscal year were: Removing the old playground, creating a fire circle area, building benches for the front of the church and the church grounds, making new trails in

our woods, and purchasing a new mower and other equipment.

Projects that we expect to complete by the end of the current fiscal year include finishing the conversion of planted beds to native plants and removing the majority of the invasive honeysuckle in our woods.

The Grounds Team is proud of the work we have accomplished, and especially of the enthusiastic participation in our workdays by many hard-working church members and friends. We are excited about our continued work to make our church grounds a beautiful, welcoming, sustainable, and biologically diverse space. And we couldn't do it without you!

– Jeanne Murphy, Grounds Team Co-Chair

## Forum for November 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.*

### Nov. 6

Berkley Hudson, Associate Professor at MU, was for 25 years a magazine and newspaper writer and editor and now teaches magazine journalism. Dr. Hudson will take us on his life's journey from growing up in deeply segregated Mississippi to become a leader in race relations – locally, nationally and worldwide.

### Nov. 13

Berkley Hudson will return to discuss the "Race Relations Committee," an ongoing year-long University of Missouri project. He will review the committee's first year summary.

### Nov. 20

Dr. Gail Humphries Mardirosian, Dean of the Stephens College School of Performing Arts, will take us behind the curtain at one of the nation's top six collegiate theater programs. Dr. Mardirosian is also the artistic director of the Okoboji Summer Theatre and a fellow of the College of Fellows of the American Theater.

### Nov. 27

Bill Clark will present on a topic to be announced.

## Please feed the food barrel

Our Social Action Team sponsors a food collection year-round for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

Donations of canned meats and fish, stews, peanut butter and powdered milk are especially appreciated, but other non-perishable food items are welcome.

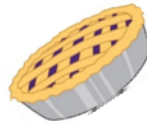
Help us to help individuals in need! If you wish to have a receipt for a tax deduction, talk to Kathie Bergman, church administrator.



## PIE and PRONOUNS 6-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18

Bring a pie and join us for a time of dessert, fellowship, and a bit of learning!

We will discuss how our congregation can be less gender-binary, more welcoming to differing gender identities, and therefore more radically welcoming.



## Pastry Auction FUNdraiser!

Sunday, Nov. 20

**Love to bake?** You should contribute a tasty treat to our Pastry Auction on the Sunday before Thanksgiving!  
**Not into baking?** We are looking for 3-5 volunteers who can help set up the greeting area for the auction and collect winning bids. This is a fun, simple, and DELICIOUS way to serve our growing church!

There will be a sign-up table in the greeting area after both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on **Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13**. Stop by to sign up as a treat-maker or a helper!

Want to sign up via phone or email?

Contact Chelsea Otten:  
573-696-0924 (home)  
[chelsea.otten@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.otten@gmail.com)



## UUC 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*



# Green Sanctuary



## Green Sanctuary Team Report

Our annual Harvest Supper will be held on Nov. 12 starting at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share that features “mostly local” ingredients from around Missouri. Recipes for sharing are welcome too. You can bring a few paper copies of your recipe, or a simpler way to share is to post your recipe to the UUC Facebook page. We’ll have entertainment after dinner, and would love for storytellers, musician, dancers, etc. to share their talents! Contact Peter Holmes to participate in entertainment. See more details about the Harvest Supper in the box to the right.

GS is planning a “family” knife skills class in the church kitchen on Sunday, Dec. 11 after the 11 a.m. worship service.

Good knife skills can aid families trying to transition to plant-based diets and/or greater participation in Meatless Mondays. Handling knives correctly and skillfully helps individuals feel more comfortable chopping vegetables and completing food preparation efficiently and safely.

Lisa Guillory will teach the class for adults and teens. Melissa Ensign-Bedford will teach the younger children some beginning skills, using plastic knives. Please contact Lisa at [lisaaguillory@gmail.com](mailto:lisaaguillory@gmail.com) if you want to attend so that the necessary amount of supplies can be readied.

November’s Faith-to-Action Collections will benefit the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. Your generosity will benefit many CCUA programs, including Opportunity Gardens, where CCUA builds raised beds for low-income families and teaches them to grow fresh vegetables.

The GS Team will hold a planning retreat on Feb. 11. All are welcome to join the Team. The place and time of the retreat will be announced.

The next regular GST meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Lisa Guillory’s home.

## Harvest Supper 2016

*Nov. 12 – Save the Date!*

Sponsored by Green Sanctuary

Join us at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 for the Annual Harvest Supper. We’ll share delicious food, made by our members focusing on locally obtained ingredients, and enjoy entertainment. Local beer and wine will be available for a donation.

This year the Harvest Supper will be a potluck. There is no need to sign up or buy a ticket. Everyone is welcome – just bring a dish to share, and try to use locally produced ingredients from our surrounding area or Missouri if possible.

We’ll be providing information on good places to get ingredients, such as the Columbia Farmer’s Market, which will be open Saturdays through November.

This will be a family-friendly event, so bring your kids!



## Our presence on the web

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



In September,  
\$1,084  
was collected for  
Faith-to-Action  
recipient  
Festival of Sharing

## Social Action Team

**Looking to be more civically engaged?** Join us in the effort to protect voting rights by defeating Amendment 6.

**Centro Latino, 609 N. Garth Ave., is the starting location for door-to-door canvassing:**

- Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 6 from 1 to 5 p.m.

**Phone-banking will take place from 5:30 to 9 p.m.:**

- Tuesday, Nov. 1 – UUC
- Wednesday, Nov. 2 – Bethel Baptist Church, 201 E. Old Plank Rd.
- Thursday, Nov. 3 – Broadway Christian Church, 2601 W. Broadway

The weekend before the election there is a need for many volunteers to coordinate rides, inform voters of polling locations, and make phone calls.

Help is also needed to provide transportation to voters on Election Day.

Contact any SAT member if you can help, or just show up.



**Social Action Team Chair:** Janice Smith  
**Education Coordinator:** Michela Skelton Birk  
**Communications Coordinator:** Jackie Marcink  
**Finance Coordinator:** Amie Burling  
**Anti-Racism and Justice:** Wiley Miller  
**Economic Justice:** Diane Suhler  
**LBGTQ Justice:** Tessa Summers

## **ROOM AT THE INN Emergency Winter Shelter Dec. 4-18 at UUC**

We are coming together once more to host a potentially life-saving effort. This winter we will be using our Sanctuary to provide sanctuary for those who need a warm, dry place to stay as a host site for Room at the Inn from Dec. 4 to 18.

Room at the Inn is an interfaith winter sheltering effort created each year through the work of many local faith communities. Learn more about the organization at [roomattheinnco-mo.org](http://roomattheinnco-mo.org).

It will take all of us to pull off this massive project of radical welcome and warmth during these cold December nights. Be looking at the end of November for sign-ups for many different volunteer shifts!

## **Transgender Day of Remembrance**

**7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20**

Join members of your Social Action Team and of the community for a service remembering those lost to trans-phobic violence and culture.

Refreshments will be provided after the service.

### **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 – Nov. 12 and 26**

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.

### **Grieving Circle**

Grieving Circle meets at church every month on the second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and on the fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. **except in November the evening meeting will be held on the third Thursday which is Nov. 17.**

Everyone is welcome. Come, share, listen.

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

### **Sanctuary Décor**

Have you thought about honoring a special person or celebrating a special occasion by donating flowers or a plant for our sanctuary décor?

Just talk to Kathie Bergman, church administrator, in the church office.

Mums are especially nice in Autumn and poinsettias in December.

Acknowledgement of the donation can be made in our weekly order of service announcement insert and in *The Searchlight*.



### **Kaleidoscope Pagan group**

Kaleidoscope will not have a gathering in November.

Join us for our Yule celebration on Dec. 17 at a location to be announced.

### **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 by email, Facebook and website.

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

### **Mindfulness Meditation**

Mindfulness Meditation takes place from 10:05 to 10:45 a.m. every Sunday in the Centering Room – or, if the weather is suitable, outside around the Fire Circle. On fourth Sundays throughout the year, Mindfulness Meditation takes place at the Fire Circle whatever the weather.

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 – Nov. 11**

The UU Book Discussion will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 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. – Nov. 9**

Conversations, Etc. will meet at noon Wednesday, Nov. 9 at the church. Don Love will speak to us on issues involving the Columbia Police Department.

Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Everyone is welcome!

### **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.



## YRUU Poetry Night Nov. 4

The annual YRUU Poetry Night will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 4 in the Sanctuary at UUC.

All poetry lovers are invited to a night of poetry!

Bring a poem by your favorite poet (or one of your own creation!) to read. Or just come to listen to great poetry.

This year, we are honored to welcome a special guest, **Monica A. Hand**, who is the author of *me and Nina* (Alice James Books, 2012). She is also a 2014 da Vinci Eye Finalist, 2013 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award Finalist and *ForeWord Reviews* Book of the Year Award Finalist.

Her poems have been published in *Cortland Review*, *Pleiades*, *Oxford American*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *The Sow's Ear*, and *Drunken Boat*.

She is a Ph.D. candidate in English/Creative Writing-Poetry at MU and Assistant Professor of English/Creative Writing at Stephens College.

A dinner will be provided by the YRUU High School Youth Group. A main course of lasagna will be served, and attendees are asked to bring a side dish, salad, dessert, or drink. **Please RSVP to [jamilabatchelder@yahoo.com](mailto:jamilabatchelder@yahoo.com) so we know how much food to prepare!**

Childcare will be available at no cost. This is a free event.

## 2016 Festival of Sharing Ingathering in Sedalia

On Saturday Oct. 15, David Leuthold, Joann Vest, Mehdi and Melinda Farhangi, and Allen and Marian Hjelmfelt drove to the Missouri State Fair Arena in Sedalia for the 2016 Festival of Sharing Ingathering.

We brought all the boxed Missouri Packs and International Kits. We made many of the International Kits and Missouri Packs with the money our fellowship provided us this year.

It is such an uplifting experience to come together with people from 31 different denominations, having different beliefs, but sharing similar concerns for people in need.

I hope that you will be interested in experiencing the Festival of Sharing Ingathering next October, so you can experience for yourself what a meaningful experience this is.

We are truly making a difference in the lives of people in need.

– Marian Hjelmfelt, Festival of Sharing Coordinator

### 2016 UUC Festival of Sharing Summary

- Cash donated for shipping – \$205.50
- Total value of kits and packs donated – \$3,877.00
- Total value – \$4,082.50

**Notes:** Much of the \$1,084.00 collected in the Faith-to-Action offerings in September for Festival of Sharing was used to create additional packs and kits. Some funds were retained in the Festival of Sharing account to start next year's participation.

### Jr. Youth Group for Middle School Kids Hot Dog Roast Nov. 11

At 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, our Jr. Youth Group will gather at church for a hot dog roast around the fire!

Watch your mailbox for your invitation, and be sure to RSVP to Lisa Fritsche at [lisa.fritsche@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.fritsche@gmail.com)!



## ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

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### **Our Staff**

#### **Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister**

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at church

Wednesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee Downtown

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

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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

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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.