



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 58, Issue 5, November 2018

## November Worship

*Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.*

(except 10:30 a.m. only on Nov. 25)

**Sunday, Nov. 4**  
**9 and 11 a.m.**

**Remembrance Sunday**  
**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us on this Sunday closest to All Souls Day, when we set aside a time of deep remembrance, honoring the lives of loved ones now gone. You may wish to bring a photo or memento to add to our altar honoring the memories of our beloveds.

**Sunday, Nov. 11**  
**9 and 11 a.m.**

**“Service & Sacrifice”**  
**Worship Associates**

This Veteran’s Day, join us to think carefully about the role of sacrifice – in the lives of our service members and in all of our lives. What does it really mean to serve our country?

**Sunday, Nov. 18**  
**9 and 11 a.m.**

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

Join us for our beloved annual interactive Thanksgiving Cornbread Communion Service when we sing and share in gladness for the abundance in our lives.

**Sunday, Nov. 25**  
**One service only at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson**

Join one of UUCC’s favorite guest preachers for a rousing and thought-provoking service. The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson is pastor of Dawson Journeys Ministry and teaches philosophy and religion at several area colleges. He will be joined by our own interim Music Director Marques J. Ruff as vocal soloist. Don’t miss it!

*Our 2018-2019 Theme is Loaded Words –  
November’s Loaded Word is . . .*

## SACRIFICE

*“What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly;  
it’s dearness only that gives everything its value.”*

– Thomas Paine

The act of creation is a deep example of this spiritual truth: the most important things in this life cost us something. Whether you have brought art or thought or handi-craft or even new life into this world, you know this truth – creating costs us sleep, attention, emotional exertion, physical discomfort, or even steeper prices. And often it is just that dear cost that marks the magnitude of our creation... Our sacrifices impart value.

And yet, the idea of sacrifice is constantly complicated by dynamics of power, particularly when those with much power seek to externalize the costs of their desires. We may sacrifice for ourselves with deep joy, but we can also be sacrificed cruelly and brutally to the whims of those with greater power than us. And of course we can also sacrifice too much of ourselves even in the act of creation or love – some costs are too dear. These truths call for discernment – to whom and for whom are we sacrificing of ourselves as we move through this life?

Join us this month to explore the cost of love and creation, and to struggle with the complicated calling to sacrifice for what we hold most dear.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

### Our web address has changed!

Our website is now at <https://uucomo.org>.

Email addresses also have changed – for example, [minister@uuchurch.net](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net) is now [minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org).

### Highlights of what’s inside

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## Do you care?

Are you passionate about our mission of forging a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world?

If so, you are a great candidate to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees or as a delegate to the UUA General Assembly.

Both jobs are great opportunities to live our mission in very immediate ways.

If you want to learn more, please contact Nominating Committee members Kevin Fritsche, Peter Holmes, or Todd Iveson.

## Building needs information and Q&A sessions planned

7-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15

12:30-1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18

An elevator, new carpeting, more office space, more parking, a fellowship hall, a commercial kitchen, more classroom space, more storage space, sell and relocate closer to downtown – these are just some of the ideas and dreams that members of this congregation have shared with us.

In November there will be two opportunities to learn why your Board of Trustees created the **Building Needs Task Force** last year and what its members have been doing. Did you know that unlike many churches, our membership has been steadily growing for the past decade? Did you know that it has been two decades since the UUC has undergone a major renovation/expansion project?

These sessions will be held in the sanctuary as follows:

- 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 (dessert and childcare provided)
- 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18 (pizza and childcare provided).

The sessions will begin with an short, informal but informative, presentation and will be followed by time for the audience to ask questions and provide feedback. While there will be other opportunities to share your thoughts about our current and future facilities, the task force urges you to take this opportunity to become better informed and to share your ideas early in this process.

From your Building Needs Task Force: Larry Lile, Kevin Fritsche, Gretchen Maune, Matthew Bossaller.

## President's Perspective

### Autumn is (finally) here

By Barbara Rupp, 2018-19 President

Although it felt more like summer than fall much of this past month, autumn temperatures are finally and rather suddenly upon us. Even while we were still dealing with the heat, the church was moving into fall activities. Todd and Candy Iveson deserve a special shout-out for hosting a picnic at their home in September for some of the newer members of the church along with some long-time members. It was a lovely time for newer members to make some connections.

One of the more exciting opportunities we are experiencing at the church is having Alexis join us as an intern. She has quickly immersed herself into the many activities and ministering activities. While Rev. Molly has taken on mentoring Alexis, it also appears that Alexis has quickly taken on some of her own responsibilities and commitments to our congregation. We are so fortunate to have her in our church family this year.

I think it's a given that we were all very sad to see Kathie Bergman retire as Church Administrator, but we are also very happy for her as she moves into this new journey in her life. Many of us were able to join in celebrating her retirement after worship on Sept. 30. While anyone replacing Kathie has some enormous shoes to fill, we are also very fortunate to have found Suzanne Clark, and I think we all look forward to getting to know her better in the coming months (and years!).

So, in spite of how discouraged some of us have been over the deep divisiveness in our country, it's comforting and reassuring to know that so many involved in our UU congregation here in Columbia

continue to do the good work, care for each other, and try to make the world a more welcoming place.

Through our church, and whatever resources you have, I hope you can maintain your spirit, sustain yourself and move forward to fight for our future.

My last message, and most important one? VOTE. VOTE. VOTE. If you need a ride to vote, please call me. Let's do this!



## Forum –

November 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.*

**Nov. 4:** Alexis Engelbrecht, our Intern Minister, will talk about her journey and what it is like to be an intern minister.

**Nov. 11:** Suzanne Clark, the new Church Administrator, will introduce herself.

**Nov. 18:** Topic and speaker to be announced.

**Nov. 25:** Bill Clark will present on a topic to be announced.

# Adult RE

## November-December Mini-mester!

Jan Weaver will be leading four sessions on making the holidays meaningful. Come to any or all. Free childcare will be provided.

### Getting What You Want for the Holidays

6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27

The winter holidays have a lot of baggage, some cultural, some familial. Take some time to figure out what *you* want from the holidays.

### Planning Your Holiday Experience

6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4

If things are going to change, you need to create new systems to support that change. Take some time to make a plan for how that change is going to happen.

### The Only Person You Can Change is Yourself

6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11

The only way to really change things is to change yourself first. Take some time to reflect on what you might need to do differently for the holiday you want.

### So It's Not Going Like You Planned

6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18

Stuff happens. Take some time to prepare yourself for when things don't turn out the way you planned.

## CROPwalk 2018 a success

UUCC members and friends donated to and walked in the successful 2018 CROPwalk to raise funds for hunger relief in Columbia, the United States and the world. The Church World Service event took place at Stephens Lake Park on Sept. 23.

At last count more than \$18,000 had been raised. One-fourth of the money will stay in Columbia and go to various food pantries, St. Francis House and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.

Thanks to all who donated and participated!

– Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team

**Pictured from left: Leila, Allie and Walter Gassmann, Peter Holmes, Sibylle Hoeschele and Wiley Miller.**



## UUCC Caring Ministry

We need many hands and caring hearts! Contact Meredith Donaldson by email at [mjdonlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mjdonlsn@gmail.com) or call the church office at 573-442-5764 to volunteer.



## Programs and Events

### UUCB Book Discussion – Nov. 10 – New Day & Time!

We decided to change the time so we don't have to drive in the dark!

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at **noon Saturday, Nov. 10** at Bamboo Terrace, 3101 W. Broadway, Suite 101. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

For more information, call Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642.

### Non-toxic masculinity men's group – 7 p.m. Mondays at church

The Non-Toxic Masculinity Men's Group meets at the church at 7 p.m. Monday evenings.

The group serves cisgendered, straight, white men who are actively working to detoxify their masculinity and privilege so that they can stop doing damage to others and learn how to become active allies of other, more marginalized, groups.

For more information, contact Jeff Ordway.

### Mindfulness Meditation Sunday mornings

Mindfulness Meditation takes place from 10:05 to 10:45 a.m. every Sunday downstairs in the Centering Room or the Schweitzer classroom. If the weather is suitable, the group sits outside around the Fire Circle.

### UUCB

#### 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.*

### Conversations, Etc. – Nov. 14

All women who are free on the second Wednesday of the month at noon are invited to join us at church. Please bring a brown bag lunch. We will enjoy the good company of friends. We hope to see you there!

If you have questions, call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6325.

### UU Life Writers 'Our Stories... Our Voices'

**Saturdays, Nov. 3 and 17  
10:30 a.m. – Centering Room**

We write stories of our lives - "mini-memoirs" - and find that we all have fascinating life stories! Bring your favorite writing tools!

For more information contact Fran Reynolds at 573-443-4336 or [Reynoldsf@missouri.edu](mailto:Reynoldsf@missouri.edu).

### Men's Group

The UUCB 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 at 573-864-8574 or [millerwi@missouri.edu](mailto:millerwi@missouri.edu).

### Welcoming Team Announces:

**For Our Newcomers: 'Getting to Know UU' (for all those who want to know more about us)**

On the first Sunday of each month in the minister's office after the 11 a.m. worship service for about 30 minutes. Child care provided.

### UUCB provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays – Nov. 18

UUCB provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month - Nov. 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. Email Diane Suhler at [drsuhler@ccis.edu](mailto:drsuhler@ccis.edu) for more information.

### Kaleidoscope – Dec. 22

Join Kaleidoscope to celebrate the return of the Sun, the symbol of hope and the promise of returning warmth, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22 at the church.

We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what your personal path.

### Our presence on the web

Our website address is now <https://uucomo.org>. Go there for information on church activities and our online calendar of events.

**Note:** If you forget and go to <https://uuchurch.net>, you will be redirected to <https://uucomo.org>.

Report from Dave Gibbons

## 20 people with hope at the border

*Members of the UUCC Sanctuary Congregation Team are involved in many forms of justice work on behalf of the immigrant community, and we wanted to share this report from Sanctuary Team member Dave Gibbons about what he recently experienced at the border in Texas.*

Knowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents would drop off any released detainees at the bus station in Brownsville, Texas in the early morning hours, Rev. Sharmin DeMoss of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Los Fresnos, Texas, and I arrived about 6:45 a.m. and found a group of 16 people who were being assisted by volunteers from Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, a ministry of the United Methodist Church in Brownsville. They provided each person with a care package for their respective journeys to sponsors. The sponsors might be family, friends, or volunteers willing to provide them with room, board, and transportation to all check-ins with immigration officials and eventually to their asylum hearings. Most of the 16 were awaiting bus transportation, and a few would be taken to the airport for flights to the locations of their respective sponsors.

There are two pedestrian bridges across the Rio Grande River connecting Brownsville and Matamoros, Mexico, and there is a group camped in Matamoros at one of the bridges waiting to enter the U.S. to seek asylum. At the bus station we learned that one of the ministries of Good Neighbor Settlement House, in addition to volunteering at the bus station, is to provide food, toys for any children, and other supplies while the people wait. Because food is only provided in the morning and evening, it was suggested we could possibly take them some midday snacks. So after a trip to the store, we walked across the bridge into Matamoros with our snacks, crayons, coloring books, and ibuprofen because of the headaches people were experiencing waiting in the heat. We found the group of asylum seekers, and while we were there, two Mexican immigration officials came and announced that four of the individuals were being allowed to enter the U.S. and begin the long process of attempting to obtain asylum. They most likely will be detained at one of the detention facilities, but while in detention they hopefully will pass their credible fear interviews and eventually be at the bus station like the 16 people we saw earlier.

So despite my anger and frustration with the immigration policies and practices of our current administration and with our broken immigration system in general, it was heartwarming to see at least these 20 people moving forward with some hope toward possible asylum.

Dave Gibbons  
September 26, 2018

## A 'Thank You' from retired Church Administrator Kathie Bergman

To the Congregation of UUCC:

Dear Friends,

*I have been overwhelmed by your kind messages of love and caring upon my recent retirement as the UUCC Church Administrator. The personal tributes offered during the Sept. 30 worship service and celebration touched my heart as did the gifts from the Board of Trustees and from the minister.*

*I will never forget the limerick by Joan and Steve Mudrick, dear friends and faithful volunteers to our community. I love, love, love the photo and card scrapbook organized and prepared by Patty Daus and all the beautiful flowers and foods arranged for the celebration in the greeting area that day.*

*I offer my deepest, heart-felt thanks to all of you, and I look forward to our continuing relationships as we worship together in this community nurturing spirit and service.*

As ever yours,  
Kathie Bergman

## Festival of Sharing 2018-2019

For the coming year, collection for the Festival of Sharing will be somewhat different. Each month, the team will collect donations for one specific "Sharing Pack." This format will allow the process of collecting and assembling donations to be less stressful for the team as the ingathering approaches each fall.

For the month of November, the focus is on the family food pack. We are also collecting eyeglasses and seed packets.

### Report on Sept. 22 Ingathering in Tipton

Your kits and packs are on their way, carrying hope, compassion and love. They will be used mostly in Missouri but some will go to national and international needs. The total value of all cash and non-cash gifts was \$3,523.00

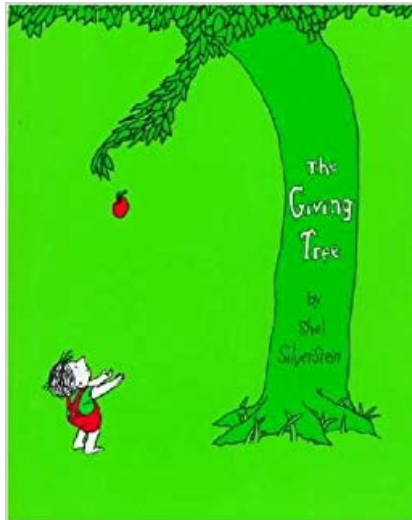
Bonnie Johnson  
Festival of Sharing Chair

# Reflections

As we think about our theme of sacrifice this month, I am reminded of the book *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. I have found that there are two groups of thought on this book, those who love it and those who don't. From the first time I read it as a child, I fell immediately into the latter category. I thought, as a 7-year-old, that it was a poorly disguised guilt trip about how our parents give so much to us and we fail to appreciate them. As an adult, it reads like an unhealthy or even abusive relationship. I had a friend who disliked it because he felt it carried a message of human's sense of entitlement in destroying the environment.

But I have also had great conversations with those who love it, who are deeply moved by the book's messages of giving without expectations of return, unconditional love, and what it means to love unconditionally into the world.

Whichever camp you fall into, this book seems like a great place to start the conversation around the loaded word of sacrifice. What does it mean to give up something to help others? How can this be done in a way that is healthy and respectful of ourselves as well as others? How do we respond to the sacrifice of others? I have found, from my own personal experience and my experience with children, that even very young children find something meaningful in this book, about both the power and the problems of sacrifice.



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

**ATTENTION**  
Nov. 25, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, we will only have one service at 10:30 a.m. This will be a Service Sunday when we will be making blankets for Project Linus to give to hospitalized children.

## Coming of Age Fall Retreat

10 a.m. Nov. 10  
to 9 a.m. Nov. 11

The Coming of Age Class will hold its fall retreat at the church. We will spend the day in reflection on family, community, our inner strengths, and what sort of life we want to lead. We will also visit an escape room and play games late into the night at the church. It should be both meaningful and a lot of fun!

Make sure to RSVP if your youth will be in attendance. We will need parent volunteers as chaperones and for help with meals, so email [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org) if you can help out.

## Junior Youth Night - 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 2

This month, the Junior Youth (6th-8th graders) will be gathering for their monthly meeting on the first Friday of the month instead of the usual second Friday. They will be making forts.



**November Schedule**  
Nov 4: Service Sunday  
Nov. 11: Regular RE Classes  
Nov. 18: Intergenerational Cornbread Communion Service  
Nov. 25: Service Sunday

# ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

The Newsletter of:  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
2615 Shepard Blvd.  
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

**Return Service Requested**

## **Our Staff**

### **Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister**

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at church

Wednesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee Downtown

By appointment (including evenings and weekends)

Email: [minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org)

### **Alexis Engelbrecht, Ministerial Intern**

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: [internminister@uucomo.org](mailto:internminister@uucomo.org)

### **Suzanne Clark, Administrator**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)

Visit our Website: <https://uucomo.org>

### **Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education**

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon and by appointment

Email: [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org)

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

Rehearsals on Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Email: [music@uucomo.org](mailto:music@uucomo.org)

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

Email: [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)

## **2018-2019 Board of Trustees**

Barbara Rupp, President

Mindy McPherson, President-elect

Todd Iveson, Past President

Patty Daus, Treasurer

Sam Buffaloe, Secretary

Peter Holmes

Gretchen Maune

Mark Johnson

Elaine Martin

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

*The Searchlight* is published monthly by the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri.

#### **Submissions:**

Email to [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)  
or mail to Church Administrator.

The deadline for submissions is noon on the third Monday  
of each month for the following month's edition.