



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uuchurch.net> • Volume 58, Issue 1, July 2018

## July Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, July 1**

**“Spiritual Tools to Sustain Us”**

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

This month’s worship theme is resistance, and it takes deep spiritual rooting to sustain resistance. Join us for an interactive service for all ages as we explore and experience several spiritual tools to sustain us in these times.

**Sunday, July 8**

**“Everything Must Change:  
A Woman Gets Older”**

**Connie Ordway**

What does it mean for women to age in this society? Connie Ordway will map the journey for aging women to reclaim their status as “Wise Women.”

**Sunday, July 15**

**“Try a Little Tenderness”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

In a time when appeals to security, strength, and other-ing are used to oppress, what does it mean to engage tenderness as a tactic of resistance? How do we bring softness and openness to the time at hand?

**Sunday, July 22**

**“Our Whole Lives”**

**Jamila Batchelder,**

**Director of Religious Education**

Join Director of Religious Education Jamila Batchelder for a spiritual exploration of human sexuality and learn about our wonderful “Our Whole Lives” program of comprehensive sexuality education for all ages.

**Sunday, July 29**

**“Joyful Noise!”**

Join us for a lively multi-generational service celebrating the power of music in many forms. You’ll have the opportunity to sing, dance, and otherwise make a joyful noise!

## Resilient Community Weaves In . . .

# Resistance

*“Fighting for one’s freedom, struggling towards being free, is like struggling to be a poet or a good Christian or a good Jew or a good Muslim or good Zen Buddhist. You work all day long and achieve some kind of level of success by nightfall, go to sleep and wake up the next morning with the job still to be done. So you start all over again.”*

*– Maya Angelou*

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that no one is free until everyone is free (to paraphrase civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer) because our interconnection ties us deeply together. Because of this, the work of resisting oppression is the work of all of us together. Resilience in the face of oppressive systems often means taking a strong stand together, refusing to allow ourselves to be formed and shaped into the logic of domination.

Resistance can be internal, like retaining compassion in the face of de-humanizing narratives. It can be external in ways small and large, from speaking up against lies and fear-mongering to putting our bodies on the line in civil disobedience to unjust policies. Resistance can even be finding our own moments of freedom, thriving and joy. However we exercise resistance, we gain hope, efficacy and resilience by using our agency in the service of freedom, every day.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

### *Highlights of what’s inside*

President’s Perspective; Forum Schedule .....	2
Worship Associates Team.....	3
Green Sanctuary Team.....	4
Programs and Events.....	5
Reflections.....	6

## President's Perspective

# *Moving Forward into Our Future Together*

by Barbara Rupp, 2018-19 President

I've just completed my first year on the Board of UUCC and have been humbled and impressed by the level of commitment of my fellow board members and the amazing volunteers in our church. I also feel fortunate to have been able to serve as president-elect under the guidance of Todd Iveson and am grateful he will remain on the board as past president in the coming year. I'm sure I'll be looking to him for good counsel on numerous occasions.

In the coming year I hope to focus on a continuation of the good work that has already been accomplished by our community. At our congregational meeting in May, we were presented with a thorough analysis of our building needs by the Building Needs Task Force composed of Larry Lyle, Gretchen Maune, Kevin Fritsche, Connie Ordway and Matthew Bossaller. They did some impressive homework to provide us with information we will need in the coming year as we make important decisions about priorities for our building needs within reasonable fundraising expectations. I look forward to assisting with that process in any way possible.

I've been impressed with witnessing the effect the

policy governance model has had in streamlining some of our decision making within the church. Although we're ending our fifth year of this type of governance, it still seems to feel a bit "new" to some. I sense we still could improve our communication efforts to ensure that everyone in the congregation better understands how policy governance works and why we are using this approach.

Like Todd, I would love to get more members interested in serving on the board and would be more than happy to have a conversation with you about it. Yes, it's a commitment, but it's not at all overwhelming, and it's quite rewarding. Please talk to me or other members of the board with questions you may have about serving on the board or on *any* committee at the church. Like many other things in life, we tend to get rewards out of church that are commensurate with what we put into the church. If you haven't done so, or haven't done so recently, I urge you to go to this page on our UUCC website: <https://uuchurch.net/connect/>. Please check out the myriad activities and groups you can join to not only support our congregation, but also strengthen your ties with fellow UUs.

## Forum – July 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.*

**July 1:** Allen Hjelmfelt will offer his annual Independence Day program of quiet music and meditation.

**July 8:** Erin Clark, a Junior at Vassar College and the granddaughter of Dolores and Bill Clark, will describe the world of a 20-year-old college student, distance runner and activist.

**July 15:** Mel West will return with another program.

**July 22:** Jim Pastoret will tell us how to live to age 100 by not dying.

**July 29:** Bill Mees will update us on the growth of the Columbia Audubon Society and its contribution to the Columbia Public Schools through natural history.

### 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 email us at [grieving@uuchurch.net](mailto:grieving@uuchurch.net).

# ***Planning to reduce noise as worship begins***

## **A note from the Worship Associates Team**

Our members and friends may recall that we had a couple of Congregational Conversations in February and March as part of our search for a new Music Director. The Worship Associates co-sponsored the first conversation because it specifically explored the relationship between music and the worship experience. Those conversations raised some concerns about our worship together that we want to address.

One of the things mentioned repeatedly was the level of noise in the sanctuary during the prelude. The prelude should be a time for congregants to center themselves and prepare for worship. In our congregation, it has become common for people to continue their conversations while entering the sanctuary, or

after they've taken a seat, and sometimes even raise their voices over the music. Many found this disruptive to their own worship experience and/or disrespectful to musicians who've come to share their gifts of music with the congregation.

We know this isn't intentional – we're just a gregarious lot! And, as a congregation, we've not been all that clear about what we expect at the beginning of service. Our team identified several steps designed to rectify this situation. We will be experimenting with these ideas over the summer to see which have the most merit, and we want to let you know what to expect.

First, please be aware that the prelude starts a few minutes before the scheduled service time. We will let you know that the

prelude is about to begin by ringing the bell, just as we do now. There will also be an announcement from the pulpit for those already seated. Ushers will then close all but one of the sanctuary doors. Signs on the doors will remind folks to enter quietly at that point (and also serve as a reminder for those remaining in the greeting area during the service that they should be mindful of how easily sound carries into the sanctuary).

We hope you'll find that these changes help improve your worship experience. We'll be revisiting what we think works (and doesn't) at future team meetings. We welcome any comments and suggestions as we test the process this summer. Contact us at [worship@uuchurch.net](mailto:worship@uuchurch.net).

### ***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.***







## Green Sanctuary Team news

### ***Learning Skills to Protect Our Planet***

The Green Sanctuary Team will not be meeting in July, but we are planning our next “Got Skills” workshop.

Join the Green Sanctuary Team from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday Aug. 11 for a workshop on “Place-Making.” The workshops are all about learning skills useful in taking care of the planet – including sewing, letter writing, safe biking, camping, plant identification and more. The more you know, the better care you can take of earth’s precious resources.

In the Aug. 11 Place-Making workshop, we will learn about the work the Grounds Team is doing to encourage native plants and the species dependent on them. We will also learn to identify some common plants (including poison ivy), what and how to weed, and how to

collect seeds. As a wrap up activity, we will make “seed bombs” with the seeds we collect so you can start native plants in your own yard.

This is an **all ages** activity. Children and youth under 18 must be accompanied by their caregivers. We will have water and snacks. Because we will be working in our wild areas, long pants and close-toed shoes are a very good idea. Be sure to use sunscreen and hats.

Please contact Jan Weaver at [weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu) if you can come or if you have questions about the event.

The next GS meeting will be at 7 p.m. Aug. 14 at 2616 Hillshire Drive. All are welcome to join us as we plan events for the next church year.



Our church banner was among hundreds on display at the UUA General Assembly in Kansas City June 20-24. Watch for a report on the General Assembly in next month’s *Searchlight*.

### **UUCC Book Discussion – July 13**

The UUCC Book Discussion Group will meet Friday, July 13 at Bamboo Terrace, 3101 W. Broadway, Suite 101 at 4:45 p.m. (new time) Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam at 445-0642 if you have questions.

### **Kaleidoscope – August 4**

Kaleidoscope pagan gathering: Lughnassad, the Feast of the First Harvest. Juicy ripe tomatoes, and zucchini everywhere. The Earth once again gives of Her bounty. We join to celebrate Her gifts.

Gather with us at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4 at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what your personal path.

For more information contact Barbara Carter.

### **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 10:30 a.m. service for about 30 minutes.  
Child care provided.

### **Conversations, Etc. – July 11**

All women who are free on the second Wednesday of the month (July 11) at noon are invited to join us at church by bringing a brown bag lunch. We will enjoy the good company of friends. In July we will go over the confusing ballot for the August primary, including the issues on the ballot. Hope to see you there. If you have questions, call Melinda at 445-6325.

### **Mindfulness Meditation**

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation at 9:30 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.



### **UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays – July 15**

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

Please sign up on the church website to prepare food for this meal and/or to help set up, serve, and clean up.

Serving meals at Loaves and Fishes is a project of our Social Action Team.

If you have questions, email Diane Suhler at [drsuhler@ccis.edu](mailto:drsuhler@ccis.edu).

### **Men’s Group**

The 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

This month, the theme of our church is resistance. I have just returned from attending General Assembly in Kansas City with six youth from our church (and about 20 adults), and this topic is definitely front and center for all of us as we return. General Assembly is the annual gathering of thousands of UUs where we worship together, attend workshops together,



listen to inspiring speakers, and discuss and vote on important topics of where we are heading as a religious community. The take-away this year (and perhaps all years) was to renew our commitment to social justice and to work even harder. This year particularly we were reminded to center the voices of those marginalized in society, whose wisdom, courage, and passion is so needed for effective resistance and the true dismantling of supremacy structures. It was incredibly inspiring attending with young UUs, seeing the future of our faith and our society. These teens are truly amazing! Some of the highlights of GA for our teens were attending a civil disobedience workshop, spending time in the LGBTQ caucus room and meeting queer folk of all ages, plenty of singing and dancing (the teens continuously remind me of the importance of joyful singing and dancing as an act of resistance), meeting young UUs from all over the country, and listening to the keynote address by Brittany Packnett, calling us to not give in to being comfortable, to resist the temptations of moderation, and also not to see our role as rescuers (as has so often been the UU approach) but instead to listen more, and let marginalized people lead the movement.

What do I take away from this as a UU parent? First, that I need to model what I want to teach my children about resisting. I feel very reminded of where I am not showing up, and who I am not showing up for. Second, as the parent of a middle class, cis-gender, probably straight, white, male child, what am I doing to make sure he too feels the urgency of resisting? One thing I noticed at GA was there were relatively few straight cis white males in the youth caucus, and that even raised by UU parents, this demographic isn't feeling as passionately about the work that UUs are doing in the world – and this makes me really sad. I don't have the answer yet, but I would love to have some conversations on the topic!

One thing I passionately believe in is the power of story-telling as a tool for building empathy and imagining people's lives who are not like us. Here are a few of my favorite stories of resistance:

- ♦ *The King's Fountain* by Lloyd Alexander
- ♦ *A Thousand Pails of Water* by Ronald Roy
- ♦ *Click, Clack, Moo* by Doreen Kronin
- ♦ *Rad Women A to Z* by Kate Schatz and Miriam Klein Stahl

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

**Mid-Summer Potluck  
and Board Games**  
6 to 9 p.m. July 14



Church attendance declines in the summer, and it is always around mid-July that I start missing my church community. So let's have a party! Join us for a midsummer reunion potluck and board games, with child care provided for the littlest. Bring a dish and some of your

## Coming of Age Program

If you have a youth who will be entering 7-9th grade next year, you should have received an invitation to participate in our very meaningful coming of age curriculum next year. If you have not received an invitation, please email [dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net) as soon as possible so we can prepare for them.

## July Schedule

**July 1:** Intergenerational Book Exchange service  
**July 8:** RE Classes: Learning about Trees  
**July 15:** RE Classes: Rock Art  
**July 22:** RE Classes: Shelters  
**July 29:** Intergenerational Music Service



## ***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)

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

Rehearsals on Wednesdays 7 p.m.

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

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

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### **2018-2019 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.