



THE SEARCHLIGHT

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April 2007

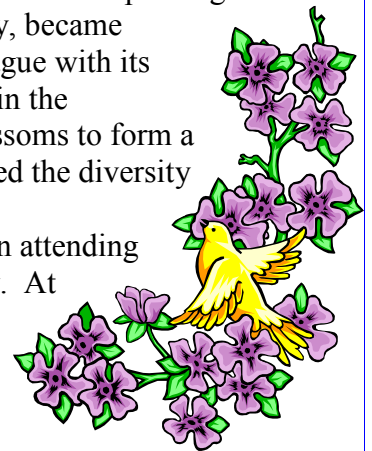
The Searchlight is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, Missouri 65201. It is published monthly from September through June. Submissions can be made by email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net or by mail to the church – Attention: Administrator. Deadline for submissions is noon on the third Monday of each month for publishing in the following month's Searchlight.



Easter Sunday Flower Communion

This celebration, unique to our Unitarian Universalist tradition, began in Prague in 1923. The Czech minister, Rev. Norbert Capek (cha-peck) established the ceremony because his congregation had so many members representing many different religious backgrounds. Capek began as a Baptist, but upon coming to the U.S. for study, became Unitarian, and founded the large church in Prague with its Czech Unitarianism. Seeing such diversity within the congregation, he felt bringing together individual blossoms to form a common bouquet of such uncontrived beauty expressed the diversity in the church.

Our celebration closes the Easter service. Each person attending brings at least one blossom to form a basket of beauty. At the conclusion of the service, children will distribute blossoms, a gift from an unknown member. So, please join us in this tradition and bring a spring blossom to the service on Easter Sunday.



Canvass Showing 12% Increase

The Generosity Team is happy to report the annual canvass for our church is rapidly coming to a close. We are on track to reach a final pledge total of nearly \$170,000. Here are some figures of interest:

105 of 173 (61%) pledge cards have been returned as of March 19;
\$139,880 has been pledged so far.

This represents an average increase of 12% from last year's support from these same pledging units; and new members/friends have contributed \$3,770.

Defining our generosity based on gross income is new to this year's canvass. According to the pledging table on the back of the pledge card, we have received:

14 pledges at the *Visionary* level;
10 pledges at the *Sustainer* level;
19 pledges at the *Supporter* level.

Please help us wind-up the Canvass. Even if you cannot afford to make a pledge, please return your signed card as soon as possible. This will prevent the Generosity Team from having to make repeated and possibly annoying telephone calls to your home.

Thanks for your generous support of our church.

Kevin Fritsche

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Worship Services Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Our church plans a lay-led service on one Sunday of each month of the regular church calendar year. Lay-ministry enriches us all and helps maintain the tradition of lay-ministry as a vibrant part of our church life. The Worship Associates are responsible for planning lay-led services during the academic year. If you have an idea for a Sunday service or just want to help, contact a Worship Associate or Rev. Bill Haney at the church.

01 Apr "The Birth of Freedom"

We begin with our children for the opening of the worship service. We will see how Passover is so important to many Jews as part of the tradition's foundational event. Our monthly pot-luck luncheon will follow the worship service. All are invited to attend.

08 Apr "Well-seasoned Tomb"

Easter is the foundational event for Christians: Jesus is bodily raised. This was a common belief in the 1st-century CE, but why does it persist to this day? Are there other meanings of Easter? What are the meanings of Easter for Unitarian Universalists? Cande Iveson will be the Worship Associate. The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Don't forget to bring a blossom for the Flower Communion. The Easter Brunch provided by the YRUU youth will follow the service.

15 Apr "Celebrating Our Place in the Interdependent Web of All Existence". Layled worship service coordinated by the Green Sanctuary Committee

22 Apr "Why Should I Care?"

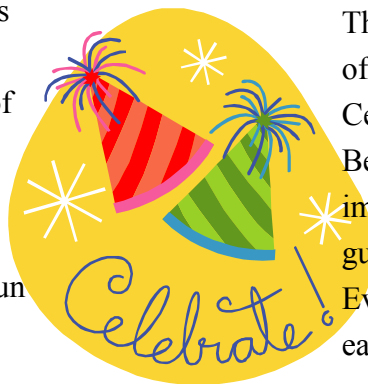
It is one thing to forgive a friend or family member. It is yet another to forgive an enemy. How can we establish right relations with those who oppose us, who are our enemies? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Tom Theobald will be the Worship Associate. The Faith-To-Action Collection will be for the Friends of Reconciliation.

29 Apr "Discovering the Meaning of Membership"

Churches are not utopian communities. Like all human enterprises, it has its faults that reflect human faults. How do we fulfill our right relations with our covenants? This service is the New Member In-gathering to celebrate those who have chosen to walk with us in our Free Church tradition. Rebecca Graves will be the Worship Associate.

Celebrate on April 15!

On **Sunday, April 15**, Interweave: UUs for LGBT Concerns will celebrate our second anniversary at the UU Church of Columbia! Events you won't want to miss: cake reception, famous LGBT UUs focus group, rainbow chalice unveiling, and "Where's Walt?" The fun starts as soon as we get to church that morning – see you there!



The LUNCH BUNCH will eat at House of Chow in the Crossroads Shopping Center at 12:15 pm sharp on April 15th. Be sure to let Linda Lou Brown know immediately after church if you/ and your guests are planning to be with us. Everyone is invited! Bring visitors! But eat some Interweave cake first!

Forum Schedule

The Forum, an adult discussion group, meets on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. in the Library/Forum Room, lower level of the church. Conversation and refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum is open to the public.

01 Apr "Mental Health Needs of Returning Soldiers and their Families" will be presented by Pat Wilson and Barbara Schneider, facilitators of a Military Family Support Group. Both have sons serving in Iraq.

08 Apr "The Jesus of Heresy: The Gnostic Gospel of Thomas" will be discussed by Anthony Alioto, professor at Columbia College and instructor in the Osher Life-long Learning Institute. This Gnostic gospel, which the Church declared heretical, was discovered in Egypt at Nag Hammadi in 1945-46 and presents a very different portrait of Jesus than the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

15 Apr "The Little Rock Nine" will be presented by psychologists Carla and Wayne Anderson, based on their recent visit to Little Rock where they learned of the bravery and suffering of the nine black students as they endured the abuse of segregationists fighting the integration of Little Rock's Central High School.

22 Apr "Surviving Timbuktu" will be discussed by Bill Clark, traveler to exotic places. Journeying in one of the least visited spots in the world was a harrowing adventure that only a few travelers have risked taking. Find out why.

29 Apr. "The Many Causes of Guilt" will be presented by Wayne Anderson, a member of a team that facilitates training programs on the treatment of trauma. He will discuss how guilt is created by difficult situations such as battle, rape and suicide and share some of the methods that therapists use to alleviate that guilt.

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

Thank you to Larry and Stephanie Dorman for the donation of a telephone headset for the church office! I know this will help me to more efficiently serve the church and I've wanted one for years!

Lost and Found has collected a number of items over the months. If you have lost something, check the box under the coat rack at the church. Two items wrapped as gifts were left in the Forum Room at the church a few months ago and they have not been claimed. Call me if you think you know who they belong to.

There has been a request for potted Easter lilies or other appropriate flowers or greenery to enliven the Sunday worship space. If you would like to offer your floral gift to memorialize a friend or family member, please let me know so that can be acknowledged in the order of service.

A reminder – deadline for submissions to the newsletter are the third Monday of each month for publication in the next month's Searchlight. Contact me for more information about your submissions. Thanks for your help.

Kathie Bergman

Check out uuchurch.net!



Minister's Musings

GLIMPSE THE STARS . . .

Most of the emphasis early this month will be on Easter. The TV channels will give us more about Easter than we really want – most of it saccharin and sentimental. There are other celebrations in April: that of Holocaust Remembrance Day on the 15th and Passover beginning at sundown on Monday the 2nd. My colleague and friend from Starr King School for the Ministry, the Reverend Lynn Unger wrote this poem about Passover, which opens us to the possibilities of the season;

They thought they were safe
that spring night, when they daubed
the doorways with sacrificial blood.
To be sure, the angel of death
passed them over, but for what?

Forty years in the desert
without a home, without a bed,
following new laws to an unknown land.

Easier to have died in Egypt
or stayed there a slave, pretending
there was safety in the old familiar.

But the promise, from those first
naked days outside the garden,
is that there is no safety,
only the terrible blessing
of the journey. You were born
through a doorway marked in blood.
We are, all of us, passed over,
brushed in the night by terrible wings.

Ask that fierce presence,
whose imagination you hold.
God did not promise that we shall live,
but that we might, at last, glimpse the stars,
brilliant in the desert sky.



Peace and Love,
Bill

YRUU Easter Brunch Fundraising Extravaganza

The annual YRUU Easter Brunch/Summer-Trip Fundraiser is happening April 8th! After a delicious post-service brunch, we will have an indoor Easter egg hunt for children AND adults. Buy tickets for the brunch in advance (\$5 per person; \$20 for the whole family) and sign up for the Easter egg hunt (\$3 for one egg, \$5 for two eggs) in the common area after Sunday service in the weeks to come. PLUS – who among you will find the magnificent **GOLDEN EGG**?! Legend has it that this beauty contains loads of candy and a \$5 gift certificate to Sparky's Ice Cream. Please buy tickets in advance so we know how many eggs to prepare.



And for those who REALLY like to have fun – there are two more events! We will RAFFLE off one extraordinarily fantastic EASTER EGG BASKET (1 ticket for \$1; 5 tickets for \$3) AND, as the grand finale, the PEEP PREDICTION!!! Our very own Ian Arnold will once again cram as many Peeps as he can into a large jar! Guesses on the final number of crammed Peeps are 50¢; the closest guess wins the heap of mashed Peeps, a \$5 gift certificate to The Chocolate Factory, and all the glory of being the 2007 Peep Predictor! Buy tickets for the Raffle and the Peep Prediction early and often. Multiple guesses for the Peep Cram are highly encouraged.

You can also help us out by donating the ingredients for our brunch. We will post a list of what we need in the common area. Thanks in advance for your participation!



Annual Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary

11:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 22, 2007

Members are hereby notified of the annual Congregational Meeting. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary while members enjoy light refreshments. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Agenda

Election of 07/08 Board of Trustees

Vote on 07/08 Budget

First of Two Required Votes on Proposal to amend the Endowment/Planned Giving Policy

For Discussion Only--Proposed Bylaw Change: Article III, Section 1: Membership

Annual Reports: President, Treasurer, Minister, Director YRE

Childcare will be offered in the Nursery.

"A member shall become a voting member 60 days from the date of joining."

---Bylaws, Article III, Section 2

Agenda Item no. 3 Proposal to amend the Endowment/Planned Giving Policy:

Excerpt from the May 2006 Board Minutes-- "The rationale is that the Planned Giving subcommittee policy needs to be separated from the bylaws to allow for more flexibility. The Endowment fund policy needs to remain in the bylaws (more difficult to change) and that was the intent of the drafters of this policy (i.e. Finance Committee). **The Board voted to accept the policy... with the understanding that 2 congregational meetings will need to be held at least 2 months apart but within one year, with a majority vote required for passage, before the changes can be implemented.**" The original Endowment/Planned Giving Policy was adopted by the Board of Trustees in 1990 and was subsequently made a part of the Bylaws.

Agenda Item no. 4 Discussion on a proposal to amend the Bylaws- Article III, Section 1: Membership
(changes italicized and underlined)

UCC Bylaws as adopted May 2004

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1: Member. Any person who is at least 16 years of age; who is in agreement with the purpose of the UCC as set forth in Article II of these bylaws; who has demonstrated a commitment to the UCC by participating in the regularly scheduled new member classes; and who makes a financial contribution to the UCC may become a member of the church by signing the membership book and recording the date in the presence of the minister or a member of the Board of Trustees. The financial requirement will be set by the Board and may be waived in individual cases at the discretion of the Board or Minister.

UUs Down By the Riverside

Saturday, June 2 - Sunday, June 3, 2007
At Katfish Katy's Campground
on the Missouri River at Huntsdale

Come and go as needed. For bicyclists, the campsite is on the Katy Trail 8 miles from Columbia.

www.tranquility.net/~katfish/KATFISH_KATYS/Index.html

6-8pm Saturday - Supper/
 Cookout
 8pm Saturday - Campfire
 Singalong
 Full Moon Boat Rides, volleyball,
 croquet, games, fishing, etc.
 8-10am Sunday – Pancake
 Breakfast
 10.30am Sunday – Riverside Service



Volunteers needed for: Sat. supper, games and kids activities, Sun breakfast, Sunday Service, set up and clean up. (Please contact Peter Holmes.)

Please sign up in the Greeting Area so we can plan appropriately. Start working now on your performance (stories, poems, songs, skits) for the Singalong!

Social Action Report

The April 22, 2007 Faith to Action Collection selected by the church's Social Action Committee will benefit the Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation.

In 1914, an ecumenical conference was held in Switzerland by Christians seeking to prevent the outbreak of war in Europe. Before the conference ended, however, World War I had started and those present had to return to their respective countries. At a railroad station in Germany, two of the participants, Henry Hodgkin, an English Quaker, and Friedrich Sigmund-Schultze, a German Lutheran, pledged to find a way of working for peace even though their countries were at war. Out of this pledge Christians gathered in Cambridge, England in December 1914 to found the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The US FOR was founded one year later, in 1915.

The FOR has since become an interfaith and international movement with branches and groups in over 40 countries and on every continent. Today the membership of FOR includes Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, and people of other faith traditions, as well as those with no formal religious affiliation.

Since 1915, The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) has carried on programs and educational projects concerned with domestic and international peace and justice,

nonviolent alternatives to conflict, and the rights of conscience. An Interfaith, tax exempt organization, the FOR promotes nonviolence and has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is a part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), which has affiliates in over 40 countries.

The Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation is a group composed of people from many faiths, and no particular faith -- all coming together to support nonviolence and justice. Offering people of conscience an action response to a morally-impaired U.S. foreign policy.



Please participate in the April Faith to Action collection by writing your check to the UU Church of Columbia and noting "FOR" on the memo line. Place your check in the collection basket on April 22nd or, if you can not be at the worship service, mail your check to the church.

The February Faith to Action collection for *The Shelter* in Columbia, Missouri totaled \$518.65. Many thanks to all who donated to the collection.

What's New at UU?

Summer Worship Services

A brief reminder that beginning on June third, the summer worship services begin. We already have an exciting beginning with Peter Holmes organizing a "Down By the River" service as an alternative to a service at the church. Groups and individuals in the church should begin thinking about the summer and the strong tradition we have of lay-led summer services. If you or your group has an idea, contact Reverend Haney or any of the Worship Associates: Rebecca Graves, Christy Clark Hutton, Leslie Luchene, Cande Iveson, Mary Margaret Coffield, Tom Theobald or Greg Brown.

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet Wednesday, April 11 at noon at the church. Bring a sack lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Patricia Morrow will present a program on Braille. Call Roberta Jones if you have questions.

Joint Leader Council Meeting

The three leader councils will have a joint meeting on **Thursday, April 5** at 7:30 p.m. at the church in the Centering Room in the lower level. This is an important meeting as several things will be discussed and decided:

1. The budget for next year
2. Fund raising
3. What constitutes a UU group?
4. Child care budgeting

YOU are invited to attend **EVEN IF** you have never before now joined a church committee.

Meditation in Nature

Gans Creek Wildlife Area Every third Sunday of the month 9.00am to 10.00 am. Building a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness. Open to all people who love Nature. Contact Peter Holmes for more information.

Everyone is invited!
Sunday Potluck Lunch
April 1, 2007



**Immediately following the
 worship service in the greeting
 area at the church.
 Bring a dish to share!**

**Membership in
 this church is
 open to all**



All who choose to walk with us in the spirit of love and in agreement with our UU principles.

We have no creedal requirements for membership. If you wish to become a member, please speak to Rev. Haney or call the church office (442-5764).

What's New at UU?

Second Saturdays Game Night

Play games with your friends, not with the IRS! The second Saturday of April falls at tax time, so for our April gathering Second Saturdays will have a Games and Pizza Night on April 14, at 6:00, in the Centering Room. Second Saturdays is a fellowship group for UU adults, single or attached, who are roughly ages 25 to 45. It meets on the second Saturday of each month. Details for the month's activity will be announced by e-mail the prior week. If you're not on the Second Saturdays e-mail list and want to be, please contact us at secondsaturdays@uuchurch.net.

One Read Reprise

Did you read our church's "One Read" selection, Transforming Liberal Congregations, but were not able to attend any of our scheduled discussion groups? Or are you still looking for a copy of the book to read? Don't despair – you still have a chance to be a part of the One Read Experience! We're planning another discussion group, at a time and place that will be convenient for all who want to participate. If you'd like to join this two-hour discussion of Transforming Liberal Congregations and how we can "transform" our own church, contact Jeanne Murphy. You can also contact Jeanne or Kathie Bergman if you still need a copy of the book. Hope to be talking with you soon!

New Member Ingathering

The conclusion of the worship service on April 29th will celebrate the new members joining our church. There will be the covenant with the new members, and the reaffirmation of our covenant with each other. The Membership Book will be open for those wishing to join on that Sunday. In the following month, a celebration will occur at the church, which will be announced.

Monthly Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet Friday April 20 at 5:30 pm at the Formosa Restaurant 913A East Broadway. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel if you have questions.

Interweave

Interweave is a sponsor for the Mid-Missouri LGBT Coalition's Rainbow-licious! An All-Inclusive LGBT Educational Forum, which will be held Saturday, April 14 from 8 am – 3 pm at the church. Advance registration for this event is free and open to all.



Mark your calendars now for PrideFest, a community-wide picnic and celebration, which will be held Saturday, June 9 at Stephen's Lake Park. Interweave members will be staffing the Children's Activity Area. Would you like to help paint faces, blow bubbles, or do arts & crafts for an hour or two? Please join us. Contact Stephanie Dorman for more information about these two events.

All-Church Spring Garage Sale

Save your items for the "All-Church Spring Sale" in May. Date to be announced by April 1st. All proceeds go to the General Operating Fund of the church budget, as part of the Fundraising line item.

Helpers needed to receive and sort through donations in preparation for the sale. Helpers who donate two hours in advance of the sale get first "dibs." Please contact Marianne Erickson for more information, or to volunteer your time. All items accepted, except for adult clothing. Left-overs will be donated to other non-profit organizations.

Happy Earth Day!



Sunday, April 22

What's New At UU?

Green Friday

The April Green Friday presentation will be: "The PedNet Project: Connecting Columbia" Friday April 6th at 7pm at the UU Church

See and hear the plans for Columbia's \$22 million federally-funded project to build a bicycle/pedestrian network and encourage a shift to active transportation. We will also hear about Columbia's successes in creating a more walkable, bikeable community and plans for new promotional and educational efforts.

Presenters:

- * Ted Curtis, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, City of Columbia
- * Ian Thomas, Executive Director, The PedNet Coalition

Green Friday is the first Friday of each month. The Green Sanctuary invites everyone to attend this event and enjoy open conversation about it afterwards.

Minister Joins Coalition

The Mid-Missouri LGBT Coalition is pleased to announce the election of Reverend Bill Haney to its Board of Directors for a term of one year. The purpose

of the Coalition is to assist Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) individuals, groups and allies in our community through community building, communication, education and advocacy.

The election took place during the Coalition's 5th Annual Celebration and Business Meeting on February 24, which was held at the UU Church. Thank you to Interweave for sponsoring the use of the church space.

Mission: Possible - Supporting OWL

One of the 16 steps for becoming a Welcoming Congregation asked us to provide continuing support for a human sexuality education program at our church. Larry Lile and Qhyrrae Michaelieu started the ball rolling with their Our Whole Lives (OWL) instruction at the high school level, and now Mary Beth Schillinger and Jeremy Duke are continuing the effort with our young people in grades 7-9. Yet it doesn't have to stop there – OWL curricula are available for K-1, 4-6, and adult levels, too. Generous donors have offered \$2500 in matching funds to cover the costs of training instructors in these levels, but instructors and donations are needed to take advantage of this offer. Can you help? Please contact Larry or Qhyrrae today if you can help make this mission possible.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia is:

- To keep our commitment to the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association;
- To act upon these principles through a caring and friendly religious community for persons of all ages and diverse religious views;
- To promote spiritual growth and the quest for truth;
- To build our covenant with fellow Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

Adopted by the Congregation on May 22, 1994

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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Unitarian Universalist Church
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Our Staff

Rev. William Haney, Minister
**Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth
Religious Education**
Desiree Long, Music Director
**Kathie Bergman,
Administrator**



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