



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 63, Issue 8, February 2022

February Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday

We hope to return to both in-person and online services. Watch for updates.

Sunday worship service is at 10:30 a.m. If you have trouble accessing the technology to join us online, please send an email to techhelp@uucomo.org.

Sunday, Feb. 6

“How We Take Care of Each Other”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

How do we care for each other well, amid our plurality of needs and ways of being? What is our calling as Unitarian Universalists, and as a congregation, to create a culture of nurture amid humanity-denying systems? Our special musical guest Syd Hemwall will nurture us with healing sound as we contemplate how to care well.

Sunday, Feb. 13

“Loving This World” - Valentine’s Day Service

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & DRE Jamila Batchelder

Join us for a multi-generational service exploring what it looks like to love this world through our words, thoughts and deeds. Our special musical guests will be The January Lanterns!

Sunday, Feb. 20

“Queer Theology for This Moment”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & Guests

Join us for the sixth installment in our “Theology for This Moment” series as we speak to how the teachings of Queer Theology speak care, re-imagining and openness into this moment of crumbling and transformation. If you’ve ever wished Sunday services included a drag queen, now is your chance! Autumn Equinox will be our musical guest.

Sunday, Feb. 27

“In The Shelter of One Another”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & UUCS Sanctuary Team

What would a true nurturance culture look like in our nation’s policy decisions, especially when we think about all those seeking shelter from violence within our borders. Join us for a special service including testimony from our sanctuary team, a chance to meet the Guatemalan Family we are sponsoring in their asylum case, and very special music from local artist Sifa Bihomora.

Minister’s Message

We Are Rising to the Moment by...

Nurturing Each Other

These last two years have pulled back the thin veil over our culture’s attitude toward nurture and caregiving. As our institutions have continually failed to adequately support nurses, teachers, child caregivers, home health and nursing home caregivers, parents, and others during a time of profound challenge, we have been reminded that caregiving is not uplifted or valued in the systems that make up our lives.

Yet we have realized in the same moment that everything about our society, economy and culture relies upon a foundation of caregiving. Nothing works without it.

What would it be like to rebuild our culture around nurture? Small communities, like our congregation, could be a perfect trial ground for this question. Already we are a people who help each other with meals and childcare, who invest in one another’s spiritual growth, and who show up for one another in times of need. How can we extend that prioritization of care even beyond our walls – showing up with soup on the street and hugs at the protest? What kind of culture of nurture can we imagine?

Let’s care together this month – my guess is it could change everything.

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

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Worship Zoom information

Worship services will be offered in-person and via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

The Zoom address for our 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship is: <https://zoom.us/j/380411489>

You can also join by phone: 312-626 6799
Webinar ID: 380 411 489

Services are also streamed live to Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/UnitarianUniversalistChurchOfColumbiaMO/videos/>

The Zoom address for our 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

Colorism and the Church in America

Online Adult RE with Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson Jr.
7 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22

This lecture series will also be livestreamed for virtual participation. We invite widespread attendance from the community.

Rev. Dr. Dawson introduces the course as follows: "An insidious form of racism is colorism. Colorism is the preference of white/light skin people over dark skin people. We are aware that colorism has influenced every segment and institution of American society. The question is, however, how has colorism effected the church in America? For four Tuesdays in February, we shall discuss colorism and the church."

Join the Zoom class at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82494017228> or call 312-626-6799 – Meeting ID: 824 9401 7228, Passcode: 501360.

UCC PRESENTS
Music For Change
winter music series
10:30AM
INDOOR SERVICE & STREAMING ONLINE

JAN 16
Josh Runnels
aka
J.A.R.Tiz

JAN 9
members of
Jane Doe
Revue

FEB 6
Syd Hemwall w/
Transformative
Sound

FEB 20
Autumn
Equinox

FEB 13
The January
Lanterns

FEB 27
Sifa

UU CHURCH
OF COLUMBIA
2615 Shepard Blvd
Columbia, MO 65201
uucmo.org

President's Perspective

Where do you want to build your bridge?

By Timothy Dickerson, 2021-22 President

Hello, beloved UUCoMo community,

In Rev. Dr. Dawson's prophetic Jan. 23 message on bridge-building, he asked us to consider, "Where do you want to build bridges?"

First, I would highly recommend all who did not get a chance to watch it live, check it out at <https://uucomo.org/sermon-archive/> or on our UUCC Facebook page.

Second, I would encourage each of us to take some time to reflect on this question, as well as other questions that surround what it takes to build these bridges. Make sure to take some time to think about your abilities, tools, know-how and gifts you can offer to help us in our bridge-building work.

There will be a time soon when the Board of Trustees will reach out to the congregation to discuss the bridges UUCC should be building and the talents you can offer to help as we make these bridges.

As always, feel free to reach out to me or any board member if you have questions about these upcoming conversations or other board questions you have on your mind.

In Love,
Tim Dickerson

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 mjdonlsn@gmail.com
or call the church office at 442-5764
if you need help or want to volunteer to help

'Talk and Do' group

1:30 p.m. Fridays

Join your fellow UUs for some informal conversation from the comfort of your home! Come as you are, and feel free to work on a project as we chat – it's okay if your attention is divided!

This is an informal and casual group where it is okay to not be totally focused. Just tune in and work on whatever it is you need or want to do while you chat. Email Robin Duple (ryduple@gmail.com) for more information.

A special opportunity to greet your UU community awaits

Greeting for service is fun, informative, community-building and appreciated.

Time commitment: 10 to 11:30 a.m. or noon Sunday

Responsibilities:

- Smile and greet.
- Encourage name tags. Masks will be required for all participants above age 2. Watch for new faces or people who are glancing around the room. Escort visitors with children to RE.
- Afterward, seek out the new visitors and touch base with them. Answer questions as best as you can. Refer the question to the right person, send the question to the membership team, and/or refer the person to the UUCC website.
- Greeter signup can be found at: <https://uucomo.org/blog/sheet/sunday-greeters/>.
- Once you have signed up, a more detailed instruction sheet will be provided.

The Membership Team hopes to have a board welcomer and two greeters for each service.

Room at the Inn

Room at the Inn will move in at UUCC on Sunday, Feb. 27 and out on Sunday, March 6.

UUCC Chalice Circles – Are you interested?

The intimacy of the UUCC Chalice Circle groups is one way to enrich our members' lives with greater depth of meaning. Each Chalice Circle has seven to 10 members and meets at least once a month.

Email chalicecircle@uucomo.org if you have any questions or if you want to sign up but have not yet done so.

Liberation Theology: A model for the Social Action Team

Certainly, I recommend that you listen to all of Rev. Molly Housh Gordon's sermons, either by attending church via livestream or reviewing the archived versions afterwards. OK, truth to tell, I haven't heard every last one.

But her sermon on Jan. 9, "Liberation Theology for This Moment" (video replay available at <https://uucomo.org/sermon-archive/>) is particularly relevant. In fact, I'd say this sermon lays out the spiritual, moral and ethical groundwork for everything the Social Action Team does. Don't take my word for it – check it out for yourself!

If you find inspiration in her message, consider joining us on the Social Action Team. Not ready to join the team? Send us your thoughts on how we can practice Liberation Theology in our community. You don't have to have it all worked out – just throw it out there!

– Fred Young
Social Action Team Chair

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

We are very excited to formally introduce Lilly and her children to the congregation on Feb. 27! That same Sunday, we will also be taking a Faith-to-Action collection to support the sponsorship and our team's work in general.

The team is looking for help from anyone who would be interested in giving of their time and/or treasure. For instance, Lilly needs rides for shopping, for Lakshmi's healthy baby visits and WIC appointments, and for various other errands around town.

As a reminder, if you would like to support the efforts of the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team in general, you can make a tax-deductible donation to the church with Sanctuary Fund in the memo line. If you would like to make a non-tax-deductible donation to the family directly, you can send a check made out to Allie Gassmann at 1700 Princeton Dr., Columbia, MO 65203. This money will go on a joint account from which the family's expenses will be paid directly.

If you would like to get involved on the team, please contact Dave or Allie!

Dave Gibbons dgibbons@mchsi.com
Allie Gassmann alliegassmann@socket.net
Co-chairs Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

February Festival of Sharing

For the month of February, the focus is on the "Missouri Baby Bundle Pack." Each box will consist of the following items:

- 2 receiving blankets
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- 2 sleepers
- 3-pack of onesies

In 2020, there were requests for 827 packs statewide, but only 687 were provided. Collection boxes are available by the church office.

– Bonnie Johnson
Festival of Sharing Chair

Membership classes

Are you interested in learning more about membership with our community? Are you ready to deepen your connection and get involved? If so, join the [Membership Team](#) for these membership classes:

- **7 p.m. Thursday, March 15, via Zoom**
Membership 101: "History of Unitarians & Universalists"
- **After worship Sunday, March 20, in person**
Membership 102: "Getting Involved at UUC"

A vegetarian lunch will be provided for participants who RSVP by [email](#) or by phone to 573-442-5764 for the in-person class on March 20. Child care can be provided with a one-week notice.

A New Member Ingathering will be held April 10 during the worship service.

If you are not ready right now, here are your other membership opportunities in 2022:

Summer Membership Cycle

- June 23 - Membership 101
- June 26 - Membership 102
- July 10 - New Member Ingathering

Fall Membership Cycle

- Sept. 22 - Membership 101
- Sept. 25 - Membership 102
- Oct. 9 - New Member Ingathering



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

4 p.m. Saturday, March 19

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

Gather with us as we celebrate Ostara, the spring equinox, at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 19 at the church. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. Please bring snacks and drinks for yourself as desired. Currently, we are not planning to share food due to continued concerns about Covid. Masks are required.

If you have questions, contact kaleidoscope@uucomo.org.

UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 and 19 - online only

Text or call Fran Reynolds at 573-881-3828, or send an email to freynolds@centurytel.net to get the Zoom link or more information.

We will be writing wonderful mini-memoirs again, and everyone is welcome to write with us.

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1:00 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13 - online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net for details.

Social Action T-Shirts

*Your \$20 purchase helps
UUCC continue our
social action projects.
Contact Allie Gassmann or
Sarah Twaddle-Wolcott.*

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Conversations, Etc.

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 2 – online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC women's group, will meet via Zoom and telephone at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2.

For questions or if you would like to join us, contact Pam Springsteel – pspring@socket.net.

UUCC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12
online & by phone

The group will meet online and by phone to briefly discuss books each has read. For questions, contact Pam Springsteel at pspring@socket.net.

Consider donating to others

Minister's Discretionary

Benevolence Fund

You can donate to this fund at <https://uucomo.org/give/>.

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>

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

Feb. 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 a donation to the church specifying "Loaves and Fishes Fund." For information, email diane.suhler@gmail.com.

Green Team

7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3 - online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net for details.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Feb. 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

8 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 7 & 21

For more information, contact Kevin Fritsche at 573-289-4536 or klfritsche37@gmail.com.

Reflections

The past few weeks, as the Omicron wave has forced us apart once again, I am reminded how much I need community. Not just because I need people to love and care for me, but because I need to love and care for other people. As I look ahead to Valentine's Day, I was thinking of the old song we used to sing for Valentine's Day in my childhood choir: "Love is something when we give it away...we end up having more." And I think not just that we receive love back from other people, but that as we ourselves become instruments of love, it suffuses our being and heals our own souls and makes love more abundant in our being.

There is something in the culture of white supremacy that tries to tell us that it is wrong to admit need, to say we rely on others. Time and time again, I see people so hesitant to say that they are in need of being cared for, that they don't want to be a burden on others. If there was one thing I have most wanted to tell you this year, it is that you are giving people a gift when you openly acknowledge your need for care. You are giving them an opportunity to care.

So this month, let us open up fully to caring for each other, and to being cared for by each other. You and your children are loved by this community. You and your children are loved by me. Truly and deeply. I look forward to seeing you again this month.

— Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

Valentine's Day Dance 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 12

Join us for one of our favorite traditions at UCC, the Valentine's Day Family Dance! This is a free event hosted by the YRUU high school youth group, but they will take donations of any amount for an organization they want to support (organization to be determined). Light refreshments will be served. Dressing up is encouraged for all who enjoy it!



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

Junior Youth Meeting

6:30 to 8 p.m.
Feb. 11

All 6th-8th graders are invited to join us in the sanctuary to play minute-to-win-it games (a/k/a silly party games).

RSVP to dre@uucomo.org.



Rescheduled!
R.E. Volunteer Training
9 a.m. Sat., Feb. 19

Are you new to our community and want to get involved in volunteering in our religious education program? Have you been teaching for years but are out of practice after two years of pandemic? Do you want to share collective wisdom for how we need to adjust our program to fit our new realities? Everyone is encouraged to join us for this training as we prepare for new programming in the new year!

RSVP to dre@uucomo.org.

RE Schedule

Feb. 6: Service Sunday
Feb. 13: Intergenerational Valentine's Day Service
Feb. 20: Regular RE Classes
Feb. 27: Regular RE Classes

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays via Zoom – 10-11:30 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/2115663859>

Thursdays in person – 2:30-4 p.m.

Or by appointment at calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon

Email: minister@uucomo.org

Suzanne Clark, Administrator

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-4 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

Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry

Email: music@uucomo.org

April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant

Email: uuchurch@uucomo.org

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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Email to uuchurch@uucomo.org
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