



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 12, June 2021

June 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 help!

**Sunday, June 6
Worship Associates**

The pandemic has required each of us to make changes in our lives that have impacted us in ways big and small. As we begin to see a path to resume a more “normal” way of life, congregation members Tonette Byman-Ripetto, Josh McPherson and Todd Iveson will share how their pandemic experience has changed their perception of what the new “normal” may look like.

**Sunday, June 13
“Blackness for All:
In Honor of June as Black Music Month”**
Rev. Dr. C. W. Dawson Jr.

**Sunday, June 20
“The Importance of Doubting our Doubts”**
Rev. Dr. C. W. Dawson Jr.

**Sunday, June 27
Worship Associates**

2021-22 budget approved, board members elected

Church members overwhelmingly approved the 2021-22 church budget and elected Melissa Ensign-Bedford, Susan Even and Connie Ordway as new Board of Trustees members. Read more on page 4.

Stewardship 2021-2022

“Love each other, love the world”



ACH automatic deduction forms are available at uucomo.org or through the UUCS office. Automatic deductions are a convenient way to pay your pledges throughout the year.

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

From the Sabbatical Minister

Grow by engaging in ‘Progressive Evangelism’

In the time I have been with you as your Philosopher-in-Residence and now as your Sabbatical Interim Minister, I have found the experience wonderful and exciting. I hope this experience has been a blessing to you as well.

There is something I have hinted at since I have been in your company that I wish for you to think about seriously. There are a couple of things that I have learned while working with you.

Our congregation is getting older. I do not say this as a bad thing since I am getting older as well. But as a congregation begins to age, it must realize that the younger end of the membership must grow to maintain balance. Youth bring energy and new ideas. Age brings wisdom birthed in experience.

We are borrowing from our surplus funds to meet our budget. We cannot continue this practice. I know that Rev. Molly and the board are thinking of ways to creatively think of stewardship in a wholistic way that is needed in every congregation. With the talent you have, I am sure that your desire to make giving an expression of your faith and spiritual growth will be phenomenally successful.

However, given the above, it is also time to think about church growth programmatically. How does a progressive, socially conscious community of faith attract new members? They do it by engaging in **Progressive Evangelism**. I know evangelism has a bad image for some of us. It is because we equate evangelism with *conservative* evangelicalism. But evange-

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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/95152263717?
pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09)

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

Outdoor social planned at church at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 11

The UUCS Safe Summer Social Planning Team, in consultation with the UUCS Covid Task Force, is planning some safe summer get-togethers. The first social will be a simple affair for adults, with gatherings for families to be held later in the summer. At 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 11:

- Gather on the parking lot.
- Music can be played with our portable speaker.
- We can indulge in a few socially distant games.
- Please bring your own snacks and beverages...vaccinated or not, sharing is still a no-no!
- B.Y.O chairs or blankets.
- Please allow closer street parking for those that would benefit.

It will be our first time together, so let's remember to:

- Wear a mask.
- Maintain social distance.
- HAVE FUN!

Can't wait!

Online payments to UUCS

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.

From the Sabbatical Minister

'Progressive Evangelism'

Continued from page 1

lism is not just a tool of the evangelicals – it can also be an instrument that aids our quest to be more centered in the world, and more effective as we attempt to be faithful to our mission of justice and love.

Ask yourself the following questions.

- *How long have I been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia?*
- *How many people (outside of my immediate family) have I brought into the fellowship of this community?*

I suggest that these are important questions to ask for the future of the church.

Progressive evangelism is centered in inviting people to join our values and beliefs. In a society so torn by strife and division, there are people all around us who are seeking a beloved community. They are not with us because a) they do not know us; and b) we have not invited them. Progressive evangelicalism demands:

- **Intentionality.** We must be intentional in our inviting
- **Boldness.** We must boldly state that we are a people of radical welcome, service and love. If you are timid about who you are, no one will take you seriously.
- **Friendliness.** UUs are very smart but sometimes we are aloof to those we do not know. In the tradition I come out of, the statement goes, "If you want to have friends, you must show yourself friendly." The same is true about church growth.
- **Accentuation of strengths.** You have a gifted pastor/preacher. You have excellent musicians. You are a thinking and serving church.

I suggest that if you seriously ponder *Progressive Evangelism*, it will bless this congregation in a mighty way.

– Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson, Jr.

Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson, Jr.

Zoom office hours

10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays

[https://zoom.us/j/96047161907?](https://zoom.us/j/96047161907?pwd=MHZjcGpBQmZBRkZnc28rWjJ5SFp0dz09)

[pwd=MHZjcGpBQmZBRkZnc28rWjJ5SFp0dz09](https://zoom.us/j/96047161907?pwd=MHZjcGpBQmZBRkZnc28rWjJ5SFp0dz09)

Meeting ID: 960 4716 1907 Passcode: 089681

1 to 3 p.m. Thursdays

[https://zoom.us/j/97512148919?](https://zoom.us/j/97512148919?pwd=elBmdloraJNBQ2RUM2xzY0NOWk02dz09)

[pwd=elBmdloraJNBQ2RUM2xzY0NOWk02dz09](https://zoom.us/j/97512148919?pwd=elBmdloraJNBQ2RUM2xzY0NOWk02dz09)

Meeting ID: 975 1214 8919 Passcode: 180937



The UCC Grounds Team and the UU Seventh Principle – *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*

The Grounds Team would like to introduce you to this month's native plant – *Amsonia ciliata*, also called Fringed Blue Star or Downy Amsonia. This showy pale blue flower is a favorite of butterflies and congregants alike.

Amsonia ciliata is a clump-forming perennial that is native from North Carolina to Florida west to Missouri, Arkansas and Texas. It is generally found in sandy soils. It typically grows to 2-3' tall. Terminal clusters of star-like, light blue flowers bloom in mid spring (May) atop generally erect stems clad with narrow, almost needle-like, green leaves. Foliage turns attractive shades of yellow in fall. This low maintenance plant thrives in full sun to part shade, and requires medium watering.

The genus name honors 18th-century Virginia physician Dr. Charles Amson.

The specific epithet means hairy-margined in reference to the fringe of hairs found on new leaves and plant stems (hence the sometimes use of fringed or downy in the common name).

The plant is often found in borders, rock gardens, cottage gardens or open woodland areas. It is best planted in groups or massed.

Many of our native plants were purchased at Missouri Wildflower Nursery. Missouri Botanical Garden provided this information. To learn more about this and other plants and how to pronounce "amsonia ciliata" go to:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=276084&isprofile=1&gen=Amsonia>

For sun on your face, a breeze in your hair, and a good time with other plant-loving UUsers, email Jeanne Murphy at jmurphy120333@gmail.com or Patty Daus at pajods@gmail.com.

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
or call the church office at 442-5764
if you need help or want to volunteer to help

Weekly in-person group singing

Music Director Jeremy Wagner will be holding weekly group sings in the parking lot at UCC from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. Singers will be socially distant and compliant with current studies stating that singing outside with 6 feet between each person (or family) is safe.

For those who are vaccinated and/or belong to the same group of people, if everyone in your group feels comfortable not wearing a mask, that is a safe decision at this time. Groups that do not normally see one another will be kept separate. Jeremy will handle distribution of needed resources, including masks and sanitary wipes.

Participants do not need to be in choir or be able to read music to participate. The point is to sing as a community in a safe manner that hopefully will be healing for us all. There will be no obligation to stay the entire two hours.

If you have music that you would like to sing, send Jeremy an email at music@uucomo.org so he can make sure it is available.

Free, Gentle Yoga is back

6 to 7:15 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays
10 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays

Classes are free but require registration with Karen Dwyer at 573-999-9696. You must be vaccinated to participate. Social distancing is required.

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

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

With Gratitude

by Rebecca Graves, 2020-21 President

Thank you to all who attended our second online Annual Congregational Meeting on May 2. Following the meeting, 82 of you cast ballots by email or mail, overwhelmingly approving our budget and our board nominees. I welcome Melissa Ensign-Bedford, Susan Even and Connie Ordway to the board. They will begin their three-year terms on July 1. I look forward to serving with them this next year. I also thank Mark Johnson, Mindy McPherson and Jan Swaney for their service on the board as they finish their terms this month. A shout-out to Mindy for her work this year as past president and chair of the Nominating Committee and to Jan for her work this past year as secretary. You made my job as president so much easier. I will miss working with you on the board.

We have been working on the Accessibility Campaign. As I mentioned in my column last month, the board members decided that we could not wait for the capital campaign to resume in order to install an elevator or to replace the carpeting. At our May meeting, the board approved the following charge for the Board Accessibility Task Force:

UUC Board Accessibility Task Force

The Board Accessibility Task Force is charged with making recommendations to the board and the minister regarding elevator and flooring accessibility improvements. The task force is specifically charged with the following:

- Working with architects and contractors
- Soliciting bids
- Overseeing construction and installation
- Fundraising for the projects approved by the board
- Other tasks as they relate to accessibility improvements

The task force will be divided into two sections:

1. Accessibility 2021 Fundraising section, and
2. Accessibility 2021 Construction section.

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

The task force will consist of at least five (5) church members. At least one of the members will be from the board; at least one of the members will have an architecture, engineering, and/or construction background; and at least one of the members will have a fundraising/development background. The board representative will convene the task force and will serve on both sections.

The task force will meet and report to the board and minister at least monthly until project completion.

The board also approved Ginny Winter as the board liaison to the committee. Architectural firm SOA has been hired to provide a scope of work that we will then use to inform project bids. Once we know the cost of the project, we will begin to actively raise funds. If you have questions or would like to serve, please contact me or Ginny.

Finally, I would like to close by saying it has been an honor to serve as your president this past year. It has been a strange time – this pandemic – meeting online, being physically distant, and wondering how we would all fare. I sincerely thank and appreciate my board colleagues; our minister, Rev. Molly Housh Gordon; our sabbatical minister, Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson Jr.; our church administrator, Suzanne Clark; and our webmaster, Steve Scott. Your work and support allowed me to succeed. I welcome new President Tim Dickerson and look forward to serving with him and the rest of the board this coming year.

UUA General Assembly - June 23-27, 2021

The all-virtual Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly will be held June 23-27, 2021. This annual nationwide meeting brings together Unitarian Universalists from around the country to make policy decisions at business meetings, worship, attend workshops, and connect with other UUs.

Our church will have five voting delegates to represent our community – Tim Dickerson, Melissa Ensign-Bedford, David Leuthold, Ruth Milledge and Margaret Tyler. With a paid registration (\$200), any UUC members may attend. For more information, go to <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

7 p.m. Saturday, June 19 -
at UUCC!

Join Kaleidoscope as we celebrate Litha, the summer Solstice. The longest day and the shortest night are here. The Sun stands in his glory and in full strength. Glory with him, this bringer of warmth, light and hope.

Gather with us at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 19 in the Memorial Garden. Yes, that's right. For the first time in a year and a half, we are planning to meet in person.

This is subject to such challenges as weather and changes in pandemic status. We ask that all who attend wear masks, maintain a 6-foot social distance, and bring your own snacks and beverages. Food cannot be shared among us, but we can share the experience of eating together again. Watch for updates as we come nearer to the date.

All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. If you have questions, please email kaleidoscope@uucomo.org.

Faith-to-Action nominations are coming in

The Social Action Team is gathering nominations for Faith-to-Action collections for the coming church year. As of this writing, we have received nominations for:

- Heart of Missouri CASA
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Stop Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri

Please consider nominating one of your favorite organizations for a FTA collection. Nominations are open until July 15. Applications are online at uucomo.org.

Festival of Sharing – June 2021

For the month of June, the focus is on the “Church World Service Hygiene Kit.” These packs are for adults who have experienced a crisis situation or are experiencing homelessness. Each kit will contain:

- 1 washcloth
- 1 toothbrush (in original package)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (in package)
- 1 wide-tooth comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 1 hand towel (approximately 15 x 28 inches)

Collection boxes are available in the church greeting area.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

Immigrant Justice sponsorship news

Our church will indeed be sponsoring a family from Guatemala who are seeking asylum in the U.S. The family arrived in Columbia on May 26. The family is living with Christine Heath and her father until they are able to earn money themselves and live independently. First steps will be to help the family settle in, find a lawyer for the family, and get the asylum-seeking process rolling.

Many thanks to those who already offered to donate household items and other resources, help with transportation and translation and to teach English. We will be putting the word out for donations and other help once we know what's needed. We are very grateful to have received offers of help and financial donations from Broadway Christian Church, Rock Bridge Christian Church and Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church in West Virginia. If you would like to be involved, please contact Dave Gibbons, Allie Gassmann or any other member of our team.

Household goods collection for Guatemalan family

UUCC is sponsoring a new family seeking asylum. Your Sanctuary and Immigration Justice Team appreciates your kind offer to donate household items to them.

In preparation for their arrival, we have created an initial list of items needed before they arrive. The link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FAIpQLScnCc8ghepuOxbD8QBCcNyaEYT10fJQTyVEcqa0zZ66Um2CQ/viewform?usp=sf> will take you to a Google Forms questionnaire that you can use to let us know if you can provide any of these items on this list. Your responses will help us coordinate your donations.

Consider donating to others

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.

Community Foundation of Central Missouri's Covid-19 Relief Fund
<https://cfcfoundation.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>

June 19 Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering in person at church

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Conversations, Etc. New Day!

Wednesday, June 2 at noon

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet via Zoom and by telephone conference at noon Wednesday, June 2. 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

4 p.m. Saturday, June 12 - online

The group will meet online and by phone to briefly discuss books we have read. For questions, contact Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642 or pspring@socket.net.

Green Sanctuary Team

7 p.m. Thursday, June 3 - online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net for details.

Revelio Como

1 p.m. Sunday, June 13 - 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>

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

The UUCC building is open for small meetings on a limited basis

We can accommodate groups of up to six people downstairs and up to 15 upstairs. All meetings must be scheduled by email to uuchurch@uucomo.org. The policy and restrictions can be found at <https://uucomo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UUCC-guidance-for-re-opening-to-small-groups.pdf>.

Worship services will continue online.

UU Life Writers

Summer dates at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Writers invite memoir enthusiasts to join us on June 19, July 3, 17 and 31 and Aug. 7 and 24.

We will Zoom if the weather is bad or otherwise meet at Kiwanis Park or at the church. Each session will be led by a member with a mystery/surprise prompt for writing. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own paper and pen or pencil.

Our 2020 anthology, *Stories, Just Stories*, has been published. Copies are \$8. Email Fran Reynolds for further information or to order.

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

June 20 this month

The Social Action Team is looking for volunteers to prepare 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 4 p.m. The volunteers who assemble the boxed meals also are asked to be at the church by 4 p.m. Sign up online at uucomo.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@gmail.com for more information.

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, June 13 - online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net for details.

Men's Group

8:15 a.m. June 12 & 26 - 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. Mondays, June 14 & 28

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

Reflections



As we head into the summer, with vaccination numbers increasing and infections decreasing here in Columbia, we begin the slow steps back toward being together in-person again. I think after a year of being on high alert, there is an understandable level of anxiety and caution as we find our way. We have so much rebuilding to do – of our children getting to know each other again, of creating a covenant of trust and care together as we assess our risk tolerance and understand others’.

My hope for the summer is that we will just start practicing being together again, in the safest ways possible, before exploring the more complicated questions of the process of getting “back to normal.” With that in mind, we will be doing a scaled-back, outdoor in-person R.E. program this summer. We will be meeting once a month, as families, on Sunday afternoons to take part in spiritual practice, service, play and joy together. There will also be once-monthly social gatherings at the church, and the events planned in July and August will be geared toward family participation.

I believe that this is an important step for many of our young people (as well as us parents!) of re-forming our R.E. community that will lay the groundwork for our full building re-opening. I hope many of you are able to participate.

I have missed each of you so very much, and even while there is so much that is still uncertain, I am also filled with hope. I am looking forward to this summer with much anticipation and a heart full of love.

Sincerely,
Jamila

Returning to our Sacred Place **4 to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 27**

For the first offering of our Summer R.E. Program, we will meet on the church grounds to build an altar together using natural materials from the church grounds and to decorate the ground around it with sidewalk chalk. It will be our opportunity to reconnect with this place that means so much to us, as well as with each other.



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

K-1 ***OWL Program*** ***in fall 2021***

We are exploring the possibility of offering an Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for kindergarteners and first graders this fall. OWL is our comprehensive sexuality education program that communicates developmentally appropriate information on a range of topics, including bodies and reproduction, gender and sexual orientation, and consent and safety. If you think you might be interested in your child participating in this program, please email Jamila at dre@uucomo.org.



Coming-of-Age **2021-22**

We will be offering our Coming of Age program this year for youth to gain tools to explore and define their own unique beliefs and lay the groundwork for their continued spiritual journey into adulthood. This year we will be offering the program to 8th-9th graders. Parents of Coming-of-Age youth will be contacted to begin the process of preparing for this program (including choosing a mentor).

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

On sabbatical April 5-Aug. 2, 2021

Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson, Jr., Sabbatical Minister

Office Hours: 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday and 1-3 p.m. Thursday

See <https://uucomo.org/contact-and-office-hours/> for links

Email: philosopher@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

2020-2021 Board of Trustees

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

The Searchlight is published monthly by the
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Submissions:

Email to uuchurch@uucomo.org
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The deadline for submissions is noon on the third Monday
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