



# the UNIGRAM

## Discovering Grace

*Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister*

Grace, our theme for November, is not a word or concept that I gave much theological weight to for a long time, since most of the concepts of grace I heard were of the kind where some anthropomorphic god I didn't believe in bestowed favor from on high. Typically, if someone brought the topic of grace up in conversation, my response was likely to have been along the lines of, "Grace? Yeah, I don't really believe in that." And then about fifteen years ago, I experienced a moment of grace, a moment that made me re-think my definition.

The transformation came when I was co-teaching an Our Whole Lives sexuality class to a group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Classes were always held on Sunday afternoons after church, and on this particular Sunday, I was a wreck. I don't even remember why I was a wreck now, but I was an emotional mess at the

time. I didn't make it to church in time, and I didn't make it to the start of our class in time. In fact, not only did I "not make it on time," I showed up, without having called, about forty five minutes into the hour long session, leaving my co-facilitator Elaine by herself, to teach a class we had prepared as a two-person team. And I wasn't much use for the 15 minutes I was there either. I sat in my chair and was physically present, but that was about it. Elaine noted my arrival, and proceeded to finish teaching the class without comment. Once class ended, the kids started filing out, and I anticipated an onslaught. I braced myself for the angry questions and accusations I was sure were about to be hurled my way. Shoulders hunched, walls up as the last kid left the room – I was prepared for the

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## A Life, Graced

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

I turned 70 last month. That gave me quite a bit of pause for reflection. I'll begin drawing Social Security. At 70 ½, I have to begin taking required minimum distributions from my IRA. I believe that means the government is actively contemplating my demise, based on the mysterious calculations of those professionals known as actuaries.

And then there are the physical and mental challenges that Bill Sinkford alludes to in his essay, "Rise in Body or in Spirit" (in Kathleen Montgomery's edited volume, *Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality*). I have, for example,

taken the American Association of Retired People course for elderly drivers, specifically designed to counter the limitations of age. Mr. Sinkford notes the expression, "Seventy is the new fifty." He then goes on to say "Yes... and no. There is most certainly life, love, and productivity at seventy and well beyond. But we are dealing with changes too... Aging is about decreased ability, increased limitation... Aging is about the acceptance of approaching death." His words ring true for me.

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## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

**Services begin at 10:45 am November Worship Theme :: Grace**

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

Sunday, November 1 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	Rev. Seth delivers our first exploration of this month's theme of Grace. If you have a loved one who has died whom you would like to honor, please join us in the sanctuary at 10:15am for our special Day of the Dead service. Dedicated Offering: Christian Ministries Sleeping Room
Sunday, November 8 <b>Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd</b>	<b>Go Fly a Kite</b> - Life can be stormy. We can find ourselves surrounded by wind and fog. How might we respond? How can we keep going? How do we find our way? Our own Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd joins us as our guest preacher. Dedicated Offering: Christian Ministries Sleeping Room
Sunday, November 15 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	We'll take a break from exploring Grace, with a surprise topic from Rev. Seth - check your Friday eBlast the week before for details on the topic. Don't miss the free, all-church screening of the film "Selma" at 1pm following the service.
Sunday, November 22 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	Rev. Seth tackles our theme of Grace one final time. Will Grace be able to break the tackle and escape? Or will Rev. Seth be able to wrestle it to the ground? You'll have to come to find out!
Sunday, November 29 <b>Rev. Gordon Gibson</b>	<b>Before Selma . . . and Beyond</b> - The Selma voting rights struggle 50 years ago marked a high point nationally for Unitarian Universalist engagement with civil rights issues. But for southern Unitarian Universalist congregations those issues had been engaged long before Selma and remained live well beyond the Selma events. What can we learn today from the struggles and the successes that they experienced? Rev. Gordon Gibson, minister emeritus at the UU Fellowship of Elkhart, in Elkhart, IN, joins us as our guest preacher.

### Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am

Sunday, November 1 <b>Curriculum Sunday &amp; Halloween Parade</b>	Everyone is invited to join the children and youth in our Halloween Parade, which will begin the service in the sanctuary. Parents, please save a seat for your children, as they will remain in the service through our "Story for All Ages."
Sunday, November 8 <b>Curriculum Sunday</b>	Please join us, as we continue our religious exploration!
Sunday, November 15 <b>Multigenerational Service</b>	Following the service, please join us in the fellowship hall for our 3rd Sunday Multi-Gen Event. There will be an assortment of fantastic designs to color!
Sunday, November 22 <b>Curriculum Sunday</b>	Religious exploration continues!
Sunday, November 29 <b>No Classes</b>	On this Thanksgiving weekend, we will not be holding classes. As always, the nursery will be open, along with childcare for preschool youth in the Blue Room.

### Adult Religious Exploration Offerings

For more information about all the classes listed below see [page 5](#).

1 <sup>st</sup> Sundays – Yellow room	<b>Exploring Spiritual Practices with Rev. Julia</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sundays – Yellow Room	<b>What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology with Rev. Elizabeth</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays – Yellow Room	<b>Listening Circles with the Pastoral Associates</b>
Every Sunday – Red Room	<b>Pre-Service Discussion</b>
Every Sunday – Violet Room	<b>Muncie UU Pagans</b>

## RE Corner :: Community

**Nadine Tringali,**  
**Director of Religious Education**

### Coming of Age

Our Coming of Age Retreat, held on October 16-18, was a HUGE hit! ☺ As I settled into my spot in the sanctuary, for the 3am-7am shift on Sunday morning, I reflected on the wonderful time I had experienced with our middle school youth over the weekend. Such a wonderful group of polite and joyous teens! Many thanks to all our parents and teachers who volunteered their time to make it happen! We had eleven youth participating in the retreat, which involved two overnights. The days were full of workshops and activities designed to prepare our youth for their Coming of Age journey this year. The comments that were gathered from our youth at the closing ceremony, joyously exclaimed, that they loved it and really appreciated that we provided this opportunity!

### Halloween Parade ~ Sunday, November 1☺

The parade will "kick off" the service in the sanctuary. We will gather in our classrooms for final parade preparations at 10:30, with the parade starting at 10:45. Parents, please save seats for your child/ren, as they will remain in the sanctuary though our Story for All Ages, before they head to their classrooms.

### UUCM Bazaar - Boston Bound Booth, "Chocolate & More!"

Please plan on attending our UUCM Bazaar November 7! Donations of candies, baked goods, or "more" will be greatly appreciated! Please label donations for Boston Bound, provide a suggested price, and include a list of ingredients. Donations can be dropped off at the church on Friday, 11/6, or early on Saturday, 11/7. We still have two slots to fill at our booth. Please contact me if you would like to help out!

### Harvest Feast, Youth Readers Needed

We are *signing up* youth readers for our upcoming Harvest Feast on Saturday, November 21. It is a wonderful multigenerational evening at the church, where the youth enjoy the chance to participate in a "readers theatre" and use the microphone! The sign-up sheet will be on the round table in the fellowship hall this coming Sunday through Sunday, November 15, or until the positions are filled. We have four questions and answers to be read; please pick one question or one answer. You may also email [nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org) to sign- up.

**Nadine**

## November Youth Schedule!

**Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd,**  
**Coordinator of Youth programs**



**November 1,  
12:30 – 2 pm  
Combined Youth  
Groups**

In years past youth have helped with Bazaar set up, particularly with

breaking down our rooms so that they it can become the Encore booth. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year and we all find ways to chip in and help. This is an opportunity for us to contribute to this event. It would be great to have a good group of helpers!

Our regular meeting will be rescheduled for the following week when the Encore booth will be condensed into one room.

### November 8, 12:30 - 2 pm – Combined Youth Groups

Come to sing, build community, support one another, play and laugh! Lunch will be provided!

### November 15, 1 – 4 pm – Selma Film Screening

The 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches were a watershed moment in United States history and Unitarian Universalist history. When Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put out the call to clergy from all religious traditions to join him in marching, Unitarian Universalist ministers responded in remarkable numbers and with great risk. One UU minister and one UU laywoman were killed. Our churches Anti-racism task force is organizing a screening of the film that depicts some of the events of this moment in history. There will be small group discussions to unpack what the film portrays and how we might learn from it. Youth (middle and high school) will meet in a small group with Elizabeth to discuss the film and what it brought up for us.

*Please note: The film is based on violent events and is at times graphic and hard to watch. The violence is not, however, gratuitous. Especially as it is based on actual events. Parents are asked to use their own discretion to determine whether their youth is ready to watch the movie.*

Blessings,

**Elizabeth**

## Theme Exploration – Grace

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 titled “Eyes as Clear as Centuries” by Ann McCallister:

It is said that grace can be “an unexpected, undeserved good.” I feel resistance to the idea that grace is ever undeserved, probably because in the work I do as an attorney, I represent convicted murderers, abusers, burglars, car thieves, drug dealers, etc., all of whom, whether guilty or innocent, need as much grace as possible to give them another jumpstart to hopefully connect with their higher selves and heal.

My belief is that the universe is benevolent in an impersonal way – that grace is the high vibration of manifested love that weaves in and out of our lives, nourishing us especially when we are not consciously aware that we need it. The gift that simply happens just when we are mired in some feeling that life sucks, and then, we serendipitously come across the amazing face of a baby with “eyes as clear as centuries” as Paul Simon sang in “Born at the Right Time.” And afterwards, we realize we don’t feel the same way.

### Suggested Reading

[Grace: Quotes & Passages for Heart, Mind, and Soul](#), edited by B.C. Aronson

### Online UU Resources:

“Everyday Grace” by Rev. Matt Alspaugh –

<http://www.uuyo.org/2011/11/sermon-everyday-grace/>

“What Is Grace to a Unitarian Universalist?” by Rev. Charles Stephens –

<http://www.uucwc.org/2010/01/31/what-is-grace-to-a-unitarian-universalist/>

### Spiritual Practice/Reflection

Try out saying grace before dinner every day for a week. It doesn’t have to be fancy – “We are thankful for the food, and for the hands that prepared it, and for our family and for our friends,” is a lovely grace. Another version: “For the food before us, and the friends beside us, and the love that surround us, we are truly grateful.” Or it could be as simple as being grateful for everyone at the meal by taking a moment to make eye contact with everyone at the table. Or make up your own. However you do it, see what it feels like, even if it’s uncomfortable at first, to try saying grace – by yourself, or with friends and family – every day for a week.

### 2015-2016 UUCM Themes

September – Forgiveness

October – Inclusivity

November – Grace

December – Waiting

January – Freedom

February – Sexuality

March – Brokenness

April – Truth

May – Creativity

*I do not at all understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.*

~Anne Lamott

## Expanded Sunday Morning Adult Religious Exploration Offerings!

Our new mission statement begins by calling us to a continuing exploration of our faith. In pursuit and support of that goal, we are expanding our Adult R.E. offerings during the Sunday morning 9:30 am-10:30 am pre-service slot. Check out all the offerings below!

### Exploring Spiritual Practices

**1<sup>st</sup> Sundays – Yellow Room**

Start your month off by investigating a spiritual practice that you may want to make a part of your everyday life. **Rev. Julia** will lead an adult RE offering based on U.U. minister Scott W. Alexander's book, *Everyday Spiritual Practice* (Skinner House, 1999). We'll discuss one or two of his suggestions for different spiritual disciplines and then you'll have the intervening month to put into practice what appeals to you. Engaging in regular spiritual practice is one way we can explore our faith. It's also a good way to strengthen ourselves for practicing inclusivity and living justice. We'll proceed in the spirit of exploration and discovery, without judgment.

### What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays – Yellow Room**

Our theology is rich and powerful. Join Rev. Elizabeth to explore what makes Unitarian Universalist theology so life giving and transformative. Together, we will dive into a beautiful and experiential curriculum created by the UU theologian Rev. Dr. Thandeka. We will journey together in faith, through shared direct experiences and reflection exercises, readings and lessons, and ethical deliberations. Sessions will build on one another, though new participants may join at any time.

### Listening Circles

**4<sup>th</sup> Sundays – Yellow Room**

Two of the Pastoral Associates facilitate our new Listening Circles group on the 4th Sunday of the month in the Yellow Classroom. Our Pastoral Associates are a group of trained and committed lay people who diversify and expand the pastoral ministry of our church. Listening Circles, based on a model of speaking and listening that affords everyone a safe space in which to speak from their heart, offer us the opportunity to strengthen our faith and form deeper relationships with each other. Confidentiality and emotional safety are paramount. This is a place where you can share your personal feelings and innermost thoughts with others in a safe environment. You do not have to participate every month; come when you can and when you have something you wish to share with an open, respectful group of listeners.

### Pre-Service Discussion

**Every Sunday – Red Room**

Our Sunday morning mainstay continues. This group is meant as a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. A different leader each week presents the topic and tells us some main points and history, usually lasting about 10-15 minutes. Then we discuss the topic for the rest of the hour, with a moderator helping guide the discussion and making sure everyone gets a chance to talk. Our discussions usually focus on issues of morality, ethics, knowledge, personal responsibility, and applying UU Principles to daily life. All interested adults are welcome – there's no signing up; just come for subjects that sound interesting you or come for them all!

### Muncie UU Pagans

**Every Sunday – Violet Room**

This is an open discussion group to explore the differences in our pagan traditions. We will also be discussing the reasons that so many Pagan and Earth based religions find a home in a UU congregations. In the UU spirit of loving and inclusiveness, people of any belief are welcome to attend.

## Adult Religious Exploration

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.

### Theme Reflection

The Theme Reflections group will hold our third meeting on Sunday, November 1st, from 12:30-2 pm in Rev. Seth's office, during which we will use a connection group model based on deep listening to explore November's theme of Grace. 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.

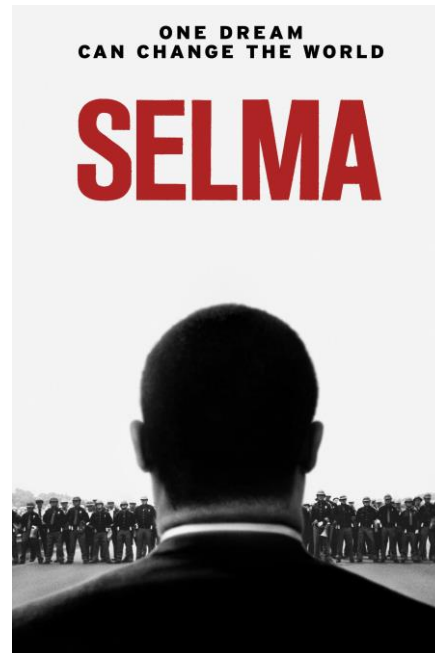
### Exploring Your Theology

The Exploring Your Theology class will meet Sunday, November 8th, from 12:30-2 pm, in the Yellow 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](mailto:seth@uuchurchmuncie.org).

Childcare will be available during both classes upon request - please contact Nadine at [nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org) as soon as possible if you will need childcare for one of these sessions.

## Screening of the Movie "Selma" Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1-4:00 pm



As we see all too frequently in the news, racism is still a problem in our country, in all sorts of different ways. Our church's Anti-Racism Task Force was founded last year to see how we as a religious community could, and should respond. A public screening of the movie Selma, after church on Sunday, November 15th, at 1:00 pm, in the sanctuary, will be our first event this year. The film documents the struggles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders as they organized demonstration marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, in their ultimately successful effort to gain voting rights for blacks in the United States. Please join us for this special screening, and then stay afterwards for an hour of small-group dialogue reflecting on our experience of the film, and what it means for us today in our ongoing fight against racism, facilitated by members of the Anti-Racism Task Force.

The logistics: popcorn and soda will be available for a nominal charge, \$3 gets you one of each. There is no admission charge for the event, but a free will offering would be accepted to help offset expenses. Childcare is available upon request - please contact Nadine at [nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org) as soon as possible if you would like childcare for this event. The movie is approximately two hours long, and we'll plan on keeping the small group discussions to an hour, so we should be done by 4.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending - we will only make progress in the fight against racism if we continue to engage the issue, and each other!

## Message from the President

As President of the Congregation, I'm expected to do whatever is needed to keep our church community moving forward. When I received an email from Rev. Seth last week, asking me to help him with a skit during the upcoming church service, I emailed that I'd be happy to help. I was relieved, after reading it, to discover that he had written in some good laughs for me. Even though I'm usually shy in front of an audience, I got my laughs and had fun, too. Thanks, Seth.

I've always considered myself more of a "worker bee," than a "queen bee." Much of what I'm required to do as President of the Congregation is not in my natural skill set. I'm required to plan agendas, attend multiple committee meetings, answer numerous emails, and use Parliamentary Procedure. I'm still struggling to understand the budget. Thank heavens for Treasurer Usha Shivaswamy, Chuck Austin, and the Finance Committee. I'd much rather be working in my garden or cooking up some new recipe, than figuring out what should go on the agenda.

The only reason I agreed to a three-year commitment to serve as President-Elect, President, and Past-President, was ALL OF YOU. I value this church community and want it to not only survive, but thrive.

Please be willing to step outside of *your* comfort zone and sign up to help keep our church family strong.

**Sherry Ware**

## Questions on the 2015-16 Budget

Some questions were raised after the Congregational meeting last Sunday, October 18, 2015.

Regarding a question about the 2015-16 Budget, the Finance Committee had decided that the Congregational approval on 4/19/15 of the loan for the Solar Panels and Congregational approval on 8/9/15 of the loan for the roof repairs constituted approval of the related changes to the budget.

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Chuck Austin, presented the financing plan for both of these projects at the August 9 Special Congregational Meeting. The plan showed the loan repayment of \$188 per month for the solar project and \$281 per month for the membrane roof.

Since the Congregation approved the financing plan at the August 9 meeting, the Finance Committee did not believe it would be necessary to approve them again at the October 18 Congregational meeting. The loan payments will appear on the monthly financial statements, which are monitored both by the Finance Committee and the Board.

Regarding the current fiscal year financial statements, the by-Laws require that the year-end reports of the previous fiscal year be presented at the October Congregational meeting. Also, the comparison of the current budget with the previous year budget is done at the May Congregational meeting.

For your information, the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expense Statement as of September 30, 2015, showing actual financial operations for the first quarter of fiscal year 2015-16, is available in the church office for anyone wishing to see a copy. As I will be away for more than two months, Jeff Hathaway and Chuck Austin have kindly agreed to answer any questions you may have on these financial statements.

**Usha Shivaswamy, Treasurer**

## Solar Panels Update

**Wayne Meyer, Green Team**



## Installation Progress

With the help of dry sunny weather during the week of Oct. 5, the new PVC membrane roof is almost completely in place (and inspected) – including the entire high roof over the sanctuary. Therefore, after more dry sunny weather during the week of Oct. 12, our solar contractor, Eric Heshner, reported today (Monday, Oct. 19) that most of the components of our solar system – mounting racks, 80 solar panels, and some of the cinder blocks – are on the roof and now being carefully aligned, etc. So with a similar forecast for this week, more good progress should be made. It will probably be a couple more weeks before the system can be turned on – after final wiring by a certified electrician, inspection by the City of Muncie

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## Worship Associates

### From the Committee on Ministries

*This is the first in a series of articles about the ministries of our church. Everything we do is part of our ministry to one another and to the community, both within the church and beyond. Each month over the next two years the series will spotlight the work of a committee or task force that contributes to the broader ministry of our congregation.*

The Worship Associate's role in each Sunday service makes the team highly visible. Their responsibilities, preparation, and reflection behind the scenes, however, are less visible.

They coordinate with Seth and Julia, sometimes planning well in advance, and are responsible for guiding and coordinating with guest ministers. (Seth invites guest ministers during the year, but Worship Associates are responsible for summer guest speakers, tapping seminaries and speakers who have appeared before.) WAs collaborate with Sights and Sounds and the Directors of RE and Music every Sunday, the entire team meeting before the service to ensure a seamless, coherent service. They also coordinate with Deacons who must ring the bells. Afterwards, they spend half of their 1.5 hour monthly meetings talking about each service to evaluate it in terms of proportion, shape and direction, appropriateness of content, flow, clarity, and inclusivity. They would love feedback for that process!

Reflection and planning also include efforts to increase congregational involvement, like the multigenerational service and the use of monthly themes, and discussion about practices that have been moved out of Sunday services—harvest feast, day of the dead, and the new member ceremony, for example. Our Mission—*Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice*—informs their reflection and planning: service topics and practices span a variety of faith traditions; chalice lighters are diverse; and social justice is a constant in theme and action. To meet the congregation's needs for audio and visual, the team also did the research necessary to purchase the new projector. To keep the congregation informed, they manage Unigram and Order of Service announcements as well.

Individually, Worship Associates are expected to come to meetings, take their turn (every 6 weeks), help plan summer services, have a good speaking voice (be able to project), follow a script (ad lib only if needed), embrace lots of details (multi-task), not have stage fright, and be adaptable. Once scheduled, a WA looks up chalice lighting words, a meditation, or anything else that might come up

after Seth has suggested the topic. Mentoring new WAs and having them shadow experienced WAs is part of their effort to train each other. (Iris Chalk is now a junior WA, in training.) They clearly need an excel doc to keep everything straight!

What's it like to be a Worship Associate? What's most important? Bea says, "being a WA is a perfect fit for me: challenging, inspirational, but not overwhelming." Bill likes working "with the other WAs and the minister to add value our worship... a key part of what happens at UU." Denise appreciates "the opportunity to share [her] enthusiasm and connect with people during the worship service." Diane enjoys the full process and sharing responsibility for enabling "the congregation to gain the most insight from the words during worship." Lisa says, "Being a WA plays to my organizational strengths as well as appeals to my sense of 'Learn/grow by doing'", so I enjoy collaborating with Seth, Julia, and the other WAs to turn the many Sunday details into a cohesive, meaningful service for the congregation."

As Lisa Kuriscak, the WA chair, noted, "A certain amount of disorganization with all the options open and lots of people involved can be daunting, but the moment when everything comes together is awesome!" She cited two examples of services for which she served as WA: "It's so inspiring to see Julia who likes all the t's crossed and I's dotted to go way beyond her comfort zone to write her own sermon on Radical Trust at 4 in the morning when she'd been asked late Saturday afternoon to substitute for Seth who was ill and was offered one of Elizabeth's sermons to use. But she couldn't just use Elizabeth's—it wasn't hers. And then she also did the story for all ages, which she'd never done before." That service epitomized all the qualities necessary for a WA: follow script, ad lib only if needed, embrace lots of details (multi-task), not have stage fright, be adaptable. Second, in the recent multigenerational service Seth and Nadine planned, Lisa chose to be adaptable and now would happily dance every Sunday with fabric and an inflatable globe.

Worship Associates: **Lisa Kuriscak** (chair); **Iris Chalk**, **Denise Ewing**, **Bill Frederick**, **Diane Hill**, **Brandon Mundell**, **Bea Sousa**

See their Annual Report at <http://goo.gl/eSlO6t>

Email your thoughts about a service to any one of the WAs—they'd welcome the feedback.



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

## ***10 DAYS UNTIL BAZAAR TIME***

### ***OUR CHURCH WILL BE BUZZING WITH PREPARATIONS ALL WEEK!***

#### **Favorite Booths, Excellent Breakfast, Exceptional Lunch, and Outstanding Musical Entertainment!**

It's almost here! We know you are ready with your donations and have signed up to volunteer! Our UU church will shine for our guests as we showcase local artisans, chefs, and musicians. All the pieces are coming together for Muncie's oldest and finest Bazaar.

### **Our 10-day Checklist**

#### ***Your next steps for the success of your Bazaar:***

- Bring your donations beginning November 2: There's still plenty of time to gather items to donate. See Schedule from Special Edition Bazaar Unigram.
- Bring your food donations: Ingredients must be listed along with the donor's name, and suggested price. Donations can be dropped off at the church on Friday, 11/6, or early on Saturday, 11/7.
- Sign Up to volunteer! Where will you work to make the Bazaar a success? Your help is needed for set up, clean up and Bazaar Day. Plenty of spaces are available. Go to [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/8050C44AEAB2CAB9-bazaar](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/8050C44AEAB2CAB9-bazaar) online or sign up on sheets are posted at the back of the sanctuary. You may also be a one- or two-hour relief worker. Give a booth chair a chance to shop and eat. Many hands will make the work light and fun!
- Look on the bulletin board how you can help during set-up week: help to sort our books and other donations, hang our clothing, clean some donated items, polish some silver, help to hang pictures, etc.
- Invite everyone you know to attend Muncie's oldest and best Bazaar pass out pass out/post flyers!
- "Garden Window" Show off photos of this beautiful quilt and tickets sell seem to themselves! Share with co-workers, friends, and family. Raffle tickets are available for: \$1/each or 6/\$5.
- Eat breakfast and lunch at the Bazaar and invite friends and family to join you!
- Enjoy music while you work, eat, and shop!
- Shop! Shop! Shop!

#### ***What treasures will you find at the 2015 Bazaar in the woods?***

All the pieces are coming together for Muncie's oldest Bazaar. In fact, you don't want to miss these recently donated items from a generous giver! More information will be posted on the Facebook page later in the week. Having just received these items, the Bazaar committee is still determining the best method to sell these items.

**Bazaar Co-chair Annemarie Voss e-mail: [annemarievoss@mac.com](mailto:annemarievoss@mac.com) or phone: 765.610.3166**

***Check out last week's special Bazaar issue of the Unigram & the weekly eBlast for more Bazaar updates!***

## Discovering Grace

**Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd** [\(continued from page 1\)](#)

worst. Elaine turned to me and said, “Are you ok?”

If grace can be redefined as receiving unearned, unexpected gifts – that was my experience in this moment, and I can only define it as grace. I felt overwhelmed in the moment by the grace Elaine was offering me, when I felt she had every right to dress me down, and instead, she chose to see if I was ok. Because if the situation had been reversed, I would have been all over her, giving her a hard time for being so late, for not calling, for completely dropping the ball on all fronts. Instead, she just expressed concern for me. Maybe if I was being my best self, I would have asked how she was doing first, but at some point, I would have complained about her irresponsibility. In the entire 15-20 minutes we stayed there after the class, she expressed not one word of frustration to me, she just cared for me.

This example also highlights an important part of this new definition of unearned, unexpected gifts – what is unearned and unexpected is in the eye of the beholder. I’m in a very different place now, fifteen years later, and I’d like to think that if I were in Elaine’s shoes now that my response would be more like hers, and less like the criticisms I would have surely offered back then. And so maybe now, if a similar situation were to happen to me again, with my expectations different, I might feel a less powerful experience of grace, or perhaps even not at all. But in that moment, for me, it was an act of grace, and it still feels that way. Elaine’s deep care and kindness, her gift of above and beyond in that moment, it still warms my soul to this day.

While I have experienced other moments of grace since then, Elaine’s kindness remains the most resonant for me, the one that shifted my perspective. If I had to venture where grace comes from today, I would probably say it has its roots in love, whether that be the love of another human being, or the divine Love energy that infuses the universe. Whatever its source, wherever it comes from, however it comes into being, Elaine shared grace with me in that moment. And all these years later, it still touches my heart, it still blesses my being. As we explore Grace together as our theological theme this month, may you at some point be blessed with grace.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**

## Solar Panel Update [\(continued from page 7\)](#)

Building Dept., and final inspection by American Electric Power. But things are progressing smoothly – and we will definitely beat the ice and snow!

The Green Team is busy working on how to fulfill some of the obligations described in our solar grant application.

### Increasing Energy Efficiency in our Community

Two organizations in Muncie - Home Savers of Delaware County (formerly Rebuilding Together), and Interfaith Earth Care (the Muncie affiliate of Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light) - are co-sponsoring a new program of residential winterization with the twin objectives of A) helping low-income home owners stay in their homes and keeping them safe, warm, and dry and B) lowering their heating bills and reducing the burning of fossil fuels.

**Holly Hanauer** and the Green Team are actively supporting this effort. A select list of winterization tasks was developed, about seven handy-person trainers/supervisors were recruited and oriented, and “diagnostic” visits to ten or so “candidate” houses in the Whitely neighborhood were made – all in careful preparation for the big implementation day on Saturday, October 24, when teams of volunteers performed the winterization work. We will keep you informed about the program and alert you to the next winterization day, planned for the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

### Educating the Community about Solar and Renewable Energy

A representative of UUCM has been invited by the Hoosier Chapter – Sierra Club to participate in a panel discussion during the stop in Muncie of their Clean Energy Roadshow on Saturday, Nov. 7 (UUCM bazaar day), 1-3 pm. If you can, please join this discussion of renewable energy projects right here in Muncie and their importance for our energy future. The location will be the Youth Opportunity Center, 3700 W. Kilgore Ave., Muncie.

### Increasing the Energy Efficiency of Our Church Facility

Green Team member John Taylor and the Property Maintenance Committee have begun discussion of installing motion-detector light switches in the three restrooms and other ways to reduce energy bills, fossil fuel consumption, and CO2 emissions.

There’s a lot going on. Opportunities abound to make a real difference. For more information, contact a Green Team member: **Wayne Meyer, Holly Hanauer, John Taylor, Marnee Cooley, Cheryl LeBlanc, and Eleanor Johnson.**

## A Life, Graced

**Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer** [\(continued from page 1\)](#)

What I find most, however, as I look both back and forward, is that I have, and expect to continue to live a life, *graced*. Graced in so many ways. Along the way, I have come to a sense of the meaning of grace that works for me.

I've lived long enough to see significant strides in equality and justice, not that we're there yet, but we've made notable gains. *Brown v. Board of Education* declared separate but equal schools were *not* equal. The Equal Rights Amendment was passed. Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare into existence. And marriage equality became a reality, though a still-contentious one. I've seen great advances in health care, environmental awareness, communication and information technology.

I've been fortunate enough to pursue two quite meaningful and satisfying vocations, teaching at a university and publishing, and later an extremely rewarding career in ministry that continues to deeply satisfy me. It allows me to be a listening, supportive presence in people's lives when they most need it. It even gives me the opportunity to share these columns with people I care about!

I have had and have a wonderful group of friends and colleagues, and colleagues who I've been fortunate to know as friends. And family... a strangely and wonderfully-blended group of folks who personify the true meaning of family. I count my daughter's father and his wife among my extended family. I've been married to a man who was my soul mate, and then to another with whom I've been able to make a wonderful new life after the death of each of our spouses. Children biological and by marriage, siblings-by-marriage who have welcomed this only child into their midst. Grandchildren ranging in age from college age to under two years. I've been able to see people I love come through tough times and blossom. I haven't always been stellar at my various roles, but I've been a "good enough" wife, mom, stepmom, and grandmother. And I've been blessed to realize that, finally, although it took me awhile!

Then there are the places I've visited—the mountains I've climbed, the seas I've seen, the trails I've walked and hope yet to walk. The waterfalls that always lift my spirits as the water cascades down. The sunsets and sunrises I've seen, and the storms rolling in, the wind in the trees and the haunting calls of owls. And the music I've heard—choruses and symphonies, bagpipers, dulcimers and fiddle music.

Yes, there have been "hard graces" as well; we all have

them. Some ordinary, some are not so much so. Most of you are aware I grew up in a home sullied by emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. I've lived through a divorce and grieved the loss of a husband far too soon to cancer. I've grieved the deaths of family and close friends. A back injury put me on the "disabled" list for nearly a year and made me realize the truth of a colleague's saying that we're *all* "TBAs"—temporarily able-bodied. I'd have to agree with Bill Sinkford that this aging thing is a matter of "yes, but." I know as well that simply *being* 70 is a gift; many are not so fortunate.

This rather long reflection does have a point, or several points. Perhaps they will be of some help to you, too.

- For me, grace has a lot more to do with the graces of life in *this* world than it does with a divine being who provides for an eternal future. It's grace I can know, feel, touch, taste, smell, *now*.
- Grace is a matter of the daily graces of life, large and small and middle-sized, the things that we may not always recognize as ways in which we are blessed with grace. It's *mystery sparkling through into the day-to-day*.
- It's important to keep my spirit, heart and mind focused on the grace, not the inevitable grief of life.
- Grace is as much a matter of how we regard those things that come to us as it is those things in themselves.
- Living my life has enabled me to come to a point of not fearing death, because I believe that *in death, we are embraced by that same endless grace that holds us throughout life*. We're held in a web of being that we can't fall out of or be ejected from.
- We're called to be channels, agents, of that grace for one another.
- I love life dearly, and can turn sad at the thought of its ending (which I don't expect to happen any time soon!), but I can face into the wind of whatever comes after 70 with peace and calm.

**Reverend Julia**



## Sharing Gratitude



If you have a gratitude you'd like to submit for the next Unigram, please send it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org), subject line "Sharing Gratitude," by November 18.

If you've stopped in the church office in the last few weeks you probably noticed a change. I now have a new desk and tons more space! I want to thank **Steve Robert** and his assistant **Matt Foy** for all their help assembling the new desk, moving the remaining furniture around, and disposing of the old items. It looks fantastic and I certainly couldn't have done it without them! ~Christie Williams

**John McKillip** is serving on the Property Maintenance Committee. Recently, he gave himself the assignment to clean and wash the outside windows by himself. He is also serving as co-chair of the Bazaar and wanted our windows "sparkling clean" on November 7th. Thank you, John! ~Sherry Ware

A *Big Thank You* to our fabulous team of Religious Education teachers this year! Many thanks to: **Lisa Abner, Maggie Bartlett, Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Ashley Donnelly, Leslie Duvall, Zach Enos, Crystal Frayer, Elsbeth Fritz, Adrienne Gruver, Sue Guillaud, Holly Hanauer, Pam Harwood, Avery Mayfield, Velvet Miller, Jean Rutherford, Steve Robert, Amy Shaw, Luellen Smucker, Aryn Sweeney, John Taylor, Susan Taylor, and Andrea Wolfe.** ~Nadine Tringali

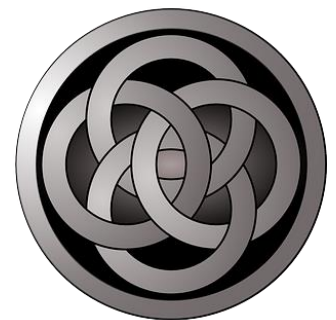
Many thanks to our Coming of Age Mentors! - **Nancy Chamberlain, Steve Chalk, Katie Frederick, Elsbeth Fritz, Eleanor Johnson, Velvet Miller, Cindy Peters, Steve Robert, Amy Shaw, Bea Sousa, and John Taylor.** ~Nadine Tringali

**Thank you, Thank you, Thank YOU!** When kids come to OUTreach they don't have to be afraid. They can talk about anything they need to talk about. They can dress however they want without fear of reprisals. They can relax and just be themselves. This is a precious gift for many of them. Our kids take ownership of the group. We have a core group of volunteers who help direct our activities and who make OUTreach happen, but it is the kids who are the focus and the kids who lead the discussions. Whether it is about bullying, body image, music, or movies, these kids engage in the kind of verbal give and take that helps them clarify their values and build a stronger sense of self. The kind of character and strength that will help them throughout their adult life. They also build a community so even when they go back out into the world they know they are never truly alone.

We are very thankful to receive the dedicated offering for October. The Unitarian Church of Muncie should feel very proud to support and nourish the LGBTQ youth in our community. ~Muncie OUTreach

### 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](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.



**Audra Asplin** was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer in July. After finishing chemotherapy she will have a lumpectomy and radiation at the IU Health-Ball Memorial Cancer Center. Her prognosis is excellent. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

On September 12 our son, **Ross**, married **Jill Leversee** in a beautiful outdoor ceremony on a ranch outside of Estes Park, Colo., overlooking the Rocky Mountains. Friends and family came from far and near to share this joyous occasion. Ross and Jill are making their home together in Boulder, Colo. ~**Jane and Wayne Meyer**

## November 2015 UUCM Calendar

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

### Regular Weekly Events

Pre-Service Discussion	Sundays	9:30 am
Muncie UU Pagans	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

### November Events & Activities

Adult RE :: Exploring Spiritual Practices	Sunday	Nov 1	9:30 am
Stewardship Committee	Sunday	Nov 1	9:30 am
Day of the Dead Service	Sunday	Nov 1	10:15 am
Bazaar Set-up	Sunday	Nov 1	12:30 – 2:00 pm
Theme Reflections	Sunday	Nov 1	12:30 pm
FOHN Task Force	Monday	Nov 2	7:00 pm
Communications Committee	Tuesday	Nov 3	6:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesday	Nov 3	7:00 pm
Finance Committee	Wednesday	Nov 4	5:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Nov 4	7:30 pm
Bazaar in the Woods	Saturday	Nov 7	8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Adult RE :: What Moves Us: UU Theology	Sunday	Nov 8	9:30 am
Chalice Marketplace :: coffee & other Fair Trade items for sale	Sunday	Nov 8	Before & after the service
Exploring Your Theology	Sunday	Nov 8	12:30 pm
Combined Youth Groups	Sunday	Nov 8	12:30 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Nov 9	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	Nov 11	6:00 pm
Rummage Sale	Saturday	Nov 14	8:00 am – Noon
Rel Ed Committee – Children & Youth	Sunday	Nov 15	9:30 am
Soup Lunch	Sunday	Nov 15	Noon
Multi-Gen Event :: Mindful Coloring	Sunday	Nov 15	Noon
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	Nov 15	12:15 pm
<b>Special Movie Screening :: Selma</b>	Sunday	Nov 15	1:00 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesday	Nov 17	7:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Nov 18	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Nov 19	7:15 pm
<b>Harvest Feast</b>	Saturday	Nov 21	5:30 pm
Adult RE :: Listening Circles	Sunday	Nov 22	9:30 am
Fellowship Committee	Sunday	Nov 22	12:15 pm
Anti-Racism Task Force	Sunday	Nov 22	12:30 pm
Church Office Closed 11/26 – 12/2			
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	Nov 29	9:30 am

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Hospitality Teams

The rotation has been set for the new Hospitality Teams. Your participation will help us continue to offer amazing hospitality to visitors and to each other!

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Red Team

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Orange Team

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – Yellow Team

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Green Team

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – Blue Team

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Purple Team

#### Harvest Feast Is Coming!

Mark your calendars! November 21, 5:30 pm. The church will provide turkey, wine and cider and we hope you will volunteer to bring your favorite side dishes. Desserts (always first), salads, vegetables, breads... all will be welcome.

After all, it's a feast!

Sign-up sheets will appear the first week in November. We need to know what you will bring and how many will be in your party – 2 sign-up sheets in other words. One to tell us how many and the other that tells what you will bring.

*November 21...5:30 pm...FEAST!*

#### Church Office Schedule

The church office will be closed November 26 – December 2 for Thanksgiving break.

## UUCM Staff & Leadership

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

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

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

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**Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education**

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**Christie Williams, Office Administrator**

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

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**Margie Wallington, Membership Coordinator**

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

**Paul Gjenvick**

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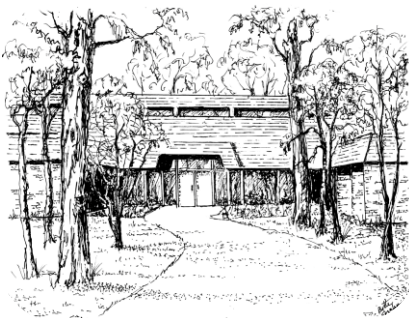
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm | Wednesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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