



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 9, March 2022

March Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday

We have returned to both in-person and online services

Sunday worship 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, March 6
“Worthy Now”**

Church of the Larger Fellowship

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is a Unitarian Universalist congregation without walls that connects people all over the world for spiritual growth, worship, learning and mutual support. They have a thriving prison ministry called “Worthy Now” that serves incarcerated Unitarian Universalists and religious liberals, and they’ve provided this service to help us learn about their work and reflect upon our theology that believes each person to be “worthy now.”

Sunday, March 13

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

Join beloved guest preacher Rev. Dr. Dawson for a moving word and musical guest J. Artiz for fabulous music.

Sunday, March 20

“Disability Theology for this Moment”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for the next in our Theologies for this Moment Series as we explore how Disability Theology speaks to this moment of challenge and transformation. How can we create access and inclusion for all, communities of care, and a culture that resists productivity in favor of inherent worth? The service will include a special guest reflection from the Rev. Theresa Ninán Soto.

Sunday, March 27

“Plant and Grow”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for an all-ages service welcoming the emerging spring. We’ll plant seeds and dream of all that can grow in our lives and world.

Minister’s Message

On the 8th Principle

I want to tell you today about a movement in Unitarian Universalism called the 8th Principle Project, which is a grassroots part of our faith tradition’s work for collective liberation, and which is encouraging UUs across the nation in our shared work of becoming more free.

In 1984 our association voted to adopt seven principles to guide our shared life together, in which we would covenant together to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Compelled by the spiritual necessity of work for collective liberation, Black leaders in Unitarian Universalism have proposed an 8th Principle: “Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

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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

Minister's Message – continued from page 1

143 congregations in our association have voted to adopt the 8th principle and add the work of collective liberation as a mandate for their spiritual life together. The Unitarian Universalist Association as a whole has a committee looking at the issue, and a vote likely will take place at the General Assembly in 2023.

And this year in a burst of synergy, our Board of Trustees and our high school youth independently expressed their desire to study and work toward our congregation's potential adoption of the 8th principle. The board has commissioned me to create a series of study and conversation sessions, which we hope will lead to a vote at our annual meeting. And our amazing young people are ready to help lead us.

I would argue to you that we have already begun the work of embodying the eighth principle in our life together, with the help of partner organizations like Missouri Faith Voices, partners in ministry like the Rev. Dr. CW Dawson, and the passion of our members who show up when the topic at hand is racial justice and dismantling other systems of oppression.

And I would argue to you that there is still much to be done to ferret out the ways supremacy systems live on our culture and community and our own selves. We are only beginning to imagine true freedom. And I believe this community knows that this is deeply spiritual work... that we have begun to see the cost to our souls when supremacy systems abide – to recognize that there is freedom and thriving and connection and our very humanity at stake.

I'm excited to study this new principle together. I'm eager to continue this lifelong work together. I'm overjoyed to be on this freedom journey with you. I hope you'll join me at one of this month's events!

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

8th Principle discussion groups

We will be offering four identical opportunities to learn about and discuss the 8th Principle Project of Unitarian Universalism. Please choose one and join us!

Online

Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16 at 12 p.m.

In Person

Sunday, March 20 at 9 a.m.
Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

Please RSVP for your chosen date at:

<https://ucc65201.breezechms.com/form/1b9f26>

Safety guidelines for in-person worship

After a hiatus in January caused by the spike of cases of the Omicron Covid variant, we resumed in-person services on Feb. 6, and we continue to offer live-streamed services. All are invited to attend in the format that best meets their needs and risk tolerance.

For those attending in person, we are continuing the following in-person safety measures:

- Masks are required for those 2 and older. We recommend high quality masks such as N-95, KN-95 or KF-94 for all who can wear them, and we will have some on hand at the church for those who need one.
- Please stay home and attend online if you feel sick - even just a little "under the weather."
- The chairs will be set up at a safe distance, and we ask you to maintain distance when not in your seat.
- Nursery caregivers and Religious Education teachers are vaccinated, boosted and masked.

Our ventilation in the sanctuary remains top notch!

Colorism and the Church in America

Adult RE with Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson Jr.
Final class 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1
Online only

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

Room at the Inn

Room at the Inn will be at UUCU until
Sunday, March 6.

CARING
FOR ONE
ANOTHER



GENEROSITY
CAMPAIGN 2022

FEBRUARY 6 TO MARCH 13, 2022

We are proud of how our community has risen to the moment over the last two pandemic years, holding nothing back in our mission to love the world, even as we were met with some financial challenges. It felt so fulfilling to turn our building over to Room at the Inn in 2020-2021 for their most challenging sheltering season yet, to fund a Philosophy Residency and Sabbatical Ministry with Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson, to pay more than 100 utility bills as well as other emergency needs for those most stressed in our economy, and to continue paying all of our incredible and creative staff a fair wage through an otherwise uncertain time as they helped us adapt to ever-changing circumstances!

Now, as we look ahead to an energized emergence from this time of challenge, we also need re-energize our giving! We spent down most of our surplus reserves over these last two years, and we need to replenish our funds in order to fully meet our needs.

We're asking every family who can to consider significantly increasing their annual gift so that we keep up with the good work that calls us – fully funding our budget will require us to increase congregational giving by about \$50,000 over the next two years.

We have seen first-time pledges from new members and friends and increases from 5% to 50% in some of the gifts we've already received from regular givers. We are so inspired by our community's generosity!

You can pledge today at uucomo.org/pledge, or if you prefer, you can wait to talk more with your steward.

With Love,

Your Generosity Team



It appears that Covid numbers are trending down more and more each day (yay!), which means we can gather for (safe) singing again! Choir rehearsals will be resuming in March at 7 p.m. each Wednesday. For now, we will gather in the Sanctuary to allow for enough room for social distancing and air flow. KN95 masks are required. Our first scheduled Sunday performance will be Easter Sunday, April 17.

All are welcome in the choir, regardless if you've sung in choir in the past or are new to the congregation. The more the merrier! Hope you can join us!

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 us for these membership classes:

7 p.m. Thursday, March 15, via Zoom – Membership 101: “History of Unitarians & Universalists.”

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83444793563>

Meeting ID: 834 4479 3563

Passcode: 430930

After worship Sunday, March 20, in person – Membership 102: “Getting Involved at UCC”

A vegetarian lunch for the in-person class will be provided for those who RSVP online or at 573-442-5764. Childcare can be provided with a one-week notice.

You can sign up for the classes at <https://uucc65201.breezechms.com/form/6b0d8d>. If you are not yet ready to join, we have already scheduled summer and fall sessions



MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2022

MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2022 is now open for registration! Join us on Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. CT.

Our keynote speaker is social justice educator, storyteller and speaker, CB Beal! There will be worship, the annual business meeting, a keynote address and conversation as well as community break out rooms for discussion.

There is a sliding scale fee between \$25 to \$50, and scholarships are available. Learn more at <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra/2022>. Register today!

President's Perspective

More Opportunities to Reconnect!

Hello, beloved UUCoMo community!

We are making such great progress on our Accessibility Campaign, and the Generosity Campaign has begun. I am so excited that we are even able to worship again together in person as it is always so great to see all your faces.

Hopefully, many of you have already been in conversation with your tremendous stewards on the Generosity Campaign. No matter your pledge amount or your ability to pledge, these conversations will be another great opportunity for you to reconnect to your church community.

Be on the lookout for conversations around adopting UU's Black Lives 8th Principle. If you have not done so already I would recommend heading over to: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/> so you can learn more.

If you have any questions about your UUCC board and what we are doing, please feel free to contact me so we can connect.

– Tim Dickerson
2021-22 President

What are the UUA Regions?

Our Unitarian Universalist congregations are organized into regions. Each region is served by a Regional Lead and a team of Congregational Life Staff. These staff provide a wide variety of congregational services.

UUCC is a member congregation of the MidAmerica Region, which includes nearly 200 congregations in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, Michigan, western Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The MidAmerica Region combined the former Central MidWest, Heartland, and Prairie Star districts.

March Festival of Sharing

For the month of March, the focus is on the "Missouri Personal Hygiene Pack". These packs are for adults who have experienced a crisis situation or are experiencing homelessness. Place all items in a large ziplock bag (2 - 2.5 gallon).

- 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz or more)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (in package)
- 1 bottle skin lotion (11-14 oz)
- 1 bottle shampoo (11-14 oz)
- (*Hair shampoo*, NOT body shampoo, please)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 deodorant
- 2 razors (disposable)
- 1 comb or brush
- 1 hand towel

In 2020 there were requests for 4,993 packs statewide, but only 1,553 were provided. Collection boxes are available in the church Greeting Area.

– Bonnie Johnson
Festival of Sharing Chair



Social Action Team News

Columbia's American Rescue Plan Act

Several Social Action Team members sent email letters to City Council members in February. Some were in support of a proposal by Ian Thomas and Pat Fowler for utilizing Columbia's share of the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Their proposal is called: "Providing Direct Assistance to Relieve the Conditions of Systemic Poverty and Racial Inequity and to Building Robust Pathways to Economic Security." Public input continues on the issue of how to allocate remaining ARPA funds.

Wabash bus station warming center

Letters were also sent encouraging the City to raise the threshold temperature for opening the Wabash station Warming Center, unlock the bathrooms, etc. Several of us received positive, personalized responses from our letters, most notably from Ian Thomas and Betsy Peters. I don't know if we "moved the needle" on these issues – but it does appear that at least some council members listen to their constituents.

SAT meeting on March 13, not March 6

The Social Action Team will be holding its regular first-Sunday-of-the-month meeting on the second Sunday in February, thereby dodging a conflict with the True/False Film Festival. We will return to our regular first-Sunday schedule after that.

Join our Zoom meeting for a no-commitment visit at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 13. Contact Fred Young for the Zoom link.

– Fred Young
Social Action Team Chair

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.

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

We were very excited to formally introduce Lilly and her children to the congregation on Feb. 27! Dave told us about his recent trip to Arizona where he retraced Lilly's journey and was inspired by (as Lilly puts it) "all the Angels that were placed along my path." 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, Lakshmi's healthy baby visits and WIC appointments, and various other trips around town.

As a reminder (and if you missed the service) 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

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
or call the church office at 442-5764

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,
March 5 and 19

UU Life Writers will meet again by Zoom on March 5 and 19. It is Women's History Month so our prompts will be on women's history, the women in our lives and/or on our family tree.

The Zoom link will be sent on the Friday before. All are welcome to join the group. It is not a critique group, but one for people who are interested in writing and sharing personal memoirs. For further information, call or email Fran Reynolds at 881-3828 or freynolds@centurytel.net.

Social Action T-Shirts

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Conversations, Etc.

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

Conversations, Etc., the UUC senior women's group, will meet via Zoom and telephone March 2.

We gather to enjoy the company of women friends. If you would like to join the group, contact Pam Springsteel (pspring@socket.net).

UUC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 12
online and by phone

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

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

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

Email alliegassmann@socket.net
for information.

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/](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](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E164454&id=77)

UUC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

March 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 4:15 p.m. The volunteers who assemble the boxed meals also are asked to be at the church by 4:15 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, March 3 - online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net
for details.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. March 12 & 26 - online

The UUC 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, March 7 and 21

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

Reflections



Children in UU churches have been learning the Seven Principles for years. They probably know them better than most adult UUs. But change is afoot, and since the young people of our church have always been at the front of new ideas that make Unitarian Universalism a better, more inclusive and more just religion, I want to share about it with the children of our church.

UUs have a long and proud history of showing up to work against racism. Recently, more attention has been given to finding the way racism shows up, even without people meaning for it to, in UU

spaces, and then working to change it. Some of the most important work in UU communities in the last years has been in confronting racism in all its forms, both in the world at large and in our own UU communities. We are working to create a Beloved Community in which all are truly free and truly welcome.

And it is time to put this work front and center by naming it as one of principles. An eighth principle! A principle where we commit to working to end racism and create a Beloved Community. It is exciting, challenging and important work! And as always, I count on our young people leading the way and showing our adults what a Beloved Community could look like.

Take-Apart Party 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 6



This semester we have been learning about UU inventors in Thoreau Class, and for our grand finale of the unit, we have planned a “Take-Apart” party to disassemble old broken gadgets and electronics and take a look inside.

But we decided Thoreau Class shouldn’t have all the fun, so we are making it a group Sunday activity for K-7th graders. We are taking donations of old items that would be fun to take apart. Bring them to the volunteer workroom any time before March 6.

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

Junior Youth Meeting

6:30-8 p.m. March 11

Our YRUU high school youth will be hosting our Junior Youth for a night of fun and games! RSVP by March 9 if you plan to attend.



OWL REPORT

Both our High School and K-2 OWL sexuality education classes have gotten off to a great start. We are still looking for parent aides to sign up as volunteers for our K-2 OWL class. You can do so here: <https://uucomo.org/blog/sheet/k-1-owl-class-aide/>



RE Schedule

March 6: Group Sunday for K-7th graders, Coming of Age Class, and Potter Class
March 13: Regular RE classes
March 20: Intergenerational Service
March 27: Service Sunday

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

The Searchlight is published monthly by the
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Submissions:

Email to uuchurch@uucomo.org
or mail to Church Administrator.

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