



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uuchurch.net> • Volume 57, Issue 1, July 2017

July Worship

Services at 10 a.m.

Sunday, July 2
“We’ll Build a Land”
DRE Jamila Batchelder

As we prepare to celebrate 4th of July, we will explore what it means to be an American and how we might redefine patriotism through a UU lens.

Sunday, July 9
“Question Box”
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for an interactive “Question Box” service where participants of all ages will have the chance to submit questions that Rev. Molly will attempt to answer on the spot.

Sunday, July 16
“Freedom in the Web”
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Civil Rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer once said, “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.” Join us to explore how freedom and responsibility intertwine and what collective liberation has to do with the interconnected web of life.

Sunday, July 23
“Stories of Faith”
Sam Otten and Rebecca Graves
with guests from the
Muslim Speakers Bureau

Join us to learn more about the experience of practicing Islam and to hear stories of faith from members of the Muslim Speakers Bureau of Columbia.

Sunday, July 30
“Spirit Play”
DRE Jamila Batchelder and
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for an all-ages service to reflect on the spiritual necessity of play and to try out the materials of our Montessori-based Spirit Play curriculum. This service will be particularly conducive to meaningful cross-generational connection as we worship and play together.

Spiritual Growth is cultivated by practicing . . .

A perspective of gratitude, wonder, blessing and generosity

“I arise in the morning torn between the desire to improve the world and the desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.”

– E.B. White

At the UU Church of Columbia, we take seriously our calling to learn how to love the world, and we know this requires fierce and active commitment. We talk about the kind of love that transforms us – and through us our community – toward the better.

But we are not doing our job of loving this world fully if we are not also enjoying it. Indeed, the work of improvement divorced from the act of enjoyment becomes hollow, even a bit controlling, as we work upon the world rather than glorying in our relationship with it. Loving the world also means encountering it with wonder, awe, gratitude and joy.

We are a people who will always be hard at work for the improvement of our world, but perhaps these hot summer days can invite us into a different space. Things slow down a bit in the summer. Things sparkle a bit. We pause to marvel at fireflies in the yard and sun on the water. We glory in the refreshment of a cool drink and a long summer evening stretching on. We can take the time to wonder. We can take the time to give thanks.

Let us love this world, and let us begin by enjoying it.

See you in church!

Molly

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President's Perspective

A Journey's Endings and Beginnings

By Jeremy Milarsky
2015-17 President

Mere hours ago as I write, I was able to participate in our Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in New Orleans from the comfort of my own kitchen here in Columbia. I found it truly wonderful. And yet, part of me is glad G.A. has ended because that means my wife and children – who were there in person – are on their way home.

The journey home seems a fairly appropriate analogy to this time in my life and the timing of this column. Journeys have beginnings, middles and ends. As of July 1, my journey as church president came to an end after two years in that office and three as a member of our Board of Trustees.

My journey on our board began at the low end of a steep learning curve. I tried to spend twice as much time listening as I did talking (I was not always successful in this). And eventually I did learn. Organization is important. Relationships are even more so.

During my time on the board we passed three church budgets, invested in rock-star staff and helped our congregation with the ever-present question of who we are and where we are going.

My journey as a board member may have ended, but my service to this church will continue in other ways – for example, I will serve as chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2017-2018 church year.

I appreciate the different opportunities here at UUCC and am very thankful for the trust placed in me for those opportunities. As always, I encourage everyone to take up their own volunteer calling in this community.

Music Director Search Update

Last week we posted a job listing seeking an Interim Director of Music Ministry to work with us for between nine months and one year, as we engage in a longer discernment process and search leading to later hiring for the permanent position. The interim director will not be eligible to apply for the permanent position because an important part of the job will be making space for the transition to a permanent position.

We think this decision will allow us to do several things:

- To work with an interim director to better understand the needs of the music ministry in our growing congregation.
- To work with the congregation to better understand their vision and dreams for our music ministry.
- To spend the time to engage in a smooth transition period and a professional, fair, and equitable search.
- To use newly emerging standards from the Unitarian Universalist Association to examine our hiring practices through an anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens.

We hope you will spread the word about our interim position to any likely candidates, and we look forward to engaging in a conversation with you about your dreams and hopes for our music ministry!

Your Director of Music Ministry Search Team: Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Kara Braudis, Cande Iveson, Pack Matthews and Neil Minturn

Forum – June 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.

July 2: UU Allen Hjelmfelt returns with a quiet musical interlude as he has done for the past three years.

July 9: Jalal El-Joyyousi is a Palestinian now living in Columbia who offers a different look at the world.

July 16: The first of two open discussions about the world around us. This day's topics: Cuba, women's rights, health care and marijuana. Led by Bill Clark.

July 23: A follow-up to last week. Topics will be: Immigration, military involvement, animal rights and anything else the attendees choose. Led by Bill Clark.

July 30: The plight of Boone County's roads and bridges.

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.*



Green Sanctuary Team Updates

The Green Sanctuary Team is hard at work looking at ways to put our Seventh Principle into action! We have an action plan for achieving official Green Sanctuary status through the UUA. Watch for lots of exciting projects coming this church year! If you would like to be involved in the planning or in any specific project, please join us. Our July meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the home of Ellen Thomas. Call her at 573-445-2928 for more information.

We have divided the year into six program areas to help us focus our efforts. As we work toward certification, we consider the following guiding principles:

- **Sustainability** – Will this action allow one to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs?
- **Justice** – Will this action increase the just allocation of the benefits and costs of our use of materials, energy and space?
- **Joy** – Will this action increase spiritual growth and joy in life of the person who takes it?

With these in mind, here are our program areas:

- **August and September:** Mindful Place-making
- **October and November:** Mindful Eating
- **December and January:** Mindful use of Energy and Materials
- **February and March:** Mindful Engagement
- **April and May:** Mindful Journeys
- **June and July:** Mindfulness in Nature.

We will address each in greater detail through the year, but here are some thoughts for July regarding mindfulness in nature: We aim to attend to our time in nature to deepen our connection with the ecological systems that make life possible. In June, we celebrated with our Down by the Riverside service. Each Sunday, we provide an opportunity for meditation in nature – during the summer church schedule, that is from 9 to 9:45 a.m. in the Centering Room or at the fire circle behind the church. Also ongoing are the monthly hiking groups. In July, the longer family hike will be on Sunday, July 16 at 2 p.m., and the toddler-friendly hike on Monday, July 17 at 10 a.m.

Our certification program requires a variety of projects. To address environmental justice, we started a partnership with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center addressing the role of farmers and agricultural practice in keeping our water clean and how we as consumers and citizens can support good practices. We kicked off with a well-attended film and panel discussion on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and how local control can help rural communities protect their air and water. This will be an ongoing partnership, with a number of projects and fun activities to come. Also addressing water quality, Peter Holmes and Suzanne Griffin are heading up a UU “Stream Team” to monitor water quality in a stretch of Grindstone Creek not far from the church. Watch for more news of a fun and educational event for all ages as we kick that off in the fall.

In future newsletters, we will have more information about our projects in the areas of Religious Education, Worship and Celebration, Sustainable Eating, and Sustainable Living, and more about our program year plans.

Grieving Circle – As Restructured

After two years, our beloved Grieving Circle will cease to automatically meet every month. We are restructuring the circle to instead offer support and fellowship “upon request.”

If you or someone you know would like to meet in a facilitated grieving circle, or you wish to be in a place where you can freely and safely express your grief, please contact Rev Molly, Maria Oropallo, Barbara Carter, or Greg Bergman. All of our contact information is in the church directory on our website. Or you can send us an email at grieving@uuchurch.net.

Grieving a loss is personal and can sometimes be overwhelming. A community can provide great support in your time of need. With deep connection, love and patience, we hold your grief in our gentle embrace.

Men’s Group

The UCC 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 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 janepicturean@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. – July 12

Conversations, Etc., informal women’s group for UUs and Friends, will meet at church at noon July 12. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Pam at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

Book Discussion Group

There will be no meeting of the Book Discussion Group in the month of July. Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

UCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays

UCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month, July 16 this 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.

Kaleidoscope – Aug. 5

Lughnassad, the Feast of the First Harvest. Juicy ripe tomatoes and zucchini everywhere. The Earth once again gives of Her bounty. We join to celebrate Her gifts.

Gather with us at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what your personal path.

Reflections

UUA General Assembly in New Orleans

I have just returned from an incredible adventure, chaperoning four UU teens (and one 9-year-old) to our first UUA General Assembly (G.A.). G.A. is the annual gathering where UUs do the business of our denomination, voting on policies and bylaws, while also participating in numerous workshops, activities, and services to grow and learn together and deepen our faith and our commitment to social justice. It was such an enriching experience, and I feel invigorated by all I learned there. I look forward to sharing with you about it, both in the Sunday Service on Aug. 6, and in conversations and programs throughout the year. A few highlights:



Clockwise from top : Isaac, Ben, Morgan, and Clarity. Not pictured: our intrepid photographer Rachel.

- ◆ In a workshop on spiritual practices for young people, we talked about how – in a world that continuously calls upon us to give of our spirit – it is important to engage in spiritual practice that replenishes our spirit. We focus so much in UU religious education on imparting knowledge, but I am eager to continue to also develop practices and rituals that give our children the tools they need to care for their spirit as they go out into the world.
- ◆ There was so much singing by our teens at GA! It was wonderful to watch them go beyond self-consciousness and put their whole heart into song, to see music touch them on a soul-level, and to use it as a tool of connection. I am so excited as we begin our search for a new Music Director to find ways to make singing a meaningful spiritual practice for the young people of our church.
- ◆ Perhaps the workshop that gave me the most food for thought was one on cultural appropriation and “decentering whiteness” in our church programming. I am still meditating on what this means for our R.E. program. I will be rededicating my efforts to make our program one in which anyone who walks in the door feels welcome.
- ◆ Perhaps the most inspiring part of this G.A. was attending the lecture of Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*. He gave us four imperatives for social justice work: get proximate, change the narrative, stay hopeful, and be willing to be uncomfortable. I am looking forward to applying all of these principles to R.E.
- ◆ Finally, I am appreciating the importance of community building. Watching the teens deepen their relationships with each other, with our intergenerational delegation, and with the broader UU community was truly inspiring. I look forward in the year ahead to continue to develop our community that can grow and learn together.

Sincerely,
Jamila Batchelder, DRE

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

R.E. Team Meeting July 16, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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

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.

July 1, 6:30-8:30
Childcare provided

A photograph showing a stack of board games including 'The Life', 'Scrabble', 'Payday', 'Yahtzee', and 'Jenga', next to a round pie with a yellow lattice crust.

UUCC's Monthly Hiking Groups

July 16, 1:45 p.m.: A family-friendly hike at Grindstone Nature Area. Meet in the parking lot at UUCC.

July 18, 9:45 a.m.: A shorter hike suitable for the smallest UUs. Meet in the parking lot at UUCC.

July Sunday Schedule

July 2: Independence Day
Intergenerational Service

July 9: Intergenerational Service:
Question Box

July 16: RE Classes
Workshop Class: Theater Games

July 23: RE Classes
Workshop Class: TBD

July 30: Intergenerational
Service: Spirit Play for All

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

Return Service Requested

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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