

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 2, August 2023

August 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 Aug. 6

Spiritual Practice Series

George Grimm-Howell

“The Joy of Deep Attention”

Most of us grown-ups have learned to tune out the details, but there is deep spiritual joy in remembering our childhood powers of deep attention and discovery. The tiniest truths can reconnect us to all that is.

Sunday, Aug. 13

Spiritual Practice Series

Gretchen Maune, Larry Lile and Friends

“Internal Family Systems”

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

Sunday, Aug. 20

Spiritual Practice Series

Sam Otten and Friends

“Music As A Spiritual Practice”

Join UU Musician and Worship Associate Sam Otten and friends for an exploration of the power of music in our spiritual lives and in our congregation!

Sunday, Aug. 27

Ingathering Water Ceremony – All-Ages Service

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

and DRE Jamila Batchelder

“Watering the Trees”

Join us for our beloved annual water ceremony as we re-gather from the adventures of summer and mingle the waters that have refreshed our spirits. During this summer of drought, you may have found yourselves watering young trees to keep them alive. How do we attend to one another’s survival during times of duress? Join us to build the kind of community that sustains us, and bring some water with you from a place of refreshment.

Introducing the 2023-24 Worship Arc

Let It Be a Dance: Moving Through Precarious Times

I’ve been feeling lately that we have entered some kind of new era. Covid-19, increasing natural disasters, and consciousness-raising movements for justice have brought more and more of our society into touch with a deep spiritual truth: Human life is precarious. Everything depends.

This has always been true, and yet it seems to become ever more true as the impacts of climate change become more deeply felt. We are entering an era of precarity, when more of us than ever feel the ways we all are tangled up with one another and the earth, and when we recognize how much hangs in the balance of that entanglement. Precarity can be frightening, but it is also full of potential. Everything we know could end; and everything unjust could change.

The trick to precarity is moving with it, rather than against it. Like a stream, it will carry us along, whether we wish it or not. But when we move with its currents, there is so much richness to be found, even now. This year, we’ll be thinking together about these times as a dance. How do we move amid all that is changing and uncertain, amid all that depends? Starting in September, each month we’ll explore a quality of movement that we can bring to these times.

How do we move through precarious times? Willingly. Joyfully. Collectively. Tenderly. Bravely.

Curiously. Meanderingly. Adaptively.

Join us this year to move together through it all, and let it be a dance!

In Faith,
Rev. Molly

Highlights of what’s inside

Potluck on Aug. 6; Membership; Officers	2
Intern Minister; Lock System Change.....	3
SIJT and SAT	4
Grounds Team news.....	5
Programs and events.....	6
REflections	7

First Sunday Potluck – Noon Aug. 6

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



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.

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



Check us out on the UUCC Facebook page

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

Board elects officers

Our Board of Trustees has elected church officers for 2023-24:

President-Elect – Ruth Milledge

Secretary – Luke Daily

Treasurer – Fred Young

As 2022-23 President-Elect, Iyesatu Kamara-Bush is serving as 2023-24 President.

Ruth Milledge will become the 2024-25 President.

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

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

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

Too broke to pay attention

Some days I find that I'm more broke than woke – spiritually poor, I mean. I see how too much activity, too little time to just be and reconnect with life, saps my spiritual energy. I'm learning to rediscover the spiritual gifts of simple mindfulness. Paying attention to the tiny details that we often overlook, those small moments of awe and wonder can unlock spiritual treasures that help us reconnect and resurrect when we're feeling spent.

Maybe you feel a little short of spiritual cash yourself sometimes. Will you join me for a month of mindfulness in the month of August? Maybe it's as simple as sitting down and enjoying a handful of luscious, ripe blackberries, feeling the plump promise, smelling the earthy fragrance, tasting not just the fruit but the rain, and soil, and sunshine that worked their magic. Then say a blessing for the hands that picked it and packed it, even if they were your own. We can find a wealth of gratitude and connection in such delicious moments of mindfulness.

Investing a nickel's worth of time to just breathe and pay attention for a moment pays large dividends. I wish for you and me the kind of wealth only attentiveness can provide. A small moment can be just long enough to fall in love with life all over again.

Love and light,
George Grimm-Howell

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. 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.

Lock system changed

UUCC formerly 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.



Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team sponsorship update

Lilly, Manuel and Lakshmi, the Guatemalan family UUCC is sponsoring, have recently moved to a new home, and the move was accomplished with significant help from Ene and Mike Chippendale. Ene and Mike transported furniture and other belongings and purchased and donated portable air conditioners and other items for the family. We are extremely grateful to Ene and Mike for their generous assistance to the family.

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.

We want to also express our gratitude to our loyal and faithful drivers who provided transportation for Lilly, Manuel and Lakshmi, and to Ruth Milledge who

coordinated the transportation and to the late Joe Donaldson who coordinated the transportation before Ruth. The drivers would share with us how Lilly sincerely expressed her gratitude every time they drove the family to or from their respective destinations.

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 Donaldson); by providing housing for over a year (thank you, Christine Heath); by helping in other ways we are forgetting; and by UUCC over two years ago saying "yes" to sponsoring this family!

With continuing gratitude,
Allie and Dave, 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
Allie Gassmann – alliegassmann@socket.net

Social Action Team announces FTA news

Faith-to-Action nominations now closed

As of July 15, the number of nominated organizations slightly exceeded the 12 available slots for this year's Faith-to-Action program, so consequently, nominations are now closed. Thank you to all who submitted nominations. And to those who meant to but just didn't quite get around to it – well, there's next year!

Watch for an August announcement (we hope) of the 12 Faith-to-Action recipients for the coming church year.

August Faith-to-Action recipient: Stop Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri

Nanette Ward will visit our Sunday worship service to tell our congregation about this important issue in Columbia and Missouri – and the actions that we can take to make a difference.

Changes coming to "Share the Plate" model

UUCC has been using a "Share the Plate" model to apportion Sunday Service and online collections between the church and the monthly Faith-to-Action recipient. It's worked OK, but we've identified some problems. After consultation with the Minister and the Church Administrator, we envision some changes that will make the process more transparent. Look for details in next month's newsletter. We think you'll like the changes. As always, please support our Faith-to-Action recipients as you are able.

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.

Opportunity for small group service project

Here is a job that could be done as a service project by any church group or Chalice Circle:

There is an area in front of the church that has nonnative plants and is hard to maintain. The first step in replacing it is to dig out the stuff we don't want. It might take 3-4 people an hour of labor and require only simple tools. We will be happy to supply grass seed and/or tools if needed.

If your group is interested, contact Carol Arnold.

Grounds Team news

The year of the Hairy Petunia

This has been a rather harsh season for some of our gardens at the church. It seems that the deer have been hungry, and have ventured more than ever into our front beds, chowing down on the foliage and chomping off rising stems of purple coneflowers, yellow primroses, poppy mallows, and blazing stars. The drought is a stressor too, even for native plants, and especially for those in our traffic island surrounded by heat-radiating asphalt and lacking any source of downhill runoff. Even the little bluestem grass there is having trouble finding enough stored moisture deep in the soil.

However... have you noticed the humble hairy petunia? Apparently not as appetizing as some others, and able to thrive in harsh summer conditions, it is shading the soil, providing protective cover for other plants, feeding pollinators, and filling the beds with pale purple blooms. Yay for *Ruellia humilis*, the humble Hairy Petunia!

— Carol Arnold and the Grounds Team



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.

UUC Book Discussion

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12 - online and by phone

The group will meet online and by phone on Saturday, Aug. 12 to briefly discuss books each has read. For information contact Pam Springsteel – 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

1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13 - online

Contact Allie Gassmann by email at alliegassmann@socket.net for information.

Social Action T-Shirts

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

Kaleidoscope

4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16

M'bon, the Second Harvest, and the Equinox. Once again, the Earth stands for just a moment in perfect balance; then, as always, falls to the side, this time into darkness.

Gather with us on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. (*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 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9 - online and by phone

Conversations, Etc., the UUC senior women's group, meets via Zoom and telephone at 3 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each 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. Aug. 12 and 26 - 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, August 7 and 21 - online

The Non-Toxic Masculinity Group meets on the first and third Monday each month. For information, email Kevin Fritzsche at klfritzsche37@gmail.com.

Loaves and Fishes

Aug. 20 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

1 p.m. Sunday, August 6

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 welcome to participate.

Living Earth Meditation

9 a.m. Saturdays

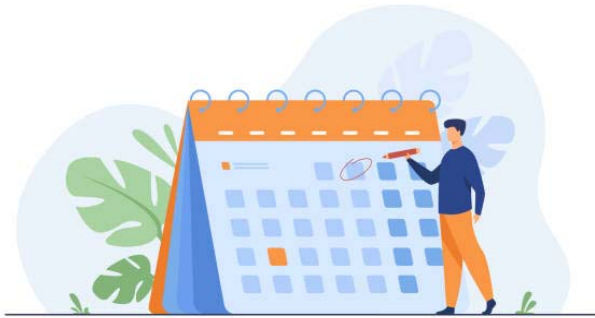
Living Earth Meditation is offered at 9 a.m. Saturdays at 1400 Gary St., Columbia. It is a collaborative program of our church, the Columbia Friends Meeting and Show Me Dharma, and it is facilitated by Peter Holmes, Ph.D., and Tricia Straub.

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

Getting ready for a new church year!

A lot of great programming will be happening this year at UUCC, from our Coming of Age program to new OWL sexuality education offerings to new fellowship programming! Getting involved in our religious education programming has always been one of the most meaningful ways to connect with our church community, and we are lucky to have a strong spirit of volunteerism in our church, with people always stepping up when needed. This year, I am hoping our volunteers can go one step further and make a commitment at the start of the year to helping out in our programs. It can be as little or as big of a commitment as feels right for you, but committing in advance helps us plan our year – and keeps me from worrying I am pestering you all with too many individual requests throughout the year! Please let me know if and how you want to be a part of a rewarding volunteer opportunity.



Religious Education Volunteer Training

9 a.m. to noon
Saturday, Aug. 26

Join us as we begin the process of creating our R.E. community anew for the upcoming year. We will share inspiration, methods, tips and more! We hope you can join us whether you are an experienced R.E. teacher or a brand new volunteer. Childcare and breakfast will be provided. Please let Jamila know if you plan to attend – dre@uucomo.org.



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

YRUU High School Youth Group Planning Meeting

Noon to 2 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 27

All high schoolers who would like to be involved with our High School Youth Group this coming year are invited to attend our planning meeting where we will share ideas for what we want to do. Pizza lunch will be provided!



RE Schedule

Aug. 6: RE at the Park
Aug. 13: RE at the Park
Aug. 20: RE at the Park
Aug. 27: All-Ages Water 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

Email: minister@uucomo.org

George Grimm-Howell, Intern Minister

Email: 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

Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

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

Email: dre@uucomo.org

Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry

Email: music@uucomo.org

Phylshawn Johnson, Sound Technician

Email: music@uucomo.org

2023-2024 Board of Trustees

Iyesatu Kamara-Bush, President

Ruth Milledge, President-Elect

Luke Daily, Secretary

Fred Young, Treasurer

Melissa Ensign-Bedford, Past President

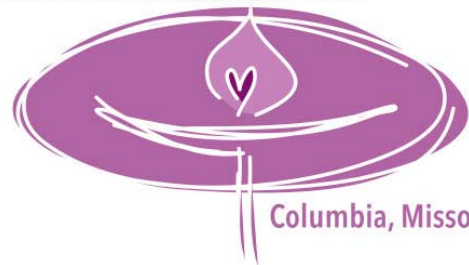
Connie Ordway

Susan Even

Taylor Gill

Roger Nettleton

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

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.