



# 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 4, October 2019

## October Worship Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 6**  
**“Begin Again in Love”**

**Jeanne Snodgrass**

**Director of Mizrou Hillel Jewish Student Center**

One way we practice courage is by making amends and beginning again in love. On this closest Sunday to Yom Kippur, join our special guest Jeanne Snodgrass to learn what wisdom we can all take from the traditions of Judaism’s High Holidays.

**Sunday, Oct. 13**  
**“Loving Bravely”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us to explore together how we live through the spiraling dance of love and fear, discern the difference between discomfort and danger, and expand our comfort zones so that we can draw the circles of love and compassion in our lives wider and wider.

**Sunday, Oct. 20**  
**“Strengthening Our Hearts”**  
**UU Churchers**

Our Worship Associates have put together a meaningful lay-led service during which you will have the opportunity to hear several UU Churchers’ testimony about what “Courageous Love” means to them in their lives. Don’t miss this powerful sharing in community!

**Sunday, Oct. 27**  
**“Trying on Fear” – Halloween**  
**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and**  
**DRE Jamila Batchelder**

Join us for a fun and spooky exploration of fear on this Sunday before Halloween, which will be accessible for all ages. Why do we like to dress up in scary costumes and visit haunted houses? What do we have to learn about life by trying on fear at Halloween? UU Churchers of all ages are welcome to come to church in costume this Sunday!

### *Highlights of what’s inside*

Forum; X-ennial; Hike; Games; Workday .....	2
Adult R.E.; Honduras Trivia Night .....	3
President’s Perspective; Festival of Sharing .....	4
Honduras Luncheon Fundraiser; Social Action News.....	5
Programs and Events .....	6
Reflections .....	7

**2019-2020 worship theme – Living Our 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.*

**October’s theme is:**

## *Courageous Love*

*“Your heart is a muscle the size of your fist;  
keep loving, keep fighting.”*

– Ariel Gore

Last week my one-year-old bit an old reusable straw and broke off two small shards of hard plastic. One of the shards she spit out. The other shard was nowhere to be found.

She smiled at me and laughed while I panicked. I called the doctor’s office, learned there was nothing I could do but watch her for signs of distress, and spent the rest of the morning hovering around her, dripping fear like an anxious sweat, imagining all of terrible things that could happen to her tender little body.

Hours later, I found the second shard, which she had not actually swallowed, and all was well again, until the next inevitable scary incident. In the meantime, I have invested in metal straws.

I consider managing my own fear while sending my children progressively out into the world to be some of the most important and challenging work of my life. And so it goes with every beloved creature in our lives.

Loving someone is one of the most terrifying things we can do. When we love someone or something, we know that pain and loss are 100% guaranteed, at some time, one way or another.

But the beautiful paradox is, it is exactly the risk of love that makes us brave. Courage is the muscle we strengthen and build by loving.

This month’s theme is “courageous love,” but it could really just be “love” because loving is always the bravest thing we do. Join us this month to strengthen our hearts by using them. See you in church!

Rev. Molly

## Forum – October 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 co-ordinator: Bill Clark, 573-474-4510.**

**Oct. 6:** George Frisell will present again about another of the world's religions.

**Oct. 13:** Kim Wade will present "Climate Crises and Solutions."

**Oct. 20:** Kerry Clark, the international director for the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Foods and Natural Resources, will discuss the university's role in international agriculture.

**Oct. 27:** Joy Powell, the new assistant professor of musical theater in the University of Missouri Theatre Department, will update us on the future of musical theater in the department chaired by UU member Heather Carver.

### Rev. Molly's Office Hours

Rev. Molly's weekly Community Office Hours are at Kaldi's Coffee downtown from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Thursdays**. 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 by email to [minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org) or online at

<https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon>

## X-ennial Supper Club

**5:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20**

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, Oct. 20.

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



## Walk on the Wild Side

**1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27**

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.

## Accessible Games Night

**6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26**

Join the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Team for an inclusively designed evening of fun and games. From "Cards against Humanity" to "Scrabble," we will have games sure to suit any interest, along with adaptations to make them accessible for people with disabilities.

Snacks and beverages will be provided, along with transportation home upon request. Childcare can be provided with one week's notice.

Questions? Call Gretchen Maune at 573-489-0986 or email her at [gmmaune@gmail.com](mailto:gmmaune@gmail.com).

## UUC WORKDAY

**Saturday, Oct. 5 – 9 a.m. to noon**

**Please come and help take care of your church building –  
building community through shared labor**

**We will be working on:**

- **Cleaning and tidying kitchens, classrooms, Centering Room, Volunteer Office, Elevator Closet**
- **Cleaning refrigerators and windows**
- **Painting railings**
- **Removing Cobwebs**
- **And whatever else needs attention**

**The more the merrier!**

**Fall Adult Religious Education**

# **Resistance and Transformation: UU Social Justice History**

**6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 19**

**Kickoff Potluck – 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1**

Our fall Adult RE program, "Resistance and Transformation: UU Social Justice History," will be offered from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday evenings starting Oct. 1 and continuing through Nov. 19. We'll kick off the semester with a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 1.

Join teaching team Kyna Byerly, Tim Dickerson and Connie Ordway to learn about the social justice actions of our forebears and consider how to apply their lessons to our work today.

Curriculum authors Collin Bossen and Julia Hamilton write:

Grounded in the belief that even "failures" in our history can be instructive, this program presents the ongoing struggle of our tradition to live up to its ever-evolving ideals of social transformation. Themes include abolition, peace-making, civil rights, free speech, utopianism, counter-culture, the women's movements of both 19th and 20th centuries, sexuality education, and LGBT equality.

## ***Honduras Ministry Trivia Night Fundraiser***

**Nov. 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.**

The Honduras Ministry's 8th Annual Trivia Night fundraiser will be held at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 at UUCU to benefit our Honduras work. This is a change from our usual January or February date because our fifth service trip to Honduras is scheduled in late December and early January.

Funds raised at the Trivia Night will be used for latrine construction, urgently needed El Pital clinic supplies, scholarship funds for trip participants who otherwise wouldn't be able to make the trip, other projects that we will be asked to help out with, and to support the micro-finance group Adelante.

Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for students). There will be six people per trivia team. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at church on Sundays starting Oct. 20.

The event will feature child care, good food, a silent auction, 50-50-raffles, a chili cook-off, and, of course, much trivia fun! Bring chili to share by 5:45 p.m. for a chance to win a beautiful Honduran bag!



**El Pital Clinic**



## President's Perspective

# *Moving Through the Year(s)*

by Mindy McPherson, 2019-20 President

September marked the beginning of our church year. Are you feeling the energy surge flow through our community? Kids tumbling down the stairs for religious education. The music ministry swinging into high gear. Connections within our community being (re)established and nurtured. We're moving to the rhythm of our congregational ministry.

The natural world, likewise, is moving to the rhythm of the seasons: autumn, winter, spring and summer. Do you have a favorite? There is something that I love about each "distinct" time of year, but I particularly enjoy the transition from one season to another. I'm still waiting for the hot, steamy, late-Missouri summer to give way to crisp, cool nights, though I have started to see a few leaves turning maroon around the edges.

The seasonal changes, or the flip of the calendar, might suggest a time to start anew, to steady ourselves amidst change or to chart a new course. We reflect on the work of the past and move forward, adjusting our path or setting set new goals and intentions. The transitions can be exciting, filled with anticipation and intrigue. They can also be busy, overwhelming and stressful, as we strive to find a balance

and maintain our focus.

For me and my family, as well as many in our church community, September carried us deeper into the academic calendar. Parenting Schweitzer-aged children and being immersed in the world of higher education, I'm in a swirl of pedagogical thoughts and plans. I'm working to model, and encourage the development of, a growth mindset for my children and my students. Ask questions, dig for deeper understanding, revisit lessons with new perspectives, and continue developing as lifelong learners.

As we push through the transition to fall, we must take this opportunity to reflect upon our collective growth mindset and the work of our church community. Together we can use this seasonal change, this start of our church year, as an opportunity to ensure that our goals are set and our focus is sharp.

I encourage you to re-examine our mission and vision. Reflect upon our past intentions and efforts. Consider how we can challenge ourselves and work together as a multigenerational community committed to our own growth and committed to sparking growth in the wider world.

## Festival of Sharing 2019-2020

For the month of October, Festival of Sharing will focus on the Missouri Backpacks of Love project. These are targeted for children from ages 4-11. Each pack will consist of the following items:

- 1 small backpack (no wheels)
- 1 child's soft toothbrush
- 1 4-6 oz. tube of children's flavored toothpaste
- 1 T-shirt, child medium/large or adult small
- 1 small stuffed animal
- 1 child's narrow-tooth comb
- 1 package of 3 pairs underpants
- 1 pair of socks

In 2018, there were requests for 500 backpacks, but only 430 were provided. Through your generosity, UCC provided 12 backpacks in 2018. Many of the children who receive the backpacks would otherwise not have the items they provide.

Collection boxes will be available in the church Greeting Area.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair



### UCC Caring Ministry

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

## Joint Sanctuary Team and Honduras Ministry Team Luncheon Fundraiser

Sunday, Nov. 3  
after 11 a.m. worship



Please join us for a lunch with delicious Honduran tamales and other delicacies cooked by Yadira. There is no set price – please give as you wish and can. All donations will be split between the two ministries.

The Sanctuary Team will continue to support Yadira and family by supporting their sponsoring family. The Honduras Ministry will use the funds raised for latrine-building supplies and other needed items for their service trip in late December and early January. For more information contact Dottie Mathews at [dmathews@uuma.org](mailto:dmathews@uuma.org) or Allie Gassmann at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)

## A standing invitation from the UCC 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 UCC'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.

### Our presence on the web

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

## Social Action Team News

The Social Action Team enthusiastically participated in the Sept. 7 Justice-Making Summit with the Rev. Ashley Horan. We were energized to see 28 UCC members there to affirm our commitment to our various ministries of love in action in our community and beyond.

The SAT will continue its work along the fronts of economic justice, anti-racism and diversity as much as our forces allow. We invite any church member or friend who would like to find their social justice “sweet spot” (the intersection of their skill and their passion with community need) to join us in creating our agenda for this church year (i.e. in addition to our ongoing work).

We usually meet the first Sunday of each month in the Forum room after the second service; however, our October meeting will be the second Sunday, Oct. 13.

### Please mark your calendars:

Loaves and Fishes on Sunday,  
Oct. 20. Sign up here: <https://uucomo.org/blog/sheet/loaves-and-fishes-dinner-oct-20-2019>

Honduras & Sanctuary Teams  
Fundraising Luncheon  
Sunday, Nov. 3

Honduras Trivia Night  
Saturday, Nov. 16

Room at the Inn at UCC  
Dec. 8-22

Our Honduran siblings are in urgent need of solidarity: Please see this link from UUSC to see how you can help <https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/honduras-in-crisis-how-you-can-help/>

Honduras Solidarity Trip: Tentatively scheduled Dec. 28-Jan. 8. Email Allie Gassmann for more details at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)

## Programs and Events

### UU Life Writers

**10:30 a.m. Oct. 5 and 19**

"Crossroads" is the theme for the UU Life Writers' 20th year of great life stories. Bring pen/pencil/paper and memories and join us at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 and 19 in the Centering Room.

Call, text or email Fran Reynolds for further information.

### Conversations, Etc.

**Noon Oct. 9**

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet at the church at noon Wednesday, Oct. 9. Bring a brown bag lunch. Come and enjoy the company of friends.

Questions? Call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6326.

### UUCC Book Discussion 5 p.m. Oct. 11

The UUCC Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11. We meet 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](mailto:pspring@socket.net).

### 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.

### UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

**Oct. 20 this month**

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – Oct. 20 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 Pagan Gathering 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1

Samhein (sa-win), Year's Ending, and the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead grows thin. Now is the time to remember those who have passed and explore within ourselves those changes we need or want to make in our lives.

Gather with us at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1 at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship.

All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

### 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.*

### Men's Group 8 a.m. Oct. 12 and 26

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](mailto:millerwi@missouri.edu).

### Non-toxic Masculinity Men's Group 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7

The Non-Toxic Masculinity Men's Group meets at the church at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. The group serves cis-gendered, straight, white men who are working to detoxify their masculinity and privilege so that they can stop doing damage to others and become active allies of marginalized, groups.

For more information, contact Jeff Ordway.

### Mindfulness Meditation 10:05 a.m. on 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 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.



# REflections

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



This year at UUCC, we are focusing on our mission statement, how each of its components informs how we live in this world. We begin with "Courageous Love." What does it mean to love courageously? It is an active sort of love, one that requires more from us than just sitting around feeling warmly toward the world. We have to do something.

And young people are so often the ones who lead us in courageous love, like the work of youth activists in facing the climate crisis. To begin this month focusing on courageous love, we invite your family to attend the Children's March for our Earth on Oct. 6 from 2 to 3 p.m. starting at Courthouse Square, organized by our own Emma Winter (age 9).

For our Service Sunday on Oct. 6, we will be making signs for the march. Please bring cardboard and interesting recyclables (particularly colorful cap lids) to contribute to our sign making efforts. We are excited to be a part of this courageously loving action!

Sincerely,  
Jamila  
Director of Religious Education

## Pumpkin Carving Party 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27

Join us for a pumpkin carving party after service! Vegetarian chili will be provided, please bring other dishes to share. We will head outside (if the weather is nice) for pumpkin carving. We will provide carving materials and pumpkins for everyone who RSVPs (or bring your own!).



## Junior Youth Night 6:30-8 p.m. Oct. 11

Middle schoolers are invited for a night of pizza and board games (Pictionary, Taboo, and more).

RSVP to [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org).



## Join the R.E. Team!

Are you passionate about our religious education program and want to get involved in planning, decision making, and dreaming for our future?

The R.E. Team meets on the third Sunday of the month to brainstorm new ideas, solve problems, and help create our dynamic R.E. program.

Anyone who is interested is encouraged to email Jamila at [dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net).



## October Schedule

**Oct. 6:** Service Sunday – prepare for Climate March

**Oct. 13:** Regular RE Classes

**Oct. 20:** Regular RE Classes

**Oct. 27:** Intergenerational Service

## ***THE SEARCHLIGHT***

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

**Return Service Requested**

### **Our Staff**

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

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at church

Thursdays 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)

#### **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)

#### **Jeremy Wagner, Director of Music Ministry**

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

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

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

### **2019-2020 Board of Trustees**

Mindy McPherson, President

Michela Skelton Birk, President-Elect

Sam Buffaloe, Secretary

Jeremy Duke, Treasurer

Barbara Rupp, Past President

Gretchen Maune

Mark Johnson

Elaine Martin

Rebecca Graves

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.