



# 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 2, August 2022

## August 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, Aug. 7**

**All-Ages Service**

**“Spiritual Practice Is for Everyone”**

**Jamila Batchelder**

Join us for an all-ages service exploring spiritual practices for everyone. We’ll spend some time with the Home Spirituality kits that Jamila created during online-only church, and you can even check one out to take home!

**Sunday, Aug. 14**

**“The Meaning of Everything”**

**Popcorn Theology – *Children of Time***

**Steve Scott**

The best science fiction is not pure escapism. Rather, it raises and attempts to answer deep questions about the meaning of life, the universe and everything. Join us as lay leader Steve Scott explores the many layers of questions and answers in Adrian Tchaikovsky’s novel *Children of Time*. Along the way you’ll be introduced to intelligent giant jumping spiders!

**Sunday, Aug. 21**

**Popcorn Theology – *Star Trek***

**Jeremy Milarsky**

*Take a group of humans who are ridiculously good at their jobs. Put them in space. Challenge those characters with every strange question you had in your childhood about the universe. Show, don’t tell. Subtlety is optional.*

In its 57-year history, Star Trek has operated on these simple ideas, which can set the stage for meaningful comparisons with UU principles and ideas. This service will explore some of those comparisons.

**Continued on page 2**

### Minister’s Message

## *Refreshing... Renewing*

My dear ones, whether your days have been parched or flowing, trickling in streams or drawing from deep wells, I eagerly await regathering with you for a new church year as these late days of summer draw to a close. As we endure the heat of a Missouri August, may your thirst be quenched in body and in spirit by all that refreshes.

**“The Rainmaker”**

**by Clarissa Pinkola Estes**

You could be the water...for  
by the scent of water alone,

the withered vine  
comes back to life...

and thus ...

wherever

the land is dry and hard,

you could be the water;

or you could be

the iron blade

disking the earth open;

or you could be

the ‘acequia’,

the mother ditch,

carrying the water

from the river to the fields

to grow the flowers

for the farmers;

or you could be

the honest engineer

mapping the dams

that must be taken down,

**Continued on page 2**

### *Highlights of what’s inside*

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## **UUCU Elevated Gala Celebration**

**Aug. 13 – details on page 3**

**Sunday, Aug. 28**

**“Drawn Up from the Depths”**

**Water Ceremony and Ingathering**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Jamila Batchelder  
and Violet Vonder Haar**

Join us for our beloved annual water ceremony and ingathering service as we prepare for a new program year of drawing deep and stretching wide. You're invited to bring water with you from a place that has fed your soul over the summer months as we gather our UU holy water to hold our joys and sorrows in the year to come.

### **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/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/UnitarianUniversalistChurchOfColumbiaMO/videos/)

**The Zoom address for our coffee**

**hour is:** [https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?  
pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09](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=  
MW9zZlZ0RzJpdjJ6OGpXeXJ4dDVGdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84030143959?pwd=MW9zZlZ0RzJpdjJ6OGpXeXJ4dDVGdz09)

(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).

and those dams  
which could remain  
to serve  
the venerable all,  
instead of only  
the very few.  
You could be  
the battered vessel  
for carrying the water  
by hand;  
or you could be  
the one  
who stores the water.  
You could be  
the one who  
protects the water,  
or the one who blesses it,  
or the one who pours it.  
Or you could be  
the tired ground  
that receives it;  
or you could be  
the scorched seed  
that drinks it;  
or you could be  
the vine,  
green-growing overland,  
in all your wild audacity ...

See you in church,  
*Rev. Molly*

### **Rev. Molly's office hours**

**Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon**

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=c1ZhbIR4K3RVU0Q1bDdpZDhZZzZ6dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85318398129?pwd=c1ZhbIR4K3RVU0Q1bDdpZDhZZzZ6dz09)

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

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

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



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

## Summer Poetry Group with Rev. Molly

**Thursday, 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>  
[pwd=ZUFMb1RGVXV5alBKb2c2cwIjRVWUU3QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89071224964?pwd=ZUFMb1RGVXV5alBKb2c2cwIjRVWUU3QT09)

Meeting ID: 890 7122 4964 • Passcode: 790328

## Friday Pie Day returns this summer

**7 p.m. Friday, 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.

## Aug. 21 music event

**Community Sing after worship**

If you can't keep from singing, join us on August 21 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!



## The ADA at 32

July was Disability Pride Month, and July 26 marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act being signed into law. The ADA, a civil rights law for disabled people, took years of advocacy. This laborious fight included numerous meetings, phone calls, letter-writing campaigns, direct actions, and the support of countless allies. Its passage has greatly increased accessibility and inclusivity for disabled people across our country in transportation, restaurants, gyms, shops, schools and the workplace. However, we still experience daily ableism, and we still fight for access.

Columbia's buses can only transport one rider who uses a wheelchair or mobility device at a time, leaving disabled residents waiting in the heat. Accessible housing is frequently impossible to find. The lack of masking and distancing requirements during this pandemic keeps many disabled residents confined to their homes.

Issues like these regularly exclude us from society. The fight waged 32 years ago never ended, as many of us have to advocate on a – sometimes – daily basis for our rights. To gain more perspective, I recommend checking out “A Letter to the Americans with Disabilities Act on Its 32nd Birthday” by Sandy Ho on the Disability & Philanthropy website.

At UUCC, our planned elevator, automatic doors, railing and Braille signage will greatly increase access and inclusion for people with disabilities entering our building. We hope you will join us on Aug. 13 at the *UUCC Elevated Gala* and contribute as you are able to make us more radically welcoming!

The Disability Justice and Inclusion Team meets on the third Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Meetings are on Zoom, and all are welcome. Please direct questions to chair Gretchen Maune (she/her) at [GMMaune@gmail.com](mailto:GMMaune@gmail.com) or at 573-489-0986.

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

## UU Meditation

### Take a Deep Breath

Every Sunday at 9 a.m. starting Aug. 21

At the Fire Circle, or in the Centering Room if it is raining or the temperature is below 50 degrees. Beginners and experienced meditators welcome.

## New and continuing Chalice Circles – 2022-2023

Members and friends of UUCC – Are you looking for a way to connect with fellow UUCC members and friends? Seeking opportunities to share your heart in a safe/brave space? Wanting to find new connections and opportunities to discover how UUCC can be meaningful in your life? **Joining a Chalice Circle may suit your needs.** You can learn more about Chalice Circles on the church website at <https://uucomo.org/chalice-circles/>.

Traditional nine-session Chalice Circles will meet once or twice a month for an hour or two from September 2022 through end of May 2023. Each circle is limited to 10 members. Groups are facilitated by fellow UU volunteers. Topics are planned in coordination with the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon. Regular service project opportunities are chosen by members of each group to enhance bonds of friendship. Commitment is for one cycle of nine sessions.

Chalice Circles will be open for signups in August on the website or by contacting Kathie Bergman by phone (573-999-3938 and leave a message) or by email at [chalicecircle@uucomo.org](mailto:chalicecircle@uucomo.org). If you have questions you are also welcome to call or email. We look forward to a full and exciting year ahead!

## Welcome new members

The UUCC Membership Team, Rev Molly Housh Gordon, and the rest of the congregation warmly welcome these new members who joined on July 10:

Melissa Cameron  
Michael Cameron  
MaryBeth Bernardin  
Courtney Bernardin

Please introduce yourself to our new members.

Our next membership opportunity will be our fall membership cycle:

- 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22 – Membership 101 on Zoom.
- 11:45 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 – Membership 102 in person in the UUCC Centering Room.
- During worship Sunday, Oct. 9 – New Member Ingathering.

## August Festival of Sharing

For the month of August, the focus is on “Church World Service School Kits.” These packs are for elementary school students who could not otherwise afford these supplies. Place all items in a large zip-lock bag (2 to 2.5 gallon).

- 3 70-page spiral or tape bound notebooks
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener (remove packaging)
- 1 pair of round-tip blunt metal scissors
- 1 large eraser
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 12-inch ruler
- 6 new unsharpened pencils with erasers (remove packaging)

Collection boxes are available in the church greeting area.

Bonnie Johnson  
Festival of Sharing Chair



## Social Action Team report on fiscal year 2021-2022

The Social Action Team’s budget for the 2021-22 church year was \$2,000. Here is how the Team disbursed the funds:

**Henry Kirklin seminar: \$1,000.** We sponsored a seminar on Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture’s Henry Kirklin Black Farmer Scholarship Fund. Moderated by Rev. Dr. C.W Dawson Jr., it included presentations by Billy Polansky from CCUA and program participant Eddie Linzie. Our donation went toward the scholarship fund and for honoraria.

**Honduras Educational Fund: \$500.** The fund goes toward educational expenses for individuals in Honduras.

**Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP): \$1,000 total.** A combination of funds from the Faith-to-Action collection, supplemented by the SAT budget.

**Minority Men’s Network (MMN): \$1,000 total.** A combination of funds from the Faith-to-Action collection, supplemented by the SAT budget.

The remainder of the budget was used to bolster Faith-to-Action collections for **Worley Street Roundtable** and **Missouri Rural Crisis Center**.

## Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Lilly and the kids have moved into their duplex. Thank you for your generosity in donating household items and helping with the move!

The move into their own apartment is another huge step, but the last step is another big one. Lilly needs to learn to drive, and she will need a car. If you are willing to help Lilly learn to drive, and/or if you have a car to sell at a low price, please let us know.

It will probably still be some time until Lilly can be independent in her transportation needs.

### *There is an increased need for drivers.*

There is a loyal small group of drivers doing a lot of the transportation, but they 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 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 UCCC welcoming Lilly, Manuel and Lakshmi to Columbia and committing to their sponsorship. We are so grateful for the generosity of Christine Heath for having offered her home to the family for more than a year. One of the goals of sponsorship, however, is to help immigrants transition to independence. If Lilly did not have children, 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 in order to assist with rent, utilities, child-care 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 payable Allie Gassmann at 1700 Princeton Dr., Columbia, MO 65203. This money will go into 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 either co-chair, Dave Gibbons ([dgibbons@mchsi.com](mailto:dgibbons@mchsi.com)) or Allie Gassmann ([alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)).

## Programs and events

### Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17

M'bon, the Second Harvest, and the Equinox. Once again the Earth stands for just a moment in perfect balance, then, as always, falls to the side, this time into darkness.

Gather with us at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 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. If you have questions, please contact us at [kaleidoscope@uucomo.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@uucomo.org).

### UU Life Writers

UU Life Writers is taking a break in August. We will meet again starting in September.

More information is available by contacting Fran Reynolds at [freynolds@centurytel.net](mailto:freynolds@centurytel.net) or 573-881-3828.

Check us out  
on the UCC  
Facebook page.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/uuchurch>

### Social Action T-Shirts

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of



### UCC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 –  
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, Aug. 3 –  
online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UCC 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, Aug. 4 – online

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

### Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 – online

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

### Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Aug. 13 & 27 – online

The UCC 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).

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

Aug. 21 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

The Non-toxic Masculinity group is taking the rest of the summer off and will restart twice monthly meetings on Sept. 19.

For information contact Kevin Fritsche [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/>

#### Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E164454&id=77>



# REflections

**WELCOME  
BACK**

The new church year is almost upon us, and we have so much to look forward to! Below are our R.E. plans this year:

- Pre-Kindergarten: Our youngest will be learning about our church and its communities and traditions, as well as practicing the social skills that are at the heart of community-building.
- Kindergarten-2nd graders: We will be learning about our UU Seventh Principle and our interconnections with the earth and all its inhabitants.
- 3rd-5th graders: We will be learning about famous UUs, from explorers to doctors to cooks, and how their UU faith inspired the important work they did.
- 6-8th graders: We will be learning about other religions and in the process learning about our own UU faith and our belief in connection. In this ever-popular program we will be visiting houses of worship across Columbia.
- High Schoolers: The high schoolers will as always create their own curriculum of learning and fun.
- Service Sundays: Our monthly service project in which we live out our great covenant: "Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law."
- All-Ages Worship: Our monthly all-ages worship services will give us a chance to worship together and let our children experience the ritual life of our church.

## R.E. Volunteer Training 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 20

New to R.E. volunteering? Want to brush up on your skills? Want to share your years of wisdom with the rest of our volunteer community? Join us for our volunteer training. Breakfast and childcare will be provided. RSVP to [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org).



**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

YRUU  
Planning  
Meeting  
Noon-2 p.m. Aug. 21



High school youth are invited to our planning meeting to decide what we will be doing in YRUU this semester. Pizza provided! Bring your ideas.



## August RE Schedule

- Aug. 7: All-Ages service - no R.E.
- Aug. 14: R.E. Summer Classes
- Aug. 21: R.E. Summer Classes
- Aug. 28: Water Communion  
All-Ages service - no R.E.

# ***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)

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

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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or mail to Church Administrator.

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