

# SMUUCH Connection Guide

The following are just a few of the many ways to make a meaningful connection at Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church. To make the connection, just contact the individual or individuals shown for the group or activity.

## MAKE A SOCIAL JUSTICE CONNECTION

**After the Harvest** – During harvest season, church members glean produce that is deemed unacceptable for market but is still healthy and useable for local food kitchens. **Tom Fay:** [tompatfay@gmail.com](mailto:tompatfay@gmail.com) & **Michelle Van Unen-Fay:** [mvanunenfay@gmail.com](mailto:mvanunenfay@gmail.com)

**Cross-Lines** - To help address the problem of hunger among the Kansas City area poor and homeless populations, SMUUCH, along with many other area churches, partners with the **Cross-Lines** kitchen. Be part of the Hunger Team and help prepare and serve a nutritious lunch once a month! Choppers, cooks and servers needed. **Ann Schwartz:** [schwartzannj@gmail.com](mailto:schwartzannj@gmail.com)

**Giving Grove** – The SMUUCH Giving Grove is an edible tree and shrub garden tended by SMUUCH and other community volunteers in partnership with Giving Grove and Kansas City Community Garden. Once the trees and bushes mature, the harvest will be used to help the food insecure in our local community. Volunteer opportunities for weeding, watering, pruning and general tree tending are available throughout the year. There are also opportunities to assist in other Giving Groves around Kansas City. **Chip Sitzman:** [csitzman@gmail.com](mailto:csitzman@gmail.com) and **Mike Monthey:** [memonthey@gmail.com](mailto:memonthey@gmail.com)

**Harvesters** – Our church is deeply involved with Harvesters, a local organization that helps feed thousands of people in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Occasional activities take place at the Harvesters warehouse or in our own Fellowship Hall. If you've ever wanted to do more for the hungry than donate food, join this group and be the food drive. **Connie Strand:** [cstrand@mac.com](mailto:cstrand@mac.com)

**Interfaith Hospitality Network** – IHN is a nonprofit organization serving homeless families in Johnson County. Its mission is to unite and enable the faith community to provide homeless families with emergency shelter and meals, as well as compassionate assistance with social services, and relationships with caring people in the faith community. Our church serves a support church, meaning that once every two to three months, we provide support to a hosting church. During our week, church volunteers provide meals for the families and stay with families in the evening and overnight. **Jan Davis:** [jandogdavis@gmail.com](mailto:jandogdavis@gmail.com)

**Red Ribbon Team** – This group promotes the SMUUCH AIDS Walk team and other AIDS-related advocacy. **Terry Cushman:** [tlcushman@gmail.com](mailto:tlcushman@gmail.com)

**Rosehill School Partnership and Tutoring** – Join a team working with three other area churches to support Rosehill School through volunteering time and donating material resources to help bridge the gap in school funding and to provide after school tutoring for at-risk students once a week during the school year in a neighborhood school. This is an opportunity to help our local community. **Vickie Trott:** [vtrott@gmail.com](mailto:vtrott@gmail.com), **Yvonne Gibbons:** [gibbonsyvonne@gmail.com](mailto:gibbonsyvonne@gmail.com), **Pat Duggan:** [patsduggan@gmail.com](mailto:patsduggan@gmail.com)

**Salem Lutheran Pantry** – Our church members join with members of Salem Lutheran Church to distribute food every Thursday morning and late afternoon, to more than 40 families who have been identified as being in need by the Rosehill and Rising Star school staffs. We also do two food drives a year to help stock the food pantry. **Jane O'Neil:** [jgoneil@kc.surewest.net](mailto:jgoneil@kc.surewest.net)

## MAKE A SERVICE CONNECTION – SERVE THE CHURCH

**Administration** – If you have administrative skills you would like to share (writing, bookkeeping, surveying/polling, marketing, public relations), our church can put these to good use. **Reverend Benjamin Maucere:** [interimminister@smuuchurch.org](mailto:interimminister@smuuchurch.org)

**Adult Religious Education** – Curious about what Adult Religious Education opportunities are at SMUUCH? Do you have a great Adult RE idea, or would you love to teach a class? **Rachel Wathen:** [wathen@smuuchurch.org](mailto:wathen@smuuchurch.org)

**Archiving** – Our church has a long history. This group ensures that important events in the life of our church continue to be recorded. **Sue Hamilton:** [bobnsueh@everestkc.net](mailto:bobnsueh@everestkc.net)

**Caring Team** – This group provides support to members of our congregation who are in the hospital, ill at home, or who need some care during a time of family stress. Volunteers are needed to provide rides to church and doctor appointments, to provide meals and help with laundry and cleaning. **Pat Daneman:** [pat.daneman4@gmail.com](mailto:pat.daneman4@gmail.com)

**Children's Religious Education** – Our church has a wonderful program of religious education for children of all ages. You can be a teacher or a classroom assistant, whether you have children or not. **Rachel Wathen:** [wathen@smuuchurch.org](mailto:wathen@smuuchurch.org)

**Community Garden** – Come help in our Community Garden, which includes plots for church members and our neighbors, as well as plots dedicated solely to providing healthy produce for those in need. The garden is located in your big “backyard,” between the church building and 95<sup>th</sup> Street. **Gaby Kusko:** [kusko8220@att.net](mailto:kusko8220@att.net)

**Church Gardens** - We need lots of tender, loving care to keep our church grounds and flower gardens in good shape. Different tasks for different skill levels are always available. **Jim Crist:** [jim.crist@outlook.com](mailto:jim.crist@outlook.com)

**Facilities** – We have a very large building and a very small but hardworking paid staff to manage and maintain it. If you like cleaning, painting, fixing things, working with tools, inside or out, your service will be most welcome. **Jay Hetz:** [hetz@smuuchurch.org](mailto:hetz@smuuchurch.org)

**Hospitality Teams** – A welcoming church environment and orderly worship experience don't just happen. In our church they happen through the volunteer effort of members and friends who serve on one of 4 Hospitality Teams. Each Sunday, team members serve as greeters, ushers, sound engineers, and kitchen helpers. This is a great way to ease into church service—one Sunday a month. **Fern Aron:** [fernaron1@gmail.com](mailto:fernaron1@gmail.com)

**Lawn Rangers** – Don't have a green thumb, but want to serve the church in some outdoor way? Join the Lawn Ranges. This group helps keep the grass on our 14-acre property mowed. If you've never used a riding lawn mower before, training is provided. **Randy Burdge:** [randallburdge@yahoo.com](mailto:randallburdge@yahoo.com)

**Library** – Help maintain the books and choose new purchases for the church library. No scheduled meetings. **Kris Koehler:** [kmkoehler@gmail.com](mailto:kmkoehler@gmail.com)

**Professional Expertise** – Share your professional expertise to help our church promote a peaceful, fair, and free world. If you have experience in the areas of advocacy, marketing, fundraising, legal work, photography, organizational development, human resources, or our church can benefit from it. **Zach Irwin:** [ztirwin@gmail.com](mailto:ztirwin@gmail.com)

**Senior Support Circle** – This group provides an opportunity for sharing, discussion, fellowship and support to senior adults and others interested. The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in Room 4. **Jerry Hollebeak:** [jerrybeak@everestkc.net](mailto:jerrybeak@everestkc.net)

**Technology** – The church needs your technological expertise in many areas: computers, networking, internet, web site design/maintenance, sound systems, video. **Jay Hetz:** [hetz@smuuchurch.org](mailto:hetz@smuuchurch.org)

**Wednesday Night Suppers** – The church is a very busy place, especially on Wednesdays. To help busy member fit a good meal into their schedules, we prepare meals in our church kitchen that people attending Wednesday night events (or who just don't like to cook) can sit down do a good meal for a small fee. **Penny Burdge:** [burdgefamily@gmail.com](mailto:burdgefamily@gmail.com)

## MAKE A SERVICE CONNECTION – SERVE THE COMMUNITY

**Blood Drive Team** – This group plans and hosts several blood drives at church throughout the year. **Kris Koehler:** [kmkoehler@gmail.com](mailto:kmkoehler@gmail.com)

**Sunflower Head Huggers** – Sunflower Head Huggers is the local satellite group of a national organization, Head Huggers, started in 2001 by a fellow UU with the mission to provide soft, warm hats for people who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy. Sunflower Head Huggers creates, collects, and distributes caps and hats through the University of Kansas Hospital and Cancer Centers. **Diane Meyers:** [cliogain@gmail.com](mailto:cliogain@gmail.com)

## MAKE A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

**Labyrinth Group** – This group visits various labyrinths in the area to learn how the labyrinth is a model of spiritual wholeness, a symbolic path and metaphor for life's journey, and a “moving meditation” to encourage wellness and healing. **Carla Norcott-Mahaney:** [dempugs@gmail.com](mailto:dempugs@gmail.com) and **Matt Wehrly:** [wehrly.matthew@gmail.com](mailto:wehrly.matthew@gmail.com)

**Meditation Space** – This group hopes to turn a small room into a meditation space/chapel, possibly including room for group yoga or tai chi. **Diane Meyers:** [cliogain@gmail.com](mailto:cliogain@gmail.com)

**Sermon Workshop** – Is there a sermon in you? Our church opens the pulpit to guest speakers and members of the congregation during the summer and about once a month, when our minister takes a break. You don't have to be ordained to speak, and if you have something you'd like to share with the congregation, this workshop, held on an occasional, as needed basis, will help. **Reverend Benjamin Maucere:** [interimminister@smuuchurch.org](mailto:interimminister@smuuchurch.org)

## MAKE A SOCIAL CONNECTION

### CONNECT WITH BOOK LOVERS

**Fiction Book Group** – This group of book lovers meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 4. **Annette Box:** [boxa2me@gmail.com](mailto:boxa2me@gmail.com)

**Intergenerational Book Group** – The IGBG is a fun book group for readers of all ages – kids third grade and up – who like really good chapter books or adults who are still little kids at heart and like connecting with folks of all ages to discuss books. The IGBG meets during Sunday coffee hour every other month in Saeger Room. For more information, join the groups Facebook group. **Rachel McElhany:** [mcelhra1@yahoo.com](mailto:mcelhra1@yahoo.com) and **Melissa Jobe:** [Melissa.job@gmail.com](mailto:Melissa.job@gmail.com)

**Nonfiction Book Group** – These book lovers read primarily nonfiction and meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 4. **Fern Aron:** [fernaron1@gmail.com](mailto:fernaron1@gmail.com)

**Spiritual Texts Book Group** – This group reads and discusses a variety of books that help us, as Unitarian Universalists, in our personal spiritual search. This group meets the third Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. **Fiske Miles:** [fiskem3@gmail.com](mailto:fiskem3@gmail.com)

**ContinUUm** – For all those who consider themselves Generation X—singles, couples, with or without children—ContinUUm events generally occur the second Saturday of the month at 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring a pot luck. **Elizabeth Arnold:** [EBeth.Arnold@gmail.com](mailto:EBeth.Arnold@gmail.com)

**Dinner for about 8** – A great way to become better acquainted with other church members aged 20s to 100+. Meets the third Saturday of the month in members' homes, September through May with a break in December. The hosts provide the main course, the guest bring the rest of the meal. Singles and couples welcome. Dinner will have 6 to 10 participants. **Jenny Ashby:** [jashby3@gmail.com](mailto:jashby3@gmail.com) and **Dixie Wantoch:** [rwantoch@swbell.net](mailto:rwantoch@swbell.net)

**Divorce Support Group** – This group provides support for church members and friends who are recently divorced and those still struggling with the long-term effect of divorce. *The goal is to offer peer-to-peer support and is not meant to provide professional services (psychological counseling, financial counseling, etc.).* The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Room 26. **Jennifer Sachan:** [jjenelds@gmail.com](mailto:jjenelds@gmail.com)

**Euchre Cards** – No experience needed; we'll teach you to play this very easy game. The group meets the fourth Friday of the month in the Multi-Purpose Room from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. **Jan Davis:** [jandogdavis@gmail.com](mailto:jandogdavis@gmail.com)

**Games Group** – Enjoy game night with a variety of games including Long Shot, Wok Star, Snow Trails, and others. Bring your favorite game, and we can try it, too. Free child care available. The group meets the first and third Wednesday of the month in Fellowship Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. **Jennifer Sachan:** [jjenelds@gmail.com](mailto:jjenelds@gmail.com)

**Halftimers** – This group of adults aged 40+ meets at various times and venues to get to know other church members and friends in a social setting. Past outings have included wine tastings and tours of Roasterie Coffee and Nelson-Atkins Museum. **Vickie Trott:** [vtrott@gmail.com](mailto:vtrott@gmail.com)

**Men's Group** – All men of the church welcome! Group meets the first Monday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Room 4 for discussion of a preselected topic and the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner. **Danny Hewett:** [danlynhewett@gmail.com](mailto:danlynhewett@gmail.com)

**Science Group** – One of the seven UU principles is “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” The sciences are part of that search. The Science group sessions can include guest speakers on a science topic of interest or science-related film or video podcast or even an outing to a science program in the community. Meeting times can vary with the activity. **Dale Trott:** [dtrott7253@gmail.com](mailto:dtrott7253@gmail.com) and **Adrian Law:** [lawe@umkc.edu](mailto:lawe@umkc.edu)

**Playgroup** – This group offers parents with children a way to connect with other parents with children. **Meg Irwin:** [megancecillia@gmail.com](mailto:megancecillia@gmail.com)

**Senior Fellowship** – This group offers a time for fellowship with friends for senior adults. The group meets the first and third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Room 4. **Jerry Hollebeak:** [jerrybeak@everestkc.net](mailto:jerrybeak@everestkc.net)

**Ulyseans** – Energetic older adults, mostly retired, but not all, who enjoy getting together monthly from September through May for lunch and a program. Generally meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon in Fellowship Hall for potluck and program. **Rebecca Regan:** [rebrea@hotmail.com](mailto:rebrea@hotmail.com)

## MAKE A MUSICAL CONNECTION

**Adult Choir** – Do you love to sing? Join the Choraliers for Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7:00 pm. There are no rehearsals during June and July. All adult and teen voices are appreciated; no experience required! **Dave Simmons:** [musicdude50@smuuchurch.org](mailto:musicdude50@smuuchurch.org)

**Children's Choir** - Do your children love to sing? Do they want to make new friends at SMUUCH? The children's choir meets after church from 11:45 am -12:15 pm on Sundays in the Multipurpose Room. Choir is open to all children in first through sixth grade. **Dave Simmons:** [musicdude50@smuuchurch.org](mailto:musicdude50@smuuchurch.org)

**Music Group** – As part of our visioning work with Rev. Maucere earlier this year, there is a small group exploring the idea of having a music committee/team in order to expand/support our musical programming. This group will conclude in September with a recommendation if we should have a music committee/team going forward. **Jen Holt:** [jenniferholt@me.com](mailto:jenniferholt@me.com)

**Music Jam Group** – For musicians who want to jam with fellow church members. First, third and fourth Thursday 7:00pm. **Dale Trott:** [dtrott7253@gmail.com](mailto:dtrott7253@gmail.com)

**Green Guitar Folk House** – The Green Guitar Folk House is a music series featuring nationally touring singer-songwriters. The music styles include folk, Americana, country, roots, bluegrass, and international roots music. Main stage performers are professional musicians who tour nationally and internationally. Opening acts are up and coming local and regional performers. **Mike Paget:** [mcpaget@gmail.com](mailto:mcpaget@gmail.com)

## OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

**SMUUCH Website** – [www.smuuchurch.org](http://www.smuuchurch.org) – Want to find out what's going on at church? Go to the home page of the church website, click "Congregational Life" on the main menu bar, and you'll see a list of groups and activities, including a link to the SMUUCH Calendar.

**SMUUCH Facebook Group** – If you're active in Facebook, log in and search for the SMUUCH group. At last count, there were 440 members of this open group. This is a great place to contact other church members and ask questions.

**Weekly All-Church Email** – Every Thursday, Deb Markum, our Church Administrator, sends out an all-church email that contains information about upcoming sermons, scheduled events, and group activities. If you're not on the email list, and want to be added, contact **Fern Aron:** [fernaron1@gmail.com](mailto:fernaron1@gmail.com)