



August 30, 2025

Dear Friends,

Looking forward to our “get-together” on Friday, September 19, starting at 6:30 pm. What a great time to get to know each other better. Feel free to bring friends, spouses, significant others. All are welcome!! Bring something to eat and drink if you like. If you have a favorite game, please bring it!

This week’s forum: Mike Downey, general Manager at KJLU, Lincoln University’s radio station.

Next week’s forum: Lynn Shae will speak about Transformational Housing. The group provides affordable housing and financial guidance.

This week’s Sermon -An Invitation to Listen, by Rev Gail Marriner

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mL_1FHmgUNE&t=355s

UU Moment -Universalism in Five Minutes with Rev. Sean Neil-Barron

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL4n-wLbVSs&t=13s>

Children attending in-person are welcome to join RE Instructor Dr Samantha Porter for a lesson during the service hour. September's theme: **Nurturing Belonging**

Lunch After Services

Please join us for lunch after the service. This weeks lunch will be at Bandana's.

This Week's Joys & Concerns:

**Rich Burdge - I have recently accepted a new position a the Missouri National Guard as Energy Manager. Please keep my wife, Julie, in your thoughts as she is experiencing a very uncomfortable, though hopefully short-lived illness.

If you have a joy or concern that you would like to have read during a service or shared in our weekly email, please submit it by noon on the Friday before through our website: <http://uufjc.org/joys--concerns.html>

We will also have paper forms available Sunday morning for submissions. Submissions made after noon on Friday may not be read or shared until the following week.

Book Club

The September Intergenerational Classical Book Study is:

And Then There Were None

by Agatha Christie

We will meet in the Forum Room

September 14 at 2 pm; join us for an engaging discussion.

If you are NOT receiving emails that contain information, newsletters & bulletins about the fellowship and would like to, please let Mary Jo LaCorte, fellowship administrator, know @ uufjc1@gmail.com.

Our meditation group
meets every Wednesday
at 7 pm

The next UUFJC Board
Meeting will be held on
September 14, 2025, after
the service. All are welcome
to attend.

Chair Yoga with Alberta
Every Tuesday
@ 11 am
by donation

Drum Circle
will meet the 2nd
Monday of the month
from 7-8 pm
Next meeting is
September 8.

SOCIAL JUSTICE JOURNEY

To ensure that we maintain a Social Justice journey that represents our fellowship, I have written a mission statement and goals.

MISSION: We believe in justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We put this into action through social justice work in our communities and the wider world.

Goal: To a community and world with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

To catch us all up-to-date, I will summarize our work from the past, to the present and future.

Past: Our first social justice activity, was to be present us on the Capital grounds for No Kings day. There was a large group to attend from our fellowship as well as around our state. We had a table and tent at the capital grounds. This was very successful and we had many people coming to learn about our fellowship and how UUFJC stands regarding social justice.

Next, we had a table and representation in the Capital rotunda for the John Lewis memorial. John Lewis was a strong social justice man. He began his work with Martin Luther King and march alongside him across the Edmund Pettis Bridge. During that memorial service of good trouble, we were interviewed by channel 8 in Columbia and represented on the nightly news there. Many people came by our table to look at our information, including our pins and other items.

A special thank you to Mary Jo and Josh for creating our stellar banners.

Present: With the help of our religious educator, Samantha Porter, our children made packages for the homeless. Today I filled in for Bob Antweiler and delivered the packages along with the Salvation Army meal. I think it's great when young people learn from an early age about social justice.

Future: When I accepted this position for social justice chairperson, I had no idea of what was lying ahead. It seems that social justice is needed now more than ever in our country. I have been swamped with emails from social justice groups around Missouri wanting our support. I am making every effort to not knowingly buy into political controversy. There is one group that I am particularly interested in. It is called Respect Missouri Voters. Missouri voters voted for paid sick leave, reproductive freedom, and healthcare. Now that these are being possibly overturned during our next election, Missouri hospitals and clinics are closing and physicians are leaving. To keep these items on the next ballot, petitions will need to be signed. The number of signatures will range from 266,827 to 330,000. I am hoping to go to Springfield this next Thursday's for training on petitions. I know that we are going to need a notary public so if you are a notary or would like to become one, please let me know. Currently there are investigations into gerrymandering in Missouri. To address this, there will be a rally in the Capital Rotunda Wednesday, September 10 at 12 noon.

Now for some fun. I am hoping to purchase a photo album that will follow the social justice committees work from the beginning to current. If you took pictures during any of these events, I would love it if you would share some with me for the photo album. And thank you Katherine for the Earth Banner and Side With LOVE shirts. Than you also for the Peace poster from Betty.

You guys ROCK!!

Joan

At one of our early meetings with Rev Tom Bozeman, the subject of **opportunities for UUFJC members and friends to talk about their personal spiritual journey**. Tom recommended a book by John Buerhens and Rebecca Ann Parker entitled, “A House for Hope” and the use of a study guide available at the UUA bookstore.

Our fellowship now owns two copies of the book that may be borrowed. It’s also available for purchase on the UUA website and as a Kindle e-book.

Here is an excerpt from the book: “Hope is rising. The political tide in the US has turned, and people across the country who have been working for years for social change and justice finally feel as though they aren’t struggling alone. Yet for those who ground their social activism in progressive religious belief, it is all too easy to feel spiritually divided and isolated, daunted by the apparent dominance of religious fundamentalists in the media and politics. The impact of liberal religion is richer and more far —reaching than many know— a force for good that has inspired and supported two centuries of American social progress, from the abolition of slavery and the securing of women’s rights, to the present day struggles of marriage equality, ecological responsibility, and global peace. In order to sustain our spirits and advance positive social change, progressive people need to claim the transforming power of our theological heritage.

Authored by two leading progressive theologians, “A House for Hope” affirms that the shared hopes of religious progressives from many traditions can create a movement far stronger than fundamentalism: a liberal religious renaissance. Yet for it to flourish, progressive people must rediscover the spiritual sustenance available in the theological house our liberal forebears built, and embrace what our tradition truly holds sacred, as well as understanding what it rejects.

In lively and engaging language, A House for Hope suggests that liberal religious commitment is based on expansive love for life rather than adherence to narrow dogma. With chapters that reveal the political and personal relevance of the enduring questions at the heart of this theology, A House for Hope shows how religious liberals have countered fundamentalists for generations, and provides progressives with not only a theological but also a spiritual foundation for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Blessings Always,
Mary Jo LaCorte
Administrator

Caring Committee

Contact Mary Jo LaCorte at: uufjc1@gmail.com for assistance

UU Women's Connection
Winter Retreat
February 27-March 1, 2026

This year's retreat will be held at the spacious Toddhall Retreat Center near Columbia, IL and very close to St. Louis, Missouri! We'll make it another spa weekend, with meals prepared by the retreat center. Go to uuwomensconnection.org for more information.

For more events, see our online calendars:

[UUFJC Events](#) [Building](#)
[Use \(other\)](#)
[Community Events](#) [And visit](#)
us online at <http://uufjc.org/>
[Virtual Gatherings.](#)
[Affiliated Events](#)
[Religious Education](#)

UUFJC now has Venmo!

You can now make a payment through our Venmo app

