



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uuchurch.net> • Volume 57, Issue 2, August 2017

August Worship

Services at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 6

“Tropical Storms and Plenary Sessions” Our UUA General Assembly Delegates

We had a record number of attendees at our denomination’s annual General Assembly this year in New Orleans. We weathered a tropical storm, enjoyed lots of good food, and worshipped, engaged democratic governance, and learned from and with some 4,000 Unitarian Universalists. Come find out what we experienced and what we learned!

Sunday, Aug. 13

“Meditation for UUs”

Peter Holmes

Join Peter Holmes, the leader of our UUCC Mindfulness Meditation group, for both reflections *and* practice of meditation.

Sunday, Aug. 20

“Total Eclipse of the SUUn”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
and DRE Jamila Batchelder**

As Columbia prepares to experience a total solar eclipse on Aug. 21, join us to explore the science of the eclipse, the myths that ancient peoples have used to interpret the disappearance of the sun, and the awe and wonder of myth and science both!

Sunday, Aug. 27

“The Tide Is Rising, and So Are We”

Ingathering Water Ceremony

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
and DRE Jamila Batchelder**

Where have you found resilience and power this summer? Bring water with you from those places, for this annual ingathering tradition as we remember the ways water teaches us about resilience and strength in happy and hard times alike. Also, help us out by sharing online ahead of the service with a few words of description and map pin for your water source!

Spiritual Growth is cultivated by practicing . . .

Serene Surrender to Reality

“If you surrender completely to the moments as they pass, you live more richly those moments.”

– Anne Morrow Lindbergh

There is nothing like going on a walk with a toddler to teach you about surrendering your own will to something more powerful.

Here are some of the things I have learned: You will not get to where you are going in a timely manner. You may not even get there at all. And if you try to force your own pace or destination, you will engage a battle of wills to make your head spin and your blood rise.

But every now and then (not always), there is another option. Let go of the destination. Surrender your own will to openness and curiosity. Adopt the pace of another, and you may witness new beauty, and encounter the world with a new wonder that would otherwise have been lost.

So often I seek to change my circumstances with a fierce grasp for control, but sometimes, the only change that shifts things at all is the opening of my fist, and the transformation of my own perspective. Sometimes, surrendering to the moment at hand is the only thing that will make us free.

See you in church!

Molly

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CROP **(Communities** **Responding to** **Overcome Poverty)** **Walk on Sept. 17**

Mark your calendars for the annual interfaith effort to raise funds to relieve hunger here in Columbia and mid-Missouri, across the U.S. and around the world. This event is sponsored by Church World Service. This year the event will be taking place at 2 p.m. Sept. 17 at Stephens Lake Park.

Watch for the CROP Walk table in the greeting area throughout the month of August and the weeks leading up to the Walk. Email Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net for more information.



Joys and Sorrows **now on website**

Joys and Sorrows shared during our worship services and noted for the e-newsletter can now be found on our website on a password-protected page. You will find the page on the Members/Friends tab of the main menu.

You must be registered to access the password-protected pages on the website. Information about how to register can also be found on the Members/Friends tab of the main menu.

SAVE THE DATE **ALL-CHURCH PICNIC** **Saturday, Sept. 9** **5:30 p.m.**

Join us to kick off the church year with fellowship, food and fun!

We'll share a potluck picnic dinner, games for kids, and more.

We'll gather on the church grounds, or in the building in case of inclement weather.

Bring food to share and picnicking gear and utensils for your family.

Forum – August 2017

9 a.m. Sundays

The UU Forum, an adult discussion group open to the public, meets on Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. Conversation and light refreshments are offered along with the discussion. Forum coordinator: Bill Clark, 573-474-4510.

Aug. 6

Alice Reese will speak about Susan Blow, the founder of American kindergarten.

Aug. 20

Bill Clark will speak on a subject to be announced.

Aug. 13

Dolores Clark will speak on a subject to be announced.

Aug. 27

David Webber, retired MU political science professor and a successful local playwright, will preview his newest play, "Practicing Democracy."

UUCC Mission Statement

*In the spirit of courageous love,
we forge a community of radical welcome
and deep connection that moves
us together to heal the world.*

The African American Church in America with the Rev. Dr. Clanton C.W. Dawson Jr.

Wednesdays from July 26 through Sept. 13, 2017

6:30-7:45 p.m.

in the Sanctuary of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia
2615 Shepard Blvd.



Rev. Dr. Clanton C.W. Dawson Jr.

This adult education course will present participants with an opportunity to learn and discuss the character and nuances of the African American Church in the American context. Topics discussed will include: what is the African American Church and how is it different from the Anglo-American Church, the evolution of Black Christian Music, images of God and Jesus in the context of the African American Church, Womanist theology, and the role of the African American Church in society. This course is lecture/discussion based. Participants may attend one, several, or all of the series.

The Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Clanton C. W. Dawson, Jr. is pastor of Dawson Journey Ministry of Columbia and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Marshall, Mo. and adjunct professor of philosophy for Columbia College and Moberly Area Community College. He has been an ordained Christian minister and teacher for 40 years and is a weekly columnist for *The Columbia Missourian*. He was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in philosophy in the history of the University of Missouri. He is married to Maria Hughes Dawson. They have 11 children and 19 grandchildren.

Fourth UCC Honduras Service Trip a great success

Sixteen UCC members and friends went on the fourth UCC service trip to Honduras from June 13 to 20. We built latrines, painted the elementary school, and painted the health clinic inside and out. The gynecologist in our group offered Pap smears to the women of the area.

We strengthened the friendships we had made previously and formed new friendships. And since we stayed in a guest house with just two bathrooms and eight beds, we got to know each other really well too – and came back from the trip having strengthened our friendships between each other!

During our stay the people in the area were having a significant uptick of diarrheal diseases, underlining how important it is to have latrines to prevent spread of such diseases.

We have gotten the Pap smear lab results back by now, and it turns out almost all the women had either STDs or yeast infections. With the funds we have raised, we can make sure that these women get the treatment they need.

We convey the gratitude of the people of El Pital and surrounding areas for UCC's generous support!

To see pictures and to read more about the trip, please go to the report on the UCC website. There will be a worship service about the trip on Oct. 8.

– Allie Gassmann
Social Action Team
Honduras Project Team Chair



Green Sanctuary Team Updates

In August and September, the Green Sanctuary Team will focus its energy on Mindful Place-Making. We are paying attention to the places where we live, work, and worship, so that they fulfill the needs of other living things as well as our own.

We support the efforts of the Grounds Team to incorporate more native plants in our landscape, supporting biodiversity. All UUCU members and friends are encouraged to join in the Grounds Team work days coming up this fall on Aug. 5, Sept. 16, and Oct. 21. Look for new signs celebrating our native habitat!

We hope to move ahead with our application to become a candidate for Green Sanctuary certification in August. There is a lot of work involved in this! Here is a list of the types of projects we need to do:

3 Worship and Celebration Events

3 Religious Education Events

4 Sustainable Living Actions

1 Environmental Justice Project

Stay tuned for more details about these projects in the year ahead. We welcome participation, whether on a single project or on our team. Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. Aug. 8 at the home of Ellen Thomas, 2616 Hillshire Drive.

Children's Religious Education

Summer religious education classes began June 11. Two classes are being offered:

- Pre-K through 3rd Grade: "Spirit Play" curriculum (Montessori-inspired classroom).
- 3rd through 8th Grade: Workshops led by different church members on different fun topics from yoga to theater games to creating a video podcast.

There is an overlap in age grouping between the two summer classes, and parents can decide which program is most suitable for their children's interests and maturity.

Our high school youth group, YRUU, is meeting this summer from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Recent graduates from eighth grade are invited to participate as well. The teens started making their summer plans at their annual retreat June 2-4.

Festival of Sharing – Join the team!

It is such an uplifting experience to come together with people from 31 different denominations, having different beliefs, but sharing similar concerns for people in need.

I hope that you will be interested in experiencing the Festival of Sharing Ingathering next October, so you can experience for yourself what a meaningful experience this is. We are truly making a difference in the lives of people in need. Read more at <http://www.festivalofsharing.org> and/or sign up in the Greeting Area to participate!

– Marian Hjelmfelt
Festival of Sharing Coordinator

Looking ahead to the coming year

By Todd Iveson, 2017-18 President

Writing this, my first newsletter article as your new President, proved harder than I expected. I couldn't decide whether I was speaking in my capacity as President or for myself. In the end, this one was easy. Because the board as currently constituted (we have three new members) has not yet met, at least for this month I will focus on a couple of things I want to do this year.

Perhaps my highest priority is to get our facilities visioning process back on track. After an auspicious beginning in February, the congregation and the board were almost immediately swept up in the consideration of becoming a sanctuary congregation. That was an important decision that required thoughtful, deliberate, and immediate consideration. I was pleased with the courage of our congregation in deciding to offer sanctuary and with the work of the Sanctuary Task Force to make the process work.

But by the time the sanctuary decision was reached, we were heading into the end of the year rush to get everything done. The facilities visioning momentum was lost. It is important to me that we get it back. The facilities

decisions we will make also require thoughtful and deliberate consideration with engagement from the entire congregation. It does not have the immediacy of the sanctuary decision, but it does require that we make steady progress to a decision point. I commit to you that I will do everything I can to ensure that it does.

The second area of focus I have for this year is to do an evaluation of our transition over the last five years or so to a policy governance model. This board is the first board that will not have any members who were involved in the good work of that transition. I think this gives us a great opportunity to look with fresh eyes at what has worked and where we might make changes to make it work better.

For those of you who may not have been as focused on this transition, policy governance, to quote our church website, "assigns a policy-making and resource-providing role to the board and designates the minister as 'chief of staff' – that is, supervisor of staff members and volunteers." I first served on the board of this church about 15

years ago, and I can say unequivocally that this is a huge improvement. Back then, we spent many hours deciding such mundane issues as whether to re-asphalt on the parking lot, the proper design of the memorial garden, and which organizations could use the church for free.

Though mundane, these are important decisions, and they are much better made by our committees, teams and staff closest to the issue. After more than 20 years in leadership positions in my day job, I have learned that an organization works best when the people closest to a need are authorized to address it. The board must clearly articulate the organizational goals to guide those decisions, provide support when it is requested, and provide sufficient oversight to ensure that guidance is consistently followed. Then get out of the way.

In closing, please know that the board is always available to listen to your praise or criticism, your plans and dreams for the church, or just to answer questions. We are the board of the congregation, and we serve all of you. Please let us know what's on your mind.

***Our presence
on the web***

**Go to <https://uuchurch.net>
for information on church activities
and our online calendar of events**

Grieving Circle

If you or someone you know would like to meet in a facilitated grieving circle, or you wish to be in a place where you can freely and safely express your grief, please contact Rev Molly, Maria Oropallo, Barbara Carter or Greg Bergman. All of our contact information is in the church directory on our website. Or you can send us an email at grievingcircle@uuchurch.net.

Grieving a loss is personal and can sometimes be overwhelming. A community can provide great support in your time of need. With deep connection, love, and patience, we hold your grief in our gentle embrace.

Kaleidoscope – Aug. 5

Lughnassad, the Feast of the First Harvest. Juicy ripe tomatoes, and zucchini everywhere. The Earth once again gives of Her bounty. We join to celebrate Her gifts.

Gather with us at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

Then, at 6 p.m. Sept. 23, join us at the church for M'bon, the Second, or Grain Harvest. We continue to appreciate the gifts of Nature and recognize the approaching darkness.

Hook & Needle Group

Take a break and join our church's Hook & Needle Group. Yarn, patterns and tutoring are available. The group meets at the church on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Marian Hjelmfelt at 573-449-5118.

Mindfulness Meditation

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation every Sunday at 9:05 a.m. in the Centering Room or around the Fire Circle.

For more information contact Peter Holmes.



Reel UUs – Third Week

The Reel UUs Film Group gathers during the third full week each month to view a film and hold a discussion immediately following.

The date, time, film and location are announced each month by email, Facebook and website.

Email Janice Smith at janepicurean@gmail.com if you want more information.

Need a ride?

Do you need a ride to church on Sunday, or a church function at another time? We are coordinating rides as part of the Caring Ministry.

Please call the church office at 573-442-5764 or contact Meredith Donaldson or Win Scott, Team Leaders.

Conversations, Etc. – Aug. 9

Conversations, Etc. will meet Wednesday, Aug. 9 at the church at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Pam at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

Book Discussion Group – Aug. 11

UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11 at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month.

Please sign up on the church website to prepare food for this meal and/or to help set up, serve and clean up.

Serving meals at Loaves and Fishes is a project of our Social Action Team.

If you have questions, email Diane Suhler at drsuhler@ccis.edu.

Men's Group

The UUCC Men's Group meets on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of each month at 8 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. The group is open to all men. There are no fees and no reservations are necessary.

The agenda is an open discussion of whatever is on the minds of those in attendance – and breakfast!

For more information contact Wiley Miller.

Reflections

August is the time to gear up for the new church year in Religious Education – restocking supplies, selecting curricula, and training teachers, aides, and the R.E. team so that we can make the year ahead the best it can possibly be! Help us plan by registering your children! (See next page)

Jamila Batchelder
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-noon
and by appointment

Pie and Board Games
A monthly event for all ages! Bring your favorite board game, your favorite pie, or both, and join us for a time of fun and fellowship and pie.



Aug. 5, 6:30-8:30
Childcare provided

Training for Teachers and Aides Aug. 26 – 9 a.m.-noon

Teachers will meet the team they will be working with and will together set a vision for what they want children in their class to get out of their experience in R.E. We will learn techniques for adapting curriculum to the kids we are teaching, for dealing with challenging behaviors, for addressing any special needs our students have, and so much more. New teachers, this is an invaluable experience for getting ready for the year ahead. And experienced teachers, we hope you attend as well to share your wisdom and perhaps to learn a new trick or two! Breakfast will be provided.



UCC's Monthly Hiking Groups



Aug. 20, 1:45 p.m.: A family-friendly hike at Grindstone Nature Area. Meet in parking lot at UCC.

Aug. 22, 9:45 a.m.: A shorter hike suitable for the smallest UUs. Meet in parking lot at UCC.

YRUU Curriculum Planning Day
Aug. 27 – 11:30-1:30
As always, the YRUU high school youth group will meet to create their own curriculum for the year. Teens who want a say in what we do and learn about this year should attend this meeting! Bring your ideas for workshops, fun outings, great movies to watch and discuss, etc.

R.E. Team Training Aug. 27 – Noon-4 p.m.

The R.E. Team, the church team that oversees our religious education program, will work with UUA District Program Consultant for Congregational Life Nancy Combs Morgan to learn how to work together most effectively as a team and to develop our vision for our R.E. program and make a plan for making that vision become a reality. Anyone who is interested in joining the R.E. Team this year should attend this training.



UUCC Children's Religious Education Registration 2017-2018

Parent/Guardian #1 _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____ home/cell

Email address _____

Parent/Guardian #2 _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____ home/cell

Email address _____

Child #1 _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

Current Age and Grade _____

Allergies/Medical Issues _____

Child #2 _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

Current Age and Grade _____

Allergies/Medical Issues _____

Child #3 _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

Current Age and Grade _____

Allergies/Medical Issues _____

Do you give your permission to use photos and videos of your child(ren):

For display in the church? Yes _____ No _____

In our newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

On our website? Yes _____ No _____

On our private church Facebook Group? Yes _____ No _____

Our children's R.E. program is a cooperative program that relies on volunteers. Is there an age you would be interested in volunteering with (it doesn't have to be with your own kids!)?

Note: You can also register your children online at
<https://uuchurch.net/online-re-registration/>

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 1-4 p.m. at church

Wednesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee Downtown

By appointment (including evenings and weekends)

Email: minister@uuchurch.net

Kathie Bergman, Administrator

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

Email: uuchurch@uuchurch.net

Visit our Website: <https://uuchurch.net>

Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education

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

Email: dre@uuchurch.net

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Columbia, Missouri

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Email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net
or mail to Church Administrator.

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