



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 10, April 2022

April Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday

*We have resumed 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, April 3

“Earth-Centered Theology for This Moment”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

In this latest in the “Theologies for this Moment” series, join Rev. Molly to reflect on the lessons of earth-centered theologies for this time of challenge and transformation, with special music from The Joy Boys, our own members Peter Holmes and Scott Denson. This will also be our Ingathering Service for our newest members.

Sunday, April 10

“Growing the Rainbow – the 8th Principle Project”

YRUU High School Youth Group

Join our high-school-aged youth for this beloved annual service where they will provide all of the reflections and music! This year they will be leading us in a reflection – and a call to action – regarding the proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism to grow spiritually by dismantling racism and other oppressions. Don’t miss it!

Sunday, April 17

“Resurfacing” – Easter Sunday

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to take a metaphorical look at themes of resurrection in our world and lives. After we’ve been hit by wave after wave of sorrow and grief, how to we resurface? And how could this central narrative of the Christian faith help us find wisdom to rise again? The choir will provide special music.

Sunday, April 24

“Wild Love For The World”

**Earth Day Sunday – All-Ages Service
Molly Housh Gordon, Jamila Batchelder
and Violet Vonder Haar**

Join us for a beautiful interactive all-ages service celebrating our beloved planet home and our wild love for the world.

Minister’s Message

Two Years Later

Two years ago this month, we were deepening into the most world-shifting year of many of our lifetimes as the global Covid-19 pandemic took hold to stay. Last year on this anniversary, I collected reflections from friends about their thoughts “One Year Later” and arranged them into a poem. This year I ponder how many of these reflections are still resonant and how much has continued to shift. Here is the poem from last year:

“One Year Later”

A Collective Poem

One year later the daffodils return to my garden.
The birds in the backyard give scant company.

One year later and we are even more ourselves.
So much of people’s inner lives have been
amplified and revealed.

One year later I still burst into tears at video of
concert recordings, astonished that hundreds of people
sang and clapped and breathed together.

One year later, I know how to navigate the unemploy-
ment system.

I wonder what eating in a restaurant will feel like.
I still haven’t met my niece.

One year later, we realize our naïveté at the beginning.
We sleep, we rise, we count the dead, we count
our blessings.

One year later, I am more tired and yet more awake
to the world.

I’m learning to appreciate what I still have.

One year later I wonder, am I broken? Or too pliable
and in need of a break?

Are we resurrected? Or too resilient and in need
of a rest?

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Worship Zoom information

Worship services are 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?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09>

You can also join by phone: 312-626 6799
Webinar ID: 652 315 354

Spring Adult Religious Education Series

**Poetry for Spiritual Growth
with Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 5-26
In-person and online

Join us for a contemplative series with poetry at the center. We will reflect on spiritual and theological questions using poetry as our source text. We will share some of our favorite poems. We will write, whether you prefer to journal or write your own poetry. And we will share our reflections, and perhaps our writing, with one another.

Please join us for any session even if you can't make the whole series, and feel free to join in-person, online, or alternating how you attend. Please bring a notebook and pen and a favorite poem to each gathering!

Zoom info:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89071224964?pwd=ZUFMbIRGVXV5alBKb2cWdIVRWUU3QT09>
Meeting ID: 890 7122 4964
Passcode: 790328

UUCS Chalice Circles

The intimacy of the UUCS 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@uucso.org if you have any questions or if you want to sign up but have not yet done so.

Minister's Message — continued from page 1

One year later grief is as raw as day one.
All my pants are soft now.

One year later we daydream of bear hugs and one-armed squeezes.

We long to see the inside of the library and the coffee shop we never knew we'd miss.

One year later joy comes from small and simple things.
Sorrow sits near in companionable silence.

One year later we mourn our dead,
imagining all of the ways it could have been different.

One year later, and still we swim in the abyss of uncertainty, though some of us have aching arms now, and a growing hope.

One year later, we have only begun to realize how much we have lost, how much we have gained, how much we have grown.

Arranged by: Molly Housh Gordon. *Contributors:* Rachael Hayes, Kathie Bergman, Sara Leonard, Monica Clark-Robinson, Calder Thorpe, Karen Bray, Kate Wilkinson, Heidi Shearer, Robin Duple, Puck Glass, Sean Dennison, Elaine Martin, Rebecca Graves, Leah Ongiri, Janice Mericle, Mary Hales, Nora Pullen Dietzel.

I wonder, what would we write now, Two Years Later? What more have we learned? I'd love to receive a few lines if you'd like to send them on to me, and in church we'll continue to mourn our losses, rejoice in our love, and grow, grow, grow!

See you in church,
Rev. Molly

Commons Folk

Weekly wildflower walks in Gans Creek Wild Area

With Peter and Hoyt
1:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Meet at the Wagon Wheel Trailhead – end of S. Bearfield Road

We will be walking the same route every week on a circular path back to the parking lot so that we see the seasonal change in the flowers. The walk is about 2½ miles, crosses Gans Creek twice, and climbs up and down the bluff, but we will go at a leisurely pace. It is one of Peter's favorite walks and takes about two hours with plenty of rest stops.

Wear good walking shoes that are OK in water, and bring a walking stick if you need it.

If the creek doth rise, a notice will be sent out the day before to provide alternative arrangements. Just come when you can. Tell likely friends.

Contact Peter Holmes for information:

pfholmes63@gmail.com

The 8th Principle

of UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALISM

An update from Rev. Molly

I'd like to give you an update on our congregational discernment regarding congregational adoption of the 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism, which would add to our Principles our commitment to dismantling racism and oppression.

This winter our Board of Trustees charged me with leading our congregation in discussion and education regarding the 8th Principle. Our youth group also expressed their desire to help lead us in this work. Throughout the month of March, we held four discussion groups with identical content, two online and two in person, which were attended by a total of 37 members of the congregation (about 15% of our members).

In these groups we have learned about:

- The origins of the 8th Principle Project, which has been adopted so far by 156 UU Congregations across the country - <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background>
- The history of Article II of the UUA bylaws that contain our principles - <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/about-article-2>
- The current national-level process to revisit Article II - <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>
- And the history of institutional racism (scroll down a bit for the slideshow) and related anti-racism efforts in our association - <https://www.kuuf.org/blm-at-uu>

We also discussed what we learned and our hopes for Unitarian Universalism, and we got a read on where folks are with the question. While not unanimous, we had a significant majority of support for the adoption of the 8th Principle among the 37 discussion group attendees.

What are our next steps?

On April 10 our Youth Group will offer us their beloved annual youth-led worship service, and their topic will be the 8th Principle Project. Directly after the service, we will hold another discussion group with a pizza lunch (including a gluten-free option) with childcare provided, and we encourage as many UU Churchers as possible to attend. Please RSVP by April 3 to help us with numbers for lunch and childcare, but do attend even if you forget to RSVP.

After that additional discussion group, we will do an online straw poll of members of the congregation to assess their level of support, their level of understanding, and their feeling about whether or not more process is needed. At its April 21 meeting, the Board of Trustees will decide whether to add a vote on the 8th Principle to our May Annual Meeting agenda or create more process and defer the vote until the fall.

Thanks for your attention to this important collective work and discernment.

Rev. Molly announces new office hours

Community Office Hours are resuming! Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. I'll be at Uprise Bakery downtown – either on the patio if it's nice or indoors if it's not. I'd love to see you for your morning coffee or early lunch hour! I will also continue to hold online office hours. They will move to Thursdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. and will always be at the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85318398129?pwd=c1ZhblR4K3RVU0Q1bDdpZDhZZzZ6dz09>

You can also make an in-person or online appointment with me at <https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon>.

“Singing, singing with you...” **Group singing and in-person coffee hour have resumed!**

We are overjoyed to see our community transmission rates of Covid-19 reach the lowest numbers that we have seen since last summer. While the situation may continue to shift, right now we are grateful for a moment to relax. Here’s what that means for church right now:

1. We will continue to require masks for worship and religious education for the time being as we move forward slowly into the next normal. We will let you know when the Pandemic Task Force is ready to make masking optional.

2. We have resumed singing together (in our masks). This includes congregational hymn singing, and choir too. Rehearsals are at 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

3. We have resumed in-person coffee hour! When weather allows, we will have coffee set up after the service outdoors with the greeting area doors propped open. We invite folks to move between the space outdoors or indoors according to their safety needs and comfort level. On rainy Sundays we will set up coffee in the greeting area and invite folks to spread out into

the sanctuary for plenty of space.

4. We will always continue to offer a live-stream of our worship and online options for as many events as possible. We invite you to use the option that works best for you.

We will be planning more fellowship events in the coming months to continue reconnecting – perhaps even a return to potlucks later in the spring. Let us know if you’d like to be involved in planning fellowship opportunities!

And we could use your help! We are looking for volunteers to usher, greet, help April with coffee hour, join our Livestream Team, and teach or aide in our Sunday school classrooms. Even signing up once every month or six weeks is a huge help! Let us know if you’d like to be connected with these easy and fun volunteer opportunities!

We feel a sense of surging energy for our spiritual and social life together, and can’t wait to see what emerges for our community in the coming months and year.



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!

‘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 at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84030143959?pwd=MW9zZlZ0RzJpdjJ6OGpxeXJ4dDVGdz09>

(Zoom ID: 840 3014 3959, Passcode: 345079) and work on whatever it is you need or want to do while you chat. For more information email Robin Duple at ryduple@gmail.com.

UCC Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16

The YRUU Easter Fundraiser Brunch and Egg Hunt has returned! We will be holding the brunch on Saturday to avoid crowding. Tickets are \$7/person, \$20/family. Please see page 8 for details!

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

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



President's Perspective
8th Principle and our future

Hello, beloved UUCoMo community!
 Hoppy April, UUC. In this time of rebirth and renewal, let us reimagine what it means to be part of this beloved community we call UUC. Where do you envision us going forward? How do you expect us to create this vision we set for ourselves in both our community and the community at large?

We have an opportunity to put in writing what we are already doing. BlackLives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) has provided us with a vision for how we can live our 7 principles. As I wrote this, I was looking up how other UU Communities have discussed adopting the 8th Principle. In doing so, I found a video from the First Unitarian Church of Oakland where Rev. Theresa Ninán Soto talked with Rev. Dr. Michael Tino about the 8th Principle as the congregation voted on whether to endorse the Principle.

Since Rev. Molly just had Rev. Ninán speak to our church on Disability Theology, I just knew this was not a coincidence and that I had to share this video with you all. If you have any questions about the 8th Principle and want to talk more about it, I would love to do that with you.

Here is a link to their recorded discussion:
<https://uuoakland.org/services/december-12-2021-8th-principle-vote-love-is-not-all/>

And here is a link to one of my favorite words of worship from Rev. Theresa Ninán Soto that I think it is great to think about as you contemplate adding this Principle into our congregation and community:
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/freedom-liberation>

In Love,
 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.

UUC 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.

April Festival of Sharing

For the month of April, the focus is on the “Missouri Youth Personal Care Pack.” These packs are for youth ages 12-18 who have experienced a crisis situation and who have been placed in state care or are experiencing homelessness. Items will be placed in drawstring bags that will be provided by the Festival of Sharing Team.

- 1 chapstick
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer (3 oz)
- 1 fleece throw
- 1 washcloth
- 1 deodorant
- 1 comb or brush
- 1 box medicated facial cleansing pads (such as Stridex)
- 1 travel-size toothpaste
- 1 travel size conditioner
- 1 men’s body spray or 1 small package of feminine pads

In 2020, there were requests for 390 of these packs statewide, but only 158 were provided. Collection boxes will be available at the church office.

– Bonnie Johnson,
 Festival of Sharing Chair

Social Action Team News

Crisis in Ukraine resonates with Ene's personal history

Social Action Team member Ene-Kaja Chippendale spoke at the Faith-to-Action collection for Ukraine refugees during the March 20 Sunday Service. Ene was 3 years old in 1944 when her family fled Estonia in the face of advancing Russian troops. She knows, from her parents, the terrible weight of that decision: to leave your home, your country, everything you know and love, perhaps forever.

At Ene's suggestion, the Social Action Team requested a Faith-to-Action collection for Ukrainian refugees. Rev. Molly is familiar with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Emergency Relief Fund "Ukrainian Response," and the collection is being directed to that fund. The Social Action Team may allocate additional funds from our budget to the UUSC Ukrainian Response Fund.

Social Action Team seminar to support Henry Kirklin Black Farmer Scholarship Fund

UUSC has long been a supporter of the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) through Faith-to-Action collections. When CCUA initiated the Henry Kirklin Black Farmer Scholarship Fund several years ago, the SAT was a contributor. Now the fund is fully operational, disbursing funds for start-up costs and other business expenses associated with relatively new farming operations by African American farmers in mid-Missouri.

The SAT is planning a seminar, featuring a speaker from CCUA and including background information on the historical roots of African American disenfranchisement from rural Missouri, as well as a donation from the SAT to the scholarship fund. Tentatively the seminar will be in early May, perhaps on a Tuesday evening or a Sunday afternoon. We'll let you know!

Join our Zoom meeting for a no-commitment visit at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 3. Contact Fred Young for the Zoom link.

– Fred Young
Social Action Team Chair



Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

We have exciting and happy news that Lilly has gotten her work permit, and Lakshmi has a Head Start spot. The job search is on!

Another next step is for Lilly to learn to drive. Please contact one of us if you would be willing to teach Lilly!

Until Lilly gets her drivers license, there is an increased need for drivers who can take the family to appointments and take Lakshmi to and from her Head Start location. We put out a call for volunteers monthly, and volunteers can select when they volunteer based on their schedules. People willing to help should contact Joe Donaldson at 573-289-0725 or joe.donaldson347@gmail.com for more information.

A highly desired item is a treadmill for Lilly. If you have one that you no longer need, please contact us.

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

UUSC 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

Programs and events

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

4 p.m. Saturday, April 30

Join us as we celebrate Beltane, better known to most of you as May Day.

We used to weave paper baskets, fill them with dandelions, and hang them on peoples' doors. Do you remember? Celebrate fertility, and joy, and (at last) fresh greens to eat.

Gather with us at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 30 at the church. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. Please bring snacks and drinks for yourself as desired. Masks and the possibility of a return of potlucks are under advisement at this time. Watch for updates as the date approaches.

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

UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 2 & 16

UU Life Writers are looking forward to writing together again in the Centering Room at the church – or outside if the weather is nice!

We will meet 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 2 and 16. All are welcome – come with paper, pen/pencil and coffee, tea or water. Zoom will be available for those who do not want to meet in person.

Call, text or email Fran Reynolds for further information at 881-3823 or freynolds@centurytel.net.

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



UUCB Book Discussion

Due to the April 9 Memorial Service for Andrew Twaddle, UU Book Discussion will be moved to Saturday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m. - online and by phone

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

Conversations, Etc.

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 6 – online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUCB 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).

Green Team

7 p.m. Thursday, April 7 - online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net for details.

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>

UUCB provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

April 17 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.

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, April 10 - online

Email alliegassmann@socket.net for information.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. April 9, 23 & 30 - online

The UUCB 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, April 4 & 18

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

Reflections

In March, we passed the two-year anniversary of the start of the pandemic. There is much to reflect upon about all we have been through, but what most is in my heart now is how grateful I am for the opportunity to be together again.

Each Sunday this year has been such a joy, and I am particularly excited for April, with the return of many beloved traditions: the youth service, the Easter Brunch, the Coming of Age retreat. There is still uncertainty about what lies ahead, and there are still beloved community members who cannot be with us in person due to medical conditions. But I take this moment to be grateful for the return of spring and new beginnings with this community I love so much.

Jamila Batchelder

"Growing the Rainbow" YRUU Worship Service 10:30 a.m. April 10

The YRUU High School youth group will be leading the service. Come hear their reflections on the tradition of our UU principles and how they are growing and changing.



Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16



The YRUU Easter Fundraiser Brunch and Egg Hunt has returned! Unlike in previous years, we will be holding the brunch on Saturday to avoid crowding. Weather permitting, we will hold the brunch outside. Tickets will be \$7/person, \$20/family. You can purchase tickets on Sunday, April 10 in the greeting area, or RSVP to our FB event or via email so that we can ensure we have the right amount of food.

We also accept food donations. You can sign up on our website or at church on April 10. Food can be dropped off at the church any time during the week before April 16 through Friday morning.

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. April 8

Junior Youth will be cooking for Loaves and Fishes as our act of service this year. RSVP by April 6.



Coming of Age Retreat April 23

Our Coming of Age youth will hold their culminating retreat. We will meet at the church at 9 a.m. April 23 and then head out into the woods at Camp Takamina for a day of reflection, bonding, personal growth and celebration.



RE Schedule

April 3: Service Sunday for K-7th grade, Coming of Age class
April 10: Regular RE classes
April 17: Easter Service Sunday
April 24: 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 10:30 a.m.-noon at Uprise Bakery

Thursdays 2:30-4 p.m. via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85318398129>

Or by appointment at calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon

Email: minister@uucomo.org

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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