



# the UNIGRAM

## The Challenge of Balance

*Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister*

Balance often seems like this beautiful, gentle, theological concept. We might see a Buddhist monk sitting and meditating, having achieved a restful, peaceful state, a balancing of the spirit, and we might admire how easily they enter into that space. When someone is living a balanced, healthy life, enough exercise, enough rest, appropriate amounts of food, meaningful work – it often looks easy. Looks can be deceiving though. And to remind ourselves why this is true in the spiritual realm, we need only look to the physical realm.

Balancing in the physical realm can look easy too – if you’ve put in the hard work to make it so. Many of us

learn at some point how to ride a bicycle while we’re growing up. Once you learn, you generally don’t forget, even if it’s been years in between rides. The thing is though, we have to learn, right? If you’ve learned how to ride a bike, you probably remember that it’s a process. A process that likely involved at least one or two scraped knees or elbows. Because you have to learn how to balance on the bike so that you can ride it. “No kidding” might be what you’re thinking – it’s my own internal response to writing that. But we often forget this common sense lesson about learning to balance when we look at balance in other areas of our life.

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## At the Still Point of the Turning World

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

“Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time future  
And time future contained in time past....

Time past and time future  
What might have been and what has been  
Point to one end, which is always present.

At the still point of the turning world. Neither flesh nor fleshless;  
Neither from nor towards; at the still point, there the dance is,  
But neither arrest nor movement. And do not call it fixity,  
Where past and future are gathered. Neither movement from nor towards,  
Neither ascent nor decline. Except for the point, the still point,  
There would be no dance, and there is only the dance.  
I can only say, there we have been: but I cannot say where.  
And I cannot say, how long, for that is to place it in time.” ~T.S. Eliot



*(continued on page 11)*

## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

**Services at 9:15 & 11:15 am**

**March Theme :: Balance**

Our March theme of Balance invites us to reflect on our lives and on our actions. With all the stressed and demands of daily life, achieving some sort of sense of balance can be incredibly challenging. Finding a sense of balance in our lives can in fact be a form of spiritual practice. We'll explore all this and more on Sunday mornings this month.

The main Special Sunday service event this month is Music Appreciation Sunday on March 18<sup>th</sup>. This year the theme will be jazz! We'll enjoy music from Ball State's top student jazz combo, led by LaMont Webb. This multi-generational service features the inspirational life of Art Tatum, one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time, as our central story. Marcel, Michael, and the choir will join us at 11:15 with music by Dave Brubeck and Fats Waller.

March 4, 11, 18 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd  
 March 25 – Joel Tishken, Intern Minister

### Religious Education for Children & Youth

**Classes at 9:15 & 11:15 am**

On the first Sunday, during our 9:15 Service, **Joel Tishken** will be leading a multiage Children's Chapel in the Yellow Room. Nadine will be leading a multiage theme-based class service on the following Sundays.

Our 11:15 Religious Education Classes in grades Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be focusing on the theme of the month "Balance" through story, song, and hands-on-activities.

Our 11:15 Coming of Age Class will continue to explore their Faith beliefs. They will be meeting with the minister, interviewing others, and their mentors this month. The COA class will be held each Sunday, except on *March 18*, when they will attend the Multigenerational Service, "Music Appreciation".

Our 11:15 high school class will be meeting with **Maggie Bartlett** on *March 4* to continue their exploration of our UU faith and values, through the curriculum *Popcorn Theology*. On *March 11*, they will meet with **Pam Harwood** for a discussion on the theme of the month and will continue working on their murals representing our UU faith.

On Sunday, March 18, we will be holding a Multigenerational Service, so we will not be holding K-12 grade classes. Preschool class will be held in the Blue Room, as usual.

On Sunday, March 25, we will be holding a Social Action Sunday, in our K-5 and 9-12 grade classes, creating dog and cat treats for the organization *Animal Rescue Fund*.

### Adult Religious Exploration Offerings

Our mission statement begins by calling us to a continuing exploration of our faith. In pursuit and support of that goal, we offer our Adult RE on Sunday mornings.

Every Sunday, 9:30 am  
 Red Room  
**Adult Discussion Group**

This group is a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. You'll find weekly topics on [page 9](#).

Every Sunday, 10:15 am  
 Violet room  
**Muncie UU Pagans**

This is an open discussion group to explore the differences in our pagan traditions. People of any belief are welcome.

## Theme Exploration – Balance

Selecting a theme for our worship services each month allows us to explore specific important theological topics in greater breadth, while also challenging us to go deeper. If you have a reading, poem or personal story to share that relates to our current or upcoming theme, please e-mail them to Rev. Seth.

### Sacred Text

*Our sacred text this month is a poem by Thomas Segel:*

### The Balance

Thomas Segel

The sting of time dances on  
 In the night and early morn  
 Singing of love gained and love lost  
 We are left to count the cost  
 Sorrow visits then goes away  
 Joy awakens a brand new day  
 When joy dances and sings with you  
 Sorrow lays asleep waiting for its time too  
 It is in the balance we stand  
 Between the two we take their hand  
 Who can say which is greater  
 Who holds the scale between now and later  
 By what infinite measure shall we weigh  
 The joy and sorrow that visits each day  
 For both are bound together by love  
 Pulling at us with the push and the shove  
 From joy the happiness from sorrow the pain  
 Making our lives full with the loss and the gain  
 Within each our growth is found  
 The larger we grow the smaller the sound  
 Of joy and sorrow we hear  
 For they shall mark every year  
 That we draw breath upon the earth  
 Showing to each of us what love is worth

### Questions for Reflection

Psychologists say we need a balance of work, love and play. Which of these three legs needs more of your attention? Have you become a one or two-legged stool?

Are you trying too hard to make something work?  
 Might balance for you be a matter of accepting defeat or finally letting it go?

Are you off-balance because you're in a tug-of-war?

You do know that you're allowed to simply let go of the rope, right?

Do you really need better time-management? Or could better boundary-management be your true work?

### Resources for Going Deeper

Article – “Soul Time, Sabbath Time” by Karen Hering <https://goo.gl/uJZFCV>

Book – Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr  
<https://goo.gl/gfRCkm>

### Spiritual or Reflective Practice

Try taking one day, one whole day this month, just to rest. The Judeo-Christian tradition calls this taking a Sabbath – depending on your branch of Judaism, you might practice one full day of rest each week! With our busy lives, it can be hard to slow down and just relax. Try taking one day where you aren't “productive” in the traditional sense – no work, no household chores aside from maybe cleaning up your dishes after meals. What might you do with one whole day just to do what you want?

### 2017-18 Themes

September – Welcome  
 October – Story  
 November – Abundance  
 December – Hope  
 January – Intention  
 February – Perseverance  
 March – Balance  
 April – Emergence  
 May – Risk  
 June – Blessing

## Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali*  
Director of Religious Education

### Boston Bound Heritage Trip – June 2019

Every three years our middle school youth travel to Boston to experience their UU Heritage – the next trip is already upcoming, a little over a year from now, scheduled for June 2019. Fundraising though begins this month, as we hold our first **bake sale and luncheon on Sunday, March 18**. We will be selling delicious baked goods following the first service, during coffee hour, and will hold a soup luncheon fundraiser following the second service. Please plan to join us and support our youth! This is a great opportunity to meet our youth and enjoy a delicious meal!

Our first **Boston Bound planning meeting** will be held on Sunday, March 11, from 12:30-1:15 in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided.

### Coming of Age Wilderness Journey – April 2018

CoA families will gather together to plan for the Wilderness Journey at Mounds State Park, April 27-29. Our meeting will be held following the Boston Bound meeting on **Sunday, March 11, from 1:15-2**.

*Nadine*

## Youth News

*Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd*  
Coordinator of Youth Programs

### Brunch Fundraisers

Don't miss yummy food for a good cause! Mark your calendars for the final three fundraiser brunches on the second Sundays of each month at 10:15 am. The dates are March 11, April 8, and May 13. Gather with folks from across both services to eat and catch up! Support an incredible youth program and our upcoming service journey to the Borderlands of Arizona and Mexico!

### Youth Group for March

High School Youth Group will gather on March 4, 12:45 - 2:15 pm. Lunch will be provided.

### Youth Sunday

Please share your congratulations and gratitude to the Youth who helped to create such a meaningful and deep service for Youth Sunday on February 25. They shared their own vulnerable stories, their rich voices and their vision for a way forward together. They worked hard to create the service for you.

*Elizabeth*



The Religious Education Program for Children & Youth is always appreciative of donations of apple juice and cheese crackers for our Sunday morning snack and packaged cookies, crackers, chips, and pretzels for our Middle School and High School Youth Group meetings.

## Balance

**Joel Tishken, Intern Minister**

The March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1945 edition of *Life* magazine contains an article written by Annalee Jacoby titled “Eggs stand on end in Chungking: The mystery of the upright eggs dissolves war tension in China.” In the article, Jacoby tells the story of several Chinese individuals competitively balancing eggs on the spring equinox. According to Chinese legends, for an hour before and after the seasons change on Li Chun (Spring Begins), it becomes possible to balance things that would otherwise not be possible. In the city of Chungking (now rendered into English as Chongqing) inhabitants balanced eggs on Li Chun. The celebration of Li Chun in 1945 happened to draw the attention of a journalist with the United Press. His story was published in many English-language newspapers. Apparently, Albert Einstein read the story and doubted its truthfulness. A series of egg-standings with witnesses followed in Chongqing to prove it was done without trickery. And there was no trickery. With the right egg and surface, you can stand an egg any day of the year.

While the spring equinox does not bring about a perfect balance in gravity, it does bring other kinds of balance. Daytime and nighttime are balanced. The time of each is roughly equal, and this is true no matter where you are on the planet. The path of the sun is also in balance. The sun rises exactly due east and sets exactly due west; the two equinoxes are the only days this happens. The seasons are also balanced. At both equinoxes, we are perched midway between winter and summer.

This time of celestial and seasonal balance is a perfect time for us to assess the balance in our own lives. What better time to be in balance than when the earth is too? And we will share the experience of balance on the equinox with humanity. All of us will have the same experience of day and night for that one day. Where are you in balance? How did you achieve and maintain it? Where might you be out of balance? What can you let go of to achieve greater balance? Are you in a liminal state, midway between two things, and need to make a choice? Are you overcompensating to correct an imbalance?

I often struggle with bringing balance to my personal and professional lives. I have been a student and apprentice for a good portion of my adulthood pursuing careers that require advanced degrees and have demanding expectations. Both careers also contain a high degree of self-scheduling. I am not always good at keeping tasks confined to certain days and times. I have regularly allowed work to seep into all days of the week and limit time for things other than work. While there are times I crave greater balance, for me, it is easier to say than to do. I suspect I am not alone in this. Our culture values “doing” and professional accomplishment and it is a powerful narrative for many of us. Nonetheless, while challenging for me, I still strive to create greater balance.

With this on my mind, I found better balance this past weekend. I spent meaningful time with my wife, myself, and with friends. It reminded me that finding better balance is not “magic.” It’s not magical any more than balancing an egg is. Balance does not require you to sit by and wait for an equinox or perfect date on the calendar to come along. Balance in life, like balancing an egg, can be achieved any day of the year. What balance does require is intention and the commitment to follow through on that intention. Balancing an egg is not always easy, but it can occur any time. Adding greater balance to our lives may not always be simple either; things may come forward to demand our attention, perhaps making it seem easier to put our attempts at balance aside for another time. But the rewards we receive from the balance make the intention and follow-through worth it. May the equinox remind us all to strive for greater balance in our own lives. Not even Einstein would be skeptical of its usefulness.

**Joel**



## Splinters from the Board - Looking to the Future

*Exploring faith. Practicing Inclusivity. Living Justice.*



As you read this we are the final stages of our 2018-2019 Stewardship Campaign. I hope that you have made your pledge. I am not going to repeat what you already know about the need to fund our church. I do wish to remind you that stewardship encompasses far more than our annual pledges.

Dictionary.com defines stewardship in part as “the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.” Wikipedia adds, “Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. The concepts of stewardship can be applied to the environment and nature, economics, health, property, information, theology, etc.” The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism provide ample scope for reflection on spiritual and theological stewardship.

In church, we speak of “the stewardship of time and talent” in addition to financial contributions. Recently **Bea Sousa** sent a poem to the hardworking members of the Stewardship Committee on this very subject. Since I know one of the committee members very well, I got to see it too:

### ***Long-Haul People***

by Rudy Nemser

You find them in churches  
when you're lucky;

other places too, though I mostly  
only know ecclesiastical varieties.  
Long haul people  
upon whose shoulders  
(and pocketbooks and casseroles  
and daylight/nighttime hours)  
a church is built and maintained  
after the brass is tarnished and  
cushions need re-stitching.  
They pay their pledges full and on time  
even when the music's modern;  
support each canvass though the sermons  
aren't always short;  
mow lawns and come to suppers;  
teach Sunday School when  
there's no one else and they'll miss the service.  
Asked what they think of the minister,  
or plans for the kitchen renovation,  
or the choral anthem, or Christmas pageant,  
or color of the bathroom paint,  
they'll reply: individuals and fashions  
arrive and pass.  
The church—their church—will be here,  
steady and hale.  
For a long, long time.  
It will.  
For long haul people bless a church  
with a very special blessing.

So thanks to all our many long-haul people. Your continued willingness to contribute your money, time and talent make our church possible. Those who are in it for the long-haul have been given the gift of something beyond ourselves to love—a place, a people, a fellowship, a home. Loving the church has made you better, wiser, kinder, and more generous. To paraphrase our familiar benediction, you are blessed and a blessing.

Membership in the long-haul society is free and open to all.

***Jerry McKean, President***

# Funding Our Future

*"It always seems impossible, until it is done." ~Nelson Mandela*

Stewardship Sundays are "officially complete." However, the Pledge Campaign is far from over. Our high hopes were to complete it by March 1.

**To everyone who pledged, we offer our deep gratitude for your generosity and your call to action.**

**To those who have yet to make their pledge, we respectfully ask you: when?**

Take a moment to read the "easy rule of life" – *then make your pledge!*

The "Easy Rule of Life": Author Ernie Zelinski offers the basics. If you want life to be hard, do easy. If you want life to be easy, do hard.

For a hard life, make easy short-term choices. Sleep late, eat quick foods, and don't get involved. Watch TV. When you get a break, play video games or grumble on Facebook. You will soon be tired, depressed and have a hard life.

Want an easy life? Challenge yourself. Give back to the community, be with people who care, exercise, eat right and put healthy thoughts in your mind. Support causes you love. You will look forward to each day and have energy. Life will be easy.

*Hard stewardship* is making easy choices. Staying home, complaining about church and the world, not volunteering; believing financial stewardship is not your responsibility. Don't find wisdom in the sermon or your discussion group. Complain! You will become discontent and make stewardship hard for yourself, for your church, and for others.

On the other hand, you could make our community life easy by making hard choices. Give back to the church by **fully** participating. Volunteer (as many do). Come to Sunday Service. Find a pearl of wisdom, **and encourage that wisdom which you support.**

Right now, we emphasize that you challenge yourself financially in fully funding **the budget of** this church. Help pay the amazing programming we offer our children, youth, and adults. Help pay for staff, lights, dues to UUA and ongoing costs such as the maintenance of our aging and beautiful sanctuary. *It is your participating responsibility to pledge.*

Our **budget aligns the high hopes and dreams of this congregation with action and is again of great importance.** Do **financial** stewardship with passion and commitment and stewardship will be easy, energizing and inspirational.

PLEDGES to date: **\$210,522 ... 70%** of the stated **\$300,000** goal. **We** need your pledge...**NOW.** Make your stewardship life easy by making a choice of full financial participation.

We are grateful for members, friends and visitors who are committed to UUCM. Each of you are treasures and are needed to keep this church vital.

## How to Pledge

You can get a pledge form from any committee member, the church office, or online. Simply download, complete, and return to the church office. Online submission is also available. No mailing, no paper handling. Just fill it out and click "submit." [Both versions can be found here.](#)

Questions / Concerns / Comments: Pledging & Stewardship Committee

**Nan Barber**

[njbarb1@gmail.com](mailto:njbarb1@gmail.com)

**Linda McKean**

[lwmckean@comcast.net](mailto:lwmckean@comcast.net)

**Katie Frederick**

[katie@kbfrederick.com](mailto:katie@kbfrederick.com)

## UUCM To Apply For \$50,000 Clergy Renewal Grant

As provided for in his contract and consistent with the norm in UU congregations, **Rev. Seth** will be taking a four month sabbatical leave during the spring and early summer of 2019. The purpose of the sabbatical is to enable the minister to renew himself in a period of rest, reflection, and spiritual growth.

The congregation has provided a line for sabbatical leave in the annual budget since Rev. Seth was appointed, so the church will be able to provide for pulpit speakers during the leave. Beyond this, the minister's sabbatical provides an opportunity for the members of the congregation to take their own "pause that refreshes" by creating and participating in special activities to address congregational health and growth.

Indiana churches are fortunate to have an opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 from the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program.

Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used to "to help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties during the pastor's absence and/or to support activities that enable the congregation as a whole to be renewed in its ministry."

The grant provides an opportunity to make the sabbatical a very special time for both Rev. Seth and for the congregation. A Sabbatical Committee consisting of **Jerry McKean, Holly Hanauer, Annemarie Voss, Holly Ford, and Bill Frederick** is collaborating with Rev. Seth to craft the grant proposal. To make the most of this opportunity, they need your help. If you have suggestions for them about how we can best use this special time, please let them know.

The grant proposal guidelines challenge the minister to describe what would make his heart sing. With your suggestions, we can also make the heart of our congregation sing.

### Exploring, Including, and Practicing Faith at UUCM

The Inquirers Series will be offered this spring starting March 11<sup>th</sup>, for 8 Sundays at 12:45 pm, in the Yellow Room. Each week's topic will be announced in the eBlast and Order of Service. Eight topics are covered, one per session.

The goals of the Inquirers Series are as follows:

- Make our church values and culture transparent and known to newcomers, so that they may make an informed decision about membership in our church
- Introduce newcomers to church staff, ministers, and lay leaders
- Establish a "safe space" for newcomers to learn more about the church in the form of a regularly scheduled small group designed for their needs.

As an extension of the congregation's hospitality, the Inquirers Series is designed to be accessible to visitors and to address their needs and interests. We welcome visitors by asking them what brought them here, and helping them connect with people, groups, and opportunities to serve that relate to the need, desire, or curiosity that prompted them to seek out a religious community. We teach them how we do church and help them figure out where they belong.



## The Caring Committee Needs Your Help!

It is "That Time" again! Time to update our files with names of friends and members of UUCM wishing to be of service to our Beloved Community. If you are interested in helping care for others who are in need in our congregation, the following opportunities are available:

- **Someone to send cards of care in response to Joys and Sorrows, ministers' and pastoral associates' requests.** Person(s) would need to attend service to hear and check the Joys and Sorrows Board or set up a way to receive this information. Colorful cards and envelopes are supplied by the creative children in Religious Exploration. Stamps also can be provided or their cost could be a tax-deductible contribution to UUCM.
- **Individuals / families who are willing to supply simple meals – main dish, salad, bread – to friends and members of UUCM who are in need.** Sometimes this service also entails staying to visit and share the meal with the recipient(s), cleaning up and storing leftovers. Info on time meal is to be delivered, any food allergies / dislikes, address and which entrance to use is supplied. Clearly marked or recyclable containers are greatly appreciated. **One way we try and support each other is by providing families with new babies food, and we will be welcoming several new babies very soon!**
- **Other areas of service: Rides to / from UUCM events, health – related appointments, shopping, airport, etc.**

We are often asked why there aren't more members than the five of us on the Caring Committee. Our response is always "Because we consider *every* friend or member of UUCM to be a member of the Caring Committee and to do its service." Please utilize the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the sanctuary.

Thank you,

**Julie Fritz** (765-289-2301) & **Liz Lowe** ([ewlrn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ewlrn@sbcglobal.net)), co-chairs

## Adult Discussion Group Every Sunday :: 9:30 am :: Red room

*March 4: Do Words Still Hold Meaning?*

With so many people in the UU world holding varying definitions for iconic religious words (such as: faith, god, sacred, holy), have we gotten to the place where words themselves have come to mean nothing? **Steve Robert** leads us in a discussion on the complexities in finding a common philosophical vocabulary within a diverse congregation.

*March 11: Violence Prevention*

This week the discussion group will reflect on the nature and causes of violence. Our discussion leader, **Tasha Ayres** of, A Better Way, will share her experiences and insights as to risk behaviors and prevention strategies. How might communities, congregations, and individuals contribute to the reduction of violence in our families, neighborhoods, and communities; and perhaps more importantly, what are the consequences if we don't find a way to reduce violence in our culture?

*March 18: To be announced in the weekly eBlast*

*March 25: Balancing*

The philosophy of the balanced life is found in many world religions, especially, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Confucianism. It may be expressed as the "Middle Way," "the Mean," or the balance between "yin and yang." **Leslie Duvall** leads us in a discussion of how UUs do or might practice and live the balanced life.

## The Challenge of Balance

**Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd** (continued from page 1)

Often, seeking balance in our lives is like learning how to ride a bike. It takes work. It takes practice. We're not going to get the first time. Sometimes, we forget about the basics of learning to ride a bike, and expect our life balancing efforts to work after one or two tries. If you were a parent trying to teach your kid how to ride a bike, if after one or two attempts, they gave up and said, "this isn't working. I tried it, and I just can't ride a bike" – what would you say to them? Generally, we'd probably tell them that once or twice is not enough, that they'd need to keep working at it, and practicing, until they figured it out. Balance in our lives, whether practical or spiritual, similarly often requires practice and work.

There are of course many places in our lives where we can and do settle into an easy balance. But in places where we're out of balance, finding that balance again is usually not as simple as acknowledging the problem. "Oh, I need to learn to find the right balance so I can learn to ride this bike. Now that I know, it should be easy to make that correction, I'll just hop on and ride." Except not. Just like learning to ride a bike, correcting an imbalance in our lives is often a spiritual practice that requires time, energy and commitment.

And then, one balance is achieved, staying balanced can be tricky too. Muscle memory makes staying balanced on a two-wheeled bike fairly easy once you've learned to ride, but if you've ever seen anyone ride a unicycle, it's a constant balancing act – they have to consistently and continually work to stay upright. We all know that one way to lose our balance in our lives is to fall into bad habits, and for sure those require work to overcome. We forget sometimes though that too much of an otherwise good thing can also cause us to lose our balance. Exercise is good for us; over-exercising is not. Connection with others can feed our souls; too much connection, constant interaction can be overwhelming, or can cause us to short-change other areas of our life. Water is life-giving, the healthiest of drinks; and, if you drink significantly too much water

in a short a time period, it can cause severe health issues, even death.

One way the "too much of a good thing" can show up in our lives sometimes is when we're literally doing too many good things, and there's not enough time for rest and renewal. Letting go of an activity, a project, or something else that you care about or enjoy deeply can be a really hard thing to do – if we push ourselves too hard for too long though, we usually end up paying the price. Is your life in balance these days? Are there parts that are out of balance? What work do you think you might need to do to regain balance? What work do you think you might need to do to stay in balance once balance is achieved? As we explore our theme of Balance together this month, I hope we can keep these questions in mind, and reflect on what it might mean to find, and keep, greater balance in our lives.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**



"Unitarianism" Harshman Panel  
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

## At the Still Point of the Turning World

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer* (continued from page 1)

As I began thinking about this month's theme of balance, these lines from the fourth of T.S. Eliot's "The Four Quartets" came to my mind. This has been one of my favorite poems since I first read it (for a real treat, [click here](#) to hear Eliot himself read the entire selection). I've frequently joked that the way I maintain balance is by falling off opposite sides of Eliot's "still point" alternately. That, however, isn't at all an adequate way of attaining balance!

Many psychologists, spiritual teachers and life coaches have tried to limn what constitutes a balanced life. I wouldn't have thought there could be so many diagrams devoted to expressing the concept of life balance visually. Overlapping circles. Various arrangements of arrows. Arrows and circles. Squares and lines. Subtly colored and bright. Or strictly black and white. The concept of what it might mean to live a life in balance apparently is one that lends itself to diagramming!

For those who are more linear thinkers, there is no shortage of lists, either. The number of factors noted as being important varies greatly. The short list was four. Others ranged upward to a dozen or so.

Eliot's still point remains the most evocative description for me. The first two stanzas gather up past, present, and future into the present, the only time we can in fact live in. We can remember the past, and we sometimes say of someone, "They're living in the past." We can also project our lives into the future, thinking "If..." or "when..." But we can't live there, either. And we can't find balance in either past or future. Balance is available to us only in the present.

Eliot continues to invite us into an experience of balance with several metaphors he introduces in the next stanza. That point is not focused on the physical, but neither does it mean renunciation of the flesh. It is not necessary to be less than human, nor more than human. At the point of exquisite balance, we're not moving toward nor away, but engaged in the dance of the present. It is not stasis nor movement. It is neither striving for more nor a state of decline. It is timeless and without space.

Interpretation of Eliot's meaning here is a challenge for me. My current sense of it is that he's alluding to what the Taoists call "wu wei," completely effortless action that flows naturally with the course of the universe. We inhabit our lives so thoroughly and intuitively that "our life flows on in endless song." We don't need to do or accomplish anything to make this happen. We simply need to get out of the way and allow it to happen.

Most of us don't live in this mysterious state of being all the time—I certainly don't. My hope for you all and for myself is that we catch glimpses of it amid the busy-ness of our daily lives, and appreciate the gift we have been given.

*Rev. Julia*



"Humanism" Harshman Panel  
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

## Sharing Gratitude

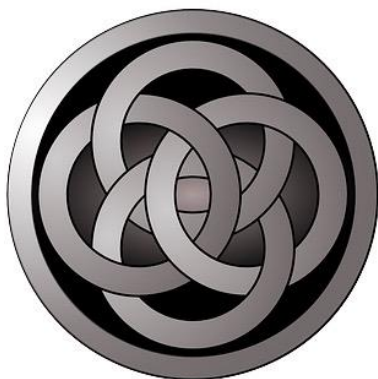
Thank you **Jerry McKean** for your service as facilitator in the adult religious education course on *Centering*. ~**Joel Tishken**

UUCM owes our thanks to the first six facilitators who launched our Connection Groups program. Thank you **Matt Cechini, Holly Hanauer, Janay Sander, Bea Sousa, Luellen Smucker, and Emily Wornell!** ~**Joel Tishken**

Thank you is too ordinary a word to express what I feel after Youth Sunday February 25. To experience the deep reflection and vulnerability expressed by these amazing young people is a gift beyond measure. I never miss Youth Sunday if we are in town; each year I come away knowing I have been in the presence of the future of Unitarian Universalism. The adults who create the space and freedom for this service are pretty amazing as well. Once again, I am proud to support this free religious community. ~**Bea Sousa** [Editor's note: *Bea's eloquent words speak on behalf of our entire community – thank you to our youth, and to all involved who helped make Youth Sunday so special.*]

Tremendous gratitude and appreciation goes to our **Stewardship Committee** team of **Nan Barber, Katie Frederick, and Linda McKean**. They have done yeo-woman's work on behalf of the church, with an under-populated committee, helping us to be successful in one of our most important areas of church. Thank you Nan, Katie, and Linda, and thanks to all who have pitched in to lend a helping hand. ~**Rev. Seth**

*If you have a gratitude you'd like to submit for the next Unigram, please send it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org), subject line "Sharing Gratitude."*



### Wheel of Life

**Nicole and Joseph Kaplan** welcomed **Xander Kaplan** into the world on December 26, 2017. Welcome to the world Xander – we're excited to greet you as one of the newest members of our community!

*If you have a major life event you'd like the church community to be aware of, please submit it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.*

***We all have two religions: the religion we talk about and the religion we live.  
It is our task to make the difference between the two as small as possible.***

~**William E. Gardner**

## March 2018 UUCM Calendar

Online calendar: <http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org/members/calendar/>

### Regular Weekly Events

Worship Services	Sundays	9:15 & 11:15 am
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth	Sundays	9:15 & 11:15 am
Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Muncie UU Pagans	Sundays	10:15 am
Inquirers Series (beginning March 11)	Sundays	12:45 pm
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesdays	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm
Revival Hour (see online calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

### March Events & Activities

Visitors Q&A	Sunday	Mar 4	10:30 & 12:45
High School Youth Group	Sunday	Mar 4	12:45 pm
Stewardship Committee	Thursday	Mar 8	3:30 pm
Gender / LGBTQ Diversity Workshop	Saturday	Mar 10	1:00 – 5:00 pm
Service Journey Fundraiser Brunch	Sunday	Mar 11	10:15 am
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	Mar 11	10:15 am
Listening Session	Sunday	Mar 11	12:30 pm
Coming of Age Lunch with Rev. Seth	Sunday	Mar 11	12:30 pm
Boston Bound Planning Meeting	Sunday	Mar 11	12:30 pm
Coming of Age Parent Meeting	Sunday	Mar 11	1:15 pm
Roots & Wings :: New Member Class	Sunday	Mar 11	12:45 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Mar 11	7:00 pm
Property Maintenance Committee	Tuesday	Mar 13	6:45 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Mar 14	7:00 pm
Stewardship Committee	Thursday	Mar 15	3:30 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Mar 15	7:15 pm
Service Journey Lock In	Saturday	Mar 17	
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday	Mar 18	10:30 am
New Member Signing Ceremony	Sunday	Mar 18	10:45 am
Soup Lunch :: Boston Bound Fundraiser	Sunday	Mar 18	12:15 pm
Listening Session	Sunday	Mar 18	12:30 pm
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	Mar 18	12:45 pm
Newcomer Dinner	Sunday	Mar 18	5:00 pm
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	Tuesday	Mar 20	7:15 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	Mar 21	9:00 am
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Mar 21	6:30 pm
Membership Committee	Thursday	Mar 22	7:00 pm
RE Committee (Children & Youth)	Sunday	Mar 25	12:45 pm

### Brunch with Youth!

#### Sunday, March 11

If you haven't made it to our last few brunches, you have really missed some delicious food! On Sunday, March 11, plan stay after the first service or come to church at 10:15 am, to grab some food between services to support the youth traveling to the borderlands of Arizona and Mexico. Gather with folks who attend the other service and catch up. Support this important trip! See you there!

### Listening Sessions

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of two upcoming Listening Sessions to be held jointly by the Board and the Committee on Ministries. [More information can be found here.](#) Sessions will be held Sundays, March 11 & 18, 12:30-2:00 pm.

We hope that everyone can attend because we want to hear **everyone's** voices.

### UU Book Club

The next meeting of the UU Book Group will be at the home of **Luellen Smucker** on Thursday, March 8, at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing [The Almond Tree](#) by Michelle Cohen Corasanti.

## UUCM Staff & Leadership

**Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister**

[seth@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:seth@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister**

[julia@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:julia@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Joel Tishken, Intern Minister**

[joel@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:joel@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education**

[nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Christie Williams, Office Administrator**

[christie@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:christie@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Dr. James Helton, Director of Music**

[jim@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jim@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs**

[elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Megan Wenning, Membership Coordinator**

[megan@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:megan@uuchurchmuncie.org)

### Board of Trustees

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**Jennifer Hollems**

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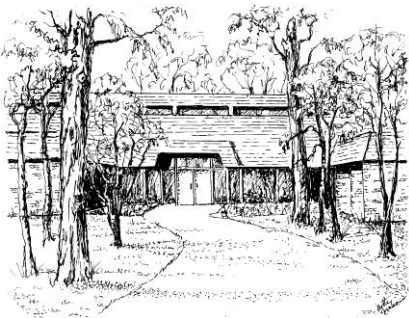
Youth Representative

765.288.9561 | [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) | [www.uuchurchmuncie.org](http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org)

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm | Wednesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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