



# 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 8, February 2018

## February Worship

9 and 11 a.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 4**

### “Weaving Our Future Together”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us to consider the importance of community in our lives and in these times. What can we accomplish when we weave ourselves fully into the web of life that binds us together? We will also kick off our month of music programming for Black History Month, and a Faith-to-Action Collection will be taken for the Minority Men’s Network.

**Sunday, Feb. 11**

### “Our Mish-Mash Hearts”

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

Join us for an interactive Valentine’s Day service for all ages, as we spend some time examining the state of our bruised, beautiful, broken, whole hearts and recommitting ourselves to the work of love, even when it’s hard.

**Sunday, Feb. 18**

### “This I Believe”

**UUCU Members**

A pagan, an atheist, and a Christian walk into a church... and share their thoughts from our pulpit! We claim to be a congregation of radical welcome and religious pluralism, but we don’t always get the chance to explore the true theological diversity of our congregation. Join us this morning to hear about the beliefs and meaningful spiritual language and practices of several very different church members.

**Sunday, Feb. 25**

### “The Promise and the Practice”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Unitarian Universalism has a very particular history that began in white protestant America and that has struggled to imagine a faith that truly de-centers dominant identities. This month, the Unitarian Universalist Association challenges its member congregations to explore what it would look like to move more marginalized identities to the center of our faith, and to raise funds for UU leaders of color doing just that. Join us to explore the promise and practice of our faith, to take a Faith-to-Action Collection for Black Lives of UU, and to wrap up our Black History Month music programming with a special guest conductor. Don’t miss it!

## Resilient Community Weaves In . . .

# Flexibility

*“Water is fluid, soft, and yielding. But water will wear away rock, which is rigid and cannot yield. As a rule, whatever is fluid, soft, and yielding will overcome whatever is rigid and hard. This is another paradox: what is soft is strong.”*

– Lao Tzu

About a year ago, I started studying Pilates, a form of exercise particularly focused on balancing between flexibility and strength. The teacher is always reminding the class to soften when we are tempted to power through, and sure enough, the work deepens. Flexibility is shallow without strength, she reminds us, and strength is brittle without flexibility. This is a challenging paradox in exercise, and even more so in life!

When we find ourselves taking strong stands against injustice and indignity in our world, it is sometimes a struggle to discern where to soften in and deepen. Moral clarity and strength of purpose are essential to resilient and just community, as we discussed in January. But also essential is the wisdom to bend when we are close to breaking, and to discern where softness could yield a greater result. Join us to explore and gain wisdom together.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly



## Stewardship 2018

**Campaign begins Feb. 4  
Stewardship Dinners in February  
Pledges due March 4**

**Details on page 5**

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## **Music search congregational conversation**

**Sunday, Feb. 11  
12:30 p.m.**

As we engage in an extended interim period while searching for a permanent Director of Music Ministry to allow more time for learning and reflection, the congregation is invited to the first of a pair of conversations about the past, present and future of music at UUCC.

Please join us in the Sanctuary on Feb. 11 after the second worship service to discuss your current experience of music at UUCC. Be thinking about these questions:

- What is wonderful?
- What is uncomfortable?
- What does our music communicate about our congregation?
- What spirit does it create in our services?

Your thoughts will help guide our search.

## **New member ingathering Feb. 11**

During the 11 a.m. worship service on Feb. 11, we will be welcoming new members into our community.

If you have taken the membership classes or spoken with Rev. Molly about joining the church and feel ready to join, you are welcome to participate in this rite of passage.

If you are unable to attend this service or have questions, please email [uuchurch@uuchurchet.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurchet.net) or call 573-442-5764.

After the worship service, a pot-luck luncheon is planned to welcome our new members. Everyone is invited! This is a family friendly event.

## **Forum – February 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.*

**Feb. 4:** George Frissell, UU member and retired Hickman High School teacher, will lead a discussion on “animism.”

**Feb. 11:** To be announced.

**Feb. 18:** Barbra Horrell, one of the first black students to attend the University of Missouri in 1959, will update us on the positive happenings in the black community.

**Feb. 25:** Jan Mees, a 10-year member of the Columbia Board of Education, will answer questions about Columbia’s public schools – past, present and future.

## **Honduras Ministry Trivia Night fundraiser scheduled Feb. 24**

The Honduras Ministry’s Fifth Annual Trivia Night fundraiser will be held at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24, 2018 at UUCC to benefit our Honduras work.

The political situation in Honduras is dire. Due to strikes and political unrest, many doctors and nurses aren’t working, and hospitals are closing. The health clinic in El Pital, where the UUCC Honduras Ministry offered Pap smears this past summer, is completely out of medicines and supplies even though there are still leishmaniasis cases. Recently there has been a respiratory illness affecting many people in the river valley. Funds raised at the Trivia Night will be used for clinic supplies and to support the microfinance group Adelante.

Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for students. Tickets can be bought at the door or at UUCC on Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 11 and 18.

The event will feature child care, good food, a silent auction, 50-50 raffles, a chili cook-off, and, of course, much trivia fun! Bring chili to share by 5:45 p.m. for a chance to win a beautiful Honduran bag!

## **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).

**Our presence  
on the web**

**Go to [https://  
uuchurch.net](https://uuchurch.net)  
for information on  
church activities and  
our online  
calendar of events**

## President's Perspective

# ***“What is most important to you at UUCC?”***

by Todd Iveson, 2017-18 President

Writing this monthly article, as with many things in life, is both a blessing and a burden. The burden comes as the deadline approaches and I realize that I don't have a clue what I want to write about that is meaningful to me and, I hope, to you.

The blessing is that each month so far the pressure of the deadline makes me really look at what's going on in our church in the search for a theme. For me, and perhaps for you, much of my life in the church – and in life in general – is a matter of routine. I put one foot in front of the other and walk the well-trodden paths of life without really experiencing what is going on around me. The deadline makes me slow down and look around.

This month, my attention settled on our annual Founders' Day celebration. With a couple of notable exceptions (50th anniversary in 2001, Rev. Haney honored as minister *emeritus* in 2016), over the 19 years I have been a member of UUCC, Founders' Day has been an annual date on the church calendar that came and went without much reflection. This year is different.

This year, I realize how blessed I am that our founders made the effort to form their fellowship 67 years ago. Without their efforts, the congregation that is so much a part of my life would not exist. Columbia without a home for those of us who seek an environment in which we can pursue the very human quest for spiritual meaning without dogma would not be as rich. Our founders could not foresee the future of the modest fellowship they formed, but I am very grateful that they planted the seed that brought us all together in a community of radical welcome that seeks to help heal our world.

It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the gift they gave us. Our stewardship campaign will begin Feb. 4 and run through March 4. The theme this year is “Weaving Community Together.” The highlight will be a series of small-group dinners where we can gather to share why UUCC is important to each of us. I know Cande and I came to UUCC when our children were young so they could learn the tools necessary for them to search for their purpose in an atmosphere of open inquiry. We stay because of our com-

munity, the opportunity to serve and make a difference, and to have a safe place to explore what it means to be human.

The stewardship campaign is, of course, about obtaining pledges to support the work of our congregation, from keeping the lights on to social action to youth R.E. to all of the other activities that go on at UUCC. These efforts are supported in large part by the many committed volunteers at UUCC. But they cannot do it alone. The staff, our facility, and funds to support our many initiatives are critical, and receiving commitments by pledge allows us to be good stewards of the resources you generously provide.

But this campaign and the small-dinner format provides an opportunity for deeper connection that in many ways is far more significant than a monetary commitment. A group of us gathered last Sunday to discuss the campaign. We began our meeting answering the question: What is most important to you about UUCC? Some in the meeting I've known for 19 years and others I have known for far less time. But no matter how long our acquaintance, I learned something new about each individual, and feel a deeper connection as a result. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity. I'm sure you will find it rewarding.

On a not totally unrelated note, I took Marques up on his invitation to join the mass choir for Founders' Day services. I haven't sung in a choir since I was a soprano, and I haven't sung in a stage chorus for more than 40 years, so I wasn't sure what to expect. Bottom line: Marques makes singing fun while making everyone a better singer. And we even sound like we know what we're doing! Amazing. If you like to sing at all, I recommend you give the choir a try. You may just find it's what you've been looking for.

## **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 news

We are in the midst of our Green Hearts events – and it’s not too late to join. Choose a personal action that helps people and the planet by reducing use of materials, fill out a slip and add it to the jar on the table in the Greeting Area. Then try to incorporate it into your life for the next few weeks. We have a list of suggestions to help, and UUs of all ages can participate. Then join us in the Greeting Area at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11 to celebrate and share your successes and challenges.

To help reduce our personal use of raw materials and energy, we are compiling a list of sources for all kinds of second-hand items. Watch for this list on the GS bulletin board and social media.

Our Stream Team is up and running! If you would like to participate in one of our water quality monitoring days, join us on March 10 and/or Sept. 29 for full monitoring events, and/or June 16 for stream chemistry. Contact Peter Holmes for more information. All monitoring events will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Watch for our “Got Skills?” workshops, based on our six focus areas, coming on the second Saturday of alternate months, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. These are designed to involve all ages in a fun learning experience. Details to come, but the general outline is:

**Feb. 10:** Engagement (contacting your elected officials)

**April 14:** Transportation (bike skills)

**June 9:** Being in Nature (camping skills)

**Aug. 11:** Place-Making (TBA)

**Oct. 13:** Food (knife skills)

**Dec. 8:** Materials and Energy (TBA)

There will be an opportunity to engage in the fight for clean water standards in Missouri and to keep Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) out of counties that don’t want them on Feb. 14 by joining the Missouri Rural Crisis Center for the Valentine’s Day Lobby event at the state capitol.

All are welcome at Green Sanctuary meetings. Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 2616 Hillshire Drive. Contact Ellen Thomas for more information.



### Join us for a ‘Celebration of Green Hearts’

**Feb. 11 – 10:30 a.m. – Greeting Area**

Last month the Green Sanctuary Team invited members of the congregation to adopt a “Green” New Year’s Resolution to help reduce the impacts of pollution, resource depletion and climate change on the planet and on people. At 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11, we will celebrate making and keeping those resolutions with a brief intergenerational ceremony – and cookies! All are welcome!

## A Different Kind of Stewardship Campaign

# “Weaving Together Community”

All year we’re exploring the idea of “Weaving Together Community,” remembering how much stronger we are together, and how much beauty we create when we weave together our lives. As we weave a beautiful and powerful future for our community, part of what we bring to the tapestry are our many gifts and resources. This month’s stewardship campaign is all about weaving community *and* sharing our gifts with our beloved congregation!

Again this year our primary stewardship goal is to receive pledges from 100% of potential pledgers – we estimate there are 206. If everyone turns in a pledge, and those who are able consider a 7.5% increase, then we feel confident we can reach our total giving goal of \$328,650 – a 7.4% increase over last year’s giving.

### **Why Pledge?**

Pledges are what enable us to plan a realistic budget. While cash donations in the offering basket are greatly appreciated, and are used to help support the church and its causes, they are unpredictable, and thus we cannot rely upon them when planning our budget.

### **Where Do Your Pledge Dollars Go?**

Pledges made during the stewardship campaign constitute about 90% of church income. The remainder comes from pledges made at other times, undesignated Sunday offerings, facility rentals and fund-raisers. Your pledge dollars fund everything about our regular operating budget, from staff salaries to building maintenance and utilities to our ministry team budgets.

Increases for next year will allow us to:

- Take on an Intern Minister to share her gifts and receive training from our congregation.
- Fully fund our music program and accompaniment needs.
- Increase babysitting for families at church events and meetings.
- Fund new ministries like Adult RE, Accessibility and Inclusion Team, and Sanctuary Team, and more!

### **Submitting Your Pledge**

Pledge cards, available in the Greeting Area, can be turned in at the stewardship table, placed in the offering plate, given to any Stewardship Team member or the church administrator, or mailed to the church.

You can also pledge online at <https://uuchurch.net/stewardship-2018-how-to-pledge/#online>.



### **Key Stewardship Dates**

**Sunday, Feb 4:** Beginning of 2018 Stewardship Campaign.

**All of February:** Members will gather for Stewardship Dinners to build community and learn about our plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Sunday, March 4:** Deadline for receipt of pledges.

## **Minister’s parental leave plans**

Dear UCC Members and Friends,

As James and I prepare to welcome our second child at the end of March, I want to tell you about the plans the board and I have made for my Parental Leave, which is expected to occur from March 25 to June 17. The board and I were both very pleased with the success of the leave plan two years ago when Nora was born and will use a nearly identical plan for this leave.

**Pastoral care** will once again be provided by our Affiliated Community Minister, Rev. Dottie Mathews.

**Administrative and oversight duties** will once again be handled as by a lay-led Parental Leave Team, to whom we will introduce you next month.

**Worship** will be full of exciting guest preachers from all over the region.

With Joy,  
Rev. Molly

### 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, April 15, 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, April 29, 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](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net)  
or call 573-442-5764

### Faith-to-Action collections planned

**Feb. 4:** Minority Men’s Network Education Fund

**Feb. 25:** Black Lives of UU

**March 4:** No More Deaths

### Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet at noon Wednesday, Feb. 14 at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

Call Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

### UU Book Discussion

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9 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.

### Kaleidoscope pagan gathering – Feb. 2

Join Kaleidoscope to celebrate Imbolc, also known as Brigid’s Feast, at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2 at the church. The date was previously announced as Feb. 3 but has changed.

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.

### ‘Meditation Basics’

“Meditation Basics” will be presented on Sunday mornings in February in place of the usual Mindfulness Meditation sessions.

The four sessions from 10:05 to 10:50 a.m. on Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 in the Centering Room will include discussion and practice of the basic elements of mindfulness meditation. The sessions will be suitable for complete beginners and experienced meditators. There is no requirement to attend all sessions. The facilitator will be Peter Holmes, Ph.D.

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

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – Feb. 18 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](mailto: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



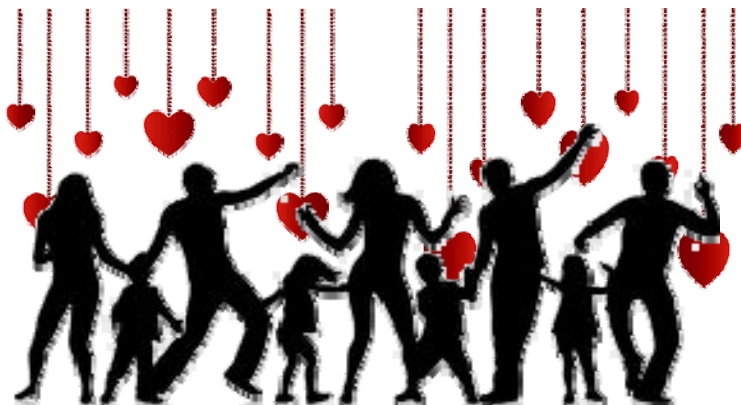
The theme this month at UCC is flexibility – about how we as a community can work together when we are able to be flexible and approach problems in new and creative ways. I think the first step of this always begins with deep listening. Being a parent means having opportunities to practice and model this skill all the time, as we turn away from the rigid thinking of a battle of wills and instead use flexible thinking to discover a creative solution where everyone ends up feeling good.

Taking the time to work through this process with our children helps teach them important lessons in how to live in a world with people who see things differently than them. Here are some ways to engage in the spiritual practice of flexibility:

- Come to our Valentine’s Dance and explore moving with other people, leading, following, improvising, and sharing new moves.
- Play the game Obstacles, a fun card game for all ages that explores solving problems together.
- Go on a photo-taking nature walk, and try taking a photo of a single object from as many different perspectives as you can: close up, far off, sideways, and upside down.
- Do yoga together to practice literal flexibility and the ability to challenge ourselves to take unusual poses and remain calmly breathing throughout.
- Read “Anything Is Possible” by Guilia Belloni and Marco Trevison.



## Family Valentine’s Dance 6-9 p.m. Feb. 10



People of all ages are invited to celebrate our annual Valentine’s Day Family Dance featuring music, refreshments, and lots of fun! YRUU teens will be the hosts and DJs. They are raising money to donate to Planned Parenthood. Donations of any amount will be welcome.

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

### **R.E. Team meeting Sunday, Feb. 4 noon-1:30 pm**

We are moving our R.E. Team meetings to the first Sunday of the month. Anyone is welcome to attend who wants to get more involved in our R.E. community. Childcare is provided. The meeting will be potluck style, so bring a dish to share.

### **Junior Youth night Friday, Feb. 9, 6:30-8 p.m.**

Junior Youth (6th-8th grade) will recreate the television show “Chopped!” with a variety of cooking challenges.



### **February R.E. schedule**

- **Feb. 4:** Service Sunday – supporting the Stewardship Campaign
- **Feb. 11:** Intergenerational Valentine’s Day Service
- **Feb. 18:** Regular R.E. Classes
- **Feb. 25:** Regular R.E. Classes

# Reflections cont'd



## YES WE CON Regional Youth Conference

The YRUU High School Youth Group is still basking in the success of hosting a regional youth conference at our church in November. Sixty-five teens accompanied by 18 adults spent a weekend learning about social justice, exploring their creativity, and bonding with other young UUs. I am so incredibly proud of this group of teens, and so grateful to the many members of our community who supported them in making this event happen. Some of the highlights:

- Incredible workshops led by many talented guest facilitators on topics ranging from social justice slam poetry to white fragility to art activism to social justice miming.
- The workshops led by our teens and how seriously they took that responsibility to make it a fun and creative experience for all the people involved.
- A bystander intervention training that challenged the teens to think about what kind of person they want to be in the face of injustice and abuses, as well as teaching them how to effectively and safely step up in challenging situations.
- Milbre Birch's storytelling performance!
- Watching the teens of our youth group bonding with each other on a new level. From jamming together on their musical instruments, to working together to set up for the next activity to laughing together at 3 a.m. they were all truly connecting.
- The amazing leadership show by our teens as they led touch groups, that helped our guests get to know new people at the conference.
- A deeply moving worship experience led by Rachel, Elsa, and Morgan.



- How maturely and responsibly all the teens behaved and what a welcoming environment they created for everyone there. Way to go YRUU!





## ***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**

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#### **Marques Ruff, Interim Music Director**

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#### **April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant**

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

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

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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#### **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.