



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uucomo.org> • Volume 65, Issue 1, July 2023

## July 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, July 2**

**Spiritual Practice Series**

**George Grimm-Howell and Jamila Batchelder**

**"Fumbling Toward Prayer"**

**All-Ages Service**

Many UUs have an ambivalent relationship with prayer. Still, many UUs have found ways to pray that resonate with our traditions. George and Jamila will present a prayer bead practice created by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom and will explore other embodied ways to stay connected to the sacred. Come join us for this hands-on experience for all ages, including creation of your own UU prayer beads.

**Sunday, July 9**

**Spiritual Practice Series**

**Todd Iveson and Friends**

**"On Meditation"**

Join us for our beloved tradition of lay preaching to learn from one another about the practices, questions and wonderings that sustain us. Let us practice and reflect upon various forms of meditation.

**Sunday, July 16**

**Spiritual Practice Series**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

**"The Spiritual Practice of Lazing About"**

We've reached the height of long, hot summer days. What wisdom can we find in simply sinking into the season, in just lazing about?

**Sunday, July 23**

**Spiritual Practice Series**

**Gretchen Maune, Larry Lile, and Friends**

Join us for our beloved tradition of lay preaching to learn from one another about the practices, questions, and wonderings that sustain us.

**Sunday, July 30**

**Spiritual Practice Series**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon and Jamila Batchelder**

**"Poetry as a Spiritual Practice"**

**All-Ages Service**

Join us for a fun, all-ages opportunity to play with words and discover poetry as a spiritual practice.

## Minister's Message

*Roots & Wings*

Summer Worship Theme is  
*"Spiritual Practice"*

**On Prayer**

**By Czeslaw Milosz**

*You ask me how to pray to someone who is  
not.*

*All I know is that prayer constructs a velvet  
bridge*

*And walking it we are aloft, as on a spring-  
board,*

*Above landscapes the color of ripe gold*

*Transformed by a magic stopping of the sun.*

*That bridge leads to the shore of Reversal*

*Where everything is just the opposite and the  
word 'is'*

*Unveils a meaning we hardly envisioned.*

*Notice: I say we; there, every one, separately,*

*Feels compassion for others entangled in the  
flesh*

*And knows that if there is no other shore*

*We will walk that aerial bridge all the same.*

What, to a Unitarian Universalist, is prayer? What, to a Unitarian Universalist, is spirit? What, to a Unitarian Universalist, is practice? To me, there is wonder – and curiosity. To me, there is a willingness to play. To me, there is depth. To me, there is deep, deep interconnection.

What is spiritual practice to you?

See you in church,

Rev. Molly

## *Highlights of what's inside*

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# First Sunday Potluck – Noon July 2

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!

Please email Church Administrator April Rodeghero if you'd like to be on the potluck team:

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



## UUCC Membership Team

### Next membership cycle

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

### We are all Greeters!

Remember, we are all greeters, even if we don't wear a "Greeter" name tag. Blue sticky-back name tags indicate a person is a visitor and may benefit from your welcoming words.

In order to facilitate our mission of accessibility and respect, please remember to keep our pathways clear, avoid hanging decorations in doorways, and leave our building cleaner than we found it.



Check us out on the  
UUCC Facebook page

[https://  
www.facebook.com/  
groups/uuchurch](https://www.facebook.com/groups/uuchurch)

### Hospitality Team needs your help

This team makes the coffee. We are looking for anyone who wants an opportunity to chat with people, make coffee and clean up. We prefer people who can commit to once a month. Is this you? Email April at:

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

VOLUNTEER



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

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

# Lock system changed

In the past UUCC used a key system for exterior doors. We have now fully transitioned to an automatic lock system to make our church more secure. Each week, Church Administrator April Rodeghero will update the schedule so the exterior doors will unlock and lock for scheduled activities.

Staff members, lay leaders and organizations that rent space in the church will have a code to unlock exterior doors using a keypad in order to enter the building at other times. As a backup, April has an app on her smartphone that can lock and unlock doors remotely as needed when other methods do not work.

All those who now have a key to the exterior doors are asked to turn in their keys and begin using the keypad codes that will be provided to them. Keys should be turned in to April in person or labeled with your name or group and put in April's mailbox.

*It is important to turn in exterior door keys because each time a key is used, it overrides the system and causes the automatic locks to reset. This results in the doors being locked or unlocked at unscheduled times.* Thus, if you are the last person to leave the church and the exterior doors are not locked, be aware that:

- The doors will lock at the scheduled time.
- A key should not be used to lock the doors because that will interrupt the schedule.

Those who have keys to interior doors in the church may keep those keys, but they are asked to inform April that they have such keys.

Questions about this new system should be emailed to April at [uuchurch@uucomo.org](mailto:uuchurch@uucomo.org).

## 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/>



## From the Intern Minister

# Fifty Shades of Pray

OK, I'll admit it. I've always been uncomfortable with prayer. There, I said it in public. I'm a minister who doesn't like to pray. Or at least I didn't until I read this fantastic little book, *Simply Pray*, by UU minister Erik Walker Wikstrom. It gave me new language to talk about prayer and what it really means. Prayer, to my great joy, has now been reimagined as mindful attention — as deep listening to the prayer that's already praying deep inside me.

Now, I think of it less as a long distance request line to the divine and more like the magical compass in the Pirates of the Caribbean movies that, regardless of position, always points to your heart's desire. Prayer, for me, isn't about asking for stuff or getting answers — it's about hearing the questions. It's about deep listening to the longings of your own heart. And it's about shining a loving spotlight on people and other beings and things you care about.

Prayer can take so many forms that there just might be one that suits your heart. Make some prayer beads that symbolize the four elements, talk to a tree, say a word of gratitude when the sunlight kisses your skin. Or let your prayer be a wordless act of service that pays mindful attention to a fellow soul in need. Make it your own. Amen.

Love and light,  
George

## UUCC Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry Team is based on the belief that we are all worthy of care and meaningful connections with others. This ministry provides support in times of celebration and challenge. Support may include cards, calls, visits, meals, transportation or other needs. Please consider joining our team and/or helping out periodically. Those needing help should contact the team in a time of need. Call the church office at 573-442-5764 for help or to volunteer.

## 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) — 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 an email to [minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org) to see if she can work you in at a different time.



## Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Lilly recently passed her driver exam and is now driving herself. This is a tremendous step toward independence. Lilly and her family will be moving to a new place by June 30. This means that Lilly will be almost independent from us, although we anticipate that she will still need a bit of financial help in the future. We are hoping for the very best as Lilly's asylum court date on Nov. 2 nears.

Our loyal and faithful drivers share with us how Lilly always sincerely expressed her gratitude every time they drove 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 donating a car (thank you again, Meredith); by providing housing for over a year (thank you again, Christine Heath); by helping in other ways we are forgetting; and by UUCC two years ago saying "yes" to sponsoring this family!

You may support or continue to support the work of the Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team, which currently still 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.

With continuing gratitude,

Allie Gassmann and Dave Gibbons

Co-Chairs, Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team

*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)

## Social Action Team announces FTA news and marker unveiling

### ***July's Faith-to-Action (FTA) recipient is Children's Grove's Kindness Libraries***

On World Kindness Day, Nov. 13, 2017, Children's Grove delivered the first 17 Kindness Libraries to schools and daycare centers throughout Boone County. Tote bags were filled with five storybooks that were carefully chosen to appropriately present goodwill, gentleness and compassion. The hope was that seeds would be planted as the tales were told, which would blossom when children found themselves in intolerant situations.

Since then, over 5,000 kindness story books have been delivered to schools and agencies all around Boone County. We depend on community donations for our funds, and thank you in advance for your July donations, either online or in the collection plate.

<https://www.childrensgrove.org/>

### ***FTA nominations are open***

To date, the Social Action Team has received ten nominations for the 2023-24 Faith-to-Action collections to date. They are:

- The Center Project
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- First Chance For Children

• Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP)

- RMF Community Bail Fund
- Children's Grove Kindness Libraries
- World Wide Mobility
- CASA
- Missouri River Relief
- No more Deaths

The deadline for nominations is July 15. You can [submit nominations here](#).

### ***Unveiled: UUCC-sponsored marker on the African American Heritage Trail***

Our church sponsored the marker for the historic Douglass High School football field – home of the Bulldogs. The dedication ceremony was June 13. Read a bit about it – and see a few photos – on the UUCC website.

## Forum and choir on summer vacation

The Forum Discussion Group and the UUCC Choir are taking a summer break.

In September, Forum will resume its weekly gatherings at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings, and the choir will restart weekly rehearsals at 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

## 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)

#### **No Yoga July 4th week**

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

### **UUC Book Discussion**

3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 8 -  
online and by phone

The group will meet online and  
by phone on Saturday, July 8 to  
briefly discuss books each has  
read. For information contact Pam  
Springsteel: [pspring@socket.net](mailto: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, con-  
tact Bonnie Johnson.

### **Sanctuary & Immigrant Justice Team**

1 p.m. Sunday, July 9 - 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.*

### **Kaleidoscope**

7 p.m. Saturday, July 29

Lughnassad, the Feast of the First  
Harvest. Juicy ripe tomatoes, and  
zucchini everywhere. The Earth  
once again gives of Her bounty.  
We join to celebrate Her gifts.

Gather with Kaleidoscope at 7  
p.m. Saturday, July 29, probably  
by Zoom. Contact Barbara Carter  
for the Zoom link. All are wel-  
come, no matter what their person-  
al paths.

### **Conversations, Etc.**

3 p.m. (note time change)  
Wednesday, July 12 - online and  
by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUC  
senior women's group, will meet  
via Zoom and telephone at 3 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 12.

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. July 8 and 22 - 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, July 3 and 17 -  
online

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

### **Loaves and Fishes**

July 16 this month

The Social Action Team is look-  
ing 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 Boule-  
vard United Methodist Church by  
4:30 p.m. Please sign up at:

[https://uucomo.org/  
sign-up-to-help/](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](mailto:diane.suhler@gmail.com).

### **Social Action Team**

1 p.m. Sunday, July 2

The Social Action Team meets  
in person in the Centering Room  
at church at 1 p.m. on the first  
Sunday each month. All are wel-  
come to participate.

### **Living Earth Meditation**

9 a.m. Saturdays

Living Earth Meditation is of-  
fered at 9 a.m. Saturdays at 1400  
Gary St., Columbia. It is a collab-  
orative program of our church, the  
Columbia Friends Meeting and  
Show Me Dharma, and it is facili-  
tated by Peter Holmes, Ph.D., and  
Tricia Straub.

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

# Reflections

## Exploring our summer theme of 'Spiritual Practice' – spirituality kits

This summer we will be exploring a variety of spiritual practices together in worship, including some all-ages services I am looking forward to! You can continue this exploration at home with your family by checking out one of our spirituality kit boxes. They are stored in the cabinet in the Greeting Area, and there is a sign out sheet if you want to take one home.



The kits cover a wide range of ways to explore spirituality, from guided meditations, art, experiences with nature, movement, and more. Each kit also includes songs, wisdom tales, readings, and participatory activities. Come see what we have and build a meaningful family practice that fits your family's personality!

## Revamped lending library

You may have noticed the appearance of our book collection upstairs in the greeting area. We encourage you to check out our book collection with books on many topics from UU parenting to mythology to teaching stories. You can look at them while you are at church or use our checkout form to take them home with you.



**Jamila Batchelder**

Director of Religious Education

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

573-442-5764

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

## Looking for R.E. volunteers for 2023-2024!

Maybe you have been volunteering for years, or maybe you are just starting to consider it. Here is a list of reasons to get involved:

- It is an incredibly rewarding way to give back to our community and be a part of nurturing the next generation of UUs.
- You will learn a lot about our faith along side our kids (and from them!).
- You will form rewarding intergenerational friendships and weave yourself more deeply into our community.
- You will be inspired regularly by our incredible young people.
- You will have *a lot of fun!*

Join us for our R.E. volunteer training at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.

## July schedule

**July 2:** All-Ages Service

**July 9:** R.E. at the Park

**July 16:** R.E. at the Park

**July 23:** R.E. at the Park

**July 30:** All-Ages Service

## ***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)

#### **April Rodeghero, Church Administrator**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

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

### **2023-2024 Board of Trustees**

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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:** April Rodeghero 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.