

# 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 9, March 2021

## March 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](mailto:techhelp@uucomo.org) with your contact information. Someone will reach out to help!

**Sunday, March 7**  
“Stay”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

What does it mean to practice attention in difficult or painful moments? Join us to ponder how mindfulness might help us stay present to ourselves and our loved ones even when the going gets rough.

**Sunday, March 14**  
“One Year Later”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and Colleagues**

This Sunday marks exactly one year since we pivoted to all-online church and entered this painful pandemic life. We have lost, and gained, and learned SO much. Join us to ponder where we are, one year later. UU ministers from across the country have collaborated to offer their reflections.

**Sunday, March 21**  
“Practices of Attention”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and Friends**

Join us for a practice-based service to spend time with several different paths of mindfulness and ways of paying deeper attention.

**Sunday, March 28**  
“Holy Rest”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

In this penultimate Sunday before her sabbatical, join Rev. Molly to reflect on the spiritual value of rest and the spiritual tradition of Sabbath.

## Stewardship 2021-2022

“Love each other, love the world”



**Details on pages 2 and 3**

You can submit your pledge at  
<https://uucomo.org/2021-22-pledge/>

## From the Minister

*Worship Arc 2020-21*

*How do we . . .*

## Pay Attention?

*“You can’t stop the waves,  
but you can learn to surf.”*

– Jon Kabat-Zinn

This month marks the one-year anniversary of pandemic life. Perhaps there is light ahead of us in this tunnel time as vaccine distribution speeds up and local case numbers drop. But the time after the turn, when we can see that there will be an end to some suffering but we are not there quite yet, can be especially difficult. Many of us are so burned out, so exhausted, that seeing the end ahead just reminds us how impossible it feels to get the rest of the way there.

This is why, even now, with all that’s going on, we need reminding that we can only live the moment we are in and that our sustenance comes from paying attention to now. This has been a tidal wave, tsunami of a year, and one of the only ways I have been able to survive it is by bringing my attention close in. With impossible decisions swirling around me and the uncertainty carrying me along, noticing the golden light on the snow and the crick in my neck and the heat of a cup of tea has kept me grounded.

Paying attention close in has been the only way I could learn to surf the waves. But of course it can feel harder to pay attention when things are all awlirl. How do we do it? Join us this month to practice together. See you in (online) church!

*Rev. Molly*

## Highlights of what’s inside

Stewardship 2021-2022 .....	2-3
Board nominations; Worship Associates .....	4
Minister’s sabbatical; Life Writers anthology .....	5
President’s Perspective; Honduras education .....	6
Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice; Social Action .....	7
Programs and events .....	8
REflections .....	9

# Stewardship 2021-2022



***“Love each other, love the world”***

In this very unique year, we invite you to join us in an all-digital Stewardship Campaign focused on connection as we continue to love each other across the distance and love our world by living our mission!

We are celebrating our congregation with Love Notes to UUCC and our Annual Pledge Drive to materially support the important work we share...

- Do you love UUCC’s mission-centered leap to host Room at the Inn for their whole season?
- Do you love the small group that has seen you through this difficult time?
- Do you love the multi-media worship, home spirituality kits, and innovative kids’ programming our staff has created to keep us connected?

We invite you to join us in a collective outpouring of love to this beloved community of ours!

Make your pledge today at <https://uucomo.org/2021-22-pledge/> and visit our interactive love note bulletin board (<https://padlet.com/mollyhoushgordon/UULoveNotes>) to leave a note for our community and your fellow UU Churchers!

Your pledge helps us plan our budget! Want to know more about pledging? Check out our Stewardship FAQ (<https://uucomo.org/stewardship-faq/>) and take a look at Rev. Molly’s stewardship letter to the congregation on the next page of this newsletter.

We are asking for a pledge increase of 5% this year from those individuals and families who are able to increase their gift.

After contracting our budget last year during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are stretching back out this year to:

- Unfreeze staff cost-of-living increases
- Upgrade our sanctuary technology to continue live-streaming
- Prepare to re-gather in the coming year

Let us know if you can make the increase, continue pledging as before, or make a brand new pledge for the first time.

For first time pledgers, we recommend checking out a great giving guide from the Unitarian Universalist Association ([https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/f/fair\\_share\\_contribution\\_guide.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/f/fair_share_contribution_guide.pdf)).

**To support our ministry, please pledge today  
at <https://uucomo.org/2021-22-pledge/>**

# Stewardship 2021-2022

*“Love each other, love the world”*



## Minister’s stewardship letter to the congregation

Dear UU Churchers,

WOW do I miss you! It has been nearly a year now of our Covid-era life, and I am more aware than I have ever been in my life of how very essential you and our community are to me and my wellbeing! I miss singing with you and laughing with you and eating your amazing potluck contributions. I miss sitting with you at Kaldi’s during office hours or in the uncomfortable wooden chairs in my office talking about important and difficult and beautiful things. I miss sharing books and handshakes and hugs. And I know you miss one another as much as I miss you!

Yet, as we have learned to do church online together, I have been deeply sustained by you in this time too. Seeing your faces during Zoom coffee hour and committee meetings is the highlight of my week! Keeping up with you on Facebook, or glimpsing your face up on your porch, or hearing your voice on the phone – all the ways we are finding to connect are so important. I hope you, too, have found yourself sustained by your UU Church friends and neighbors.

We have also found a singular clarity of mission during this time of struggle and pressure – I have never been prouder than I was during the meeting when your board members decided that, of course, we would give over our sanctuary... and greeting area, and classrooms, and hallways... to Room at the Inn emergency winter shelter for their entire season, just as our forebears in 1918 turned their buildings into field hospitals and shelters during that pandemic.

The thing I have learned most profoundly in this time is that when we love each other well, we are poised to love the world around us more fully. And the reverse is true too – when we are loving the wider world, we are making life tangibly better for one another.

This is the spirit of our stewardship campaign this year – Love Each Other, Love the World. When we

pledge to support the church, we are tangibly and materially supporting the spiritual and bodily wellbeing of our fellow UU Churchers AND our world. What a gift! What an opportunity!

This year, as every year, we invite you to support our church – which means each other, and which means our mission of courageous love, radical welcome, and deep connection – as an expression of your love. If you are unable to give funds, we thank you for all the ways you love our church and our community. If you are able to make a pledge, we thank you for adding your financial support to all the other ways you love our church and our community.

Last year’s budget was a bit of a contraction as we braced for the impact of the pandemic, and we were relieved and oh so grateful when your giving remained strong. This year we are stretching back out again, and preparing for our financial life to meet our needs as we eventually re-gather in person in the church year to come. We need to catch up on staff cost-of-living increases that we froze last year! We need to make sure we have plenty of coffee on hand, and child care! And we need to invest significantly in our tech capabilities so that we can continue to serve all those who have joined us for the first time online and want to remain connected to our community even when we are gathered back in person.

To this end, we are asking each of you to consider prioritizing our church community in your giving this year and increasing your annual gift by 5% if you are able to do so. The campaign launched Feb. 14 and will wrap up by March 8. Please send in your pledge early if you can so that we can count on you as we carry our mission of courageous love forward into the year to come. It’s really easy to pledge online!

With LOVE,  
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

## Worship Zoom information

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

**The Zoom 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 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/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/UnitarianUniversalistChurchOfColumbiaMO/videos/)

[UnitarianUniversalistChurchOfColumbiaMO/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/UnitarianUniversalistChurchOfColumbiaMO/videos/)

## Nominating Committee seeks candidates for Board of Trustees

Serving on our Board of Trustees is a meaningful service that gives you the opportunity to lead our beloved church community in the shaping and fulfillment of our mission and vision. Read a comprehensive job description for board members at <https://uucomo.org/policy-board-job-description/>.

Kara Braudis, Timothy Dickerson, Jeremy Duke, Rebecca Graves, David Leuthold and Ginny Winter look forward to welcoming three new members to the board as of July 1 and continuing together in service to build the world we dream of. The terms of board members Mark Johnson, Mindy McPherson and Jan Swaney will end June 30.

For more information or to make a nomination, email any one of the following:

Mindy McPherson – [mkferg@gmail.com](mailto:mkferg@gmail.com)

Jenny Bossaller – [jenny.bossaller@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.bossaller@gmail.com)

Patty Daus – [pajods@gmail.com](mailto:pajods@gmail.com)

Qhyrrae Michaelieu – [qhyrrae@gmail.com](mailto:qhyrrae@gmail.com)

Self-nominations are welcome. Suggestions of other nominees will be confirmed with the nominees.

### Rev. Molly's March office hours

9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays on Zoom

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursdays on Zoom

If Thursday office hours will be offered outdoors, I will send out an email announcement. I remain 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](https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon).

## Worship Associates ask . . .

### Are you ready for the end of the pandemic?

Of course you are! So are we. As we begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel, join your Worship Associates this summer for a lay worship series reflecting on where we've been and where we're going:

*What have you learned from the pandemic experience?*

*What have you lost? Gained?*

*What is your vision for what's next?*

What are your answers to these questions? We need everyone's insights to make sure we don't waste the opportunity to use the life-changing pandemic to make our world better.

Don't hide your light under a bushel! You may have something to share but feel that a whole service is too daunting. Let us know. We can work with you and others to create a service. Or you may have an idea for a whole service but could use some help navigating the process of creating a service online. We can do that, too.

The main point is, we can't do this alone. We need you. Please help. Contact Todd Iveson at [tiveson@socket.net](mailto:tiveson@socket.net) or 573-864-4613.

## Festival of Sharing – March 2021

For the month of March, the focus is on the Missouri Student Dental Pack. These packs are for children who have experienced a crisis situation or are experiencing homelessness. Place these items in a ziplock bag:

- 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more)
- 4 child-sized soft toothbrushes in original packaging

In 2019, there were requests for 4,534 packs statewide but only 2,412 were provided. You can leave your donations at the church administrative office or immediately outside the office door.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

## Online payments to UUC

**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.

# ***Rev. Molly's sabbatical is coming up!***

After delaying my planned sabbatical last summer due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, I have now rescheduled this time for spring/summer 2021. After a year that was taxing for all of us, I am so grateful to be able to take this time for renewal before our eventual return to in-person worship. The new sabbatical dates are ***April 5 to Aug. 1, 2021***. This timing will allow me to be back in plenty of time to plan for the new church year – in high hopes that we will be able to re-gather in person sometime in the fall or winter.

## **What is a sabbatical?**

Sabbatical is a long tradition in ministry and academia alike, allowing for an extended time of study, reflection, rest and renewal – all ingredients for effective ministry. In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, sabbatical leave is part of the congregation's covenantal agreement with their minister, who generally earns one month of sabbatical per year of service up to a limit of 6 months.

## **What will you be doing with your sabbatical?**

I know this opportunity for extended renewal is a rare gift in our American culture of overwork and grind, and I am humbled and grateful for the chance to re-charge my batteries in this way, especially after the grueling pandemic year we have all experienced. I hope to rest, do a lot of reading to renew my wells of preaching fodder, and also take on a small writing project that has been tickling my brain. I hope to return refreshed and full of fresh ideas and rekindled energy for a new church year and an eventual return to in-person worship!

## **What support will we have during the sabbatical?**

The board has been saving for sabbatical coverage since I arrived. We will have a part-time sabbatical

minister to fulfill my executive and pastoral capacities and preach twice per month, as well as a “digital liturgist” to help keep online worship running smoothly.

## **Who will be our sabbatical minister?**

I am very pleased to announce that the Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson has been hired as our sabbatical minister, as originally planned. The Rev. Dr. Dawson is a progressive pastor, professor of philosophy and religion, prolific columnist, and a regular and beloved guest preacher and teacher here at UUCC. I am elated that he is available to work with us in this way – to guide the congregation and to provide new perspective to our ministry during this period.

## **Does sabbatical benefit the congregation?**

Yes! A sabbatical can be a time of mutual growth and exploration for minister and congregation alike, as the congregation has the chance to benefit from different perspectives and ideas. Rev. Dr. Dawson will be exploring multi-culturalism and growth with the congregation through his role as sabbatical minister.

## **Will you be around during sabbatical?**

I will be on full leave from all church duties and will not be available for anything church-related, including pastoral care. But I will mostly be in town as my family members go about their usual pandemic-era lives close to home. If we run into each other around town and you recognize me all masked up, please do feel free to say hello. Just know I won't be able to talk church business with you!

## **What if I have more questions?**

Send them my way! Email [minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org) or call 573-442-5764.

– Rev. Molly

## **UU Life Writers' Group publishes its second anthology, *Stories, Just Stories***

The UU Life Writers' Group is pleased to announce the publication of its second anthology, *Stories, Just Stories*. The stories are mini-memoirs about family, growing up, social activism, romance and pets. A big section of poetry is included. The anthology also contains tributes to those writers no longer with us.

Copies are \$8 and can be ordered from Fran Reynolds ([freynolds@centurytel.net](mailto:freynolds@centurytel.net)). Pay at [uucomo.org/donate](https://uucomo.org/donate) by selecting the “Other” option and specifying “Life Writers Anthology” as the purpose of the donation.

March is Women's History Month. UU Life Writers will be writing stories about women who have been important to them, the church and the community. Everyone is welcome to join us on Zoom. We will meet March 6 and 20 at 10:30 a.m. For more information contact Fran.

# ***Loving the world***

**by Rebecca Graves, 2020-21 President**

It is hard to love the world. There is so much that is harsh and hard within it. So, I turn my attention to the birds in the back yard, how their colors of red, blue and brown dress up the bare branches. Then my gaze falls on the blue, red and orange painted “chalice” rock here beside me. I think of the folks who made and delivered these painted stone UU chalices and the joy they brought us. I think of my fellow board members and how they show up, ask hard questions and do the work.

I think of our minister, the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, and the work she and the Worship Associates and our staff have done to bring our services online and to our hearts. I think of you, my fellow members, and I find myself full of love – towards you and towards the circle of our community.

This is what all of you and this church mean to me: a source of love and joy, a reason to keep working at loving the world, to keep working to change the world. This is the reason I share my time and my money with our church, so that we can work together on our vision and mission of challenging and changing injustices, connecting deeply, and work on healing ourselves and our larger community.

As our stewardship campaign wraps up this month, I thank all of you who have recommitted to our circle by sending in your pledge. If you haven't yet sent in your pledge, please do. We need you, your resources

of time and money and love, to keep doing the work of loving the world.

Speaking of doing the work, this month, the board and Rev. Molly will be meeting with Rachel Maxell, the UUA visioning facilitator and strategic advisor who met with the congregation and the Building Task Force back in December 2019. For background, in 2019 we were gearing up and gathering information to launch a capital campaign for building expansion and renovation in the fall of 2020 or so. We had Rachel come and meet with the congregation Dec. 6-8, 2019. She came back with some good and tough questions. (For the report, see <https://uucomo.org/uucc-building-task-force/>.) The board and the Building Task Force were working with that report and figuring out next steps when the pandemic shut things down.

Now it's time to dust this off and see where we're at. We will be back in our building again, and we will need to renovate. So, we need to pick up this process and move forward with planning a capital campaign. In our meeting with Rachel, the board will be discussing where we are in the process of working on expanding and renovating our building to carry out our mission, what has changed in what we want or need due to the pandemic, and what is next in planning a capital campaign.

Finally, I wish you all a happy spring and a joyous vernal equinox.

## **Please help sponsor the UCC Honduras Education effort**

Our congregation has for many years been in a relationship with a community in the Cangrejil River Valley of Honduras. Groups of UU Churchers have visited every couple of years to work on projects and have maintained relationships between trips with communications and material support for things like the health clinic. This has been mutually rich in learning and connection for both communities.

Two years ago our Social Action Team undertook a project to establish an Education Fund to aid community leaders in furthering their education and building skills to help in their community. The Honduras Education Fund provides scholarship funding for these local leaders, but it is currently running low on funds! The team is seeking individuals or families to pledge \$160/year (about \$15/month) for two years to keep the Education Fund up and running! One time gifts of any amount are also accepted on our online donation page – select the “Other” option and note “Honduras Education Fund” for the explanation.

Can you help? Email Caya Tanski ([cayasadhana@yahoo.com](mailto:cayasadhana@yahoo.com)) with any questions.

## **Consider donating to others**

### **UCC 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.

### **Community Foundation of Central Missouri's Covid-19 Relief Fund**

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

### **Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri**

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



## Social Action Team March report

### Support for the African American Heritage Trail

The Social Action Team is providing funds for a marker on the African American Heritage Trail in central Columbia. Through a mix of SAT budget funds and donations from individuals, the team hopes to provide complete funding for a single marker. Later in the year, with warmer weather and (hopefully!) widespread Covid vaccinations, the team plans to organize a walking tour of the trail. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile, you can find out more about the trail at [como.gov](http://como.gov) – search for “African-American Heritage Trail.”

### Support for the Honduras Education Fund

The Social Action Team is supporting the current recipients of the Honduras Education Fund with three “pledge units” from the SAT budget. The team encourages individuals in the congregation to pledge your financial support, if you are in a position to do so. See the separate article about the fund on page 6 of this issue of the newsletter for information on how to donate.

### Room at the Inn at UCC until March 14

All is going well hosting Room at the Inn (RATI) at UCC. If you have questions, want to donate, or would like to volunteer, visit RATI’s website at <https://roomattheinncomo.org/>.

## Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team news

The Columbia Faith Voices Immigrant Justice and Sanctuary group is partnering with La Red to gather stories of undocumented essential workers in an effort to persuade the Biden-Harris administration to offer a path to citizenship for 5 million undocumented essential workers as part of the Covid-19 relief bill. The following interview is one such story:

### What does it mean to you to be an “essential worker”?

We know that we are at risk, and we have actually gotten Covid, all of us, due to our exposure. Also being an essential worker means we don’t have any benefits, which we should have, so that we are able to take care of our needs

### Share the moment or thing about working on the frontlines during the pandemic that has been hardest on you and your family.

The hardest has been the fear, not just during the pandemic. There are a lot of things. For instance we don’t get any help during the time we are sick, and it was very difficult for our family when we didn’t get any help when we all had Covid. We don’t have vacation time, no sick days, no insurance, we don’t even get holiday pay. We always work for the most minimum pay.

### Share the moment you realized that your work and sacrifice has helped the broader community around you make it through the pandemic.

There are a lot of people who come to our hotel, we don’t know where they come from or who they are. So yes, we are benefitting a lot of people from all over.

### What would change for you and your family if you had a pathway to citizenship?

It would change my life completely. We have ambitions and dreams to study at the university and to have dignified work. We would be able to see our family in Mexico that we haven’t seen for many, many years. It would be a blessing. It would be a great help and so much better, both economically and psychologically, and for family life. Our biggest fear is to be separated from our children, and to take that fear away would mean the world to us.

Please join us if you would like to be involved in immigrant justice work here in Columbia. For more information contact Dave Gibbons ([dgibbons@mchsi.com](mailto:dgibbons@mchsi.com)) or Allie Gassmann ([alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)).

## UCC Caring Ministry

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.

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

## Programs and events

### **Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering**

7 p.m. Saturday, March 20 -  
online

Come celebrate the rebirth of the Earth, bunnies and eggs and Nature courting. Celebrate all things new, joyful and wonderful.

Join Kaleidoscope as we celebrate Ostara, the spring equinox, on Saturday, March 20. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. Email [barbaracarter@centurylink.net](mailto:barbaracarter@centurylink.net) for further information.

To find the Zoom link, go to <https://uucomo.org/zoom-links/>.

### **Conversations, Etc.**

Noon Monday, March 1 - online

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet via Zoom and by telephone conference at noon Monday, March 1. 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](mailto:pspring@socket.net).

### **Revelio Como**

1 p.m. Sunday, March 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](mailto:rodegghero@gmail.com) or Jamila Batchelder at [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org).

Check out our Facebook page at:

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of



### **UU Life Writers**

10:30 a.m. March 6 & 20 - online

Big news! Our 2020 *Stories, Just Stories* anthology is now available. It is full of great memoirs by UU writers and may be ordered from Fran Reynolds for \$8 per copy.

March is Women's History Month! UU Life Writers will be writing stories about women who have been important to them, to the church and community. Everyone is welcome to join us. For more information, contact Fran.

### **Green Sanctuary Team**

7 p.m. Thursday, March 4 - online

### **UUCC Book Discussion**

4 p.m. Saturday, March 13 -  
online

The group will meet online and by phone to briefly discuss books we have read. If you have questions, contact Pam Springsteel at 445-0642 or [pspring@socket.net](mailto:pspring@socket.net).

### **Unlisted Meetings**

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

### **Social Action T-Shirt!**

*Your \$20 helps UUCC with our many social action projects. Contact Caya Tanski, Allie Gassmann or Sarah Wolcott for more information.*

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

March 21 this month

The Social Action Team is looking for volunteers to prepare 20 servings of various dishes, which are assembled into boxed meals at the Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church.

This system requires the volunteers providing food to take the food to Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church by 3:30 p.m. The volunteers who assemble the boxed meals are asked to be at the church by 3:15 p.m. Sign up online at [uuomo.org](http://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](mailto:drsuhler@ccis.edu) for more information.

### **Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team**

1 p.m. Sunday, March 14 - online

Email [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net) for details.

### **Men's Group**

8:15 a.m. March 13 & 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](mailto:millerwi@missouri.edu).

### **Non-toxic Masculinity Men's Group**

7 p.m. Monday, March 8 & 22

Contact Jeff Ordway at 573-476-2834 or [ordwayj63@live.com](mailto:ordwayj63@live.com) for meeting information.



# Reflections

For the month of March, we are reflecting on the question of how we pay attention. I am writing this on a particularly cold day in February, wondering what I will be paying attention to in March, and I am imagining being on the lookout, as I am every year, for the first signs of spring.

I am reminded that after a long winter, we don't wake up one day, and spring is everywhere. It creeps in with the first crocus we catch sight of, the tips of shoots sprouting up through the ground, little leaf buds on the trees. Each day we discover something new.

And I am thinking ahead to the end of our long time apart, that I have been envisioning as happening someday all at once, and realizing it may be more gradual. I want to pay attention to the small steps toward the end of all we have been through, that won't be the big reunion party, but will be meaningful nonetheless.

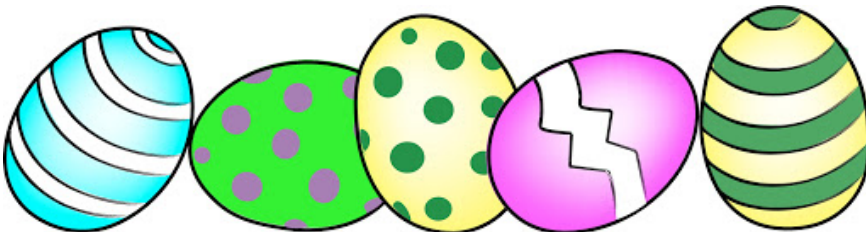
This month, I hope your family takes the time to notice all the small signs of life returning this spring, and treasures each of them as the precious gift they are.



Sincerely,  
*Jamila*

## **Easter Craft Workshop Noon March 28**

We will be doing some spring and Easter themed crafting together via Zoom! Register by March 15 and a package of crafting materials will be delivered to your house.



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

## **ComUUnity Connection Project**

Do you want to help grow connections of friendship and support within our congregation? Register for our ComUUnity Connection Project that pairs congregation members and families to find fun and helpful ways to safely connect this spring. Contact Jamila Batchelder.



## **March Schedule**

- March 4**  
6:30 p.m. - Family Movie Night
- March 7**  
10 a.m. - Morning Tea Party  
Noon - Service Sunday
- March 12**  
6:30-8 p.m. - Junior Youth
- March 14**  
10 a.m. - Morning Tea Party  
Noon - Adams Family Class
- March 18**  
6:30 p.m. - Family Movie Night
- March 21**  
10 a.m. - Morning Tea Party  
Noon - Adams Family Class
- March 26**  
6:30-8 p.m. - Junior Youth
- March 28**  
10 a.m. - Morning Tea Party  
Noon - Easter Craft Workshop

## ***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 or Zoom office hours Thursdays 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

By appointment (including evenings and weekends)

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

#### **Suzanne Clark, Administrator**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

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

Visit our website: <https://uucomo.org>

#### **Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education**

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

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

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

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

#### **Hans Bridger Heruth, Collaborative Accompanist**

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

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

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

### **2020-2021 Board of Trustees**

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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#### **Submissions:**

Email to [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)  
or mail to Church Administrator.

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