



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 11, May 2023

May 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, May 7
“Women Who Fly”
George Grimm-Howell
Intern Minister

Get your wings on. Inspired by the scholarly book of the same title by Serinity Young, George Grimm-Howell will invite us to celebrate the indomitable feminine spirit that wants to escape earthly bonds of oppression and soar to her fullest potential. We will lift up airborne women in the worlds of mythology, on the 19th century Iowa prairies, and in our own families and communities.

Sunday, May 14
“Draw The Circle Wide”
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us in this service for all ages to rededicate our building after the joy of our Accessibility Project completion and recommit our energies to carrying our mission even beyond our newly painted walls!

Sunday, May 21
“Getting Free Together”
Graduation Sunday
DRE Jamila Batchelder and
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Join us for this beloved annual service as we launch our graduates out into the world with messages about the work of collective liberation that gets us all free... together.

Sunday, May 28
Guest Preacher
Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson

Join us for a rousing message from our favorite regular guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson.

First Sunday Potluck and
Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 7
Details on page 2

Minister's Message

Roots & Wings
May's Worship Theme is
“Liberation”

“Nobody's free until everybody's free.”

– Fannie Lou Hamer

Early May is the season every year when it feels as though my soul comes out from under its pile of winter blankets for the final time, shakes off the wintry sleep lingering through early spring, and takes flight. Everything is bloom and leaf and fullness, and I can feel it rising in my spirit like freedom.

In May, you could catch me skipping down the street, when most of the time I'm at least pretending to be too dignified for such a thing. In May, I can hardly keep from singing.

I have come to believe that this feeling is the starting place of our collective liberation – this joy, this pleasurable freedom that springs up from deep inside, rising inexorably like bird song. It is the soul-sensation that we are here to live life abundant and to ensure that others can do the same.

When I feel this soul-freedom – this rising song of joy – I want my loved ones to feel it too. When I see my loved ones so free, I want it for the whole world. And from there comes collective liberation, when a song of joy rises from within us and spreads in widening circles until everybody's got their part in the song.

“Nobody's free until everybody's free,” says civil rights pioneer Fannie Lou Hamer, and that includes you – your own spirit is the starting place.

How will you get free this summer? Who will you bring along?

See you in church!
Rev. Molly

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May 7 – Potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting

First Sunday Potluck – Noon

Our traditional first Sunday potluck lunches resumed in February and will continue through the summer and beyond.

Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert if you are able, and please stay if you can't because there's always plenty of food to go around.

To accommodate those with dietary restrictions, please

label your food contribution to indicate whether it contains meat or is vegetarian and whether it contains common allergens such as gluten, dairy, eggs and/or tree nuts.

Also, please help set up the Sanctuary for the potluck and stay after to help clean up and return the Sanctuary to normal order.

Many hands make light work!

Annual Congregational Meeting – 1 p.m.

The 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting will be conducted in person and via Zoom at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 7, 2023 after the potluck lunch that will follow the worship service. Business will include:

- Presentation of annual reports
- Recognition of volunteers
- Approval of the operating budget for 2023-24
- Election of three new members of the Board of Trustees

All who became UUCU members at least 60 days before May 7 will be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

Members unable to attend the meeting in person or via Zoom can vote by completing the Proxy Voting Appointment form. Instructions for submission appear at the bottom of the form. Get the form from the link provided at <https://uucomo.org/annual-meeting/>.

The proposed 2023-24 operating budget as prepared by the Budget Team and endorsed by the Board of Trustees is

available in Excel and PDF formats from links at <https://uucomo.org/annual-meeting/>.

There will be a budget discussion session via Zoom at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4, for those who wish to discuss or learn more about the proposed budget before the annual meeting. The Zoom link for the budget discussion is:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87579544893?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87579544893?pwd=NHFPOU1jYkVaa0NWa3MzNnFrOFk4QT09)

[pwd=NHFPOU1jYkVaa0NWa3MzNnFrOFk4QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87579544893?pwd=NHFPOU1jYkVaa0NWa3MzNnFrOFk4QT09)

Meeting ID: 875 7954 4893

Passcode: 692579

The Zoom link for the annual meeting itself is:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85775963130?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85775963130?pwd=clYzNXRDMkVqVzN5TVNrRmtkc255UT09)

[pwd=clYzNXRDMkVqVzN5TVNrRmtkc255UT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85775963130?pwd=clYzNXRDMkVqVzN5TVNrRmtkc255UT09)

Meeting ID: 857 7596 3130

Passcode: 172029

Read about the three Board of Trustees candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee below.



Luke Daily joined UUCU in February 2018. That same year he began working with YRUU and found a love for working with the youth in our church. Each year he looks forward to advising, learning from the youth, staying up late at lock-ins, and teaching OWL when needed. In the past he has served as an usher and on the Committee on Ministry. Outside of church, Luke is a licensed clinical social worker and works for Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation helping individuals with disabilities to find, maintain, and advance in employment.



Ruth Milledge grew up in Iowa and spent most of her adult life in Texas. After retiring as Chief of Speech Pathology Services at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, she spent semi-retirement working at several senior living facilities in mid-Missouri. She found UUCU by attending Peter Holmes' Mindfulness Meditation class and volunteering with many lovely congregants at Room at the Inn. She became a member of UUCU in 2017. Ruth has enjoyed participating in several UUCU endeavors, most notably the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team.



Roger Nettleton is a retired physical therapist who lived with his wife Kathy in Kirksville, Mo. until 2017. While still in Kirksville they were able to participate in what they imagined to be a UU-style conversation group for several years, but as that group faded they decided to move closer to the real thing in 2017 and not too long after became UUCU members in February 2018. Roger is a member of the Greeters Team and participates in the Grounds Team, choir, Kaleidoscope, a Chalice Circle and mindfulness meditation. Though not a member of the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team, he has been helping with transportation and occasional translation needs of our sponsored immigrant from Guatemala.

Ministry Reboot Breakfast, Part II

Saturday, May 20, 2023
10 a.m. to noon

Thank you to the 35 lay leaders who joined us for our first Ministry Reboot Breakfast as we began to ponder the landscape of church leadership going into our new program year in Fall 2023! It was a wonderful conversation (and a delicious shared meal).

Please mark your calendars now for the second installment, which we will hold from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 20 in the Sanctuary. As with last time, please RSVP and let us know how you can help support the breakfast with setup, cleanup, or food! Childcare is available with RSVP. All UU Churchers are welcome at this event, whether you are a long term leader or brand new and interested!

RSVP here:

<https://forms.gle/K5uD9SKjqDd9729r9>

Church Work Day May 6

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday May 6

with a short break for a pizza lunch (BYOBs)

Join us to get everything back in its place after our recent construction project.

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.

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=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09)
[pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09](https://zoom.us/j/95152263717?pwd=SzJJeWdWV0d5QkU4MTdnK1U0b1ZDQOT09)

You can also join by phone: 312-626 6799

From the Intern Minister

Liberation

We are a justice seeking people. We are increasingly dedicating our spiritual lives to the hard work of liberation, whether it be liberation for others or for ourselves. Despite this hard work, let us remember to find embodied joy in our liberative work, for it is life-giving and life-affirming. I offer you this prayer of celebration for the month of May.

O great liberator, O life, O love,

Let us not contain our spirits or lock them in silent chambers.

Instead, let us pour ourselves out in oceans of tumultuous joy.

Let us sing praises to the great love that liberates earth-bound souls.

There is a time for quietude, for listening to the still, small voice of contemplation. But that will be for another day.

This day we shout into crashing ocean waves, and feel their raw and sensual power.

This day, when we encounter beloved friends, we allow ourselves to leap for joy.

This day, let us cross the street to embrace our neighbor, even if she thinks we have gone insane.

This day we don't want to be steady and sturdy oaks. Instead, let us leap and twirl and spin like the great Gaia herself.

This day we praise you, the great creator, who has always been one with us, who quickens our souls, who unbinds our hands to embrace the beloved, who frees our frozen feet to dance for justice.

Let us not be content to whisper that God is dead, but let us instead cry out, with breathless joy, we are alive. Amen.

— George Grimm-Howell

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 an email to minister@uucomo.org to see if she can work you in at a different time.

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

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

What is your spiritual practice?

Worship Associates seek volunteers for lay-led summer services

What do you do to feed your spirit? Do you use prayer or meditation? Does music or art fill your soul? Do you find inspiration in writing or reading poetry?

Continuing our long-standing tradition, we will have a number of lay-led services over the summer. We want to make this the summer of spiritual practice and are looking for volunteers to assist us with presenting services exploring the many ways we keep ourselves grounded, inspired and at peace.

You may have an idea for a

whole service, or you may just have a practice you would like to share as part of a larger service. Maybe there is a song that you play, sing or listen to. Perhaps you have a favorite poem or prose piece that you turn to. Or maybe you can describe how working in your garden or walking in the woods connects you to our world. We welcome whatever you are willing to share to help us explore the full range of spiritual experience.

The Worship Associates and ministers will work with all vol-

unteers to assist in structuring a whole service, if that is your choice, or to help you integrate your contribution into a service involving multiple volunteers.

Every contribution is necessary if we are going to fairly reflect the diversity of practice we know lives at UCC. Please contact any of the Worship Associates (Tim Dickerson, Todd Iveson, Iyesatu Kamara-Bush, Gretchen Maune, Jeff Ordway, or Sam Otten), Rev. Molly, or Intern Minister George Grimm-Howell if you are interested in participating.

Forum Programs for May 2023

***9 a.m. Sunday in the
Forum Room/Library***

May 7 – Great Decisions program

Connie Johnmeyer will lead a *Great Decisions* program on Chapter 7, “Foreign Policy, Economic Power, and U.S. Industrial Policy.”

May 14 – “Tulsa’s Black Wall Street (and the Trail of Tears)”

Sue Tillema will report on the 1921 massacre of blacks in Tulsa, as well as the earlier Trail of Tears, which included the forced displacement of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia and Alabama to Oklahoma, sometimes through Missouri. Sue will draw upon her recent studies in Oklahoma as well as the missionary work of her grandparents in China and the efforts of her parents in Japanese-American internment camps.

May 21 – “To Chair or Not to Chair”

Pack Matthews will focus on the health and cultural issues between squatting or sitting on the floor vs. the western chair. Pack is the designer of “My Soul Seat” and the founder of the Ikari Design Company. My Soul Seat offers a variety of sitting positions and sitting heights, thus encouraging more bodily movements.

May 28 – No meeting – Memorial Day Holiday

Life milestones conversations

Intern minister George Grimm-Howell is working on a project that will provide spiritual support and ritual to mark major life passages.

For example, if you are retiring from paid work, or if you’re facing “an empty nest” or other large life transitions, please consider reaching out to George to share your thoughts, feelings and experiences.

Email your thoughts to internminister@uucomo.org or schedule a talk on Calendly at <https://calendly.com/grimm-howell>.

UCC 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

Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Following a generous contribution toward the cost of driving lessons from Dottie Mathews and Rosie Geiser, Lilly is getting ready to take her driver's examination. She will be driving her car that was the generous gift of Meredith Donaldson in honor and memory of Joe Donaldson, who had coordinated the transportation for Lilly, Manuel, and Lakshmi.

Until Lilly passes her exam and gets her license, which we are hoping will be soon, Ruth Milledge is coordinating the transportation for the family. **If you are willing to help with driving, please contact Ruth at ramilledge@gmail.com.**

When we agreed to sponsor a single mom with two small children in May 2021, we knew transitioning to independence would be more challenging. Consequently, our sponsorship of the family is continuing in order to provide assistance where needed.

You may support or continue to support the work of the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team, which currently includes our sponsorship of the family, by making 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.

Our loyal and faithful drivers share with us how

Lilly sincerely expresses her gratitude every time they drive the family to or from their respective destinations, 6-year-old Manuel at first grade at Parkade Elementary School, 2-year-old Lakshmi at Head Start, and Lilly at work at the University of Missouri. It is a reminder for us to say thank you to UUCC and everyone who has contributed to the sponsorship of this Guatemalan family seeking asylum in this country.

Contributions have been by donating financially; by donating furniture and household items; by driving the family; by translating; by taking Lilly to the store and on other errands; by taking the family to the doctor; by taking Lilly to the hospital; by taking Lakshmi to the hospital twice; by helping to enroll the kids in school and Head Start; by helping in other ways we am forgetting; by donating a car (thank you again Meredith); by providing housing for over a year (thank you Christine Heath); and by UUCC two years ago saying "yes" to sponsoring this family.

With continuing gratitude, Allie Gassmann and Dave Gibbons, Co-Chairs of the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team.

If you would like to get involved with the team, please contact Dave or Allie:

Dave Gibbons – dgibbons@mchsi.com

Allie Gassmann – alliegassmann@socket.net

Social Action Team announces Faith-to-Action collection recipients

Faith-to-Action recipients for May

Although we are moving towards a single Faith-to-Action (FTA) recipient for each month, in May we have two: The Lajee Center and Tent of Nations. Both of these organizations are based in Israel and are working to support Palestinians there in positive ways.

The Lajee Center, based in the Aida Refugee Camp near Jerusalem, offers help and support for refugees as they attempt to get education, work and care for their children.

The Tent of Nations is an organization dedicated to the promotion of peace and understanding among people and nations around the world.

Both of these organizations have programs and goals consistent with Unitarian Universalist values, and both are in great need of recognition and support.

UUCC Social Action Team members Margaret Tyler and Winifred Scott were introduced to these or-

ganizations on their trip to Israel/Palestine last year and were impressed with the positive impact they are having. Your May donations in the Sunday service collections, or on-line, will be split between these two organizations, with part (\$417, to be exact) going to support the work of our church. Although these are separate organizations, we hope that donors will feel comfortable contributing to both of them.

The following Faith-to-Action recipients are scheduled through August:

June: Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

July: Children's Grove Kindness Libraries

August: Stop Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri

Faith-to-Action nominations for

September 2023 through August 2024 now open

Nominations are open until mid-July. See the UUCC website for details and the nomination form.

Programs and events

Gentle Yoga with Karen Dwyer

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays and Fridays

6 to 7:15 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays (except the first Thursday each month)

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

Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13 - online and by phone

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

Crafting Group

1-3 p.m. every Tuesday

The crafting group has resumed in-person meetings and now meets from 1 to 3 p.m. every Tuesday in the Greeting Area.

The group is recruiting new members and can help with any projects you may have. Beginners are welcome, and there is no hard commitment – come when you can! For more information, contact Bonnie Johnson.

Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team

1p.m. Sunday May 14 online

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

Social Action T-Shirts

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

Kaleidoscope

6 p.m. June 17

Join the Kaleidoscope pagan group for celebration of Litha, the summer Solstice. The longest day and the shortest night are here. The Sun stands in his glory and full strength. Glory with him, this bringer of warmth, light and hope.

Gather with us at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 17 (note time change) at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Conversations, Etc.

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10 – online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UCC 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, send an email to Pam Springsteel at pspring@socket.net.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. May 13 and 27 – online

The UCC 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, May 1 & 15 - online

The Non-Toxic Masculinity Group meets on the first and third Monday each month. For information email Kevin Fritsche at klfritsche37@gmail.com.

Loaves and Fishes

May 21 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 have reverted 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. Please sign up at:

<https://uucomo.org/sign-up-to-help/>

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 -

4 p.m. Sunday, May 7

The team will meet via Zoom at 4 p.m. May 7 after the worship service, potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting. Ordinarily the team meets in person at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday each month.

Living Earth Meditation

9 a.m. Saturdays

Living Earth Meditation is offered at 9 a.m. Saturdays at 1400 Gary St., Columbia. It is a collaborative program of our church, the Columbia Friends Meeting and Show Me Dharma, and it is facilitated by Peter Holmes, Ph.D., and Tricia Straub.

The format is silent meditation outdoors with an opportunity to share insights and reflection – being at home in nature while building a connection between spiritual practice and ecological awareness.

REflections

As we think this month about the theme of liberation, I think of being a mom right now to two teenagers – how they are pushing outward from a world defined for them by their parents and wanting new freedom. Sure, this isn't the liberation of big social justice movements, but it feels momentous to them!

I recently had a argument with my child about cleaning his room. He insisted it was his room, and he should have the freedom to keep it in whatever state he wanted. I insisted just as strenuously that if the room was full of food remains, we would get mice. To prove my point, in the next moment, the first mouse we have ever seen in our house went scurrying across the floor.

It was a hilarious teaching moment of how freedom doesn't mean much if it is freedom from being considerate of other people. Liberation is only meaningful when it is collective. And please put your dirty dishes in the sink!

We as parents need to challenge ourselves to continuously let go of control and give young people more freedom over their own lives. But we also need to be continually teaching them that their individual freedom is never enough. In little ways and in big ways, we need to teach them to broaden their scope of what freedom means, who it includes, and how liberation involves ever expanding empathy and care.



Bridging Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 21

Join us for the annual bridging service when we celebrate our graduating seniors making their transition into adulthood. If you have a child who you would like to participate in this service, please contact Jamila Batchelder at dre@uucomo.org. The seniors do not need to have attended church recently (or ever!) to participate.



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

Junior Youth 6:30-8 p.m. May 12

The high schoolers will pay a visit to Junior Youth and have an evening of fun and games planned from them! It is an opportunity for our 8th graders to get to know the high schoolers as they get ready to transition out of RE and into our high school youth group next year. RSVP by May 10 to dre@uucomo.org.



Coming-of-Age Program 2023-2024

We are preparing for a Coming-of-Age Program for 8th-9th graders next year. As part of our program, each youth will work with a mentor. Jamila will be contacting people in the next few months to see who will be participating and if your family has anyone in mind as a mentor.

RE Schedule

May 7: Regular R.E. Classes
May 14: All-Ages Worship
May 21: Regular R.E. Classes
May 28: Service Sunday

THE SEARCHLIGHT

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Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

Return Service Requested

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Or by appointment at calendly.com/revmollyhoushgordon

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2022-2023 Board of Trustees

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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