



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 5, November 2017

November Worship

9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 5

“Wrestling to the Blessing”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

One way we build resilient community is by engaging struggle together, learning that we can do hard things, engage emotional complexities, and struggle together for justice. When we wrestle with the difficulties of life together, sometimes we just may find our way to a blessing.

Sunday, Nov. 12

“Struggling Together”

Worship Associates

Join our worship associates to hear from a number of UU Church-ers about how they’ve grappled with struggles of different kinds in their lives, and the meaning they’ve found in the struggle.

Sunday, Nov. 19

“Staying at the Table”

Thanksgiving Sunday

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time for gratitude, feasting and family! Time with family is sometimes fun, sometimes hard, and always meaningful. How do we stay at the table through it all? Join us for our annual Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service and cornbread communion, as we reflect together on all that keeps us at the table together.

Sunday, Nov. 26

“All Church Service Sunday”

One Service Only at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

This Sunday after Thanksgiving, join us to give back at **10:30 a.m.** for an Intergenerational Service Sunday. Choose one of several service projects either on- or off-site, and gather back together at noon for reflection and a potluck lunch (leftovers welcome!).

Resilient Community Weaves In . . .

Struggle

“Without a struggle, there can be no progress”

– Frederick Douglass

Recently, my young daughter was trying to figure out a new toy, and she was struggling. The pieces wouldn’t fit together the way she thought they should, no matter how many times she jammed them together, and she became increasingly frustrated. Of course, the solution was obvious to my adult brain, but this once I managed to sit on my hands instead of intervening, and eventually I grinned with delight as she finally figured it out. She was even more delighted with herself.

One of the hardest things I’ve had to learn so far as the parent of a toddler is the value of my child’s struggle. At this stage her struggles are so small that I could easily jump in and solve them, and often I fight a strong urge to do so. Of course, it is my most important work in life to keep her as safe and healthy as possible. But it is also my work to let her engage with her own struggles, especially now when the stakes are rather low, because that is so clearly how she learns.

Communities, too, learn valuable lessons from the struggles we engage together. They teach us about our strength and commitment to one another and our highest values. They build our resilience in a world that will always throw hard things our way. They pull forth our ingenuity and curiosity and courage.

This is not to say that we wish for struggle, but rather that when we come upon it through the realities of life, we engage it head on and together, ready to learn and ready to grow.

See you in church!

Molly

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Congratulations, UUCC!

At 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11 at the Missouri United Methodist Church, 204 S. Ninth St., the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia will receive an award at the annual Peace Works dinner honoring our work for justice in the Columbia community.

UU Youth Choir for ages 6-12

Chelsea Otten is organizing a UU Youth Choir to perform a special piece of music at our worship services on Nov. 19.

We are planning three Wednesday evening rehearsals from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the lower level of the church. There will be some fun and kid-friendly warm-up activities, and the performance will involve some choreographed movement and singing. Here are the dates:

Practice - Wednesday, Nov. 1: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Practice - Wednesday, Nov. 8: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Practice - Wednesday, Nov. 15: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Performance - Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 and 11 a.m.

Please email Chelsea Otten at chelsea.otten@gmail.com if your child will participate!

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.

UU Dinner Club

It's not too late...

The UU Dinner Club members like to pre-plan their cooperative dinners, but it's not too late to join us if you didn't get to the September Kick-Off Potluck.

Newcomers, friends or members, we would love for you to commit to dinners in November, January, February and March.

Part of our yearly plan is a December Hors d'oeuvres Party on Dec. 2 or 3 at the church. Each couple or single will bring a platter of hors d'oeuvres, and drinks will be furnished by the club.

Dues are \$12.50 per person for the season. Send checks payable to UUCC noting "Dinner Club dues" on the memo line to Church Administrator Kathie Bergman.

Our Spring Fling Finale will also be at the church in April. It will be a potluck with entree, drinks and bread furnished by the dinner club.

To join or more information, contact:

- Linda Lou Brown – 573-447-3939 or brownlindalou@icloud.com
- Melinda Farhangi – 573-445-6325

Forum – November 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.

Nov. 5: Mel West, Retired Methodist Minister, will tell us about "The Perfect Storm" – recalling the dust bowl days of the 1930s.

Nov. 12: Dr. Shakir Hamoodi, a local businessman, will be the first speaker in a two-Sunday discussion of Islam.

Nov. 19: Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim will continue the discussion of Islam.

Nov. 26: Bill Clark will talk on a subject to be announced.

President's Perspective

Recognizing, accepting and celebrating difference

by Todd Iveson, 2017-18 President

“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”

– Audre Lorde

I've been thinking about this quotation ever since I saw it in Molly's monthly message in the October *Searchlight*. It has significant relevance to my life right now in two particular ways.

First, this is the first time I have served in a leadership position under an elected Republican. Many of you know that I am the Director of the Taxation Division of the Missouri Department of Revenue. This is not generally a political appointment but rather a position filled by a career civil servant. Nevertheless, I had some concern after the election whether I would continue in this role with the new administration. I was even more concerned that I would not be able to support the new policies.

As it turns out, I did stay on and am finding that I have much more in common with the current administration than with some Democratic administrations I've served. Let me be clear that I'm talking about tax administration here and not the policies of the current administration more generally.

The political appointees I'm reporting to are generally conservative Republicans, but at least as far as I have seen, not the radical kind. (There I go adopting another either/or distinction. Oh, well.) Don't get me wrong: My parents were Republican. In my early years I considered myself a Republican and was proud of the party of Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, and Eisenhower. Then came Nixon and Reagan and Newt.

Like many in today's world, I don't hang out with many people that have differing political viewpoints. So I was somewhat surprised to learn that the Republicans I work with share the same core vision of the role of the Department of Revenue: To help Missouri citizens comply with their obligations. While we definitely have differences on tax policy writ large, they have been far more open than I ever would have expected to balancing tax cuts (they're Republicans after all) with ensuring sufficient revenue to provide necessary services and with making sure that tax cuts are more fairly distributed outside the 1%.

The second way in which this is relevant to my life right now is in my service as President. Any group process presents challenges, and I think volunteer groups are some of the hardest. As I've mentioned in a past message, our Board of Trustees has been going through a process to develop strategic goals for the ministry teams and board committees. In this process, we are considering the aspirations we have heard from you in the various visioning exercises we have undertaken as well as the practical need to ensure our vibrant future. We intend these goals to identify the areas of focus to put our mission and vision into practice so we're all rowing in the same direction. These goals are not set in stone, but will evolve as we do.

As you no doubt can imagine, there are differences among board members that are sometimes passionately felt and expressed. The discussions can be lively, to say the least. These differences and passion are our strength, but they could be destructive if each member of the board were not committed to “recognize[ing], accept[ing], and celebrat[ing] those differences.” Because our board is committed, the discussions have been passionate and respectful – and an opportunity to know each other better.

I am thankful for that commitment from my fellow board members and for my opportunity to serve with them. I hope I can repay them with the leadership they deserve.

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.

Honduras Ministry Team Update

Leishmaniasis outbreak in the Cangrejaj River Valley, Honduras

The Cangrejaj River Valley, where the Honduras Ministry has done latrine building and other projects, is experiencing a leishmaniasis outbreak. This parasitic disease, transmitted by the sandfly, can be deadly and needs to be treated quickly.

Unfortunately it takes the Honduran Health Department about a month to start sending the needed medications to the health clinic in El Pital that serves the river valley. So our Honduras Ministry Team has sent \$1,000 to the clinic for medications and supplies, and thus far 20 people have been treated successfully.

Unfortunately the treatment is quite expensive. The Honduras Ministry Team raised another \$1,397 at its worship services on Oct. 8 for this cause. Thanks to the very generous help of UUCC, lives are being saved as we speak in this poor rural area of Honduras!

The Honduran community has started a public education campaign about the disease and is working on reducing the breeding grounds for the sandflies.

– Allie Gassmann, Honduras Ministry
alliegassmann@socket.net

Mindfulness Meditation

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation at 10:05 a.m. in the Centering Room or around the Fire Circle.

Meditators of all levels of experience are welcome. This is mainly silent meditation with some instruction, if needed, and with brief selected readings from eminent teachers.

For more information contact Peter Holmes.

Our presence on the web

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

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.

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.

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.*

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.



Green Sanctuary Team News

Harvest Supper Potluck

Saturday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m.

Fellowship and Fun for All Ages

Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Team

Bring a dish to share using local ingredients, and please sign up to help

Contacts:

Kyna Bylerly Duke, organizer - kyna@gmail.com

Ellen Thomas, cleanup team leader - ellenthomascomo@gmail.com

In November the Green Sanctuary Team is focusing on “mindful eating” and attending to the food we eat – so that it nourishes the soil from which it springs, the growers who cultivate it and our spirits as well as our bodies. We hope many in the congregation will join us to celebrate at the Harvest Supper Potluck at 6 p.m. Nov. 11.

What you can expect: Delicious food and beverages, fellowship, fun for all ages, and great entertainment.

What you can do: Bring your family and a dish to share, preferably featuring local ingredients. And please sign up to help! We will need help with setup and with cleanup. Kyna Bylerly Duke (kyna@gmail.com) is the overall organizer, and Ellen Thomas (ellenthomascomo@gmail.com) is the cleanup team leader.

There are no tickets and no need to sign up to attend. There will be a cash bar for local wine and beer, and free non-alcoholic beverages.

As we move into December and January, the Green Sanctuary Team will focus on the mindful use of energy and materials – attending to how our needs and wants are met, so that we ensure the ability of future generations to meet their needs and wants. Larry Lile recently updated our congregational energy audit, including suggestions for reducing our carbon footprint while potentially lowering our energy bills. Watch for more information to come about energy and materials, and actions that we can take together to improve sustainability, justice and joy in their use.

The energy audit is the final step toward our application to become a candidate congregation for Green Sanctuary certification through the UUA. This is an exciting step for those of us on the GS Team and the congregation as a whole. Want to get involved? Our next meeting is at the home of Ellen Thomas, 2616 Hillshire Drive, on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. Join us!

New system for ushers and tellers

Because the former system of asking volunteers to sign up as ushers and tellers on our website was not working well, a new system has been set up that establishes a regular schedule for these functions.

Details about the scheduling of ushers and tellers can be found on the new Usher Team and Teller Team pages on our website. These pages are accessible on the Service menu in the Church Service sub-menu.

These two new teams are led by Steve Scott, who recently was asked by Rev. Molly to serve as volunteer coordinator.

Kaliedoscope pagan gathering – Dec. 23

Join us to celebrate the return of the Sun, the symbol of hope and the promise of returning warmth, on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. at the church. Check the December newsletter for more information. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what your personal path.

Please welcome our new Sunday Morning Assistant

Please welcome our new Sunday Morning Assistant, April Rodeghero, who began her work with us in October.

April is mother to a seven-year-old and to one-year-old twins. She has worked with MU Adventure Club, Missouri Afterschool Network and the Columbia Housing Authority. Now she works as a postpartum doula, supporting parents in their new roles. She has attended UCC occasionally in the past year or so.

April will welcome your friendship and your help in the church kitchen – especially on potluck days for setup and cleanup! Please let's show April our radical welcoming spirit!

'The Work That Reconnects'

Join us for twice-monthly group work at UCC at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays 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.

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.



UCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays

UCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – Oct. 15 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.

Conversations, Etc. – Nov. 8

Conversations, Etc. will meet at Mizzou North at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8 for a tour of the Museum of Anthropology.

Call Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 if you have questions.

UU Book Discussion – Nov. 10

The UU Book Discussion group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10 at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

Call Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 if you have questions.

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.

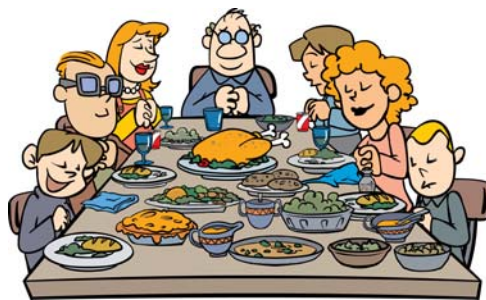
The agenda is an open discussion of whatever is on the minds of those in attendance – and breakfast!

For more information contact Wiley Miller.

Reflections

This month, our spiritual theme is “struggle” – how struggling together makes us stronger. I am reminded of a time recently when I got into an argument with my spouse in front of my kids. As the child of divorced parents, there is a part of me that wants my kids to only ever witness perfect marital harmony. But I know they really need to see is the whole process of us struggling through something difficult together and coming out stronger. How can you engage this month with your children on the theme of struggle? Some suggestions:

- Think about starting a regular family meeting. Light a chalice, talk about what is going right in your family, but also invite family members to raise issues they want to work on together.
- Come up together with a family challenge – something to do together that will take some amount of effort and frustration.
- Play the board game “Obstacles” – the church owns it and anyone who would like to can check it out for a week. It is a fun game of thinking about how to creatively overcome obstacles together.
- For those of us heading off to Thanksgiving celebrations with our families that may be conflict-filled, take some time to conscientiously decide what lessons you can impart to your kids from your family gathering (honesty, diplomacy, boundary-setting, learning to accept the flaws in others and ourselves, to name a few possibilities).



YRUU Regional High School Youth Conference Nov. 3-5

The big event this month is the regional youth conference that our teens are hosting. We will be learning about social justice and bonding with other UU teens of the Midwest.

We still could use a few more adult volunteers, so if you are interested in getting involved, email Jamila Batchelder at dre@uuchurch.net.

Thoreau Promise Keepers



This year, the Thoreau kids are learning what it means to be a UU, and the challenge for the year is to memorize our Seven Principles (or Promises). In October, two Thoreau kids met the challenge! Congratulations **Hazel McConnell-Siebuhr** and **Tobias White!**

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

Things *not* happening in November

- Pie and Board Games *cancelled* on Nov. 11. Instead, we will hold the Harvest Supper that night, a great event for families to attend.
- UU Hiking Group *on hiatus* for November and December due to holiday traveling.
- RE Team Meeting *cancelled* due to holiday traveling. We will conduct our business via email this month.

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



Junior Youth (6th-8th grade) will meet for pizza and fun activities.

November R.E. Schedule

- Nov. 5: Service Sunday - Making blankets for Project Linus (regular R.E. for Potter Class)
- Nov. 12: Regular R.E. classes
- Nov. 19: Intergenerational Service: Cornbread Communion
- Nov. 26: All Church Service Sunday

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

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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Email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net
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