



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 5, November 2022

November 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

Sunday, Nov. 6

“Among All That Is”

Remembrance Service

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for our annual Remembrance Sunday, as we ponder the great starry cloud of witnesses that upholds our community, and as we honor the memory of beloved ones now gone. You are invited to bring a photo or memento of departed loved ones for our remembrance altar and will be invited to speak their names into our service.

Sunday, Nov. 13

“Naked November”

George Grimm-Howell

In November, trees drop their frilly foliage without shame to expose their beautiful bones, their broken places, and their wounds. Join Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell in an exploration of what we can learn from trees – and family trees – about how to love ourselves, scars and all, as we survive and thrive in community.

Sunday, Nov. 20

Harvest Sunday

“The Abundance of Community”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & Jamila Batchelder

Join us for a beautiful all-ages service celebrating the harvest time in our part of the world and sharing the abundance of community. Bring a veggie or fruit for our harvest altar and see what we can make when we all join together! We’ll also be sharing a harvest potluck lunch indoors after the service – so please bring a dish to share if you are able.

Continued on page 2

Special Congregational Meeting

After worship on Sunday, Nov. 6

Details on page 3

Minister’s Message

Roots & Wings

November’s worship theme is “Ancestry”

“Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me.

Be still, they say. Watch and listen.

You are the result of the love of thousands.”

– Linda Hogan

It is true, you know. You are the result of the love of thousands. And their sorrow. And their prejudices and hatreds. And their hunger. And their worries. And their passion. You are the result of all of who they each were, extending back through time beyond our imagining. Indeed, we all contain multitudes!

Through the vast roots of our exponentially growing family tree, we inherit so much of what makes the world. So many harms and evils. So much hope and dedication. It’s all there, stretching out beneath our feet and winding through our DNA and climbing up the synapses of our brains.

What are we to do with these influences? How are we to live the best of what we inherit? How are we to heal the worst? First... with clear perception, committed to truth, especially when it is complicated. Second... with deep nuance, knowing that the human paradox of love and harm is alive in every family tree. And third... with rooted love, moving forward in compassion and rigorous commitment to transformation.

And fourth, fifth, sixth? There is always so much more. Join us this month.

In Faith, Rev. Molly

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Worship Services – continued from page 1

Sunday, Nov. 27

Guest Preacher

Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson

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

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?](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09)

[pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQT09)

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

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.

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) or by emailing chalicecircle@uucomo.org. There are still a few openings, and we welcome newcomers as well as long-standing members! Check the website for more information.

Online Poetry for Spiritual Growth

First Thursday of the Month on Zoom
7 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 3

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.

“Rooting and Reaching”

A Message from Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell

I'm beginning to wrap my heart and mind around our worship theme for November – “Ancestry.” And I admit to being excited about our earth teacher for the month – trees. I love the paradox of trees, which are always rooted yet always reaching. The combination of ancestors and trees, brings to mind my own family tree and all the complexity that comes with being rooted in a family, a time and a place – yet allowing myself to reach beyond my origin story to create my own identity.

Like a tree that is rooted, however, I'm coming to realize that I'm not meant to “overcome” or “transcend” my family of origin – but rather embrace my family tree (even the broken branches and the deep scars) and understand how it not only has shaped who I am but will always inform to some degree who I will become.

As I research more about the little-known lives of trees and communities of trees, I'm learning that they are deeply connected underground, that they communicate with each other, and that they even help each other survive. I can't think of a better metaphor for a religious community. (I think there's a sermon in there somewhere.) I look forward to connecting and growing with each of you this church year and beyond.

– George

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 or call the church office at 442-5764 if you need help or want to volunteer



Check us out on the UUCC
Facebook page.

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

Special Congregational Meeting – Nov. 6, 2022

The Board of Trustees has called a Special Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary after the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022. The sole question to be voted upon at the meeting will be:

Shall the Board of Trustees be authorized to withdraw up to \$100,000 from the church's Endowment Fund to complete the current accessibility project that includes installation of an elevator, and shall the board be mandated to reimburse the Endowment Fund to the extent that pledges and other contributions and grants are later received for the accessibility project?

Notes

The church's Investments and Endowment Policy adopted by the congregation requires withdrawals from the Endowment Fund to be approved by the congregation.

Members who joined at least 60 days before Nov. 6, 2022 will be eligible to vote.

Members who cannot attend the meeting but want to vote may submit a Proxy Voting Appointment available at <https://uucomo.org/special-congregational-meeting-nov-6-2022/>. The proxy form also will be available on paper in the Greeting Area. Follow the instructions on the form to submit the proxy.

Background Information

From Christine Heath, Treasurer, and Melissa Bedford, President:

We are pleased to inform you that we have raised pledges for all but \$30,000 of the \$545,000 needed to complete our accessibility project.

Here is how we plan to pay for the rest:

- Due to rising interest rates and falling market values, our Investment and Endowment Committee and Board of Trustees deem it wisest to use our Endowment Fund to bridge the gap in funds as bills come due, rather than pursuing a bank loan.
- The board will be asking you, the congregation, to vote to allow us to withdraw up to \$100,000 from our endowment to complete payment for this project. This is because some of the money pledged to the campaign will not be received until next year.
- Of the maximum of \$100,000 to be withdrawn from the endowment to pay for construction, the board hopes to be able to reimburse \$50,000 to \$70,000 to the Endowment Fund, depending on how many pledges are fulfilled and whether additional contributions and some small grants are received.
- The vote of the congregation is required for any withdrawal of principal from the endowment.
- The board is clear that this use is consistent with the expressly stated purpose of the endowment in the Investment and Endowment Policy on both counts, given that the funds will go toward capital needs consistent with our principles and furthering our mission of radical welcome AND given that it is most prudent in this financial climate to avoid a bank loan in service of the long-range financial health of the congregation. Here is the language from the policy:

The purpose of the endowment fund is to assure the long-range financial future of the church and to fund capital needs and special projects that are consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles and further the mission of the church.

The Board of Trustees has set a special congregational meeting for Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022 after the worship service when we will be asking voting members to vote solely on this issue. Members who have joined at least 60 days before the meeting will be eligible to vote. All such members were mailed written notice of the meeting the week of Oct. 24-29, as required by law. We hope you will help us meet a quorum and voice your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to us as soon as possible, in advance of the meeting, so we may endeavor to address them fully.

Liberation Conversations
A Second Sunday Civic Engagement Series
of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri
2615 Shepard Blvd.

uucomo.org

Childcare provided

Catered lunch available if reserved ahead at uucomo.org/liberationconversations
\$15 each or sliding scale

Sunday, Nov. 13

Lunch at noon, conversation begins 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.

UUCC Music Update

Music & Variety Show – and Fundraiser!

6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3

Suggested donation: \$20-25

Sign up by Nov. 7 in order to perform

You are invited to join us for a special Music & Variety Show and Fundraiser for the UUCC Music Program!

The congregation at the UUCC is filled with incredibly talented performers and musicians that we would love to showcase! Members (and non-members) of all abilities and talents are invited to participate. Whether you have a song you'd like to share or a story or poem you'd like to recite, you are welcome and encouraged to sign up. 5-7 minute time limit for each performer. All ages are welcome to perform. Sign up here by Nov. 7:

<https://forms.gle/NJ7hD9kG3oQTkyQUA>

Call for Christmas Eve Soloists & Musicians

We are looking for soloists and musicians (both vocal and instrumental) for both Christmas Eve Services on Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.. To participate and get involved, email Music Director Violet Vonder Haar at music@uucomo.org.

Rev. Molly's office hours

Community Office Hours

10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays
at Uprise Bakery

Appointments

Every day except Monday (day off) and Wednesday (sermon-writing day). You can meet with Rev. Molly online, by phone or in person at the indoor or outdoor location of your choice.

Make an appointment by using the scheduling app at calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon. If you can't find a time there, send her an email message at minister@uucomo.org to see if she can work you in at a slightly different time.

**On behalf our congregation
and Rev. Molly Housh Gordon,
the UUCC Membership Team
warmly welcomes our new members:**

Andrea Baka	Cara Carter
James Barnum	Ryan Carter
Mark Berlinger	Amber Sparks

Please introduce yourselves when you see them.

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

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

Forum Programs for November 2022

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

Nov. 6 - Prof. David Mitchell

“Fearing the Pedagogy: Examining Legislation Banning Critical Race Theory and Other Curricula”

S. David Mitchell is the Ruth L. Hulston Professor of Law and Director of the Michael A. Middleton Center for Race, Citizenship and Justice at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (2002), his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania (2012), and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Political Science at Brown University. He taught U.S. History, South African History and a course titled “Rebellions, Revolutions and Riots,” that compared black protest in the Caribbean and the United States at his high school alma mater. Before coming to MU, he served as a law clerk to Judge Andre M. Davis, District Court of Maryland, and was a Scholar in Residence in the Department of Sociology at the University of Colorado-Boulder. As a member of the MU School of Law faculty since 2006, he teaches Torts, Law & Society and Collateral Consequences of Sentencing. He has been recognized for his teaching, and his service awards include Minority Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award, the Spurgeon Smithson Award from the Missouri Bar Foundation, and the Diversity and Inclusion award from Missouri Lawyers Media. His research focuses on the collateral consequences that attach following a conviction, specifically the legal obstacles that prevent the formerly incarcerated from successfully reintegrating back into society. He teaches a Street Law program at Douglass High School and is currently a member of Missouri Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. His spouse also teaches at MU, and they have two children.

Nov. 13 - Prof. Rigel Oliveri

“Supreme Court Run-Down, Dramatic Changes for the New Supreme Court”

MU Law Prof. Rigel Oliveri is a nationally recognized expert on fair housing law. Her scholarship focuses on housing discrimination, zoning and property rights, and sexual harassment. Her published work has appeared in a number of prestigious journals and been cited by state and federal courts. She has received numerous awards for public service. She teaches constitutional law, fair housing, employment discrimination, and civil procedure, and is an affiliated faculty member of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. She currently serves as a Commissioner for the Columbia Housing Authority and on the Board of Mid-Missouri Legal Services. She attended Stanford Law School and before joining the faculty served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Civil Rights Division, Housing and Civil Enforcement Section.

Nov. 20 - Connie Johnmeyer

Great Decisions program, focusing on Chapter 1, “Outer Space Policy”

Nov. 27 - No Meeting - Thanksgiving Holiday

Social Action Team co-signs letter correcting Fred Parry editorial

The Social Action Team was invited to be a signatory on a response to an editorial by Fred Parry in the October issue of *Inside Columbia* magazine. After reviewing Mr. Parry’s article, and the thoughtful response from a consortium of our allies in Columbia, we are proud to be signatories of the response. In his article, Mr. Parry made misleading and erroneous statements about the homeless population in Columbia and the plans for a homeless shelter. He even worked in a snarky remark about the True/False Film Festival. Mr. Parry is entitled to his opinions, of course. As founder and publisher emeritus of *Inside Columbia*, he has a platform to express those opinions. It is disappointing that, after all his years in public service and civic engagement in Columbia, he has learned so little about the unhoused of Columbia. The response to Mr. Parry’s article was published in the *Columbia Missourian* on Oct. 18.

Faith-to-Action recipients selected and provisionally scheduled

Faith-to-Action (FTA) collections are a bit different now. We have implemented a “Share the Plate” plan – all donations in a calendar month will be split between the church and the targeted FTA recipient. This greatly simplifies the administration of donations – a good thing. It also potentially decreases the number of FTA recipients – a not-so-good thing. We have ameliorated that somewhat by doubling up some months with two FTA recipients that address a similar issue. For example, the December FTA recipients will be Room at the Inn and Loaves and Fishes. Brief descriptions of selected recipients will be posted on the UCC website.

Grounds Team - Welcome to our meadow!

By the time this newsletter is published, our backyard meadow is likely to have received its maintenance-mowing and may look like a blank space or a poor excuse for lawn. But, I hope you have seen, can imagine, or will see the wonderful plants that are still alive and well beneath the ground.

There are Common Milkweeds that support traveling Monarchs, Baptisia that bloom with blue flowers above silver-leaved mounds, tall slender-stalked Grayhead Cone-flowers, and bunches of fragrant Slender Mountain Mint. There are prairie grasses: Big Blue Stem with its turkey-track seed heads, dense clumps of Switch Grass that form airy panicles of seed, Indian Grass with golden plumes, bright orange-flowered Butterfly Weed, colonies of Ashy Sunflowers, Compass plants that point North and South, Obedient Plant, Rattlesnake Master, Goldenrod, Gum Plant, Blue Sage, Willow-leaved Sunflowers, and multiple species of Asters and Eupatoriums.



This meadow is the result of a human-driven transformation, part accidental and part intentional. When our UU forbears arrived and put up the building in 1969, the current meadow space was home to a woodland community. Then, in 1998 as we put on an addition, a big “bulldozer-oops” occurred, clearing a chunk of woods from the flat area and on down the

hillside. We responded with attempts to help the land heal by nurturing a native, shrubby, woods-edge/hedgerow-type community on the hillside, with a native prairie plant community on the flat area that we now call our “meadow”.

Scientists use the words “disturbance” and “succession” in describing the transformation of ecosystems over time. In this particular instance, and so many others, we humans were careless disturbers. But disturbance in ecosystems is not always a bad thing. It can also be regenerative. Now, we are trying to work with natural succession and to steward the land toward health and abundance. We are attempting to partner with diverse life forms, all of whom we will never completely know, but whose basic roles and presence we can at least try to appreciate and support. We aspire to minimize our disturbance and to practice respectful nurturance of a healthy ecological community. Sometimes that requires active labor on our part, but it also asks of us an unhurried presence and an open mind toward recognizing and understanding all that this other-than-human community brings to us. There have certainly been many blunders along the way, but it is our hope that as we observe and learn from direct experience, and listen to naturalists and scientists, we are becoming more attuned to this plant community and are growing in solidarity with it.

It is the hope of our grounds team that those who spend time here will be touched by the presence of this rich multi-species community, and that they will return over and over to be connected with its rich transformative presence.

– Carol Arnold, Grounds Team member

Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

We are so sad to have lost Joe Donaldson. He was such a beloved and truly dedicated and vital member of our team. Joe and Meredith still thought of Lilly and the kids and our sponsorship until the very end. A great big thanks to Meredith too, who never stops thinking of others. Our deepest SIJT condolences to Meredith and all of Joe’s family. Contributions in Joe’s memory are being dedicated to the UUCS Sanctuary Fund.

It will still be some time until Lilly is independent in her transportation needs. Therefore we still need drivers. There is a loyal small group doing a lot of the transportation, but we need backup drivers. 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. Volunteers can select when they volunteer based on their schedules. Please contact Dave or Allie until we find a new transportation coordinator (*hint, hint* - if you are interested).

When we agreed to sponsor a single mom with two small children, we knew transitioning to independence would be more challenging. We would greatly appreciate your financial contributions to our sponsorship efforts! If you would like to support the work of the SIJT, 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 to the family directly (not 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 for the family’s expenses.

– Dave Gibbons dgibbons@mchsi.com and Allie Gassmann alliegassmann@socket.net
Co-Chairs Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team

Programs and events

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17

Join us to celebrate the return of the Sun, the symbol of hope and the promise of returning warmth, on Saturday, Dec. 17 at the church. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. We request you wear a mask, and please bring snacks and drinks for yourself as desired.

UU Life Writers

Saturday, Nov. 5 & 19
at 10:30 a.m.

Our theme for this year is "Writing as Spiritual Practice". Think about what that could mean to you. Our dates for this fall and winter will be:

Nov. 5 and 19

(Guest Host: Diane)

Dec. 3 and 17

(Guest Host: Debbie)

If you would like to be a guest host please Fran know. For information email, text or phone Fran Reynolds at 881-3828 or freynolds@centurytel.net.

Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13 – online

For details send an email to Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net.

Music Reminders

Weekly Choir Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. All ages and ability levels are welcome and encouraged to join.

YO(UU) Kids Sing is a monthly gathering on most third Sundays of the month, following the Sunday service. YO(UU) Kids Sing will take place Nov. 20 and Dec. 11.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



UUCB Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 –
online and by phone

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

Conversations, Etc.

Note the new day and time!

Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. –
online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUCB senior women's group, will now meet via Zoom and telephone on the second Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m.

We gather together to enjoy the company of women friends. If you would like to join us, contact Pam pspring@socket.net.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Nov. 12 & 26 – online

The UUCB 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.

Social Action T-Shirts

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

UUCB provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

Nov. 20 this month

The Social Action Team is looking for volunteers to prepare servings of various dishes, which are assembled into boxed meals at the Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church.

This system requires the volunteers providing food to take the food to Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church by 4:15 p.m. The volunteers who assemble the boxed meals also are asked to be at the church by 4:15 p.m. Sign up online at uucomo.org.

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

Non-toxic Masculinity Men's Group

7 p.m. Mon, Nov. 7 and 21

The Non-toxic Masculinity group meets the first and third Monday of the month. For information contact Kevin Fritsche 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

Thanksgiving is a time for family, but it can also be a time when our ancestors are very present with us. From the recipes we prepare, to the china we set the table with, to the prayers of thanksgiving we say, we are often invoking the memories of those who came before us.

As we focus on ancestors this month at UUC, give some thought about how to share the memories of your ancestors with your children. You can share the memories of struggles they endured and of strengths they passed down to you. You can also share the memories of mistakes they made and the opportunity and obligation we have to learn from them and repair them.

Activities you can do with your children:

- Make an ancestors altar for All Souls Day
- Make a family recipe together
- Learn a harvest tradition of a culture you are connected to
- Tell stories big and small of loved ones who have passed



YRUU Fundraiser:
Kid Fun Night
6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 12

\$20/1 Child + \$5/each additional child

As a fundraiser for their group, our YRUU high school youth group is hosting a kid fun night where parents get a night off while kids play at the church! We will have pizza, movies, board games, and more. RSVP by Nov. 8.



Jamila Batchelder
Director of Religious Education
dre@uucomo.org
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-noon

Junior Youth
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Nov. 18

Junior Youth will meet to cook food for Loaves and Fishes (and play a few games and eat some pizza!).



Harvest Potluck
Noon-1:30 p.m.
Nov. 20

Join us after our All-Ages Service for a potluck. Bring the bounty of the season!

Harvest



RE Schedule

Nov. 7: Regular R.E. Classes
Nov. 13: Regular R.E. Classes
Nov. 20: All Ages Thanksgiving Service
Nov. 27: Service Sunday

THE SEARCHLIGHT

The Newsletter of:
Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

Return Service Requested

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2022-2023 Board of Trustees

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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