



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

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August Worship

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

Sunday, Aug. 2
“How Do We Find Truth?”
Sam Otten and Guests

Join us for this installment in our Summer Series on “Our Theological Diversity.” Hear from some of your fellow UU Churchers about how they approach our free and responsible search for truth!

Sunday, Aug. 9
“Where Do You Place Your Trust?”
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and Guests

Join us for this installment in our Summer Series on “Our Theological Diversity.” Hear from Rev. Molly and some of your fellow UU Churchers about where we find trust in this time of shifting ground and struggling institutions.

Sunday, Aug. 16
“What Makes a Place Sacred?”
Jeff Ordway and Guests

Join us for this installment in our Summer Series on “Our Theological Diversity.” Hear from some of your fellow UU Churchers about what spaces they find most sacred, and what makes a space sacred, anyhow?

Sunday, Aug. 23
“No Monsters”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

How do we grapple with the human role in terrible harm and suffering when we remember that, in the words of adrienne maree brown, “there are no monsters, just flawed selfish limited human beings.” How do we hold someone’s humanity next to their monstrous deeds? These questions apply to conversations about abolition and transformative justice, reparations and the sins of our ancestors, and our very own Universalist theology.

Sunday, Aug. 30
“The Water is a Healer”
UU Church Staff

Join us for an incredibly special multi-media water ceremony. We will share some exciting video projects, beautiful music, and a shared ritual from home. After blessing our water at home during the online service, UU Churchers will be invited to a “Drive-Through Water Gathering” in the afternoon to mingle our waters and blessings in a safe manner. We will later deliver vials of our collected UU-style “holy” water to your porches for you to use throughout this strange time of staying connected while apart.

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From the Minister

“Funny” by Anna Kamienska

What’s it like to be a human
the bird asked

I myself don’t know
it’s being held prisoner by your skin
while reaching infinity
being a captive of your scrap of time
while touching eternity
being hopelessly uncertain
and helplessly hopeful
being a needle of frost
and a handful of heat
breathing in the air
and choking wordlessly
it’s being on fire
with a nest made of ashes
eating bread
while filling up on hunger
it’s dying without love
it’s loving through death

That’s funny said the bird
and flew effortlessly up into the air

One of the things that always stuns me in ministry is how often I witness the impossible strength of the human heart to withstand unbearable paradox. Love and loss. Longing and fear. Terror and beauty.

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Notes on Worship (continued from page 1)

We continue to worship online. 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. Worship services are also live-streamed to Facebook at our page “Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri (UUCC).”

The Zoom web address for our 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 Zoom 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 assist!

NEW Adult Education

**Online at 7 p.m. Tuesdays,
Aug. 11 - Sept. 1**

**Online Book Study
The Cross and The Lynching Tree
by James Cone**

Facilitated by Philosopher-in-Residence,
The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson Jr.

Join us to study an important work from one of the fathers of Black Liberation Theology. Books can be ordered from Semicolon Books, a Black Woman-owned Chicago bookstore, or your favorite bookseller. More details to follow.

Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson's Wednesday-Friday Office Hours

The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson is our Philosopher-in-Residence until Sept. 6. He offers weekly education opportunities as well as preaching once a month. Rev. Dawson holds weekly online office hours Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and offers written meditations to the congregation.

From the Minister (continued from page 1)

Somehow, again and again, we hold these things in tension and they do not pull us apart, much as it feels that they might.

This truth strikes me anew in this Pandemic, Uprising time, as we are faced with impossible decisions, powerful unmet yearnings, and deep struggle.... That our hearts remain whole even when they are broken... that we are held intact by some mysterious strength and the love of one another... that our lives are made more precious by their limits.

This month I wish you surprising strength, and moments of ease – trusting yourself amid the paradox enough to lay it down for a time, trusting that we hold each other amid it all.

With 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.

You can find the Zoom links for these virtual activities at <https://uucomo.org/zoom-links/>.

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 very happy to meet by appointment. You can schedule by emailing her at 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.

A Time to Serve

by Rebecca Graves, 2020-21 President

Hello from your new President. I am honored to serve you and our church mission in this role for the coming year. When I joined the Board of Trustees last summer, the world was a different place. And, yet, here we are, still together worshipping and working on the side of love. The future is never clear, but our values are, and our commitment to each other is. This is how we will get through these next few months, together in our values.

I would like to welcome our new board members who began their terms with July's board meeting: Jan Swaney (term expires 6/2021), Ginny Winter (6/2022), Kara Braudis (6/2023), Timothy Dickerson (6/2023), and David Leuthold (6/2023). Jan Swaney is finishing up the term of Elaine Martin, and Ginny Winter is finishing up the term of Michela Skelton. At our July board meeting, Jan Swaney was elected as Secretary, and Jeremy Duke was re-elected as Treasurer. We will be electing a President-Elect at our August board meeting.

Covid-19 Advisory Task Force

Charge: The task force is charged with making recommendations to the board and the minister in regard to how best to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The task force is specifically charged with gathering information, reporting, and making recommendations to the board and the minister at monthly intervals regarding, but not limited to: Operating procedures, employee safety, worship, rites of passage, religious education, use of building and grounds, as well as small group ministry and social gatherings. Recommendations will be informed by local and state public health guidelines, Unitarian Universalist Association advice, and the spiritual needs of the congregation.

- Final decisions will be made by the board with the consultation of the minister.

- The task force will consist of at least three (3) church members. At least one of the members will be from the board, and least two of the members will have a medical, public health, or a disaster response background. The board representative will convene the task force.

- The task force will meet and report to the board and minister at least monthly.

The board is working to create a Covid-19 Advisory Task Force. The overall charge of the task force will be to gather information and make recommendations to the board and the Minister regarding church operations and worship during the pandemic. (See below for the full charge.) The task force will assist the board in having the most current and best information with which to make decisions, especially as best practices for safety and health can change rapidly as we learn more about the virus and the disease.

So much has changed. This summer, we thought we would be gearing up for our capital campaign, Rev. Molly would be on sabbatical, and the board would be working on its review of the mission and vision. During the next board meetings and the board retreat on Sept. 19 (online, of course), we will be taking stock of where we are, where we envision ourselves to be, and setting a course. As I said at the start, I am honored to be your President on this wild journey in love.

Festival of Sharing – August 2020

For the month of August, the focus is on the "Missouri Reading and Writing Pack." These packs are for elementary school students who could not otherwise afford school supplies. Place all items in a large ziplock bag (2 - 2.5 gallon).

- 6 new pencils with erasers
- 2 70-page spiral or tape bound notebooks
- 1 pencil holder
- 4 folders with pockets
- 1 12 inch ruler
- 1 pair of child-sized metal scissors
- 1 large eraser
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 box of 10 markers (only 10)

3,845 packs were requested in 2019, but only 1,902 were shared. Collection boxes are available in the church greeting area, or leave the packs with the administrative office.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

Vote!
Primary Elections
Tuesday, Aug. 4 2020

Grounds Team has set up outdoor meeting spaces

The UCC Grounds Team did some work – at a social distance – on the grounds recently. Chain saws were buzzing, and when they were quiet, the birds were chirping and the insects buzzing. The breeze and the sun on our faces was lovely, and we were happy to see each other and enjoy the outdoors.

Purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, wild petunia and butterfly milkweed are in bloom and are attracting monarchs and supporting diversity in our flower beds.

The church building remains closed (see the UCC

website for details), but if you are looking for a shady spot on our grounds for your small group meeting, we recommend the following areas:

- The fire circle (in the woods behind church)
- The memorial garden
- The old playground area (east side of church)
- The office entrance area (west side of church)

Chairs, tables and benches have been placed in these areas. Please follow safety recommendations and enjoy our grounds.



Fire Circle



Memorial Garden



Old Playground Area



Office Entrance Area

Social Action Team receives 18 Faith-to-Action nominations

Eighteen Faith-to-Action nominations have been received for the 2020-2021 church year. The Social Action Team will review these at our next meeting on Aug. 2. If all meet the criteria, we will have enough for two collections per month, for the regular nine-month (September-May) church year. This also allows for some flexibility for the minister's discretion on

issues that are timely – for example, the highly successful June collection for the Movement For Black Lives.

You are still welcome to submit FTA nominations, with the understanding that nominees at this point will be of secondary priority and may not be selected for this church year.

Programs and Events

Kaleidoscope Pagan Gatherings

7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1 online

Lughnassad, the Feast of the First Harvest. Juicy ripe tomatoes, and zucchini everywhere. The Earth once again gives of Her bounty. We join to celebrate Her gifts. Gather with us on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. Zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/98856741664?pwd=dFNKbmtCV3RjQ2grN3M2NnpWYjR5UT09>

7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 – most likely online

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 on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the church or via Zoom, depending on COVID 19 situation.

Contact Barbara Carter for further information. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Conversations, Etc.

Noon, Thursday, Aug. 13 online

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet online and by phone at noon Thursday, August 13. We get together to enjoy the company of good friends.

If you have questions, contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 or pspring@socket.net.

UUCC Book Discussion

5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14 online

The group will meet online. Each of us briefly discuss a book we have read. If you have questions, contact Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 or pspring@socket.net.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Green Sanctuary Team Meeting

7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 online

UU Life Writers

The UU Life Writers Group will not meet again until September. If you have questions about the group, contact Fran Reynolds at freynolods@centurytel.net.

Revelio Como

1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9 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>

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9 online

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

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.

There will be no Walk on the Wild Side in August



UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

Aug. 16 this month

The procedure in August will remain the same as our last few months. Loaves and Fishes Director Ruth O'Neill has instructed all participating groups to provide boxed/sack meals.

The Social Action Loaves and Fishes Team requests that chicken, beef or vegetable meals be provided by congregants. Recyclable containers will be available for your use.

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

Men's Group

8 a.m. August 8, 22 and 29 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.

Non-toxic Masculinity Men's Group

7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3 online

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

Reflections

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

We had a great beginning to our justice-making summer programming in RE! We learned about the history of Unitarian Universalism and social justice, we learned about privilege, and then we began our great lineup of guest speakers teaching us about justice.

In August we will continue with the following programming on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. via zoom:

Aug. 2: Cande Iveson will speak to us on the hard, usually unglamorous, but vitally important work of advocating for justice in the halls of government.

Aug. 9: Nawassa Logan will speak to us about the role of understanding history in creating justice. We will learn about history right here in Columbia.

Aug. 16: We will explore the role of story telling in justice making and have a socially-distanced lending library at church

I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
Jamila Batchelder
Director of Religious Education



YRUU on summer hiatus

The high school youth group will be taking the summer off and will meet again in September.

Junior Youth Night

6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14

We will be meeting to do... something! Look out for a post-card with more information!

R.E. Schedule for August 2020

Aug. 2 at 10 a.m.
Regular RE Zoom Class

Aug. 9 at 10 a.m.
Regular RE Zoom Class

Aug. 16 at 10 a.m.
Regular RE Zoom Class

Aug. 23 at 10 a.m.
Intergenerational Service

Aug. 30 at 10:30 a.m.
Intergenerational Water Service

UU History Treasure Hunt

We are creating a series of treasure boxes to find geocache-style, with a story inside of a UU history, plus a little treasure to take. You can find directions to the first treasure box here, and we will continue to place more all summer and update the link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bRiE9I4RdvsyJYLae2RtPQK0IFLqAkQdTlcLUj_jYhQ/edit#slide=id.p

If you would like to hide your own treasure box, we can supply you with all the materials you need. Just contact Jamila at dre@uucomo.org.



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

Return Service Requested

Our Staff

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

Online Office Hours at <https://zoom.us/j/2115663859>:

Tuesdays 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays 2 to 3:30 p.m.

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

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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