



the UNIGRAM

As Yogi Said, “It Ain’t Over”

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

As baseball great Yogi Berra reportedly said, “The game ain’t over ‘til it’s over.” The recent SCOTUS decisions on marriage equality and the Affordable Care Act felt like the end of a long road, and indeed they were. Nonetheless, in the days, and perhaps even hours following those decisions, it became clear that the game wasn’t over. There was going to be a lot of wrangling over just what the day-to-day, feet-on-the-ground working out of the decisions would mean, and *should* mean. In this somewhat more academic than usual column, I want to look at these questions in light of how people interpret the two religion clauses in first amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Them wording seems simple enough on the surface: *Congress shall make no*

law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. It gets sticky when what seems to me to be an establishment of religion may well seem to someone else to be protecting their free exercise, and what seems to me to be a necessary protection for my free exercise of religion may well seem like an establishment to my neighbor.

Over all, Americans’ views on the specifics of how the constitutional guarantees of religious freedom should be interpreted and applied show considerable ambivalence, ambiguity, and inconsistency. Many times, for many people, it’s issue-dependent rather than being consistent across issues.

(continued on page 6)



In This Issue

Sunday Mornings	2
Religious Education News	3
Sing with the Choir!	3
Sharing Gratitude	5
Chakra Class Scheduled	5
August Calendar	7



Deadlines, Urgencies, and Final Rewards Solar Panels Project and Needed Roof Repair

Wayne Meyer

It’s been a lively, wild, and sometimes stressful ride for the “Green Team” down this new solar road. Overall, however, although I’ve felt very indebted to this congregation and the UU movement in the past, right now that feeling is stronger than ever.

Here are a few reasons – which will also provide some background on recent and upcoming developments. Please read on.

1. SUN Grant Matching Funds

We were rather recently informed of one of the last requirements to “**nailed down**” our \$30,000 SUN grant: by July 27, we had to send them several things including documented “**proof of [not just a plan for] secured [not just “committed”] matching funds.**”

(continued on page 4)

Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am

Sunday, August 2 Kelsey Timmerman, author of <i>Where Am I Wearing?</i> and <i>Where Am I Eating?</i>	We are all connected, from what we wear to what we eat. Kelsey explores the global connection we have with global farmers and factory workers, and argues that while we need to be responsible consumers, we are more than just consumers. Our skills, passions, experiences, trials, and tribulations, uniquely positions each of us to produce a positive impact on people and planet. Believing that with great opportunity comes great responsibility, Kelsey encourages audiences to become active local and global citizens. Dedicated Offering: TeamWork for Quality Living
Sunday, August 9 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Seth returns to the pulpit after paternity leave and summer vacation/study break. Dedicated Offering: TeamWork for Quality Living
Sunday, August 16 Rev. Misty-Dawn Shelly	This week Rev. Seth swaps pulpits with Rev. Misty-Dawn Shelly of the UU Congregation of Fort Wayne.
Sunday, August 23	This Sunday's guest speaker was not confirmed at time of print. Watch the eBlast for information about this service.
Sunday, August 30 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	<i>Ingathering & Water Communion.</i> Please remember to bring a small amount of water to share if you have collected some. The water you bring should be connected to a place, event or person that has had special meaning in your life this past year.
Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am	
Sunday, August 2	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>Herbology</i>
Sunday, August 9	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>Quidditch Tournament</i>
Sunday, August 16	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>Care of Magical Creatures</i>
Sunday, August 23	RE Summer Camp: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter <i>Graduation & Awards Ceremony, final Quidditch Tournament</i>
Sunday, August 30	Social Action Sunday
Pre-Service Discussion, Every Sunday, 9:30 am, Red classroom	
Sunday, August 2 <i>Free Will?</i>	Do we have free will? Is it true that individuals make free choices about our actions, based on reason and our moral sense. Or are many apparent choices in fact not free, determined by forces outside of ourselves? Eleanor Trawick will get us talking and thinking.
Sunday, August 9 <i>A Free Press</i>	Leslie Duvall will lead as we discuss the meaning, value, and limits of a free press.
Sunday, August 16 <i>The UU Image and OUTreach</i>	How do UUs look to the outside world and what do we do, or not do, to reach out or clarify our beliefs and image? Leslie Duvall is asking the questions and hoping some of you UUs will help answer them.
Sunday, August 23 <i>Muncie's Urban Day Camp: The First Year</i>	Markie Oliver and Barbara Wills will ask us how churches may reach out to neighborhoods and create positive effects for both communities and congregations.
Sunday, August 30 <i>Character: Where Does It Come From?</i>	Tom Lowe will use David Brooks' new book <i>The Road to Character</i> to get us to consider our sources of generosity, virtue, goodness, morality and the role of Unitarian Universalism in our search.

RE Corner :: The Religious Education Program Needs You!

*Nadine Tringali,
Director of Religious Education*

We have a variety of positions to fill and room for everyone!

August has arrived and once again it is organization time for our Religious Education Program. Your contributions are important to the functioning of our church and to the growth and development of our UU youth. Our program attendance has grown this past year and will not work as successfully as it has without your help and support.

We have an exciting year planned and I'm hopeful that you will want to be a part of our program. We can accommodate a variety of levels of support, but in order to start up our RE Curriculum year, first and foremost, we need teachers for our Curriculum Sundays. This coming year, we still need teachers interested in working with our K-2 and 3-5 grade youth.

Other levels of support include assisting in the nursery, as a teacher aide, as a special presenter in a classroom, or helping with special events.

The UU youth need you! Your enthusiasm and contribution to the RE Program provide our youth with the guidance necessary to grow and develop as young people, to learn to make decisions, accept responsibility for those decisions, and to become empowered through the Principles and Beliefs of Unitarian Universalism. Please consider the "Gift of Teaching" this coming year in the Religious Education Program.

Nadine

Do You Like to Sing?

Jim Helton, Director of Music



If so, please consider this your hearty invitation to join the **UU Sanctuary Choir**. We welcome everyone, and prior musical training is NOT necessary. The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, and we always follow these sessions with some mighty fine refreshments. The choir presents to the congregation approximately one Sunday a month, especially great for those of you who like to be involved in a variety of church activities. We sing a large variety of music that celebrates the earth, seasons, and (most of all) UU ideals, ranging from pop/jazz to traditional classical repertoire—truly something for everyone. An added convenience—come by 6:00 to the weekly Body Life Dinner (potluck) and bring the family.

The **first practice** of the season will be Tuesday, September 1. **Childcare** is available if you let me know by the previous Friday. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions!

jim@uuchurchmuncie.org (please put CHOIR in the subject line) or 765-215-5028

Jim

Deadlines, Urgencies, and Final Rewards

Solar Panels Project and Needed Roof Repair

(Continued from page 1)

One component of our plan for matching funds (included in the Green Team's April 19 presentation to the congregation) was a special fund drive with a goal of \$11,500. We got busy calling in oral pledges and asking for some additional contributions. The response was so encouraging and gratifying: a total of \$14,800 from a select group of generous and dedicated members and friends. Thank you, thank you!

It may appear, at this time, that we have a surplus of funds. But we have been cautioned at a recent Board meeting about seemingly inevitable cost overruns on any sort of project like this. Also, allow me to state my personal opinion: these funds should be used, in good faith, exclusively for costs directly related to the solar panels project.

By the way, this whole process could not have been accomplished without the time-consuming and competent cooperation of new President **Sherry Ware** and new Treasurer **Usha Shivaswamy**. No slow and easy orientation for them. They hit the ground running hard.

2. The Completed Solar Installation Deadline of Dec. 31, 2015

All along, this non-negotiable deadline was Dec. 31. I gather that the "green" group of donors (the custodians of the settlement funds from I&M power company) wants those installations up and running before the 2016 session of the Indiana General Assembly. Period. OK, but at UUCM a couple things have to happen first. Read on.

3. Installation of a New Rubber Roof

As you've heard by now, a new and better solution to our nagging roof problem has just recently been found, that is, a new, light-weight but durable rubber membrane roof to place over the present one. But it needs to be done SOON before the solar panels go up. And although at \$49,000 it's around 1/3 the cost of a replacement asphalt "built-up" roof (the kind up there now), that sizeable financial commitment requires official congregational approval. Read on.

4. Another Special Congregational Meeting – soon, on Sunday, August 9, 12:15 pm

Bruce Craig and the Property Maintenance Committee will review the case for this new roof, already approved by the Board, and address your questions. Also, Chuck Austin, Finance Committee Chair, will be on hand to facilitate discussion of a plan (also already approved by the Board) for funding the new roof. Then the vote will follow. And, of course, we need a quorum. PLEASE plan to attend.

Why all this rushing and fussing? As I've said before, because of a \$30,000 grant, a likely opportunity to save a whole lot of money in the long term, an opportunity to strengthen UUCM's presence and leadership in the community, and because it's the environmental, just, and moral thing to do. President-Elect Holly Hanauer is more concise: "Let's move into the future with a dry building and clean energy!"

We're Gonna Let It Shine!

Wayne Meyer for the Green Living Task Force

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 August 19.

To the Lowes, Judy, Tom and Liz:

Words cannot express my feelings, nor my thanks, for all your help and kindness. For all you do, for who you are, I will be forever grateful you are in my life. It's people like you who make a true difference in this world!

With all my appreciation and that of my children,

Grace L. Reef

A Tour of the Chakra's

August 16, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

UUC Muncie ~ Indigo classroom

Chris Nelson, Workshop Leader

According to the mystical traditions of ancient Vedic (Hinduism) science each of us has seven different bodies, including our physical one. The other six bodies are composed of nonphysical energies related to emotional, mental and higher (spiritual) states of consciousness. The dynamic relationships between these bodies are determined by the chakras. I will do a 2-hour presentation that will serve to acquaint attendees with their chakras through sound and visual meditation.
Be prepared to share your experience!



As Yogi Said, “It Ain’t Over”

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

When it comes to interpreting the *establishment clause*, people tend to hold one of four broad points of view:

- Accommodationists hold that the government should help all religions, while protecting the heritage of Judeo-Christianity on which they believe the nation was founded, especially when government support for religion is symbolic rather than financial. They support, for example, manger scenes on public property at Christmas and Congress opening its sessions with prayer.
- Separationists hold that proper application of the guarantees of religious freedom means the government should not support any religion, and that the separation of church and state should be as absolute as it can be. They reject, for example, emphasizing Judeo-Christian values in public schools and financial assistance to religiously-sponsored schools.
- Nonpreferentialists believe government should support all religions equally, without special protection for Judeo-Christianity. There is room for all in the symbolic public square.
- There are also Christian nonpreferentialists who do not want their government to support religion generally but should nonetheless protect America’s Judeo-Christian heritage. Occupancy of the public square, in other words, should favor Christianity. The former would support an interfaith or multifaith National Day of Prayer observance. The latter would limit participation in such an observance to representatives of Christian denominations.

When *free exercise clause* issues arise, Americans usually take one of two positions:

- *Communitarians*, as the word suggests, would allow people to act on what they believe, but only as long as their actions do not offend the prevailing cultural or moral sensibilities of the community. If a religious practice violates the norms of the community, it can properly be curtailed.
- *Libertarians* support a much wider range of religious practice. Even if a practice violates prevailing cultural norms and values, it can be allowed unless it violates very basic human rights. For example, most libertarians would disallow human sacrifice while allowing nude rituals.

A couple of additional things happen when the two clauses interact with each other as people think about their positions on issues:

- *Religious minimalists* are very committed to non-establishment, to no government support for religion. They are equally skeptical of public free exercise. They oppose, for example, itinerant preachers preaching on college campuses and student religious groups using school property for meetings (when non-religious groups are permitted to do so).
- *Religious free-marketeers* would allow all religious groups to compete freely for adherents as long as there is absolutely no government support involved. For example, they oppose public displays of religious symbols, funding for military chaplains, teaching creationism in public schools, and public school prayer, no matter what religion is doing the praying.

So how does it look when we use this framework to think about the working out of the marriage equality decision? How *should* it look? Will clergy be required to marry same-sex couples even if doing so violates their religious beliefs? What about judges or justices of the peace who officiate for weddings? Can a court clerk refuse to issue a marriage license to same-sex couples if the clerk’s own religious beliefs would prohibit doing so? Can a local florist, caterer, or wedding venue refuse service to same-sex couples?

The answer to the first question is clearly “no.” Clergy are protected by a conscience clause. The other three questions are murkier. The judge or JP is a *public* servant. So is the court clerk. The providers are public businesses who can reasonably be expected to serve the *whole* public. There is an interesting blog on this topic at <http://goo.gl/KYgOz9>. I recommend it strongly, whatever you may think of his viewpoint. The comments are of interest as well.

Reverend Julia



August 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

August Events & Activities

Circle in the Woods	Saturday	Aug 1	7:00 pm
Rummage Sale Set Up	Sunday	Aug 2	12:15 pm
FOHN Task Force	Monday	Aug 3	7:00 pm
Finance Committee	Wednesday	Aug 5	5:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Aug 5	7:30 pm
Rummage Sale	Saturday	Aug 8	8:00 am
Chalice Marketplace :: coffee & other Fair Trade items for sale	Sunday	Aug 9	Before & after the service
Special Congregational Meeting	Sunday	Aug 9	After the service
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Aug 10	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	Aug 12	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Aug 12	7:00 pm
Chakra Meditation Workshop	Sunday	Aug 16	2:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Aug 19	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Aug 20	7:15 pm
Anti-Racism Task Force	Sunday	Aug 23	12:15 pm
Adult Rel Ed Committee	Sunday	Aug 23	12:15 pm
Kitchen Cleaning	Saturday	Aug 29	9:30 am
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	Aug 30	9:30 am
Ice Cream Social	Sunday	Aug 30	After the service

Rummage Sale :: August 8, 8 am - noon

Mark your calendar and start cleaning out your closets, drawers, attics and basements! Set-up and donation drop-off will begin Sunday, August 2. Bring your donations during office hours Aug 3-6, and during final set up Thursday & Friday evenings.

Can you lend a hand? Contact **Annemarie Voss** (annemarievoss@mac.com or 765-610-3166) if you can help with set-up, selling or clean up!

Summer Office Hours

Monday

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday

9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Wednesday – Thursday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed Fridays through

August 14

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!

Volunteers are needed for the **Teamwork for Quality Living Dinner, Thursday, August 20**. TQL is a nonprofit group that empowers people to move out of poverty and into lives of self-sufficiency. If you are able to help by making lasagna, fruit crisp or salad for this evening's meal please contact Jan Moore, 765-620-8094 or moorejkw@aol.com. *Poverty is relative. Poverty occurs in all races and in all countries. Economic class is a continuous line, not a clear-cut distinction. Generational poverty and situational poverty are different. We cannot blame the victims of poverty for being in poverty. We cannot continue to support stereotypes and prejudices about the poor.*

UUCM Staff & Leadership

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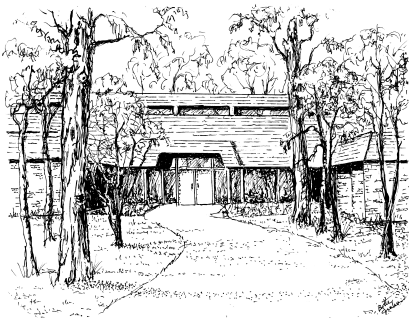
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:30 pm | Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive
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*Exploring faith.
Practicing inclusivity.
Living justice.*

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