

UU Church of Columbia, MO
Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister
“Life Cycle of a Sunflower”
Heidi Shearer
October 11th, 2026

Gathering Song – “When You Arrive” by Anni Zylstra

*When you arrive
We all arrive
So come on in
Let's begin*

*This place awaits
The love you bring
So welcome home
And let us sing*

Welcome – Kim Wade

Prelude – Jeanne Murphy

Opening Words – “Children of the Earth and Sky” by Alice Berry

***Opening Hymn** – #188 “Come, Come, Whoever You Are”

Come, come, whoever you are,
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.

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

Stones of Joy and Sorrow

Singing Our 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 – #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.

Reading – “October’s Bright Blue Weather” by Helen Hunt Jackson

Musical Interlude – Jeanne Murphy

Sermon – “Life Cycle of a Sunflower” by Heidi Shearer

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.

Offertory – Jeanne Murphy

This morning’s offering will be for the work of the congregation.

Give by text to 573-405-1202

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

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

Or give online at <https://uucomo.org/give/>

Closing Words

***Sung 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, Sound Technician