



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 60, Issue 2, August 2019

August Worship

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

Sunday, Aug. 4

“Secular Sacred Text: *Oathbringer*”

Melissa Ensign-Bedford

We love this series of reflections on our touchstone books and secular sacred texts. Learn about the meaning to be made from the work of renowned fantasy author Brandon Sanderson.

Sunday, Aug. 11

Special Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson

Come hear one of our favorite guest preachers deliver a rousing and thought-provoking sermon. The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson is pastor of Dawson Journeys Ministry and teaches philosophy and religion at several area colleges.

Sunday, Aug. 18

**“Secular Sacred Text:
Surviving the Apocalypse”**

Connie and Jeff Ordway

Dies the Fire by S.M. Stirling is a post-apocalyptic novel that poses the question “What happens when all electricity, engines, and gunpowder stop functioning?” Connie and Jeff will share how this graphically told, brutally honest depiction of survival and the re-creation of society in a world suddenly turned bleak and hard has deep meaning for them, and how it has even informed life choices they have made.

Sunday, Aug. 25

“Shaping Change”

Ingathering and Water Ceremony

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and

DRE Jamila Batchelder

Join us for our beloved annual ingathering ceremony as we mingle waters of refreshment and renewal and reflect upon how we are sustained in our community. If you are able, bring water either from or symbolic of a place that has renewed your spirit over the summer months.

Rooted in Mission

*“In the spirit of courageous love, we forge
a community of radical welcome and
deep connection that moves us together
to heal the world.”*

– UU Church of Columbia, Missouri

In 2013 our congregation adopted the beautiful mission statement above by a vote of the congregation. Since then, its evocative phrases and aspirations have become a part of our weekly conversation and our congregational DNA. But the things that become part of us can also become rote without our attention. So this year, your Worship Associates have chosen our very own mission as our over-arching theme for the year.

Each month in worship and in our chalice circles, we will dive deep with one of the phrases that names our hopes for who we are becoming together:

September – Mission

October – Courageous Love

November – Forging Community

December – Radical Welcome

January – Deep Connection

February – Moving Together

March – To Help

April – Healing the World

What do these things mean to us, when the rubber meets the road? Join us all year to contemplate together!

In Faith,
Rev. Molly

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Forum – August 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.

Aug. 4: Janet Thompson will return to tell us about her former role as a public defender and her time with death row inmates. She is the Boone County Northern District Commissioner.

Aug. 11: Connie Johnmeyer will return this fall to walk the famous trail in northern Spain again, but before she goes, she'll talk with us about "Specific Experiences in the 'Never Wars' – Two Deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan." She'll return in the spring with pictures of her second walking trip across Spain.

Aug. 18: This is Bill Clark's birthday – who knows what his program will be?

Aug. 25: Jocelyn Cullity, Director of Creative Writing and Film Studies at Truman State University, will review her book, *Amah and the Silk-winged Pigeons*.

The Andersons will coordinate our September programs.

George Frissell will open October's slate with another look at the religions of the world.

X-ennial Supper Club – 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18

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 at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, August 18.

Child care and pizza for kids will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you can!

Rev. Molly's new office hours

Rev. Molly's Community Office Hours are now being held at Kaldi's Coffee downtown on **Thursdays** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. She is 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 Rev. Molly at:

<https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon>

Mindfulness Meditation – Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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.



No Walk on the Wild Side in August But there will be two walks in September – Sept. 1 and Sept. 22

The Green Sanctuary Team is sponsoring monthly walks on the fourth Sunday most months throughout the year to explore the beauty of local woods and creeks (Gans Creek, Three Creeks and Mark Twain National Forest). Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the church.

Shrug off your civilized self for a short time and come with us into the peace of wild things.

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. For more information, talk to Peter Holmes.

Summer tasks and summer beauty

by Mindy McPherson, 2019-20 President

As part of the business conducted at the Annual Congregational Meeting in May, our congregation voted to elect three new board members. In July, their three-year terms began, and we welcomed Jeremy Duke, Rebecca Graves and Michela Skelton Birk to the Board of Trustees. I'm most thankful for their service to our community and look forward to working together. At our most recent board meeting, Jeremy was elected Treasurer, and Michela was elected President-Elect. Sam Buffalo, whose term expires in June 2020, was re-elected Secretary.

During the summer transition period, the board members spend time learning about or reflecting on our policy governance model and our board member job description. While policy governance is certainly not new to UUCC, having been adopted in 2010-2011, it may be a new or unfamiliar governance model to some. It is important that we all have a clear understanding of how our church functions, so that together we can best carry out our mission. Policy governance emphasizes the mission and values of our church, as discerned by the congregation. In our work, a policy is an expression of the board's vision. The board leads the church by focusing on ends statements and large issues. The board delegates to the minister, staff and volunteers the job of effective-

ly determining and executing the means by which to accomplish the ends, within the bounds of the policies. The board is continually evaluating whether the means and ends are being accomplished and, in so doing, assessing the ministry of our church.

I encourage you to learn more about our church governance at our website. There you can also find board meeting agendas and minutes, which will help you stay informed and up-to-date on board activity. The Board of Trustees is dedicated to the work of our church. We embrace and strive to represent the diversity of our beloved community. With that in mind, please reach out to your elected board members. We'd enjoy hearing from you and want to ensure that we are best representing our congregation.

As the hot summer days give way to hot fall days, I hope that you've found this summer to be a time of renewal and growth. August, for me, marks the temporary return of the monarch butterflies to our garden. Each year, I wait in eager anticipation of the first sighting, as their migratory route brings them through Missouri on their way to Mexico. I'm in awe of their beauty and inspired by their tenacity. I'm reminded that the garden is not my garden, but a space that I can cultivate to help my fellow travelers on their journey.

UUCC 'Dinners for 8' will begin new season

In an effort to bring UU adults together in homes of UUs, we will begin another year of "Dinners for 8." The dinners beginning in September are a great way to get acquainted and experience good food. The dinners are essentially theme potlucks that are organized in advance. Dates for the dinners in September, October, November, January, February and March will be suggested by the host in consultation with the randomly-chosen members of the host's dinner group.

In early December we have a Holiday Hors D'oeuvres Party, and in April we have a Spring Finale. Both events will take place at the church. Drinks for both events and entrees for the Spring Finale will be paid for from our dues.

Right now is a good time to email Linda Lou Brown (brownlindalou@icloud.com) to let her know you are interested in joining our groups. Please send your name, address and phone number, and let her know if you are able to host one or two times during the year.

Dues are \$25 for couples and \$12.50 for singles. You may pay your dues with a check designated for "UU Dinner Groups" and place it in the offering basket at church.

Bon Appetit!

Linda Lou Brown – 573-447-3939

Melinda Farhangi – 573-445-6325

Would you like to join a UUCC Chalice Circle? It will soon be time to sign up for 2019-20

Chalice Circles meet regularly to deepen and strengthen interpersonal connections, and encourage spiritual growth. They provide a place to share deeply with each other, to build lasting and caring relationships, and to strengthen our church's sense of community. Each Chalice Circle has seven to 10 members and meets at least once a month.

You can read more about Chalice Circles on our website at <https://uucomo.org/chalice-circles/>

If you would like to join a group, **starting Sept. 1** you will be able to sign up on our church website or on Sundays in the Greeting Area.

Summer Adult R.E.

Our final class in the exciting lineup of summer Adult R.E. is coming up on Aug. 6. This summer on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. fellow UUs have been offering talks or interactive workshops about their special areas of interest or expertise. Every session is open to all, and childcare is provided.

The Aug. 6 class is "Nature, Art and Spiritual Practice" and will be led by Melissa Ensign-Bedford.

We are working on exciting new ideas for fall 2019 programs. Watch *The Searchlight* for details.

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 is provided.

Fragrance sensitivity?

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

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. 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 be more comfortable and feel more radically welcome.

The Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (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, AIM Co-Chair

Shop and help UUCC at the 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-uucc-by-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-amazon-shopping-can-benefit-uucc/>

UUCC Caring Ministry

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

August focus for Festival of Sharing

For the month of August, the focus is on the “CWS (Church World Service) School Kit” project. These kits are for young students worldwide who would not otherwise have these supplies. The contents are:

- 1 pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- 1 30 cm (12-inch) ruler
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener (remove packaging)
- 1 large eraser (no pencil-cap erasers, please)
- 1 box of 24-count crayons
- 3 70-page spiral notebooks totaling 210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper, please)
- 1 12”x14” to 14”x17” finished size cotton or light-weight canvas bag with cloth handles (no bags with logos, please)

2,659 of these kits were shared in 2018. Collection boxes are available in the church Greeting Area.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

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.

News from your Social Action Team

Justice-making summit with Rev. Ashley Horan on Saturday, Sept. 7

We on the SAT believe this all-day seminar with a nationally recognized expert could be a game-changer for how we interact with each other and do our social justice work in the community. More information will be forthcoming. For now, block off the day on your calendar, and we’ll see you there.

Faith-to-Action nominations for 2019-2020

The Social Action Team has received 20 nominations for the 21 possible FTA collections during the 2019-2020 church year. At the Aug. 4 team meeting, the SAT will review the applicants. Look for an announcement soon on the church website of the approved recipients.

Loaves and Fishes continues and needs your help

Our church (along with many other local churches and groups) has a long-standing commitment to prepare and serve meals for our homeless and near-homeless neighbors once a month. Our turn is the third Sunday of each month. We often wonder if we’re going to get enough volunteers to cover food preparation, service and cleanup, and some months we barely do. Please consider signing up in advance. Our website administrator posts signups for several months (see “Non-RE Signups” on the website). We know that some of you out there are *planners*. Now’s your chance! Plan ahead! Sign up!

Pledge drive for Cito and Keyla

At the successful crêpe luncheon fundraiser on June 29, our Honduras Ministry raised more than \$350 in cash and received 26 pledges of \$125 each to help cover the cost of Cito and Keyla’s college education so they can continue to help their community in the Cangrejal River Valley in northern Honduras. While we have 26 pledges so far, our goal is 50 (to cover one year of expenses). If you would like to pledge \$125 to help this couple, and thereby make a positive difference in the community, please fill in your initials on the poster in the entry at church and send a check payable to UUCC for \$125, with “Honduras Education Fund” on the memo line. Also please send an email to Caya Tanski (cayasadhana@yahoo.com) so we can keep track of the contributions.

Programs and Events

There will be no 'Walk on the Wild Side' in August
See you in September for two opportunities –
Sept. 1 and Sept. 22

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays – Aug. 18 this month

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – Aug. 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 for more information.

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.

Conversations, Etc. – Noon Aug. 14

Conversations. Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet at noon Wednesday, Aug. 14 at church. Bring a brown bag lunch. Come and enjoy the company of friends. Questions? Contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642.

UUCC Book Discussion – 5 p.m. Aug. 9

The UUCC Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9 at Bamboo Terrace, 3101 W. Broadway, Suite 101. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. If you have questions, contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 or pspring@socket.net.

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.

Men's Group – Aug. 10 and 24

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.

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering – 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20

M'bon, the Second Harvest, and the Equinox. Once again the Earth stands for just a moment in perfect balance, then, as always, falls to the side once again, this time into darkness.

Gather with us at the church at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20. We will join in ritual, followed by a pot-luck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

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***

Reflections

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



I want to tell you about my summer vacation! This year, my family attended the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) for the first time, and it was such an incredible experience that I want to invite all of you to think about going next year.

MUUSA is a weeklong summer camp for UUs of all ages and from all over the Midwest, set at Trout Lodge, a YMCA property on Trout Lake in Potosi, Missouri. My family stayed in a lovely (and air-conditioned!) cabin, though there are also rooms in the lodge. All meals were served in a cafeteria, with unlimited pie.

Kids attend a day camp, divided by age, with lots of fun activities – sports, water play, arts, etc. – with wonderful counselors. The program was very accommodating of special needs, which meant a lot to my family. There was also nursery care for younger children.

For adults, there were lots of workshops, from contra dancing to tai chi to photography to learning about classism to beer tasting. I attended some, but spent plenty of time relaxing, reading, swimming and boating in the lake, and meeting other UUs from around the region. There were also morning and evening worship services you could attend to center yourself in this beautiful place.

This description doesn't do it justice. It was the sense of tradition, of families who have been coming back year after year, and the community that is created. We will definitely be returning. We hope to see you there! If you want to learn more, check out <https://muusa.org/>.

Sincerely,
Jamila Batchelder
Director of Religious Education



RE Volunteer Training 9 a.m.-noon Aug. 24

Our RE Program relies on volunteers like you! Get trained so that you can volunteer this year. We encourage both experienced and new volunteers to attend so we can share our collective wisdom for working with the extraordinary children of UUC. A bagel breakfast will be provided.

Service Sunday planning meeting at noon Aug. 4

Is your child excited about service projects? Are you? Attend our planning meeting to help brainstorm projects that we will work on this year. A potluck lunch will be provided.

August RE schedule

Aug. 4: Regular RE Classes

Aug..11: Service Sunday –
Grounds Work

Aug. 18: Regular RE Classes

Aug. 25: Intergenerational Sunday –
Water Communion



5th-6th Grade OWL Parent Orientation

This year we will be offering 5th-6th grade OWL for the first time! Classes will be held Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. starting Sept. 10. Parents must attend orientation in order for their child(ren) to participate. If you are interested in having your child(ren) participate, email DRE Jamila Batchelder at dre@uucomo.org.

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

Thursdays 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

Jeremy Wagner, Director of Music Ministry

Email: music@uucomo.org

April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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