

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 12, June 2019

June Worship

Our summer schedule is one worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 2 "At the Riverside, In Spirit" Peter and Casey Holmes, Alan and Carol Arnold, and Scott Denson

For the first time in 13 years, flooding will prevent our annual service at the Missouri River. However, we will be presenting exactly the same intergenerational service at the church – outdoors if the weather permits – conjuring up the spirit of the river! The main focus will be an interactive portrayal of our modern creation story: "The Journey of the Universe" from the Big Bang to the present – a journey into grandeur that no previous generation could have fully imagined.

Sunday, June 9 "UU Church and the Sacred Text" Intergenerational Book Communion Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and DRE Jamila Batchelder

Is there a secular text that has shaped your thinking? A book, a poem, a lyric that is rich with meaning for your life? This summer's lay-led preaching series will engage the secular sacred texts of our congregation, and this Sunday, we'll kick it off with a book communion service for all ages. Bring a favorite book to share and go home with someone else's fave. We'll also explore spiritual practices for reading.

Sunday, June 16 "Secular Sacred Text: Looking Up to *Les Misérables*" Sam Otten and Tim Dickerson

As part of the summer series where we bring sacred practices to secular texts, you are invited to engage with Victor Hugo's 19th Century novel *Les Misérables*. Its profound characters and its tumultuous political setting provide inspiration for how we might participate in the world today. Inter-textual connections also will be made to the music of Sufjan Stevens.

June services continued on page 2

Wishing you a spacious, luscious summer...

The green will never again be so green, so purely and lushly new, grass lifting its wheaty seedheads into the wind. Rich fresh wine of June, we stagger into you smeared with pollen, overcome as the turtle laying her eggs in roadside sand.

- From "More Than Enough" by Marge Piercy

The summer time can be so luscious. Days stretch longer drenched in sun. Evenings open up in moonlit possibility. The world is full of growing things and every expanse of nature feels wide and wild and pulsing with life.

For me, summer is a time of spaciousness, a time to look up for the first time in months and breathe and take a break. At church it feels that way, too. We dream together in the summer and hold fewer committee meetings. We breathe together and remember life to be a great gift. I hope to see you here in June to celebrate this gift together.

See you in church! Rev. Molly

Rev. Molly's new office hours

Beginning in June, my Community Office Hours will be held at Kaldi's Coffee downtown on **Thursdays** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. I am also always happy to meet by appointment with members, visitors, newcomers and community partners.

Please do reach out if you'd like to chat about life, find your place in the church, process something difficult, find a listening ear, or discuss a project together!

You can schedule an appointment with me at:

https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon

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Forum – June 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.

June 2: The topic is the University of Missouri Theatre, with UU member Heather Carver speaking. Heather is the chairperson of the MU Theatre Department.

June 9 and 16: The UUCC Accessibility and Inclusion Team will present a two-part program. On June 9 they will show a film. On June 16 Ruth Milledge will lead a discussion on the topic.

June 23: Our guests will be from Sunrise Optimists, one example of local civic organizations having a strong devotion to a cause – in their case, youth.

June 30: The Boone County Bicentennial Commission will spell out its plans for a 2020 celebration of the 200th anniversary of Boone County's formation. Northern District Commissioner Janet Thompson will lead the program.

June worship services - continued

Sunday, June 23
"Secular Sacred Text:
Sparkling Dust in *His Dark Materials*"
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to reflect on Rev. Molly's secular sacred text, the series *His Dark Materials* by Phillip Pullman. A fantasy trilogy for children full of theological themes, this text explores questions of innocence and experience, death and life and meaning. And, there are daemons.

Sunday, June 30
"Secular Sacred Text:
The Mists of Avalon"
Cande Iveson

The message of any text changes with each reading, as the reader's context constantly shifts. In 1983, the *New York Times* called Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Mists of Avalon* "...a monumental reimagining of the Arthurian legends...we see the saga from the vantage point of its principal women." Almost 40 years later, the text still resonates, but in very different ways and for very different reasons.

Mindfulness Meditation at 9:30 a.m. Sundays – except June 2

We will not have Mindfulness Meditation June 2 because leaders will be preparing for worship

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation every Sunday this summer from 9:30 to 10:15 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.

X-ennial Supper Club will skip June and resume on July 21

We're taking a break in June because of the Father's Day holiday, but we'll resume meeting on the third Sunday of the month on Sunday, July 21 at 5:30 p.m. If you are somewhere in your 20s-40s and interested in new connections with fellow UU Churchers, join us at the church for this potluck style dinner and socializing. Child care and pizza for kids will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you can!

Reserve your date for summer lay preaching

Is there a secular text that has shaped your thinking? A book, a poem or a lyric that is rich with meaning for your life? This summer's lay-led preaching series will engage the secular sacred texts of our congregation, and we'd love to hear from you!

Available dates are July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18. Contact <u>worship@uucomo.org</u> to claim a date! You'll receive support from our Worship Associates in creating a well-crafted and meaningful service for our congregation.

Music Director search update – the search continues . . .

Your Music Search Team has been hard at work this winter and spring. We have met some wonderful folks, sung together, and had some great conversations...but unfortunately we have not yet found our new Music Director.

After carefully preparing a job description using feedback from congregational conversations and the choir, we listed our position in February and were pleased to hear from some excellent applicants. In late March we conducted first-round interviews with a number of applicants and in April conducted several second-round interviews. However, for various personal reasons, in the end our most qualified applicants chose not to pursue work with our congregation.

So, we will be continuing our search. We believe that it is worthwhile to take the time to find a mutually enthusiastic fit, and we look forward to sharing our love of this congregation with a new batch of interested parties in the coming weeks.

Your Music Search Team, Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Kara Braudis, Pack Matthews, Jamie Meadows, Neil Minturn and Jeanne Murphy

Fragrance sensitivity? We've got you (or at least your chair) covered!

On Sunday, March 24, the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Team presented the lay-led service, "Living Up to Radical Welcome," and made a small change in the sanctuary while we were at it. As we've heard a number of questions about this change, we thought it was about time we shed some light on it.

If you've been to services during the past couple of months, you have likely noticed a section of chairs in the back of the sanctuary topped with yellow pillowcases. This sunny addition was inspired by feedback we'd received from congregants who have fragrance and chemical sensitivities. These individuals had been unable to enjoy services because of the migraines, allergies, and other reactions caused by these products, which many of us don't think twice about applying. While we can't control what products each person uses before joining us for worship, we can create a space in which people who live with sensitivities or allergies to those products can, hopefully, be more comfortable and feel more radically welcome.

The AIM Team requests that the fragrance-free seating area be reserved for individuals who are not wearing perfumes or scented products. We thank you for your help with this step towards being more accessible to and inclusive of all members and guests.

- Gretchen Maune, Chair Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Team

Shop and help UUCC at same time

Did you know you can buy things you need and contribute to UUCC at the same time?

Locally, you can sign up with Schnucks Supermarket to donate a percentage of your purchases to the church. Learn how at:

https://uucomo.org/ blog/2016/08/21/supporting-uuccby-grocery-shopping/

Do you do online shopping at Amazon? If so, your purchases can benefit our church with a contribution from Amazon of 0.5% of the purchase price. Learn how at:

https://uucomo.org/ blog/2017/12/10/your-amazonshopping-can-benefit-uucc/

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.

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.

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.

President's Perspective

Making progress

by Barbara Rupp, 2018-19 President

I am very pleased that we had a healthy turnout for our congregational meeting in May during which we passed our budget for next year, elected three new Board members, and participated in a productive workshop with Simon Oswald Architects (SOA), the architects for our future church renovations. Their objective was to gather information from members of the congregation through a "dotmocracy" activity that would help to prioritize the needs of the church. SOA felt that they gathered some very valuable information and they will continue to work with the Building Needs Task Force throughout the summer months and will eventually return to do another presentation at a congregational meeting in the fall.

It is important to keep a couple of things in mind. First, there is no final decision as yet regarding either a master plan or the aesthetic design. SOA will continue to work with us and gather information, and the congregation will have an opportunity next fall to review their recommendations for a master plan.

Second, we must each realize that none of us will get everything we want in this project. However, one

of SOA's strengths is helping us prioritize where we can get the most desired changes while making the best use of inevitably limited resources for our renovation project.

Your Board of Trustees is committed to strengthening the communication with the congregation as we progress with this project. Toward that end the board has decided to increase the size of the Building Needs Task Force to help with communication, including the development of visual charts to show where we are in all stages of the process. It really is an exciting time for our congregation, and I look forward to seeing the progress in the coming year.

Meanwhile, I will be moving from Board President to Past President and passing the baton to Mindy McPherson as of July 1. We are very fortunate to have Mindy as our President next year, and I look forward to working with her as we launch our capital campaign and work toward a master plan for our desired renovations.

Thanks to all for helping to make my time as President so rewarding.

Summer Adult R.E. opportunities

The Adult Religious Education Team is bringing you a smorgasbord of summer options. Each class stands alone, and there is no signup requirement. Childcare will be available at all sessions. Classes will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Here is the schedule:

June 11: Tales from the Border – Kathie Bergman and Dottie Mathews

June 18: The Power of Positive Parenting – Ellen Thomas and Allie Gassmann

June 25: Basics of Estate Planning – Steve Scott

July 2: Healing Touch – Rosie Geiser

July 9: Spiritual Practices for Readers – April Rodeghero and Jamila Batchelder

July 16: Parenting for Positive Body Image – Ginny Winter

July 23: Spirit Figures – Qhyrrae Michaelieu

July 30: Disability Justice 101 – Gretchen Maune

Aug. 6: Nature, Art and Spiritual Practice – Melissa Ensign-Bedford

Green Sanctuary Team Happenings

"At the Riverside, In Spirit" Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 2

See the worship description on page 1.

Stream Team Water Quality Evaluation - 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 15

Meet at the church at 1:30 to travel together to our site near the Grindstone Nature Area. All are welcome (children require parental supervision) for a fun, wet-foot citizen science activity in Hinkson Creek.

Next team meeting - 7 p.m. Thursday, June 6 at church

The team meets the first Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

June focus for Festival of Sharing

For the month of June, the focus is on the "Church World Service Hygiene Kit." These packs are for adults who have experienced a crisis situation or are experiencing homelessness. Place all the following items in a large ziplock bag (2-2.5 gallon).

- 1 hand towel 15x28 to 16x32 (no fingertip, bath, or microfiber towels)
 - 1 toothbrush (in original package)
- 1 wide-tooth comb (remove packaging)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 bar of soap (bath size, in package)
- 10 standard size Band-Aids
- 1 nail clipper (remove packaging)

In 2018, 3,005 of these kits were shared. Collection boxes are available in the church greeting area.

- Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

Date Change!

Honduras service trip news and June 30 crepe lunch fundraiser

The next UUCC Honduras Service Trip is now planned in late December 2019 and early January 2020 instead of March 2020 as previously announced. Latrine building will be the main focus of our activities, and we are hoping to start building composting latrines. There will probably be other activities as well depending on what the community asks for and what we are able to offer. For information on our previous trip in 2017, see https://uucomo.org/2017-honduras-trip/. You also will find descriptions of all our service trips on our website.

We hope you will consider joining us! To prepare, we will meet at least monthly between June and December, hold several fundraisers, and do a book study. We will have an informational meeting at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, June 9 at church. You probably have a lot of questions about taking a trip to a country like Honduras, and we will be able to answer your questions.

Whether or not you are planning on coming on the trip, you will need lunch on Sunday, June 30. Please join us for our 100% authentic French crepe lunch fundraiser. You can eat them at church, or you can take them with you. For more information please email Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net.

UUCC Caring Ministry

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

News from the Social Action Team

Social Action Discourse: If you haven't already done so, check out Kathie Bergman's heartfelt report from the front lines of the refugee crisis in El Paso, under "Social Action Discourse" of the Social Action Team on the UUCC website. Caya Tanski and Wiley Miller also have essays posted here. Do you have a story to tell? Consider submitting an essay for this page. Contact Caya or Fred Young for details.

July 15 "Deadline" for Faith To Action nominations: The Social Action Team encourages you to submit your FTA nominations by July 15 for the 2019-2020 church year. You can still submit after this date, but priority will be given to applications received by July 15. You can find the information and application by clicking the purple button near the top of the UUCC website home page,

Visioning the future: Most members of this congregation are involved as individuals in activities that might be called "social action." What can we do as a church to project our values into the larger community and to inspire individual members of our congregation to be involved? The Social Action Team is currently exploring ideas for tangible projects that will engage our membership in meaningful social action. Ideas to date can be grouped into the general categories of caring for the homeless population and anti-racism. Projects can focus on deepening our congregation (e.g., seminars, workshops, training) or on impacting the larger community (e.g., Loaves and Fishes, tutoring).

Interested in being a part of this discussion? Join us at our next meeting at 12:30 p.m. June 2.

Sanctuary Team News

Funding Asylum Seekers with a Honduran lunch Aug. 11

As a Sanctuary Team and as a Sanctuary Congregation, we currently do not have anyone living within our walls seeking sanctuary. However, our commitment to befriend and support migrants who are fleeing violence and untenable life circumstances in



their home countries remains very strong. As many of you know, out of that commitment UUCC joined Kristine Smith and her family in April to help sponsor (host) Honduran asylum seeker Edler and his family. Recently Rev. Dottie Mathews accompanied Edler to a visit with the family's immigration attorney and gained valuable information about the next steps and how the family can be supported legally and otherwise over the coming months.

The asylum process is a very lengthy and expensive journey. Attorney fees and other related costs will be thousands of dollars, so we will be holding periodic fundraisers. Please mark your calendars for our next after-church lunch fundraiser featuring Honduran food and tamales on **Aug. 11**. You will have a chance to meet both the asylum seekers and the host family and learn more about the situation in Honduras and in our own country regarding immigrants and refugees. For more information or to get involved, please email either one of the Sanctuary Team co-chairs, Rev. Dottie Mathews at dmathews@uuma.org or Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net.

A standing invitation 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.

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.

Love letter to the congregation from Qhyrrae Michaelieu

I have a love letter to my church for all the assistance you provided at the church garage sale. Thank you to the folks who asked me what they could help out with, to those who agreed to help when I asked ahead of time (and to those who wanted to help, but had other obligations), and to the folks who showed up on short notice when I started panicking about hauling off all of the left-overs, and of course to my Chalice Circle members who agreed to help with this large undertaking! Thanks also to all the people who donated stuff and to folks who helped spread the word! (I know it sounds like a Oscar Award speech or something.)

I was so touched by the help you all gave! Together we helped people downsize and get rid of extra belongings, we helped people to reuse material, and we provided lots of free stuff for those who could not afford it and to various charities. Additionally we raised \$1,500 for the church. My heartfelt appreciation!

Programs and Events

There will be no Mindfullness Meditation on Sunday, June 2

Please join us at 10:30 a.m. for worship Down by the Riverside.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the church on the fourth Sunday each month – June 23

Join us for monthly walks throughout the year 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 short time and come with us into the peace of wild things.

In the summer, from May to September, wear shoes and shorts suitable for wading in creeks. Bathing suits and towels might be a good idea too.

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 are suitable for reasonably fit 10- to 70-year-olds. Children are very welcome. There will be plenty of stops along the way. The walks are sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Team. Have questions? Ask Peter Holmes.

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 22

Join us as we celebrate Litha, the summer Solstice. The longest day and the shortest night are here. The Sun stands in his glory and full strength. Glory with him, this bringer of warmth, light and hope. Gather with us at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 22 at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship.

All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Conversations, Etc. at noon Wednesday, June 12

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet at church on June 7. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Come and enjoy the company of friends. Questions? Call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6326.

UUCC Book Discussion at 5 p.m. Friday, June 14

The UUCC Book Discussion Group will meet on Friday, June 14 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 <u>pspring@socket.net</u> if you have questions.

UU Life Writers

UU Life Writers are taking a summer vacation... but still writing at home – at the beach – at the lake – in the mountains.

Join us in September! For further information on this group, please send an email to Fran Reynolds at freynolds@centurytel.net.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays – June 16 this month

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – June 16 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 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 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.

REflections

We have come to the end of another fantastic year in religious education! I have so many favorite memories of this year, as I am sure you and your children do. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our R.E. volunteers, and I look forward to celebrating their dedication to our program at the R.E. Appreciation luncheon at noon June 9. All are invited who want to celebrate our amazing and caring teachers and aides. Please RSVP by June 2 if you plan to attend. I look forward to reminiscing about this year in RE together! And I look forward to beginning summer RE on June 16.

Sincerely, Jamila



Jamila Batchelder

Director of Religious Education

dre@uucomo.org 573-442-5764

Office Hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-noon

June Schedule R.E. at 10:30 a.m.

June 2: Intergenerational

Service

June 9: Intergenerational Book

Service

June 16: Service Sunday

June 23: Regular RE Classes

June 30: Regular RE Classes

Thank you RE Volunteers!

Potter Class

Barbara Carter Camden Daily Scott Denson Kevin Fritsche Julie Ladehoff Michela Skelton Sarah Williams

Schweitzer Class

Crystal Buffalo Myia Custer Scott Denson Andrew Eick Julie Ladehoff Josh McPherson

Thoreau Class

Jack Draper Andrew Eick Lisa Fritsche Ruth Milledge Lindsey Smith Jeremy Winter

Adams Class

Sara Hiles Iyesatu Kamara-Bush Jeremy Milarsky Ramzie Siebuhr

Coming of Age Class

Anja Eick Qhyrrae Michealieu Danny Osborne Becky Scott

Coming of Age Mentors

Chris Birk
Jack Draper
Jeremy Duke
Kerry Earthsoul
Scott Garson
James Gordon
Elaine Martin
Tracey Milarsky
Maria Oropallo
Sam Otten

Service Sunday Team

Kathie Bergman Tim Dickerson Jack Draper Megan Gore Michela Skelton

Junior Youth

Patty Daus Lisa Fritsche Qhyrrae Michaelieu

YRUU Advisors

Cortney Bouse Joe Collins Luke Daily Kinjal Majumder Holly Schwarz

High School OWL

Cortney Bouse Larry Lile Connie Ordway

Summer RE

Jim Carrel Jack Draper Erin Regneri Jan Weaver

Subs and Special Guests

Shawn Beatty
Jenny Bossaller
Lisa Boyer
Sam Buffaloe
Larry Lile
Mindy McPherson
Jeff Ordway
April Rodeghero
Sarah Smith
Ellen Thomas

RE Team

Andrew Eick Anja Eick Tracey Milarsky Lindsey Smith Becky Scott Jeremy Winter

Nursery Staff and Aides

Ellie Abernathy Madison Bellamy Mary Fran Bossaller Leela Cullity-Younger Eva Ewing Naomi Garson Leila Gassmann Leah Glasser Megan Hayday Isaac Milarsky

THE SEARCHLIGHT

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

Return Service Requested

Our Staff

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Email: minister@uucomo.org

Alexis Engelbrecht, Ministerial Intern

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

Submissions:

Email to <u>uuchurch@uucomo.org</u> or mail to Church Administrator.

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