



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 62, Issue 1, July 2021

## July 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, July 4**

**“When Will America Be America to Me?”**

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

**Sunday, July 11**

**“What does ‘Freedom for All’ Mean to You?”**

Worship Associates

**Sunday, July 18**

**“Unspeakable Joy”**

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

**Sunday, July 25**

**“Building Our Ship as We Sail It”**

Worship Associates

## Board updates guidance for in-person gatherings

At its meeting on June 17, our Board of Trustees approved updated guidance effective June 22 for in-person gatherings at the church.

The guidelines state that persons vaccinated against Covid-19 can safely go without masks.

However, groups are advised to require masks to protect medically vulnerable persons.

**Details on page 3**

## Stewardship 2021-2022

*“Love each other, love the world”*



ACH automatic deduction forms are available at [uucomo.org](http://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

### Leaving you with challenges

This will be my last column for *The Searchlight* because our settled minister, the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, will be back from her sabbatical in August. It has truly been an honor to serve you as Sabbatical Interim Minister. All of you have been tremendously kind and supportive of my ministry in your midst. Thank you. In my 40 plus years of ministerial service, I have never served a congregation more committed to justice and truth. You are special, and I want you to know that I believe in your work, and I love you.

Since I am coming to the end of my tenure with you, allow me to leave you with the following challenges. Beloved, I urge you to:

#### **Commit to an action plan of progressive evangelism**

I wrote about this in the last newsletter, but I want to re-emphasize the concept. As a congregation you have everything you need to numerically grow. You have a minister who can preach and is a gifted administrator. You have a Board of Trustees that is responsible and handles business with transparency. Your staff in excellent and committed to the success of this church. You have a history of justice.

There are many people who will want to join this fellowship if you commit to attracting them. Respectfully let me remind you that *it is not the responsibility of the minister to grow a congregation*. The minister’s role is to equip *you* to grow this congregation. From the Black Church motto, “Shepherds don’t make sheep, sheep make sheep.” Your calling is to make members, and your task is to tell your story as a UU member. Your story will grow your church.

**Continued on page 2**

### *Highlights of what’s inside*

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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?](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09)

[pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09)

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/)

## July adult social hour with R.E. event – 4-5 p.m. Sunday, July 18

The UCC Safe Summer Social Planning Team has joined with the Youth Religious Education program for a combined event.

For the second offering of our Summer R.E. Program, we will meet on the church grounds to imagine the world we wish to create...and then build it with Legos! Bring your imagination, ingenuity, creativity, and sense of fun.

Adults without children are welcome to take this time to gather and chat. Bring a chair, or not. Bring something to drink, or not. But please plan to come and visit, and reconnect in person. Please review the Board of Trustees' updated Covid-19 policy on page 3, and remember to drive about carefully, as young ones will be gathered.

## UCC office hours

The UCC office will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of the federal Fourth of July holiday.

In addition, office hours have changed again (now that the “school marm” is not needed at home). The administrative office is now open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### 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.

## From the Sabbatical Minister

# Leaving you with challenges

Continued from page 1

### Commit to a year-round stewardship plan

Once upon a time, because of your socio-economic advantage, stewardship drives campaigns were activated once a year and the budget would be secured. But this phenomenon is no longer the case, and the reality is that all of us must think about stewardship in a wholistic manner. *Stewardship is not just about money; it is also about time and talent.*

### Allow your passion to unite with your intellect

Once we were taught that passion and intellect are mutually exclusive. Yet, everything we do in life, that is important to us, demands both passion and intellect.

Thus, I encourage you to bring both head and heart all you do in the life of this congregation. Sing like you mean what you say. Give Rev. Molly or the lay leader an “Amen” sometime. Greet visitors with enthusiasm. Do your individual ministries with all the passion of your heart. I share with you that the things that come from the heart reach the heart of others. Give your all and do not be ashamed to feel the faith you claim.

Rev. Erin Margit Dajka Holley, who serves as Digital Liturgist during Rev. Molly's sabbatical, agrees that you are a healthy congregation, which is no small compliment. There are so many toxic congregations out there. It is obvious that Rev. Molly has put in the work to create a healthy atmosphere of service and worship. You have been doing the work of growing spiritually. I encourage you to continue to grow in your journey together. Let it be so and amen!

– 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=MHZjcGpBQmZBRkZnNc28rWjJ5SFp0dz09)

[pwd=MHZjcGpBQmZBRkZnNc28rWjJ5SFp0dz09](https://zoom.us/j/96047161907?pwd=MHZjcGpBQmZBRkZnNc28rWjJ5SFp0dz09)

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

# Updated UUCC guidance for in-person summer gatherings indoors and outdoors

At its June 17 meeting, our Board of Trustees updated its guidance for in-person summer gatherings based on recommendations from our Covid-19 Advisory Task Force, the Centers for Disease Control, state and local health guidelines, and the Unitarian Universalist Association. The updated guidance, effective Tuesday, June 22, is as follows:

- It is safe for fully-vaccinated persons not to wear masks or observe social distancing.
- Unvaccinated persons and those who are medically vulnerable (even if vaccinated) are advised to continue wearing masks and observe social distancing to reduce their risk of exposure, and are encouraged to receive vaccinations.
- Group leaders will privately contact all members of the group to inform them that fully vaccinated persons are not required to wear masks. The group will default to the needs of its most vulnerable members. If a group member requests that everyone wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, the group will defer to that member.
- Fully vaccinated members of the choir may practice together, but otherwise there is to be no indoor singing at this time.

Watch upcoming issues of *The Searchlight* and emails for guidance on fall gatherings, worship services and religious education classes.

*Additional resource: "Choosing Safer Activities" – a chart comparing the relative safety of various indoor and outdoor activities for unvaccinated and fully vaccinated people.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

## UUCC 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 [mjdonlson@gmail.com](mailto:mjdonlson@gmail.com) or call the church office at 442-5764 if you need help or want to volunteer to help

## Social Action T-Shirts

Your \$20 purchase helps UUCC continue our social action projects. Contact Caya Tanski, Allie Gassmann or Sarah Wolcott for info.

## The UUCC Grounds Team would like to introduce you to the July bloomers

**Purple coneflower**–*Enchinacea*

**Missouri evening primrose**– *enothera macrocarpa*

**Common milkweed**–*Asclepias syriaca*

**Blazing star**–*Liatris spicata*

**Aromatic aster**–*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*

UUCC participated in the Shepard Boulevard Neighborhood Garden show on June 20. It was a big success, and proceeds will go to beautifying the neighborhood.

If you enjoy the sun on your face, a breeze in your hair, a battle against invasive honey suckle in the woods, and a good time with other plant loving UUers, contact:

- Jeanne Murphy at [jmurphy120333@gmail.com](mailto:jmurphy120333@gmail.com), or
- Patty Daus at [pajods@gmail.com](mailto:pajods@gmail.com)

*UU 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*

# UUCC Sponsorship of Guatamalan Family

## *Financial Contributions*

Thank you, UUCC, for your support of our sponsorship of a Guatemalan family seeking asylum. The mom Lilly, her 5-year-old son Manuel, and her 8-month-old daughter Lakshmi, arrived in Columbia on May 26. Church member Christine Heath has generously offered to host the family in her home. Many of you have indicated a willingness to offer financial support of the sponsorship, and we greatly appreciate your interest in helping. There are two suggested ways to consider making contributions.

### **Give to the church**

Please designate contributions to the church for the “Sanctuary Fund.” If donating at <https://uucomo.org/donate/>, please select “Other” and specify “Sanctuary Fund.”

Contributions to the church are tax deductible. We as a congregation have expressed a willingness to see the sponsorship of an asylum-seeking family as an extension of being a sanctuary congregation.

Although we are unable to make a direct transfer to the family of contributions made to the church, the Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice (SIJ) Team will do its best to use money in the Sanctuary Fund wisely. The financial needs of our sponsorship of Lilly and her family are significant, and we anticipate using money in the Sanctuary Fund for that purpose. However, there is also the possibility that money in the Sanctuary Fund may be used for other immigrant justice pur-

poses, such as helping with unexpected expenses for the Honduran family we have been helping to support, or if there is an unexpected need for sanctuary that UUCC agrees to provide.

### **Give to the family**

At this time please send contributions for the family to Allie Gassmann at 1700 Princeton Dr., Columbia, MO 65203. Please make checks payable to Allie. Allie and Dave Gibbons, as co-chairs of the SIJ Team, and Christine Heath, as host of the family, have opened a joint account for the sponsorship needs of Lilly and her family. They will coordinate all expenditures from the account for sponsorship needs and make a periodic accounting to the SIJ Team. Contributions sent to Allie as gifts for the family are not tax deductible.

We truly appreciate the interest of people at UUCC to help support the sponsorship of Lilly, Manuel, and Lakshmi. The immigration courts are significantly backed up, so our sponsorship could be for quite a while. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, or if you need any additional information.

With much gratitude,  
Allie Gassmann and Dave Gibbons, Co-Chairs  
Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team

## ***Weekly in-person group singing***

Music Director Jeremy Wagner is holding weekly group sings in the parking lot at UUCC from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. Singers will be compliant with current UUCC Covid-19 policy (see page 3). Resources, including masks and sanitary wipes, are available at the church

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](mailto:music@uucomo.org) so he can make sure it is available.

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

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

## Faith-to-Action nominations update

The Social Action Team continues to collect 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
- First Chance For Children
- Children's Grove Kindness Libraries
- Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
- Honduras Education Fund

Please consider nominating one of your favorite organizations for a FTA collection. Applications are online at [uucomo.org](https://uucomo.org).

## Festival of Sharing – July 2021

For the month of July, the focus is on the “Missouri Reading & Writing Pack.” These packs are for elementary school students who could not otherwise afford these supplies. Place all items in a large ziplock bag (2 to 2.5 gallon).

- 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)

2,997 packs were requested in 2020, but only 1,387 were shared. You may leave your donated items in the volunteer work room at church.

### 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>

**Community Book Drive**

Now thru Aug 9<sup>th</sup>

Drop off any new or gently used children's book

Join community partners and help a local child discover the joy of reading!

Our list of donation locations is growing by the day!  
For an updated list of drop off locations, visit <https://tinyurl.com/CoMoBookDrive>

Books will be distributed to local families through Bagby Community Helping Hand

Logos of participating organizations: Love Coffee, Papa's Cat Café, peace hook, SKYLARK BOOKSHOP, YELLOW DOG BOOKSHOP, The Bagby Community Helping Hand, Rock Bridge Christian Church.

## Programs and events

### Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

Saturday, July 31 at 4 p.m.  
at UUCC

*Please note the time change!*

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 at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 31 at the church. Please bring snacks and drinks for yourself as desired. Currently, we are not planning to share food due to continued concerns about Covid-19.

All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. If you have questions, please contact [kaleidoscope@uucomo.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@uucomo.org).

### Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, July 11 - online

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

### Revelio Como

1 p.m. Sunday, July 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](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



Columbia, Missouri

### UU Life Writers

July 3, 17 & 31 at 10:30 a.m.  
at the church

UU Life Writers are meeting this summer with guest facilitators! Each meeting will have a fun, different prompt to write by. We meet in the Centering Room at the church on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. July 3, 17, 31 and Aug. 7 and 21. Everyone is welcome – just bring pencil/pen and paper and be ready to write! Contact Fran Reynolds for further information.

### Conversations, Etc.

Wednesday, July 7 at 1:30 p.m.

*Please note the time change!*

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet Wednesday, July 7 at 1:30 p.m. inside the church, together. Please note the new policies for gatherings at the church on page 3. Zoom will be available for those away from Columbia. 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).

### UUCC Book Discussion

4 p.m. Saturday, July 9 - 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](mailto:pspring@socket.net).

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

July 18 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](http://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](mailto:diane.suhler@gmail.com) for more information.

### Green Team

7 p.m. Thursday, July 1 - online

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

### Men's Group

8:15 a.m. July 10 & 24 - 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. Mondays, July 12 & 26

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

# Reflections

I hope you are enjoying your summer and finding time to relax and renew yourselves after a tremendously difficult year. This summer we are all working on re-emerging from our year of pandemic distance and getting used to being around other people again in various settings. It is a strange sensation, sometimes delightful, sometimes anxiety-producing. I am grateful for this time – to be able to do it slowly and at my own pace – and for each of us to find our own way back in a way that feels safe for us.

We are also turning our eyes to the fall and the hope that church is able to return to in-person religious education. We are reviewing the science carefully to make sure we take every precaution to be able to reopen safely. But science alone cannot give us all the answers. We are a community, informed by values of care and compassion for each other, particularly for the most vulnerable among us. So it is important that we are in conversation with each other – about our hopes, our fears, our needs, our risk tolerance and our frustrations. It is important to understand what measures we can take that help us *all* to feel safe and ready to be together again. It is important to determine where we are and what it will take to get us to where we want to be.

In the month of July, I would like to have these conversations with all of you. I will be reaching out to all of our R.E. families that I can to hear your feelings and opinions and to discuss this community we love so much. I am looking forward to talking to you all!

Sincerely,  
Jamila

**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

**YRUU Lock-In**  
5 p.m. July 17 to  
10 a.m. July 18



We are excited to have our first in-person YRUU high school youth group event in a year! We will have an overnight get-together in the church building to welcome our new freshmen to the group. We will do some activities to get to know each other, play some games, and do some visioning about the year ahead.

We will be following our Covid safety policy to maintain safety: masks will be optional for all vaccinated individuals but required for anyone who is unvaccinated. If your high-school-age youth would like to attend, RSVP to Jamila at [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org).



**Summer RE:**  
***Building the World***  
***We Imagine... with Legos***  
4 to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 18

For the second offering of our Summer R.E. Program, we will meet on the church grounds to imagine the world we wish to create...and then build it with Legos! Bring your imagination, ingenuity, creativity and sense of fun. We will play together and inspire each other to keep doing the work in the real world to bring our dreams to life. Duplos and giant size Legos will be available for littler children. RSVP to [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org) if you plan to attend.

Adults without children are welcome to attend for a July social hour.

# ***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](mailto:philosopher@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)

## **2021-2022 Board of Trustees**

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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](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.