

UU Church of Columbia, MO
Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

August 23, 2026
“Where The Spirit Awakens”
Molly Housh Gordon

Gathering Song – “When You Arrive” by Annie Zylstra

Welcome

Prelude – “Feather on the Water” written and performed by Pippa Letsky

Opening Words – by John O’Donohue

Opening Hymn #42 – “Morning So Fair to See”

*Morning, so fair to see, night, veiled in mystery —
glorious the earth and resplendent skies!
Pilgrims, we march along, singing our joyous song,
as through an earthly paradise.*

*Tall are the verdant trees; deep are the flashing seas;
glorious each wonder the seasons bring.
Brighter is faith’s surmise, shining in pilgrim eyes,
from which our waking spirits spring.*

*Age after age we rise, ‘neath the eternal skies,
into the light from the shadowed past:
still shall our pilgrim song, buoyant and brave and strong,
resound while life and mountains last.*

Chalice Lighting & Words of Affirmation

*Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law;
this is our great covenant:
to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

Centering Moment – Jamila Batchelder, DRE

Stones of Joy & Sorrow

Singing the Children to Class

*Live in joy, go in peace
Hold all our love as we part.*

*Live in joy, go in peace
Hold all our love in your heart.*

Joys & Sorrows Prayer

Hymn #123 – “Spirit of Life”

*Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

Reading – “The Journey” by David Whyte

Musical Interlude – “Captain O’Kane” performed by Pippa Letsky

Sermon – “Where the Spirit Awakens” – Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon

***Hymn #298 – “Wake Now My Senses”**

*Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;
feel the deep power of being in all;
keep, with the web of creation your vow,
giving, receiving as love shows us how.*

*Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honor the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.*

*Wake, now, compassion, give heed to the cry;
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
take as your neighbor both stranger and friend,
praying and striving their hardship to end.*

*Wake, now, my conscience, with justice thy guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
God's love embraces the whole human race.*

*Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear;
brighten my pathway with radiance here;
mingle my calling with all who will share;
work toward a planet transformed by our care.*

Offertory – “The Millstreet Polkas” performed by Pippa Letsky

This morning's offering will be a Faith-to-Action Collection for Caring Hearts and Hands of Columbia.

Give by text to 573-405-1202

Faith-to-Action: Enter amount, with or with a dollar sign, then a space, then the code **f2a**

General collection: Enter amount, with or without a dollar sign

Pledge: Enter amount, then a space, then the word pledge

Or give securely online at uucomo.org/give

Closing Words

Benediction

*Now on leaving one another,
may we give of hand and heart.
Let us share our benediction,
lovingly before we part.*

* Please stand or remain seated as you feel most comfortable.

Is there a way we can make our worship service or community more accessible to you? Let us know. Email the minister at minister@uucomo.org or call 442-5764.

Church Staff: Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister; April Rodeghero, Church Administrator; Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education; Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry; Phylshawn Johnson, AV Technician.