



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 9, March 2023

March 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, March 5
“Beautiful Questions”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Some of the best questions in life don't have answers. But these same questions do call us to live them (Rilke)... to respond with all of our being. As the Columbia community celebrates documentary film at this weekend's True/False film fest, join us for some spacious, playful time with Beautiful Questions.

Sunday, March 12
“The Art of the Irish Lament”
George Grimm-Howell

As the calendar turns toward St. Patrick's Day, we are invited to pause in our revelry to remember the shadow side of Irish heritage – the art of Celtic lament or *caoineadh*. In word and song, Celtic ancestors have learned the spiritual lessons of marking our loss and grief as the path to emergence into renewed life and healing.

Sunday, March 19
Youth Sunday
YRUU High School Youth Service

Join us for a perennial UUCS favorite as we hear from the wisdom of the young people in our midst!

Sunday, March 26
“Imagine Emergence”
All-Ages Service

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon & Jamila Batchelder

Emergence is known in the scientific world as the propensity for complex systems to arise from simple parts. This Sunday, we will join in a playful, imaginative, all-ages space to find out how we are, together, more than the sum of our parts.

Monthly potluck Sunday, March 5
Details on page 2

Minister's Message

Roots & Wings

March's Worship Theme is
“Emergence”

*“Everything must break open in order to live.
The seed must break open
in order for the tree to grow.
The egg must break open in order for life to emerge.
The Earth must be turned and the cloud must burst.
You were never meant to stay in your shell.”*

— Thomas Lloyd Qualls

It's that time of year... When bulbs begin pushing their way up through the dirt to peek above ground and decide to bloom. When animals gone quiet and still begin to reawaken from hibernation. When my resting wintered heart begins to stir with something like spring fever. It's the slow, steady beginning of spring. It's emergence time.

Emergence time reminds us that growth happens. Emergence time reminds us that great beauty and complexity comes from small, simple seeds that are watered and tended. Emergence time reminds us that blooming is an effort sometimes, but that it needn't be forced. All emerges in time.

I've been thinking about this spring as the edge of something new in the life of our congregation. We have emerged more fully from the height of the Covid era. We are emerging from the clutter of a six-month construction project. We are breaking open and stretching up to the sun. How will that feel to our spirits? Like freedom, like opening, like hope? Join us to find out together.

In Faith,
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

New Zoom-Based Adult RE Series

“One of Us” – 7 p.m. Tuesdays in March

Zoom Meeting Link

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82802821123?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82802821123?pwd=OCttL2hxL25xdkpuczV3YlhVM3ptdz09)
[pwd=OCttL2hxL25xdkpuczV3YlhVM3ptdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82802821123?pwd=OCttL2hxL25xdkpuczV3YlhVM3ptdz09)

Meeting ID: 828 0282 1123

Passcode: 463462

The Superbowl “He Gets Us” ad campaign sought to reclaim the person of Jesus for a group’s own political purposes. But this attempt to define Jesus has been ongoing for two millennia.

Nowhere is that more true than in the world of art. Join Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell for a four session Tuesday night March Zoom series called “One of Us.” This unique discussion series will explore Christian art from the earliest pre-Roman to the modern and subversive – and will seek to reclaim Jesus as the subversive he was.

Explore the transgressive and heretical from 7 to 8:30 p.m. March 7, 14, 21 and 28. You don’t have to commit to all four sessions. All are welcome, but please note that some adult themes will be discussed.

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.

Choir rehearsals

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

“Open”

A Message from Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell

In March we celebrate the theme of emergence. This is our time to emerge from wintry contemplation and put ourselves out there, spiritually and in the flesh. Like the daffodils, let us poke our heads out and prepare for a time of growth and flowering. Spiritual writer Deng Ming-Dao speaks of flowers as the most pure offering we can imagine: “Flowers arouse in us an instinct to protect them, to appreciate them, and to shelter them. This world is too ugly, too violent. There should be something delicate to care about.”

Remember the joy of flowers, yes, but also how essential they are. Beauty has a purpose: to attract the pollinators who are in so many ways the sustainers of life. But to allow this lovely intercourse with life to proceed, we must first be open and vulnerable.

Let us emerge together, sheltering and supporting each other. And let us open ourselves gently to perform a fragile yet life-giving miracle: to offer to a world preoccupied with death and limitation a message of beauty and hope.

– George

Online Poetry for Spiritual Growth

First Thursday of the month on Zoom

7 to 8:30 p.m. March 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.

Sunday Potluck

Sunday, March 5 at noon

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 pot-lucks together!

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

Forum Programs for March 2023

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

March 5: To begin Women's History Month, Pam Springsteel will discuss Luella St. Clair Moss and the campaign by the League of Women Voters to name a local school after her. Luella St. Clair Moss was president of what is now Columbia College – one of the first women presidents of a college. She was a founding member of the Tuesday Club, which stimulated the formation of our local library, and the first woman on the Columbia Board of Education. She was also the first president of the Missouri League of Women Voters.

March 12: Otto Fajen, Legislative Director for the Missouri National Education Association, will speak on "Lobbying Education Policy in the Missouri Legislature." Otto has represented the NEA for 22 years,

after serving 11 years on the Missouri Senate research staff. He spoke to UU Forum about 20 years ago, after which he and his family joined the church.

March 19: Connie Johnmeyer will lead the *Great Decisions* program on Chapter 6, "Putin's Russia." Note that the chapter was prepared before Putin invaded Ukraine, helping to give you more background.

March 26: Gretchen Maune will discuss accessibility and distributive justice (the perceived fairness of allocations) in UU congregations, including our congregation. In October, the Unitarian Universalist Association agreed "to support our ... work for accessibility and inclusion, and to expand our commitments to disability justice." Gretchen has just been appointed to serve on the team for this program.

Crêpes for Sale!

Honduras Fundraiser planned March 12 after worship service

The Honduras Team is excited to announce that we are starting to plan for our sixth UUCS Honduras Service Trip to build latrines and do other needed and requested jobs in the community.

Thanks to all who donated to the Honduras Team's work as part of Faith-to-Action collection in February. And thanks to all who came to the two Honduras related Forum presentations in February!

Please join the Honduras Team after worship on March 12 for delicious authentic French crêpes. There will be no set price – donate what you wish.

If you would like to learn more or would like to join our team, please send an email to Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net.

Gifts of securities can resume

As previously announced, the holding company for church investments was changed effective Feb. 22 to the Charles Schwab Corporation. Donations of securities can now resume. However, donors will need new information to provide to their brokers. Be sure to contact the Church Administrator before making a gift of securities because *the numbers and funds are not the same as in the past.*

Living Earth Meditation

Silent meditation outdoors
with opportunity to share insights and reflection

*A collaborative program from
Columbia Friends Meeting, Show Me Dharma &
the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia*
Facilitated by Peter Holmes, Ph.D., and Tricia Straub

**9 a.m. Saturdays starting April 1, 2023
1400 Gary Street, Columbia**

"The Peace of Wild Things"

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my
children's lives may be,*

*I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water,
and the great heron feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.*

*And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

– Wendell Berry

Being at home in nature while building a connection
between spiritual practice and ecological awareness.

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

We are all greeters at UUCC

We are all greeters at UUCC whether or not we wear a greeter, usher or board member badge. Tending community and growing love is what sustains us and keeps us coming back. When we reach out to visitors and newer members, it is tending the garden of love and fostering community.

The Membership Team does its utmost to welcome folks as they walk through the door, but we all know that the first hello is just the beginning. Welcoming is a process, and we all have a role. Look for blue name tags, say hello, introduce yourself, strike up a conversation, share your love of UUCC, invite them to a church activity, or just make eye contact and share a smile.

Consider joining the Membership Team or signing up to be a greeter. Greeters find that welcoming other members and newcomers is a simple way to build community. It takes 30 minutes before service to be a greeter. We would love to have you join this simple yet meaningful ministry! For information contact Patty Daus.

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

Special musical guest

Wes Urbaniak will perform at UUCC on March 16.

Life-long Montana singer-songwriter Wes Urbaniak finds deep joy in questioning, exploring and writing about philosophical views and life experiences. This shines through in his original lyrics in all his songs. Wes has continued to steep himself wholeheartedly in his mountain folk-style music which tells the story of deeper matters and spreads widely from an epicenter of fierce artistic drive and love.

His music takes the listener on a thought provoking journey with twists and turns, ups and downs. Riding a wave through the conscious themes and energetic beats of this music will leave you with a good soul aching. Keeping true to his roots in singer-songwriter Mountain Folk, Wes pecks at genres by swooping into bluegrass, Americana, pop-folk, beat boxing, etc.

The semi-tamed wild sound of Wes Urbaniak's vocals powerfully express the hardships, lessons learned, and beauty in life. As you listen, you'll be lifted from the valley of the stillness and carried along by the fast-moving, intricate guitar playing, and rise to rollicking emotions. The mixture – one part fairytale, two parts science – describes his lyrics, performance and musical style.

Wes not only writes all his own lyrics, he also designs and custom builds musical instruments. Constructed with respect to conservation, the instruments are made with reclaimed wood which alludes to a deep connection and sense of spirit. The whole matter is science pushed through the pinholes of art. More information is available at <https://wesurbaniak.com/>.

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

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.

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. Please include pronouns if you would like them listed.

Questions? Ask a greeter or email the team at membership@uucomo.org.

UUCC Social Action Team News

The Faith-to-Action recipient for March is...

Heart of Missouri CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). CASA volunteers like UUCC member Todd Iveson help to ensure that children who have been abused or neglected are heard and their needs remain a priority. Todd, and perhaps others, will tell us more about CASA during Sunday worship service collections. Please donate as you are able in March, either online or the old-fashioned way... in the collection plate!

Letter to Secretary Blinken about the ongoing human rights crisis in Honduras

The UUCC Social Action Team is a signatory, with many other organizations, on a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken regarding the ongoing human rights crisis in Honduras. Ongoing assassinations of leaders and members of farmer cooperatives who advocate for land and water rights are a travesty, a violation of our UU ideals, and directly impact our efforts to help the small rural community in the Cangrejal River valley as they strive to improve their lives and their futures. Contact Caya Tanski or the SAT to review the text of the letter.



Check us out on the UUCC
Facebook page.

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

Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Thanks to Joe and Meredith Donaldson's generous gift of their car, Lilly now has her own car to drive. She has passed the written test and has taken official driving lessons. Lilly will be independent with her transportation soon! However, in the near future, drivers are still needed. People willing to help should contact Ruth Milledge ramilledge@gmail.com.

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 in-

cludes 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

Allie Gassmann: alliegassmann@socket.net

Co-Chairs, Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team

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.

UU Life Writers

10:30 a.m. Saturdays,
March 4 and 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. Our March meeting facilitator is Pat Gulmez, and the theme is women's history. We meet at 10:30 a.m. the first and third Saturdays in the Centering Room at church.

Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team

1 p.m. Sunday, March 12 - online

For information contact Allie Gassmann at 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 March 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 for more information.

Conversations, Etc.

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 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.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. March 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.

Non-Toxic Masculinity Men's Group

7 p.m. Monday, March 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.

UUC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on third Sundays

March 19 this month

The Social Action Team is looking for volunteers to prepare and serve various dishes for the Loaves and Fishes program.

We no longer need to box the dinners. Instead, we will revert to the original method of serving on plates. We need volunteers to prepare servings of various dishes and other volunteers to serve the meal and clean up afterward. Both the volunteers providing food and those who will serve and clean up are asked to be at Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church by 4:30 p.m. For information, contact [Diane Suhler](mailto:Diane.Suhler@uucomo.org). 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 -

Noon, Sunday, March 5

The team meets on the first Sunday of the month after the 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?](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?)

Reflections

This month at UUCC we are exploring the theme of emergence. After the disruption of the pandemic, followed by the disruption of our construction project, it feels like UUCC is on the verge of emerging into a new and exciting chapter. What would you like to see emerging in our religious education program? And how would you like to be involved in it?

I would love to hear what ideas are popping up for you and how we can bring them into existence together. I would love to see your energy and enthusiasm emerge in our Sunday school classes, where we are in need of volunteers. I love seeing the connections that are growing every day between old and new members, the friendships forming among our children, the communities they are creating amongst themselves. I am so excited for what lies ahead for us!



MUUSA

MUUSA (Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly) is the UU summer family camp held each year, and it is an incredible experience! There is day camp for younger kids, overnight camp for older kids, enriching classes for adults, daily services filled with amazing music, outdoor adventures, and the opportunity to make new friendships and lasting memories.

Several UUCC families attend every year. This year is a transitional year – the camp is preparing to move to a new location for the future, so instead of the usual full week of camp, it will meet from July 1-3 in Naperville, Illinois. If you are curious about MUUSA, this year will be an opportunity to get a taste of it and become a part of building new traditions. If you are interested in learning more, go to <https://muusa.org> or ask Jamila!



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

Junior Youth

6:30-8:30 p.m.
March 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.



YRUU Youth-Led Service

10:30 a.m.
March 19

On March 19 the youth will be leading the worship service. Come join us to learn from their insights and to show them your support. This is always one of the most meaningful services of the year!

RE Schedule

March 5: Group Sunday
March 12: Regular R.E. Classes
March 19: Regular R.E. Classes
March 26: All Ages Service

THE SEARCHLIGHT

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

Return Service Requested

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



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