



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 10, April 2018

From Rev. Molly

Parental Leave from March 25 to June 17

I will be away on parental leave from March 25 to June 17 as James and I welcome our second child, and your board and I have made plans for excellent coverage during my absence.

Worship

You will be hearing from excellent guest preachers from Kansas City, Tulsa, St. Louis and Columbia, as well as sharing some of our traditional spring services like Earth Day and Flower Communion. Any questions about worship can go to our Worship Associates Team, which will be keeping things running smoothly. The team's email address is worship@uuchurch.net.

Pastoral Care

Our wonderful Affiliated Community Minister, the Rev. Dottie Mathews, will be available for matters pastoral. If you are in the hospital, suffering a loss, going through a hard time, need a listening ear, etc., contact Rev. Dottie at 920-378-4013 or pastoral-care@uuchurch.net.



Rev. Dottie

Executive and Administrative Functions

In other words... anything else! Staff and ministry team support and supervision, work with our board, and all other inquiries or concerns will be handled by an excellent Leave Team of four lay leaders – Jeremy Duke, Allie Gassmann, Jeanne Murphy and Maria Oropallo. Any and all inquiries, concerns, or thoughts that are not pastoral- or worship-related can be sent to them at leaveteam@uuchurch.net.

See you in June!
Rev. Molly



Jeremy Duke



Allie Gassmann



Jeanne Murphy



Maria Oropallo

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April Worship

9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 1
“Finding Jesus”

Guest Preacher
Rev. Julie Taylor

Easter Sunday! What a glorious day to be in fellowship. Easter is a sacred day for Christians celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. What does Jesus mean for modern-day Unitarian Universalists? Rev. Julie Taylor is a UU Community Minister specializing in critical incident response, trauma, and disaster spiritual care. Julie serves as a chaplain with the New York Air National Guard (Captain) and as an adjunct professor at the Starr King School of Ministry, Meadville Lombard Theological School and Eden Theological Seminary.

Sunday, April 8
Guest Preacher
Rev. Tamara Lebak

Rev. Tamara Lebak is a consultant, diversity and inclusion trainer, executive coach and singer/songwriter. She is a former associate minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Okla. where she lives with her 7-year-old daughter and her wife Bonnie. Tamara’s current project is writing a contemporary universalist worship song a week based on the psalms.

Sunday, April 15
“Year of the Bird”
Green Sanctuary Team

Join the Green Sanctuary team as we approach Earth Day to reflect together on “the year of the bird.”

Sunday, April 22
“Pilgrimage and the Earth”
DRE Jamila Batchelder
and Melissa McConnell

Join us for an interactive Earth Day service for all ages, exploring the multi-religious tradition of pilgrimage and how it connects us to the earth. Weather allowing, we will venture outside – dress accordingly.

Sunday, April 29
Guest Preacher
Rev. Roger Bertschausen

The Rev. Roger Bertschausen is the Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, a position he has held since July 2016. Previously he served as the minister of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton, Wis. from 1990 until June 2015.

**Our presence
on the web**

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

Forum April 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.

April 1

Wayne Anderson will report on his journeys to the world’s sacred places following the book *Finding Magic: A Spiritual Memoir* by *Washington Post* journalist Sally Quinn about her three-week trip around the world that gave her an opportunity to see the sacred places of the world’s major religions. Anderson’s reaction: “I’ve been there, only it didn’t take me three weeks – it took me 40 years.”

April 8

Wayne Anderson will examine what the increase in world population and global warming will do to what the world eats. Will one of our main new foods be fried grasshoppers?

April 15

Wayne Anderson will look at books by Kevin Carey and Ryan Craig and discuss the rise of Google as foretelling the end of lectures, textbooks and colleges as we know them.

April 22

Wayne Anderson will evaluate the influence of Jeff Bezos and Amazon, and Jack Ma and Alibaba, on the end of stores and malls as we know them.

April 29

Wayne Anderson will look at what leading zoos are doing to protect and save endangered species.

President's Perspective

“And a little child shall lead them.” – Isaiah 11:6

by Todd Iveson, 2017-18 President

We were blessed in March with two very powerful worship services. On March 4, the theme was “Remembering Ourselves.” Molly’s sermon was a heartfelt exploration of how we base our vision of who we are as a family, a community, and a country on the selection of the stories we choose to tell about ourselves. Molly challenged us to seek and accept the whole truth about where we came from to more fully understand how we got where we are today and how we can begin to address the injustices of the past. A personal family remembrance as poetry from Larry Lile also reminded us that many or most of us are not far removed from a family history of slavery and native genocide. I’m biased, but I thought the choir conducted by Dr. Brandan Boyd from MU really helped bring it all together. Powerful and important reminders as we struggle through what some have called the third reconstruction.

Then on March 11, the youth service knocked my socks off. The topic was gun violence. Their tribute to the 17 who died in the recent Florida mass shooting nearly brought me to tears. Their matter-of-fact description of what it is like being part of the mass shooting generation pushed me over the edge. The message came through like a clarion: This is not right. No child should have to live with this fear. This must stop.

Most of these young people were in the coming-of-age program in which I was a leader just a few years ago. Then, they were smart, engaging middle school-

ers in that awkward adjustment stage on the way to adulthood. On Sunday, they were smart, engaging and committed high schoolers who gave me real hope for our future. I was proud of their presentation and in awe of their passion. These are individuals who will make a difference.

Every year the youth service reminds me why our youth religious education program is so important. Many of us initially came to this church to provide our kids with a moral and religious tradition that encourages them to ask the most important questions without providing dogmatic answers. That’s one reason. But more importantly, every year our kids inspire me with hope because of the thoughtful, smart and passionate people they become. I know we can’t take all the credit, but I’m pretty sure we help them grow in positive ways. This may be our most important legacy.

We are about to embark on Molly’s second parental leave. As with the first, Molly has done her best to ensure that our worship will continue to challenge, enlighten and inspire us every Sunday with a number of exciting guest preachers. We have a management Leave Team in place to ensure that the church continues to run smoothly in her absence – Jeremy Duke, Allie Gassmann, Maria Oropallo and Jeanne Murphy. Rev. Dottie Matthews will be available for pastoral care. We are in good hands, and Molly and we can rest easy as she welcomes the newest member of her family.

Update from the Sanctuary Team

UU member Larry Lile has begun renovation on a UUCB bathroom to include a shower. When this project is complete, we will be ready to welcome our first person(s) needing sanctuary. Rock Bridge Christian Church is also preparing to make necessary changes to its building to provide hospitality to someone who needs sanctuary. When both churches are ready, immigrants will have a choice of locations for their time in sanctuary.

While finances for altering the physical plant will be raised by each church, both churches and supporting churches held a fundraiser in Rock Bridge Christian Church last month. Their sanctuary was beautifully transformed into an elegant site for an evening of tasting wine, sampling hors d’oeuvres, and listening to music. Attendance was low because of icy weather, but the addition of online donations brought the total funds raised to about \$3,000.

– Ruth Milledge, Sanctuary Team member



Green Sanctuary Team news

The Green Sanctuary team continues to work toward official certification as a Green Sanctuary congregation. You are welcome to be involved in planning or in individual activities. Our next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 at 2616 Hillshire Drive.

Coming up in April and May

We are focusing on mindful journeys. We are considering the sustainability, justice and joy of our actions as we cover the steps and miles in our lives so that our travel fits the need as well as distances, conditions and occasions.

On Saturday, April 14, we will be hosting our next “Got Skills” workshop in conjunction with PedNet. From 10 to 11:30 a.m., bring your bike and join us for a fun, active workshop with lessons on bike safety, riding skills, and a quick flat-changing activity. Activities are most appropriate for kids 8-10 and older as well as adults. Younger kids can join in the joy of bik-

ing on our skills course. RSVPs to ellentomasco@gmail.com are appreciated for planning purposes but not required.

The next day, April 15, is our annual Green Sanctuary worship service. Join us for a beautiful service about the wonder of birds.

We will be working to beautify the church for worship services in April with blooming, budding or other lovely contributions from our amazing Missouri spring. Enjoy that touch of natural spirituality as you attend April services.

Also in April, the recipient of our Faith-to-Action collections will be the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, with which we are partnering to help empower our rural citizens to protect their land, water and air from pollution, especially from CAFOs. For more information on MRCC, see its website at <https://morural.org/>.

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.

Welcoming Team announcements

For newcomers

“Getting to Know UU”

For those who want to know more about us.

First Sunday of each month in the minister’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 will be provided. Child care can be provided with one week’s notice. RSVP to uuchurch@uuchurch.net or call 573-442-5764.

Please thank ushers and tellers for their service

This church year we instituted a new system for scheduling ushers and collection tellers. Volunteers were recruited to serve in these positions on a once-a-month basis, and other volunteers were recruited to substitute when the regularly scheduled volunteers could not serve.

Please make a point of thanking these wonderful volunteers for helping make our Sunday worship services run smoothly.

Regularly scheduled 9 a.m. ushers through May are Mark Johnson, Patty Daus, Bonnie Johnson, Dave Gibbons, and Ellen Thomas. Substitutes for the 9 a.m. service are Scott Denson, Dave Gibbons, Todd Iveson, Elaine Martin and Ellen Thomas.

Regularly scheduled 11 a.m. ushers through May are Linda Lou Brown, Dan Harder, Rosetta and Wiley Miller, Heather Carver and Bill Horner, and Melinda and Mehdi Farhangi. 11 a.m. substitutes are Jenny Bossaller, Scott Denson, Dave Gibbons, Corinne and Bryan Mann, Elaine Martin, and Chuck Swaney.

Collection tellers count and secure the offerings after the 11 a.m. service. Regularly scheduled tellers through May are Ene-Kaja Chippendale, Lisa Fritsche, Ruth Milledge and Jeanne Murphy. Substitute tellers are Allie Gassmann, Irene Karns, Elaine Martin, Maria Oropallo, Steve Scott and Diane Suhler.

While we anticipate many of these volunteers will continue to help after May, we will need to recruit more volunteers for the summer months. If you're willing to help once a month or fill in as needed, please contact Usher/Teller Coordinator Steve Scott at sscott@scottlawfirm.com.

Intercultural Competency Workshop – 2-6 p.m. April 7

UU Minister Tamara Lebak will lead an Intercultural Competence Workshop at UCC from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 7. She will also be our guest preacher on Sunday, April 8.

Click the large green button near the top of our website home page to sign up for the workshop. Signups also will be accepted at a table in the Greeting Area. Attendance will be limited to 70.

Among issues the workshop will deal with are:

- How individuals, teams, and entire organizations tend to think and feel about people from cultural backgrounds other than their own, or about diversity and cultural difference.
- The extent to which diversity and cultural difference tend to be avoided, thought of in polarizing terms, acknowledged and minimized, or fully valued and understood for its full effect and potential.

Rev. Lebak is the former associate minister of the multicultural, 2,000-member All Souls Unitarian Church of Tulsa, Okla. She is now a consultant and coach with Celebrating Difference and an accredited administrator of the Intercultural Competency Development Inventory (“IDI”). She lives in Tulsa with her 7-year-old daughter and her wife Bonnie.

Rev. Molly highly recommends Rev. Lebak and this workshop.

There is no charge for this workshop, which is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Childcare can be provided with one week’s advance notice. For more information contact:

- Church Administrator Kathie Bergman
573-442-5764 or uuchurch@uuchurch.net
- Sarah Wolcott-Twaddle
573-449-4407 or sarah.wolcott63@gmail.com
- Margaret Tyler
573-875-2486 or mstylermo@gmail.com

UCC-sponsored refugee family

Several years ago the UCC Social Action Team sponsored a Sudanese refugee family (the Tota family). Over the years, church members and friends have provided assistance to the family in a number of capacities.

This year the last of the family’s five children needs to acquire citizenship, which costs \$1,370. This issue was discussed at the last monthly meeting of the SAT, and the team voted approval to reimburse the Tota family from the Social Action Operating Fund. We would like to offer our congregation the opportunity to replace the money in any amount so the SAT can continue to have funds available for extraordinary needs.

Please make checks payable to UCC with “Refugee” or “Tota Family” in the memo line and mail or bring to the church.

Soon there will be a display of more information about the Tota family in the Greeting Area.

Kaleidoscope pagan gathering April 28

We call to the elements – Wind and Water, Sun and Soil – and we say that these represent aspects of our lives: Our Minds and Emotions, our Passions and our Physical Being. They offer us strength and vulnerability. They can be blessings or curses. How do we find that dynamic balance between them that will move our lives forward in wellness and purpose?

Gather with Kaleidoscope at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at the Ordway home. We will be outside, weather permitting, so dress with that in mind. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Email kaleidoscope@uuchurch.net for directions and further information.

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 grieving@uuchurch.net.

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.

Call for summer lay-led worship volunteers

This is your opportunity to sign up for a summer Sunday to share your thoughts, questions or ideas from the pulpit. Leading a service is a wonderful way to experience worship from the other side of the pulpit and to dig deeper into a topic dear to you. A worship associate will work with you to design your Sunday service.

Remember, there will only one worship service – at 10:30 a.m. – during the summer.

The following dates are available:

- June 24
- July 8
- Aug. 5
- Aug. 19

To volunteer, contact the Worship Associates Team by email at worship@uuchurch.net.

Members of the team are Cande Iveson, Sam Otten, Tim Dickerson, Todd Iveson, Jeff Ordway, Melissa McConnell and Rebecca Graves.

Mindfulness Meditation

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

The ever-hungry barrel

The food barrel thanks those who have fed it non-perishable food items, but it is still hungry.

On March 6 we took 124 pounds to the Central Pantry. It is disturbing how many of our neighbors continue to need help.

So please continue to feed the barrel. Thanks.

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet at noon Wednesday, April 11 at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

UU Book Discussion

UU Book Discussion will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, April 13 at ABC Chinese Cuisine, 3510 I-70 Dr. S.E.

Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

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.

Social Action Team update

From Andrew Twaddle and Marg Tyler, Co-Chairs

Accomplishments this year

Our church did an amazing job last December when **Room at the Inn** was our guest at UUCC. You all stepped up to fill volunteer slots, so RATI had very few unfilled volunteer positions while they were with us. Almost all the volunteers in December were UUCC members. So to everyone who volunteered, a huge thanks for showing our radical welcome. To those who didn't, you missed a rewarding experience, but fear not, another opportunity will come next December.

We have a small number of people who are preparing food for **Loaves and Fishes** and a dedicated group that shows up regularly to serve the food. Diane Suhler has continued the difficult job of coordinating UUCC's work and would welcome a lot more support from the membership. Many hands make light work and help prevent burnout. So if you can make a dish or dish out what others make, please see Diane.

We continue support for anti-racism work in the community. Don Love at the Broadway Christian Church has organized a series of book discussion groups around Jim Wallis' *America's Original Sin*, and UUs are active in several of them. Several UUs are members and active participants in Race Matters, Friends working to implement community policing in Columbia and to create a bail bond fund to keep people from losing jobs while awaiting trial. When Faith Voices of Columbia does workshops, you will always find several UUs there.

Upcoming opportunities

Coming up on **April 7** we will host an **Intercultural Competency Workshop** with the **Rev. Tamara Lebak**, from Tulsa, Okla. Rev. Lebak travels widely helping churches and other organizations develop the skills needed to function effectively in a multicultural environment. "Tamara is one of those people who can draw in her audience, get them excited about her topic and then passionate to make a change. She is sincere, funny and genuinely cares about her clients and her audiences getting ideas and best practices that can make a difference. And she's engaging, there is never a dull moment when Tamara is speaking!" This looks like an opportunity not to be missed.

While the good work continues, we could use some more people to join in! We meet **the first Sunday of each month** in the **Forum Room** one-half hour after the 11 a.m. worship service ends. Come join us!

UUCC serves Loaves and Fishes monthly

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

Honduras Ministry Trivia Night a success

The Honduras Ministry put on its annual Trivia Night on Feb. 24. More than \$2,800 was raised, and the community of the Rio Cangrejal River Valley in Honduras sends its profound thanks and gratitude.

We are sending a one-time payment of over \$1,300 for the clinic. This money, in addition to the \$400 we are sending monthly, is keeping the clinic afloat during these tough times when the Honduran Health Department (along with almost all other government agencies) is not functioning because of political turmoil.

In addition, we are sending our annual contribution to Adelante Foundation, a Honduran micro-finance organization. This past June, members of our team were able to visit two women who are part of the microfinance program, and we were very impressed by what financial education and very small loans can do to improve these women's lives and indeed the lives of their families and communities.

– Allie Gassmann

Honduras Ministry Chair

alliegassmann@socket.net

Faith-to-Action collections planned

- April 1 and 15 – Missouri Rural Crisis Center
- May 6 – Race Matters, Friends

Reflections



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

Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt 12:15-2 p.m. April 1



Our YRUU high school youth group will host its annual Easter brunch fundraiser. Tickets are \$5/ person or \$20/family and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Please RSVP to dre@uuchurch.net if you plan to attend.

Junior Youth Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, April 13



Junior Youth (6-8th grade) will be cooking for Loaves and Fishes. Contact lisa.fritsche@gmail.com for more information.

6:30-8:30 p.m. April 14



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.

Childcare available upon request

April R.E. Schedule

- April 1: Service Sunday - Canned food hunt for food for the Food Bank
- April 8: Regular R.E. Classes
- April 15: Regular R.E. Classes
- April 22: Intergenerational Earth Day Service
- April 29: Regular R.E. Classes

Our theme for the month of April is imagination, and here is a spiritual practice where children can truly teach us! I have been especially struck lately by how adult activists I know are feeling pretty discouraged, having a hard time imagining things are ever going to change. But the young people I know are full of imagination and creativity and able to see in their minds' eye a world that is different, where the current status quo is not permanent. It is only by imagining it that we can make it happen, so take some time to revel this month with your children in the spiritual act of imagining!

- ♦ Design a utopian society out of blocks or legos. Ask your child to explain how different issues would be addressed by this society.
- ♦ Draw a picture together, where one person starts and the other finishes.
- ♦ Make up a story where the heroine finds herself in a dire predicament. Let your child tell the end of the story and figure out the most imaginative solution to the problem.
- ♦ Read Aaron Becker's book, *Journey, Quest, and Return*. Grab a red crayon and go on your own journey together.

Children's Outdoor Play Area

We are hoping to construct a natural play area on the church grounds to make our outdoor space welcoming to children and families. If this is a project you are interested in helping out with, please contact Jamila at dre@uuchurch.net.

Children's Play Area Work Day 10 a.m. April 14

We will work to move the mulch and stumps that have been donated into the play area. If you are planning to cut down any trees this spring, we would love more stumps and logs to use in our play area.



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Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

Return Service Requested

Our Staff

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

On Parental Leave March 25-June 17, 2018

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

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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