



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 7, January 2017

January Worship
Services at 9 and 11 a.m.
(except 10 a.m. only on Jan. 1)

Sunday, Jan. 1
****10 a.m. only****

New Year's Day Potluck Brunch

Bring a dish to share as we start the year in companionship together!

Sunday, Jan. 8
"Finding Focus"

Intergenerational New Year's Service
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
and YRUU Members

Join us for a beginning-of-the-year ritual designed by our high school age teens. As we close the year now past, how do we find focus for the year ahead? Join us to explore our priorities and marvel at the beautiful and unexpected shapes our lives may take.

Sunday, Jan. 15
"Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday"
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join Rev. Molly Housh Gordon to honor the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and consider the calling of civil rights struggles in our own time.

Sunday, Jan. 22
"White Privilege"
Social Action Team

Join members of our Social Action Team to consider the role that privilege and power play in all of our lives.

Sunday, Jan. 29
"A Failure of Understanding"
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

In a time marked by such deep division and such fraught language, the risk of deeply misunderstanding one another seems higher than ever. How do we speak and listen with humility and power alike?

Spiritual Growth is cultivated by practicing . . .

The capacity to acknowledge error and change

Error is a hardy plant; it flourishes in every soul.

– Martin F. Tupper

My spouse and I have a shorthand for when one of us feels very, very certain the other is wrong. It all goes back to an argument about an actor in a short part in a movie. James was sure the actor was David Bowie. I was sure he was not... so sure that I objected vehemently even to the unimpeachable evidence of Google. Of course Google was right, and though I still cringe to say it, so was James – he nearly always is, when it comes to movie trivia.

Now, whenever one of us doubles down in error (which we regularly do), the other will simply pose an innocent reminder: "David Bowie." Without fail, the mention of his name causes the righteous to relent – yes, I could be wrong.

This quality of spiritual maturity requires, at its core, humility. It requires that we acknowledge our deep and abiding fallibility – the fact that we have erred, will err, and are probably right at this moment standing upon some error or failure or wrong.

The paradox of this quality is this: It is precisely through our errors that the most growth is possible... as long as we are willing to change. After all, even the evolution of life itself is a grand series of genetic mistakes! Without error, nothing new can emerge.

So this month I chant, "David Bowie. David Bowie. David Bowie." This reminder of my folly and my mistakes will (almost) certainly help me grow.

See you in church!

– Molly

Searchlight change in February

Starting with the February *Searchlight*, you will need to opt-in to receive a mailed paper copy. Read more on page 2.

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President's Perspective

Calling members to serve as delegates

By Jeremy Milarsky, 2016-17 President

Our church community, as many of you know, is part of a larger whole. Specifically, we are members in good standing with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and our church is one of nearly 200 UU congregations in the UUA's MidAmerica Region.

Both the UUA and the district have annual assemblies – the General Assembly is held by the UUA, and the regional assembly is for churches and fellowships in our region. Many of our church members have attended these assemblies and come back with valuable information for us.

Important voting happens at these events. As a full member of the UUA, we can appoint a number of delegates to attend and vote at the assemblies (proxy voting is allowed). UUCC and other congregations may appoint a delegate for every 50 members of the church. For us, that means five delegates (we currently have 251 members).

It's about time to start considering who is interested in attending. Specifics on both assemblies:

- Regional Assembly will be in the Chicago area April 28-30.
- General Assembly will be in New Orleans June 21-25.

Further details about both assemblies are available on the Web at uua.org and mid-america.uua.org.

According to a board policy adopted in May 2014, the Nominating Committee may recruit and nominate members to attend these assemblies – ultimately, the Board of Trustees approves delegates. Traditionally, the church will pay for the registration fees for our delegates and “will endeavor” to defray travel and lodging costs as we are able.

If interested in attending either assembly, please contact a member of your Nominating Committee (Maria Oropallo, Kevin Fritsche, Melissa McConnell and myself).



FOUNDERS DAY Trivia Night and Chili Cook Off Saturday, Jan. 28, 5:30 p.m. UU Church of Columbia



Tickets are \$20 per person, \$12 for students, \$100 for a team of six.
Tickets can be bought at the door or at the UU Church on Jan. 1, 8, 15 and 22.
CASH prizes! Child Care!

Silent Auction! 50-50 Raffles!

Bring chili to share by 5:45 p.m. for a chance to win a beautiful Honduran bag!

Join us for a night of fun, prizes, and good food.
All proceeds go to support UUCC latrine building and other partner projects in Honduras.

For more information, please contact Allie at alliegassmann@socket.net.

Searchlight opt-in program

Beginning with the February *Searchlight*, we are asking members and friends to **opt-in** if they want a mailed paper copy.

Those who do not opt to receive a paper copy will be able to get the newsletter through our website, and we will save paper and postage.

We will be happy to mail paper copies to those who want them. Please notify Kathie Bergman at 573-442-5764 or uuchurch@uuchurch.net if you wish to opt-in for a mailed copy of the newsletter.

Forum for January 2017

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.

Jan. 1

Dolores Clark will present a program on Brookgreen Sculpture Garden while her husband Bill is counting birds at Swan Lake.

Jan. 8

George Frissell, who was unable to be with us as scheduled on Dec. 18 because of the icy streets in Columbia, will try again – with his program about the birth celebrations of several founders/leaders of religion.

Jan. 15

Nikki Smith-McGruder, Regional Manager of Diversity Awareness Partnership, will introduce Forum to the partnership, a non-profit organization that promotes diversity around issues of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

Jan. 22

Peter Stiepelman, Columbia Public School Superintendent, will discuss upcoming programs and review recent changes made by the state legislature.

Jan. 29

Ibtisam Barakat, international award-winning poet and author of “Balcony on the Moon” and “Tasting the Sky,” will talk about her experience coming of age in Palestine. The talk will be followed by a Q and A then a book-signing and purchase. All are warmly welcome.

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.

2017 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration Breakfast on Jan. 12

Consider attending the 2017 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration breakfast from 7 to 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. UUCC has been a major sponsor in the past. The registration deadline is Jan. 6.

The celebration brings people together from throughout our community to share breakfast and a special program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The theme this year is “Building an Inclusive Columbia.” The program will include performances representing the rich diversity of our community, followed by the presentation of the 20th annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards.

This year’s keynote speaker will be Naomi Tutu, the third child of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nomalizo Leah Tutu. Her experiences growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa taught her that we all lose when we accept oppression and the teaching and preaching of hate and division.

Read more and register at como.gov/arts/cvdc.

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.*

New Year’s Day Hike

Jan. 1, 2017

Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the church

Come join us for an interesting and energetic walk in the good company of esteemed UUs. This is a chance to get off the couch, take a break from screen addictions, and burn off Christmas calories.

The length and route of the walk will depend on the weather and who comes, but the tentative plan is to hike at Three Creeks Conservation Area.

Halfway through the walk we will stop and build a small campfire.

Email Peter Holmes at pfholmes63@gmail.com if you have questions.

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

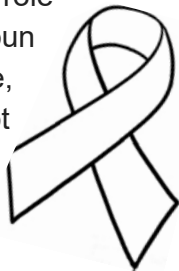
Meetings at 12:30 p.m. on First Sundays – Forum Room

- Social Action Team Chair – Janice Smith
- Economic Justice Coordinator – Diane Suhler
- Anti-Racism & Justice Coordinator – Wiley Miller
- LGBTQ Coordinator – Tessa Summers
- Finance – Amie Burling
- Education – Suzanne Griffin
- Communications – Suzanne Hansford-Bowles

Pronoun Ribbons

Our UUCC commitment to radical welcome means striving to ensure everyone is comfortable in our sanctuary and at our activities. Toward that end, pronoun ribbons are now available for anyone who wishes to specify what pronoun they prefer. Pronoun ribbons are available for he/him/his, she/her/hers, and they/them/theirs. The ribbons attach to the nametag and will be available near the sign-in book at the welcome desk on Sunday.

Remember: Our role is to make pronoun ribbons available, but please do not ever approach anyone and offer one.



Room at the Inn shelters hundreds

Many thanks to our UU members and friends who volunteered to help make Room at the Inn at UUCC an outstanding success this year! The weather was often 20 degrees or lower, and each night we were at or near capacity, which means we provided potentially life-saving shelter nearly 420 times.

Room at the Inn will continue to operate at other locations through February.

If you would like to volunteer, see www.roomattheinncomo.org.

Important Dates!

- ◆ Because of New Year's, the next SAT meeting has been moved to **Jan. 8**. Potluck!
- ◆ The Anti-Racism & Justice team will lead the **Jan. 22** worship on white privilege.

Share the love – take action!

In the wake of the 2016 election, UUs nationwide are showing the love, spreading our message of hope, caring, dignity, and justice. In Columbia, there is a community-wide effort underway to host a weekend of activities around the Presidential Inauguration, including a Solidarity March downtown on Saturday, Jan. 21, at around noon. Save the date on your calendar and stay tuned for details on how you can participate.

Faith-to-Action makes a difference

Since July, the Faith-to-Action Collections have raised \$4,847 to help four organizations and causes that our congregation cares about – **an average of more than \$1,000** per organization. The recipients of Faith-to-Action Collections were nominated by the SAT and voted on by the congregation. These collections connect our congregation to important work happening around us to help realize justice and peace. The January Faith-to-Action Collections will be for *Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty*.



To keep up with the Social Action Team at UUCC and learn about social action events and opportunities around town, follow us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/SocialActionTeam/>

Reflections

Something New in R.E.!

This semester in R.E., we are trying something new. Well, actually, two things new! First, we are going to be offering R.E. during the 9 a.m. service starting Feb. 5. Second, at this 9 a.m. time, we will be experimenting with a new way of doing religious education. The curriculum is called "Spirit Play," and it is based on a Montessori approach to learning that encourages self-directed exploration and allows children to engage deeply with their own religious education in a way that meets their own individual needs and interests.

This semester, we will have one mixed-aged class, most appropriate for children ages 3-9. The class is structured to begin with a time of storytelling that is accompanied by a series of props and materials that are used to help narrate the story. After the story is complete, the children will have the chance to play with the materials from the week's story as well as the materials from other stories.

All our stories this semester will focus on the theme of heroes and heroines. Imagine your young one playing out the story of Bree Newsome's heroic climb up the Charleston flag pole to remove the Confederate flag, Julia Butterfly living in an old growth redwood tree for two years to save it from loggers, or Martin Luther King's courageous stand for voting rights at Selma. I am so excited to get to see our children's imaginations at work, making these stories their own!

Additionally, there will be other materials in the room to let children engage however their interests lie – from building models of sacred places out of blocks to "playing church" with their own pulpit and chalice, to painting pictures that arise from the creativity of their souls, to taking part in scientific exploration of our beautiful and fascinating world. I can't wait to see them explore!

Junior High (7-9th grade) OWL begins in January!

Comprehensive sexuality education classes begin in January!

Jan. 8, Sunday, 12:30-1 p.m.
OWL Parent Orientation.

Jan. 15, Sunday, 6-8 p.m.
First OWL Class

For more information, contact Rosie Anderson-Harper at anderharp@yahoo.com.

Junior Youth Meeting Friday, Jan. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

At this month's meeting, Junior Youth will be playing video games and making blankets for Project Linus. All 6th-8th graders are invited. For more information email Lisa Fritsche at

lisa.fritsche@gmail.com



Jamila Batchelder
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-noon
and by appointment



Important 'Spirit Play' Dates

Saturday, Jan. 7 at 1 p.m. Spirit Play Volunteer Meeting

If you want to get involved in Spirit Play – from helping create materials to brainstorming ideas to learning about opportunities to volunteer in the classroom – you are invited to attend this meeting.

Saturday, Jan. 21 at 5 p.m. Spirit Play Demo & Potluck

If you are interested in checking out what Spirit Play is all about, come to this demo class and then join us for a potluck afterward.

Sunday, Feb. 5 at 9 a.m. First Spirit Play Class

R.E. Team Meeting Sunday, Jan. 22, 12:30-2 p.m.

Want to get more involved with our R.E. Program? We are recruiting new members for our R.E. Team. If you would like to take on a leadership role in R.E., attend the first R.E. Team meeting of the new year. Lunch will be provided, so please contact dre@uuchurch.com if you plan to attend.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays

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

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.

Mindfulness Meditation

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation every Sunday at 10:05 a.m. in the Centering Room or around the Fire Circle. For more information, contact Peter Holmes.

Administrator's Notes

Notice the newly laid carpet at the bottom of the stairway! Our thanks goes to Todd Potochny for his expertise with carpet.

We are also grateful for Irene Karns, who takes trash to the curb each week for the church.

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. Everyone is welcome. Come, share, listen.

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

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.

Winter WomanSpirit

Winter WomanSpirit 2017 will take place Feb. 3-5 at the UU Fellowship of DeKalb, Ill.

The featured speaker will be Sister Simone Campbell, Executive Directory of NETWORK, a leader in the global justice and peace movement. She was a driving force behind the three "Nuns on the Bus" tours throughout the U.S.

To register, visit www.womenandreligion.org and click on "Event Registration."

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 janepicturean@gmail.com if you want more information.

Conversations, Etc. –

Jan. 11

Conversations, Etc. will meet Wednesday, Jan. 11 at noon at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

UU Book Discussion

Group – Jan. 13

The UU Book Discussion will meet at 5 p.m. Jan. 13 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.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2017** is for you!

Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer.

See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture.

Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert.

Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out! Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966.

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



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