



# 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 3, September 2017

## September Worship

10 a.m. Sept. 3

9 and 11 a.m.

*beginning Sept. 10*

**Sunday, Sept. 3**

**10 a.m. only**

**“The Lie We Built Upon”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

As our country, community, and congregation continue to grapple with white supremacy in its most egregious and most subtle forms, join us this Labor Day weekend to consider the cornerstones of the American economy and the lie of white supremacy.

**Sunday, Sept. 10**

**9 and 11 a.m.**

**“Weaving Resilient Community”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

What are some of the characteristics of resilient community? How do we build a church community and Columbia community that is courageous and committed in the work of love? Join us to ponder our year-long worship theme: Weaving Resilient Community. This Sunday marks the resumption of two worship services at 9 and 11 a.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 17**

**9 and 11 a.m.**

**“Creation’s Birthday”**

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

As our Jewish members, friends and neighbors prepare to observe Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and the beginning of the high holidays, join us for a multi-generational service to learn from the traditions of Rosh Hashanah – the anniversary of creation, the birthday of the world.

**Sunday, Sept. 24**

**9 and 11 a.m.**

**“Being Sanctuary”**

**Rev. Dottie Mathews,  
Affiliated Community Minister**

Join us this Sunday for a moving sermon from our Affiliated Community Minister Dottie Mathews as she shares what she has learned accompanying immigrant neighbors to ICE check-ins and doing other Sanctuary work. How do we truly treat one another as human family amidst inhumane systems?

## Weaving Resilient Community

It’s a new program year at the UU Church of Columbia – another year of exploration and growth and another year of courageous love. We know there are many challenges to our values in this time, as in every age. We wonder what it takes to live with love into a climate-changed world and a national narrative of division and fear.

So this year’s big, overarching question is this: What does it take to weave together a church and Columbia community that is resilient in the face of those challenges?

A strong weaving cannot be singular and homogenous – it must have threads stretching up and across and full of difference if it is to be resilient. Our monthly themes this year will be paired as complementary strands of warp and weft. We will be exploring Kinship & Difference, Struggle & Faithfulness, Clarity & Flexibility, Memory & Imagination, Celebration & Solitude, and Resistance & Release.

We are looking forward to a deep and rich year together.

See you in church!  
Rev. Molly

## All-Church Picnic

**5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9**

**Details on Page 3**

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# Our Interim Director of Music Ministry

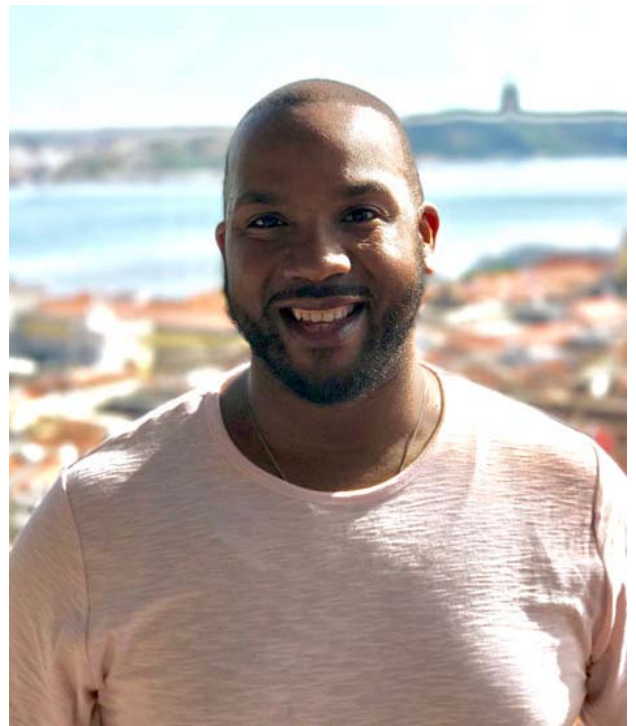
Please welcome our Interim Director of Music Ministry for the 2017-18 church year, Marques J. Ruff. *Choir rehearsals have resumed under Marques' direction on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.*

Marques comes to us fresh off of several years touring as a member of the Grammy-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer. A graduate of Central Connecticut State University with a degree in music, he is excited to begin his Master of Music in Choral Conducting at Mizzou this fall.

A lover of classical, jazz, gospel and show tunes, Marques is also a writer and rather good amateur chef. When not listening to and/or creating music, he can be found enjoying nature, new restaurants, and falling down the hole that is video suggestions on YouTube.

## Sept. 6 Music Brainstorming Meeting

If you are musically or artistically inclined, Marques invites you to a brainstorming and feedback meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6 before choir rehearsal. Pizza will be provided.



Marques J. Ruff

## CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk on Sept. 17

Mark your calendars for the annual interfaith effort to raise funds to relieve hunger here in Columbia and mid-Missouri, across the U.S. and around the world. This event is sponsored by Church World Service. This year the event will be taking place at 2 p.m. Sept. 17 at Stephens Lake Park.

Watch for the CROP Walk table in the greeting area during the weeks leading up to the Walk. Email Allie Gassmann at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net) for more information.

## Forum – September 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.*

### Sept. 3

Wayne Anderson will present “Muslim Women – Variations in Their Treatment from Country to Country.” This is based on his observations as a member of the International Center for Psychosocial Trauma working in Muslim countries from 1995 to 2010.

### Sept. 10

Wayne Anderson will present “Drones – What Is Their Future?” He will discuss how we are getting beyond their use as weapons and spy devices to a more beneficial uses in such fields as agriculture and firefighting.

### Sept. 17

Wayne Anderson will present “The Black Women Who Shaped the Fight for Desegregation,” a look at some of those who risked their lives to better the condition of African-Americans.

### Sept. 24

Wayne Anderson will present “What Is All this Advanced Technology Doing to the Human Brain?” When you can have all the information in the world in the palm of your hand, what is left for your brain to do?

*SAVE THE DATE*

# ALL CHURCH PICNIC

*Saturday, Sept. 9  
5:30 p.m.*

Join us to kick off the church year with fellowship, food, and fun. We'll share a picnic dinner, games for kids, and more! We'll gather on the church grounds – or in the building in case of inclement weather.

Grilled hotdogs and hamburgers of the meat and veggie varieties will be provided, along with buns and condiments. (If you are vegetarian *and* gluten-free, you may wish to bring your own main dish.) Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, picnicking gear, and utensils for your family.

## UU Life Writers – Fall 2017

### Fall Theme: “StoryCorps”

Most of us have listened to the StoryCorps stories on National Public Radio. The stories are based on interviews with a variety of people on a variety of topics. About StoryCorps:

**“StoryCorps’ mission is to preserve and share humanity’s stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.**

“We do this to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone’s story matters. At the same time, we are creating an invaluable archive for future generations.”

In our UU Life Writers series over the past 15 years, we have been doing just this – so this fall we will start with interviews as a prelude to writing our mini-memoirs.

We will meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month starting Sept. 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Centering Room downstairs at church. The fall schedule:

- Sept. 16
- Oct. 7 and 21
- Nov. 4 and 18
- Dec. 2 (and 16?)

For more information contact Fran Reynolds at [Reynoldsf@missouri.edu](mailto:Reynoldsf@missouri.edu) or 573-881-3828 or 573-443-4336.



## Welcoming Team Announces:

### ***For Our Newcomers: Getting to Know UU***

*(for all those who want to know more about us)*

On the first Sunday of each month in Rev. Molly's office after the second worship service for about 30 minutes.

Child care provided.

## **Ready to Join?**

### ***Here are the classes you don't want to miss!***

If you are considering membership in UUCC, we urge you to attend these classes:

- **Membership 101: UU history and history of this church**

– Sunday, Sept. 10 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Centering Room on the lower level

- **Membership 102: How to get more involved in the life of the church**

– Sunday, Sept. 24 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Centering Room on the lower level

Lunch will be provided. Child care can be provided with one week notice. RSVP to [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net) or call 573-442-5764.

The 11 a.m. worship service on Oct. 15 will include a new member ingathering for those who have taken the membership classes or spoken with Rev. Molly and feel ready to join.

## **Honduras trip worship on Oct. 8**

Our fourth UUCC service trip to Honduras was once again a fantastic trip. We built latrines, painted the health clinic and the elementary school, and offered pap smears in El Pital, near La Ceiba, Honduras.

Please come to our worship services on Oct. 8 when members of the group will share their experiences.

If you are interested in learning more and in possibly being part of the next trip slated for 2020, please email Allie Gassmann at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net).

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

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

## UUCC Care Team

# ***UUs caring for each other***

The UUCC Care Team (Caring Ministry Coordinating Team) is ready to meet the needs of our members. We visit our members who are hospitalized or in retirement homes, provide meals when there is a new baby or a family crisis, offer rides to church, and more.

The committee meets on third Sundays after worship in the Forum Room, and new committee members are always welcome, as are offers from members who would be ready to offer a ride, a meal or a visit when called upon.

This month we highlight a fun monthly opportunity for members who are home during the day. Scott Denson and Peter Holmes play and sing their wonderful music at retirement homes where some of our members live. Scott and Peter would welcome members to come and enjoy the music while also visiting and getting to know our members who live at these retirement homes.

When my children were young, we looked forward to

visiting a retirement home, where our young family could interact with and care for older members of our church family.

Scott and Peter visit on the following schedule:

The Terrace where Roberta Jones lives on the second Monday at 2 p.m. (but changed this month to Sept. 18).

Boone Landing where Jim Lee lives on the third Tuesday at 2 p.m. (Sept. 19).

Tiger Place where Patricia Morrow and Dorothy Watson live on the fourth Monday at 2 p.m. (Sept. 23).

Feel free to call or text Scott at 573-424-4760 if you want to confirm the schedule or have a question.

If you are interested in helping the Care Team or know of a need, please contact either of the Care Team Co-Chairs – Meredith Donaldson at 573-289-3018 or Win Scott at 573-234-1959.

– Meredith Donaldson



## Green Sanctuary Team Updates

In September the Green Sanctuary Team continues to call attention to Mindful Place-Making, seeking to think about sustainability, justice and joy as we attend to the places where we live, work and worship, so that they fulfill the needs of other living things as well as our own.

We are grateful to the Grounds Team members for their hard work in bringing a thriving native plant ecosystem to the church grounds. Please consider joining them on their workdays Sept. 16 and Oct. 21 when they will be removing invasive plants and keeping our grounds looking lovely. This is the time of year to start looking for monarch butterfly larvae on our milkweed plants!

We are updating the church's energy audit and want to thank Larry Lile for his work in upgrading our aging HVAC system to make it more efficient.

This September, the GST will be making its first water quality measurements at our Stream Team site on the Hinkson Creek. We expect this to be a fun and educational opportunity for many of our members, including kids, as we go forward. If you are interested in more information, Suzanne Griffin and Peter Holmes are heading up this effort.

We are continuing our partnership with Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC) and their efforts to help our farmers and rural citizens protect water quality in their communities by passing county health ordinances. At the behest of Big Ag interests wanting to place Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Missouri, there are perennial efforts in the state legislature to prohibit these ordinances. Watch for members of the Green Sanctuary Team in the greeting area in September with more information and an opportunity to sign a petition in support of local control.

Looking ahead to October and November, we will turn our attention to Mindful Eating. Watch for news of upcoming events, including:

- **Oct. 13-15** – UUCC all-church campout at Bergfried (near Hermann)
- **Oct. 17 at 2 p.m.** – CCUA Farm Day This is a CPS early-release day, and this is a great family activity!
- **Nov. 4** – MRCC Farm Day. Watch for more information to come. This will be a day-long opportunity to explore the connections between rural and urban, farmer and eater, in the areas of social and environmental justice, food security and access, and access to democratic decision-making.
- **Nov. 11** – Harvest Supper potluck at UUCC.

**Nibi Walk:** This is an effort led by native women to protect the waters of North America with ceremonial and prayerful walks along our rivers. Starting Aug. 1, a group of walkers began to travel the length of the Missouri River. By the time they get to our section of the Missouri, they will be traveling by floating lodge. We are working to coordinate with them, with plans to provide them with a nourishing meal and supplies and to host a presentation at UUCC about what they are doing. Their schedule for arrival is uncertain at this time, so watch for more information. You can find out more at [nibiwalk.org](http://nibiwalk.org) or follow them on Facebook (Nibi Walks).

Our next meeting will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the home of Suzanne Griffin, 240-994-9068. All are welcome.

– Ellen Thomas, Green Sanctuary Team

## President's Perspective

# “Feeling a Little Nostalgic”

by Todd Iveson, 2017-18 President

You've probably all heard by now that we have hired an Interim Music Director for the coming year.

His name is Marques Ruff, and he has an impressive resume. Check him out in a YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iINVehn3-f4>. He's the one singing lead.

I'm excited about Marques joining us and look forward to the new sound he will bring to our worship. But it also reminds me that our long-serving and well-loved Desi Long will no longer be a fixture at the piano and in front of the choir as she has been for all of the 19 years I have been coming to UUCC.

I'm feeling a little nostalgic as I write. It is 19 years this month since my family and I moved to Columbia. I don't remember exactly when we started attending UUCC, but it would have been shortly after Labor Day. At the time, we were holding services in the basement of Shepard Boulevard Elementary School across the

street while the expansion of our building was being finished. We moved back to the expanded church the next spring.

I have been through three ministers, five youth R.E. directors, and now two (soon three) music directors. Only Kathie Bergman, our administrator, remains in her post from my first days. She remains our institutional memory and a source of invaluable guidance for me and many others.

Yet as we change, there is a core in this congregation that is still recognizable from my first acquaintance. We still have fabulous music that is an integral part of our spiritual life. It has only grown richer as new sources of talent and inspiration have been added over the years.

We are still a welcoming congregation. In fact, my observation is that we are more welcoming than ever. I usher a lot of mornings and so have the opportunity to observe the milieu in the Greeting Area before and after services. Our Welcoming Team does a great job,

but what really makes me smile is how all members of our congregation reach out to newcomers and do their best to make them feel at home. I thank you all for helping me, a confirmed introvert, to do the same.

We still care about injustice and seek to be a part of healing our world. But here, too, we have grown. More of us are more actively involved in marching and phone-banking, feeding and sheltering the homeless, and helping those who need our help. We can never do enough, but we are making an ever greater contribution.

Finally, we still feed our spirits at UUCC. We come here to learn, to be comforted, to be emboldened, to talk some and to listen more. Through our music, our welcoming, our social action, our Sunday services and our small group ministries, we come to our church to refresh our souls and renew our love of the world and each other. May that always continue to grow and change – and yet remain at its center the same.



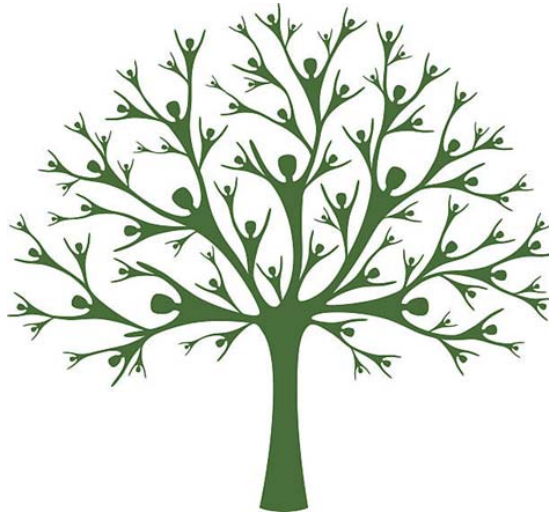
## UUCC Mission Statement

*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

As we begin our new church year, focusing on building a resilient community, I look forward to continuing to strengthen our R.E. community. Our theme for September is “kinship” – such an obvious first step in building a resilient community, yet so often overlooked in our society full of nuclear families and hectic schedules. How do we build and strengthen those bonds of kinship that will sustain us through challenges? How do we teach our children about the importance of kinship and how to continue to expand the circle of our family until it extends to include the entire family of humanity? Some places to start this month:

- Invite a church family that you have never socialized with to come over for dinner.
- Bake cookies with your children to give to a neighbor.
- Sign up to make a dish for Loaves and Fishes and prepare it with your children.
- Participate in our Service Sunday on Sept. 3 putting together school packs for Festival of Sharing.
- Read the book *A Bus Called Heaven* by Bob Graham and discuss the topic of community and kinship together.
- Join us at the church picnic at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 9 and participate in other church community activities.



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

**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.  
6:30-8:30 Sept. 2  
Childcare provided

## UUCC's Monthly Hiking Groups



**Sept. 17, 1:45 p.m.:** A family-friendly hike at Grindstone Nature Area. Meet in parking lot at UUCC.

**Sept. 19, 9:45 a.m.:** A shorter hike suitable for the smallest UUs. Meet in parking lot at UUCC.

## September R.E. Schedule

**Sept. 3:** Service Sunday, assembling Reading and Writing Packs for Festival of Sharing

**Sept. 10:** Resume two services, first day of R.E. classes

**Sept. 17:** Intergenerational Rosh Hashana service

**Sept. 24:** Regular R.E. classes



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Register your child(ren) for the 2017-2018 R.E. year so we can prepare for the year. You can find the signup page on the church website at <https://uuchurch.net/online-re-registration/>

### Grieving Circle

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 [grievingcircle@uuchurch.net](mailto:grievingcircle@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.

### Kaleidoscope – Sept. 23

M'bon, the Second Harvest. We continue to appreciate the gifts of Nature and recognize the approaching darkness. We honor the God of the Grain and remember that he who now falls will rise again in the spring.

Gather with us at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship.

All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

– Barbara Carter

### 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.

### Mindfulness Meditation

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation on Sunday, Sept. 3 at 9:05 a.m. and every Sunday thereafter at 10:05 a.m. in the Centering Room or around the Fire Circle.

For more information contact Peter Holmes.

### The food barrel is still hungry...

So far in 2017 you have contributed 217 pounds of “assorted food items” to the Food Pantry. Unfortunately, the need continues, so please continue providing non-perishable food items. Thank you!

### 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 573-449-5118.

### ‘The Work That Reconnects’

Join us for bi-monthly group work in “The Work That Reconnects,” a program developed by Buddhist scholar, author and teacher Joanna Macy and facilitated by Caya Tanski-French.

The central purpose of “The Work That Reconnects” is to deepen our relationship with each other and with the self-healing powers in the web of life, taking us from despair and helping to motivate and empower us to reclaim our lives, our communities, and our planet.

For more information, contact Caya by email at [cayasadhana@yahoo.com](mailto:cayasadhana@yahoo.com).

### Conversations, Etc. – Sept. 13

Conversations, Etc. UU Women’s Group meets monthly on second Wednesdays at the church at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6326 if you have questions.

### Book Discussion Group

UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. For information call Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642.

### UCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays

UCC 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 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.



# ***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](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net)

### **Kathie Bergman, Administrator**

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Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto: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](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net)

## **2017-2018 Board of Trustees**

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Patty Daus, Treasurer

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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](mailto: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.