



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 7, January 2018

January Worship

9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 7
“Awakening”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

The Buddhist holiday Bodhi Day is celebrated in many sects of Buddhism to commemorate the day that the Buddha reached enlightenment. As we begin our month contemplating “Clarity,” we will learn about this holy day and ponder what it means to awaken.

Sunday, Jan. 14
“To Speak the Truth in Love”
Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Our weekly words of affirmation claim that we covenant to “speak the truth in love,” but what does that mean when the truth is hard to hear? The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of a fierce and demanding love and spoke truths that were often much more radical than we remember. Join us to honor his legacy and ponder our calling to speak the truth with fierce and urgent love.

Sunday, Jan. 21
“Words Matter”
Special Guests

In this era that some have called post-truth, when the charge of “fake news” is serious but often used broadly and frivolously, the words we use matter. Join special guests to reflect upon what it means to seek clarity in the age of fake news and fuzzy truth.

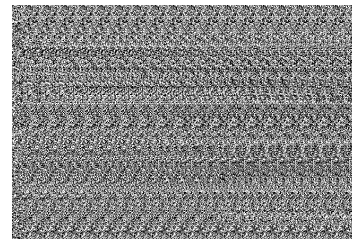
Sunday, Jan. 28
Founders’ Day Sunday
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & Members
Join us to celebrate our congregation’s past, present and future as we observe the 67th anniversary of our founding. Hear from members across the years to learn more about the meaning of this community, and enjoy our special mass choir performing favorites from yesterday and today!

Resilient Community Weaves In . . .

Clarity

“More important than the quest for certainty is the quest for clarity.”
– François Gautier

When I was a kid, “magic eye” posters were all the rage. They were colorful posters that just looked like static until you let your gaze relax into just the right place of unfocused focus. When you found that magic place, the image suddenly snapped into view, right before your eyes, in perfect clarity.



(example of a magic eye image)

This strikes me as a metaphor for our quest for clarity in a world with too much information, a confusing array of truth, half-truth, and fiction, and a lot of static. Sometimes I feel as though the more stringently I pursue clarity, the more it eludes my grasp. And yet, intellectual and moral clarity are essential for us to act with integrity and efficacy in the world. These have nothing to do with physical sight, but everything to do with discernment and refinement – a simultaneous relaxing and sharpening of our inner senses that allow a clear sense of purpose and practice to come through. Much like the magic eye, finding clarity in our lives requires practice, as the world’s religious traditions have long taught in different ways.

This month, join us to explore how we cut past the static to find clarity of mind, heart and spirit.

See you in church! – Rev. Molly

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Sharing the Ministry Breakfast

Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018
Greeting Area
9 to 11 a.m.

Do you serve on one of the ministry teams in our church? Are you interested in learning more about becoming involved?

All are invited to join our Committee on Ministry for a quarterly Sharing the Ministry Breakfast to network, brainstorm, and reflect together on the shared ministry of our church. We particularly ask that ministry team leaders join us or send a representative from your team this quarter as we enter the new year and learn about our Board of Trustees' new strategic priorities for our work together.

All are welcome, childcare will be provided upon request, and a yummy breakfast including *bacon* will be served!

Email minister@uuchurch.net to request childcare.

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.

Calling All Singers – Mass Choir on Jan. 28

As we prepare to celebrate our church's 67th Founders' Day on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, we are bringing together a Mass Choir to sing at both the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services. Whether you've sung in high school, college, or just in the car, you are welcome to participate!

Four rehearsals will be held at the church from 7 to 8 p.m. on consecutive Wednesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17 and 24. Childcare will be provided.

While all are welcome to participate, Interim Music Director Marques Ruff requires that each participant be present for at least two of the four scheduled rehearsals. For more information, email Marques at music@uuchurch.net.

Do you do online shopping at Amazon?

If so, your purchases can now benefit our church with a contribution from Amazon of 0.5% of the purchase price. Here's how to get started:

1. In your browser, go to <https://smile.amazon.com>.
2. Sign in using your normal Amazon username and password.
3. Next you will see a screen with a box on the right asking you to "Select a charity."
4. In the bottom of that box, where it says "Or pick your own charitable organization," type "Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia" in the box and click the "Search" button.
5. Next you will see a screen showing our church with the location listed as "Columbia MO," and there may be other churches listed. Click the "Select" button next to our church's name.
6. Finally, you will see another screen with a checkbox to indicate that you understand that you must always start at <https://smile.amazon.com> to support our church. After clicking the checkbox, you can click the "Start Shopping" button which will take you to the main Amazon screen.

In the future, always start your Amazon shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com> so that your purchases will benefit UUC. You will find all the same Amazon products and prices there as regular Amazon.

Tip: If you have set up a bookmark or favorite for Amazon, be sure to change it to the new address.

Forum – January 2018

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.

Jan. 7: Dolores Clark will present "Making your Home into a Recycle Center."

Jan. 14: Connie Johnmeyer will take us on a "Journey Along the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain."

Jan. 21: Dick Parker will present "Columbia's Greenhouse Gas Planning."

Jan. 28: Dr. Jack Colwill will offer his periodic update on health care.

President's Perspective

“Begin By Showing Up”

by Todd Iveson, 2017-18 President

As I write, Christmas and the New Year are just days away. I usually enjoy this time of year, but this year brings me special joy. In large part that is because I am so proud and thankful to be part of our congregation.

We have just completed our successful two-week run hosting the Room at the Inn. I was fortunate to spend many mornings working with many volunteers from our church and elsewhere who made this possible. Our guests were grateful to have a warm, dry place to sleep and some food to eat.

One memory of the many that will stay with me was the guest who wondered where the cross was. He may have been more confused than convinced after a conversation with another church member and me regarding our UU principles and the symbol of the chalice. Although he may have been confused, after doing this for two weeks, I know that we live our principles in many ways, and it all begins by showing up.

Many of you may not be aware of another exciting event in the life of our congregation. Sally Fritsche grew up in our church. I taught her in youth RE and was the worship associate when she gave her first sermon in our pulpit a few years back. A little more than two years ago, she was about to begin at Harvard Divinity School and asked our congregation to sponsor her, which is a necessary step in the long process to become a UU minister. The board gladly did so.

She is now about to enter her final semester, which is exciting, but she still has a long way to go. One of the requirements she needs to complete soon to proceed on her path is to undergo a career assessment. A career assessment is a comprehensive personal, emotional, and psychological evaluation to determine suitability for ministry. There is a charge for the assessment of \$1,850. The UUA covers \$1,000. Recently, Sally

asked the board to consider subsidizing the additional \$850. Fortunately, the church established a fund to honor Rev. William Haney, our minister for more than 20 years and now minister *emeritus*, to foster ministerial development. The board was proud to approve use of those funds to help Sally take the next step in fulfilling her call.

On a similar note, the board also approved Rev. Molly's request to support moving forward as a teaching congregation by bringing in an intern minister. Molly has been discussing the possibility with a member of the Jefferson City UU Fellowship currently attending seminary. This requires a financial commitment from us to pay the intern a modest stipend. More importantly, it requires a commitment by Rev. Molly and the congregation to support the minister-in-formation to learn what being a minister really means. This is primarily an important teaching responsibility, although we anticipate the intern will also make a meaningful contribution to the life of the church in both practical and spiritual ways.

My prior UU church, First Unitarian in St. Louis, was a teaching congregation. I can attest that each intern who served us contributed to the richness of our church life, each in their own unique way.

Last – but definitely not least – I am happy to report that the Nominating Committee recommended and the board approved Mindy McPherson to fill the remaining months of a vacant board slot which ends at the end of this church year. She has also agreed to stand for election to a full three-year term at our next annual meeting.

As I said at the beginning, I am proud and thankful to be a part of all the ways we are working together to help heal the world in so many ways. May we be resolved in the New Year to keep showing up, and keep faith that it always matters.



Green Sanctuary Team News

We are kicking off 2018 with our Green Hearts program! We invite UUs of all ages to adopt a new personal environmental practice as an act of spiritual devotion to justice and love between New Year's Day and Valentine's Day.

When we consume energy and materials, the burden of the waste from their use is shared by everyone. It is unjust for only a few to enjoy the benefits of a practice when all must share its burdens. By taking a step away from consumption, you are taking a step toward justice and toward love and compassion for others, both human and wild.

Check out our list of possible practices at the Green Sanctuary table, or choose your own. Drop a slip of paper with your new practice into the jar, and then join us on Sunday, Feb. 11, before the 11 a.m. service for a brief Green Hearts ceremony to share and celebrate our combined actions.

Also watch for news of our "Stream Team" activities and our bimonthly "Skills Workshops." We will also be building our partnership with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, starting with participating in a lobby day for local control for clean water and air at the Capitol on Tuesday, Jan. 9. For more information, email Ellen Thomas at ellenthomascómo@gmail.com.

It will be a busy year for Green Sanctuary, as we have now submitted our application for accreditation as an official Green Sanctuary congregation! Join us in any of our activities, or our group meetings, on the second Tuesday of each month. The January meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 9 at the home of Ellen Thomas.

Our presence on the web

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



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.

A Different Kind of Stewardship Campaign

“Let’s Break Bread Together!”

By Qhyrrae Michaelieu for the Stewardship Team

Have you been under the impression that our yearly stewardship campaign is an uncomfortable experience to be avoided at all costs? I was, until a few years ago. I thought the conversation about pledging to the church must be very awkward and only about money. But then my husband Larry told me about the conversation he had with the church member who called him to talk about stewardship. He told me how they got coffee and had a really enjoyable chat about what was meaningful to him about our church. Not awkward at all, he said, and we really connected. Hmmmmm, I thought, that actually sounds like fun!

This year, our Stewardship Team is seeking to double down on that sense of fun, meaning, and connection as our congregation considers the financial commitments

we will each make to the church in the coming year. We’re organizing simple Stewardship Suppers as a chance for groups of 8-10 people to get together for dinner (or brunch!) in a fellow member’s home, to get to know each other better, enjoy each others’ company, and talk together about what the church means to us.

A steward will be present at each dinner to offer a bit of education about why we pledge and what we hope to accomplish together with this year’s campaign, but fear not! No one will be asking you to talk about your family’s financial situation or to share about how much you pledge! That information is shared only with your steward, who will pass it along to the church for record-keeping over the coming year. The idea of these meals is to enjoy each other and to

remember *why* we give to the church... because of all the meaningful things we can accomplish together.

How will these meals work? Our team will be dividing folks into small groups and inviting them to a certain supper or brunch time sometime in the month of February. If you’re unavailable at the appointed time, they’ll find a different supper for you to attend, and if you prefer not to attend, you can RSVP “No Thanks.” We are also still looking for hosts and stewards, so if you’re interested in holding a simple meal in your home or facilitating meaningful conversation, please get in touch with Maria Oropallo at maria.r.oropallo@gmail.com.

We hope to see you soon for a fun and meaningful conversation... and a tasty bite to eat!



Stewardship Team Members

Back row from left: Ene-Kaja Chippendale, Steve Mudrick, Jan Swaney, Michela Skelton, Maria Oropallo and Dennis Murphy. Front: Qhyrrae Michaelieu.

For Newcomers

“Getting to Know UU”

For those who want to know more about us.

First Sunday of each month in Rev. Molly’s office after the 11 a.m. service for about 30 minutes. Child care provided.

Ready to Join?

The classes you won’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, Jan. 14, 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Centering Room, lower level.

Membership 102: How to get more involved in the life of the church - Sunday, Jan. 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Centering Room, lower level.

Lunch provided. Child care provided with one week’s notice. RSVP to:

uuchurch@uuchurch.net
or call 573-442-5764

New Member Ingathering

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

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet at the church at noon Wednesday, Jan. 10. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 if you have questions.

UU Book Discussion

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12 at ABC Chinese Cuisine, 3510 I-70 Drive S.E. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 if you have questions.

Kaleidoscope pagan gathering – Feb. 3

Join Kaleidoscope to celebrate Imbolc, also known as Brigid’s Feast, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 at the church.

The first stirrings of life after the long winter appear. Brigid shines the light of creativity upon us. Growth begins. Gather with us and join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

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.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – Jan. 21 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.

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.

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.

Reflections

Happy New Year to all the families of UUCC! January is a time to prepare for the new year, and an excellent time for reflection, planning and setting a clear course. This month we will be examining how communities are strengthened through clarity. We UUs love talking about “shades of gray,” but I think there are times children are searching for clear answers. And I think beyond our “shades of gray,” we UU parents actually have some very clear moral truths that we want our children to know. A few years ago I did an art project with my family in which we created a visual representation of our family covenant. The covenant grew out of a garden of flowers, each flower holding a value that our family believes in – sharing, trying, respect, and more (one child decided we need to include something about eating our vegetables...). What does your family believe? Take some time together as a family this January to talk about what you believe, and what it means to live those beliefs. Perhaps you will be inspired to turn it into a piece of art, and if you do, I would love to see it!



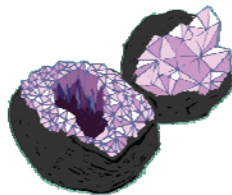
Potter Class Needs You!

We need more teachers and aides for Potter Class in 2018! Two of our scheduled teachers are now unable to teach this spring, so we are looking to recruit a few more volunteers. Potter Class is our preschool classroom, and the children are adorable, enthusiastic, and so much fun to work with.

Children's Altar

In the new year, I want to start a new tradition at UUCC. I will be creating a small altar for our children with sacred objects that will change throughout the year. If children find a small object - a rock, a feather, etc. - that they want placed on altar

for the month, they are invited to do so (please let me know if you want the object returned).



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

OWL Training Jan. 13-15

We are excited to be hosting an OWL training so that people can be certified as OWL facilitators. We have people attending from all over the country. If you would like to support us in this endeavor by hosting a participant in your home while they are in town for the training or helping with food service, please contact Jamila at dre@uuchurch.net.

Junior Youth Night Movie Night Friday, January 12, 6:30-8 p.m.

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



January R.E. Schedule

Jan. 7: Regular R.E. classes

Jan. 14: Service Sunday – bake sale for families of incarcerated people

Jan. 21: Regular R.E. Classes

Jan. 28: Regular R.E. Classes



Founders' Day Service Auction

Jan. 27, 2018

Let's make a deal! You give us \$10, and at the Founders' Day Service Auction at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, we'll give you:

- A festive evening of fun and fellowship.
- Heavy appetizers and beverages.
- Two raffle tickets.
- Free child care for those who need it (with pizza, games and movies for the kids).
- The opportunity to bid on services donated by our members and friends.
- The pride of knowing that you helped UCC.
- Freedom from remorse over missing our premier fund-raising event of the year.

We'll gather for tasty snacks and beverages from 6 to 8 p.m. and bid on things like computer help, professional or business services, fancy meals... on and on the list will go.

Your help is needed to make this church fund-raiser a success:

Go to <https://uuchurch.net/founders-day-services-auction-jan-27-2018/> and:

- **Purchase auction tickets** for \$10/person on the Auction Tickets page. (No tickets are required for children who will be in child care.)
- **Donate services.** Can you change someone's oil? Host a game night? Cut someone's hair? Bake cookies? Donate time at your vacation cabin? Provide babysitting? Shovel snow? Provide professional or business services? You can find more ideas and make your donations on the Auction Service(s) Donation page. *Feel free to come up with your own service ideas!*
- **Contribute food/drinks and/or volunteer to help with setup and cleanup** on the Auction Food/Drinks and Help page.

If money is tight, there are still ways to participate:

- **Volunteer to help with one of the Saturday night tasks.**
- **Donate a simple service** that costs you little to nothing, *e.g.* several hours of yard work, a game night with simple snacks, or co-host a soup and movie night with a friend! It doesn't have to be fancy or budget-busting, and you get the fun of the group event that was won at auction.

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:
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By appointment (including evenings and weekends)

Email: minister@uuchurch.net

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Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon and by appointment
Email: dre@uuchurch.net

Marques Ruff, Interim Music Director

Rehearsals on Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Email: music@uuchurch.net

April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant

Email: uuchurch@uuchurch.net

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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