



# 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 8, February 2017

## February Worship

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

### **Sunday, Feb. 5** **“Moving for Justice”**

Join us for our rescheduled Martin Luther King Jr. service and learn about the work of Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, contemporary civil rights activist who believes emerging justice movements represent a “Third Reconstruction.”

### **Sunday, Feb. 12** **“Share the Love Sunday”** **Rev. Molly Housh Gordon** **and DRE Jamila Batchelder**

Public intellectual Cornel West has said, “Justice is what love looks like in public.” Join us for a fun and interactive multi-generational service to explore what it means to take our love out into the world!

### **Sunday, Feb. 19** **“The Fire of Commitment”** **Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us to explore how a vision of beauty, mercy, and justice fortify and inspire us in uncertain times. What kindles your courage? What sustains our love?

### **Sunday, Feb. 26** **“Arts Sunday”** **Artistic UUs**

Join us for a fun and beautiful Sunday celebrating the arts! UU artists who would like to be involved are asked to email our Worship Associates at [worship@uuchurch.net](mailto:worship@uuchurch.net).

***Spiritual Growth is cultivated by practicing . . .***

## **An attraction to beauty, mercy, and justice**

*“We need beauty because it makes us  
ache to be worthy of it.” – Mary Oliver*

This month we turn our attention to the quality of spiritual maturity, “An attraction to beauty, mercy, and justice.” Upon first encountering this quality, I wondered: Why is beauty in there? The meeting of mercy and justice I understand, though it bears deep pondering still. But what has beauty to do with mercy and justice?

I glimpsed an answer when I first glimpsed my daughter. Brought to my knees by the beauty and promise of this tiny creature, I knew I would do whatever I could to make the world worthy of this new life and every new life. It is the same with the beauty of nature, or the perfection of music that moves our hearts. Confronted with the profound beauty that we are given as a gift by the world and that we are privileged to co-create, how could we not exercise mercy and work for justice all the days of our lives? Justice is the flourishing of each – it makes way for beauty. And mercy is in itself a poignant and beautiful act. Perhaps spreading beauty is also an act of justice and mercy both.

This month, I invite you to relish that attraction to beauty, mercy, and justice. Be on the lookout for them. Glory in them. And perhaps add a bit more.

See you in church!  
Molly

### **Searchlight primarily available on website now**

But you can opt to receive a mailed paper copy if you prefer by calling 573-442-5764 or emailing [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net).

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## President's Perspective

# *It's time to think about the board election*

By Jeremy Milarsky, 2016-17 President

While it seems like the time passed in a blink (to me, at least), we are now over halfway through the church program year. And that means thinking about the next class of leaders to join your Board of Trustees.

Under our adopted form of policy governance, the Board of Trustees is responsible for creating policy – based on the mission and vision of the church – as well as financial oversight, while the day-to-day operations of the church are run by the ministry.

Board members are elected to three-year terms. There are nine seats on the board. Each year, three of those seats are up for election. Sitting board members may run for re-election, but cannot serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

The congregation votes to elect a members of the board at our annual meeting in May. If you are a church member who is interested in serving and not related to a current board member, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee – me, Maria Oropallo, Melissa McConnell and Kevin Fritsche.



### **Rescheduled Meeting to Discuss Facilities**

On another subject, one of the consequences of the mid-Missouri-ice-storm-that-never-showed-up was the cancellation of the Jan. 15 all-congregation meeting at which we planned to discuss how our facilities fit with the mission of our church community. This important meeting has been rescheduled **Feb. 19 after the 11 a.m. worship service**. We have major decisions ahead regarding our church's physical space. I truly believe that the more minds we have at work on this, the wiser our decisions will be.

## *Forum for February 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.*

### **Feb. 5**

Dr. Jack Colwill, Professor Emeritus and Chair Emeritus of the University of Missouri Department of Family and Community Medicine, will present on "Obamacare or Something Else?"

### **Feb. 12**

Janet Thompson, the Northern Boone County Commissioner and past president of the Missouri Horse Shows Association, will present on "The History of the Horse in Boone County."

### **Feb. 19**

MU Associate Prof. Berkley Hudson, a magazine and newspaper writer and editor for 25 years who now teaches magazine journalism, will present "A Photo History of Possum Town, Mississippi, Part 2."

### **Feb. 26**

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

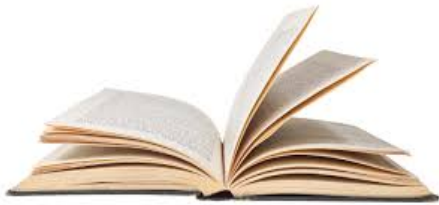
# SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

## 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

## Common Read

In February SAT will host book discussions on the Unitarian Universalist Association's Common Read. This year's book is *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*. Discussions will be held **Feb. 6** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and **Feb. 12** from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Centering Room. Attend one or both! Books will be available in the greeting area for a suggested donation of \$13.



## February Learning Opportunities

- ◆ **Non-Violent Communication Experiential Course** based on Marshall Rosenberg's *Non-Violent Communication: A Language of Life*. This four-week course will be held Feb. 1, 8 and 15 and March 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at church. The suggested donation is \$10. For registration and information, email [Suzanne Griffin](mailto:Suzanne.Griffin@uua.org).
- ◆ **Resistance Training** on Feb. 18 led by Missouri Faith Voices from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Greeting Area and Sanctuary. Mark your calendars for this event that will improve your ability to respond to the challenges of the new presidency. For registration and information, email [Suzanne Griffin](mailto:Suzanne.Griffin@uua.org) or [Janice Smith](mailto:Janice.Smith@uua.org). Registration will be limited to 30 participants.

## Faith to Action

The February Faith to Action partner is *Race Matters, Friends*, a grassroots organization launched in Columbia that promotes public organizing and activism to work for racial equity in our community. Race Matters, Friends is engaging with the Columbia Police Department to address implicit bias and improve community policing.

## With your help, SAT feeds the hungry in mid-Missouri

**Loaves and Fishes** — The third Sunday of every month we prepare and serve a meal at Loaves and Fishes. There are slots available to prepare part of the meal and slots available to help set up, serve, and clean up. Sign up for the Feb. 19 meal via the church website or email [Diane Suhler](mailto:Diane.Suhler@uua.org).

**Food Barrel** — The food barrel in the lobby collects shelf-stable food for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. In 2016, UUCC collected 419 pounds, which equates to 349 meals. Thank you for your generosity, and please continue to donate. The best items to donate are meals in a can (e.g., soup, chili), peanut butter, and tuna or canned chicken.





## Green Sanctuary Updates

The Green Sanctuary Team will hold a retreat at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 at the home of Ellen Thomas. A rough draft of a “green” calendar to mesh with worship themes has been proposed. The retreat will give the team extended time to plan events that broadcast the theme for a particular month and to plan other events that give congregants ways to participate in spiritual connection to the earth and hands-on environmental justice projects. Everyone is welcome to join us. We appreciate new ideas and welcome new members!

The team is again considering making application to the Unitarian Universalist Association for Green Sanctuary accreditation. We’ve been assigned a new coach by UUA and will be choosing a local organization on which to focus for environmental projects. Projects will fulfill requirements in these four areas: Environmental justice, worship, sustainable living, and religious education.

Are you interested in a week-long, intergenerational, *fun* and inspiring camp experience with UUs from all over the Midwest? MUUSA is coming to Trout Lodge, near Petosi, July 2-8. Ellen Thomas and Gerti Motavalli went last summer and can’t recommend it highly enough. We will have an informational table between services and briefly after the 11 a.m. service on Feb. 12. Stop by and find out more.

What is local control? Why is it an environmental issue? The Green Sanctuary Team is working with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center to learn more about this issue. In this context, it is all about water pollution. A number of rural counties have tried to protect their groundwater from pollution by concentrated an-

imal feeding operations (CAFOs) by passing local health ordinances. There is pressure on our legislature to pass pre-emptive legislation that blocks these ordinances state-wide. A prime example is a proposed CAFO in neighboring Callaway County, currently going through the court system. Three members of the GS Team, Ellen Thomas, Peter Holmes, and Suzanne Griffin, joined small farm activists from around the state for a lobby day at the capitol to help introduce this issue especially to new legislators.

The team is making plans to sponsor informational events and opportunities for activism, so watch this space. There is another lobby day planned Feb. 14. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Green Tip of the Month: How to use less plastic film**

Do you bag your produce at the store in the provided plastic film bags? These bags are made with petroleum and are harmful to animals, as well as harming our waterways when they break down into small bits of plastic. There is an alternative – reusable produce bags. Reusable produce bags are available at many grocery stores. If shoppers bought just one reusable bag every couple of months, by end of year, they’d have six bags, enough for most families. Sets of nine bags cost about \$12 on Amazon. Keep reusable produce bags with your reusable shopping bags in the car, and they’ll always be handy.

### ***Our presence on the web***

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

## **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.*



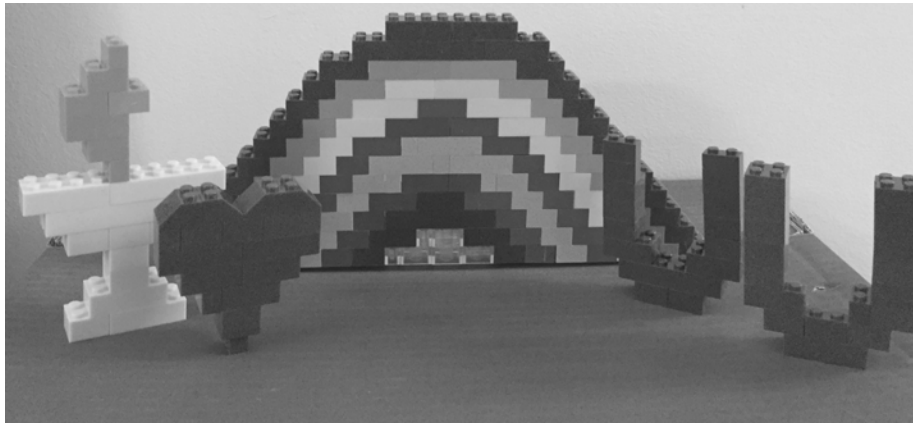
# REflections

## 9 a.m. RE Begins Feb. 5!

On Feb. 5 we will begin our Spirit Play curriculum that will be offered during the 9 a.m. worship service. We are super excited to be getting started with this curriculum! It is literally hard to resist sneaking downstairs during our work week to play with the materials.

Spirit Play is a Montessori-inspired, self-directed, multi-age curriculum that gives children an opportunity to select from a variety of religious education materials to engage with as they explore their spirituality and beliefs.

For this semester, our classroom is set up to best serve kids ages 3-9, but please ask if you have questions about whether it would be a good match for your child.



## Valentine's Day Family Dance!

6-9 p.m. Feb. 11

This is one of our most fun events of the year! Celebrate Valentine's Day with your whole family at our annual Valentine's Day Dance hosted by our YRUU high school youth group.

Come show us your moves and dance the night away with all your friends!

Light refreshments will be served. The event is free but we will be collecting donations of any amount to donate to Planned Parenthood.



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

## RE Team Meeting Noon-1:30 p.m. Feb. 19

If you are interested in getting more involved in organizing our RE program, you are invited to attend our next RE Team meeting after worship on Feb. 19. Lunch will be provided.

## YRUU Spring Semester

The teens have put together their curriculum for the semester (see church website for details). Some dates to note for your calendar:

**Feb. 11-12:** Valentine's Day Dance and Lock-in

**March 10:** Jr Youth Game Night

**March 31-April 2:** Regional Youth Conference

**April 15-16:** Lock-in and Easter Brunch fundraiser

**June 2-4:** End-of-Year Retreat

**June 20-26:** Summer Trip to UUA General Assembly

## Junior Youth

6:30-8 p.m.

Feb. 10

This month the Junior Youth will be living an episode of Chopped! Come prepared to cook!



## Junior High OWL

OWL has gotten off to a great start! OWL dates for February:

**Feb. 5:** 1-3 p.m.

**Feb. 12:** 6-8 p.m.

**Feb. 19:** 6-8 p.m.

**Feb. 26:** 6-8 p.m.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Grieving Circle**

The Grieving Circle will now meet once a month on the second Thursday at 7 p.m. beginning in February. The daytime gathering will be on hiatus for a while.

Our grieving ministry is now entering its third year. We have met and listened to many members and friends and even given support to people not from our church community. Rev. Molly, Barbara Carter, Greg Bergman, and Maria Oropallo continue to facilitate the monthly gatherings, providing safe comfort, and, we hope, much love for anyone dealing with any kind of loss.

For more information email [grieving@uuchurch.net](mailto:grieving@uuchurch.net).

### **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](mailto:janepicturean@gmail.com) if you want more information.

### **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.

### **Kaleidoscope – Feb. 5**

Join the Kaleidoscope Pagan group at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15 at the church for the Imbolc celebration.

Deep beneath the Earth, life again begins to stir, harbinger of the miracle of the world's rebirth.

The group will join in ritual and share a potluck of finger food snacks. All are welcome.

### **Conversations, Etc. – Feb. 8**

Conversations Etc. welcomes all women on the second Wednesday of each month at noon at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6325 if you have questions.

### **UU Book Discussion Group – Feb. 10**

The UU Book Discussion will meet at 5 p.m. Feb. 10 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.

### **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.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



# **Fire of Commitment: Sparking Courage, Sustaining Love**

**By Jeffrey Richter,  
Stewardship Team Chair**

On Feb. 19 we will begin our annual stewardship campaign, and this year's theme is "Fire of Commitment: Sparking Courage, Sustaining Love."

The impetus for this theme came from our flaming chalice, the symbol of our faith created by the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II as a beacon of hope for refugees fleeing Nazi occupation. The flaming chalice has a special place in our history, reminding us of our community's capacity for courage in the face of tremendous adversity and the enduring legacy of love.

Today, our values are being tested. It is difficult to speak about the world around us without a shade of despondency. And yet, we are a community of faith. A community that has faith that we are building a more just and moral world. A community that has faith that hate is unsustainable and that love will always win.

During my time as a member of this congregation, it has been my privilege to witness the numerous ways in which we live out our values on a daily basis. I know how much you give to this church. You give your time to critical causes through a variety of ministries. You give your compassion in educating our children. You give your fellowship in worship and community building. As my first act of stewardship, let me simply say "thank you." Thank you for investing, in whatever way you have been able, in this community that I personally love.

During the course of our campaign, we will reflect on some of the history of our church as we think about our future – both for the coming fiscal year as well beyond. As is customary, we will be asking for financial pledges so that we can plan our annual budget. Before you pledge, though, I ask that you do one thing differently. Consider the church as it should be – the church that exceeds all your expectations. Truly, dream big for a moment before you fill out your pledge card. What does it take to build that church? The answer will be different for each of us, and frankly, we might not like the answer we come up with. It's a lot of work! However, that must be our shared vision if we are to fully realize our faith.

Along with our pledge drive, we will also be showing the documentary "Sharp's War" at 6 p.m. March 3, and our RE classes will be learning about the history of the chalice and important events in UU history. I'm excited about this opportunity and hope that we all can connect more deeply as we begin our plans for the coming year!

## ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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#### **Submissions:**

Email to [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net),  
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The deadline for submissions is noon on the third Monday  
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