



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 12, June 2020

June Worship

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. - Online Only

Sunday, June 7

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Sunday, June 14

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Sunday, June 21

Rev. Dr. CW Dawson, Theologian-in-Residence

Sunday, June 28

“Practices that Center” – Cande Iveson
with reflections from UU Churchers

Worship services are offered via Zoom on “Webinar Setting,” which means the only video and audio will be from presenters. They will be followed by a weekly digital coffee hour where you will be able to see, hear and visit with each other.

The web address for our weekly Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship is:

<https://zoom.us/j/380411489>

You can also join by phone:

312-626 6799

Webinar ID: 380 411 489

The web address for our weekly 11:30 a.m. coffee hour is:

<https://zoom.us/j/652315354>

You can also join by phone:

312-626 6799

Webinar ID: 652 315 354

If you have any trouble accessing the technology to join us, please send a note to techhelp@uucomo.org with your contact information, and someone will reach out to you to help!

Rev. Molly’s online office hours

Rev. Molly’s weekly online office hours are Tuesdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/2115663859>.

She is also happy to meet by appointment. You can schedule by email to minister@uucomo.org. 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.

Minister’s June message

In a 2019 interview for the UU LGBTQ history project, the Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie remembered her ministry among the LGBTQ Unitarian Universalist community at the height of the AIDS epidemic, when another invisible and deadly virus tore its way through a community, was treated with criminal negligence by the powers that be, and changed everything about what it meant to be human in the world.

In reflecting on this time, Rev. Harvie remembered the words of a gay man named Paul Richards, to whom she ministered as he died of AIDS. Even as his body failed him, he told her: “In all this madness, even if it kills every single one of us and there’s no one left to tell the stories, it matters that we love each other well.” Last week, I read these words in a reflection by another UU minister, Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, and I was stopped dead in my tracks. “Even if it kills every single one of us and there’s no one left to tell the stories, it matters that we love each other well.”

Viruses are merciless in taking advantage of human intimacy. And yet it matters, to the utmost, that we love each other well. And so, in a time of epidemic, love and fear do a close and clumsy dance.

We have reached the era in this epidemic where we settle in for the long haul. We are realizing that this dance will be a long one, and the right steps are not as clear as we would hope. Can I visit my parents, if we’ve all been careful for months? Can I hug a friend who suffered a loss, if we’re both wearing masks? Am I endangering people I love? Am I in danger? The questions are excruciating and compounded by the unjust systems that make everything more impos-

Continued on page 3

Highlights of what’s inside

Annual Meeting; President’s Message.....	2
Adult RE; Welcome Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson.....	3
Festival of Sharing; Honduras; Social Action; Weekly Activities.....	4
Caring Ministry; Helping Others; Online Pledge Payments; Sanctuary Team.....	5
Programs and Events.....	6
Reflections.....	7

June 7 UUCC Annual Meeting

by Mindy McPherson, 2019-20 President

At 1 p.m. Sunday, June 7, we will hold our yearly church meeting. We will meet virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. This offers a more collaborative space for our meeting than does the Zoom webinar platform that we're currently using for worship services.

In the Zoom meeting, we will be able to share our video and audio (both through phone and computer/tablet). This will provide functionality to ask questions and discuss with one another in real time. As dictated by state statutes, written ballots will be distributed for voting after the meeting.

Agenda items will include election of new board members and approval of the annual budget. There will be a slate of five nominees to fill the vacant and expiring board positions, including one one-year term, one two-year term and three three-year terms.

The board has worked closely with Rev. Molly in the preparation of a conservative budget for the upcoming fiscal year. As we expect a decrease in pledge income due to COVID-19 related circumstances, the budget is balanced by thoughtful cuts to the accrual, board-directed and professional expense lines and draws on the surplus reserve fund. We did secure a Small Business Association (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program loan. This funding will be used to meet payroll needs.

Information about the board nominees and the budget details is available on the church website.

As we look to summer, I want to welcome our Philosopher-in-Residence, Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson. I look forward to a vibrant season of learning and growth under the leadership of Rev. Molly, Rev. Dr. Dawson and our lay Worship Associates. I want to give a special thanks to Sam Buffalo, Gretchen Maune and Barbara Rupp as their board terms come to an end this month. I look forward to connecting with the five new board members. Together we will continue the important work of realizing our shared vision through thoughtful policy making, resource allocation and program evaluation. We will continue to carefully consider our work and evaluate the impact that it will have on UUCC both now, in the uncertain times of COVID-19, and in the future. There is much to contemplate. How has the experience of pandemic disease impacted our community? How do we *now* view our mission and vision? What does church life look like in the coming months and beyond?

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting 1 p.m. Sunday, June 7, 2020

The Board of Trustees has scheduled the Annual Congregational Meeting online via Zoom or via telephone at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, 2020. Business to be conducted at the meeting is as follows:

1. Approval of the proposed 2020 218 operating budget.
2. Election of Board of Trustees members.
3. Presentation of reports.

Written ballots will be mailed out following the meeting. For the election to be considered valid under state law, the number of votes cast must equal or exceed the quorum requirement for the meeting, which is 51 voting members. A majority vote will be required to approve each matter voted upon. Members will be informed of the voting results by email as soon as possible after the votes have been counted.

More information about agenda items, board candidates and a sample online ballot will be made available on the church website at https://uucomo.org/annual_meeting/ before the Annual Meeting, and members will be advised by email when the information is available.

To join the online Annual Meeting on June 7 via Zoom:

[https://zoom.us/j/95048620178?
pwd=eXFoYjVhMWFnSFYvVDBwQUVZOC9tdz09](https://zoom.us/j/95048620178?pwd=eXFoYjVhMWFnSFYvVDBwQUVZOC9tdz09)

Meeting ID: 950 4862 0178

Password: 053649

To join the Annual Meeting on June 7 via telephone:

Dial: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 950 4862 0178

Password: 053649

As my year serving as your President comes to an end, I find myself circling around the sentiment offered by Rev. Margaret Weis in her affirmation, "The Church has Left the Building" – "The church is not a place; it is a people. (...) For the church is us – each and every one of us – together, a beacon of hope to this world that so sorely needs it." Over the course of my service on the board, I've learned a great deal about our church governance and operations. I've also been blessed to learn more about *the* church, about you. You give me hope. You give the world hope.



Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson

UCC welcomes Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson

From May 11 to Sept. 6, 2020, The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson will be our Philosopher-in-Residence offering weekly education opportunities on subjects such as Black Humanism, Critiques of Capitalism, Dr. James Cone’s *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, and more.

He will also be preaching once a month, offering weekly office hours Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m., and providing written meditations to the congregation. Most gatherings will be held by Zoom until such time as gathering in person becomes advisable.

Dr. Dawson holds a Ph.D. in philosophy with specialization in social and political philosophy, ethics, and philosophy of race (African American secular and religious thought). He has published articles, facilitated discussions, and lectured on race and racism in various venues including here at UCC. Dr. Dawson is excited to be working with us this summer.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

Adult Education – online at 7 p.m. May 26 and June 2, 9 and 16

Black Humanism

Presented by

**The Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister, and
The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson, Philosopher-in-Residence and Facilitator**

“Black humanism is antithetical to traditional Western theism, black or white, but we can label it non-religious only if we equate religion and theism.”

From William R. Jones, *Is God A White Racist?*

Black humanists understand humanism as a process, an existential process by which one finds and lives his/her humanity. To be human is to direct one’s own life; therefore, Black Humanism calls for a seizure of decision making and implementation for oneself. Gaining power is an essential element of humanism. Some of the questions we will ponder will include: Is human autonomy possible in the modern world? How are freedom and evil related? What is the relationship of faith and reason? Is there a process of being moral without God? Is an inclusive community possible as a Humanist? Sessions will be presented via Zoom on Tuesday evenings. Please join us.

Session 1 – May 26, *What is Black Humanism?* Read: Anthony Pinn, “Anybody There? Reflections on African American Humanism,” <http://humanists.org/publications/journal/anybody-there-reflections-african-american-humanism>.

Session 2 – June 2, *Black Humanism and Suffering*. Read: “Black humanism’s response to suffering,” <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/black-humanism-response-suffering>.

Session 3 – June 9, *Religion, the Black Experience, and Humanism*. See “Black Humanism I: Being African American & Nonreligious, S.1,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTHIh2Ii2b8>.

Session 4 – June 16 - *Humanism from a Theistic Perspective*.

Minister’s June message

Continued from page 1

sible. Our answers will not all be the same.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are clear that following the best wisdom of science and protecting life is a big part of loving each other well. And, as Unitarian Universalists, we know that our interconnection will always unfold in ways we cannot predict. In the end, even our best efforts to mitigate risk cannot give us absolute control. Instead, we must live our lives in each moment, each next step, without clear answers, but centered on the question: “What does it mean to love well, in this moment?” Though starkly visible now, this has always been true. And Unitarian Universalists have always been a people who live the questions.

As we continue to reimagine our ministries for a time of physical distance, our congregation will also be living this question. What does it mean right now to love each other well? To protect one another and to reach out? How can we practice radical welcome and deep connection in new and hopeful ways? What does it mean to embody courageous love and to also do our part for the healing of the world?

There is no one with whom I’d rather live these questions, or do this close and awkward dance.

I miss you. I love you. And still, I’ll see you (online) in church.

Love, Rev. Molly

Weekly activities to stay connected

Wednesdays at noon

Midweek Mid-day Centering Moment

Hosted by Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join your fellow UU Churchers for a 30-minute midweek check-in with a chalice lighting, reading or practice, and time for sharing joys and sorrows.

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Virtual Choir Hangout

Hosted by Jeremy Wagner

Fridays at 1 p.m.

Crafting Club

Hosted by Robin Yoerger Duple

Join UU crafters and friends to share ideas or simply chat while knitting, crocheting or crafting from the comfort of your home.

Social Action news June 2020

Loaves and Fishes and the pandemic

Our regular third Sunday meal at Loaves and Fishes on May 17 was, again, modified by the need to maintain safe social distancing. This time, we had signups for bringing complete boxed meals. The congregation responded, and all slots were filled. Thank you! Currently, the City of Columbia is providing trained staff to manage food distribution for Loaves and Fishes.

As of this writing, it is unclear what the situation will be for the next Loaves and Fishes meal, which will be June 21. The Social Action Team will discuss this and make a decision on our procedures at our regular monthly meeting in June. Anyone is welcome to provide input, regardless of whether or not you are on the team. But, please consider joining the Social Action Team!

Faith-to-Action goes virtual

In May we resumed Faith-to-Action collections using PayPal during Zoom services as well as accepting mail-in checks. The collections have been successful so far – yay! Thank you for your generosity.

Faith-to-Action nominations for 2020-2021 church season are open

The Social Action Team welcomes your nominations for Faith-to-Action collections starting with September 2020. You may submit a nomination online or in writing. Please submit nominations no later than July 15. Nominations received after this date will be considered if openings are still available. As of this writing, we have received only one nomination – for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Festival of Sharing June 2020

We are restarting the Festival of Sharing by repeating the call for Missouri Family Food Boxes. These are targeted for families with low incomes. We are asking for this project a second time this year because of the coronavirus-driven need for food. Each box will consist of the following items:

- 3 different cans of vegetables
- 3 different cans of fruit
- 3 cans of chicken
- 3 cans of tuna
- 1 can of pasta sauce
- 1 lb pasta (any type)
- 3 packages macaroni and cheese
- 1 jar of peanut butter

There is a great need for the food boxes. In 2019 there were requests for 6,953, but only 2,119 were provided. Your generosity allowed UCC to provide 11 boxes. Collection boxes are available in the church greeting area.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

Honduras Ministry update

Honduras, like most countries around the world, is affected by the pandemic and is under stay-at-home type orders. But Cito and Keyla, our partners with the latrine work, are staying very busy. They are continuing their education to become teachers. Thanks to UCC donations, they have finally been able to buy a computer – now even more critically important than before the pandemic. In addition, Keyla is working with the elementary school children of the village to make sure they keep busy with worksheets and other educational materials. Both Cito and Keyla are part of a volunteer brigade to screen all people wanting to enter the river valley to make sure they aren't likely to have COVID-19 and to disinfect all cars coming into the river valley. So far their river valley has not had a single COVID-19 case, and they are working hard to keep it that way. Cito's sister Jenny has been busy making masks, though fabric is hard to come by.

The UCC Honduras Ministry continues to send \$400 monthly to the health clinic and continues to support the microfinance group Adelante with a yearly financial donation. We are very fortunate that we were able to send a Honduras Team delegation to Honduras in December/January before the pandemic closed down such travel for the foreseeable future

– Allie Gassmann, Honduras Ministry Chair
alliegassmann@socket.net

Consider donating to help others during the coronavirus emergency

UUCC benevolence funds

You can donate to our church's benevolence funds at <https://uucomo.org/donate/>. Be sure to note "benevolence funds" as the purpose of your donation.

Other community organizations

Other community organizations working to help those in need during the crisis include:

Community Foundation of Central Missouri's COVID-19 Regional Relief Fund

<https://cfcmfoundation.org/donations/covid-19-regional-relief-fund/>

COVID-19 Crisis Shelter for the Unhoused <http://comocrisisshelter.com/>

The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri COVID-19 Response

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E164454&id=77>

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team (SIJT) news

The Faith Voices of Columbia Immigrant Justice Team drafted and sent an open letter to Sheriff Carey, local law enforcement and public health officials seeking more information on how they are ensuring the health and safety of both incarcerated individuals and staff at the Boone County Jail during the time of the current pandemic. Over 150 signatures were collected, with the UUCC SIJT, the Social Action Team and many other individual UUCC members signing on as well. The SIJT is particularly concerned about undocumented migrant individuals who have not committed any crimes and are not a threat to society but are kept in the jail. Sheriff Carey had not responded at press time.

SIJT is continuing to help support the local asylum-seeking Honduran family. The pandemic has hit the family hard. There are many ways to assist others at this time, and if anyone would like to get involved with assisting the family we are supporting, please contact Allie Gassmann (alliegassmann@socket.net or phone 573-356-1210) or Dave Gibbons (dgibbons@mchsi.com or phone 573-864-2161).

**There will be no
Walk on the Wild Side
in June**



**UUCC Caring Ministry
needs many hands and
caring hearts!**

The Caring Ministry Team is based on the belief that we are all inherently worthy of care and meaningful connections with others. This ministry provides support in times of celebration and challenge. Support may include cards, calls, visits, meals, and assistance with errands, transportation, or other needs. There are many church members and friends who perform and support caring ministry activities. Please consider joining our team and/or helping out periodically.

Those needing help should contact the team in a time of need. We can help in many ways:

- **Do you need temporary meals at home?**
- **Do you need telephone contacts?**
- **Do you have a financial emergency?**

Email Meredith Donaldson at mjdonlsn@gmail.com or call the church office at 442-5764 if you need help or want to volunteer to help

Online pledge payments

UUCC members and friends can easily continue their regular pledge payments and gifts online while we engage in virtual worship. Just go to <https://uucomo.org/financial-support/#Pay> and fill out the brief form there to make your payments.

Our website address is <https://uucomo.org>

Visit for information on church activities and our online calendar of events.

Programs and Events

UU Life Writers

UU Life Writers are in the process of putting together their second anthology of writings, "Stories – Just Stories 2011-2020." We hope that everyone who participated in the group in those years will contribute one to three stories.

We will meet virtually or in person the first and third Saturdays in June to work on the anthology – and to write, of course! If the building is open, we will meet in the Centering Room; otherwise we will meet at Grindstone Park. For information and anthology guidelines, email Fran Reynolds.

Conversations, Etc.

Noon Wednesday, June 10
via telephone

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet at noon Wednesday, June 10 via free telephone conference. Join us to enjoy the company of friends. If you have questions, call Melinda Farhangi at 445-6325.

UUCC Book Discussion

5 p.m. Friday, June 12 online

The group will meet online at 5 p.m. Friday, June 12. We discuss books we are currently reading in a brief manner. If you have questions, contact Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 or pspring@socket.net.

Green Sanctuary Team Meeting

7 p.m. Thursday, June 4 online

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, June 14 online

Send an email to Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net for details.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Kaleidoscope Pagan Gathering

Saturday, June 20

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 on Saturday, June 20. Time and venue (Zoom or in person) will be announced closer to the event. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Revelio Como

1 p.m. Sunday, June 14 online

The local "Harry Potter and the Sacred Text" group meets on the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Join us to use rigor and sacred practices to explore along with the podcast.

For more information, email April Rodegghero at rodegghero@gmail.com or Jamila Batchelder at dre@uucomo.org. Check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/796589344101673/?ref=share>

Men's Group

8 a.m. June 13 and 27 online

The UUCC Men's Group ordinarily meets in person on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of each month. The group has now arranged for online meetings. For more information, contact Wiley Miller at 573-864-8574 or millerwi@missouri.edu.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

June 21 this month

While we are not certain, we believe that this month's procedures will remain the same as May's. Loaves and Fishes Director Ruth O'Neill has instructed all participating groups to provide boxed/sack meals. The Social Action Loaves and Fishes Team requested that chicken, beef or vegetable meals be provided by congregants. Be on the lookout for more information.

You can support this effort by making an online donation at <https://uucomo.org/donate>, specifying "Loaves and Fishes Fund." Email Diane Suhler at drsuhler@ccis.edu for more information.

Non-toxic Masculinity Men's Group

7 p.m. Monday, June 1 online

Contact Jeff Ordway at 573-476-2834 or ordwayj63@live.com for meeting information.

Status of unlisted meetings

Please contact your team leader if you are unsure of meeting status. We do know that the Xennial Supper Club is still on hold, and at press time the Social Action Team had not settled on a date and time for June.

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.

Reflections

MISSION: CONNECTION

We close our regular religious education year with much appreciation for the many volunteers who nurtured the children of UUCC this year. And we prepare for the summer!

The theme for our summer children's programming will be "Mission: Connection." Central to our mission at UUCC is the creation of deep connection. As the pandemic keeps us physically apart, we will explore how we can creatively work to fulfill our mission – not just for ourselves but as part of our service to others.

We are still sorting out the details, so look for updates on how and when we will meet remotely. I look forward to connecting in new and exciting ways with all of our RE families!

– Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

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
Friday, June 12
6:30-8 p.m.

We will be continuing Junior Youth into the summer – at the request of our youth! We may even expand it to twice a month. We won't be able to eat pizza together, but we will still have fun together. For our next meeting, we will be watching a movie.



Thank you R.E. Volunteers!

Potter Class:

Shannon Beck
Crystal Buffaloe
Barbara Carter
Kevin Fritsche
Julie Ladehoff
Tracey Milarsky
Sarah Oldfather
Sarah Williams

Schweitzer Class:

Camden Daily
Kasi Darnell-Tibbs
Scott Denson
Mindy McPherson
Martha Stanton
Nancy Zamora

Thoreau Class:

Jack Draper
Ruth Milledge
Jeremy Winter
Julie Ladehoff

Adams Family Class:

Mel James
Paul Litton
Jeremy Milarsky
Erin Powell
Lindsey Smith
Sara Shipley Hiles

YUUTs:

Kara Braudis
Iyesatu Kamara
Bush
Stacie Pottinger
Lindsey Smith

Service Sunday:

Kathie Bergman
Tim Dickerson
Jack Draper
Connie Ordway
Gena Scott
Lindsey Smith

YRUU:

Chris Birk
Cortney Bouse
Joe Collins
Holly Daily
Luke Daily
Kinjal Majumder

Junior Youth:

Becky Scott
Qhyrrae Michaelieu
Martha Stanton

OWL:

Amie Burling
Luke Daily
Tim Dickerson
James Gordon
Ginny Winter

Summer RE:

Jim Carrel
Jan Weaver

Subs:

Jenny Bossaller
Joe Collins
Melissa Collins
Robin Duple
James Gordon
Jeff Ordway
Sarah Smith
Michela Skelton
And many more!

Nursery/Childcare Staff and Classroom Aides:

Ellie Abernathy
Madison Bellamy
Leela Cullity
Eva Ewing
Levin Garson
Naomi Garson
Leah Glasser
Taylor Gill
Isaac Milarsky

RE Team:

Tracey Milarsky
Becky Scott
Lindsey Smith
Jeremy Winter

Plus many
guest speakers,
people who
volunteered
logistical support or
special skills,
and so much more!
Thank you all!

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, Collaborative Accompanist

Email: music@uucomo.org

April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant

Email: uuchurch@uucomo.org

2019-2020 Board of Trustees

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

The Searchlight is published monthly by the
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Email to uuchurch@uucomo.org
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