



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 7, January 2023

January 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, Jan. 1

“Burning of the Grudges”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us New Year’s morning to start the year off right with ritual! In this all-ages service, we will dramatically burn away all we want to leave behind and create touchstones for the coming year. After the service, you’re invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a New Year’s Day group hike on a nearby trail.

Sunday, Jan. 8

“Reflections from the Depths”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us to explore how we shape one another and are shaped by the many forces of this world, as we reflect on rock formations in Missouri, “The Cave State.”

Sunday, Jan. 15

“The Road to Jericho”

Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday

George Grimm-Howell

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday, Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell will explore themes from Dr. King’s sermon “On Being a Good Neighbor.” Stories from Toni Morrison and George’s chaplaincy experiences will help point the way to our own personal transformation on our personal roads to Jericho.

Sunday, Jan. 22

Guest Preacher

Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson Jr.

Join our favorite guest preacher for a rousing and thought-provoking service.

Continued on page 2

Minister’s Message

Roots & Wings

January’s Worship Theme is

“Formation and Transformation”

“The self is not something ready-made, but something in continuous formation through choice of action.”

– John Dewey

The ancient Hebrew scriptures tell us that humans were shaped from the clay of the earth and animated by the breath of life from God. Contemporary science tells us that we are made of stardust and energy, constantly changing. Both images are to me equally beautiful and full of their own wisdom, as both imply in different ways that we are constantly being shaped like clay and electric circuits – formed and reformed in relationship with the world all around us.

So, too, do we shape and form the world around us with our every breath and every motion. How do we ensure that our lives and the world around us are being formed and transformed toward beauty, in service of the good? Join us this month to reflect together, and to learn the lessons of the earth – how change happens slowly and all at once and always through the many forces that shape our world.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

Highlights of what’s inside

| | |
|--|---|
| Intern Minister; Meditation; Poetry Online | 2 |
| Accessibility Campaign update; Forum programs; Gentle Yoga | 3 |
| Membership classes; SIJT update | 4 |
| Programs and events | 5 |
| REflections..... | 6 |

Worship Services – continued from page 1

Sunday, Jan. 29

Founder's Day

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for our annual celebration of our congregation's founding on this, our 71st anniversary. What does our heritage carry into this moment of transformation?

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

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

Online Poetry for Spiritual Growth

First Thursday of the Month on Zoom
7 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 5

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.

Fumbling Toward Formation

A Message from Intern Minister

George Grimm-Howell

I'm blessed to be starting a new year with you, my teaching congregation. May all your dreams for 2023 come true, and may it be full of life-giving spiritual surprises, too.

Our January theme of "Formation and Transformation" is tailor-made for intern ministry. I treasure the fact that much of my spiritual formation has been prescribed by those wiser and more experienced in ministry, as well it should. But as with so many things in life, it's the unexpected teacher crossing our paths that helps lead us to true transformation.

Like sedimentary rock, we are formed in layers, an amalgamation of the environment that envelops us. Careful excavation of our spiritual selves can show us where the great upheavals occurred. But the true teacher, most often, is everyday encounter. Ordinary observations, transformative art, conversations that break our hearts open – all these grains of accidental truths add up to the person we have become.

Most important, the work of formation is never done, for we are always *becoming*. Isn't it beautiful that we, in this holy place, can *become* together?

– George

Mindfulness Meditation – Take a Deep Breath

Mindfulness Meditation takes place at 9 a.m. every Sunday except holidays in the Centering Room. Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. For more information, email Peter Holmes at pfolmes63@gmail.com.

Chalice Circles – 2022-2023

If you would like to join an online or traditional Chalice Circle, you are able to sign up on the church website (uucomo.org) or by emailing chalicecircle@uucomo.org. Check the website for more information.



Check us out on the UUCC
Facebook page.

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

Accessibility Campaign update

Elevator delayed by supply chain problem, project completion now expected in February

We are disappointed to report that our elevator was delayed by a supply chain problem involving *one piece* of rubber for the inner workings. The new ship date for the elevator is any day now, and we now hope to be finished with the project in early February.

Be on the lookout for announcement of a congregational workday in early February to reorganize and get everything in its proper place as we finally finish this project! We will also be installing our braille signage

throughout the building this month.

We are grateful for your continued support of these essential improvements and excited to re-dedicate our fully accessible building in the spring as we celebrate our mission of radical welcome.

A special thanks to Bonnie Johnson who worked hard in December to prepare the building for Christmas services by organizing and putting away many items in the Greeting Area.

Forum Programs for January 2023

All sessions are at 9 a.m. Sunday in the Lower Level-Forum Room/Library

Jan. 1 – No program – Holiday

Jan. 8 – “What Has Happened to U.S. Life Expectancy?” with Jack Colwill, M.D.

Jan. 15 – “Putin’s Russia,” *Great Decisions*, Chapter 3, led by Connie Johnmeyer

Jan. 22 – “Looking Like the Enemy” – A true story by Michael Hosokawa, D.Ed.

Jan. 29 – “Will We Have Universal Health Insurance by 2024?” with Jack Colwill, M.D.

The UUCC Membership Team wishes you a happy 2023!

We would like to update you with a few changes

The blue visitor tags are now intermixed with the white member tags. The visitor name tag holder that was next to the sanctuary doors is being moved to the vestibule.

We have been experimenting with different ways to alphabetize the name tags. Who knew there could be so many ways? Up then down then up, up then up again, or the current system as of Dec. 18, right to left. We would like to thank all those who have assisted with organizing the tags.

If you need a name tag edit or a new name tag, please email membership@uucomo.org.

In Service,
Patty Daus
Membership Team

Choir rehearsals resume

Weekly Choir rehearsals will resume at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11. All ages and ability levels are welcome and encouraged to join.

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 to see if she can work you in at a slightly different time.

Gentle Yoga with Karen Dwyer returns in January

10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays
6 to 7:15 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays

The first class will be Monday, Jan. 2. Additional information is available from Karen, or contact the church office.

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

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

Dates announced for 2023 UUCC membership classes

All who plan to become church members are strongly encouraged to attend the two membership classes offered by our Membership Team. Classes are held four times a year, and each class lasts 60-90 minutes. For more information, go to <https://uucomo.org/how-to-join/>.

Winter Cycle 2023

- **7 p.m. Jan. 12 on Zoom** – Membership 101 – History of Unitarian-Universalism
Register at <https://uucc65201.breezechms.com/form/6b0d8d>
- **Noon Jan. 15 in person at church** – Membership 102
A tour of our building and grounds and information about getting connected within the church, financial stewardship, and privileges and responsibilities of membership.
Register at <https://uucc65201.breezechms.com/form/fd042d>
- **10:30 a.m. Jan. 29 at church** – New Member Ingathering during worship

Spring Cycle 2023

- 7 p.m. April 13 on Zoom – Membership 101
- Noon April 16 at church – Membership 102
- 10:30 a.m. May 7 at church – New Member Ingathering during worship

Summer Cycle 2023

- 7 p.m. July 13 on Zoom – Membership 101
- Noon July 16 at church – Membership 102
- 10:30 a.m. July 30 at church – New Member Ingathering during worship

Fall Cycle 2023

- 7 p.m. Sept. 28 on Zoom – Membership 101
- Noon Oct. 1 at church – Membership 102
- 10:30 a.m. Oct. 15 at church – New Member Ingathering during worship

Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Thanks to Joe and Meredith Donaldson's generous gift of their car, Lilly is getting close to being able to provide her own transportation. She will need to pass her driver test, and the plan is for her to take driving lessons over the winter break.

Until Lilly is independent with her transportation, there is **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!

Thank you to all who made recent contributions to our sponsorship endeavor in memory of Joe Donaldson and the November Faith-to-Action donations! We are very grateful for all the contributions

that have been made since our sponsorship began in May 2021. 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, and we would greatly appreciate your continuing 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.

If you would like to get involved on the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team, contact either co-chair:

- Dave Gibbons at dgibbons@mchsi.com, or
- Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net.

Programs and events

Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28

Join us to celebrate Imbolc and the goddess Brigid at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 at the church. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Masks are now optional but welcome. Please bring snacks and drinks for yourself as desired. For more information, please email kaleidoscope@uucomo.org.

UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7 & 21

UU Life Writers will meet Jan. 7 and 21 in the Centering Room at UUCC. If the weather is poor, we will have Zoom meetings.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy writing, sharing and listening to wonderful life stories.

The theme for January is "Where were you when...? What story can you write about that event or time?"

Contact Fran Reynolds (881-3828 or freynolds@centurytel.net) for more information.

Non-Toxic Masculinity Men's Group

7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9 & 23 -
online - *note schedule change*

The Non-Toxic Masculinity Group, which usually meets the first and third Monday of the month, has changed its January dates due to the holidays. The group will meet Jan. 9 and 23, and the Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.

For information email Kevin Fritsche klfritsche37@gmail.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church of



UUCC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 -
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, Jan. 11 -
online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUCC senior women's group, meets via Zoom and telephone at 3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.

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. Jan. 14 & 28 - online

The UUCC 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.

Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8 - online

For information contact Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

Jan. 15 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.

Social Action Team meeting rescheduled

Noon Sunday, Jan. 8

The team will meet in the Centering Room. The meeting was rescheduled from Jan. 1 because of the holiday.

Consider donating to others

Minister's Discretionary Benevolence Fund

You can donate to this fund at
<https://uucomo.org/give/>.

Community Foundation of Central Missouri's Covid-19 Relief Fund

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

Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

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

Reflections

This month at UUC we are reflecting on formation and transformation. I am reminded that at many Unitarian Universalist congregations, they do not refer to children's programming as Religious Education. Instead it is called Faith Formation. What is the difference in connotation between "education" and "formation"?

Formation is a lifelong process with no end state that an individual is actively participating in. As UUs, we don't believe in indoctrinating children. Instead, we believe in providing a rich and nurturing environment filled with opportunities for learning, and then the formative step of critical thinking and discernment of how we will be shaped by what we have experienced. This of course applies to the adults in our congregation as well as the children, and also to the way we form and transform together as a congregation.



It is my greatest joy to be a witness of this process in our children and our congregation. I look forward to another year of formation and transformation together!

This Spring: 5-6th Grade "Our Whole Lives" Sexuality Education Class?

Are you interested in your 5th or 6th grader taking part in comprehensive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate sexuality education program this spring? The course would cover such topics as the physical and emotional changes of puberty, body image, sexual orientation and gender identity, and so much more. We are trying to gauge if there is enough interest to offer a program this Spring, so please let Jamila know if you would be interested in this offering for your child or if you have questions about the program.



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

Junior Youth

6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 13

Junior Youth will meet to play a campaign of the role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons. No experience needed! RSVP if you plan to attend.



YRUU Planning Meeting

Noon Jan. 8

Our high school youth group will meet to plan activities for the new semester. Come with ideas! We will also be making the big decision as to whether to host a con this year, so this is an important meeting to attend!



RE Schedule

- Jan. 1: All Ages at New Year's Day Service
- Jan. 8: Regular R.E. Classes
- Jan 15: Service Sunday
- Jan. 22: Regular R.E. Classes
- Jan. 28: Regular R.E. Classes

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

Email: minister@uucomo.org

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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.