

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 11, May 2022

May Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday service is both in-person and online

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

Sunday, May 1 "Power to the People" Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Happy May Day! Join us to celebrate the power of the collective on this International Workers Day. What does Unitarian Universalism have to say about organizing and power? What do our spirits have to learn from collective organizing? Join us to reflect. We will also be joined by very special musical guest Rochara Knight!

Sunday, May 8 "Hope in Bloom" Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and DRE Jamila Batchelder

Join us for our beloved annual Flower Communion Service, a ritual dating back to early 20th Century Czech Unitarian Minister Norbert Capek. Bring a flower from your garden or the store to add to our common vase, and bring home a different flower celebrating the beautiful difference of our community! We will also enjoy musical selections from the choir and several UU soloists!

Sunday, May 15 "This We Believe" Coming of Age Sunday

In this beloved service from the Coming of Age class of young teens and tweens, we'll hear their reflections on "The Big Questions" and celebrate their successful completion of our Coming of Age Program.

Continued on page 2

Our website address is https://uucomo.org

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

Minister's Message

Beauty the Brave

As I write this month's newsletter message, the peony stalks in my front garden beds have broken through the mulch and are gaining height in preparation for their spectacular May blossoming. Perhaps once you receive this newsletter they will be blooming. And, as I write this month's newsletter message I am bombarded with difficult news – war raging in Ukraine and Missouri legislators attacking trans kids for political purposes.

Perhaps it will be slightly different heartbreak by the time you read this. It's all true at once, and perhaps especially in spring. The world is a hard place, and beauty breaks in absolutely everywhere – in nature, and in the way humans transform pain into art and love. This month, I invite you to keep an eye out for what Mary Oliver called "beauty the brave" – that inexorable force of courageous transformation in every nook and cranny in our world. Oliver's poem "Peonies" contains that line, and I share it with you.

See you in church! *Rev. Molly*

"Peonies" by Mary Oliver

This morning the green fists of the peonies are getting ready

to break my heart

as the sun rises,

as the sun strokes them with his old, buttery fingers

and they open pools of lace, white and pink and all day the black ants climb over them,

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Sunday, May 22 Graduation Sunday DRE Jamila Batchelder and Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for reflections on the threshold times in all of our lives, and help us honor our high school graduates as we share in our beloved tradition of letters from the young adults' parents. The UUCC Band will provide special music.

Sunday, May 29 Memorial Day Weekend Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson Jr., Guest Preacher

Join our beloved friend and philosopher-inresidence, the Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson Jr. for a guest sermon!

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

The Zoom address for our coffee hour is: <u>https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?</u> <u>pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09</u> You can also join by phone: 312-626 6799 Webinar ID: 652 315 354

Minister's Message - continued from page 1

boring their deep and mysterious holes into the curls, craving the sweet sap, taking it away

to their dark, underground cities and all day under the shifty wind, as in a dance to the great wedding,

the flowers bend their bright bodies, and tip their fragrance to the air, and rise, their red stems holding

all that dampness and recklessness gladly and lightly, and there it is again beauty the brave, the exemplary,

blazing open. Do you love this world?

Do you cherish your humble and silky life? Do you adore the green grass, with its terror beneath?

Do you also hurry, half-dressed and barefoot, into the garden,

and softly,

and exclaiming of their dearness,

fill your arms with the white and pink flowers,

with their honeyed heaviness, their lush trembling, their eagerness

to be wild and perfect for a moment, before they are nothing, forever?

Help lead a 'Pop(corn) Theology' summer service!

Dear UU Churchers,

We are excited to announce our lay-led worship series for summer 2022: Pop(corn) Theology!

What is a source from popular culture that holds deeper spiritual or theological significance for you? Are you a Star Wars devotee or a Trekkie? Have something to say about the spirituality of Buffy or social commentary from Downton Abbey? Other ideas entirely from your favorite books, movies, shows, songs, social media? Get it touch with us!

We invite you to offer your reflections this summer with the support of the Worship Associates Team! From a brief piece of writing to a whole service, we are here to support you in participating in our rich tradition of lay-led worship. Contact us at <u>worship@uucomo.org</u> if you are interested in participating in any way at all, and we'll help make it happen.

Hoping to hear from you, Your Worship Associates: Tim Dickerson, Todd Iveson, Iyesatu Kamara-Bush, Gretchen Maune, Jeff Ordway and Sam Otten

George Grimm-Howell will be our Intern Minister in 2022-23

We are *delighted* to announce that UUCC will become a teaching congregation once again in the 2022-23 church year when St. Louis seminarian and long-time Unitarian Universalist George Grimm-Howell joins us as Intern Minister! George approached us this winter looking for an internship site nearby his home in St. Louis, and after several in-depth conversations, we realized that he would be an excellent fit for our congregation. We are overjoyed to welcome him beginning in August!

George is a seminary student who will earn a master of divinity degree at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in May 2022. He is a few months away from becoming a candidate for UU parish ministry, focusing on themes of social justice and liberation, particularly for members of the LGBTQ+ community and people of color,



and incorporating socially transformative art forms into the worship experience. He lives in University City, Mo. with his family and is a long-time member of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.



UUCC Generosity Campaign 2022 final report

Generosity isn't just a concept with our church - it ed the preparation and delivery of the care packages. is real!

ship, interact and share with one another, but it hasn't This information will be shared with the Board of Didampened our sense of community. Thanks to your rectors and executive team, providing invaluable guidresponsiveness, we successfully increased our annual ance for the coming year. Sam Buffaloe's creative pledge total to \$290,000, exceeding last year. Most skill fashioned interviews from some willing members impressively, half of our members were able to in- into joyous videos of personal giving stories. Steve crease their pledges in support of our church and our Scott readily posted information and updates on our ministries. We have added a number of new pledging website. members. This positions us well for reaching our goal of \$325,000 in member contributions each of the next versation with a steward and would still like to, please two years.

This campaign's success was a direct outcome of the happen! contributions of time and effort given freely by so and Lisa Fritsche, Stacy Pottinger, Jan Swaney and need them most. Sam Buffaloe, supported by Rev. Molly and consultant Rachel Maxwell. Lisa and a team of 12 coordinat-

Kevin and the team of 18 stewards reached out and The pandemic may have changed the way we wor- held meaningful conversations with most members.

> Despite our efforts, if you did not have a direct conreach out to one of the co-chairs and we can make that

We are grateful beyond measure for all the gifts remany. The planning phase began in November, with ceived and promised for the year ahead. Your kindmuch energy among our Generosity Team - Kevin ness, generosity and solidarity have come when we

> Susan Even and Rosie Geiser **Co-Chairs**

2022 Congregational Meeting Noon Sunday, May 15 In-person and online

This year the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in-person and via Zoom at noon Sunday, May 15. For those attending in person, coffee hour will include snacks.

On the agenda will be approval of the 2022-23 operating budget, election of Board of Trustees members, and a vote on the proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism.

Board candidates are Christine Heath, Taylor Gill, Iyesatu Kamara-Bush and Fred Young.

Read more at https://uucomo.org/annual meeting/.

April 2022 new members

The UUCC Membership Team, along with the UUCC congregation and Rev Molly Housh Gordon, would like to warmly welcome our new members:

Adrienne Mann	Amanda Smith
Doug Mann	Art Smith
Jordan Alexander	John Brennan
Kevin McKiernan	Taylor Gill

The members signed the membership book during the Ingathering Service on April 3. We are so pleased that these new members are among us. Together we can do great things.

> Patty Daus UUCC Membership Team

Call for delegates to General Assembly (GA)

What is the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA), and why would you want to attend?

GA is the annual nationwide meeting of our UU churches.

What happens at GA?

You get to worship, attend workshops, connect with other UUs, and as a delegate you would represent our church at the business meetings where UUA policy decisions are made.

When and where is it?

June 22-26, 2022 online, or in-person in Portland, Oregon.

What is the role of a delegate?

Delegates represent their churches at the business meetings where UUA policy decisions are made.

UUCC Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry Team is based on the belief that we are all 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, transportation or other needs. 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 jdonlsn@gmail.com or call the church office at 442-5764 if you need help or want to volunteer

Making disabled space

After a hiatus, DJIT (pronounced digit), UUCC's Disability Justice and Inclusion Team, began meeting again at the end of March. After catching up, we had a deep dive conversation about Rev. Molly's disability theology sermon and ended our meeting with a vote to use the last of our budget to purchase more headsets and receivers for the Sanctuary's assisted listening system. These devices help congregants and guests who are hard-of-hearing experience the beautiful voices and music that fill the room each Sunday.

If you're interested in disability justice, accessibility or inclusion, please check us out! We meet, currently on Zoom, on the third Sunday of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m. If you've got questions, contact DJIT Chair Gretchen Maune at 573-489-0986, at <u>gmmaune@gmail.com</u>, or on Twitter @gmaune.

Therefore, it is important that the delegates attend the business meetings. Read more about delegates here:

https://www.uua.org/ga/congregations/delegates

Sign me up!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia has the financial means to cover online registration. We are allowed five voting delegates, and with a paid registration any of our church members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending this year's virtual assembly and serving as a delegate, please complete the form at <u>https://forms.gle/</u> <u>dRAgc5CGEbad1hwQ9</u> no later than May 15, 2022.

For more information

Read all about GA at https://www.uua.org/ga.

May Festival of Sharing

For the month of May, the focus is on the "Church World Service Cleanup Bucket." Each bucket will consist of the items listed below. Place all items in the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape. We recognize that this is a large, expensive kit, and we have only been asked to provide two from our congregation. If you wish to contribute a portion of the items, please contact the Festival of Sharing chair to coordinate the assembly of complete kits.

• 1 bucket with resealable lid (5 gallon only; clean out any used buckets, but do not use if it has ever held chemicals of any kind)

• 24-48 heavy-duty trash bags, 30-45 gallons (remove any cardboard packaging)

- 18 reusable cleaning wipes
- 1 bottle of liquid household cleaner, water mixable (no spray bottles)
- 1 non-aerosol insect repellent (6-9 oz.)
- 1 scrub brush (plastic or wood)
- 2 pairs non-surgical latex gloves, suitable for multiple uses.
- 1 50-oz. or 2 25-oz. liquid laundry detergent (bottles only)
- 1 pair work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)
- 7 sponges, including one large one
- 1 100-foot or 2 50-foot clotheslines.
- 48-50 clothespins
- 4 scouring pads
- 5 dust masks

Collection boxes will be available at the church.

– Bonnie Johnson, Festival of Sharing Chair

'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=MW9zZ1Z0RzJpdjJ6OGpxeXJ4d

DVGdz09

(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.

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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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

Rev. Molly's office hours

Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Uprise Bakery downtown – either on the patio if it's nice or indoors if it's not

Thursdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

on Zoom at the following link: <u>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85318398129?</u> pwd=c1ZhblR4K3RVU0O1bDdpZDhZZzZ6dz09

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



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!

Social Action Team news

Kirklin Scholarship Fund Seminar will be available online

The May 1 "Henry Kirklin Black Farmer Scholarship Fund: Remembrance and Repair" seminar may have happened by the time you are reading this. A video of the seminar will be posted on the UUCC website. Perhaps it's there now!

Faith-to-Action news – 2022-2023 nominations being accepted

Even as we finish up the last few FTA collections for this year, it's time to think ahead to next year's collections, which will start in September. A button link to the nomination form appears near the top of the home page on the UUCC website. Priority consideration will be given to nominations received by July 15. Later nominations will be considered if collection dates are available.

Recent FTA collections: Here are a few of the recent collection amounts:

UUSC Haiti Earthquake Relief\$	828
Loaves & Fishes	527
Room at the Inn	1,579
Honduras Education Fund	1,117
Dawson Journey Ministries	1,743
Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team	794

Several collections are still pending, including the UUSC Ukraine relief, which is *more than* \$2,200.

Join our Zoom meeting for a no-commitment visit at 1 p.m. the first Sunday of the month. Contact Fred Young for the Zoom link.

> *Fred Young* <u>fred_young_3@yahoo.com</u> Social Action Team Chair



Social Action T-Shirts

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

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Thank you for your generosity. We just learned that you contributed \$794.01 to the Feb. 27 Faith-to-Action collection in support of the Guatemalan family we are sponsoring in their quest to seek asylum. We are also very grateful to Christine Heath, a member of the church and currently serving on the Board of Trustees, who since May last year has offered the family a place to live with her in her home. Thank you, Christine!

The family is doing very well. At the writing of this article, it looks like Lilly may have found a job, and this would mean that Lakshmi would be able to keep her Head Start spot! Lilly is going to take her written driver test soon, and knowing Lilly, she will soon be ready to take the driving exam as well. If you are willing to help Lilly learn to drive, please contact us.

It will, however, be some time until Lilly can be independent in her transportation needs. Currently 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 joe.donaldson347@gmail.com or 573-289-0725 for more information.

Another 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 (<u>dgibbons@mchsi.com</u>) Allie Gassmann (<u>alliegassmann@socket.net</u>) Co-chairs, Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

The Searchlight

Programs and events

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

4 p.m. Saturday, June 18

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

Gather with us at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 18 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 you may contact kaleidoscope@uucomo.org.

UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 7 & 21

We hope the weather is nice because we will be meeting at Kiwanis Park at 10:30 a.m. on May 7 and 21. If the weather is not cooperative we will meet at the church.

This group is open to all. We write mini-memoirs, share and enjoy the stories. For further information call, text or email Fran Reynolds at 573-881-3823 or freynolds@centurytel.net.

UUCC Chalice Circles

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 <u>chalicecicle@uucomo.org</u> if you have any questions or if you want to sign up but have not yet done so. Unitarian Universalist Church of



UUCC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 14 - online and by phone

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

Conversations, Etc.

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 4 – online and by phone

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

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

Green Team

7 p.m. Thursday, May 5 - online Email <u>alliegassmann@socket.net</u> for details.

Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 8 - online Email <u>alliegassmann@socket.net</u> for information.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. May 14 & 28 - 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.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

May 15 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 <u>uucomo.org</u>.

You can also support this effort by making a donation to the church specifying "Loaves and Fishes Fund." For information, email <u>diane.suhler@gmail.com</u>.

Non-toxic Masculinity Men's Group

8 p.m. Mondays, May 2 & 16

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

Consider donating to others

Minister's Discretionary Benevolence Fund

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

Community Foundation of Central Missouri's Covid-19 Relief Fund <u>https://cfcmfoundation.org/</u> donations/covid-19-regional-relief-

Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri https://interland3.donorperfect.net/ weblink/weblink.aspx?

name=E164454&id=77

REflections

In May, we are focusing on the theme of celebrating the good, even in hard times. And in the month of May, we have so much to celebrate! It seems like every week, we have something new to celebrate as we culminate a wonderful year in R.E.

Flower Communion Intergenerational Worship Service 10:30 a.m. May 8

Join us for our most beloved UU ritual! Bring a flower for our collective bouquet, and celebrate the unique beauty that each person brings to our community.



Coming of Age Service 10:30 a.m. May 15

Our Coming of Age youth have spent all year reflecting on the persons they are becoming and what values and beliefs will guide them into the next chapter of their lives. They will share their statements of belief in this service. Come and show your support for our amazing young people!



Return of R.E. at the Park! 10:30 a.m. May 15-28

Out of pandemic necessity, we started our R.E. year outdoors at the park. But we discovered that it was SO MUCH FUN! So we will end our year there as well, with May 15-28 classes outdoors, weather permitting. Potter Class will stay in their



Bridging Service 10:30 a.m. May 23

We are celebrating our youth who are bridging into adulthood this year, in our annual bridging service. Come share your blessings for this important rite of passage for our UU youth.

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 6:30-8 p.m.

May 13

For our final Junior Youth meeting of the year, the YRUU high school

youth will be hosting our Junior Youth for a night of fun and games! RSVP by May 11 if you plan to attend.



K-2 OWL Class Celebration Noon May 1

We have had a wonderful semester in OWL! We will have a celebration after service and after our final class.



Now parents, children and teachers will celebrate together. Bring some food to share!

RE Schedule

May 1 - Regular RE Classes May 8 - Intergenerational Flower

- Service av 15 - RE at fl
- May 15 RE at the Park and Potter Class indoors
- May 23 RE at the Park and Potter Class indoors
- May 30 RE at the Park and Potter Class indoors

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 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 Phylshawn Johnson, Sound Technician Email: music@uucomo.org April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant Email: uuchurch@uucomo.org 2021-2022 Board of Trustees

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The Searchlight is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri.

Submissions: Email to <u>uuchurch@uucomo.org</u> or mail to Church Administrator.

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