



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 6, December 2022

December 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

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4

“Slow Down!”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

The structures around us fill this season with many stressors and demands, and yet the earth is full of cues to slow down and rest. From the hibernating animals to the bare trees to the shortening days and longest nights, what could we learn from the earth about rest in this season? And how could resting be a pathway to the collective liberation we seek?

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11

“Darest Thou Now, O Soul?”

George Grimm-Howell, Intern Minister

In the season of slowness, we can give ourselves the gift of well-earned rest and dreaming. Taking time for envisioning new worlds is an essential ingredient of our justice making. Join Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell in a dreamy exploration of queer art, science fiction, and poetry that can help transport us to the future we dream of.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18

“The Longest Night”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & Jamila Batchelder,
Director of Religious Education**

Join us for a dreamy Solstice service for all ages as we mark the longest night of the year. What can we imagine in the dark? Let us turn our attention to the roots and stars, and let us find out!

11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 25

Please Note Changed Time

Christmas Day Brunch Church

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us on Christmas morning for a cozy brunch church service – mostly eating and some soul-sharing too! We will gather at 11:30 a.m. to allow everyone time for their usual Christmas morning rituals. Please bring a festive brunch dish to share!

Minister's Message

Roots & Wings

December's worship theme is “Slowness”

“Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast.”

– William Shakespeare

The earth around us is slowing its pace. Can you feel it? Do you see it? The hibernators are tucking in for a long sleep. The sap in the trees has slowed. The frog in the frozen pond has stilled almost to suspension of life. And the lengthening darkness can be a cue for us to cozy down and rest.

Why, then, all this rush?

What would it be like to follow the pace of our surroundings in this season? To refuse the demands of consumer culture and capital and to treasure stillness, sleep, coziness, rest and a slower pace of life?

What could open up in our lives, in our culture, if we truly embraced even one season of slowness? What healing would come to our hearts, to our sister species, and to the breathing earth around us?

Let us gather together in this season to find out.

See you in church,

Rev. Molly

Holiday worship services

Holiday Blues Service – 7 p.m. Dec. 18

Christmas Eve – 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day – 11:30 a.m. potluck

Details on page 3

Highlights of what's inside

Forum; Intern Minister's message.....	2
Holiday worship services	3
Immigrant, social action and music updates....	4
Programs and events.....	5
Reflections	6

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

December Forum programs

Forum meets at 9 a.m. every Sunday except holidays.

Dec. 4 – Connie Johnmeyer: “The Renewed Climate Change Agenda in Great Decisions 2022”

Dec. 11 – Jay Hasheider: “Building Climate Friendly Lifestyles – One Structure at a Time”

Dec. 18 – Dick Parker: “The History of Greenhouse Gas in Columbia”

Dec. 25 – No meeting

UU Meditation

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. Dec. 1

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.

“Sweet Dreams”

A Message from Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell

As I contemplate our December worship theme of slowing down, I think of dreaming. Leave it to me, the ultimate multitasker, to think of ways to stay productive while sleeping! The communications board in the church kitchen currently says, “Build the World We Dream About.” And yes, that’s what we’re called to do in this life-giving faith tradition. But amid all our fervent activity to set the captives free and bind the wounds of the world, when is it that we’re supposed to do the dreaming part?

Of course we will never stop doing good in the world. The hurts and injustices that we are working to heal never take time off. But this winter season offers us a prime opportunity to slow down, light a candle of hope against the dark, and do the essential work of dreaming into being the world we know is possible.

I’m privileged to be among you this holiday season, strengthening our connections, and challenging each other to spiritual growth. This December, let us give each other the precious gift of our presence with each other. But most of all, let us dare to share with each other and the world the healing and hope that dwell in our dreaming.

Blessing on you and yours during this holiday season.

– 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>



Holiday Worship at UUCC

Holiday Blues Service – Online Only – 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18

This celebratory time of year can be painful for we who suffer grief, loss, family conflict, depression and more. Join us on Zoom for a service that takes seriously the blues that exist amid the merriment.

Zoom Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81659450905?pwd=K0pSUHJLUmpnWWFtT3dDSFpoRVE4QT09>

Christmas Eve – 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24

A potluck cookie reception will be offered between the two services.

Your cookie contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Family Service – in person at 4:30 p.m.

Traditional carols and candlelight, and an interactive telling of the Christmas story with an accessible message of hope.

Candlelight Service – in person and online at 6:30 p.m.

Traditional carols and candlelight, and a Christmas homily from Rev. Molly.

Christmas Day – Sunday, Dec. 25 – time changed to 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a Christmas Morning potluck brunch church! Please note the time change to 11:30 a.m. to allow for all your Christmas morning traditions. Bring a festive dish to share and join in a merry morning at UUCC!

SJIT provides update on immigrant sponsorship

We thank the Social Action Team for having given us the opportunity to share the plate during the month of November. We appreciate having had the opportunity to share a bit more about Lilly and about what we do during two services in November. We accept your donations with deep gratitude.

Since it will probably still be some time until Lilly can be independent in her transportation needs, there is currently an increased need for drivers. There is a loyal small group of drivers doing a lot of the transportation, but they 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 contact either Dave or Allie for now until we find a new transportation coordinator. If you are interested in taking on a driver coordination role, please let us know!

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 provide assistance where needed. So 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 into a joint account from which the family's expenses will be paid directly.

December Social Action Team update

Responding to unseasonably early cold nights, Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church opened an emergency shelter for unhoused individuals in mid-November, a couple of weeks earlier than anticipated. This put the church in a bind for associated expenses. Following a congregation-wide appeal from Rev. Molly, the Social Action Team donated \$500 from its Reserve Fund to Wilkes Blvd UMC. This is in addition to a donation from the Minister's Benevolence Fund.

Several Social Action Team members made presentations in October at the Sunday Forum sessions related to social justice issues. In addition,

In addition, contributions can be made in memory of Joe Donaldson to the UUCS Sanctuary Fund.

If you would like to get involved on the team, please contact either co-chair, Dave Gibbons or Allie Gassmann.

tion, we are in the early planning stages of a co-sponsored event on Feb. 12 as part of the Liberation Conversations monthly series. Watch for more information.



Music Update

Music & Variety Show – and Fundraiser!

6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3
Suggested donation: \$20-25

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

The congregation at the UUCS is filled with incredibly talented performers and musicians that we are pleased to showcase! Members (and non-members) of all abilities and talents have been invited to participate.

Call for Christmas Eve soloists and 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. Schedule an appointment at:

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

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

If you can't find a time there, send her an email message at minister@uucomo.org.

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

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

Programs and events

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 –
note time change

Join us to celebrate the return of the Sun, the symbol of hope and the promise of returning warmth, at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 at the church.

All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths. Please bring snacks and drinks for yourself as desired. Masks are now optional.

UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3

Our theme for this year is “Writing as Spiritual Practice”. Think about what that could mean to you.

There will be only one meeting in December at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 3, when the guest host will be Debbie.

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

Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 – 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 after Sunday worship and will take place in December on Dec. 11. The children will sing at a worship service in December.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



UUCB Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 –
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.

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14 –
online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUCB senior women's group, will meet online and by telephone at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14.

If you would like to join the group, email Pam Springsteel at pspring@socket.net.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Dec. 10 & 24 – online

The UUCB Men's Group previously met in person on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of each month.

During the pandemic the group arranged for online meetings, which continue for now.

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

Dec. 18 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, Dec. 5 & 19

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

December is always a busy time. When we aren't rushing from one holiday event to the next, we are prepping, shopping, wrapping, baking and so much more. But as the weather turns colder and the nights grow longer, there is something in us calling out for rest. Can you find time to build in a family ritual of rest amid all the holiday excitement? Some ideas:

- Making a special tradition around the first fire in the fireplace of the year, perhaps with its own special song or reading.
- Gathering every blanket and pillow in the house for a family hibernation.
- Turning out all the lights and having a story time by candlelight.

The holidays are full of exhilaration, but I think children will also come to value and cherish these traditions that recognize the significance of rest. I would love to hear what traditions you develop with your family!



Simple Gifts – Gift-Making Workshop Noon to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 11



Join us for a crafting workshop geared at children 4-10 years old assisted by their parents. We will have several holiday crafts that children can give as holiday gifts. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by Dec. 4 so that we have enough supplies for everyone who attends.



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. Dec. 9

Junior Youth will meet to play "Minute to Win It" games. RSVP by Dec. 7.



Christmas Potluck 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 25

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year! Probably many of you will chose to stay home, but if you are looking for a little community, you are invited to attend a Christmas potluck service. The more the merrier!



RE Schedule

Dec 4: Service Sunday for Room at the Inn
Dec. 11: Regular R.E. Classes
Dec. 18: All-Ages Winter Solistice Service
Dec. 25: Christmas Potluck

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

Email: minister@uucomo.org

Suzanne Clark, Administrator

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: uuchurch@uucomo.org

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

Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

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

Email: dre@uucomo.org

Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry

Email: music@uucomo.org

Phylshawn Johnson, Sound Technician

Email: music@uucomo.org

April Rodeghero, Sunday Morning Assistant

Email: uuchurch@uucomo.org

2022-2023 Board of Trustees

Melissa Ensign-Bedford, President
Iyesatu Kamara-Bush, President-Elect
Tim Dickerson, Past President
Christine Heath, Treasurer
Connie Ordway, Secretary
David Leuthold
Susan Even
Taylor Gill
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
or mail to Church Administrator.

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