



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 11, May 2017

May Worship

9 and 11 a.m. May 7
10 a.m. only after May 7

Sunday, May 7
“Building a Peaceful Community”
9 and 11 a.m.

Peace Building Team

Join our Peace Building Team to explore what it means to build a community that exemplifies peace. This is a New Member Ingathering Sunday.

Sunday, May 14
“A Joyful Noise”
One Service at 10 a.m.
Flower Communion Service
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to make a joyful noise in celebration of Desi Long’s almost 25 years as our music director. We’ll share the joy of music and wish Desi well upon her retirement. We’ll also share flowers in our annual flower communion ceremony. Please bring a flower!

Sunday, May 21
“Always Connected”
One Service at 10 a.m.
Graduation Sunday
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
and DRE Jamila Batchelder

What does it mean to live in a world that is always and intimately interconnected? Join us to consider the guarantee of our perpetual connectedness with one another as we send off our graduates into the next phase of their development.

Sunday, May 28
“Yes, AND”
One Service at 10 a.m.
Jeff Ordway

In the world of improv, one learns early to build on every idea with a yes... and! Join us to imagine how we can apply an attitude of creativity and “Yes, AND” to our lives.

Spiritual Growth is cultivated by practicing . . .

The perception of universal connectedness

“Tug on anything at all, and you’ll find it connected to everything else in the universe.”

– John Muir

Did you know that quantum physics supports our UU seventh principle – respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part?

Process theologian Catherine Keller writes of the theological implications of the emerging quantum physics that show our universe to be entangled and web-like from the quantum level up, particles vibrating together and, once connected, indistinguishable from one another even across vast distances.

This emerging physics of quantum entanglement supports the worldview held by process philosophers – of the universe as dynamic and relational at every level, what Keller calls a “participatory universe.”

In this participatory universe, our actions, decisions, and even our subjective experiences are so deeply woven together that the act of any one individual has a profound impact on all others and the whole unfolding universe itself, just as the unfolding of the whole universe finds its expression in each of us.

Indeed, our entanglement stretches every which way. As individuals, we are caught up in larger systems and in the universe itself, but so are those systems and the universe deeply impacted by the actions and decisions of each individual.

When we tug on that web of existence, we find our motions rippling out and in and back around again. It is truly a living, moving, mysterious web we weave.

Join us this month to live with humility, creativity, and awe into the reality of our interconnection.

See you in church!
Molly

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Celebrate Desi as she retires!

Join us at 10 a.m. May 14 for one big service to celebrate Desi Long and her nearly 25 years of service as our Music Director.

Upon her decision to retire this year, Desi wishes to communicate her love for our congregation and how much she has enjoyed working with staff, musicians and choir members.

She plans to remain an active member of the church and to enjoy the flexibility of being able to travel and spend more time with her daughter. Perhaps she can even sleep-in some Sundays!

All our staff, leaders, and members join our hearts in expressing our deep gratitude for Desi's service and for the strength of our music program.

Join us May 14 to celebrate, and stay for cake and congratulations to Desi after the service.

Summer lay-led worship planning now!

What's your service? We all have a sermon inside. If you're ready to share yours, sign up to lead one of the summer lay-led services.

You will be supported in bringing your idea and inspiration to life through a worship workshop with Rev. Molly from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 3.

You will also have the assistance of the Worship Associates (Rebecca Graves, Cande Iveson, Anja Eick, Jeff Ordway, Sam Otten, and Desi Long), and they are ready even now to take your questions.

If you're interested in leading a summer service, please sign up at the visitors table or send an email to worship@uuchurch.net.

White Supremacy Teach-In

Our Unitarian Universalist Association has been doing some painful grappling with the ways that racism and oppression live in our institutions, even despite our highest values and best intentions.

Amidst these struggles, the Black Lives of UU Organization has called upon our UU congregations across the country to join together in offering a "White Supremacy Teach-In." Almost 500 congregations will be doing just that!

Join us to explore what white supremacy culture means in today's world (hint: it doesn't just mean hate groups) and to grapple with how racism and oppression live in *our* institutions as well. We will have two opportunities for this Teach-In:

- In a workshop with potluck lunch on Sunday, May 7 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. after the second service (please bring a dish to share).
 - In a Sunday worship service on June 18.
- Join us for one, or even better, for both.

Forum for May 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.

May 7

George Frissell will return for his semi-annual visit to discuss an important topic – which has yet to be chosen.

May 14

Robin Blake, professor emeritus of Family and Community Medicine at MU and a retired family physician, will discuss medicine and art.

May 21

Dolores Clark will take Forum "Down Under" – a tour of Australia from Cairns to Melbourne, Perth and the outback of the northern territory.

May 28

In keeping with the Forum's tradition of not wasting a good program on a small holiday crowd, Forum Coordinator Bill Clark will talk about who knows what?

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.

Caring Ministry Coordinating Team

The UU “Care Team” is looking for help in caring for our members. Please check us out at <https://uuchurch.net/caring-ministry-team/> to learn how you can help.

This ministry is based on the belief that we are all inherently worthy of care and meaningful connections with others. We provide support in times of celebration and challenge. Support may include cards, calls, visits, meals, and assistance with errands, transportation, or other needs.

There are opportunities for all to contribute their time or skills even if you have a busy schedule. Many hands make light work, and a contribution from your heart is needed and will be appreciated. Please consider joining our team and/or helping out periodically with a specific service or task. We keep in touch by email, phone and at weekly worship services.

– Meredith Donaldson and Winn Scott, Co-Chairs

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.

Honduras Service Trip Updates

A huge **THANK YOU!** for the generous donations of money and items of clothing, medical and school supplies during the month of March when Faith-to-Action collections were taken for the Honduras Ministry.

Sixteen people will be traveling to Honduras June 13-20 to build latrines and work in the health clinic. Above all, we are excited to renew our friendships and make new friends in order to build bridges of understanding, gratitude, deep regard and love.

For more information, contact Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team, Honduras Ministry at aliegassmann@socket.net.

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**



Green Sanctuary Team Updates

The GS team is working hard toward certification! You are welcome to get involved as a team member or on individual projects! Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 9 at the home of Suzanne Griffin, 4506 Revere Court.

The process requires a series of events in the areas of worship and celebration, religious education, sustainable living actions and an environmental justice project. Watch for news of many these activities!

Coming soon

Green Sanctuary service on April 30. Come at 9 or 11 a.m. to celebrate Mother Earth, with music and thoughtful reflection.

Bike or walk part or all of your journey to church in May, and join the GS team for a breakfast celebration on Sunday, May 21.

Movie night, "Farming Was My Life," with a taste of local food and a panel discussion including Adam Saunders from Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, and other Missouri family farmers, on Tuesday, May 30, 6-8 p.m.

Mark your calendar for Down By the Riverside June 3 and 4. Like last year, not a campout, but dinner on Saturday and breakfast and a worship service on Sunday at the former Katfish Katy's campground.

The centerpiece of the Green Sanctuary certification process is our environmental justice project. We will be teaming up with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, formed in the 1980s to save Missouri family farms from industrializing and consolidating agriculture and the policies that promote those forces.

They are working to keep small family farms in business, in contrast to Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), which can allow up to 17,499 hogs within 2,000 feet of a neighbor's home and un-

limited numbers of animals within 100 feet of a stream. A Class 1A CAFO (17,500 hogs) can generate as much waste as the city of St. Louis! This volume of manure is *not* beneficial to the neighborhood! Air emissions from ponds and from spraying can cause nausea, headaches, vomiting, diarrhea and pulmonary edema, and pollute the water for the entire community.

Communities in Missouri's Class 3 (agricultural) counties have only one way to protect themselves – county health ordinances. This technique has kept CAFO numbers in Missouri around 500, while our neighbor to the north, Iowa, has 11,000! Twenty Missouri counties so far have passed health ordinances, but every year since 2003, our legislature has tried to push through bills making it more difficult for counties to have a say in their own health and environmental regulations.

We are working with MRCC to raise awareness of this issue and to continue to fight for our rural communities and small family farmers who want to protect Missouri's water quality. This issue is termed "Local Control," and allows counties to vote for restrictions on pollution. It does not allow them to have less stringent regulations than the state.

What can you do?

Learn more! Visit <http://morural.org>.

Come to our movie night and discussion on May 30! See details above.

Sign the local control petition online at <http://morural.org/uncategorized/support-family-farms-stop-factory-farms-sign-the-petition>.

Think about the source of your food, in this case, pork products. Consider small local providers like Patchwork Family Farms or Sullivan Farms.



Reflections

Does Your Family Like to Hike?



We are starting a new monthly event at UUCC, a hike for all ages. The purpose of the hikes is to strengthen our connection to nature while also strengthening our connection to each other and building our community.

We will have two different hikes scheduled each month, to accommodate our different

schedules and needs. One hike will take place on the third Sunday of the month (for May, that will be **May 21**). We will meet at the church at 1:45 p.m. and then head over to Grindstone Nature Area (on Old Hwy. 63) at 2 p.m. We will hike the same trail each month, learning to become attuned to the changes and cycles that are occurring. The hike is approximately two miles in length, with a creek at which we will stop for a while to rest and play at the halfway point. Most of the hike is fairly moderate, but there is one 50-meter stretch that is fairly steep.

The second hike will take place on the fourth Monday of the month (**May 22**), meeting at the church at 9:45 a.m. and leaving for Grindstone Nature Area at 10 a.m. The hike is approximately 0.5 miles, with two stops for creek play. The hike is fairly moderate, with a few small hills. There is a very shallow creek that we will cross, so wearing shoes that can get wet is advisable.

May Hike Dates:

- **May 21**, meet in UUCC Parking Lot at 1:45 p.m., drive to Grindstone Nature Area at 2 p.m.
- **May 22**, meet in UUCC Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m., drive to Grindstone Nature Area at 10 a.m.

R.E. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Saturday, May 13, noon-2 p.m.



Our R.E. Program exists because of our amazing, dedicated volunteers, and we want to thank you and celebrate the year. We will have lunch and childcare provided for children downstairs and a special luncheon for the grown-ups upstairs. Please RSVP to dre@uuchurch.net if you are planning to attend.

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

R.E. Team Meeting May 21, noon-1 p.m.

Join us to discuss summer plans and think ahead to the new church year.

Junior Youth Night May 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Last Junior Youth Night of the program year. We will have a potluck and some outdoor fun (that may involve water balloons, so dress for possibilities!



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.

May 6, 6:30-8:30
Childcare provided

An illustration showing several board game boxes (Life, Scrabble, Payday, Yahtzee, Jenga) and a pie in a white dish.

Graduation Sunday May 21

We will celebrate the completion of our church year and celebrate our graduating high school seniors leaving behind our youth programming and entering into adult church life. If you have a graduating senior, please contact dre@uuchurch.net to let us know if you are able to attend the service.



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 Activism Coordinator – Ruth Milledge
- ◆ Finance – Amie Burling
- ◆ Education – Suzanne Griffin
- ◆ Communications – Suzanne Hansford Bowles

April Faith-to-Action Report

In April, the Faith-to-Action collections for the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** raised \$1,492! This is an impressive amount. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Support the LGBTQ Community in May

In May the Faith-to-Action collection will be for the Mid-MO PrideFest Coalition, which is the organization that organizes the annual Mid-MO PrideFest in Columbia. Now in its 14th year, the Mid-MO PrideFest is an annual celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and ally community in mid-Missouri.

This family-friendly event is the largest of its kind in mid-Missouri and includes entertainment, food, vendors, information on community organizations and more. This year, Mid-MO PrideFest will take place on August 26, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Rose Music Hall, 1013 Park Ave.

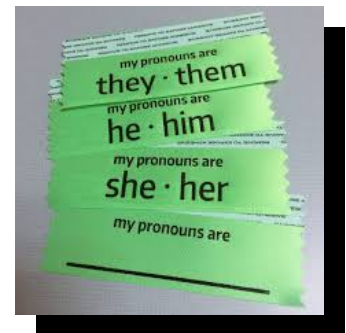
The Social Action Team encourages you to show your support for the LGBTQ community in Columbia by:

- ◆ giving as generously as you can during the May Faith-to-Action collections, and
- ◆ marking your calendars to attend the Mid-MO Pride Fest in August.



Reminder—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 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. Remember: Our role is to offer these ribbons, but please do not approach anyone to offer one.



To keep up with the Social Action Team at UUCC and learn about social action events and opportunities around town, follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SocialActionTeam/> and check out our weekly updates at <https://uuchurch.net/blog/category/social-action/>.

Programs and Events

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.

Grieving Circle – May 11

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

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 further information, email grieving@uuchurch.net.

Kaleidoscope – June 17

Join us as we celebrate Litha, the summer Solstice.

The longest day, and the shortest night, are here. The Sun stands in his glory and full strength. Glory with him, this bringer of warmth, light, and hope.

Gather with us on Saturday, June 17, at 6 p.m. at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship.

All are welcome, no matter what your personal path.

Time Change for Mindfulness Meditation

Starting May 14, join us for Mindfulness Meditation every Sunday at 9:05 a.m. in the Centering Room or around the Fire Circle.

For more information contact Peter Holmes.



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.

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.

Conversations, Etc. – May 10

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 – May 12

The UU Book Discussion Group 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.

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.



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)

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Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

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Betsy Fritsche, Sunday Morning Assistant

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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