

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 6, December 2019

December Worship

Worship schedule change

Only one service at 10:30 a.m. starting Sunday, Dec. 1

See details on page 2

Sunday, Dec. 1

“A Lesson on Gratitude”

Guest Preacher – Rev. Dr. CW Dawson

Join one of UUCC’s favorite guest preachers for a rousing and thought-provoking service. The Rev. Dr. CW Dawson is pastor of Dawson Journeys Ministry and teaches philosophy and religion at area colleges.

Sunday, Dec. 8

“Including You”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

What does it truly mean to be a community of expansive and open welcome? Join us to explore what it could entail to become a place of extravagant love and ever-deepening inclusion.

Sunday, Dec. 15

“Radical Unitarian Universalism”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

After focusing on the “welcome” part of our intention to create “radical welcome,” this Sunday we’re going to spend some time with “radical.” What does a radical Unitarian Universalism look like?

Sunday, Dec. 22

“Cradled in the Longest Night” Solstice Service

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

Join us to experience the peaceful rest of the darkness and the quiet return of the light as we mark the solstice in this meaningful service for all ages.

Sunday, Dec. 29

“Releasing and Re-Centering” New Year Service

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

Join us for our annual burning of the grudges and setting of intentions as we prepare to enter a new year together. This service for all ages will invite you to let go of the ending year and center your hearts as you enter 2020.

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.*

December’s theme is: *Radical Welcome*

*“Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves.
It is the first step toward dismantling
the barriers of the world.”*

– The Rule of Benedict

The archetype of the stranger exists in many of the world’s religious and mythic traditions – along with the understanding that encountering the stranger will always change us, sometimes for the better and sometimes not.

Welcoming another into your community, home, heart or life is always a risk because it is an opening to the unknown. And yet, that opening is one of the most reliable ways we grow – it is how we dismantle the barriers of the world and of our own hearts. Many of those same religious and mythic traditions contain an encouragement or even a mandate to welcome the stranger.

Welcome is an easy word to say but a much harder idea to live. We want to believe that we are welcoming, but all too often we chafe at the changes and challenges that new folks bring to us. It is comfortable to welcome folks who fit in with how we already are, less so to invite the transformation that takes place when we welcome those with whom we feel uncomfortable.

Join us this month to explore what it takes and how we will grow when we say “Welcome into our community, heart, life” and mean it, even when it’s a challenge.

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

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Worship schedule change

Only one service at 10:30 a.m. starting Dec. 1

After deep consideration by the Worship Associates and with the full support of the Board of Trustees, we have made the decision to consolidate back to one worship service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings starting Sunday, Dec. 1.

There several reasons for this decision. We added an early service to relieve crowding in the sanctuary, but after giving it a good and committed try over four years, we found that the 9 a.m. service never really reached the critical mass necessary to be sustainable, averaging only around 20-30 in attendance. It seems that it is not the solution we are looking for at this time.

Additionally, we feel the early service is not currently the best use of the substantial volunteer and staff time it requires. We want refocus our energies, especially as we prepare to consider a major building improvement project.

We look forward to worshipping together again as one big community on Sundays!

Here are some ideas for how you can help ensure there is enough space for everyone and particularly for visitors:

- Park in the Shepard Elementary School parking lot and leave closer parking spaces for visitors. Even better, consider carpooling or biking to church!
- Move to the middle of your row in the sanctuary, thereby leaving the outer seats for late-comers and visitors.
- Use the front rows in the sanctuary.
- Look out for visitors who seem unsure where to sit on a Sunday and invite them to sit with you or help them find an empty seat.
- Encourage your children to sit up front on the RE rug before they head to class.

Holiday worship opportunities at UUCC

Advent Vespers – Tuesdays Dec. 3, 10, and 17 at 6 p.m.

Join us in the Centering Room before our “Holiday First Aid” classes (see page 5) each Tuesday leading up to Christmas for contemplative vespers services nurturing the peace of the season.

Holiday Blues Service – Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

This celebratory time of year can be painful for we who suffer grief, loss, family conflict, depression, and more. Join us in the Centering Room in the lower level for a service that takes seriously the blues that exist amid the merriment.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Services at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

A cookie reception will be offered between the two services. Your cookie contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Family Service – 6 p.m.

Join us for the traditional carols and candlelight, and a family-friendly telling of the Christmas story with an accessible message of hope.

Candlelight Service – 8 p.m.

Join us for the later service, with the traditional carols and candlelight, and a Christmas homily from Rev. Molly.

The choir wants YOU for Christmas Eve!

We are featuring a mass choir on Christmas Eve, and we hope many of you will participate! We will be performing the final two movements (“That Was a Christmas Long Ago” and “Alleluia!”) from Margaret Bonds’ “Ballad of the Brown King” at the 8 p.m. service. We need as many voices as we can to make it as powerful as it deserves to be. They are very fun songs and accessible. No music reading ability necessary, just a love for singing and fellowship.

Email Music Director Jeremy Wagner at music@uucomo.org for information or to express interest.

Pause, Savor and Reflect

by Mindy McPherson, 2019-20 President

On Dec. 21 at 10:19 p.m., we in the Northern Hemisphere will mark when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Capricorn, at 23.5° south of the equator. We will mark the winter solstice.

I read an online post recently that commented on how our modern culture celebrates this season: “alcohol, lights, shopping, overworking, overspending, comfort food and consumerism.” The message suggested that this time was once “a period of descent and rest, of going within our homes, within ourselves and taking in all that we have been through, all that has passed in this full year that is coming to a close.

How perfectly this idea of going inward connects to Rev. Dottie’s recent sermon highlighting some of the reasons why we, as individuals, *show up* at UUCC. As 2019 draws to a close, I encourage you to reflect upon *your* year with UUCC. How have you connected and explored? How have you grown and transformed? I also think it is timely during this hi-

bernal solstice to reflect inward as a beloved community and to consider all that has passed this year for *us* as a collective.

Make note that beginning Dec. 1, we will once again physically worship in one combined service on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. I find the timing of this poetic, as we can come together and evaluate together all that we have been through this past year.

Let’s pause and savor the longest period of darkness of the year, and perhaps turn our attention upward to marvel at our existence and the awe that bridges our past and present. I hope that you find peace and a time for reflection this season. I hope you find yourself with renewed energy and spirit for what the new year has to offer.

I hope you will be ready to focus outward and continue the important work of UUCC. Keep an eye out for communications from the Board and the Building Task Force, as we continue to evaluate the future of our physical space and the vision for our community.

Founders’ Day Service Auction is coming

Jan. 25, 2020

Now is the time to think about your service donation

Are you excited? We Auction Team members sure are! The Founders’ Day Auction is UUCC’s premiere soirée, and for a mere \$10, you will enjoy a fun and festive fête when we get together to raise money for the church, enjoy music, drinks, food, and the opportunity to win the service of your dreams!

So, two things –

One: Save the date -Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, 6:30—8:30 p.m. Reserve your tickets at \$10 each.

Two: We need donations! Since this is a service auction, think of a service (little or big) that you could offer.

- Can you babysit, pet-sit, or house-sit?
- Do you cook or repair things?
- Are you good at music, painting or photography?
- Do you have sports tickets you could donate or a weekend or overnight hide-away?
- Can you teach someone a craft or mend some clothes?
- Surely you can dust, right?

Groups could offer to do yard work, car detailing, window washing or paint a room in someone’s house. Be creative. What makes you special? Share it!

Look for the auction button on our website home page at <https://uucomo.org/> to make a service donation, sign up to bring food or help with the auction, and purchase auction tickets.

Building Task Force plans “Next Steps Weekend” Dec. 6-8



As our congregation has grown in size and in commitment to social justice over the last few years, we have become more aware of the critical role our building plays in our mission. How can we be about radical welcome when our **space is not fully accessible**? How can we meet the diverse needs of all the ministries in the church - from children’s religious education to sheltering the homeless – even as **our numbers and ministries are growing**? How can we maintain a focus on justice when energy and resources are constantly diverted to building **repair and maintenance**?

To address these questions, the Board of Trustees formed a Building Needs Task Force (BNTF) to gather ideas, evaluate options, and lay a foundation for *Elevating Our Mission*.

Biggest Needs:

- A building with **accessibility** for everyone who shares in our mission;
- More **dedicated program/meeting space** so that we can meet the needs of our own ministries and those of outside groups using our space to educate and organize in line with our mission;
- More **office and storage space** to meet the particular needs of the staff and ministries that smooth and level the ways that lead us towards fulfilling our mission;
- **A low maintenance, highly energy efficient space** that will allow us more time and money to spend on our mission.

Options:

Based on a careful consideration of our options – to move somewhere else or stay and renovate – the task force determined staying and renovating is the most responsible use of our resources. The task force also determined that the project should be split into two phases.

Phase 1 Projects (in order of priority):

1. An ELEVATOR!
2. More dedicated program/meeting space
3. More office and storage space
4. Upgrades to the siding, the parking lot, flooring, and energy systems

Phase 2 Projects:

1. New Sanctuary
2. Convert old sanctuary to Fellowship Hall

Timeline:

- November 2017 – **The Board convenes the BNTF**
- Spring/Fall 2018 – BNTF articulates needs, evaluates options
- Winter 2018-2019 – **Simon Oswald Architecture (SOA)** hired
- Spring/Fall 2019 – SOA develops a **master plan** for the building and BNTF becomes the **Building Task Force (BTF)**
- **December 6-8, 2019** – “Next Steps Weekend” with **UUA consultant** to help determine the congregation’s readiness to move forward with Capital Campaign to support Phase 1. Email Patty Daus at buildingneeds@uucomo.org if you would like to participate.
- 2020 – Capital Campaign Decision
- 2021 and Beyond – Capital Campaign and Building Project

We welcome your input!

The BTF welcomes your ideas and questions as the project moves forward. As it proceeds, the number of things for which changes can be considered will decrease, so the earlier you are involved, the better! To share your input, email Patty Daus at buildingneeds@uucomo.org or visit with any of the BTF members you run into: Matthew Bossaller, Patty Daus, Kevin Fritsche, Rosann Geiser, Lawrence Lile, and Barbara Rupp. For more information:

- Read or listen to Rev. Molly’s sermon about our process so far and a vision for the future of our Beloved Community at <https://uucomo.org/blog/2019/02/26/feb-24-2019-reparations-and-soul-repair/>.
- Read the 15 page report compiled by the Building Needs Task Force (BNTF) in 2018 for more detail about our needs at https://uucomo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/building_needs_task_force_report_updated_2018-11.pdf.

Next Steps Weekend Dec. 6-8

Email Patty Daus at buildingneeds@uucomo.org to participate

Forum – December 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.

As the newsletter went to print, Forum programming for December had not been finalized.

Each week the topic for the next week will be announced at Forum.

Festival of Sharing

For the month of December, the Festival of Sharing focus is on the “Missouri Student Dental Pack” project. Each box will consist of the following items:

- 4 child-sized soft toothbrushes (in original package)
- 2 adult soft toothbrushes (in original package)
- 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz or more)

In 2018, there were requests for 4,816 packs state-wide, but only 2,460 were provided.

Please note that with “Room at the Inn” in the church from Dec. 8-22, the collection boxes will not be available. Please contact Bonnie Johnson at 573-442-4440 or bonniejohnson37@yahoo.com, or bring donated items to her on Sunday mornings.



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. You can schedule an appointment by email to minister@uucomo.org or online at <https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon>.

Please 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!

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.

Adult Religious Education

Thoughtful Tuesdays... **Holiday First Aid** with Rev. Molly

Join us for our Adult Religious Education mini-mester on Tuesdays Dec, 3, 10 and 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Centering Room to engage in some **Holiday First Aid with Rev. Molly** as we encounter this high-pressure time of year.

Bonus: Come at 6 p.m. before the class to enjoy a short, contemplative Advent Vespers Service with silence, poetry and song (see page 2).

Class schedule:

- **Dec. 3 – Caring for our Spirits:** Let's find a spiritual center for the holiday season with personal reflections and communal practices.
- **Dec. 10 – Caring for our Bodies:** We will discuss practices for nourishing and soothing the body during a time that can be filled with anxiety triggers, harmful diet-talk and more.
- **Dec. 17 – Caring for our Relationships:** Time to learn about Family Systems 101 and strategize how to hold good boundaries as the season sends us into proximity with people we love and struggle with.

UUCC will host “Room at the Inn” Sunday, Dec. 8-Sunday, Dec. 22 *Please be a volunteer!*

“Room at the Inn,” Columbia's emergency winter homeless shelter that moves among churches, will open at UUCC on Dec. 8, 2019. The success of the shelter depends on the participation of many volunteers.

Please be a volunteer! There many ways to volunteer and several ways to sign up. Connect to <https://roomattheinncomo.org/> and click on the volunteer button, or sign up at the table in our Greeting Area after worship services.

CROP Walk 2019 was a success

The Church World Service CROP Walk to raise funds for hunger relief in Columbia, across the U.S. and around the world took place on Sept. 15 at Stephens Lake Park. This year \$16,453 was raised. A quarter of this money will stay here in Columbia and go to various food pantries, St. Francis House and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. Thanks to all who donated to this cause!

– Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team

UUCC Caring Ministry

We need many hands and caring hearts!

Email Meredith Donaldson at

mjdonlson@gmail.com or call the church office at 573-442-5764 to volunteer.

Honduras Ministry Team and service trip updates

The Honduras Ministry Team held its eighth annual Trivia Night at the church on Nov. 16, and close to \$4,000 was raised. It was a fun night, and the team thanks everyone who came and who donated!

These dollars will be put to good use soon! 10 members of our team will be traveling to Honduras on Dec. 28 to build latrines and paint a school. They will be taking donations of children's summer clothes and school supplies. There will be a box under the wardrobe where donations can be left until Dec. 22.

In other exciting news, both Cito (the Honduran organizer of the team's work) and his wife Keyla are doing extremely well in their studies. There are several members of UUCC who are helping pay for their education. Cito is doing so well in his studies that he got a scholarship for a study trip to the United Kingdom!

– Allie Gassmann, Chair, Honduras Ministry Team

News from the Social Action Team – December 2019

Faith-to-Action Collections for December: Three Faith-to-Action collections are scheduled for the month of December. Please consider supporting these organizations when the collection plate comes your way on these Sundays – Dec. 8, Room at the Inn; Dec. 15, Loaves & Fishes; and Dec. 22, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Can't make the Sunday service or Forum on one of these days? We'll miss you! But you can still drop off or send in a contribution any time in December, with a check made out to UUCC and something in the memo line to alert the Church Administrator that the check is for one (or more) of the Faith-to-Action recipients. Information on these organizations and all the other Faith-to-Action recipients for the year is on the website.

Collaboration with Adult Religious Education: Part of the "Scope of Activity" of the Social Action Team is "*Educating ourselves and the congregation on issues of social justice ... and providing opportunities for the congregation to become more educated on those issues.*" This sounds to us a lot like Adult Religious Education, and certainly fits the definition of some of the classes that have been offered. After some discussion, we designated a representative to join the Adult Religious Education team.

Innovations in Loaves and Fishes volunteer food signup: We have arranged with Patchwork Family Farms to provide pork for a main dish, with the cost being billed by Patchwork to the church. If you sign up for this main dish option, you will need to obtain the pork from Patchwork and prepare it for delivery to Loaves and Fishes. Policy on food purchases for other signup items remains the same: You are welcome to submit receipts to the church for reimbursement, subject to the availability of funds in the Loaves and Fishes reserved fund. Why did we implement this change? Support for local agriculture is strong within our congregation; for example, the Columbia Center For Urban Agriculture and the Missouri Rural Crisis Center (which is the umbrella organization for Patchwork Family Farms) are both scheduled for Faith-to-Action collections in April. This ensures that, at least 12 times a year, our church is directly supporting local food production.

Standing with Solidarity: The Social Action Team has designated a representative to the Solidarity Network, which is planning for another rally and march this winter. Many UUs have attended past events. Thank you, Vic Myers!

Change in team chair: Caya Tanski has embarked on a course of professional development that is demanding of her time, and she asked to step away from the SAT Chair position, at least for the time being. Accordingly, Fred Young has volunteered to be chairperson. We thank Caya for her time and attention to "All Things SAT," wish her well in her endeavors, and hope for her re-engagement later in the spring.

Sanctuary Team Update

Our team was initially formed after our congregational vote in April of 2017 to officially declare ourselves a Sanctuary Congregation. The team did good work to prepare for an eventual guest in our building. However, as of now, none of our migrant friends have needed to take the drastic step of seeking sanctuary here at UUCC.

Given that reality, our team has officially renamed ourselves the **Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team**. Of course, we will remain ready to respond quickly should a need arise, but in the meantime, we are working hard on many avenues of pursuing justice for our immigrant friends and neighbors in and near Columbia.

On Nov. 3 we held a Tamale Lunch fundraiser after the second service. The food was once again extraordinarily delicious, and the time of fellowship was truly enjoyable. The proceeds were split between the asylum-seeking family we are helping to support and the Honduras Team. Thanks to all who came out to offer their generous support for these important causes!

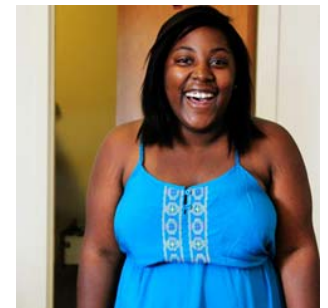
If you would like to get involved in the work of this team, please contact the co-chairs, Allie Gassman at alliegassman@socket.net or Dave Gibbons at dgibbons@mchsi.com.

Sharing our space with Missouri Faith Voices

In expression of our partnership with Missouri Faith Voices and our intention to leverage our facility for the work of liberation, the UU Church of Columbia is proudly donating office space for Missouri Faith Voices Columbia Organizer Brittany Hughes.

Brittany is the regional organizer for Columbia's chapter of the grassroots organizing group Missouri Faith Voices. Originally from Aliceville, Ala. Brittany spent most of her school age years in St. Louis. Her passion for this work is derived from her love of black folks and the desire to see the collective liberation of BIPOCs not only in America but globally. When she isn't working, Brittany enjoys a good book, cooking, music, and grabbing drinks with friends.

Brittany is using our volunteer work room and sharing space with Jeremy Wagner. If you're around on a weekday and run into Brittany, ask her about her work and share our warm UUCC welcome!



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. Help us shape and strengthen our work. There are 5 important aspects of our 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)

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 Welcoming Team Offers

**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 10:30 a.m. worship service for about 30 minutes. Childcare is provided.

Programs and Events

Kaleidoscope Pagan Gathering

**Friday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
in Ashland**

Join us to celebrate the return of the Sun, the symbol of hope and the promise of returning warmth, at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20.

We will be meeting in Ashland. For directions, email kaleidoscope@ucom.org.

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

UU Life Writers 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 only

We will meet in the Centering Room downstairs at the church.

Conversations, Etc. Noon Wednesday, Dec. 11

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC Women's Group, will meet at church at noon Dec, 11. This is our annual Christmas Potluck. Do come and enjoy the company of friends. If you wish to attend and have not signed up, please contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 or pspring@socket.net.

UUCC Book Discussion New day, time and location! Noon Saturday, Dec. 14 at Surah Restaurant

We are trying a new place! The group will meet at Surah Korean Cuisine and Barbeque, 3510 I-70 SE Drive, at noon Dec. 14.

Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. For more information, contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 or by email at pspring@socket.net.



No Walk on the Wild Side in December

Mindfulness Meditation 9:30 a.m. on Sundays

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

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.*

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

Dec. 15 this month

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month – Dec. 15 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 8 a.m. Dec. 14 and 28

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. Monday, Dec 2

The Non-Toxic Masculinity Men's Group meets at the church at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each 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.

Reflections



This month we are exploring the theme of “radical welcome” at UUCC, and I have reflecting on the gap between how radically welcome we believe ourselves to be in theory and how we actually embody it in practice.

We imagine welcoming a cute and cuddly child of a marginalized identity with ease. But what if the child is not so cute and cuddly? What if they come to us with distrust over entering a community that is mostly composed of people of the very majority identity that has marginalized them? What if they come to us with a history of trauma? What if they are angry, or aggressive, or acting out? What if they come to us simply with different cultural norms that do not fit easily into the particularities of UUCC culture?

Would our first instinct be to feel that they are falling short of us instead of us falling short of them? These are big questions, and ones that I think we need to reflect on as we work toward true radical welcome in our program. I think the very first step is acknowledging that radical welcome is not an easy practice and requires of us deep self-reflection and then active effort on our parts in welcoming those truly most in need of it. So many of you embody this regularly in your volunteer ministry in our RE program, and are an inspiration to me daily. I so look forward to continuing this work with our amazing community that is committed to moving radical welcome from theory to practice.

Sincerely,
Jamila
Director of Religious Education

Simple Gifts Workshop Noon-2 p.m. Dec. 8

Families are invited to join us at our annual gift-making workshop! We will have a variety of crafts, most appropriate for children ages 4-10. We will have childcare for younger children who are too young for crafting.

We will begin with a bagel brunch and tree decorating upstairs, and then move downstairs for crafts. Please RSVP to Jamila at dre@uucomo.org so we have enough supplies. We also welcome volunteers!



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

Junior Youth Night 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12

Junior Youth will be making forts and playing sardines. RSVP to dre@uucomo.org.



7th-9th grade OWL sexuality education classes this winter at UUCC

We will be offering our 7th-9th grade OWL classes from noon to 2 p.m. on Sundays from Jan. 12 to April 5.

If you are interested in having your child participate in the program or in learning more, email dre@uucomo.org.



December Schedule

- Dec. 1:** Service Sunday – make cookies for Room at the Inn
- Dec. 8:** Regular RE Classes
- Dec. 15:** Regular RE Classes
- Dec. 23:** Intergenerational Service – Solstice
- Dec. 30:** Intergenerational Service: Celebrating the New Year

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

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

Email: dre@uucomo.org

Jeremy Wagner, Director of Music Ministry

Email: music@uucomo.org

Hans Bridger Heruth, Accompanist

Email: music@uucomo.org

April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant

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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
or mail to Church Administrator.

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