



# 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 4, October 2022

## October 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, Oct. 2**

**“All Creatures of the Earth and Sky”**

**All-Ages Animal Blessing**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us alongside your animal companions for an All-Ages Animal Blessing service outdoors in back of the church. We will celebrate our connection with all creatures and bless their presence in our lives. All well-behaved animal companions are welcome on leash, in a carrier or otherwise restrained. Kristen Ford will be our special guest musician.

**Sunday, Oct. 9**

**“Sacred Ground”**

**George Grimm-Howell**

Grounding is our theme for October. In observance of Indigenous People’s Day on Oct. 10, Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell will explore how soil remembers. This compost, watered by blood, sweat and tears, becomes the sacred ground on which we build our faith and our future. Read more on page 3.

**Sunday, Oct. 16**

**“Plant Yourself in Rich Soil”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Where does your energy go? I often notice mine being funneled upward and outward to hierarchical structures that do not serve my spirit. Join us to ponder how we can redirect our energy down into a rich and nurturing space. Kona Asi will be our special guest musician.

*Continued on page 2*

### Minister’s Message - Roots & Wings

## October’s Worship Theme is “Grounding”

*“Walk as if you are kissing the earth with your feet.”*  
– Thich Nhat Hanh

I was grateful to spend the last weekend with my family of origin staying at the home of my brother, who is doing very well at the moment! Thank you for all your healing wishes and love to my family.

One morning during my visit, I woke up before everyone and went out to spend some time in his lovely yard before it got (very) hot for the day. I found a spot in the shade where it appeared nothing would grow, and a lovely covering of dirt lay like the finest of sand, bare and soft. I couldn’t wait to put my feet in that spot and hopped down from the porch into a puff of rising dust.

It was Oklahoma red dirt – the kind of soil that looks right to me in all the world – and I spent ten minutes just pacing about that soft bare patch, feeling the red dirt coat my feet like powdered silk and watching precise footprints deepen into the ground. It felt like my feet were indeed kissing the earth, and that the earth, too, kissed back – like a paper-y grandmother’s peck on the cheek, like a blessing, like home.

When I returned to my life in Columbia, I felt centered and strong, grounded in the love of family and nurtured by the soil of home, and ready to take on whatever these uprooting times could throw at me. At least for a while.

Where do you feel the most grounded and centered in yourself? I hope we can create a space of rich nurturing soil together at UUCC this month!

See you in church!  
Rev. Molly

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**Check us out on the UUCC**

**Facebook page.**

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

## **Worship Services – continued from page 1**

**Sunday, Oct. 23**

**Guest Preacher**

**Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson**

Join us for an inspiring word from scholar, pastor, and public theologian Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson.

**Sunday, Oct. 30**

**“Show Yourself”**

**All-Ages Halloween Service**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & Jamila Batchelder**

Join us for an All-Ages Halloween service exploring the seen and the unseen, and how we are grounded in the hidden parts of ourselves, especially at Halloween time. UU Churchers of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to come in costume!

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

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

**The Zoom address for our coffee**

**hour is:** [https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09)

[pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09)

**You can also join by phone:** 312-626 6799

Webinar ID: 652 315 354

### **Online Poetry for Spiritual Growth**

*First Thursday each month on Zoom*

*7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 6*

Join us for a contemplative series with poetry at the center. We reflect on spiritual and theological questions using poetry as our source text. We share some of our favorite poems. We write, whether you prefer to journal or write your own poetry. And we share our reflections, and perhaps our writing, with one another. Please join us for any session even if you can't commit to the whole series.

### **UU Meditation**

#### **Take a Deep Breath**

**Every Sunday at 9 a.m.**

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.

## **Construction update**

Thank you to all who helped move furniture on Sunday, Sept. 18, and to all who have contributed to our Accessibility Project in any way over the last 11 months.

I am overjoyed to tell you the project is under way! We will be out of the Sanctuary Sunday, Oct. 2 with an All Ages services outdoors in back of the church. Our rain location will be Shepard Park. Online worship will be at the usual time, but may be pre-recorded due to technical problems issues of outdoor streaming. Nursery care will be provided indoors, and folks may use the bathroom and other facilities on the lower level. Meditation Group, Forum and the OWL class will continue in their usual locations. Our Liberation Conversation about Reproductive Justice in Missouri will be held in the Centering Room, or possibly outdoors if attendance is extremely high.

We'll keep you posted as the work eventually moves downstairs and then focuses in on the structural changes to allow for the installation of the elevator.

We continue to raise funds to bridge that last little gap to fully funding the project, and you can make a gift or pledge at [uucomo.org/rising](http://uucomo.org/rising) if you'd like to help us over the finish line! See you in (our beautiful, transforming) church!

Rev. Molly

## **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

## **Chalice Circles – 2022-2023**

If you would like to join a Chalice Circle, you are able to sign up on the church website ([uucomo.org](http://uucomo.org)) or by emailing [chalicecircles@uucomo.org](mailto:chalicecircles@uucomo.org). There are still a few openings and we welcome newcomers as well as members of long-standing! Check the website for more information.

Liberation Conversations  
**A Second Sunday Civic Engagement Series**  
of the UU Church of Columbia, Missouri  
2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201

[uucomo.org](http://uucomo.org)

Childcare provided

Catered lunch available if reserved ahead at [uucomo.org/liberationconversations](http://uucomo.org/liberationconversations)  
\$15 each or sliding scale

**Sunday, Oct. 2 (rescheduled from Oct. 9 to avoid Roots N Blues conflict)**

Lunch at noon, conversation will begin at 12:30 p.m.

**“Missouri After Roe: Our Reproductive Justice Landscape”**

**With Jess Lambrecht** – Program Director, Missouri Abortion Fund

*The mission of Missouri Abortion Fund (MoAF) is to provide public education and support for people needing reproductive health services, primarily by providing financial assistance to Missouri residents who cannot afford the full cost of abortion care.*

**Sunday, Nov. 13**

Lunch at 12 noon, conversation will begin at 12:30 p.m.

**“Movement Chaplaincy: Spiritual Care for Social Justice Makers”**

**With Jeanne Snodgrass** – Director, Mizzou Hillel

*Movement Chaplains participate in social change ecosystems by providing accompaniment, care and resilience building with the goal of reducing activist burnout and creating more sustainable movements at all levels. Movement Chaplaincy is one of the ways the legacy of care and accompaniment is developing in this generation of social change work.*

**“Sacred Ground” ritual with  
Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell  
Sunday, Oct. 9  
Bring your dirt!**

Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell will lead us in a simple ritual during worship service to celebrates the rich possibilities for growth that are inherent in soil. You are invited to bring a small scoop of soil from a sacred place in your life that we will bless and contribute to a communal flower pot. There will also be a supply available in the sanctuary if it’s not convenient to bring your own.

You can reach George (he/him/his) on his cell phone, 314-799-8585, or make an appointment with him at [calendly.com/grimm-howell](https://calendly.com/grimm-howell). His email address is [internminister@uucomo.org](mailto:internminister@uucomo.org).

**Social Action Team meeting time  
change – 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2**

Discussion – change to the  
Faith-to-Action process

We are changing our Faith-to-Action collection scheduling in order for it to be administratively sustainable. We will now be collecting for one organization per month in a “Split the Plate” model – meaning half of all offerings for the month will go to the organization and half to the church.

This will be vastly more manageable from an administrative perspective, though it does mean that we need to whittle down the list. We’ll be working on that at our upcoming October meeting at **3 p.m.** Oct. 2. Please note the time change to accommodate those who wish to participate in the Liberation Conversations program.

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

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

# Forum Programs for October 2022

All sessions are at 9 a.m. Sunday in the Forum Room/Library downstairs at the church

## Oct. 2 – Introducing George Grimm-Howell, Intern Minister for 2022-23.

George is a seminary student who holds a master of divinity degree from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He lives in University City, MO. with his family and is a long-time member of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. His particular interests are 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.

## Oct. 9 – Michael Dunn, long-time Manager of KBIA

Michael will discuss the station, its history, its coverage of local news, its funding, its subsidiary stations, and also National Public Radio, of which KBIA is a part. Both KBIA and NPR have been celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

## Oct. 16 – David Leuthold

Join us as David leads the discussion of “Changing Demographics in the World.” This is one of the programs in the Great Decisions Master Class, offered by the Foreign Policy Association. Several copies of the *Great Decisions* book are available so that participants can read the chapter ahead of the discussion.

## Oct. 23 – Diana Moxon

Diana will discuss the history and activities of KOPN and comment on the role of community radio across the nation. KOPN recently moved to a new building.

## Oct. 30 – Fred Young and the Reparations History Group

The group will present “Where Did They Go? African Americans in Rural Boone County, Before and After Missouri Reparations.” At one time, Boone County had a rural African American community farming in the Three Creeks area. This is their story, and this is our history.

## A change to Rev. Molly’s office hours

Rev. Molly has found folks wanting to meet with her are making an appointment. It’s hard to hold a lot of open hours. This year she will hold Community Office Hours as her only open hours and offer appointments every day except Monday (day off) and Wednesday (sermon-writing day). You can meet with her online, by phone, or in person at the indoor or outdoor location of your choice.

Make an appointment with her by using the scheduling app at [calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon](https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon). If you can’t find a time there, send her an email to see if she can work you in at a slightly different time.

### Office Hours

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Uprise Bakery

Other meetings available by appointment at

[calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon](https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon)

## USH-ing at UUCC

Being an usher is a fun and time-limited way to make a big difference for our church community - offering radical welcome to all who join us on Sunday! Ushers work in pairs. Feel free to sign up with a friend or loved one. Kids are welcome to help before their class. Here are the duties:

1. Arrive by 10 a.m.
2. Distribute hymnals among the seats.
3. Greet folks with an order of service as they enter the sanctuary and if necessary help them find seats.
4. Close the doors at 10:30 a.m. and let in latecomers.
5. Pass the plates for the offering. Return them to shelf at the back of the sanctuary.
6. Count attendance shortly before the offering

## Music Reminders!

Weekly Choir Rehearsals are at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. All ages and ability levels are welcome and encouraged to join. Sunday performance dates are still to be arranged.

YO(UU) Kids Sing is a monthly gathering on most third Sundays of the month after the worship service. Bring a simple lunch for after the service. Music and fun will follow! YO(UU) Kids Sing will take place Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 11 and will culminate in a performance at worship on Sunday Dec. 18.

# From your Board of Trustees

By Susan Even, Board Member

As the new church year ramped up, the UCC Board of Trustees came together for an all-day retreat on Saturday, Sept. 10. After a centering and brief worship experience, we shared what we love most about our church and, using the “Roots and Wings” theme, described what grounds us and what we stretch toward. In another exercise, we found we had many unexpected things in common, a nice reminder to always look for hidden treasures among us.

Have you ever communicated with your future self? It’s fascinating! We each channeled our ‘2025 self’ and wrote our “2022 self” a letter identifying changes our church has undergone, issues we had tackled, and how we addressed them. Sharing with each other, we learned how enthusiastic and positive we are and the commonality of the future vision we share. We are optimistic, proud, grateful, and confident in our priorities, which include embracing the 8th principle/antiracist/anti-oppression work, strengthening religious education programming, embracing accessibility, and generally widening our circle of concern. We hold guarded optimism about church finances and some anxiety about the general economic and political instability around us.

Then we dug into an assessment of how we perceive that our church fits into nine aspects of Racial Justice in UU Congregations, using a rubric created by Julia

Hermann de la Fuente. For each aspect, we attempted to discern whether our congregation fits best as “status quo,” “multiculturally aware” or “anti-racist.” Our individual results were viewed collectively as dots on a large paper on the wall, an interesting visual image that showed we acknowledge many important things that we have already been doing, along with a veritable “to-do list” for future years.

Energized by this, we discussed some future actions we could undertake. We see value in viewing future activities and church structures through an anti-racist/anti-oppression lens. During board meetings, we hope to include learning anti-racist skills. We see the need for intentional anti-racist education for the congregation as a whole and within youth and adult religious education programs and small group and pastoral care efforts. Later in the year, we hope to hold cottage meetings where congregants could participate in the same Racial Justice Assessment rubric work that we found valuable. We agree that the 8th Principle work will be ongoing.

Closing words from *Hush* by Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson charged us each to listen to the call of “a past not quite forgotten....a future not fully imagined” and to ask ourselves, “What shall we do?” Congregants, your board hears the call and, over the coming year, wants to lead you into action!

## Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

***Financial support and volunteer drivers still greatly needed!***

Lilly and the kids feel happy in their own apartment. Manuel really likes his new school, Parkade Elementary. The move into their own apartment has been a huge step, but one of the last steps towards independence 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 you are able to sell at a low price, please let us know.**

Since it will be some time until Lilly can be independent in her transportation, there is **still a need for drivers**. A small group is doing a lot of the transportation, but they need backup drivers sometimes. Lilly needs transportation for work, and drivers are needed for appointments and to Lakshmi’s Head Start location. Volunteers can select when they volunteer based on their schedules. People willing to help should contact one of the co-chairs of the Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team for information.

When we agreed to sponsor a single mom with two children, we knew it would be challenging. Our sponsorship of the family will need to continue in order to provide assistance. **We would greatly appreciate your financial contributions to our sponsorship efforts!** If you would like to support the work of the SIJT, 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 donation directly to the family (non-tax-deductible), you can send a check made out to Allie Gassmann at 1700 Princeton Dr., Columbia, MO 65203. This money will go into a joint account to pay the family’s expenses.

**If you would like to get involved on the Team, please contact Dave or Allie, co-chairs.**

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, Oct. 29

Samhein (sa-win), Year's Ending, and the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead grows thin. Now is the time to remember those who have passed, and explore within ourselves those changes we need or want to make in our lives.

Gather with us at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 at the church. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. As of this date, we request you wear a mask, and please bring snacks and drinks for yourself as desired.

### UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturdays,  
Oct. 1 and 15

Our theme for this year is "Writing as Spiritual Practice". Think about what that could mean to you. If weather is good, we can perhaps meet at Kiwanis Park. We will decide as the dates come up.

Our dates for this fall will be:

Oct. 1, 15 and perhaps 29

(Guest Hosts: Jane & Mary Jo)

Nov. 5 and 19

(Guest Host: Diane)

Dec. 3 and 17

(Guest Host: Debbie)

If you would like to be a guest host in the spring, please let Fran Reynolds know.

For information text, phone or email Fran Reynolds (881-3828 or [freynolds@centurytel.net](mailto:freynolds@centurytel.net)).

### Sanctuary/Immigrant Justice Team

1:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9 – online

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of



### UCC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 –  
online and by phone

The group will meet online and by phone to briefly discuss books each has read. Email Pam Springsteel at [pspring@socket.net](mailto:pspring@socket.net) for more information.

### Conversations, Etc.

*Please note change  
of day and time!*

4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11 -  
online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UCC senior women's group, will now meet via Zoom and telephone on the second Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

We gather together to enjoy the company of women friends. If you would like to join us, email Pam at [pspring@socket.net](mailto:pspring@socket.net).

### Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Oct. 8 and 22 – 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).

### Social Action T-Shirts

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

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

Oct. 16 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. Mondays, Oct. 3 and 17

The Non-toxic Masculinity group has resumed first and third Monday meetings. For information, email Kevin Fritsche at [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://cfcmfoundation.org/  
donations/covid-19-regional-relief-  
fund/](https://cfcmfoundation.org/donations/covid-19-regional-relief-fund/)

#### Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

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

# Reflections

This year, as we try to navigate our way after all the changes and disruptions of the past few years, we are particularly focusing on spiritual practice as a way to help ground, center and renew our spirits. We need this as adults, but children, living increasingly busy lives, need this as well. Each month we will explore a single spiritual practice during our centering time in church, and we encourage you to continue practicing them at home as a family.

For the month of October, we will be exploring the theme of grounding. What would a grounding practice look like for you and your children? Perhaps it is as simple as putting bare feet on the ground for a few moments, and feeling that connection to the earth. Or maybe it is lying on the ground, watching the clouds go by, feeling the earth hold you. A spiritual practice doesn't have to be complicated or formal. It is more about taking a moment of intention together. And it is a wonderful gift to teach our children how to find these moments through the hustle and bustle of life.

Another way you can explore spiritual practice this year is by checking out our home spiritual practice boxes in the Greeting Area. These kits can be taken home, and they provide multiple ways for people of all ages to engage with a particular spiritual practice. There are meditations, visualizations, creativity practices, nature practices, and movement practices. I encourage you to experiment and find what connects with your soul and renews your spirit!



## Fall Nature Celebration Noon-1:30 p.m. Oct. 16

Join us in a celebration of the season and an opportunity to form a spiritual connection to the natural world on the grounds of our church! We will share a potluck and then an opportunity to engage in several activities of nature celebration, from befriending a tree to creating a nature mandala.



**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

## Junior Youth 6:30-8 p.m. Oct. 14

Junior Youth will meet for fort building and a Smash Bros gaming tournament. All middle schoolers are invited! RSVP to [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org).



## Pumpkin Carving Party Noon-1:30 p.m. Oct. 30

Join us in for a pumpkin carving party! Pumpkins and a lunch of vegetarian chili will be provided.

RSVP to [dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org).



## RE Schedule

- Oct. 2:** Outdoor All-Ages  
Service: Blessing of the Animals
- Oct. 9:** Regular R.E. Classes
- Oct. 16:** Regular R.E. Classes
- Oct. 23:** Regular R.E. Classes
- Oct. 30:** All-Ages Halloween Service

## ***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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Melissa Ensign-Bedford, President

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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