



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 9, March 2017

March Worship

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, March 5
“Memento Mori”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us as we begin exploring this month’s theme of accepting mortality. We live in a culture that fears and denies death, but what can we learn from thinking of death as a companion?

Sunday, March 12
“The Circle of Life”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
and DRE Jamila Batchelder**

As spring approaches, join us for a meaningful inter-generational service exploring the cycles of living and dying in nature and the ways that things begin and end in our lives.

Sunday, March 19
“Youth Sunday”

YRUU High School Youth Group

This is a favorite service each year, when our high school age youth group chooses a topic and leads us in a fun and profound time of reflection. Be sure to come hear the wisdom of our young people!

Sunday, March 26
“Four Score: Reflections on
Aging from Four Generations”
UUs Across the Decades

The poet Robert Frost once wrote: “The afternoon knows what the morning never expected.” Join us to hear from UUs across several decades of life about what aging means to them.

Spiritual Growth is cultivated by practicing . . .

A consistent acceptance of mortality

*“Religion is the human response to being alive
and knowing we must die.” – Forrest Church*

When facing his own death from pancreatic cancer, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs said that death is life’s single best invention, life’s change agent, that which clears out all the clutter in our lives. Indeed, when reflecting upon our mortality, we seem to reach the heart of religion itself, which always involves paradox. Beginnings and endings are contained within each other, and life and death make one another all the more precious.

Our culture encourages us to deny our mortality – to prize life and vibrancy and youth above all else. And yet we know from nature and the reality of love in our lives that there is a profound wisdom and meaning brought to our days by the reality of death, decline, and age. Accepting our mortality is a life’s work, and it is perhaps the only way we truly, fully *live* the days we are given.

Join us this month to explore the depth and purpose that a frank gaze upon death can bring to the days of our lives.

See you in church!
Molly

Searchlight now primarily available on website

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

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President's Perspective

Supporting Church Health

By Jeremy Milarsky, 2016-17 President

As we begin enjoying the early spring here in Central Missouri, it's a good idea to think ahead in terms of keeping our church community healthy, effective and thriving.

First, I'd like to call your attention to our annual stewardship campaign. Church members and friends are asked to pledge the amount of money they expect to donate to the church for the upcoming church fiscal year (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018).

Pledging is essential to running an effective organization, because it allows us to have a good, firm estimate on the funds available for the coming year. Putting a few dollars in the collection plate every Sunday certainly helps, but without a budget, we're less able to plan for ongoing expenses like staff compensation, membership fees and building maintenance.

Please consider pledging soon. For details, visit the church website at uuchurch.net/stewardship-2017-overview/

Second, a healthy church upholding democratic values needs good, fresh leadership! For the next church year, we anticipate up to four openings on our Board of Trustees. Generally speaking, the elected board, which has nine members, is the governing body of the church. Board members help set the overall vision of the church and are responsible for financial oversight of the church.

Please consider joining the board! If interested, please contact one of the members of the church Nominating Committee: myself, Kevin Fritsche, Melissa McConnell and Maria Oropallo. All of us are listed in the church directory.

Forum for March 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.

March 5

Christine Fouts, Volunteer Coordinator for Services for Independent Living (SIL), will provide information about how to give and receive support from this valuable resource in our community.

March 12

Sarah Cramer, a Columbia native currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Agricultural Education, will share her expertise concerning the plight of honeybees and the practice of beekeeping along with the importance of current conservation initiatives.

March 19

Patty Hosack from the MU Plant Clinic will discuss backyard farming – how to prepare beds for planting and then recognize and treat the diseases that may emerge.

March 26

Patty Daus, UUC member and occupational therapist, will discuss skills for everyday living.

Death Café

Saturday afternoon, March 18
from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

In a culture that denies or hides the reality of our mortality, there is profound freedom in a frank conversation among compassionate listeners.

Join us for tea, cake, and an agenda-free conversation about death, guided by the interests and reflections of those who attend.



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 – Open*
- ◆ Finance – Amie Burling
- ◆ Education – Suzanne Griffin
- ◆ Communications – Suzanne Hansford Bowles

 The March SAT meeting has been moved to March 12 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. 

Loaves and Fishes—March 19

On **Sunday, March 19** our congregation will prepare and serve the meal at Loaves and Fishes. Volunteering is easy! Here is what volunteering looks like in three steps:

1. **Sign up on the church website** to prepare food, serve and clean up, or both. Signing up for food means preparing 20 servings of a main dish (e.g., ham), side dish (e.g., green beans), bread (e.g., rolls, corn bread), potato/rice dish, or dessert (e.g., pie).
2. **Make your food item at home.**
3. **Drop your food off at Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church** (702 Wilkes Blvd.) by 4:45 p.m. on March 19. If you've signed up to serve and clean up, stick around. The meal is served from 5 to 6 p.m.



The atmosphere at Loaves and Fishes is warm and enthusiastic; this truly is a fun way to serve the community while connecting with fellow UUs. If you have questions, please contact Diane Suhler.

Join us!

The SAT is looking for someone to join us as **LGBTQ Coordinator**. The LGBTQ Coordinator will be part of the SAT Leadership Team and help define our congregation's engagement in LGBTQ events and activism in the community. Please consider joining our energetic team and contact Janice Smith if you are interested.

Faith-to-Action

The March Faith-to-Action partner is the Honduras Service Project, which plans projects to help the people of the Cangrejal River Valley in Honduras. This team has led service trips to Honduras for UUCU members three times (2009, 2011 and 2014), and another trip is in the works for 2017. In March, the team will be collecting used **children's clothes and school supplies** – please bring donations on Sunday to the Greeting Area before services. **Faith-to-Action collections for the Honduras Service Project will take place on March 5 and 12.**

In the spring, the congregation will be voting for next year's Faith-to-Action recipients. If you have feedback on how Faith-to-Action operated this year, please contact Janice Smith.





Green Sanctuary Team Updates

All are invited to a community meal called Empty Bowls on March 19 at the Missouri United Methodist Church, 204 S. Ninth St. This event is free and open to all of Columbia.

Join in a simple soup, bread, and water meal at lunch and dinner to help raise awareness of hunger in our community and support the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture's local food philanthropy project, **Planting for the Pantry**.

Donations made to Planting for the Pantry ensure that fresh local food from the urban farm is distributed to local food pantries and support CUA's garden education programming. Plus, everyone who donates at Empty Bowls can take home a hand-made bowl that was made and donated by students at Lee, Derby Ridge, and Paxton Keeley Elementary schools or volunteers of Access Arts.

We hope to see many UUs there supporting this program for hunger relief. Contact Adam Saunders at 573-356-9392 for more information about the event or volunteer opportunities.

The Green Sanctuary Team is continuing to develop a relationship with Missouri Rural Crisis Center and plans to develop an environmental justice project around clean water issues. It is critical that we support family farms and not factory farms! What can you do right now to help? Please sign the petition:

Our presence on the web

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

We, as Missouri citizens, family farmers, landowners, consumers and workers believe that local people and local governments must maintain the authority to protect the health and welfare of our families, our communities, our water and air, and our livelihoods – attempts to weaken local control are a threat to democracy and our freedom.

You can sign the petition at <http://morural.org/uncategorized/support-family-farms-stop-factory-farms-sign-the-petition>

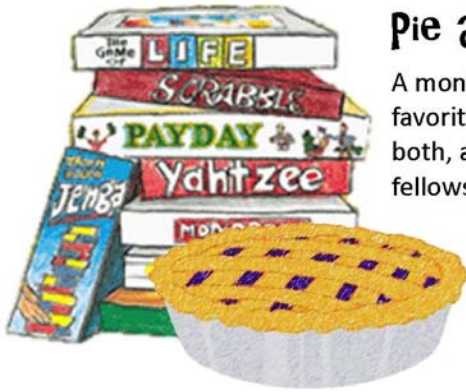
Green Tip of the Month

Unplug all those devices when not in use! Did you know that when you leave TVs and computers plugged in, they continue to draw energy even though you are not using them? This is especially true for devices that are turned on and off with a remote, because the sensor uses energy while it waits for you to turn the device on with the remote. Attach devices and peripherals to a power strip and turn everything off with one switch. Remember to turn the switch off at night and when you leave your home for longer periods. Don't leave phone chargers plugged into the wall when you are not actually charging your phone – they, too, draw power even when your phone is not plugged in.

UUC Mission Statement

In the spirit of courageous love, we forge a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together

Reflections



Pie and Board Games

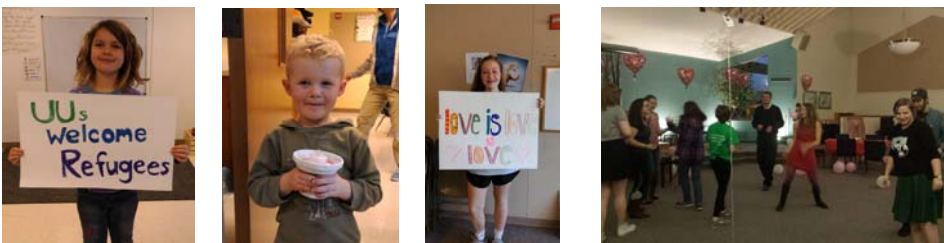
A monthly event for all ages! Bring your favorite board game, your favorite pie, or both, and join us for a time of fun and fellowship and pie.

March 4
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Childcare provided

What's Been Happening in R.E.! Photos from February



Intergenerational Service on maintaining a loving heart, with art, stories of love and justice, and yoga. Take a look at the blog post on the importance and challenges of intergenerational services: <https://uuchurch.net/blog/2017/02/09/intergenerational-services-at-uucc/>



Learning about the Flaming Chalice and our UU history of activism and service.

YRUU-hosted Valentine's Day Family Dance, which raised \$300 for Planned Parenthood.



Spirit Play, our new Montessori-inspired, self-directed R.E. curriculum, got off to a great start. Come check it out during our 9 a.m. service!



Learning about animal communication with a visit from a python!

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

Junior Youth Night
March 10, 6:30-8 p.m.



The YRUU High School Youth Group will host a games night for the Junior Youth.

Important YRUU Deadline!



YRUU members are planning their summer trip to UU General Assembly in New Orleans from June 20 to June 26. Teens need to register before March 12 so that we can begin planning, budgeting, and fundraising for our trip. You can register at <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration>. The cost is \$215/teen. YRUU can reimburse part or all of this amount as needed.

Planning a Summer Adventure?
Consider MUUSA!



MUUSA is a UU summer retreat on Trout Lake in Southern Missouri. There are family and youth programs and lots of fun. Learn more at www.muusa.org, or talk to Ellen Thomas.

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.

Grieving Circle

The Grieving Circle will now meet once a month on the second Thursday at 7 p.m. 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.

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.

Kaleidoscope – March 18

Join Kaleidoscope as we celebrate the spring equinox at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 18 at the church – bunnies, eggs, fresh green grass, and a goddess named Ostara.

We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship.

All are welcome, no matter what your personal path.

Conversations, Etc. – March 8

Conversations Etc. welcomes all women on the second Wednesday of each month at noon at the church. On March 8 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 – March 10

The UU Book Discussion will meet at 5 p.m. March 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.

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.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Fire of Commitment: Sparking Courage, Sustaining Love

**By Jeffrey Richter
Stewardship Team Chair**

On Feb. 19, 2017, we began our annual stewardship campaign. This year's theme is "Fire of Commitment: Sparking Courage, Sustaining Love." Drawing inspiration from our flaming chalice, this campaign aims to highlight how the church has promoted our values in difficult times. 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.

After multiple years of ambitious increases to our fundraising goals to meet the growing needs of our congregation, this year's goal is \$312,000, only a 4% increase over last year's target of \$300,000.

The 4% represents basic increases to operational costs to continue the mission of the church. While this increase is considerably smaller than in recent years, an uncertain future for social services, health care, and other necessary costs of living will impact our congregation unequally. With this in mind, we are asking that everyone carefully consider their own personal finances along with the fair share guidelines to determine a pledge amount for the coming fiscal year that honors our values and acknowledges the growing inequity of the greater world around us.

To better reflect the variety of personal circumstances that our members are facing in the coming year, this year's pledge cards will not include a suggested pledge amount. There is some amount of risk in doing so, as even a modest increase in our target must be met by increased pledge amounts and pledges from new members.

If you are not familiar with the fair share guidelines provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association, please take some time to review the information presented on the back of your pledge card (also available on the [How to Pledge](#) page on our website) and discuss with your household members how your pledge affects your own budget, the budget of the church, and the injustices of your community.

Throughout the campaign, there will be a table outside the Sanctuary with pledge cards, informational handouts, and stewards to accept your pledges and answer any questions you may have. Pledge cards are due by March 19! Please do not hesitate to ask any questions, or express any thoughts or concerns you may have.



Making summer plans?

We are fortunate to be just a 2 1/2 hour drive from the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) taking place July 2-8 at Trout Lodge in Potosi, Mo.

This is a one-week, multigenerational experience, with all the water activities, crafts, music, and fun you remember from summer camp, plus the fellowship and wonderful worship experience of being with UUs from all over the Midwest and around the country.

Our own Larry Lile and Qhyrrae Michaelieu will teach swing dancing, among the many activities from which you can choose. There are programs for kids of all ages, from nursery care for the under-3s to programming for middle and high school youth.

Young adults will have their own programming as well, if they choose. Housing options vary from tent camping to bunkhouses, from cabins to a hotel-like lodge, and the cost varies accordingly.

Ellen Thomas and Gerti Motavalli attended last summer and would be happy to share their experiences or try to answer questions – or check out the website MUUSA.org for more information and registration.

Founders Day Trivia Night to Benefit Honduras Work Highly Successful

The fourth annual Founders Day Trivia Night was held at UUCC on Jan. 28. The Honduras Ministry had applied for a \$4,500 matching grant from the Inman Foundation in St. Louis, and because the Trivia Night raised more than \$4,000, the matching grant was received.

Some ways the money raised will be used are buying materials to build at least 10 latrines during the next trip this June, supporting the health clinic, supporting the microfinance group Adelante, and providing scholarship funds.

Allie Gassmann
Social Action Team
alliegassmann@socket.net

Sanctuary Discernment Conversations

**Saturday morning, March 11, 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Thursday evening, March 16, 5:30 to 7 p.m.**

Please join us for one of these identical conversations as our congregation discerns whether to formally declare ourselves a “sanctuary congregation” and promise protection to those facing detention or deportation because of who they are, where they are from, or what they stand for. Childcare and a light meal will be provided. If you are unable to make one of these times, please email Rev. Molly at minister@uuchurch.net for a potential third opportunity.

Sanctuary Vote

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m. between services

Please join us for this important vote about declaring ourselves a sanctuary congregation. Those who have been members 90 days or more will be eligible to vote. Others are welcome to attend in witness.

Springtime Means Planting for Grounds Team

Mark your calendars to celebrate the beginning of spring with the Grounds Team. We plan on removing non-native plants from the north-east bed in front of the church on **Saturday, April 15 starting at 9 a.m.** **We will plant natives on Saturday, May 6 at 9 a.m.**

The Grounds Team is excited for spring to arrive. Aren't you? We want to thank the many awesome volunteers who help us to respect the interdependent web of all existence. This UU Principle has been supported by Grounds Team work: decreasing the invasive bush honeysuckle, maintaining paths in the woods, managing our meadow, creating outdoor seating, battling poison ivy, mowing our lawn, and increasing native plants.

Why plant natives? Native plant species have co-evolved with native insect species and provide important food resources for thousands of species of invertebrates, as well as for birds and other animals. Virtually all terrestrial birds feed their young insects. Native plants provide food for insects, and insects provide food for birds. Without insects, we would have no birds.

We would love for you to join us, and will keep you posted on upcoming opportunities. We regularly post on the Columbia UU Facebook page, in *The Searchlight*, and on the church calendar. If you would like to be on our email list, or for more information, email Patty Daus (pdaus@mchsi.com) or Jeanne Murphy (jmurphy1203@socket.net).

THE SEARCHLIGHT

The Newsletter of:
Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

Return Service Requested

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

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>

Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon and by appointment

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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