

# The Searchlight



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Volume 48, Issue 2

October 2008

## Finding Out More About Our Church

*Discover UU* is an interactive and participatory process that discovers our Unitarian and Universalist values and journey through history. It is an important way of better understanding why one would want to be a part of the Free Church tradition and this church. **If you are thinking of joining the church by signing the Membership Book at our New Member In-gathering service on November 23, then this session may be of great**

**importance to you.** Pamphlets that explain the sessions are available at the Guest Table in the Greeting Area each Sunday morning. Registration forms are also available at the table, or by calling the church at 442-5764 or contacting Reverend Haney at minister@uuchurch.net. The date of the one-day workshop is Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9 am to 3 pm. Lunch and child care will be provided.



### Welcoming in the cool days of fall!

- CONSIDER JOINING YOUR FIRST FRIEND WHILE YOU (RE)DISCOVER UU!
- THE SEASON OF GIVING STARTS A LITTLE EARLY WITH THE OCTOBER LAYLED SERVICE....
- ARE WE HARVESTING ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE – HERE AND EVERYWHERE?

## Food Challenges

The Green Sanctuary Group is again sponsoring a fall food challenge. This year we are suggesting 5 different activities to engage your body, heart and mind with the ethics and spirituality of food. Pick up a challenge sheet at church any Sunday and do any or all challenges, alone or with a group, by the end of October. Acknowledgment and prizes will be forthcoming!!

Want to learn something and have fun with others and also get credit for doing the “food challenges?” Sign up at church, or contact Carol Arnold or Jenni Schmidt to be included as we plan October field trips to:

- a local farm
- the Missouri Rural Crisis Center
- A local community garden
- the Food Bank

## Need a Ride?

An effort is currently underway to identify drivers who might provide transportation for church members in need. If you can help with this effort, please fill out the Driver Information Form inside this newsletter, and return it to the church office.

The Board of Trustees has approved a Reserve Fund to allow drivers with financial hardships to request a \$5 reimbursement per roundtrip provided. If you would like to donate, make your check out to the church and include Transportation Reserve Fund on the memo line.

### Inside this issue:

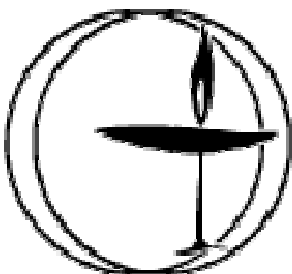
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# The Searchlight

## 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 in the upcoming 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.*

Oct 05	<p>“It’s All About Children”</p> <p>We will recognize the value of UNICEF and how the children of our church will participate in supporting that cause, led by Director of Religious Education Lisa Fritsche. The children will be with us for the opening of this service. Board Member Gregory Brown is the Welcomer. Our monthly pot-luck luncheon follows the worship service. All are welcome to enjoy each other’s company!</p>
Oct 12	<p>“We Forgive Ourselves and Each Other”</p> <p>This is our annual recognition of the Jewish celebration of Yom Kippur. As our Jewish neighbors begin the New Year, to what extent can we learn from that rich tradition how we can better conduct our lives? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Adele Coleman is the Worship Associate. Board Treasurer Valerie Sauers is the Welcomer. A visitor’s orientation session about our church will occur in the minister’s study following the service.</p>
Oct 19	<p>“Generosity: The Giving and Receiving of Gifts”</p> <p>This service will explore the other side of generosity – the receiving of gifts from others. Why is receiving gifts often harder than giving them? Experiences from some of our own members will help us understand Rev. Callahan’s belief that “the key to giving is receiving, for in receiving, we learn how to give.” This service is being offered by the Stewardship Task Force and the Generosity Team. Leslie Luchene is the Worship Associate. Board President-elect Kevin Fritsche is the Welcomer.</p>
Oct 26	<p>“Breaking the ‘Communion in One Kind’”</p> <p>What does the Catholic priest Jan Hus and the term “radical reformation” have to do with our symbols and liberal religious tradition today? We are inheritors of a rich and profound religious tradition. The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Joe Barone is the Worship Associate. Board Member Bill Clark is the Welcomer. The Faith-to-Action Collection will be offered.</p>



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](mailto: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.

Forum Schedule

*The Forum, an adult discussion group, meets on Sundays at 9-10 a.m. in the Library, lower level of the church. Conversation and refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum, as always, is open to the public. Bill Clark, Forum Coordinator*

Oct. 5	<b>Jerry Wade</b> , Fourth Ward Councilman, will discuss the inner working of the City Council and how business is conducted. He will not discuss issues before the Council, but how they got there.
Oct. 12	<b>Ken Pearson</b> , Boone County presiding commissioner, will explain the operation of county government and the relationship the county has with the City of Columbia.
Oct. 19	<b>Jan Mees</b> , Columbia Board of Education member, will discuss the operation of the Board, once again not dwelling on particular issues.
Oct. 26	<b>Edge Wade</b> , one of the nation's top amateur ornithologists whose North American bird list is creeping up on 800 species to go with a world list of 2,000, will talk about birding and how she became involved.



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).*

MISSION STATEMENT

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

- Ø To keep our commitment to the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association;
- Ø To act upon these principles through a caring and friendly religious community for persons of all ages and diverse religious views;
- Ø To promote spiritual growth and the quest for truth;
- Ø 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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## What's on the Calendar?

### Saturday, October 4

- **UU Life Writer's Group** - meets from 10:30-12:30 - all writers welcome. More on page 6.

### Sunday, October 5

- **Potluck Sunday** - Bring a dish to share! Lunch is scheduled immediately following the worship service.
- **One Read** - Committee meeting at noon in the Centering Room - new committee members welcomed!
- **CROP Hunger Walk** - Learn more on page 5.

### Wednesday, October 8

- **Conversations, Etc.** - noon - Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Nancy Campbell will present a program on Latin American Revolutions. Contact Melinda Farhangi.

### Friday, October 10

- **UU Book Discussion Group** - meet at 5:30 pm at Q's Restaurant, 4004 Peach Tree Ct. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. All are welcome! Contact Pam Springsteel.
- **Green Friday Movie Night** - 7 pm - "The End of Suburbia" - Description on page 5.

### Sunday, October 12

- **Bible Literacy for UUs** - 9 a.m. downstairs in the YUUTs classroom. See page 5 for more information.
- **Visitors' Orientation** - This short session is designed for our guests to meet Rev. Haney in his office after church and to ask him questions about our church.
- **Outreach Council** - 12-2 pm - Snacks will be provided and childcare arranged if needed. Newcomers are welcomed! Contact Corinne Mann for more information.

### Friday, October 17

- **Green Sanctuary Party** - potluck at 6:30 pm at Ellen Thomas's house for anyone who is interested in exploring the relationship between environmental and spiritual issues. If you are interested, contact Ellen Thomas, Peter Holmes, Greg Baka, or Carol Arnold.

### Saturday, October 18

- **Whole Earth Based Spirituality Meeting** - meets at 7 pm. For more information, read page 6 and contact [oakshaven@socket.net](mailto:oakshaven@socket.net).

### Sunday, October 19

- **Meditation in Nature** - 9 - 10 am at the Gans Creek Wildlife Area - Open to all people who love Nature and want to build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness. Contact Peter Holmes for more information.
- **Open Borders Music Series** presents Denice Franke ([www.denicefranke.com](http://www.denicefranke.com)) at 7 pm. Donations (\$12 adults, children & seniors \$6) appreciated. For more information, email [openbordersmusic@gmail.com](mailto:openbordersmusic@gmail.com)

### Sunday, October 26

- **First Friends** - from 4-5 p.m. in the church greeting area, newcomers and experienced members are invited to gather over afternoon tea for conversation. Rexanna and Barbara are your contacts.

## Announcements

### POTLUCK SUNDAY

Potluck Sunday is October 5, 2008. Bring a dish to share for lunch immediately following the worship service. Everyone is welcome to join us for great food and companionship. As always, help is needed in the kitchen, so if your last name begins with J-R, please plan to help with clean up in October. S-Z, we will need your help in November. Remember the guideline for the last name is the shorter partner's last name is to be used. That is the physical height of the partners, not the spelling of the last name.

We are planning on taking a break from this rotation and going back to the old committee rotation. We are asking our major church teams to take a turn. The Generosity Team has, generously, signed up for March. How about getting your group to pitch in? Please see Janet Groat.



### CROP HUNGER WALK

The Social Action Committee thanks everyone who has signed up or donated money to be a part of the Columbia CROP Hunger Walk (on October 5 in downtown Columbia after the church potluck) to raise money for hunger relief both here in Columbia and around the world. The Walk is organized by a coalition of religious groups here in Columbia, and this is the first year that our UU church has been actively involved in the Walk. So if you haven't signed up yet, see a Social Action Committee member at the CROP Walk table in the greeting area or call Allie Gassmann.

### BIBLE LITERACY FOR UUs

This series of sessions will focus on what the Bible is, both as sacred literature and secular literature, its origins, what the "canon(s)" are, how the Bible came to be, the various books' place and time settings, short history of its translations and (mis)use, ways of interpretation, and what if any relevance it may have for UUs today. We will not read vast amounts of the biblical text. It will simply be an overview to learn about the context behind everything misusers of the text tend to ignore or overlook. The sessions will be held at 9 am on the first and third Sunday of each month meeting in the YUUTs room downstairs. It's never too late to start. All are welcome. Steve Blower and Bill Haney are the facilitators.

### FIRST FRIENDS

Come join us for fun and friendship with seasoned members as well as newcomers to our UU church during one of our get togethers. If you are interested in being a First Friend to someone new or having a First Friend to enfold you into the UU community, come and we will show you the ropes while we enjoy snacks. Call Rexanna or Barbara.

### GREEN FRIDAY MOVIE

The October Green Friday movie will be "The End of Suburbia" on Friday, October 10th at 7pm. The Green Sanctuary invites everyone to attend this free event and enjoy open conversation about it afterwards.

Join us for a two part series on today's oil crisis. October will feature the amazingly prophetic 2004 documentary, "The End of Suburbia," and November will be the new sequel, "Escape From Suburbia." "The End of Suburbia" explores the question, "What happens when global oil production reaches its peak – as some experts predict will soon come to pass – and begins to decline? Can the cherished suburban lifestyle survive once the cost of fueling our SUVs grows prohibitive?"

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## Announcements

### THE SOUND OF UU MUSIC

UU Singers (teenagers and adults) have regular rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in the Centering Room. All voice parts are needed and all singers are welcome. Childcare is available. We perform on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Ask anyone in the choir – we are a spirited group. Join us!

### WHOLE EARTH BASED SPIRITUALITY (WEBS) GATHERINGS

Open to all who are involved in an Earth-centered religious practice. Bring a willingness to explore yourself and your spiritual practice.

Saturday, October 18, 7:00 pm: A Remembrance Circle. Please bring a candle and tokens of those who have left us as we honor them in ritual.

Saturday, November 15, 7:00 pm: Yule approaches. How shall we celebrate in a society that acknowledges only the most superficial aspects of the season?

December: No Meeting

Childcare is available with at least one week's notice. For more information, contact Barbara Carter.

### UU LIFE WRITERS' GROUP

The Unitarian Universalist Church's Life Writers' Group was formed in 2000 to bring people together who want to tell and write their life stories. One doesn't have to be a world class writer nor an English teacher's whiz kid to enjoy writing stories, thus the emphasis is on getting these life stories down on paper and sharing them. Laughter, tears, sighs and groans punctuate the meetings as we explore together certain themes and memories. The only tools needed are pens/pencils and paper. For further information call or email Fran Reynolds. Please sign up at the information table or call Fran.

Meetings are Saturday mornings at 10:30 and usually end by 12:30 in the Centering Room (basement level).

Fall Meeting Dates: October 4 and 18, November 1 and 15, and December 6.

### FAIR TRADE ORGANIC COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE SALES

As we have done the past several years, the Green Sanctuary Group will sponsor sales in the greeting areas on the first Sunday of each month. Proceeds support our coffee hour, where we serve fair trade, organic products, and youth activities. Come see us before or after the service.



### MEMBER INTEREST INVENTORY

Inside this newsletter you will find a form called "Member Interest Inventory." If you are a returning guest, friend, or member of the church, will you please fill out the Inventory and place it in the Congregational Development Council (CDC) mailbox outside the church office? Feel free to share only that with which you are comfortable. The intention is to potentially use this information for several purposes: the Congregational Caring Ministry, the newsletter in the form of statistical information and member profiles (with your blessing), First Friends mentor/mentee matching, and asking for your help around the church based on your specific information. For example, if we are looking for people to help us select and display church photographs, we might call on those who have identified their occupation as photographers and interior designers. Thank you for helping us with this initiative.

Stephanie Dorman, CDC Convener

## Interweave: UUs for LGBT Concerns



A few years ago, our church went through the Unitarian Universalist Association's steps to earn the designation "Welcoming Congregation," meaning we are open and affirming to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders (LGBTs). In April 2005, we formed a church-wide Interweave chapter to continue this work. Since then we've been offering church services and celebratory events for our congregation, and we have worked to collaborate with other individuals, churches, and organizations to provide volunteer services, financial support, and education on LGBT issues.

For this academic year, we are shifting our focus somewhat. We hope to make our congregation more aware of what is already available in our community. To that purpose, we've posted a list of "Local LGBT and Ally Organizations" on the Program Council bulletin board in the hallway off the Greeting Area. We are also using that space to promote LGBT-related events in the community. If you find an event to add, please post it on the bulletin board.

We are happy to help individuals and organizations hold informational/educational events and presentations at the church for the congregation or for the public. There are some church policies we have to follow (like we can not do fundraisers), so we need about a month's lead time to iron out all the details. If you have something in mind, please contact Christy Hutton, Dennis Murphy, or Stephanie Dorman.



The future's  
so bright...



### FROM THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

#### *Did you know?*

- There are mailboxes for the UU lay leaders and the staff on a book case outside of the Volunteer Workroom.
- You can also find the notebook of UU Policies and Procedures on that book case.
- All Board meetings are open to the members of the church.
- When you join the church you automatically will receive a subscription to the UU World magazine.
- You can receive emails from the church by contacting me in the church office.
- You can find the church's newsletter on our website.
- You can also find out what's scheduled on the calendar by checking the website.



Kathie Bergman

## Volume 48, Issue 2

### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Today was the first regular Sunday service of the new academic year I was able to attend, and it was a joy to see so many of our church community again, in addition to the regular summer service and Forum attendees. The start of the RE program in particular has added to the sense of ENERGY at church. Welcome back, and welcome to newcomers as well!



The board held a retreat on August 23. The owners of the Taylor House Bed and Breakfast made its dining room available to us for the meeting, and it was a very hospitable space to discuss our present and future priorities. Our church functions on the model of Shared Ministry, giving the councils, committees and the congregation at large an important role in shaping church happenings. Reverend Bill Haney led a discussion on how the board could better empower and support those members of our community who are giving so much of their time and energy to our church in their various leadership capacities. Kevin Fritsche led a discussion on the related topic of stewardship. This process is ongoing, and the board plans to distill these wide-ranging discussions into a set of measurable and achievable church goals for the coming years at one of the next board meetings.

Last month I mentioned that we are inviting volunteers to join the Facilities and Grounds committee. I would like to thank Greg Baka and Peter Holmes for volunteering to give of their precious time. And I am sure you have noticed that our grounds look very well tended. Our thanks go to Jim and Joann Vest for their quiet dedication to mowing and weeding. We have many such volunteers, and while it is sometimes all too easy to wonder how "everything" will ever be accomplished, it is important to recognize how much IS being done. Our gratitude to all of you!

Walter Gassmann  
Board President

### MINISTER'S MONTHLY MUSINGS

#### THE GOLD OF AUTUMN . . .



It is always astounding to me that as we begin our new formal church year, the oppressive heat of summer changes suddenly to the brilliance and coolness of the fall. Even though we did have a summer that was relatively pleasant, particularly in June, the suddenness of the cooler north winds does sometimes startle me. Not that I'm complaining! Or for that matter the conjunction of cooler weather and a renewed excitement about church life is not in any way a problem. For me, in fact, the two together only adds to the excitement that prevails new beginnings. The treasures of the coming year are yet to be discovered. I'm confident we will find many new treasures as we increase the richness of our past findings. As we carry forward the many valuable programs and ministries, we will be venturing into uncharted areas seeking new treasures that will enhance our church life. I listed some of those adventures in last

month's *Searchlight*. That to me is the basis of the excitement – the cherishing of our past efforts and the challenge of discovering new ways of being together in our covenant. Truly our treasures increase many times over as we open ourselves to the richness that is before us in the gold of autumn.

Peace and Love,  
Bill

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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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