

# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 64, Issue 1, July 2022

## July Worship

**10:30 a.m. Sundays**

**Services are both in-person and online**

If you have trouble accessing the technology to join us online, please send an email to:

[techhelp@uucomo.org](mailto:techhelp@uucomo.org).

**Sunday, July 3**

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

Join the Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson for a rousing service this holiday weekend, along with special music from Pack Matthews and Sam Otten.

**Sunday, July 10**

**“The Miracle is You”**

**All-Ages Service**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us for another installment of Pop(corn) theology, this time as a community of all ages contemplating the lessons of the hit Disney animated film *Encanto*.

**Sunday, July 17**

**Pop(corn) Theology – *Strangers with Candy***

**Julia Bonham Hardy**

Join lay leader Julia Bonham Hardy to learn why comedy series *Strangers with Candy* has been so meaningful for her!

**Sunday, July 24**

**“Caffeinated Questions”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Have you ever watched the Comedy Central show *Drunk History*? This is not that. BUT, Rev. Molly will be offering a question box service where she will attempt – with the help of some morning caffeine – to answer your most pressing spiritual and theological questions in real time! Bring your curiosity!

**Sunday, July 31**

**Pop(corn) Theology – *X-Men***

**Alan Arnold**

Join lay leader Alan Arnold to hear his takeaways from the popular *X-Men* franchise.

### Minister’s Message

## *A Decade of Shared Ministry*

August 1st will mark my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the UU Church of Columbia and the completion of a decade of shared ministry together. In this month before that milestone, I find myself in a period of reflection and reminiscence.

In some moments it’s hard to believe that it has already been 10 years. We’re still just getting started! In other moments, I see the work of our decade of ministry together bearing fruit in so many beautiful ways. We have deepened our connection and presence to the wider community in ways that continue to grow and bring opportunities for greater solidarity our way. Our worship life is ever more sustaining. Our study of anti-oppression is entering a new period of commitment with our adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> principle and accessibility and disability justice work. Our programs for families and children are thriving and growing.

After a decade together and two years of pandemic learning, I believe that we stand on the precipice of a new era for the life of the UU Church of Columbia. There is a fresh wind of energy blowing in, and I am ready to continue learning and experimenting and dreaming and nourishing what is already beautiful together with you.

I want to tell you that I believe myself to be one of the luckiest Unitarian Universalist ministers in the United States (and therefore, really, the world). Your collective spirit of warmth, creativity, flexibility, passionate commitment, and relational health is a minister’s dream come true. I am grateful for the ways you

**Continued on page 2**

### *Highlights of what’s inside*

President’s Perspective.....	2
UUCC Elevated Gala Celebration.....	3
DJIT; Meet the Board; Faith-to-Action.....	4
Festival of Sharing; SIJT .....	5
Programs and events.....	6
Reflections .....	7

## 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

## '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=MW9zZ1Z0RzJpdjJ6OGpxeXJ4dDVGdz09>

(Zoom ID: 840 3014 3959, Passcode: 345079).

While you work on whatever, you can chat! For more information email Robin Duple at [ryduple@gmail.com](mailto:ryduple@gmail.com).

## Minister's Message – continued from page 1

have loved me and my family as it has grown. My children are so lucky to be a part of our merry band of UU kids growing up in an atmosphere of spiritual exploration surrounded by caring adults of all ages. You call me to be my best self, and I strive every day to reflect the same back to you. Thank you for a truly wonderful decade of life in community... I can't wait to see what the next one holds for us!

I hope you'll plan to join me on Aug. 13 for our "UCC Elevated" celebration of our shared ministry – a Gala fundraiser planned by our Accessibility Fundraising Team. Our next decade together will certainly be more accessible! Look for the invitation on page 3 of this newsletter and in your email inbox.

See you in church,  
*Rev. Molly*

## 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:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85318398129?pwd=c1Zhb1R4K3RVU0Q1bDdpZDhZZzZ6dz09>

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

## President's Perspective

### *Finding joy through service to the church*

Dear UU Beloved Community,

I am very excited to serve as the 2022-2023 President. This last year as President-Elect has brought me back into the folds of church life after the chaos of the pandemic. When I accepted the nomination to be on the board, I was burned out and felt disconnected from life. I was worried that I might be taking on too much. However, I have found that taking on this responsibility has rekindled a flame I thought wouldn't burn inside me again. I have found joy in my heart by returning to the roots that hold us close through service and fellowship.

In July, our new board members, Iyesatu Kamara-Bush, Taylor Gill and Fred Young, join our board. My biggest hope is that they find the same joy and satisfaction that I have found as a board member. I am really looking forward to working with all three of them and our returning board members over the next year!

Our church is going through some amazing transitions; as we start the church year:

- The work for the accessibility updates to our church continues.
- We begin our journey to embrace the 8th principle and tackle systemic issues around race and oppression.
- We continue to find ways to enhance and improve the technology that makes fellowship and church possible.

All these things prove we are living our mission and forging that community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world. But we can't do these things without you. If you are at that place where your flame is flickering and your fire needs stoking, perhaps leaning into the work of our church will help you as it has helped me.

– Melissa Ensign-Bedford, 2022-23 President



Get Gala tickets and register for childcare or accessibility needs at <https://uucomo.org/gala/>

## Summer Poetry Group with Rev. Molly

*First Thursdays*  
*July 7 and Aug. 4*  
*7 to 8:30 p.m.*

### UCC Centering Room with Zoom option

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! The in-person participants will gather in the Centering Room downstairs at church.

Zoom info: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89071224964](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89071224964?pwd=ZUFMbIRGVXV5alBKBb2cwdlVRWUU3QT09)  
[pwd=ZUFMbIRGVXV5alBKBb2cwdl](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89071224964?pwd=ZUFMbIRGVXV5alBKBb2cwdlVRWUU3QT09)  
[VRWUU3QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89071224964?pwd=ZUFMbIRGVXV5alBKBb2cwdlVRWUU3QT09)

Meeting ID: 890 7122 4964

Passcode: 790328

## Friday Pie Day returns this summer

**Second Fridays**  
**7 p.m. July 8 and Aug. 12**

Bring a pie to share for this casual chance to socialize, connect and enjoy delicious things together! Can't bring a pie? Come anyway – we'll have plenty. We may break out the board games or just sit and chat. We'll choose whether to meet outside or inside the upper level in response to weather and current Covid numbers.

## July 10 music event

### Community Sing after worship

If you can't keep from singing, join us on July 10 after the worship service for a fun group sing event – YO(UU) KIDS SING. This is for anyone and everyone, whether you're just a shower singer or love belting it out in the choir. This will be a fun and interactive set of not-just-for-kids songs! From a love song to waffles to penguins drinking tea, laughter and joy are guaranteed. Come prepared to shake and sing your sillies out!



# Get to know our Board of Trustees

**After worship services July 10, 17 and 24**

The board would like to let you know that on July 10, 17 and 24, we will be hosting an informal meet-and-greet so you can get to know our board members. We hope you will join us.

There will be at least two board members present at each session. This provides an opportunity for you to get to know some of your board members as well as ask questions. Grab a cup of coffee and head back to the Greeting Area to connect with your board members and others in our beloved community. See you then.

– Tim Dickerson, Past President

**We elected these UCC members to our Board of Trustees at our May annual meeting**



**Christine Heath**  
1-year term



**Taylor Gill**  
3-year term



**Iyesatu Kamara-Bush**  
3-year term



**Fred Young**  
3-year term

Read brief biographies of our new board members at: <https://uucomo.org/annual-meeting/#board>

## Celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act in July

On July 26 the ADA will be 32 years old, an exciting birthday that DJIT members love to celebrate! This civil rights law has increased accessibility and inclusion for millions of disabled Americans. However, there's still a lot more to do, as many businesses, municipalities and websites fall short.

Learn more, find support, and take action by joining UCC's Disability Justice and Inclusion Team. Among other summer activities, we'll be reading *Disability Visibility* by Alice Wong.

We join together over Zoom the third Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and all are welcome. Contact Chair Gretchen Maune with questions at [gmmaune@gmail.com](mailto:gmmaune@gmail.com) or 573-489-0986.

**Please note that the UCC Administrative Office will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of the federal holiday**

## Faith-to-Action nominees to date

As of June 22, these are the organizations that have been nominated for Faith-to-Action collections in the 2022-2023 church year:

- The Wardrobe
- Heart of Missouri CASA  
(Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- Dawson Journey Ministries (CW Dawson)
- UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)
- Centro Latino

There's room for more! If you are thinking about nominating an organization, now's the time! The online application form can be accessed from the green button near the top of the [home page](#) or [directly here](#). Guidance on FTA nominations appears on the nomination page.

Please try to submit your applications by July 15 so the team has time to compile and evaluate the applicants and submit a list to Rev. Molly for scheduling, starting with September worship services.



## July Festival of Sharing

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

- 2 70-page spiral or tape bound notebooks
- 6 new pencils with erasers
- 1 pencil holder
- 4 folders with pockets
- 1 12-inch ruler
- 1 pair of child-sized metal scissors
- 1 large eraser
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 box of 10 markers (only 10)

2,997 of these packs were requested in 2021, but only 1,387 were shared. Collection boxes are available in the church greeting area.

– Bonnie Johnson  
Festival of Sharing Chair

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

## UCC Chalice Circles

The intimacy of the UCC 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 [chalicecicle@uucomo.org](mailto:chalicecicle@uucomo.org) if you have any questions or if you want to sign up but have not yet done so.

Check us out on the  
UCC Facebook page.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
uuchurch](https://www.facebook.com/groups/uuchurch)



## Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Lilly has settled in well in her job at MU. The next most important step is to find a place for Lilly and the two kids to rent. Learning to drive and buying a car will also be important. If you are willing to help Lilly learn to drive and/or have information on cars and places to rent, please contact us!

Since it will be some time until Lilly can be independent in her transportation needs, there is currently an increased need for drivers. Host Christine Heath and co-chair Dave Gibbons are doing a lot of the transportation but will need backup drivers sometimes. Lilly needs transportation to and from work, and drivers are needed to 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 please contact Joe Donaldson at 573-289-0725 or [joe.donaldson347@gmail.com](mailto:joe.donaldson347@gmail.com) for more information.

May 26, 2022 was the anniversary of UCC welcoming Lilly, Manuel, and Lakshmi to Columbia and committing to their sponsorship. We are so grateful for the generosity of Christine Heath in offering her home to the family. One of the goals of sponsorship, however, is to help immigrants transition to independence. If Lilly were single, she would be well on her way. However, when we agreed to sponsor a single mom with two small children, we knew transitioning to independence would be more challenging. Consequently, our sponsorship of the family will need to continue to assist with their current financial needs and to prepare for the upcoming additional expenses of rent, utilities and transportation.

*We would greatly appreciate your financial contributions to our sponsorship efforts!*

If you would like to support the work of the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team, which currently includes our sponsorship of the family, 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 co-chairs Dave or Allie.

Dave Gibbons ([dgibbons@mchsi.com](mailto:dgibbons@mchsi.com))

Allie Gassmann ([alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net))

## Programs and events

### Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

4 p.m. Saturday, July 30

Lughnassad, the Feast of the First Harvest. Juicy ripe tomatoes, and zucchini everywhere. The Earth once again gives of Her bounty. We join to celebrate Her gifts.

Gather with us at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 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 pot-lucks are under advisement at this time. Watch for updates as the date approaches. Send email to [kaleidoscope@uucomo.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@uucomo.org) if you have questions.

### UU Life Writers

UU Life Writers are taking July and August off to rest their writing hands and brains! We will begin again in September. More information is available by contacting Fran Reynolds, 573-881-3828 / [freynolds@centurytel.net](mailto:freynolds@centurytel.net).

BUT! A new journal group is starting to explore different kinds of journals and their purposes. It will be a small group, so signups are necessary. This group will meet on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. July 2, 16 and 30 and Aug. 6 and 20. Email or call Fran Reynolds for more information.

### 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



### UUC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9 –  
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](mailto:pspring@socket.net) for more information.

### Conversations, Etc.

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

Conversations, Etc., the UUC 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 ([pspring@socket.net](mailto:pspring@socket.net)).

### Green Team

7 p.m. Thursday, July 7 – online

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

### Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1:00 p.m. Sunday, July 10 –  
online

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

### Men's Group

8:30 a.m. July 9 & 23 – online

The UUC Men's Group previously met in person on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of each month. The group has now arranged for online meetings. For more information, contact Wiley Miller at 573-864-8574 or [millerwi@missouri.edu](mailto:millerwi@missouri.edu).

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

July 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](http://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](mailto:diane.suhler@gmail.com).

### Non-toxic Masculinity Men's Group

7 p.m. 1st and 3rd Mondays -  
July 4 (canceled); July 18

For more information, contact Kevin Fritsche at 573-289-4536 or [klfritsche37@gmail.com](mailto:klfritsche37@gmail.com).

### 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://cfcfoundation.org/  
donations/covid-19-regional-relief-  
fund/](https://cfcfoundation.org/donations/covid-19-regional-relief-fund/)

#### Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

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



# Reflections



Summer is a good time for daydreaming about the year ahead and imagining what new programs, projects and activities we might want to begin in youth religious education.

Here are some of the things on my mind that I am hoping can take flight:

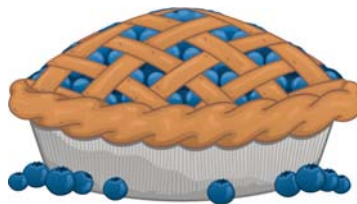
- Starting an inter-generational team that meets monthly to prepare a meal for the Mobile Soup Kitchen
- Regular potlucks for our R.E. families
- Creating an outdoor play space
- Creating an activity outside of regular R.E. time for children and parents to develop a sacred connection with our church grounds
- Revamping our church library
- Creating a check-out system for our spirituality kits
- Having the children's choir take off
- Kicking off a UU parenting small group ministry

It is a big list, and who knows how much will come to fruition? But I hope it gets you excited to start dreaming too of what we can build together. What ideas do you have for our R.E. program that you want to become a part of creating? I would love to hear your dreams!

– Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

## Friday Pie Day 7 p.m. July 8

If you are looking for fun fellowship and delicious pie, join us for our Friday Pie Day event. You can bring a pie to share, but it isn't required! We will eat pie, chat, and play. Weather permitting, we will be at the picnic tables behind the church. Otherwise, we will meet in the Greeting Area.



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

## Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers for our R.E. time at the park this summer! It is very fun and very low key. If you are wanting to get started in R.E. volunteering, but aren't ready to lead a lesson, this is the ideal opportunity for you! Let Jamila know if you would like to help out.



## RE Schedule

**July 3:** R.E. Summer Classes  
**July 10:** All ages service, no R.E.  
**July 17:** R.E. Summer Classes  
**July 24:** R.E. Summer Classes  
**July 31:** R.E. Summer Classes

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

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

# ***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](https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon)

Email: [minister@uucomo.org](mailto: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](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)

Visit our website: <https://uucomo.org>

### **Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education**

Office Hours: 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays and by appointment

Email: [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org)

### **Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry**

Email: [music@uucomo.org](mailto:music@uucomo.org)

### **Phylshawn Johnson, Sound Technician**

Email: [music@uucomo.org](mailto:music@uucomo.org)

### **April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant**

Email: [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)

## **2022-2023 Board of Trustees**

Melissa Ensign-Bedford, President

Tim Dickerson, Past President

David Leuthold

Connie Ordway

Susan Even

Christine Heath

Taylor Gill

Iyesatu Kamara-Bush

Fred Young

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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

**Co-Editors:** Suzanne Clark and Steve Scott

**Submissions:**

Email to [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)  
or mail to Church Administrator.

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