



the UNIGRAM

Actively Practicing Inclusivity

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

Our mission statement doesn't read "Explore faith. Practice inclusivity. Live justice." on purpose, because while that would be a fine mission statement, it leaves something out. In our congregation, we are already *in the process of* exploring faith, practicing inclusivity, and living justice, *and*, our mission calls us to continue to do so. We have been exploring our faith, and we must continue to do so, because how we make meaning in the world, what we believe and value – those are constantly evolving propositions. What I believe to be true about the nature of the world today is a little different than what I believed a year ago, it's a fair bit different than what I believed five years ago, and it's more substantially different than what I believed ten years ago. Likewise, we are living justice because while we have done a significant amount of justice work in our lives and

as a congregation, it is an ongoing process, and there will always be more justice work to be done. And so of course, the same holds true for practicing inclusivity. We've been doing it, and, there is always more work to be done.

The ongoing nature of all three is important to remember, but especially for practicing inclusivity, since that is the easiest to become complacent about. We continue to explore faith and meaning-making at some minimal level by default if we show up for services on Sunday morning, though how we can more fully engage exploring faith is a topic for another time. Living justice is easy – easy at least to recognize just from paying attention to the news and the world around us that there's always more

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Hospitality Hopes

Picture walking into a restaurant you've heard great things about, and you find a bustling environment. The tables are all full, there are waiters and waitresses busy serving people, the smell of food in the air is tantalizing – but you, for some reason, are totally ignored. No host or hostess in sight, and it's 20 minute wait until someone finally appears to bring you to a table. Not a very good feeling, right? And that's what can happen to guest and visitors on Sunday mornings if we don't have a strong hospitality team in place to welcome people into our space and our community. They may stay, or they may leave, but poor hospitality is sure to color their experience.

Fortunately we've had a dedicated team of deacons for the past several years making sure coffee is made, the orders of service and hymnals are handed out, the offering is collected, and more... and they've done an amazing job. No waiting 20 minutes for a table at our church! The only problem is, we've been relying, especially the past couple of years, on a very small group of people to be responsible for making sure all of this gets done – and they are getting burnt out. The group, in fact, has collectively let the Board of Trustees know that they no longer consider the current model viable moving forward. They have requested that

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am October Worship Theme :: Forgiveness

For more information about this month's theme check out the article on [page 4](#).

Sunday, October 4 Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer	<i>Introverts, Extroverts, and HSPs, Oh My!</i> Who are we? We're introverts, extroverts, and (highlighted in recent publications) HSPs—highly sensitive persons. We'll look at what this means, some cultural biases, and how we might minister to people who are in these categories (as well as how we might care for ourselves if we identify with any of these). Dedicated Offering: Muncie OUTreach
Sunday, October 11 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	<i>Solidarity Sunday</i> This Sunday, October 11 th , is National Coming Out Day, and so we will celebrate, and explore how we can continue to support the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered communities and promote equal rights for all. Dedicated Offering: Muncie OUTreach
Sunday, October 18 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	<i>The Creator's Workshop</i> Please join us for this special multi-generational service, where we'll do something a little different as our children and youth remain with us for the entire service. We'll explore the questions: when is our freedom to choose one thing instead of the other frightening? When does it feel especially juicy, and ripe with promise? And how do we use our freedom wisely?
Sunday, October 25 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	<i>Making Room for Everyone</i> How do we live into the section of our mission statement that states we "Practice inclusivity."? Specifically, we'll explore how we go about creating a church community that is welcoming to a diversity of theological perspectives, including atheists, theists, and everyone in between and beyond.

Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am

Sunday, October 4 Social Action Sunday	Nadine will be leading a group class for K-5 grade youth. Middle and High School youth are invited to assist.
Sunday, October 11 Curriculum Sunday	Many thanks to all our mentors for helping our UU youth come of age. The Mentor Orientation will begin at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided.
Sunday, October 18 Multigenerational Service	This Sunday we adapt Erika Hewitt's story, "The Creator's Workshop." On Multigenerational Sundays, the services are for all ages. Childcare will be available in the Blue Room for preschool & kindergarten youth.
Sunday, October 25 Curriculum Sunday	Join us as we continue our religious exploration!

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

Sunday, October 4 How Do YOU Stop a Genocide?	After Steve Robert visited Auschwitz with Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor he had some questions in his mind. Suppose you wanted to do something to have an impact on making the next genocide less likely - what would you do? How can I as a person actually make this a better world? Remembering the past is helpful, but how do we positively effect the future?
Sunday, October 11 The Four Agreements	Bill Frederick will lead a discussion of the Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz. From ancient Toltec wisdom the agreements provide a challenging way to more fully experience freedom, love and happiness.
Sunday, October 18 May Love Be God?	Your valued response is welcomed or simple come to listen. The goal is to dive deeply into Love and consider how Love, may, be God. Lead by: Bev Heskett
Sunday, October 25 Inclusivity	In an open conversation, lead by you, we'll explore the UUCM theme for the month: Inclusivity.

RE Corner :: Community

Nadine Tringali,
Director of Religious Education

Getting together in community is a joyful experience! We do it in many ways here at UUCM, with our biggest events coming up soon with the Fall Family Retreat at Pokagon State Park in October, followed by our Bazaar in November.

Last Sunday, we kicked-off a new Multigenerational event that will occur every third Sunday (except October) following the service in the fellowship hall, from 12-1. Last Sunday's activity was "Origami" with specialist Amy Shaw. Amy guided youth and adults in creating paper cranes out of beautiful colored paper. We also created foxes, snakes, elephants, rabbits and more! These events are for "All Ages", and we hope that our Multi-Gen Special Events will continue to grow in attendance. As I shared with our youngest at the table, "Sometimes you just have to keep on trying, my first attempt at making a fox was missing an ear, but we just need to keep on trying and we will get better!"

If you have a talent that you wish to share and be a "specialist" at one of our monthly events, please talk with me. It would be wonderful to have members sharing their talents. We will be holding our next event on Sunday, November 15, following the service from 12-1. Our activity will be "Mindfulness Coloring." Bring a bag lunch, if you wish.

Nadine



October Youth Schedule!

Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd,
Coordinator of Youth programs

Drivers for our Academy Youth!

We have a very happy problem this year! We have a bunch of youth currently studying at the Indiana Academy for Math, Science and Humanities who wish to be a part of our programs. Many of them are members of UU congregations at home and some are new to us but glad that they found us! They would like to participate in more of our programs but they will need transportation to do so. We are looking for a core group of people willing to drive them to some of those programs - because we will need their parents' permission for each driver. They would like to come to events on Sundays, Tuesday evenings and Friday evenings. Having a large vehicle is a plus but not required. If you are interested in helping and available any of those times, please contact Elizabeth at elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org.

October Youth Schedule!

October 2-4 – Pokagon All Church Retreat – we will gather at Pokagon – ALL YOUTH

In lieu of our regular programs, all youth in attendance will gather for some special, fun activities together at the All Church Retreat at Pokagon State Park. Announcements will be made when we are on site so stay tuned. Those youth who are not attending the retreat this year will be missed!

October 18, 12:30 – 2 pm – Create Offrenda for Day of the Dead service – ALL YOUTH

Stay after the service to help to create this very important part of our Day of the Dead service. Our altar will set the tone and help us to celebrate all those who have died. Please join us to create this special gift to the whole congregation!

October 23-25 – CONtagious! at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis – High School Youth

Join us for the fall CON! This CON was so much fun last year and it was a truly meaningful experience as well. Registration is live – parents, check your email for details. We anticipate a large group this year, so please register early to make sure there is room for you/your youth! Come, experience community, acceptance and so much joy!!

Blessings,

Elizabeth

Theme Exploration – Inclusivity

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” for this month is an excerpt from What If? Short Stories to Spark Diversity Dialogue by Steve L. Robbins:

Robbins:

Crucial conversations... [are the] conversations we shy (often run) away from because they may cause mental discomfort, as if a little cognitive dissonance every now and then were a bad thing. And yet these conversations are the very ones required to overcome our apparent inability to reconcile unity with diversity, uniqueness with uniformity, certainty with curiosity. Crucial conversations, though difficult, are required if we are to hurdle a big obstacle we face on the diversity and inclusion journey: the difference between what we *think* we know and what we *actually* know. They are needed if we decide that *e pluribus unum* is truly our desired state.

We tend not to have crucial conversations around issues of diversity and inclusion because we often lack certain requisite skills. Among those skills is the ability to temporarily suspend our beliefs and worldview to nonjudgmentally entertain the beliefs and worldviews of others. We find it arduous to consider that biased material may have been the basis of our socially constructed reality, *our truth*. When confronted with undeniable evidence that our truth is only one among many valid perspectives (or that our truth is flat-out *wrong*), we have an uncanny ability to continue believing that our perspective can be the *only truth*. Clearly, we don't practice these types of conversations much, and thus we aren't very good at them.

Suggested Reading

What If? Short Stories to Spark Diversity Dialogue, by Steve L. Roberts

What's the Difference? Embracing Diversity & Inclusivity, edited by Linda Ellis Eastman

Online UU Resources:

“Nurturing Inclusivity In Our Congregations” -

<http://www.uua.org/growth/inclusivity>

Liberal Religious Educators Association -

<http://www.lreda.org/moving-toward-inclusive-vision>

Spiritual Practice/Reflection

Procure a copy of 110 Ways to Champion Diversity And Build Inclusion by Simma Lieberman, find relevant practices for yourself from among the 110 suggestions, and try and practice one every day for a week, or if you want to push yourself, a month.

2015-2016 UUCM Themes

September – Forgiveness

October – Inclusivity

November – Grace

December – Waiting

January – Freedom

February – Sexuality

March – Brokenness

April – Truth

May – Creativity

***Standing as a witness in all things
means being the first to say hello, being
the first to smile, being the first to
make the stranger feel a part of things,
being helpful, thinking of others'
feelings, being inclusive.***

~ Margaret D. Nadauld

Transitions

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

Too many mosquitoes,
Small flying vampires
seeking to enrich their shortened lives
by a meal of my blood.
Not *this* morning.

I sit indoors by my open window,
wrapped in quiet
as the symphony
plays the encore to its nightly concert.
Cicadas, katydids and crickets solo,
backed by untold numbers
of many-legged accompanists.

They finish to no applause
and the quiet intermission swells.
There comes a hush
as I await the announcement
of the second half.

It's different this morning.
The cardinal has been first so many mornings,
singing from the spruce tree just outside my window,
announcing intermission's end
just ahead of the rising dawn.
This morning, the chorus comes in first
and only then, the clear crystal notes of the cardinal.
In the distance, an owl calls.

~ *Reverend Julia*

Theme Reflection & Exploring Your Theology

Rev. Seth's Sunday afternoon Adult Religious Education offerings have returned this year, again meeting on a monthly basis for the 2015-2016 church year. The Theme Reflections group will hold our second meeting on Sunday, October 4th, from 12:30-2 pm in the Red Classroom, during which we will use a connection group model based on deep listening to explore October's theme of Inclusivity. You do not need to have attended a prior class to come this month, but you will need to bring or go get your own lunch prior to the class starting.

The Exploring Your Theology class will meet Sunday, October 11th from 12:30-2 pm, in the Indigo Room. Since our beliefs and theology are constantly evolving, it's good to spend some time every now and then exploring, and hopefully growing and evolving, our beliefs and value systems. Like the Reflections class, you will need to provide for your own lunch during the downtime between the service and the start of the class. We will cover different topics this year than we did last year, so if you came last year and would like to participate again, please feel free to do so.

If you have any questions about either of these classes, e-mail **Rev. Seth** at seth@uuchurchmuncie.org. Childcare will be available during both classes upon request - please contact **Nadine** at nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org as soon as possible if you will need childcare for one of these sessions.



Roots & Wings and New Member Joining Ceremony

If you're interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, or are a long-term member but would like a refresher, please consider attending our Roots & Wings class offered by Rev. Seth. The class will cover Unitarian Universalist theology, history, worship practices, and more, covered over two sessions Sunday mornings in October. Meetings will be Sunday, October 11th and Sunday October 18th, from 9:30-10:30 am in the Indigo Room. If you're interested in becoming a member, we ask that you participate in this class before signing the book. If you can't make the class, but want to become a member, contact **Rev. Seth** to set up a meeting. There will be a new member joining ceremony on Sunday, October 25th at 10:15 am in the Sanctuary, so if you're interested in joining, talk to Rev. Seth, and consider coming to the class!

Message from the President

We've all been busy!

On September 3rd, Reverend Seth Carrier-Ladd led a retreat for members of the Board at our church. Among other activities, we were asked to help compile a list of accomplishments during the last year. Within a short time, an entire sheet of giant chart paper was filled with over forty accomplishments or activities.

Did you participate to help make any of the following happen?

Solar panel grant; new mission & vision; new projector; feedback from Committee on Ministries was shared with the committees; personnel policy updates; successful youth programming; Bylaws updated; Unigram articles from Board president started; successful bazaar, service auction, harvest feast, and ice cream social; hosted Lenten series; Harshman panels repaired; dinner discussion groups met; the eBlast & Unigram were upgraded; new Adult RE classes were held on Sunday after church; we hired a new webmaster; and we also hired a Membership Coordinator; repaired roof and sanctuary; purchased a new kitchen stove; implemented cost of living raises for staff ; hosted equality prom; expanded Office Administrator's role; added

new members; expanded dedicated offerings to twice-a-month; lobbied against RFRA and Mounds Lake; Minister joined board of Christian Ministries; held our first Youth Sunday service; and our first Music Appreciation Sunday; Every. Single. Sunday food collection started; supported OUTreach; Black Lives Matter & Anti-racism Task Force; attended Youth CONS; hired an accountant; 4U became an official BSU group; upgraded office technology to Google Apps for Business; beautiful new table storage tables in sanctuary; church workdays; new picture directory; new color copier; added multigenerational activities; attendance at services & RE classes increased; and we got the Financial & Investment Committees up and going.

And this is only a partial list – we ran out of time and space on our sheet, but we could have added much more. Pat yourself on the back, if you helped make last year so successful!

Please help make this year successful by getting involved and volunteering to help.

Let's make this year even better!

Sherry Ware

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 18th

On Sunday, October 18, following the church service, we will hold our Fall Congregational Meeting. Please make plans to attend and be a part of UUCM's democratic process. The agenda will be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes from the May 17, 2015, Congregational Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report: Final financial report of the previous fiscal year
4. Elect Susan Bossung as Vice President to the Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

Sherry Ware, President
Susan Bossung, Vice-President
Holly Hanauer, President-Elect
Nancy Behforouz, Past-President
Usha Shivaswamy, Treasurer
Mary Johnson Robey, Secretary
Bruce Craig, Parliamentarian

Adult RE Opportunity

Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne is hosting a Jesus Seminar on the Road on October 30-31. The seminar (co-hosted by the UU Congregation of Fort Wayne) is titled "Bringing the Historical Jesus to Church." Leaders of the seminar are visiting scholars David Galston and Hal Taussig.

Program

Lecture: Friday evening, Oct. 30, 7:30- 9 pm, "Curious George, the historical Jesus, and 21st-Century Meaning Making."

Workshops: Saturday, Oct. 31, 9:30 am- 4 pm, "Jesus and history in a new New Testament", "What would Jesus think about church?", "How can a church be a home for the historical Jesus?", "Thinking about Jesus and the church."

For more information, see

<http://www.westarinstitute.org/upcoming-events-calendar/fort-wayne-2015/> or see announcement on bulletin board in church foyer. Additional info available from Paul Stout at pstout36@gmail.com or 282-6719.

From the Committee on Ministries

Ministry is the broad work of our congregation. Everything we do is part of our ministry to one another and to the community, both within the church and beyond. The work of our Mission and Vision Task Force last year has given us a strong base against which to assess how well we are working together to serve the mission of this congregation.

The Committee on Ministries is charged with helping the ministry teams within the congregation reflect on and assess our work. Our focus on Rev. Seth the first year and our broad assessment of all our ministry teams last year have allowed us to begin more focused work this year devoted to programmatic issues.

Our focus is not on individuals but on the structures through which we work. What are the role expectations and lines of accountability for different ministry teams and leaders? How well do our committees and task forces further our mission? How well do they work together? How well do we communicate—to one another and to the wider congregation—what they do? What can we do better? How can we improve and grow (spiritually, numerically, and/or financially)?

We begin a two-year cycle to address the questions stated above for each of our committees:

2015-16	2016-17
Adult RE	RE
Social Justice	Worship Associates
Welcome Committee & Hospitality	OUTreach
Caring Committee	Fellowship
Pastoral Associates	Property Maintenance
Stewardship	Communications
Finance	Board
Program Council	Staff

In an initial meeting early this fall with each UUCM committee listed for 2015-16, a CoM liaison will provide feedback pertinent to the committee’s work gathered through our focus groups and survey last year, discuss the committee’s 2015 annual report self-evaluation and the UUCM Mission and Vision statements as guidance for their goals and work 2015-16, and ask what information they would like us to gather for their particular ministry this year. In the spring we will gather information, relying on

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Hospitality Hopes (Continued from page 1)

the Board come up with a new plan, with the current model remaining in place until the end of October.

Thus with tremendous gratitude to the current group of deacons for their service, the Board has undertaken the task of reorganizing the Hospitality Committee, to better serve the needs of all church members, as well as our guests and visitors. After some quick research, we have decided to implement a system, beginning in November, that has six teams, one each representing the different colors of the rainbow. The teams will rotate responsibility for Sundays, so each team will only be responsible for the current deacons’ duties once every six weeks. We’ll start with the Red Team being responsible for a Sunday, then the Orange Team, then Yellow, and rotate right on through.

The Board is currently hard at work recruiting Captains for each of these teams, so if a Board member approaches you, please consider saying yes to their request. More importantly, to avoid burning out this new group, we are asking the entire congregation – that means you – to sign up to be on one of the teams to support the Team Captain on a given Sunday. The hope is that we’ll have at least 12 or 15 people on each team, so that while the Team Captains will be “on” every six weeks, the team members will only need to help every other time their team comes up in the rotation, or *once every three months*.

And so the request to everyone is – when you see the sign-up sheets for the new Hospitality Teams, please sign up. While we’ve been incredibly lucky to have this dedicated group of deacons taking care of hospitality on all of our behalves for the past couple of years, we now need everyone to pitch in to make sure the coffee is made, the orders of service get handed out, and everything gets cleaned up afterwards. The deacons have not been doing this all alone, of course, folks have been pitching in all along the way and we’re grateful for that help, but we’re trying to formalize the process, make it more organized, and get the entire congregation involved. There will be more details to come, but the main point is that we need everyone to participate.

Chipping in once every three months to make sure guests, visitors AND our fellow church friends and members have a great experience on Sunday mornings seems like a pretty reasonable request to us, and we hope you agree. Please help us continue to offer amazing hospitality to visitors and to each other, as we move forward with our new Hospitality Team.

Respectfully and with gratitude,

Rev. Seth on behalf of the Board

Bazaar in the Woods · November 7, 2015 · 8 am - 2 pm

Planning for the 2015 Bazaar in the Woods has begun! To make it a success, the Bazaar team needs all of us. When we come together as a church in fellowship, we do amazing things. Check out the descriptions below and see where you will fit in best. Whether you donate items, set up, work a booth, or help to clean up, you can make a difference. Please join us in this annual celebration of fellowship and the major fundraiser for our church.

- **Bazaar Set up:** On Sunday, November 1, after the service, volunteers are needed to set up tables, clothing racks, shelves, and help prep for the big day! Be prepared for fellowship, laughter, and fun. Chair: **Phil Gift**
- **Books:** Donate books, CDs, other media, and take some new books and media home from the Bazaar! Booklovers sign-up to sort and sell on the big day. Chairs: **Michael Doyle, Matt Janney, and John Bartlett.**
- **Children's Room:** New to our Bazaar this year! We are looking for gently used children's toys, books, and clothing for this new venture. We are asking for a chair for this booth. Please contact **Annemarie Voss** or **Nadine Tringali.**
- **Christmas and Holiday:** Do you have extra decorations or white elephant gifts? Chairs: **Nancy Chamberlain** and **Connie Craig.**
- **Collectibles:** Select interesting collectables, memorabilia, antiques, pottery, linens, or something unique from your home to donate. Chairs: **Caroline Sullivan, Linda McKean, and Jane Meyer.**
- **Encore Booth:** Search your closet for gently used upscale clothes and accessories, hats or purses that you no longer wear or need to donate and make room for the wonderful new treasures you are sure to find at this year's Encore booth! All items should be clean, in good repair, and on hangers. Sign up to help sort, hang up, and display clothing during set-up week. You can also help Encore sell the day of the Bazaar. Chair: **Linda Hanson.**
- **Fair Trade Booth:** Selling wonderful coffee, tea, nuts, chocolates and more. Volunteers are needed for three shifts.
- **Flea Market:** Please donate ordinary things in good repair that you no longer want or use. One person's trash is another person's treasure. We also need volunteers to sell on Bazaar day. Chair: **John McKillip**
- **Food:** Wait for information on what to donate for the food booth. The information will be in the Special Unigram.
- **Breakfast / Lunch:** Select a shift to help prepare and serve delicious food prepared by master chef **Kirk Robey.**
- **Jewelry Booth:** Dig through your jewelry box for necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and pins in good condition. Silver or gold, vintage, steampunk or vogue--we love it all! Place in the Jewelry collection basket on the table outside church office. The Jewelry booth also needs two relief workers for Bazaar Day! Chairs: **Ginny Nilles, Diane Hill, and Jean Filson.**
- **Plant Booth:** Have a green thumb or plant related items? We sell indoor and outdoor plants, if the latter are hardy. Be a relief worker on the day of the Bazaar. Chairs: **Judy Craig** and **Cheryl LeBlanc.**
- **Silent Auction:** Especially valuable more costly items will be offered at the silent auction. If possible, please send a photo to **Maggie Bartlett** at maggie_o_@yahoo.com, and give our auctioneers some sense of what you believe the value of the item to be. Chairs: **Bruce Craig, Michael Sullivan, and Tom Lowe.**
- **This & That (better than fleas):** The chairs and steering committee will select useful and nice items from the flea market and from lower price collectibles. Volunteer for help sell. Chairs: **Mary Robey** and **Sherry Ware.**
- **Saturday Clean-up, 2-3:30:** Restore the sanctuary for the Sunday service. Many hands make light the work! Chair: **Phil Gift.**

Your help is so important to make the Bazaar a success. Use the contacts and links below to volunteer for the big day!

Bazaar Co-chair Annemarie Voss e-mail: annemarievoss@mac.com or phone: 765.610.3166

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/8050C44AEAB2CAB9-bazaar

Check the special Bazaar issue of the Unigram (Oct. 21) & the weekly eBlast for more Bazaar updates!

Actively Practicing Inclusivity

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

social justice work to be done. But for folks like us who are generally on the liberal side of things, we can sometimes fall into the trap of resting on our laurels a bit when it comes to practicing inclusivity. It's easy for us to say, in our vision statement, that "We welcome people of all identities, regardless of age, class, culture, race, ableness, gender identity, or sexual orientation." It can be harder to remember, sometimes, that we still have work to do, that we might need to do some things differently, if we're going to truly continue our practicing of inclusivity. It can be hard to remember, when "we're already so liberal and welcoming," that yes, there is indeed more work to be done.

Part of the challenge is that we don't always recognize where we might be being less inclusive. Because most of the time, if we recognize that we're not being inclusive, we do our best to correct course almost immediately, given that inclusivity is one of our core values. For example, I try to pay attention to the kinds of examples I use and stories I tell in sermons – because as clear a supporter as I am of the LGBTQ community, if I only ever share stories and examples in my sermons about heterosexual couples, that is going to be noticeable to folks who are gay, and make them feel excluded, even though I would certainly have no ill intent. The deeper challenge is the "things we don't know we don't know." So I know that I need to include multiple types of couples in my sermons to be inclusive of the LGBTQ community, but the challenge for me lies in the areas where I don't realize that I might inadvertently be being exclusive. For example, it was recently brought to my attention by one of the pagan members of our congregation that while I have been trying to explore a range of theological positions in my sermons along the atheist-theist spectrum, that I haven't talked much at all about polytheism. Not my intent to exclude those folks, and yet I have been, without being aware.

So this is the challenge for all of us. We proclaim we practice inclusivity, and we do our best, which is usually pretty good. We're certainly much better at practicing inclusivity than many other religious institutions which claim to do so. And, practicing inclusivity is included in our mission statement for a reason. It wouldn't be there if we had done everything we could ever possibly do to be inclusive, if we didn't have ongoing inclusivity work that we needed to tackle. Now, it can be uncomfortable, especially when we think of ourselves as being inclusive, to have areas pointed out to us where our

thinking or behavior might actually be falling short of what we would hope. I know it certainly has brought up feelings of defensiveness for me at various points when it's pointed out to me that I'm being exclusive, despite my best attempts to be otherwise. It can be downright uncomfortable to have to have these types of things pointed out to us. And so I hope, as we continue the hard work of *actively practicing inclusivity* as individuals and as a congregation, that we can lean into those feelings of discomfort when we find out that we have more work to do in some areas, so that we can take whatever steps forward we need to make sure that everyone, regardless of their identities, feels like they belong in our religious community.

We've done much amazing work, we're continuing to do great things, and, there is always more to be done. I'm so glad to be on this journey with all!

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

Rev. Seth



Committee on Ministries

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interviews and focus groups as methods—the conversations that allow us not only to speak but to listen to one another—and we will use committees' goals as the basis for reflection and assessment in our final meetings with committees.

If you have any questions or concerns about the work the Committee on Ministries is doing, any of our committee members will be happy to have a conversation with you.

Committee on Ministries: **Steve Chalk, Adrienne Gruver, Linda Hanson** (chair), **Linda McKean, Kirk Robey, Amy Shaw, Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd** (*ex officio*)

Sharing Gratitude



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 October 21.

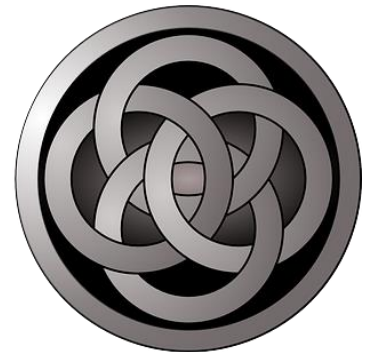
Have you seen **Nancy Chamberlain, Steve and Iris Chalk, Carolyn Cooley, Judy Craig, Alyssa Farnsworth?** How about **Holly Hanauer, Heather Hodson, Linda Hanson, Eleanor Johnson, Judy Lowe, Ginny Nilles, Kristen Owens, Judith Roepke, Kirsten Smith, Caroline Sullivan, Susan**

Taylor and Eleanor Trawick? When you see these people *please say thank you to them* for volunteering food and service to this year's Teamwork for Quality Living dinner. On August 20th, they baked lasagna, chopped salad, made breads and fruit crisps, and then showed up at First Baptist Church to provide a delicious meal for Teamwork for Quality Living. Many of them stayed to participate in the program and are considering signing on to TQL's mission. *What a gift these people are!* Extend special thanks, too, to **Connie and Linda Gregory** who were there to greet them! Thank you, everyone, for your generous work!
 ~Jan Moore, FOHN Task Force

The Property Maintenance committee would like to thank **Jane Meyer** for helping to keep our church grounds weed free this past summer. She came over many Tuesday mornings of her own accord to take care of those nasty weeds so that our entrances and grounds looked more presentable. Thank you, Jane!!

Wheel of Life

Welcome to our new Wheel of Life Section! This section will host short, two-three sentence long summaries of major life events and transitions that have happened or will be happening shortly to members and friends of the church. Examples of appropriate items for submission include births, graduations, marriages, plans to move away, significant illnesses, or deaths. If you have a major life event you'd like the church community to be aware of, please submit it to the Wheel of Life section of the Unigram at uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.



Aria Alaniz Gatzlaff died on September 20th, 2015 while holding her daddy's hand. Aria was born into this world four short years ago, with significant medical challenges her whole life due to a severe case of Fanconi Anemia. She was a joy and an inspiration to her family and our congregation, and will be missed by us all.

Paul Errington was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma following a routine dental exam. He will have surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital on Oct. 6 and radiation afterwards at the IU Health-Ball Memorial Cancer Center. While the doctors are optimistic about the outcome, the surgery and radiation will be grueling. Your thoughts and prayers are most welcome.

Vanessa Ament is recovering wonderfully from her summer car accident that resulted in bed rest for eight weeks. She is walking, teaching, singing in her choirs, has returned to her busy schedule, and even bought a new Honda CRV. Many thanks to the church members who took such good care of her. Who says miracles don't happen?

Our daughter, **Haley**, was married to **Brad Collins** on September 26, surrounded by four generations of family and close friends. It was a day full of wonder and love! ~ **Nadine Tringali & Michael Mayfield**

October 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
4U: Ball State University UU Union Room 305, BSU Student Center	Sundays	8:00 pm
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 – 9:00 pm
Revival Hour (see web calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

October Events & Activities

Fall Retreat at Pokagon	Fri-Sun	Oct 2-4	
OUTreach Dance	Saturday	Oct 3	7:00 pm
Theme Reflections	Sunday	Oct 4	12:30 pm
FOHN Task Force	Monday	Oct 5	7:00 pm
Communications Committee	Tuesday	Oct 6	6:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesday	Oct 6	7:00 pm
Finance Committee	Wednesday	Oct 7	5:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Oct 7	7:30 pm
Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	Oct 11	9:30 am
Coming of Age Mentor Lunch	Sunday	Oct 11	Noon
Chalice Marketplace :: coffee & other Fair Trade items for sale	Sunday	Oct 11	Before & after the service
Exploring Your Theology	Sunday	Oct 11	12:30 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Oct 12	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	Oct 14	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Oct 14	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Oct 15	7:15 pm
Coming of Age Fall Retreat	Fri-Sun	Oct 16-18	
Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	Oct 18	9:30 am
Fall Congregational Meeting	Sunday	Oct 18	Noon
Adult Religious Education Committee	Sunday	Oct 18	12:15 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesday	Oct 20	7:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Oct 21	7:00 pm
Committee on Community Ministry	Thursday	Oct 22	7:30 pm
CONtagious! Youth CON at UUI	Fri-Sun	Oct 23-25	
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	Oct 25	9:30 am
New Member Signing Ceremony	Sunday	Oct 25	10:15 am
Fellowship Committee	Sunday	Oct 25	12:15 pm
Anti-Racism Task Force	Sunday	Oct 25	12:30 pm
Kitchen Cleaning	Saturday	Oct 31	9:30 am
Circle in the Woods	Saturday	Oct 31	7:00 pm

Bits & Pieces

Church Office Schedule

The Church Office will be closed Oct 2 & 5, 30.

The **UU Book Group** will be meeting on October 8, at 7:00 pm, in the home of **Annemarie Voss**, to discuss *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. Every interested reader is welcome. If you are new, please let Annemarie know you'll be joining us.

Muncie OUTreach is offering a second support group!!!

Finding Spirit (Supporting Proper Information, Resources and Inclusion for TransPeople) will meet the first and third Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 pm, in the Red classroom. This group is open to trans and nonconforming individuals of all ages. Allies are also welcome.

Contact us at muncieoutreach@gmail.com for more information.

Harvest Feast is coming! It's not too early to begin thinking about what luscious dish you hope to share, the friends you will see and the fun you will have!

Save the date... **Saturday November 21, 5:30 pm!** And be on the lookout for sign-up sheets and ticket sale information.

Questions? Call **Ginny Nilles** 729-8365

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

seth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

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Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs

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765.288.9561 | uucm@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

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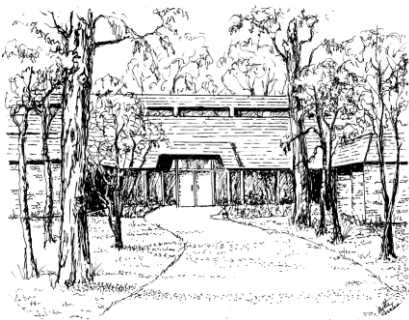
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