



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 61, Issue 4, October 2020

October Worship

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. – online only

As we continue worshipping online, if you have any trouble accessing the technology to join us, please send a note to techhelp@uucomo.org with your contact information. Someone will reach out to assist!

Sunday, Oct. 4

“All Creatures of the Earth and Sky!”

Animal Blessing

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

Join us for a special service on St. Francis Day to honor the animal companions that bring so much to our lives. Submit photos of your animal companions by Wednesday, Sept. 30 at digitalarts@uucomo.org.

Sunday, Oct. 11

“Channeling Fury”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Where does rage come from? Is it dangerous? Can it be productive? What do we do with the anger that feels like it will overtake us? Join us to get right-sized with our fury in this time.

Sunday, Oct. 18

“Rising From Ashes”

Pulpit Guest – Rev. Aisha Ansano

Our society often discourages us from recognizing and acting on our anger – even when there is so much that can and should make us angry. Together, let’s explore how to harness our anger and rage to tear down systems of oppression and rebuild the world we dream can be. Rev. Aisha Ansano is called to serve as a prophetic and pastoral presence to those seeking spiritual community and connection. She is a co-founder of Nourish, a consultancy that helps UU communities create thriving dinner church communities. Aisha is the affiliated community minister at First Parish in Malden, Mass.

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From the Minister

Worship Arc 2020-21

How do we . . .

Transform Rage?

*“Anger, used, does not destroy. Hatred does.”
“Anger is loaded with information and energy.”
– Audre Lorde*

It didn’t have to be this way. The magnitude of loss, the depth of suffering, the spectacular failures of the systems that had a hope of supporting us through the pandemic. It didn’t have to be this way.

Of course, there would have been suffering and loss. Of course we would have struggled and stretched. But it is so clear now that whether out of spite or white supremacy or ignorance or hubris or some mix of it all, our leaders failed us... sacrificed us at the altar of an increasingly immoral economy, as they have done to many for centuries.

And I am so angry. Every day I listen to the news, and I am angry. Every day I struggle to get through the demands of the day, and underneath it all, fury simmers.

What do we do with all this anger? How do we transform and channel it, once we recognize that it is both information and energy? How do we keep our rage from calcifying into hatred, which destroys?

Join us this month to explore these timely questions together.

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

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Worship (continued from page 1)

Sunday, Oct. 25
“All Souls” Remembrance Sunday
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for a digital version of our beloved annual All Souls service, when we remember the loved ones and ancestors now gone from our daily lives. Please submit photos to digitalarts@uucomo.org of the loved ones you wish to remember, along with their names and years of birth and of death by Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Worship services are offered via Zoom. Services are followed by a weekly digital coffee hour.

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

Services are also streamed live to Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/UnitarianUniversalistChurchOfColumbiaMO/videos/>

Festival of Sharing October 2020

For the month of October, the focus is on the “Missouri Paper Products Pack.” Each pack will consist of the following items:

- 3 wrapped packages of toilet paper with 4 double rolls each (unable to receive 12 rolls in one package)
- 2 rolls paper towels (good quality)
- 3 facial tissue (large rectangular boxes)

In 2019, there were requests for 4,450 packs statewide, but only 1,280 were provided. Paper products are critical for low-income families because food assistance coupons cannot be used to purchase them.

Collection boxes are available in the church Greeting Area, or leave packs at the administrative office.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

Adult Religious Education

Rev. Molly and the Adult R.E. Team are currently developing plans for future classes. Watch your email for details.

Rev. Molly’s October office hours

Tuesdays on Zoom 9:30-11 a.m.
Thursdays outdoors this month
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Outdoor office hours and appointments

We have a few weeks of lovely weather ahead of us, and the emerging science around the combined benefit of outdoor airflow and mask usage for mitigating COVID-19 transmission risks (when distancing protocols are also followed) is extremely encouraging. For these reasons I’ve decided I’d like to be available to you for outdoor office hours while the weather allows it on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Here are the expectations:

- If it’s raining, I will not be holding office hours.
- I’ll be in the Memorial Garden or the Fire Circle in the back part of the church property.
- Obviously only join me if you feel comfortable doing so with regard to your own risk assessment.
- We’ll maintain a distance of 6 feet or more and wear masks.
- While we may feel the urge to hug after so long apart, it is important for the safety of all I serve that we have no physical contact during in-person visits.
- Because office hours are drop-in, it is possible more than one of you will arrive at the same time. If this is the case, we will all converse together and maintain appropriate distance between all parties.
- Please be extra respectful of the space of others and default to more caution rather than less.
- Please only bring children if they are able to maintain proper distance.

I am also now available to you by appointment in-person with the same requirements regarding outdoor space, masking and distancing. I have edited my scheduling software to allow for outdoor in-person appointments – calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon.

I remain equally available to you by Zoom and phone if in-person outdoor visits do not fit your risk level. Simply select “virtual meeting” on the scheduling app – calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon.

I look forward to some lovely weather and seeing some of you outdoors!

– Rev. Molly

Comfort

by Rebecca Graves, 2020-21 President

Since I last wrote, our COVID-19 Advisory Task Force (Jan Swaney, Rosie Geiser, Susan Even, Barbara Carter, and Larry Lile) has begun meeting and has presented its first report to the board. Their current recommendation is that small groups should not yet meet inside the building, though they are welcome to meet outside on the church grounds.

In light of the task force's report and the coming of the cold months, the board discussed the hosting of Room at the Inn. We considered both the health and safety for our staff as well as that of the guests of Room at the Inn, and also considered our mission and values. What is our highest calling to serve both our congregation and our community? What does compassion and care look like in a pandemic? We did not come to any decisions yet as there are still many questions about this. We are waiting for more information from Room at the Inn regarding their safety and health procedures. We need to have conversations with our staff as well as all of us in our congregation. And, we will need to have a conversation with our neighbors.

The board held its annual retreat on Saturday, Sept. 19. For the morning session, we met in person in the Memorial Garden. Even sitting 6 feet apart and masked, it was joy to be physically together. We deepened our connection through worship and discussion on how we communicate, and we shared more of our personal history (including the state trees of our birthplaces.)

It was comforting to be back on church grounds. The Grounds Team has done wonderful work. I

strongly encourage you, if you are able, to take some time to enjoy the outdoor space around the church. There are chairs as well as picnic tables set up in different areas. So come for meditation, for lunch, for a walk, or just for a pause.

I also want to give a shout-out to Suzanne Clark, our church administrator, who organized our retreat lunch and brought it to us. We each help each other to get the work done. And, keeping the administrative work of the church going is no small thing. Thank you, Suzanne!

For the afternoon session of the retreat, the board reconvened online and discussed our mission and vision and the impact of the pandemic on the work of the church. We talked at length about what has changed and not, what needs the church is meeting for us, and how. A theme that came out of our discussions is that a major role of the church is to hold each of us, to help us take care of ourselves, to allow us to connect on an emotional level. We agreed that this is harder to do with the distance and separation required by this pandemic. This is work we will be doing as a board over the next months – assessing how our ministries and work enables us to be connected and held. I am reaching out to you in this column – let us know your thoughts and how you are faring in these times.

I'll end with words from the Rev. Karen Hering: "In the uncertainties of this time of both pandemic and uprising, we are all asked to join a journey on unfamiliar paths toward unknown destinations. Not only it is a journey that can only be taken a day at a time. It is also a journey that cannot be taken alone."

Want to make a difference in the long term health of the church?

Don't have a lot of free time but want to help? Join the

Investment and Endowment Committee

This committee monitors and directs the church's investments with a special focus on growing the endowment. We meet quarterly and are looking for some new members to join our group. As a group we choose socially conscious and sustainable investments so that we can live our values as we plan for the future. Whether you have experience, or you are willing to learn, you are welcome to join. Please contact Pam Springsteel at pspring@socket.net or Jeremy Duke at jduke@imfcounseling.com.

Online payments to UCC

For pledge payments, go to:

<https://uucomo.org/financial-support/#Pay>

Fill out the brief form there to make your payment.

For other donations, go to:

<https://uucomo.org/donate/>

Be sure to indicate the purpose of your donation.

UUA MidAmerica Nominating Committee asks for your help

We are seeking fresh voices for leadership positions at the MidAmerica Region! We have open positions for the Board of Trustees, Camp Unistar Foundation Board of Directors, Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC), and the MidAmerica Nominating Committee. Our region needs energetic people with diverse perspectives to fill these leadership positions. We are working to dismantle the legacy of white supremacy in our faith in order to create a collaborative environment with people from historically marginalized communities.

Some traits we value in candidates:

- Willingness to collaborate with others
- Ability to provide a unique perspective
- Strong communication skills
- Interest in leadership and stewardship
- Dedication to radical inclusion
- Personal investment in the future of our region and Unitarian Universalism as a faith

The **MidAmerica Regional Board of Trustees** is responsible for the general direction of the region, including policies, strategic goals, and priorities. There are nine members serving three-year terms. Officers are elected by the board members annually.

The **Nominating Committee's** purpose is to nominate individuals for the Regional Board, Camp Unistar, the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Confer-

ence Board, and the Nominating Committee itself. We are dedicated to seeking qualified candidates to reflect the diversity of the region, especially in regards to historically marginalized communities. The committee has seven members serving two-year terms.

The **Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC)** furthers the interests of UU's and their institutions in the Midwest, fosters the interests of the UUA, supports spreading the message of Unitarian Universalism, and distributes surplus income. The MUUC Board of Directors is composed of seven members serving three-year terms.

Camp Unistar is a beautiful island retreat in Cass Lake, Minn. where you can unplug, unwind, and enjoy nature with a village of old and new friends rooted in Unitarian Universalist values. It is governed by an independent board of eight members, with one member appointed each year by the Board of Trustees. All board members must have attended Camp Unistar.

Our only requirement is that our candidates must be a member of either a MidAmerica Congregation or the Church of the Larger Fellowship. If you or someone you know may be interested, please send your suggestions to one of our co-chairs:

Co-Chair Helen Dwyer, All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis, IN: hdwyer1492@msn.com

Co-Chair Mel Priese, Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, MO: mel.priese@gmail.com

Weekly activities to stay connected

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. – Sacred Reading

Hosted by Rev. Molly on her Facebook page

Rev. Molly will be on her Facebook page around 9 a.m. for a Sacred Reading practice, sharing a poem three times for you to listen for inspiration and an invitation for your day. These posts will be public, so one need not be Rev. Molly's Facebook friend to view them.

Wednesdays at noon – Lunchtime Chats on our UUCC Facebook Page

Rev. Molly is offering a series of "Lunchtime Chats" Wednesdays on our UUCC Facebook Page with wise members of our community. She will ask them questions related to these uncertain times as well as questions posed by those who tune in. Please join us for these little centering breaks at lunchtime each Wednesday.

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/>.

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

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

Programs and Events

Kaleidoscope Pagan Gathering

7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30

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 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 at the church or via Zoom, depending on COVID 19 situation. The Zoom link can be found at <https://uucomo.org/zoom-links/>.

All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Check announcements or contact Barbara Carter for further information.

Conversations, Etc.

Noon Thursday, Oct. 8 online

Conversations, Etc. the UUCC women's group will meet via Zoom and by telephone conference at noon Thursday, Oct 8. We get together to enjoy the company of good friends.

If you have questions or would like to join us, contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 or pspring@socket.net.

UUCC Book Discussion

5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 online

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

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11 online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net for details.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

Green Sanctuary Team

7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1 online

UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Oct. 3 and 17 and maybe Oct. 31

UU Life Writers will write together on Zoom! It was wonderful being together in the park in September, but we are going online.

Our theme this fall is "The Great Questions – Who-What-Where-Why-When-How?" We will meet at 10:30 am. on Oct. 3 and 17 and maybe Oct. 31.

The prompt will be sent out before the meeting and stories will be read on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! If you enjoy writing life stories and sharing them, please let Fran Reynolds know so she can send you meeting codes.

Revelio Como

1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11 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>

Unlisted Meetings

Contact your team leader if you are unsure of meeting status.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

Oct. 18 this month

The Social Action Team changed the Loaves and Fishes procedure in September because of the difficulty in getting enough volunteers to prepare entire boxed/sack meals. We are returning to the old system of having volunteers prepare 20 servings of various dishes, which will then be assembled into boxed meals by additional volunteers.

The change in procedure will require the volunteers providing food to take the food to Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church by 3:30 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m. The volunteers who will assemble the boxed meals are asked to be at the church by 3:15 p.m. Sign up online at uuomo.org.

You can also 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.

Men's Group

8:15 a.m. Oct. 10, 24 & 31 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, Oct. 5

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

This month at UCC we are reflecting on how we live with anger. If your family is anything like mine, you have spent the last month navigating online schooling, and you have seen more than a few flare-ups of anger.

I often come back to a line I read in a children's book by Buddhist monk Tich Nhat Hanh: "I take good care of my anger." There is so much to feel angry about these days, a natural emotion to arise. How can we take care of the feelings we are having without letting them hurt anyone else? I remember when I was 12 how I liked to wad up paper, and when I was 16, how I liked to dance to angry music. There are a thousand ways we can care for our anger while still caring for our families. Perhaps your family would like to brainstorm some ways to take care of your anger. Some of my favorite children's books on the subject:

- *Mean Soup* by Betsy Everitt
- *When Sophie gets Angry - Really, Really Angry* by Molly Bang
- *A Pebble for Your Pocket* by Thich Naht Hanh

However you are working through your anger, know that your family is not alone in feeling this way right now, and that you are held in the love of this community.

Sincerely,
Jamila



Online Intergenerational Blessing of the Pets Service at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 4

Join us for a blessing of our beloved pets! We will also honor pets who are no longer with us. Send photos of pets to our digital arts team at the address below.

Make sure to clearly label your email for living pets with the subject line "blessings" and for deceased pets with the subject line "memorial." And be sure to include the NAME of your pet! You can be in the picture too.



digitalarts@uucomo.org

October Schedule

- Every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. – Morning Tea Party and Story
- Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. – Family Movie Night
- Oct. 4 at noon – Service Sunday (Linus Blankets)
- Oct. 9 at 6:30:p.m. – Jr. Youth Group Friday Night Online
- Oct. 13 at noon – Adams Class
- Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. – Family Movie Night
- Oct. 18 at noon – Family Craft Class
- Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. – Jr. Youth Group Friday Night Online
- Oct 25 at noon – Adams Class

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

Online office hours at <https://zoom.us/j/2115663859>
Tuesdays 9:30-11 a.m.

In-person office hours at church Thursdays 11 a.m.-12:30 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

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.