



## **2011-2012 Church Handbook**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

**Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Columbia, Missouri**

Founded 1951

2615 Shepard Boulevard  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

(573) 442-5764  
<http://uuchurch.net>

Find our Facebook group: Columbia UUs

*Sunday Worship Services - 10:30 a.m.*

Reverend Sue Redfern-Campbell, Interim Minister  
revsuespencer@gmail.com

Kathie Bergman, Church Administrator  
uuchurch@uuchurch.net

Lisa Fritsche, Director of Religious Education  
dre@uuchurch.net

Desi Long, Music Director  
music@uuchurch.net

Now in our 60th year together as the liberal religious voice in mid Missouri, 2011 marks a time for learning about best practices at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia. Our Interim Minister, Rev. Sue Spencer, is leading us through five development tasks as we move forward as a congregation in search of a new settled minister. After studying Dan Hotchkiss's *Governance and Ministry* in 2010, the Board of Trustees is working steadily to implement a policy-based governance model. Finally, the Ministerial Search Committee has been studying the needs and wishes of the congregation as we look forward to calling a new settled minister in spring 2012.

Modeled after a format used by the UU Church of Nashua, NH, this handbook is intended to give newcomers, friends, and members information about what's happening, whom to contact about what, and where to get involved.

New ideas and dreams will form after this handbook goes to press, so you're invited to check our newsletter, *The Searchlight*, and our website, [uuchurch.net](http://uuchurch.net), for the latest information.

If you have an idea or activity you would like to see happen, please contact Reverend Spencer and she'll point you to the appropriate people to get you started.

For church member contact information, please see a member directory or get in touch with our church administrator.

Stephanie Dorman, editor  
September 1, 2011

## Who Are We?

We are Unitarian Universalists.

Welcome to this place. This is a home where no revealed truths are promoted and no scripture or human being accepted as infallible. This is a place of searching for truth.

But we are believers. We believe in intellectual freedom, we believe in justice, we believe in compassion and concern for each other and the whole world. We believe in commitment to those ideals which make us caring and active in the struggles for human dignity.

We are Unitarian Universalists.

By John M. Higgins

## Our Unitarian Universalist Principles

We 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.

## What's Happening on Sundays at UUCC?

@ 9 am in the Lower Level:

**Forum** - an adult discussion group, typically featuring a guest speaker, that meets in the Library/Forum Room to learn about everything under the sun. Bill Clark, coordinator

**Exploring Spirituality Group** - adult religious education discussions for those interested in promoting spiritual growth for themselves and others. Meets in the YUUTS classroom. Qhyrrae Michaelieu, coordinator

@ 10:30 am

**Worship Service** - led by our minister with help from the Worship Associates and other lay leaders, the worship services are held in the sanctuary. Rev. Sue Spencer, minister

**Youth Religious Education (RE)** - led by our director of religious education, children in preK - 5th grade meet in the Centering Room in the Lower Level, then separate for their grade-based classes, which are taught by volunteer teachers. Ages 3-5 are in the Potter class, grades K-2 are in the Schweitzer class, and grades 3-5 are in the Thoreau class. YUUTS, our program for grades 6-8, meet in the YUUTS classroom in the Lower Level. Classes meet until 11:45. Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to attend the worship services upstairs. Lisa Fritsche, director of religious education

**Childcare is available** in the nursery from 9 - 11:45 am on Sunday mornings.

@ 11:30 am

**Hospitality** - coffee and occasional snacks are available in the main greeting area. Janet Groat, coordinator

## **Special Worship Services and Celebrations**

**Summer services** are lay-led and encompass many topics. Contact a Worship Associate for information. Separate children's programming is not offered in the summer.

**Water Ceremony** - last Sunday in August - add water from your summer travels to our communal receptacle.

**Association Sunday** - early October - celebrating our connection to the Unitarian Universalist Association

**Coming Out Day** - near October 11 - affirming lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders (LGBTs)

**Hanging the Greens** - 1st Sunday in December - decorating our holiday tree

**Advent Vespers** - Sunday evenings between Thanksgiving and Christmas - quietly contemplating the season

**Winter Solstice Celebration** - Saturday evening prior to Solstice - bonfire and revelry to call back the Sun

**Christmas Eve Service** - December 24 at 7 pm - traditional caroling and the nativity story combined with candle-lighting remembrances of those close to us who were born or died within the past year

**Downing the Greens** - 1st Sunday after New Year's Day - removing the holiday decorations

**Founder's Day** - late January - remembering our founding in 1951

**Flower Communion** - Easter Sunday - sharing flowers with each other in honor of our shared community

## **Special Worship Services and Celebrations, cont'd.**

**SUNNY Sunday** - Sign Up Now for Next Year (May) - annual recruiting Sunday for the following year's youth religious education teachers and aides

**Bridging and Graduation** - May - honoring our children as they advance to new classes & recognizing our graduating high school seniors

### **Other Special Worship Events**

**Teacher Covenant** with the Congregation

**Board Member Covenant** with the Congregation

**New Member Ingathering and Covenant** with the Congregation

**Volunteer Recognition** for those who have given their time, treasures, and talents

**Coming of Age** service for our junior high students to share their faith statements

**Naming Ceremonies** for infants

### **Regularly Scheduled Sunday Events**

**1st Sunday of the Month** - potluck after the service

**3rd Sunday** - services are traditionally lay-led

**4th Sunday** - Faith to Action collections

## **Insider Information for Sunday Services**

**Transportation and Accessibility:** If you **need a ride** to the service, please contact Margaret Tyler or the church administrator.

A **bike rack** is available on the west side of the church.

Two **visitor's parking spaces** are located in the upper level parking lot.

**Spill over parking** is available on the street or in the school parking lot across from the church.

Four **parking spaces for the disabled** are located in the upper level parking lot. One designated parking space is available to access the lower level.

There is **no elevator** in the church. To access the lower level, please park on the north side of the building.

**Single stall unisex restrooms** are located on the upper level between the church offices and the kitchen. Restrooms on the lower level have multiple stalls, including one stall with handrails and raised seating.

A **ramp** to access the stage/chancel area of the sanctuary is available.

**Upon Arrival:** Our **dress code** is casual.

A **coat rack** for your use is located to the left of the main entry. The **stairwell** is across from the coat rack.

If you are a newcomer or bring a guest, please **sign the guestbook** and **make a name tag** in the greeting area.

Regular visitors will have a **plastic nametag** made for you

by the church administrator. Please **return your nametag** to the basket after the service.

Church members and friends are asked to wear their **nametags** during the Sunday services to make it easier to get to know one another.

If you need a **new nametag**, please request one of the church administrator.

During the academic year, children have **religious education** from 10:30 - 11:45. They start in the Centering Room in the lower level. The exception is the first Sunday of each month, when everyone starts church in the sanctuary.

If **you and your children are new** to the church, please come about 10 minutes early on Sunday, and seek out our Director of Religious Education, Lisa Fritsche, in the lower level to orient you to the children's programming.

The **signal for the start of service** is when the minister's designee rings the bell in the greeting area.

An usher will hand you an **Order of Service**. Please **recycle** it after the service in the basket on the hymnal shelf if you do not wish to keep it.

**During the Service:** The Board Welcomer will greet everyone and **ask guests to introduce themselves**.

Newcomers, friends, and members are invited to **greet one another**.

If you wish to have an **announcement** read during the Board Welcomer's comments, please send it to the church administrator in writing by 12 noon the Thursday before the service. You may also have announcements sent to

the UU Members email list, added to the church website, and included in the newsletter by asking the church administrator. Feel free to post announcements on the bulletin boards in the greeting area. If you want wider **publicity** for an event, contact our Public Relations chair, Maria Oropallo.

During **Joys and Concerns**, everyone is welcome to light a candle, state your name, and briefly state your joy or concerns. You may also choose to light a candle in silence. A member of our Congregational Caring Ministry may record your joy or concern and possibly contact you afterward to see how the church may help. If you wish for additional care or follow-up, please speak with our minister.

**Music:** Our **UU Singers**, an adult choir led by music director Desi Long, traditionally perform on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

If you or your children are musical and would like to perform during a service, please contact Desi to schedule an opportunity. **Instrumental and vocal groups and soloists** are invited to play at each service, and we're open to a wide variety of genres.

Two more musical needs: If you play piano or another instrument and are willing to **accompany the choir**, please alert Desi. Also, if you are willing to **play hymns for the congregation** during the worship services, we occasionally need substitutes for Desi or for people to play during the summer time.

**Donations:** Thank you for contributing what you can during the Sunday morning **offering**.

If you are making a **contribution for a special call or cause**, please make a note of it on the memo line on your check.

If you are making a contribution toward your **pledge**, feel free to put it in the offering basket. Please note it is a pledge payment on the memo line of your check, or enclose cash in a Pledge Envelope with your name and the date printed on the outside.

If you would like to make a donation to remember or honor someone, consider **purchasing a hymnal** in their name. Check with the music director for details.

Would you like to **donate flowers** to decorate the chancel? Before 12 noon on Thursday, please contact our church administrator and tell her if you would like to bring your own arrangement, or donate a specific amount toward an arrangement. Please let her know if the flowers are for a remembrance or celebration if you want it included in the order of service.

During the winter holidays, we traditionally decorate with **poinsettias** donated in memory of loved ones.



## Would You Like to Help with Sunday Services?

- If you want to help **clean and arrange the sanctuary**, greeting area or restrooms, please contact Irene Karns.
- If you want to help with the **chancel décor**, contact Marianne Erickson.
- If you want to **offer a ride**, contact Margaret Tyler.
- If you want to **help plan or deliver the service**, contact Rev. Spencer or a Worship Associate.
- If you want to **sing with the choir or offer other music**, contact Desi Long.
- If you want to **print and fold the Orders of Service**, contact Kathie Bergman.
- If you want to **be a greeter, staff the Guest Table, or serve as an usher**, contact Cindy Giesing.
- If you want to **keep a list of the Joys and Concerns**, contact Marianne Erickson.
- If you want to **prepare coffee and snacks** for after the service, contact Janet Groat.
- If you want to **be the Welcomer or count the money**, contact a Board officer to run for election as a member of the Board of Trustees.

## **Opportunities for Children & Families**

**First Sundays** - on the first Sunday of each month during the academic year, all the children meet upstairs with their families for the beginning of the worship service. Youth light the chalice, play music, share the Rainbow Principles, and help with the Story for All Ages. Contact Lisa Fritsche to participate.

**Service Sundays** - on the first Sunday of each month, youth do a service project to benefit others. They have wrapped gifts during the holidays, created blankets for needy children, and prepped UNICEF boxes for donations during trick-or-treating.

**3rd Sunday Lunches** - families are invited to stay after the service on the third Sunday each month for a light lunch and a fun activity. Neighborhood caroling and pumpkin carving are highlights.

**Charity Collection** - each year the children vote for the organizations they will support each month with their Sunday morning collections. Rainbow House and Heifer International have been two of the recent beneficiaries.

**Special Services** - during the Water Ceremony in late August, children share water from places they've visited that summer. On Easter Sunday, we hunt for donated canned goods to share later with the Food Bank.

**Simple Gifts** - in exchange for a sack of groceries for our food bank collection, adult volunteers help our children create simple gifts for their loved ones just in time for the holidays.

**Creche** - for our Christmas Eve family service each year, youth volunteers recreate the nativity scene during the reading of the story of Jesus' birth.

## **Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults**

**Music** - those interested in playing or singing for worship services should contact Desi Long, music director

**YRUU** - Young Religious UUs is our program for high school youth. Currently YRUU meets on Sunday afternoons from 12 noon - 2 pm. Fun offerings for the congregation sponsored by YRUU have included a Poetry Slam, Valentine's Dance, and Easter Brunch. Adult advisors help facilitate the sessions, and the program has oversight from the Youth Adult Council (YAC). Katherine Corey, coordinator

**OWL** - "Our Whole Lives," a human sexuality education program, is offered in two segments, alternating yearly between 7-9th graders, then 10-12th graders. Larry Lile and Christy Hutton will lead the 10-12th grade class in 2012.

**Nursery Aides** - typically our paid Sunday morning nursery staff are high school-aged students from our church community

**UU at Mizzou** - our college-age UU friends organize programming through the UU at Mizzou group on Facebook.

**YAUUC** - The Young Adult Unitarian Universalists of Columbia (ages 18-35ish) meet Fridays at 5 pm at the Shack in the Student Center at the University of Missouri. Activities include planning of volunteer events, social events, and worship services; and discussion of spiritual growth, current events, and whatever else crops up.

## **Church Groups, Teams, and Activities**

**Autumn Harvest Dinner** - October - congregational dinner featuring locally grown foods, contact Corinne Mann

**Bloomin' Idiots** - those who like to play in the dirt meet on Tuesdays at 4:30 to spruce up the church grounds, contact JoAnn Vest

**Book Discussion Group** - bring a book you have read to discuss briefly—meets on the 2nd Friday of the month @ Q's Restaurant, 4004 Peach Ct. at 5:30, contact Pam Springsteel

**Book Table** - books are offered for sale every Sunday in the greeting area, contact Fran Reynolds

**Common Read** - study, discussion, and activities based on a book selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), contact Fran Reynolds

**Congregational Care Ministry** - provide care and support as possible for church members and friends in need, contact Rev. Spencer or Marianne Erickson

**Conversations, Etc.** - women's brown bag lunch discussion group - meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at noon at the church, contact Melinda Farhangi

**Dinner Club** - members meet monthly in homes for planned dinners for eight, contact Linda Lou Brown

**Exploring Spirituality** - adult spirituality discussion group meets every Sunday at 9 am in the YUUTs classroom in the lower level, contact Qhyrrae Michaelieu

**Honduras Service Trip** - preparing for our third service trip in June 2013 to provide service and cultural exchange, contact Allie Gassmann

**Hospitality** - prepares coffee and snacks and cleans up on Sunday mornings, contact Janet Groat

**Fair Trade Coffee, Tea & Chocolate Sales** - sales of coffee, tea, and chocolate on the first Sunday of the month in the greeting area benefit the junior high Coming of Age program, contact Ellen Thomas

**Festival of Sharing** - works to contribute resources to those in need, contact Marian Hjelmfelt

**Forum** - adult discussion group - meets every Sunday at 9am in the Forum Room in the lower level, contact Bill Clark

**Loaves and Fishes** - providing meals locally to those in need, contact Jenny Bossaler

**Library** - books are available for check-out from the library in the Forum Room in the lower level, contact Pam Springsteel

**Life Writers' Group** - open to anyone who wants to write - meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:30 am—12:30 pm in the Centering Room, contact Fran Reynolds

**Meditation in Nature** - for anyone who loves nature - meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 9-10 am at the Gans Creek Wildlife Area, contact Peter Holmes

**Membership Team** - open to all who want to help recruit, retain, reward, and remember our newcomers and seasoned members, contact Cindy Giesing

**Men's Group** - men's discussion group meets on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Saturdays of each month at 8 am at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, contact Sam Anand

**Peace Building Team** - working toward peaceful resolution of conflicts and improved listening and communication skills, contact Pack Matthews

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - join with our church community to celebrate Thanksgiving together, contact our church administrator

**Three Cups of Coffee** - morning discussion group - meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9 am in the greeting area, contact Janet Groat

**UU Singers** - SATB choir meets every Wednesday for rehearsals from 7-8 pm in the Centering Room, contact Desi Long

**Whole Earth Based Spirituality (WEBS)** - a pagan religious presence at UUCC—meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 7 pm, contact Rexanna Ipock-Brown

**Youth Adult Council** - provides oversight and support for the high school youth group, contact Katherine Corey

## **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees comprises nine members of the congregation, plus the minister and church administrator as ex officio members. Board members are elected for two year terms by the congregation during the annual spring congregational meeting. Board officers are elected by the Board.

Through June 2012, the Board of Trustees members are:

Stephanie Dorman, President  
 Maria Oropallo, President-elect  
 Corinne Mann, Treasurer  
 Rosie Anderson-Harper, Secretary  
 Gregory Brown, Past President  
 Qhyrrae Michaelieu  
 Mehdi Farhangi  
 Marty Patton  
 Paul Litton

The Board is assisted in its work by several Board Committees, including:

Building Use Review Panel - Leslie Luchene  
 Facilities and Grounds - Peter Holmes  
 Facilities and Grounds Improvement - Janet Groat  
 Finance - Elaine Martin  
 Fundraising - open  
 Investment - Wiley Miller  
 Planned Giving - David & Carolyn Leuthold  
 Generosity - open  
 Memorial Garden - Jeanne Murphy  
 Nominating - Gregory Brown  
 Personnel - open  
 Governance Task Force - Rexanna Ipock-Brown  
 Publicity - Maria Oropallo  
 Executive - Stephanie Dorman

## **Social Action and Community Outreach**

The Social Action Committee (SAC) meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:45 am. It is open to all with an interest in social justice. Contact Wiley Miller.

Currently supported projects include:

- National Day of Service
- Columbia Values Diversity Breakfast
- Mid-Missouri PrideFest
- Earth Day
- CROP Hunger Walk
- Sustainable Living Fair
- Missourians Against the Death Penalty
- Mid-Missouri Peaceworks
- Interfaith Council of Columbia
- Honduras Service Trip (contact Allie Gassmann)

On the 4th Sunday of each month, the Social Action Committee inspires us with Faith to Action special collections during our Sunday Services. SAC prompts our canned good donations to the Central Missouri Food Bank, and our holiday giving as we adopt a family each Christmas time.

The Festival of Sharing, coordinated at UUCC by Marian Hjelmfelt, includes projects like recycling eyeglasses, preparing dental kits, and knitting and crocheting infant hats for the I.M.A. Safe Motherhood kits.

## **Denominational Connections and Outreach**

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia is part of the Central Midwest District (CMwD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Because of our links with these umbrella groups, we are invited to:

- Participate in Association Sunday in October to help support the work of the UUA

- Support the UU Service Committee's "Guest at Your Table" program during the winter holidays
- Take action during Justice Sunday in April
- Attend the District Assembly in April
- Attend the General Assembly in June
- Make use of the resources available on the UUA website, [uua.org](http://uua.org)
- Incorporate the religious education curricula provided by the UUA into our church programming
- Utilize the services offered by the UUA for our search for a new called minister, which puts us into contact with prospective ministers from across the continent
- Benefit from the knowledge and experiences of our Ministerial Settlement Representative, Rev. Axel Gehrman, whose expenses are entirely covered by the UUA

These programs and services are provided through our fair share dues to the UUA and the CMwD. In fiscal year 2011-12, our dues will equal \$79 per member. Thank you for including enough in your 2011-12 pledge to cover your dues.

### **Path to Membership**

If you are a newcomer to the UU Church of Columbia, we invite you to attend the "UU Newcomers' Welcome" with our minister. Watch our newsletter, the Sunday Order of Service, and the website for the date of the next session.

Prospective members may wish to attend a Discover UUCC session to learn more about who we are and what we do. Please contact Rev. Spencer for details.

To join the church, one must be 16 years old, make a financial contribution of record to the church, and sign the membership book. New members of the church are introduced to the congregation at the New Member Ingathering, where we share our covenant together. Welcome to UUCC!



**WE ARE A WELCOMING CONGREGATION.**

This Unitarian Universalist community welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.

© September 18, 2011

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