

# 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 8, February 2023

## February 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, Feb. 5**  
**“Kith & Kin”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Our interrelatedness with other humans is clear, even if people don’t always live into its promise... but what about with the soil, trees, animals, insects and landscapes where we live? How can we make visible and real our interconnection with the whole family of the Earth?

**Sunday, Feb. 12**

**“Tending Community, Growing Love”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

Join us for a beautiful All-Ages Valentine’s service to explore how we tend to our community connections... and what love can grow from that tending.

**Sunday, Feb. 19**

**“Embracing the Interconnected Web”**

**George Grimm-Howell, Intern Minister**

Many of us embrace the UU 7<sup>th</sup> Principle that celebrates the interconnected web of existence. As part of claiming our UU heritage, we should understand the theological origins of this idea. But we must go deeper and make communion with it a daily spiritual practice. When we do so, we can reclaim our inner divinity.

**“Stretching Out”**

**Sunday, Feb. 26**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

As we continue to ponder the interconnected web of community, we will grapple together with how we might extend our webs of real, felt relationship further and further outward to express our love and connection to every corner of our community. Join us to ponder the way circles of connection grow wider and wider.

**Monthly potlucks resume Feb. 5!**

*Details on page 2*

### Minister’s Message

*Roots & Wings*

February’s Worship Theme is  
*“Interconnection”*

*Weave real connections, create real nodes,  
build real houses.*

*Live a life you can endure: make life that is loving.  
Keep tangling and interweaving and taking more in,  
a thicket and bramble, wilderness to the outside  
but to us it is interconnected  
with rabbit runs and burrows and lairs.*

— Marge Piercy

I believe there are two “interconnected webs of all existence of which we are a part” (UUA 7<sup>th</sup> Principle). There is a mysterious and invisible one that stretches out beneath us, that connects us to all people, animals, plants and things, whether we know it or not – one big terrestrial family. And there is the web we can see or touch – the conscious web that we weave by choice in spiritual commitment and depth.

The invisible web is woven impenetrably – in an entangled universe, there is nothing one can do to separate our fates each from the other. We cannot be unraveled. But the visible, tangible web? It can become frayed. We forget that we belong to each other. We fail to reach out. We damage the web with violence or hatred.

It is our work in spiritual community to tend to both. We lean on the solid truth of the invisible web while weaving tangible connections in the world we can see. We keep tangling and interweaving until we can *all* at last flourish amid the existential truth – that we are wound and bound together and cannot be unraveled.

Let us tend to that tangible web together this month.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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## 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

## First Sunday potlucks return!

In the wake of the last two+ years of pandemic life, we see a pressing need to re-build a palpable sense of community... and what better way than to share potlucks together!

So, we are resuming a tradition that ended several years back due to logistical challenges – **First Sunday Potlucks!** Beginning with Sunday, Feb. 5, please bring a dish to share each first Sunday of the month, plan to stay for fellowship and deliciousness after the service, and plan to stay at least once every couple of months to help clean up!

We look forward to feasting together again!

## Cary Morin to perform Feb. 12

On Feb. 12, we will be joined by touring artist Cary Morin during our Sunday morning worship service.

*Described as “one of the best acoustic pickers on the scene today,” Cary Morin brings together the great musical traditions of America like no other. With deft fingerstyle guitar and vocals that alternately convey melodic elation and gritty world-weariness, Morin crafts an inimitable style often characterized as roots-infused Native Americana with hints of bluegrass, folk, blues and rock. He has performed at renowned venues across the globe, including the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center, and is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades.*

More information: <https://www.carymorin.com/>

## Choir rehearsals

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

## “The Blessings of Inter-Being”

A Message from Intern Minister  
George Grimm-Howell

I often think of Thich Nhat Hanh’s beautiful idea of inter-being. Each life is intimately intertwined with the rest of existence. No being or object stands independent of its deep relationships – relationships to the past, sustenance in the presence, and the path for future evolution.

So too with our church family and the way we practice our faith. Our beautiful project here, how we “do” religion, is steeped in relationship. When we step into our sanctuary, we step into the history that preceded us. And as we experience faith formation, we do it in collaboration with others as we all wrestle with the big and small questions of our existence and how we are called to be in the world.

I look forward to continuing this shared journey with you, as we enter the month of February and explore our monthly theme of interconnection. May our relationships carry us forward into lifelong learning and the peace that comes from being held by the interconnected web of existence of which we’re a part.

– George

## Online Poetry for Spiritual Growth

First Thursday of the month on Zoom  
7 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 2

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.

## Mindfulness Meditation

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, contact Anna Lingo or Susan Pereira.

## Delay stock gifts until after Feb. 22

The holding company for church investments will be changed in February to the Charles Schwab Corporation.

Because of this impending change, those who plan to donate stock or other securities to the church are asked to delay their gifts until after Feb. 22 to ensure that the securities go to the correct holding company.

## Accessibility Project Wrap-Up

### Congregational work day – 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

The elevator is almost in! The contractors are wrapping up their work! And now, it is our turn to finish the organizing, clean-up and small projects that will return our building to full function and renewed beauty.

Please mark your calendars to join us from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 for our congregational work day. Many different skills and gifts will be useful.

Childcare can be made available upon request. Go to the following link to sign up and to tell us about skills, access needs and childcare requests:

<https://forms.gle/F5e2GB3KfrsStY8j6>

Lay leaders who would like to suggest or coordinate a project are asked to contact Rev. Molly:

[minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org)

## Forum Programs for February 2023

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

**Feb. 5:** *Great Decisions* program, focusing on chapter 5, “Myanmar’s Never-Ending Crisis.” Discussion will be led by David Leuthold, who helped lead a program providing a million books for libraries in Myanmar.

**Feb. 12:** *UUCS Honduras Service Trips*. Allie Gassmann and Yadira Flores will be talking about the five UUCS service trips to a rural area of Honduras and other projects that UUCS has sponsored. Allie has been a member of UUCS since 2000 and has coordinated all five of the service trips. Yadira Flores is from Honduras and currently seeking asylum in the U.S. She took part in one service trip.

**Feb. 19:** Caya Tanski will present “*Honduras Today and How We Can Help*.” Before moving to Columbia, Caya was a professor of Economics and Latin American Development in New Mexico. She is now a practicing naturopath and chiropractic physician. Caya has been active with service and solidarity delegations to Honduras over the last 10 years.

**Feb. 26:** Nick Foster will discuss “*The Opportunity Campus and a Report on His City Council Activities*.” Nick is the Fourth Ward city councilman and the former director of the Voluntary Action Center, which is coordinating the planning for the Opportunity Campus. The Opportunity Campus will provide safe temporary shelter, transitional housing, affordable housing, meals, basic daily needs and wrap-around services to lift people out of homelessness.

### 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](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.

### UUCS 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

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

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

# Next UUCC membership classes planned in April

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/>.

## Spring Cycle 2023

- **7 p.m. April 13 on Zoom** – Membership 101 – History of Unitarian-Universalism  
Register at <https://uucc65201.breezechms.com/form/6b0d8d>
- **Noon April 16 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. May 7 at church** – New Member Ingathering during worship

## Gentle Yoga with Karen Dwyer has returned

10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesdays and Fridays

6 to 7:15 p.m.  
Mondays and Thursdays

Additional information is  
available from Karen,  
or contact the church office.

## Amazon Smile fundraising being discontinued

Some of you have given to UUCC when you purchase through Amazon with the Amazon Smile program. Amazon has written to inform groups of the discontinuation of the program. In part, here is what Amazon says:

“...we launched Amazon Smile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations – more than 1 million globally – our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

“We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down Amazon Smile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we’ve seen we can make meaningful change – from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters.”

## Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Thanks to Joe and Meredith Donaldson’s generous gift of their car, Lilly now has a car to drive. She has passed the written test and has started taking official driving lessons with her own car. It won’t be long before Lilly will be independent with her transportation, but until then, there is still a need for 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. We put out a call for volunteers monthly, and volunteers can select when they volunteer based on their schedules. People willing to help should email Ruth Milledge at [ramilledge@gmail.com](mailto:ramilledge@gmail.com). Ruth has been giving Lilly informal driving lessons and is the interim 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. In addition, contributions can be made in memory of Joe Donaldson to the UUCC Sanctuary Fund.

If you would like to get involved on the team, please contact Dave or Allie!

**Dave Gibbons:** [dgibbons@mchsi.com](mailto:dgibbons@mchsi.com)

**Allie Gassmann:** [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)

Co-Chairs, Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team



## **Getting to know UU**

### ***Iyesatu Kamara-Bush***

Periodically the Membership Team interviews one of our members so we can all get to know them better.

This month we are happy to introduce Iyesatu Kamara-Bush, who was selected by our Board of Trustees as 2022-23 President-Elect. As such, she will be our 2023-24 President.

#### **What do you like to be called?**

I like to be called Iyesatu. I have never heard a nickname that I liked, so I've been going by my full name for over 40 years.

#### **What are your pronouns?**

She/her.

#### **What is your preferred pronunciation and what tips can you share that will allow us to pronounce your name correctly?**

My first name is pronounced EYE-sa-too. The first part of my last name is pronounced with all the letters A sounding as in the word "about" (ka-MAR-a). Bush is the standard English pronunciation.

#### **What historical figure (real or fictional) would like to have as a dinner companion?**

I am a huge admirer of the civil rights activist Bayard Rustin. I would love to sit down to dinner with him and ask him about activism strategy for our modern era.

#### **What makes you proud to be a UU?**

I am proud to be the spiritual and ideological descendant of so many people who used their unique gifts to make the world around them better. I am proud to be surrounded by others on the same path as we encourage one another to be the change we want to see in the world.

#### **What do you most value in your friends?**

Authenticity and a sense of humor. I like to surround myself with people who are unapologetically themselves and who like to laugh.

### ***Who you gonna call? The Membership Team, of course***

What? You were thinking Ghostbusters? Nah.

Do you need a new or an updated nametag? Please email us at [membership@uucomo.org](mailto:membership@uucomo.org). Please include pronouns if you would like them listed.

Are you looking for a way to serve and to engage more deeply in church life? Consider a role as a greeter. Sign up or simply show up on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

Questions? Ask a greeter or email the team at [membership@uucomo.org](mailto:membership@uucomo.org).

## ***UUCC-sponsored marker for Columbia's African-American Heritage Trail to be installed soon***

Some time ago, the Social Action Team along with individual UUCC donors provided sponsorship funding for a marker on Columbia's African-American Heritage Trail.

The marker we sponsor commemorates the location of the Douglass High School football field, now a residential area. The marker has been fabricated but not yet installed. The intent is to install the marker this spring on Unity Drive.



## **The Grounds Team wants you!**

The Grounds Team is reaching out to the congregation to identify members and friends who are likewise interested in the health, beauty and diversity of our church grounds.

If you would like to connect with others to explore and learn, share expertise, and/or help care for our church grounds, please do let us know! Come visit with us at our table in the Greeting Area before or after Sunday services, or contact Carol Arnold.



**Check us out on the UUCC Facebook page.**

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

## Programs and events

### Kaleidoscope Pagan gathering

4 p.m. Saturday, March 18

Come celebrate the rebirth of the Earth, bunnies and eggs and Nature courting. Celebrate all things new and joyful and wonderful.

Gather with us as we celebrate Ostara, the spring equinox, at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 18 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 but welcome. For more information, email [kaleidoscope@uucomo.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@uucomo.org).

### UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 & 18

We welcome all writers – people who like to write mini-memoirs and appreciate listening to others' life stories. This year each month has a guest facilitator. Dr. Diane Suhler will be guest facilitator in February with interesting prompts on superstitions!

We will meet at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 and 18 in the Centering Room downstairs at the church. Do join us! Contact Fran Reynolds (881-3828 or [freynolds@centurytel.net](mailto:freynolds@centurytel.net)) for info.

### Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12 - online

For information contact Allie Gassmann at [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net).

### Social Action T-Shirts

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of



### UUC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 –  
online and by phone

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

### Conversations, Etc.

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 -  
online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUC 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 at [pspring@socket.net](mailto:pspring@socket.net).

### Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Feb. 11 & 25 – online

The UUC 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).

### Non-Toxic Masculinity Men's Group

7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6 & 20-  
online

The Non-Toxic Masculinity Group, meets the first and third Monday of the month. For information email Kevin Fritsche at [klfritsche37@gmail.com](mailto:klfritsche37@gmail.com).

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

Feb. 19 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).

### Social Action Team meeting

Noon, Sunday, Feb. 5

The team meets on the first Sunday of the month following worship service. The team will meet in the Centering Room.

### 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/)

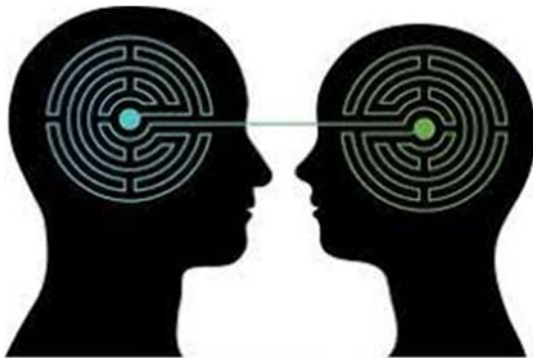
#### Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

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

# *REflections*

This month at UUCU we are reflecting on interconnection. Within our families, our deep interconnection is obvious. Obvious, but not always easy. My sister recently joked to me how it is very easy to start feeling like your family is just an extension of yourself, but that they are a very bad version of yourself – because they keep doing things entirely different than you would! Despite our interconnection, we are also all have autonomy over ourselves, and we are all making our own individual choices that are sometimes hard for each other to fathom.

So one of the most important practices of interconnection is deep listening, trying to understand the perspective and values and reasons behind the actions of others to whom we are interconnected. And unlike the wider world, which we are connected to whether we want to be or not, our families and our congregation are places where we choose deep interconnection. So families are the ideal places to begin this practice – and begin teaching it to our kids. Where can you find moments together this month to practice deep listening?



## **Valentine's Day Dance** **6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11**

The YRUU High School Youth Group will be raising money for a charitable cause (TBD) by holding a Valentine's Dance for all ages! Join us for a night of dancing and fun!



**Jamila Batchelder**  
Director of Religious Education  
[dre@uucomo.org](mailto:dre@uucomo.org)  
573-442-5764  
Office Hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-noon

## **Junior Youth** **6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 10**

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.



## **5th-6th Grade** **OWL parent** **orientation** **6:30-8:30 p.m.** **Thursday, Feb. 9**

If you would like your child to participate in 5th-6th grade OWL, join us for this mandatory parent orientation. Childcare available upon request.



## **R.E. Schedule**

**Feb. 5:** Service Sunday  
**Feb. 12:** All-Ages Valentine's Day Service  
**Feb. 19:** Regular R.E. Classes  
**Feb. 26:** 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

Or by appointment at [calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon](https://calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon)

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

#### **George Grimm-Howell, Intern Minister**

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

#### **Suzanne Clark, Administrator**

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

Telephone: 573-442-5764

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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**Co-Editors:** Suzanne Clark and Steve Scott

#### **Submissions:**

Email to [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org)  
or postal-mail to Church Administrator.

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