



the UNIGRAM

Walking on the Grass

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

On our way to the car one fine spring morning, strolling across campus, a college friend said to me, "oh, you're one of those." "One of those what?" I asked, unaware that I had been doing something noteworthy. "You follow the sidewalk, even if it's not the fastest route." "Uhh, well... yeah. Isn't that what the sidewalks are for? Walking on?" "Sure," my friend said, "if you prefer going the slower route." And he proceeded to cut across the grass directly towards the car. I, of course, not to give-in to my friend's goading, embraced my new-found identity of "sidewalk follower," and held my ground. I took the sidewalk the long way around, meeting my grass-walking friend at our destination, where he was waiting impatiently.

Apparently, the folks who designed our campus missed out on the lesson shared in this story by Derek Sivers. Sivers shares about a brand new college campus that was built with wide expanses of open grass intentionally part of the architectural plan. But the architect was slightly eccentric, and left one thing for college administration to decide: where in the expanses of grass the paved walkways would go. As is true of any human institution when decisions like this are left up to committees, there was intense debate: some felt the walkways should be around the edges, to leave the center green and untouched, while others felt the

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Healing Landscapes

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

Landscapes can be healing. Perhaps you have had the experience of being someplace where you felt good, at home, relaxed. Perhaps you brought heavy burdens with you on a hike or a road trip, and found that, somewhere along your route, you had left them behind. Several studies have shown that patients in hospitals and residents in nursing homes who have access to garden areas or even views of green spaces

heal faster and do better, with better spirits and less agitation.

I have a connection with certain landscapes which I can only describe as spiritual. There is a connection, a recognition of Spirit in those places, a greatly enhanced awareness of the interconnected web of being of which we're all a part. I've been in several

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am

We have wrapped up worship themes for 2014-15, and new themes have been selected for 2015-16. Check them out on page 5.

Sunday, June 7 Nadine Tringali Multigenerational Service	How do we use our power? How do we respond to injustice? In this service, based on the story “The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans” by Johnny Valentine, a pompous and power-hungry duke is gently put in his place by the people in his kingdom. When we use our shared power in the name of love, we can overcome almost any obstacle. <i>Dedicated Offering: Youth Opportunity Center</i>
Sunday, June 14 Rev. Jennifer Gray	Rev. Jennifer Gray, our guest preacher this Sunday, comes to us from the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Hendricks County in Danville, Indiana. <i>Dedicated Offering: Youth Opportunity Center</i>
Sunday, June 21 Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer	On this Father’s Day Sunday we’ll celebrate summer with our annual Flower Communion. Bring a flower to share!
Sunday, June 28 Rev. Rebecca Froom	This Sunday we welcome guest preacher Rev. Rebecca Froom to the pulpit. Rev. Rebecca Froom currently serves United First Parish Church (Unitarian) in Quincy, MA.
Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am	
Sunday, June 7 Multigenerational Service	“Outlawing Jelly Beans & Other Injustices” On Multigenerational Sundays, the services are for all ages. On these Sundays, childcare will be available in the Blue Room for preschool and kindergarten youth.
Sunday, June 14 Rainbow Sunday	Following our Rainbow Principles, our youth will create rainbow bracelets.
Sunday, June 21 Flower Sunday	We will be planting flowers in containers for the Religious Education (east) entrance. Each youth will also decorate a pot and choose a flower to take home.
Sunday, June 28 Game Day!	Please come dressed to move! We will be outside, if weather permits, with bubbles, chalk art, hopscotch, badminton, and more!
Pre-Service Discussion, Every Sunday, 9:30 am, Red classroom	
Sunday, June 7	Our June dedicated offering goes to the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC). Today we’ll discuss ways to intervene when young people seem to be on a path toward a life in jail, including some controversial methods currently being tried. Leslie Duvall will present the topic.
Sunday, June 14	Lowell Brummett will provide us with some background and lead us in a conversation about the military campaigns sanctioned by the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages known as the Crusades.
Sunday, June 21	Along with being Father’s Day, it’s also World Humanism Day. Join Tom Lowe, Michael Sullivan , and others as we discuss Humanism and it’s relationship to Unitarian Universalism and our principles.
Sunday, June 28	RFRA, the supposed Religious Freedom Restoration Act, raised a few questions about what religious freedom means. Leslie Duvall will lead as we consider where and how to draw the line when it comes to supporting or limiting someone acting on their religious beliefs.

RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter

with "Professor" **Lisa Abner**

Attention, witches- and wizards-in-training! We are happy to welcome you to the summer term of Hogwarts Americana – the American extension of the famous Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

During this magical series of 8 Sunday mornings (July 5 – August 23), students will be sorted into one of four Houses – Firesong, Embredor, Grizlestorm, or Paladorn – and experience Potion Making, Defense Against the Dark Arts, Care of Magical Creatures, a Horcrux Hunt, and Quidditch. Come dressed in Muggle clothing or your best wizarding attire, and be prepared to have some fun!

Students will begin service with their parents; following the Story for All Ages/hymn *Spirit of Life*, classes will begin. Classes will conclude at noon.

July 5: Sorting & Wand Choosing Ceremonies

July 12: History of Magic & Horcrux Hunt

July 19: Defense Against the Dark Arts

July 26: Potions

August 2: Herbology

August 9: Quidditch Tournament

August 16: Care of Magical Creatures

August 23: Graduation & Awards Ceremony,
final Quidditch Tournament

*Note: This camp is geared for students Pre-K to 5th grade, though older students are VERY welcome to assist as Prefects (Muggle translation: Junior Counselors). Contact Deputy Headmistress **Lisa Abner** if interested!*



Volunteers Needed!

Are you too old to be a camper, but would like to help create and experience the magical world of Harry Potter for our RE students? We need enthusiastic adult and youth volunteers!

Positions Available:

Prefects – assist students during lessons, help set-up & clean-up (*Middle-school/High School age*)

Heads-of-Houses – assist students during lessons, help set-up & clean-up (*Adult age*)

Dementor – help students practice the Expecto Patronum spell in Defense Against the Dark Arts

Quidditch Coach/Referee – assist in scoring and facilitating good sportsmanship

Sign-up sheets are located at the back of the sanctuary, or you can contact Deputy Headmistress, **Lisa Abner**, via an electronic owl message to lkabner@gmail.com or a voice-activated owl message to (765) 610-2550. No Howlers, please!

New Mission & Vision Statements Approved!



After a year of hard work together as a congregation, we voted on Sunday, May 17th to adopt the following as our new Mission & Vision statements. Much thanks to the Mission & Vision Task Force for their tremendous work in researching, crafting and creating these, based on the thoughts, ideas and feedback from our congregation!

UUCM Mission

Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.

UUCM Vision

We, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie, are a church family, relating to one another with love, kindness, fellowship, humility, joy and generosity.

- We encourage open, lifelong religious exploration, drawing upon reason, spirituality, and curiosity.
- We strengthen one another, offering acceptance, nourishment, and mutual support.
- We welcome people of all identities, regardless of age, class, culture, race, ableness, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- We seek deeper, stronger, more transformative relationships that foster growth and healing for ourselves, our church, and our communities.
- We promote social justice, serving as a force for good and for lasting societal change.
- We serve as stewards of our church, this country, and the world.

2015-2016 Theme Announcement!

Rev. Seth, in conjunction with the Worship Associates and the staff, have selected our themes for next year. They will be:

September – Forgiveness

October – Inclusivity

November – Grace

December – Waiting

January – Freedom

February – Sexuality

March – Brokenness

April – Truth

May – Creativity

As always, if you have any poems, stories, readings, personal stories or other ideas that you'd like to see addressed in a sermon, please e-mail them to Rev. Seth at themes@uuchurchmuncie.org. Likewise, if you have a theme you'd like us to consider for the following year, please pass along any suggestions you might have as well!

Pastoral Associates

The pastoral function of a church is the listening, compassion and comfort we provide for one another. Our Pastoral Associates expand these services beyond the reach of clergy and lay leaders. Sharing the pastoral mission is essential for a church our size, especially for one that is striving to grow. If you wish to speak about problems you are facing our Pastoral Associates are here for you. **UUCM Pastoral Associates** – identified by pink nametags – are **Ric Dwenger, Mary Johnson, Liz Lowe** and **Velvet Miller**. Each brings a depth of personal experience, as well as 50 hours of training.



Sharing Gratitude



Welcome to our Sharing Gratitude section! We'll run this section each month, sharing *significant* gratitudes from our church life together. This is not meant to replace thank you notes or thank you emails, because we could fill pages with thank yous if we listed every one. Rather, this section is for the big thank yous and appreciations. If you have a gratitude you'd like to submit for the next Unigram, please send it to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org, subject line "sharing gratitude," by June 17.

The Equality Prom was a great success with 86 youth in attendance! Overheard at the Prom: "This is WAY better than my high school prom was!" "OMG, she got king! She's so pretty!" "We can slow dance? My high school wouldn't allow same sex couples to slow dance."

The Prom would not have happened without the love and support of many wonderful and generous people. **Wanda Daily, Terry Conner, and Jan & Ron Moore** were the backbone of the prom. **David Isabelle** was our talented and energetic DJ. **Bobbi Taylor** of Bobbi Taylor Photography did a fantastic job. Thanks to **Cornerstone Center for the Arts** and **Ball State Spectrum** for helping supply decorations. **Sherry Ware, Linda Hanson, Sue Errington** and **Maggie & John Bartlett** did a tremendous job with the lighting. **Vera Mae's** donated hors d'oeuvres, and **Stephanie Dillinger, Bea Sousa, Marnee Cooley, Alyssa Farnsworth, Mike & Caroline Sullivan, Crystal Frayer**, and the many others who dropped food off in stealth mode.

We also want to thank **Julie & Bob Fritz, Linda Gregory, Jane & Wayne Meyer, Bonnie Willy, Richard & Sandra Enos, Jessie Creselious, Denise Ewing, Sue Guillaud, Kristen Owens, Bree Bothast, Brett Ellison, Christie McCauley**, and last but not least, **Joan Andrews**, who showed up after the prom and helped us put the sanctuary back together. I am sure that I have left people out. If I have forgotten to mention you, I am truly sorry and we are VERY grateful for your help.

I would like to give a special thanks to the OUTreach youth and volunteers. They set the dance up on Friday night, they spread the word and invited friends, they organized a game/quiet room, they felt safe enough to bring dates and to wear clothing that did not conform to gender norms, they danced and had a good time then they stayed to clean the sanctuary. Thank you also to **Seth & Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd** and the **Unitarian Universalist Church** who love and encourage all individuals to be who they are. 86 youth felt safe to come to a prom, held in a church, and had a glorious time. ~Laura Janney

*Editor's Note: And of course, a gigantic amount of thanks and appreciation go to **Laura Janney** for being the event coordinator and truly making this all happen. We are so lucky to have you, Laura! Thanks for you all did for these kids, and thanks for all that you do for our church community.*



Deep thanks and much appreciation to the members of **Nominating Committee** and the **Finance Committee**, both of which have done yeoman's work in the past several months helping us prepare as a church community for the 2015-2016 church year. The Nominating Committee did a tremendous job getting all the Board positions filled, and the Finance Committee did outstanding work in preparing and recommending a budget to the Board of Trustees. We are grateful for all of you, and all the hard work you did.



Thanks also the Mission & Vision Task Force. **Amy Shaw, Ginny Nilles, Lora Repp, Lynn Sousa, Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Sherry Ware** and **Steve Chalk** worked incredibly hard all year long to create new Mission & Vision statements that represented the spirit and realities of our congregation. We appreciate all you did to bring this project to fruition – thank you!

Walking On the Grass

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

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walkways should cut diagonal, connecting all the buildings to all the other buildings. Finally, a plan suggested by one of the professors was adopted that eliminated the edges vs. middle debate completely: they simply wouldn't make any walkways at all. At least not for the first year anyway. Once a year with no walkways was up, they agreed to look at where the grass was worn away, showing where the students were actually walking, and then just pave those paths.

Whether we're on an academic schedule, either with our own jobs or because of our kids, or not, summer is often a time for slowing down, taking vacation, and relaxing a little bit. It certainly is that time of year at church, with many committees taking the month of July off, and activities slowing to a crawl. With summertime fast approaching, this story speaks to me of the importance of finding time to slow down and go off the proscribed path, in favor of creating what might become someday the "beaten path." We've become a culture of calendars, scheduling activities days and weeks and months in advance. We map out how we're going to get from point A to point B to point C to point D and we follow that course without failing. We're never going to be totally free and unencumbered in life, there's always going to be point A's and point B's and point C's, but summertime perhaps is an opportunity to take off the blinders for a few minutes, and see what path we end up on if we just start walking.

I didn't even realize until my friend pointed it out to me that I was a "path follower," even if cutting across the grass was much faster and more efficient. What paths do you follow by rote every day? And to be clear, I'm not suggesting that any proscribed path breaking be strictly in the name of efficiency – in fact, my thought is that it could be done in the name of playfulness, spontaneity and laughter. Sometimes stepping off the concrete walkway is indeed about getting from point A to point B faster, and sometimes it's about checking out the clover patch that's on the way to your destination and stopping to look for four-leaf clovers. Sometimes

it's about finding a shady spot under a tree and sitting down and taking it all in. Sometimes it's about picking dandelions and popping off their heads (some of you did this when you were kids too, right?).

Our church has had a busy and successful year, with amongst many other accomplishments the creation of new mission and vision statements complete. It's time to take a breather, and step off the paths we run down every day, focused so intently on the destination. Enjoy the journey a little bit this summer, if you can. Take a walk on the grass.

See you in church! Or, if our baby boy arrives sooner rather than later, perhaps not. Have a terrific summer either way!

Peace, love & blessings,

Rev. Seth

Meal Delivery for the Carrier-Ladds

Seth and Elizabeth were very appreciative of the meals and good wishes that were brought into their home after Mira was born. Since new baby Carrier-Ladd's appearance is approaching quickly, we would like to start scheduling those who wish to bring meals to the Carrier-Ladd family (and get a peek at baby and big sister Mira). We also desire to furnish meals around baby's six – week growth spurt. In order to start this scheduling process, please contact one of the co – chairs of UUCM's Caring Committee:

Liz Lowe at ewlrn@sbcglobal.net or
Julie Fritz at 765-289-2301.

For those of you who would like to welcome the newborn - material items are not necessary. A basket for well wishes, cards, or cash donations has been set up in the sanctuary.

Healing Landscapes

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

situations in which I felt a particular landscape was especially healing for me, or felt for some mysterious reason like “home.” Let me add here that I am a “flatlander” and a “landlubber” by birth and heritage, having grown up in Indiana and Ohio. So mountains and oceans, let alone solidified lava flows, do not of themselves evoke images and recollections of homecoming.

The first I remember consciously recognizing this was the first time I was in the Blue Ridge Mountains. I immediately felt that I was “home,” that I belonged to these round-top hills and balds. They somehow were a part of me, and I of them. A kinship. The Smokies evoke the same sort of response, although less so. Although I very much appreciate the grandeur of the younger, sharper peaks of the Rocky Mountains, and have spent considerable time there, they do not speak to me in the same way. They do not shelter my spirit.

Then there is the ocean. I was an adult, well into middle age, before I saw an ocean. I know of nowhere else on earth that I’m as aware of the rhythm of life, the agelessness and timelessness of the Earth, and my connection with it and with all of life. When I can listen to the ocean and take in the vastness of the far horizon disappearing into the sky, I know that I am a part of everything.

After I had returned to Indiana from graduate school in Tennessee and married, my late husband and I lived on several acres of rural land through which the Little White River runs. At one point, healing from emotional trauma, I spent many hours sitting on the trunk of a fallen wild cherry tree by the river, being with the river and letting it heal me.

Following his death and my moving into the city—a move occasioned both by pragmatic necessity and the sense that I would not be able to move on with my life until I had done so—I took a solo trip to the Red Rocks area of southeastern Utah to hike. The area is, some would say, barren. Much of the

territory we hiked was only bare red sandstone rocks and scrub vegetation, beaten by the sun and not at all blessed by rain. For me, it was healing. The very sparseness of the place, its being stripped to the base essentials, spoke to me, spoke to my shattered spirit and began to shape the pieces of my life back into a whole.

Tom and I recently traveled for two weeks in Iceland. Due to its relatively recent (as the history of Earth goes) volcanic origins, Iceland’s landscape is also quite sparse. There are lots of lava fields where very little except moss and lichens can grow yet, rugged sea cliffs, and volcanic mountains and craters bare of vegetation. There are vast expanses of geothermal pools, bubbling mud pots, geysers, and fumaroles that smell strongly of sulfur. I returned home not only in better shape physically from the variety of walking and hiking opportunities provided by that landscape, but refreshed and strengthened in spirit as well, with a sense of having gotten the knotty parts of my life at least partially sorted out.

Our beloved church in the woods offers its own landscape. There are woods and critters. Our building hugs the earth rather than stretching into the sky. One of my very favorites among Tom’s and my wedding photos is an evocative one taken from behind us as we were walking down the curving pathway that leads into the woods. Walking into our chosen future together.

What landscapes seem healing for you? Take the opportunity when you can to get outdoors, to be in the natural world. Find out what types of landscapes speak to you of connection, of healing, of your inseparability from the web of life and its ageless rhythms. Try gardening—either vegetable or flowers or both—or bring houseplants into your home. Even getting out to walk around your neighborhood can be healing. Try it and see.

Rev. Julia

June 2015 UUCM Calendar

Online calendar: <http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org/web/calendar.html>

Regular Weekly Events

Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
Religious Education for Children & Youth	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Revival Hour (see calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

June Events & Activities

FOHN Task Force	Monday	June 1	7:00 pm
Communications Committee	Tuesday	June 2	6:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	June 3	7:30 pm
Finance Committee	Thursday	June 4	Noon
Stewardship Committee	Sunday	June 7	9:30 am
Boston Bon Voyage Luncheon	Sunday	June 7	Noon
Social Justice Committee	Monday	June 8	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	June 10	6:00 pm
Program Council (at Annemarie Voss' home)	Wednesday	June 10	7:00 pm
Chalice Marketplace :: coffee & other Fair Trade items for sale	Sunday	June 14	Before & after the service
Portrait Sessions for Pictorial Directory	Wednesday	June 17	2-9:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	June 17	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	June 18	7:15 pm
Circle in the Woods	Saturday	June 20	7:00 pm
Rel Ed Committee (Children & Youth)	Sunday	June 21	9:30 am
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	June 28	9:30 am
Adult Rel Ed Committee	Sunday	June 28	12:15 pm

Take Note

Summer Office Hours

Beginning June 1, office hours will be:

Monday
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday
9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Wednesday – Thursday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed Friday

Body Life Dinner

A reminder to join us each Tuesday night at 6 pm, for a pot luck dinner at the church. It's a time to enjoy a great meal and fellowship. Come nurture your body with good food and nurture your soul with good friends. Bring a friend.
All are welcome!

Don't Forget the Hungry Over the Summer!

Third Monday Volunteer Morning at Second Harvest Food Bank

Mark your calendars for Monday, June 15, from 10 am - noon! That's our next chance to work together and help the food insecure in our community. Come on out to Second Harvest Food Bank Warehouse that day and help out however they need us. Every month we have a different task, but the goal is the same: working to reduce hunger in East Central Indiana. The Warehouse is located at 6621 N Old State Rd 3 in Muncie and everyone is welcome! RSVPs appreciated: email susantaylor68@hotmail.com.

*** Reminder: volunteers need to wear closed-toe shoes in the warehouse ***

Thank you from the Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force of the Social Justice Committee

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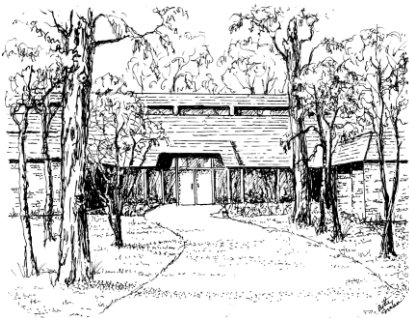
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:30 pm | Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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*Celebrating 156 Years
in the
Muncie Community*

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