



the UNIGRAM

From Vision to Soul Work: A Year of Themes Ministry

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

I'd not heard of themes ministry until Reverend Seth started talking about it this past church year. I'd gone to seminary long before it became part of the way people looked at ministry, at worship, and at everything else that takes place in our congregations. Because I'd attended a United Methodist seminary, I was familiar with the concept of a lectionary. A lectionary is a listing of biblical passages to be read in worship and focused on in preaching throughout the church year. It is used by many Christian churches, including Catholic and Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran and Methodist. There usually is a passage from the Christian Old Testament, the New Testament, and frequently there are passages from one of the four Gospels separately from the rest of the New Testament.

Theme-based ministry is broader and has an expanded function. According to Rev. Scott Tayler, the UUA's Director of Congregational Life, theme-based ministry "is a powerfully engaging way of focusing the life of a congregation on monthly themes through worship, religious education, small groups and other activities" ("Theme-Based Ministry," Worship Web). Like the traditional lectionary, it guides preaching topics. Unlike the way that most other churches use the lectionary, however, the monthly theme is intended to infuse the entire life of the congregation in age- and activity-appropriate ways, as Reverend Tayler notes.

Let's take a look back at the themes that have guided us this past church

(continued on page 6)



In This Issue

Sunday Mornings	2
Religious Education News	3
Message from the Past President	3
Summer Worship	4
Sharing Gratitude	5
July Calendar	7



Hello from the New President

Sherry Ware

On July 1st, I will replace Nancy Behforouz as president of our congregation. During the last year, I served on the Board of Trustees as president-elect. Under Nancy's capable leadership, the Board dealt with all of the nitty-gritty issues that are necessary to sustain our spiritual community.

We started each Board meeting with lighting the chalice, a reading, and reciting our Covenant together. If you've never

attended a Board meeting, the Covenant is as follows:

We promise to:

- Relate to one another in mutual support with respect, humor, trust, patience, and honesty.
- Communicate openly and directly with one another and listen with an open mind.

(continued on page 4)

Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am

Check out the article on page 4 for more information about summer worship services.

Sunday, July 5 Brandon Mundell	<i>Words of Prophetic Men & Women (American Documents)</i> Dedicated Offering: Hearts and Hands
Sunday, July 12 Laura Janney	Muncie OUTreach coordinator Laura Janney and the LGBTQ youth will focus on the 2 nd source. Dedicated Offering: Hearts and Hands
Sunday, July 19 Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer	<i>Different Paths, Different Summits</i> The title for my sermon comes from a book of the same name by Stephen Kaplan. We'll examine the world of religious pluralism, a world in which quite different views are deeply felt by their adherents to be spiritually true and valid. How can this be?
Sunday, July 26 Barbara Bonney	<i>Poetry in the White Spaces</i> This sermon explores the intersection of spirituality and poetry.

Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am

Sunday, July 5	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>Sorting & Wand Choosing Ceremonies</i>
Sunday, July 12	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>History of Magic & Horcrux Hunt</i>
Sunday, July 19	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>Defense Against the Dark Arts</i>
Sunday, July 26	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>Potions</i>

Pre-Service Discussion, Every Sunday, 9:30 am, Red classroom

Sunday, July 5 <i>Revisionist History and Independence Day</i>	On this weekend when we celebrate Independence Day and the war for independence we will examine the motivations and factors affecting the writing of the constitution and our secession from Great Britain. Discussion leader: Alice Bennett
Sunday, July 12 <i>What Do We Expect From Public Schools?</i>	Educator Jeanette Jones will get us talking about what we want from public education, and what kind of things effect the ability of public schools to live up to our expectations.
Sunday, July 19 <i>Jesus: "Historicized Mythology?"</i>	Did you know that some biblical scholars are suggesting that Jesus may be "historicized mythology," that an actual living person named Jesus may never have existed? Paul Stout and Leslie Duvall will present some arguments for and against belief in the existence of Jesus as an actual historical figure.
Sunday, July 26 <i>America's Changing Religious Landscape</i>	A May Pew report on America's Changing Religious Landscape said, "Christians Decline Sharply as Share of Population; Unaffiliated and Other Faiths Continue to Grow." We'll look at the numbers and discuss how churches are adjusting to changes in public attitudes towards religion.

RE Corner :: Boston Bound Heritage Trip

Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education

Our UU youth, accompanied by Nadine Tringali, **Mary Robey** and **Michael Mayfield**, visited Boston June 11-14 as part of our middle school Boston Heritage Trip. Traveling by plane and train and subway, and quite a bit of walking, we visited numerous sights! We visited the Arlington Street Church where William Ellery Channing preached and Kings Chapel where we visited a burial crypt and rang their bell made by Paul Revere. One afternoon was spent visiting the new UUA Headquarters, where the youth met with the head of the UUA's Youth Office, Bart Frost. On Saturday we traveled to Gloucester by commuter rail to visit the first Universalist Church in America, where John Murray preached. Our youth had the opportunity to ring their Paul Revere bell and to get their feet wet in the Atlantic Ocean. In between churches that we visited, we walked the Freedom Trail, lunched at Quincy Market, visited Beacon Hill, and explored the Boston Commons and Public Garden. Sunday, on our final day in Boston, we attended the service at Arlington Street Church, flanked by Tiffany glass windows. The service was very welcoming, and we were warmly received by the minister following the service.

"One of my favorite things on the trip was visiting the home of Universalism in Gloucester, the wonderful presentation from the person who gave us our tour of the Gloucester UU Church, and the warm reception that we received from the people in the town. The most wonderful thing about the trip, was the way our youth responded to Boston - from the wide variety of street musicians that they passed, to the people who gave us the tours of the various churches and the UUA headquarters staff" – **Michael Mayfield**

"The Boston Bound group was an energetic, caring, kind group of young teens. Every street musician in Boston we passed was rewarded for their performance with donations; "pirates" in the Boston Commons park were greeted with cheers and laughter from the swan boat ride; Duck Tour vehicles were quacked at all over Boston streets; and spirited bell tower climbing was enjoyed on tours at the Arlington Street Church, King's Chapel, and the Gloucester UU church. Parents, you can be proud of your friendly, polite children, and our congregation can be proud that we were represented by caring individuals who lived their Unitarian Universalist principles." – **Mary Robey**

Message from the Past President

Nancy Behforouz

As of this month, I assumed the role of past president of our wonderful church and congregation. I enjoyed being president this past year but am also happy to hand the reins over to the capable hands of **Sherry Ware** and take over my responsibilities as past president. I believe we have had a great year over the past 12 months and have accomplished much whether in the area of building and property, social justice, governance, fiscal organization, and all our various ministries. Hopefully all have, or will read, the 2014-2015 Annual Report (<http://goo.gl/vbzZQk>) which documents all the activities of the Staff, Board and Committees of the Church.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Trustees; **Bill Frederick, Sharon Ware, Annemarie Voss, Jim Vincent, Jeff Hathaway** and **Mary Johnson Robey** for their dedication and hard work as well as their insights throughout the year. It has also been a privilege and a pleasure to work with our minister Rev. Seth, Rev. Julia, Christie, Nadine and Elizabeth as well as all the congregational committees. I am truly proud to be a member of this UU community and am confident that our future as a beacon of liberal religion is exciting and very bright.



New Vice President

Happy news. We now have a new vice president for this coming year! **Susan Bossung** has graciously volunteered to be our Acting Vice President and the Board of Trustees has enthusiastically accepted her offer. As she was not on the slate of nominees presented to the Congregation in May, her position will be voted on by the Congregation at the annual October meeting of the Congregation. Thank you, Susan, for your service.

Summer Worship Services – The Six UU Sources

As gardens begin to grow and temperatures rise and many of us move into summer vacation mode, planning trips out of town or outdoor projects, the Worship Associates would like to entice you so that on the Sundays when you are in town you know the special lineup of guest speakers we have planned for you. In July we will hear from a variety of voices in the pulpit, both clergy and lay and including our crown jewel, **Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer**. They will highlight the six UU sources from which we draw inspiration and affirm and promote the values of Unitarian Universalism, which are as follows:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

While our speakers will explicitly focus on the first three sources, we are working with them to make sure the fourth through sixth sources are reflected in these services as well.

Hello from the New President

Sherry Ware (continued from page 1)

- Work unselfishly for the betterment of the whole church, present and future.
- Publicly support the choices of the Board.
- Maintain appropriate disclosure of information.
- Demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our church by our example.
- Communicate mutual feedback in a timely, direct, honest and caring fashion AND
- The Board supports the minister's professional leadership AND
- The Minister respects the policies and priorities set by the Board.

It has been an education and an honor to serve with **Nancy Behforouz, Bill Frederick, Annemarie Voss, Jim Vincent, Jeff Hathaway, Mary Johnson Robey,** and **Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd**.

On the evening of July 15th, I will conduct my first Board Meeting. Serving with me will be **Holly Hanauer**, President-Elect; **Nancy Behforouz**, Past President; **Susan Bossung**, Acting Vice President; **Usha Shivaswamy**, Treasurer; **Mary Johnson Robey**, Secretary; and **Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd**.

I pledge to do my best to work with the new Board to guide our church community safely through another year.

Sherry Ware

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.

Boston Bound Heritage Trip – June 11-14

Many thanks to **Michael Mayfield** and **Mary Robey** for helping to chaperone our Boston Heritage Trip! To the parents of our youth travelers for all their support. To the congregation for supporting our Boston Heritage Trip in a great many ways. And to all our Boston youth travelers for their enthusiasm and commitment.



Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices! – June 7, Multigenerational Service

Many thanks to all our actors and actresses: **John & Maggie Bartlett, Andrew Klein, Denise & Ben Ewing, Eloise McKean, Madison Bartlett, Sarah Bartlett, Iris Chalk, Grace Moorman, Theresa Schurz, Sophie Taylor, Steve Chalk, and Riley Taylor.** You were all marvelous!



The Sanctuary Choir

A big "thank you" to our choir! You not only provide wonderful choral music to enhance our worship. You also function as an support network for each other. The pastoral function of a church is the work of many members and friends, and you all are awesome!

Assistive Hearing Units

Save the Sanctuary (SOS) funds were used to buy 8 assistive hearing units for congregational members who have trouble hearing during Sunday services. Each unit has a transmitter that can be hand held or attached at the waist and comes with its own headset. They are easy to use and work well. Stop at the Welcome kiosk if you would like to use one of the assistive hearing units.



From Vision to Soul Work: A Year of Themes Ministry

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

year. We began in September with *Vision*, preparing to engage in the process which led to our formulating a new Mission and Vision statement to inform and guide us. Without an intentional vision, arrived at by all of us cooperatively working together, our ministry as a congregation would be much less coherent. We need a clear vision for our own lives, and for our life as a congregation.

In October, on the brink of autumn, we focused on *death*. Death will come to all of us, first of all in the form of the deaths of those we know or know about, the deaths of multitudes in wars and natural disasters, and finally, death will come to each of us. It is, nonetheless, a topic that is far too often taboo in our culture. As UUs, we're not strangers to tackling controversial topics that need to be brought into the open.

Community was our theme for November. Our church is a powerful community for most of us, a sturdy support for our own life and faith journey, and a faith community working for change in our larger community. We are a community in which we "explore faith, practice inclusivity, and live out our commitment to justice."

December brought *emptiness* as a theme. Reverend Seth introduced the theme in his December 10th Unigram column by pointing out that emptiness need not be a negative. A pot is useful because it has space inside it. My Buddhist leanings lead me to think of emptiness also in terms of possibility, of openness, of the absence of preconceived notions and expectations that end up getting in the way of appreciating reality as it presents itself to us.

We began the new year with *reason*. Unitarian Universalists have traditionally encouraged and supported a reasoned and a reasonable faith. We don't expect to "check our minds at the door" of our church. Yet there is more to faith than reason, as I noted in my January sermon, and there is a place for all of us, with all our styles of faith and spirituality, at the UU table.

We considered *vulnerability* in February. Like emptiness, vulnerability is often perceived as negative. Vulnerable populations in our culture include the homeless, the economically disadvantaged, abused kids, LGBTQ people... For them, vulnerability means susceptibility to attack, to emotional and physical harm, to the pervasive erosion of

dignity. However, vulnerability is the necessary condition for genuine connection and for community, as Brené Brown reminds us. She writes in *Daring Greatly*: "Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path."

March brought us to the theme of *faith*, often thought of in contrast with reason, as "blind faith." We are a church, and as such, distinguished from a social club or a community agency, ours is a practice of faith. Reverend Seth described faith as "the unique way in which we each make meaning in the world, whether it be faith in nature, faith in other human beings, faith in God, or your personal variation."

We took up a related theme in April, *trust*. When we have a solid grounding in trust, we can risk being vulnerable. Trust also requires confidence, or faith, that we can handle whatever comes our way. For me, the foundation of trust is what I named in my April sermon as "radical trust," trust in the face of what we do not and often cannot know. It's the trust that Oprah Winfrey had in mind in saying "I trust in the ebb and flow of the universe. I trust that life is bigger than what I can see. And I trust that no matter what happens, I will be all right."

We concluded this church year with the theme of *soul work*, which Reverend Seth described as "the work we are doing on the most essential parts of who we are." Soul work is the "deep work, the work that connects with the depths and essence of our being and our purpose – that is the soul work of life, and of our religious community."

I have both enjoyed and benefitted from this approach to the life of our congregation. It has helped me find foci for my sermons, for my Unigram columns, and for some of the things I do as your Community Minister. It provides ideas when I need them, without being as restrictive as a lectionary. It encourages me to muddle on things that are important. I look forward to exploring the themes we've picked for 2015-16 with you.

Reverend Julia

July 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 web calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

July Events & Activities

Worship Associates	Wednesday	July 1	7:30 pm
FOHN Task Force	Monday	July 7	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	July 8	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	July 8	7:00 pm
Chalice Marketplace :: coffee & other Fair Trade items for sale	Sunday	July 12	Before & after the service
Social Justice Committee	Monday	July 13	7:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	July 15	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	July 16	7:15 pm
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	July 26	9:30 am
Adult Rel Ed Committee	Sunday	July 26	12:15 pm

Take Note

Summer Office Hours

Monday
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday – Thursday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed Friday

The office will also be closed the following days:

Monday, July 6
Thursday, July 16
July 20 – 24
Monday, July 27

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, July 20, 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 Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force of the Social Justice Committee

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

seth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

julia@uuchurchmuncie.org

Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education

nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org

Christie Williams, Office Administrator

christie@uuchurchmuncie.org

Dr. James Helton, Director of Music

jim@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs

elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Paul Gjenvick, Website Administrator

paul@uuchurchmuncie.org

Board of Trustees

Sherry Ware

President

Holly Hanauer

President-Elect

Susan Bossung

Acting Vice President

Mary Johnson Robey

Secretary

Usha Shivaswamy

Interim Treasurer

Nancy Behforouz

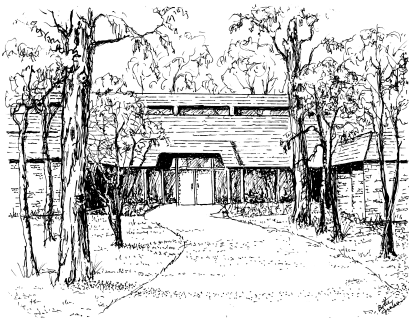
Past President

765.288.9561 | uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org | <http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org>

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive
Muncie, IN 47304



*Celebrating 156 Years
in the
Muncie Community*

DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 635
Muncie, IN

Return Service
Requested