



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 10, April 2017

April Worship

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 2
“Rights at Risk”

UUSC Justice Sunday
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

This year, the UU Service Committee’s annual “Justice Sunday” asks us to “join in support of marginalized communities targeted because of who they are: people under particular threat because of religion, race, and immigrant or refugee status.” We’ll learn about the UUSC “Rights at Risk” program and our own capacity for risk in these times.

Sunday, April 9
“Pain and the Brain”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Understanding how we experience pain shows us that mindfulness is often a more effective approach for pain management than avoidance. How do we apply these ideas to the fullness of our emotional, embodied, and spiritual lives?

Sunday, April 16
“On Salvation and Scars”

Easter Sunday
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to revisit that ancient story of suffering and redemption central to the Christian tradition. What meaning does the Easter story hold for Unitarian Universalists? What might we learn from the story of pain, resurrection, and the scars that remain?

Sunday, April 23
“Earth Dance”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & Jamila Batchelder, DRE

Join us for a lively multi-generational service as we consider how we can dance with the changing patterns and seasons of our earth.

April Worship continued on page 2

Spiritual Growth is cultivated by practicing . . .

A capacity to be in the presence of pain without panic

When I was a kid, there was a certain slope in the road in my neighborhood that my brother and I loved cruising down on our rollerblades. Our favorite thing was to experiment with different ways to become more aerodynamic and increase our speed. Inevitably, one day I hit top speed and flew down that slope, only to wipe out at the bottom. I skinned every uncovered bit of flesh, and a few covered bits too, where the friction of pavement to cloth tore open my jeans at the knees.

What I will always remember most about that moment is the look of worry and fear on my dad’s face as he rushed from the house to my side, yelling at me the whole way. Why didn’t I use my brakes? How did I get going so fast? Was I ok? I knew even then that his yelling wasn’t from anger but from terror for my wellbeing. His reaction was a measure of his deep love for me. I knew he would take my pain from me, if he could.

But he and I also knew that the pain was mine to endure, as I limped inside and wincingly cleaned my scrapes. He sat beside me and helped with the peroxide, the ointment, the bandages. He couldn’t take away the pain, but his loving presence was all I needed in order to endure.

We know that pain is inevitable in this life, whether pain of body, mind, or spirit. And sometimes our appropriate reaction to pain is to rage against our suffering and that of our loved ones. But when the raging is done, healing may come most truly from the unrelenting presence to the fullness of our experience. This presence doesn’t try to fix us, but sees our wholeness and agency even amid our pain. This presence requires grappling with the fear and worry that are the companions of love. This presence requires turning toward the reality of suffering, and peering unwaveringly through to the dignity within.

Join us this month as we seek to grow in presence, compassion, and love.

See you in church!
Molly

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Membership 101 Class on April 9

What does it mean to be a member of this church? What should you expect from this congregation? What is expected of you?

Find answers to these and many other questions at the next Membership 101 Class from 12:30 to 3 p.m. April 9, 2017.

All persons interested in becoming members of UUCS are strongly encouraged to attend this class.

Childcare and lunch will be provided.

Reservations are required by Friday, April 7 – RSVP to Kevin Fritschke at 573-289-4536 or by email to fritschke@missouri.edu.

UU Life Writers

UU Life Writers will meet three times in April – April 1, 15 and 29.

Our spring theme: “The Great ‘I’ – Influences, Impressions, Illusions” has produced some really great stories.

All are welcome to join us at 10:30 a.m. in the Centering Room.



April Worship – continued from page 1

Sunday, April 30

“Celebrating Our Love for Mother Earth”

UU Green Sanctuary Team

Our Green Sanctuary Team is pursuing certification as an official UUA Green Sanctuary Congregation. Join us to rededicate our whole congregation to the work of sustainability, environmental justice, and rooting ourselves in love and celebration for our natural world.

Forum for April 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.

April 2

Wayne Anderson will present on “The Great Depression: Some Personal Memories.” Besides his family experiences, he will discuss how Frances Perkins, Roosevelt’s Secretary of Labor, not only benefited the poor, but also made major improvements in the life of the American worker.

April 9

Sandy Davidson, UMC Curators’ Teaching Professor of Journalism and Adjunct Professor of Law and an expert on communications law, will present “Fake News: Libel v. Constitutionally Protected Speech.”

April 16

Lori Hall-Araujo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and the Programs Exhibition Curator at Stephens College, will present “Post-World War II Cocktail Culture in America.” Stephens continues to be a major player in the fashion scene. Business of Fashion London ranks Stephens College as the 14th best fashion program in the world, and Stephens is recognized as the No. 15 private fashion design college in the nation.

April 23

Wayne Anderson will present “The Eighty Year Battle for the Right to Vote,” with emphasis on four of the women who sacrificed to win the battle: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Alice Stokes Paul.

April 30

Wayne Anderson, human sexuality instructor for 40 years, will present, “How Helen Gurley Brown Changed Women’s Attitudes Toward Their Own Sexuality.” Brown not only wrote the influential book *Sex and the Single Girl* but also turned *Cosmopolitan* magazine into a major influence in young women’s lives in the 1970s and 80s.

Honeysuckle eradication final push

**Saturday April 8
8 a.m. to noon**

We have been working for more than two years to clear our church grounds of invasive shrub honeysuckle and, although it will never be completely cleared, we have made great progress. It is now almost at a point where it should be manageable in the future. We just need one final push to complete the process.

Please come and help us on April 8 in our efforts to rejuvenate our woodlands. The more people, the more fun it is, and the quicker we can get the work accomplished.

Wear long pants and bring gloves and loppers. Come and enjoy getting down and dirty in our back lot.

For more information email Peter Holmes, Grounds Team member, at pfolmes63@gmail.com.

16 planning to go on 2017 Honduras trip

Sixteen people are planning to go on UUCC's fourth Honduras Service Trip June 13-20. They will travel to El Pital, Honduras, to help build latrines, work in the health clinic, make music and see our Honduran friends again.

Many thanks to all who donated money, clothing and other items during the month of March. Everything is appreciated beyond measure by our Honduran partners!

Previous Honduras Team trips were in 2009, 2011 and 2014. You can read more about those trips at <https://uuchurch.net/honduras-news/>.

– Allie Gassmann, Team Leader

UUCC continues to consider declaring sanctuary

Additional discernment conversations about the realities, risks, and calling of sanctuary will be held on Sunday, April 2 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and Monday, April 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.

A congregational vote on sanctuary will be held Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 10 a.m. between worship services. You must have been a member for 60 days in order to vote. Proxy votes will be accepted by Church Secretary Steve Scott.

Please read the Sanctuary FAQs on our website at <https://uuchurch.net/blog/category/ministers-blog/> or by picking up a copy from the church office.

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.*

Joys and Sorrows now posted on website

Joys and Sorrows shared during our worship services and noted for the e-newsletter can now be found on our website on a password-protected page. You will find the page on the Members/Friends tab of the main menu.

You must be registered to access the password-protected pages on the website. Information about how to register can also be found on the Members/Friends tab of the main menu.

Our presence on the web

Go to <https://uuchurch.net>

for information on church activities and our online calendar of events

Spring Fling!

April 22 – 5:30 p.m.

“UU Dinners for 8” members and substitutes are celebrating the end of this year’s gatherings with a dinner in the lower level of the church at 5:30 p.m. April 22.

Each couple is asked to bring a dish to share. The entree and drinks will be provided from this year’s dues. Please call Melinda at 573-445-6325 to let her know what you are bringing.

Bon Appetit!
Linda Lou Brown



Green Sanctuary Team Updates

Certification effort involves partnership with MRCC

Your Green Sanctuary Team is working hard toward achieving official certification from the UUA. As part of that effort, we are working in partnership with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC) to help rural Missourians protect their water supplies and their home environments from the devastation that comes with confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), or what you may think of as industrial livestock production.

The only way to limit CAFOs in Missouri is for counties to pass health ordinances that create stricter regulations than the state requires. So far, this has resulted in Missouri having about 500 CAFOs, versus Iowa, with 11,000. This is termed “local control,” and only works in this direction. Counties cannot weaken state rules.

Corporate agriculture interests would like to eliminate the local control option in Missouri. They have been beaten back by MRCC for years now, but it is a constant threat. Watch for GST members with information about this issue and a petition that you can sign in coming weeks!

Several GST members have lobbied in Jefferson City

with MRCC on this issue, and there will be other opportunities to get involved.

Coming in late Spring: Movie and local food bites night with a panel of experts to answer your questions. This will be open to the community, and we need help organizing this event! For more information please contact Ellen Thomas at 573-445-2928 or elenthomascomo@gmail.com).

Mindful Journeys

Spring is also the time to be thinking about what we call Mindful Journeys – thinking about how we travel to the places we need to go, and how personal choices and public policy around transportation impact social justice and environmental quality. Watch for information about upcoming activities on this topic.

New GST leadership

GST has new leadership! Suzanne Griffin is our chair, and Jan Weaver is coordinating our certification process. Our annual service is coming up on April 30, and our next meeting is at 7 p.m. April 11 at the home of Ellen Thomas, 2616 Hillshire Drive.

We welcome anyone who is interested in exploring what our seventh principle looks like when it is put into practice, and centered in our spiritual lives.

Grounds Team to begin springtime efforts on April 15

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

ence. 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.

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 at pdaus@mchsi.com or Jeanne Murphy at jmurphy1203@socket.net.

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

Next Meeting at 12:30 p.m. on April 9

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

Third *Common Read* discussion coming soon

In February Suzanne Griffin led two discussions on this year's Common Read book, *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*. The Common Read book is chosen each year by the UUA. Because we realize that not everyone had time to read the book by the time of the second February discussion, Suzanne will lead a third discussion in the spring. Stay tuned for the date and time.



Feeding the Hungry in Mid-Missouri

- ◆ Every third Sunday of the month our congregation serves the evening meal at **Loaves and Fishes**. Diane Suhler, the SAT Economic Justice Coordinator, has been a dedicated and tireless leader of this effort all year. Many thanks to Diane for leading this essential social justice activity. If you can, please take a moment to visit the church website and sign up to bring a dish or help serve on **April 16**.
- ◆ Don't forget, the **food barrel in the lobby** collects shelf-stable food for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. The best items to donate are meals in a can (e.g., soup, chili), peanut butter, and tuna or canned chicken.

New LGBTQ Coordinator

The Social Action Team (SAT) is pleased to announce that Ruth Milledge will be the new LGBTQ Activism Coordinator. Many thanks to outgoing Coordinator Tessa Summers for all of her work leading the LGBTQ activities, including our team's participation in the Transgender Day of Remembrance in November and other events.

Faith-to-Action

Since July, UUCC has raised more than \$9,000 to help eight organizations and causes that our congregation cares about – an average of more than \$1,100 per organization. At right, Martha Brownlee-Duffeck presents a check for \$1,220.75 to Traci Wilson-Kleekamp of Race Matters, Friends, the February Faith-to-Action recipient.

The recipients of Faith-to-Action Collections were nominated by the SAT team and voted on by the congregation. The April Faith-to-Action collection will be for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), an international organization that advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters economic and environmental justice and protects human rights at risk in order to create a world free from oppression.



Reflections



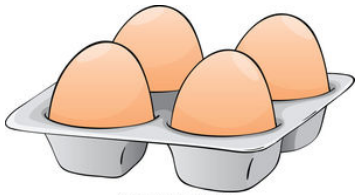
Easter at UCC means lots of fun activities for kids and lots of ways you can help out!

We will have our annual Easter Brunch at noon April 16. This event is hosted by YRUU as a fundraiser for their trip to UU General Assembly in New Orleans this summer. Teens will be selling tickets on April 9. Buying tickets in advance helps make sure we have enough food. You can also send an email to dre@uuchurch.net letting us know you are planning to come if you can't buy tickets on April 9. Tickets cost \$5 per person, or \$20 for a family.

We will also have our traditional Easter Canned Goods Hunt (all finds to be donated to the Food Bank!) during Sunday School, as well as a good old-fashioned egg hunt after service during the brunch. And of course, it wouldn't be Easter at UCC if someone isn't made to dance in an Easter Bunny costume. Who will it be this year? Be sure to come and find out!



The Easter Bunny Needs Your Help!



Please donate some food!

For the Easter Brunch, we need:

- Eggs
- Sausage
- Shredded cheese
- Juice
- Fruit

There will be a donation sign-up list in the Greeting Area on April 9, or email dre@uuchurch.net to let us know about a donation. Drop off donations at church by Saturday, April 15.



...or donate canned goods!

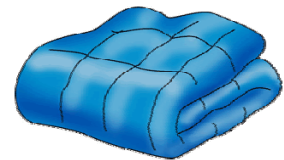
Please bring cans to donate for the Food Bank (and for our canned goods hunt first of course!) by April 9 so the Easter Bunny has time to hide them.

A stack of board games including Life, Scrabble, Payday, and Yahtzee, next to a pie.

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.
April 1
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Childcare provided

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 April 14 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Junior Youth will be making blankets for Project Linus and playing computer games.

Opportunity for Teens!

For UU teens interested in developing their leadership skills, Midwest Leadership School is a great summer program. The program runs from July 9 to 15 at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Applications are due June 1. To find out more, visit the website: www.mwls.org.



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.

Kaleidoscope – 6 p.m. April 29

Join Kaleidoscope, our UU Pagan group, to celebrate Beltane, better known to most as May Day. We used to weave paper baskets, fill them with dandelions, and hang them on peoples' doors. Do you remember?

Celebrate fertility, and joy, and (at last) fresh greens to eat. Gather at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the church.

We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what your personal path.

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 janepicurean@gmail.com if you want more information.

Conversations, Etc. – April 12

Conversations Etc. welcomes all women on the second Wednesday of each month at noon at the church. On April 12 Barbara Buffalo will speak to us on recycling.

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 – April 14

The UU Book Discussion meets at 5 p.m. on the second Friday of each month 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.

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: <https://uuchurch.net>

Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

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

Email: dre@uuchurch.net

Desiree Long, Music Director

Email: music@uuchurch.net

Betsy Fritsche, Sunday Morning Assistant

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

The Searchlight is published monthly by the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri.

Submissions:

Email to 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.