



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 59, Issue 10, April 2019

April Worship Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 7
“Giving Up”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

To whom and to what do we surrender as Unitarian Universalists, and how do we decide? Join us this week to reflect on April’s loaded word. Let go, give up, surrender. We will be joined by special musical guests Hitt Street Harmony.

Sunday, April 14
“Virtuoso Sunday”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and Marques J. Ruff

Join us to surrender all of your expectations of what is possible. Arun and musical guests will share virtuosic musical works with us, and Rev. Molly and Marques will reflect on the transcendence of human abilities and the way art can carry us away.

Sunday, April 21
“To Wake, to Rise”

EASTER SUNDAY

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

What meaning does the central story of the Christian tradition hold for Unitarian Universalists, with our diverse beliefs and backgrounds? Can we surrender ourselves to the mysterious power of resurrection? Join us to reflect together and enjoy beautiful music from a guest string quartet.

Sunday, April 28
“How Can We Be of Service?”

Jan Weaver and Green Sanctuary Team

While personal actions are necessary to preserve the health and wellbeing of the planet, they are not sufficient. This Sunday we will explore what it means to work with those most affected by environmental harm.

**Save the date for our
Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, May 5 after worship

**With a special, interactive presentation
from our architects. Childcare and a
simple lunch will be provided.**

**Our 2018-2019 theme is Loaded Words –
April’s Loaded Word is . . .**

Surrender

*“The creative process is a
process of surrender, not control.”*

– Julia Cameron

This winter saw my family hit by round after round of colds, ear infections, fevers and stomach bugs as our town was hit by round after round of snow, ice, and wintry mix... usually, it seemed, on a Saturday night! I am a person who loves having a plan, but this winter it seemed like every time I made a plan, it was foiled by a sick kid needing care, a germ invading my own experience, or *another* winter storm canceling worship. At some point, I just had to wave the white flag. “OK, life! I surrender! Take my plans and do what you will with me.”

Every particle of my being resists surrender to all the things I cannot control. But when life keeps wresting control away from your grasp, you are forced to learn a few things about surrender. And here is one thing I learned – releasing my grip made way for creativity and even pleasure. Letting go of the workday I had planned yielded a beautiful day of baby cuddles. Letting go of the service we had planned yielded an exciting experiment in Facebook Live worship. And all of it forced me to learn my life’s greatest lesson again and again and again – that life is not clay for me to mold. I am the clay, being shaped by a life that moves over and within and around and through me. What beauty can our surrender create?

Let’s find out together! See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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UUCC Community Garage Sale

7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 18

***Donations will be received
1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.
Monday-Friday, May 13-17***

We are particularly looking for:
Furniture (especially bookshelves)
Power tools
Garden tools
Household appliances
Clean, gently-used brand-name clothing
DVDs
Costume jewelry
Games (board and video)
Tennis shoes/sneakers
Camping gear
Fishing rods
Bicycles in working condition
Craft supplies (not finished crafts)
Old cell phones
Toys

For more information, contact Qhyrrae Michaelieu at 573-657-0231 or qhyrrae@gmail.com.

Holy Week Evensong Tenebrae

7 p.m. Friday, April 19

A Tenebrae service is a traditional Christian service of descent into darkness held during the final three days of holy week before Easter, representing the death of Christ. It is commonly practiced with solemn music, readings from scripture, and the progressive extinguishing of candles. It recognizes that the victory of Easter morning is always preceded by the despair of Good Friday.

Contemporary progressive Christians and UUs sometimes observe Tenebrae as an opportunity to sit with the difficult realities of our world before the celebration of hope that arrives on Easter morning. Our Tenebrae service will feature contemporary readings representing all the ways people are “crucified” in this world. We will also share beautiful, solemn music, and a growing darkness. Join us.

You are invited to join us for membership classes!

If you feel ready to become a member of UUC, these classes are for you

Sunday, April 7, 12:15-2:30 p.m.
“History of Unitarians and Universalists”

Sunday, April 14, 12:15-2:30 p.m.
“Getting involved at UUC”

Vegetarian lunch and childcare provided with one week’s notice. RSVP to uuchurch@uucomo.org or 573-442-5764 (We want to have plenty of food!)

Calling all singers for the UU Mass Choir

Please consider joining the UU Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Marques J. Ruff for a musical celebration that will mark the end of his tenure as interim music director. Rehearsal dates will be from 7 to 7:45 p.m.:

April – 3, 10, 17, and 24
May – 1, 8, and 15

The performance will be Sunday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m. Singers are kindly asked to please attend at least two of the scheduled rehearsals. Any questions can be emailed to music@uucomo.org.

Tamales and Tales from the Border: Lunch and Immigrant Justice Fundraising Event

Sunday, April 7 after the 11 a.m. service
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia

The UUC Sanctuary Team is holding a fellowship and immigrant-justice fundraising event to help support an asylum-seeking Honduran family who just arrived in Columbia, having fled Honduras out of fear for their lives.

We will offer delicious tamales, pozole and side dishes along with stories and pictures of first-hand experiences of this family and from our team members who have recently traveled to the border and to detention centers.

All ages are welcome. Come to enjoy the food, the fellowship and to learn more about our team’s work to support our immigrant friends and neighbors and to end this country’s inhumane for-profit detention system.

For more information, contact:

- Dottie Mathews: dmathews@uuma.org, or
- Allie Gassmann: alliegassmann@socket.net.

“Dinner for 8” groups Spring Finale Dinner

Members and substitutes will meet
at the church at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 6

The entree and drinks will be furnished by our dues. Each couple or single person should bring a vegetable, salad, hors d’oeuvre or dessert to share.

If you know someone or a couple who are interested in joining our group, please invite them and let us know so we can prepare adequate entree (probably brisket).

If you have not paid your annual dues of \$12.50 per person, please bring a check. We always welcome new members. Bon appetit!

– Linda Lou Brown and Melinda Farhangi

X-ennial Supper Club

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 21

Are you somewhere in your 20s-40s and looking for deeper connection? Join us for a potluck meal and conversation on the third Sunday evening of the month. Childcare and pizza will be provided for children.



Engage in the process

by Barbara Rupp, 2018-19 President

This column is frequently used to both praise the many in our church who are passionately involved in serving our congregation and our larger community, as well as encouraging all members to become involved with an activity sponsored by the church beyond just our Sunday services. Whether you like to write, make music, garden, read books, cook food for those who are in need of a hot meal, or meet and greet others, there's an activity for you at UUC!

On a larger scale, we also want to encourage all in the congregation to engage in our long-term goals and mission. This happens in multiple ways, with one certainly being giving as generously as possible during our annual stewardship campaign. It is only through these annual pledges that we can continue to offer the kinds of programming that sustain our membership and encourages others to join us.

Another large-scale participation that is important is attending our full congregational meetings, especially our upcoming annual meeting that will be held on May 5. This meeting will focus on passing our annual budget and voting on new board members, and it will also feature an important presentation from SOA, the architectural firm we have hired to assist us with renovations in the church.

SOA will take a portion of the meeting to guide us through some fact-finding and solicit feedback from the entire congregation in order to develop a prioritized needs list. I can assure you that an elevator is absolutely already on this needs list, but we need to prioritize other items as well. This is your opportunity to be part of that process and to have your voice heard. Mark your calendar for May 5 and be sure to attend!

Adult R.E. presents: Spring Book Club!

Our spring offering for Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. will be two three-week book discussions. Although not required, registration helps us plan. Please sign up on the church website, or contact Ellen Thomas or Lisa Fritsche for more information. It is especially important to know if childcare is needed.

On April 2, 9 and 16, Rev. Molly will facilitate discussion of *Emergent Strategy* by Adrienne Maree Brown.

Inspired by Octavia Butler's explorations of our human relationship to change, *Emergent Strategy* is radical self-help, society-help, and planet-help designed to shape the futures we want to live. Change is constant. The world is in a continual state of flux. It is a stream of ever-mutating, emergent patterns. Rather than steel ourselves against such change, this book invites us to feel, map, assess and learn from the swirling patterns around us in order to better understand and influence them as they happen. This is a resolutely materialist "spirituality" based equally on science and science fiction, a visionary incantation to transform that which ultimately transforms us.

Adrienne Maree Brown, co-editor of *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction from Social Justice Movements*, is a social justice facilitator, healer and doula living in Detroit.

On April 23, 30 and May 7, Melissa Ensign-Bedford will lead a discussion of the national UUA Common Read selection, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (Skinner House Books, 2018).

At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, *Justice on Earth* explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. Those on the margins are invariably those most affected by climate disaster and environmental toxins. The book asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth and for all life. It invites us to look at our current challenges through a variety of different perspectives, offers tools to equip us for sustained engagement, and proposes multiple pathways for follow-up action.

Green Sanctuary Team happenings

In April, GS Team members will be bringing a bit of nature into the sanctuary each Sunday to remind us all that we are part of an interconnected web of life that includes flowering plants, which bring us joy and beauty. Take a moment to notice the gifts of nature! Please join us for our annual service on April 28 to consider our place in that web.

We continue our partnership with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC) to try to protect water and air in Missouri. Large confinement animal operations from Iowa and Illinois are looking to move to Missouri, having polluted the groundwater and created problems with disease and antibiotic resistance there. The only tool Missouri's rural residents have to minimize these impacts is the county-level health ordinances adopted by about 20 counties in Missouri. Unfortunately, the legislature is moving to make those self-determined protections illegal. If you are interested in protecting water and air in Missouri, or are interested in animal welfare issues, or in the quality of life of our rural neighbors, check out the GS bulletin board for more information.

Some of us participated in a Lobby Day at the capitol last month. There is another scheduled April 29, and we would welcome other UU participants! You can also help by donating to the Faith-to-Action collection benefiting MRCC at the April 28 service.

Want to learn more and get involved? Our next meeting will be at the church from 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 4.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Meet at 1:30 p.m.
at the church on the
fourth Sunday each month

The Green Sanctuary Team is sponsoring monthly walks to explore the beauty of local woods and creeks (Gans Creek, Three Creeks, and Mark Twain National Forest). Shrug off your civilized self for a time and come with us into the peace of wild things.

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's life may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water
and the great heron feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water,
and I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light.*

For a time I rest in the grace of the world and am free.

The walks will be suitable for reasonably fit 10- to 70-year-olds. Children are very welcome. There will be plenty of stops along the way. For more information, contact Peter Holmes.

New greeting program: Gratitude and invitation from Ministerial Intern Alexis

You may notice we have a team of greeters welcoming people as they enter the church on Sunday. These wonderful individuals have completed training to provide intentional hospitality to members, friends, and guests. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact me at internminister@uucomo.org or Barbara Carter to RSVP a space for our next greeter training from 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday, April 28.

It's hard to believe that I only have two months (April and May) as your ministerial intern for this school year, although I'm comforted by the knowledge that I will return for one more year in the fall. Appointments for conversations continue to be welcome and can be arranged by email.

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>.

April focus for Festival of Sharing

For the month of April, our Festival of Sharing focus is on the “Missouri Youth Personal Care Pack” project. These packs are for youth ages 12-18 who have experienced a crisis situation and who have been placed in state care or are experiencing homelessness. Items will be placed in drawstring bags that will be provided by the Festival of Sharing Team. The packs will contain:

- 1 chapstick
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer (3 oz)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 toothbrush and 1 travel-size toothpaste
- 1 box medicated facial cleansing pads (such as Stridex)
- 1 men’s body spray or 1 small package of feminine pads
- 1 travel size shampoo and 1 travel size conditioner
- 1 deodorant
- 1 travel size lotion
- 1 comb or brush
- 3 ink pens
- 1 journal
- 1 fleece throw

In 2018, there were requests for 200 care packs statewide, but only 184 were provided. Collection boxes are available in the church greeting area.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

Social Action Team News

Community Bail Fund – The Social Action Team encourages all to consider supporting the Community Bail Fund established by Race Matters, Friends. The group completed their first bailout recently. For more information on the bail fund, visit racemattersfriends.com. You can also make a contribution via their website.

Faith-to-Action collections for April – Four (more) reasons to come to church in April! Unless otherwise designated, the proceeds from the Sunday offerings will go to the following organizations:

April 7 – Centro Latino de Salud

April 14 – Centro para el Desarrollo Político, Educativo y Cultural (Puerto Rico grassroots recovery and development initiative)

April 21 – City of Refuge

April 28 – Missouri Rural Crisis Center

Monthly SAT meeting on April 14 – The Social Action Team normally meets after the 11 a.m. service on the first Sunday each month. April is an exception. We will meet the second Sunday. Any interested individual is welcome to attend – no commitment or obligation required.

UCC Caring Ministry

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

Honduras Ministry Trivia Night a success; next Honduras service trip in 2020

The Honduras Ministry put on its annual Trivia Night on Feb. 23. More than \$3,400 was raised, and the community of the Rio Cangrejal River Valley in Honduras sends their profound thanks and gratitude. We have sent a one-time payment of \$230 for the repair of the clinic roof. We will continue sending \$400 a month for clinic supplies (mostly paid by individual group members and supplemented by our Honduras Reserve funds.)

In addition, we are sending our annual contribution to Adelante Foundation, a Honduran micro-finance organization.

The next UCC Honduras service trip is planned for 2020. We are considering doing the trip in March 2020. Please contact Allie if you are interested and would like to know more.

– Allie Gassmann
Honduras Ministry Chair

Mindfulness Meditation At 10:05 a.m. Sundays

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation every Sunday from 10:05 to 10:50 a.m. We meet in the Centering Room, the Schweitzer classroom, or at the Fire Circle when the weather is good.

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.

Forum – April 2019

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.

In April, the Forum Group is being coordinated by Wayne Anderson, *Tribune* travel writer. He will present a series titled “Travel from Different Perspectives.”

April 7 – The Gap Year: Pros and cons of high school students taking a year off before college to travel and volunteer.

April 14 – Creating Your Bucket List: What experiences and adventures do you want to have before you die?

April 21 – My Sabbatical Year: Three countries and the FBI up close and personal.

April 28 – Offbeat Travel: Exploring the unexpected and mysterious.

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering – 6 p.m. Saturday, April 27

Join us as we celebrate Beltane, better known to most of you as May Day. We used to weave paper baskets, fill them with dandelions, and hang them on peoples’ doors. Do you remember?

Celebrate fertility, and joy, and (at last) fresh greens to eat. Gather with us at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

**Please avoid the
UCC building on
Thursday, April 11.**

**We will be having the
carpets cleaned.
Thank you!**

UU Life Writers

April showers bring May flowers... and perhaps more chocolate! Our theme this spring is “Life is like a box of chocolates...,” and our stories have been about important events and people in our lives.

We have coffee, write and share. Everyone is welcome who would like to write mini-memoirs and share. This is not a critique group.

Our April meetings are Saturdays, April 6 and 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Centering Room. For more information, contact Fran Reynolds at 573-881-3828 or by email at reynoldsf@missouri.edu.

UCC Book Discussion Friday, April 12 – new time and day!

The UCC Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 12 at Bamboo Terrace, 3101 W. Broadway, Suite 101. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

Contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 or pspring@socket.net if you have questions.

Conversations, Etc. – April 10

Conversations, Etc., the UCC women’s group, will meet at the church at noon Wednesday, April 10. Bring a brown bag lunch. Come enjoy the company of friends. Questions? Call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6326.

UCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays – April 21

UCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – April 21 this month.

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

Serving meals at Loaves and Fishes is a project of our Social Action Team. Email Diane Suhler at drsuhler@ccis.edu for more information.

Men’s Group

The UCC 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.

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.

From the UUCC Social Action Team

We invite all church members and all friends who have an interest in social justice issues to join our Social Action Team to help us shape and strengthen our work. There are five important aspects of UUCC's social justice work:

1. **Direct Service** (e.g. Loaves and Fishes, Room at the Inn)
2. **Fundraising** (e.g. through Faith-to-Action, fundraisers such as the Honduras Trivia Night, sales of artisan crafts, etc. to support social justice work)
3. **Education** (learning about systems of injustice, our role in them, and how to effect systemic change)
4. **Advocacy and Witness** (e.g. work with Race Matters, Friends, showing up at City Council, Solidarity Network events, working with Missouri Faith Voices, the Sanctuary Team, letters to congressional representatives, work with MADP, the Center Project, etc.)
5. **Community Building and Deep Connection** (to sustain ourselves in the work, but also to create the world we want to see)

Beyond joining SAT, please consider participation in any of our subcommittees or other teams such as the Anti-Racism Subcommittee, Economic Justice Subcommittee, Honduras Team, Sanctuary Team, the Missouri Faith Voices work, or the Green Sanctuary Team. Together we create the change we want to see while being who we want to be in the world.



Get your UUCC Social Action Team T-Shirt!

Your \$20 helps UUCC with our many Social Action Projects. Contact Caya Tanski, Allie Gassmann or Sarah Wolcott for more information or to place your order.

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.

Join Green Sanctuary in supporting MRCC

- Are you passionate about clean air and water in Missouri?
- Do you want to see Medicaid expansion?
- Are you concerned about the conditions of livestock in industrial agriculture?

The Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC) is a leader on all of these issues, and more. Members of the UUCC Green Sanctuary team are involved with the efforts of MRCC.

If you are interested in learning more and participating, please send an email to [Ellen Thomas at ellentomascomo@gmail.com](mailto:ellentomascomo@gmail.com).

Welcoming Team Announces:

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

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

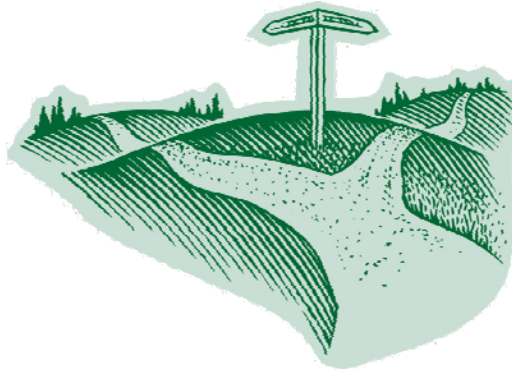
Reflections

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

In April at UCC, we are thinking about the idea of surrender. When I think about how the idea of surrender relates to parenthood, I think of the constant spiritual work of letting go of our expectations, of accepting our lack of control over how things will turn out. What could be more terrifying?

And yet, what could be more exciting and beautiful? Some of our most joyful moments with our kids are those moments when we let go of how we think things should be and embrace the spontaneous, the ridiculous, the unique ways our children create their unfolding lives. Here are a few ways can we embrace an attitude of surrender with our families:

- Go for a bike ride, a drive or a hike where you allow the children to choose which turns to take and see where it takes you.
- Get messy together! Play in a mud puddle or do a messy art project.
- Randomly select ingredients at the grocery store together, and invent a recipe.



Sincerely,
Jamila Batchelder
Director of Religious Education

Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt YRUU Fundraiser at noon Saturday, April 20

We are trying something new this year! YRUU will be hosting their annual Easter Brunch and egg hunt on Saturday instead of Sunday. This is a very fun, family-friendly event that helps support our youth group. Please purchase tickets in advance, and we always appreciate food donations to help the cause! Look for ticket sales and food donation sign-ups in the greeting area on March 31 and April 7. Tickets: \$5/person, \$20/family.



Junior Youth Night 6:30-8 p.m. April 5



For our April Junior Youth Night, the youth will bake for a bake sale to be held April 7.

Bring your cans!

Bring cans on Easter to be a part of our annual Easter canned food hunt (once we find them, we donate them to the food bank).



April Schedule

April 7: Regular RE classes
April 14: Regular RE classes
April 21: Service Sunday can food drive and Easter Can Hunt
April 28: Regular RE classes

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

Alexis Engelbrecht, Ministerial Intern

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: internminister@uucomo.org

Suzanne Clark, Administrator

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

Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: 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

Marques J. Ruff, Interim Music Director

Rehearsals on Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Email: music@uucomo.org

April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant

Email: uuchurch@uucomo.org

2018-2019 Board of Trustees

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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