



the UNIGRAM

Truth – It’s Tricky

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

“I wouldn’t believe it if it hadn’t happened to me myself. I was on a trip to visit an aboriginal village, and had a badly sprained ankle – I was walking on crutches.” The storyteller was one of my classmates in my anthropology class. She was from Australia, I’m from the United States, and we were sitting in a classroom in Japan, both on a term abroad. She continued, “I was hobbling around with the rest of my group, slowly picking my way across uneven natural surfaces, when one of the tribe’s elders motioned me over. I found out later he was their healer. He touched my ankle, and looked up, asking for permission. I nodded, and he proceeded to gently unwrap the bandage. He looked at my ankle for a

minute, studying it, and then gently and carefully began running his hand up down over my ankle, applying gentle pressure. As he did so, the pain in my ankle gradually started to ease up, and after three or four minutes, it went away completely. I couldn’t believe it, even as it was happening – I was able to walk back to our vehicle without crutches, and the pain never came back. I have no idea how he did what he did, and if someone else told me the story I wouldn’t believe them, but it happened to me – I know it to be true.”

My classmate shared this story, and I was skeptical, just as she herself

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Telling the Truth about Being the Truth

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

I didn’t really know Hazel personally growing up, but I certainly knew of her. She and her husband, whose name escapes me now, were tenant farmers on a farm owned by my great-grandfather. Like far too many elderly women, Hazel fell and broke her hip. At that time, there just wasn’t much that could be done to repair the damage. Fortunately, she had a compassionate physician who at the least wanted her to be able to live out whatever life she had remaining as pain-free as she could be. While he couldn’t prevent her being unable to leave her bed for the rest of her life, at least she could be comfortable. And

that, at that time, meant morphine, on a regular and an increasing basis. I still recall family discussions about the outcry over Hazel’s morphine “addiction.” The good townspeople in their small town were outraged, and outraged that my great-grandfather did nothing to stop it. I’m not sure what he could have done anyway. Running the struggling couple off the farm and cutting off their home and livelihood wouldn’t have helped, certainly. Nonetheless, people wanted to see them punished. They ranted about

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am April Worship Theme :: Truth

For more information about this month's theme check out Theme Exploration on [page 3](#).

Sunday, April 3 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	"Truth: A Unitarian Universalist Perspective" We kick off our monthly theme of Truth by exploring what truth looks like and where it comes from in Unitarian Universalism. Our 4 th principle calls us to be on "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning" – but what kind of truth is it we're seeking?
Sunday, April 10 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd Heritage Sunday	"The Secret Illness" Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the US—43.8 million, or 18.5%—experience mental illness in a given year, and yet instead of support from their communities, many of these folks find shame and stigma instead. We'll explore shame and stigma in the context of mental illness and how our Unitarian Universalist faith and values calls us to respond. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will host a workshop following the service for those who wish to explore the topic further.
Sunday, April 17 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd Teacher Appreciation	"Counting Culture" We continue our exploration of Truth by looking at the impact of culture on our lives, and how culture impacts our experience of what is "true" – even in such "simple" matters as in how we show love and care for one another. Service to be followed by a workshop exploring culture and cultural awareness in even greater depth for those who would like to learn more about this important anti-oppression perspective.
Sunday, April 24 Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer	"You're Just Too Sensitive! The World of the HSP" HSPs--highly sensitive people--can have a tough time adapting to the pace of contemporary culture. How do we, as a UU congregation, practice inclusivity with our HSP members and friends?

Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am

Sunday, April 3 Curriculum Sunday	Our middle school youth will have the opportunity to meet with Rev. Seth to learn what a minister does and why Rev. Seth chose the ministry.
Sunday, April 10 Curriculum Sunday	Middle school youth, their parents, and mentors will be meeting following the service for a brief meeting regarding the upcoming Wilderness Journey Retreat.
Sunday, April 17 Curriculum Sunday	On this Sunday we recognize our Religious Education teachers in the service and treat them to a delicious luncheon in the fellowship hall following the service.
Sunday, April 24 Curriculum Sunday	Please join us, as we continue our religious exploration!

Adult Religious Exploration Offerings, 9:30 am

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

1 st Sundays – Yellow Room Exploring Spiritual Practices with Rev. Julia	Start your month by investigating a spiritual practice. 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.
2 nd Sundays – Yellow Room What Moves Us: UU Theology with Rev. Elizabeth	Our theology is rich and powerful. Come explore what makes UU theology so life giving and transformative. We will journey together in faith, through shared direct experiences and reflection exercises, readings and lessons, and ethical deliberations.
Sharing Circles with the Pastoral Associates	Sharing Circles are cancelled going forward due to a lack of participants.
Every Sunday – Red Room Pre-Service Discussion	This group is meant as a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. See page 11 for weekly topics.
Every Sunday – Violet room Muncie UU Pagans	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 homes in UU congregations. People of any belief are welcome to attend.

Theme Exploration – Truth

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 a poem titled "Of Course" by Janet Hutchinson:

Of course I want the truth,
but here's the rub:

Truth doesn't sit around
still as a rock,

it breathes and flows
and turns inside out.

Ever seen a lion in a cage?
He paces and glowers.

That must be how God feels
locked in our little religions.

Look how big the sky is,
the deep distances between stars.

Little speck, that's you;
laughable speck, that's me.

How could we contain The Truth,
all that overwhelming light?

Our truth is just a pinprick
in mystery's velvet curtain.

Even so, see how we struggle
to fix an eyeball to that—

peepshow's tiny window.

Questions for Reflection

Is there such a thing as absolute truth? If not, is at all relative? Or is there a middle ground somewhere in between?

How do you arrive at truth? Do you use science, reason or logic? Spirituality or religion? Both?

Where does truth come from? Do you agree with Janet Hutchinson that it is bigger than all of us?

Suggested Reading – Sermons

"Truth – Or Truths" – by Rev. Suzelle Lynch
<http://goo.gl/748CVy>

"Moment of Truth" – by Rev. Sara Campbell
<http://goo.gl/3xWrhz>

"To Tell the Truth" – by Rev. Barbara W. ten Hove
<http://goo.gl/Xw6sJP>

Spiritual Practice

Pick a week, seven days in a row, and at the end of each day, sometime shortly before you go to bed, take 5-10 minutes to write or journal answering the question: what was true for me today? At the end of the week, read through your writing, and look to see if you can find any patterns or deeper truths.

2015-2016 UUCM Themes

September – Forgiveness

October – Inclusivity

November – Grace

December – Waiting

January – Freedom

February – Sexuality

March – Brokenness

April – Truth

May – Creativity

Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali,
Director of Religious Education*



April 3 – Coming of Age Class will have lunch with Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

The youth will have the opportunity to learn what a minister does and why Rev. Seth chose the ministry.

April 10 – Coming of Age Pre-Wilderness Journey meeting

CoA youth, parents, and mentors will be meeting in the Red Room following the service to plan for the upcoming Wilderness Journey, April 22-24.

April 17 –Teacher Recognition Ceremony & Appreciation Luncheon

On this Sunday we wish to recognize all our wonderful Religious Education teachers. Their gift of love and support, guides our youth on their own spiritual journeys. All children and youth will begin in the sanctuary with their parents. Classes will begin following the Story for All Ages and the Teacher Recognition Ceremony.

All teachers and their families are invited to our Appreciation Luncheon following the service. Luncheon will be set out buffet style in the Indigo Room and seating will be in the fellowship hall. I will be emailing an invite to all teachers through SignUpGenius for an RSVP.

April 22-24 – Coming of Age Wilderness Journey Retreat

On April 22, our COA youth will be traveling to Mounds State Park for their Wilderness Journey Retreat. The retreat is about our youth taking responsibility for their own lives; for taking the time to reflect on the things that are truly important – who we are, what we believe, and how we want to live our lives.

Nadine

Youth Programs April Schedule

*Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd,
Coordinator of Youth Programs*

April 3, April 10 and April 17, 12:30 - 2 pm

Regular Joint Middle and High School Youth Group meetings will be held. Join us for fellowship and fun, a time to share with peers and create community together.

April 8-10 – High School Special Event

Bridging CON in Bloomington, IN

Please let Elizabeth know ASAP if you are interested in attending this event!

April 22-23 – Coming of Age Special Event

Wilderness Journey

We have been preparing for this weekend all year long. It will surely be memorable for our Coming of Age youth.

Elizabeth



Childcare Coordinator

We are pleased to introduce you to our Childcare Coordinator, **Christie McCauley**. She has been caring for our youngest in the nursery, since 2014.

Christie has been attending UUCM since August 2014. She is 26 years old and is a senior at Ball State University studying Psychology; she aspires to be a counselor for LGBTQ children and families. Christie has 11 years of experience working with children of all ages as a volunteer, babysitter, and nanny in day cares, churches and homes. Her hobbies include volunteering for Muncie OUTreach, reading, yoga, cooking, thrift shopping, and spending time with her cat, Quin.

As our Childcare Coordinator, she will schedule all the childcare needs of UUCM. If your committee needs childcare, you can reach Christie at childcare@uuchurchmuncie.org. The childcare request form is located on the UUCM website under [Members > Forms & Info](#).

Two Services Task Force (TSTF) Announces Cottage Meetings

Make your voice heard! Sign up to attend one of the Two Services cottage meetings and express your thoughts, concerns, hopes, and wishes for our church. Congregational input will allow the task force be able to make a decision we can all feel good about. Here are the current meeting offerings:

- 1 meeting on Sunday, April 10 after church
- 2 meetings on Sunday, April 24 after church
- 1 meeting on Saturday, April 16 at Sherry Ware's at 10:00 am

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin boards at the back of the sanctuary. Childcare will be available for each meeting. If you have time, check out our Two Services FAQ, which has a wealth of helpful information - <http://goo.gl/ubhW4h>.

Note: A separate cottage meeting will be scheduled specifically for young adults. Watch the eBlast for the time and place.

While we are in the process of exploring two services, we still have ongoing concerns about having enough space! Here are some suggestions about what YOU can do now to make newcomers feel more comfortable:

While we are exploring the idea of two services, our sanctuary is currently over or nearly 80% full at the beginning of many services. 80% is considered a capacity at which newcomers feel there may not be a place for them in our community. Here are some ideas that will work right now to still help new visitors feel welcome! It can be hard, but we need to think about the people who are not yet with us.

1. Our parking lot space is even more limited than seating in our sanctuary. If you are able-bodied, leave for newcomers the parking spots in front of the church and on the paved lot near the RE wing in the back. Your body will appreciate the added steps.
2. Once in church, sit in the middle of rows and toward the front of the sanctuary. Try not to leave empty spaces in a row. New people who come into our busy bee hive Sunday morning can be easily overwhelmed. We are comfortable, but they may not be. If sitting in the front row feels exposed to you, think how visitors can feel.

According to some studies, as many as 75% of people are introverts and crowded rooms may be off-putting.

3. Look around during the greeting time for people you don't know. Even the 30 seconds of greeting time can be awkward for people who don't know anyone.
4. For the first 10 minutes of coffee hour, focus on people you don't know. Try to do "church business" sometime other than Sunday morning, or do it at the end of coffee hour after visitors and newcomers may have left.
5. Can you believe that we are still struggling to find people to serve on our Membership Committee? If you aren't on a committee at the present, consider joining the Membership Committee. **Nancy Behforouz**, past president, is working on this. nbehforo@gmail.com or 765-286-4746
6. If you want to learn in more detail about the Two Services process or issues involved in moving to a second service, read "Adding Worship Services" on the UUA website. <http://goo.gl/TBM7fx>. It provides ways congregations have approached the process, including hurdles they've overcome.
7. If you haven't done so, sign up in the back of the sanctuary for an April cottage meeting about the Two Services process.

And THANK YOU!

Contact a member of the TSTF:

Bea Sousa, co-chair
beals42@gmail.com

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, co-chair
seth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Ben Ewing, secretary
Ben.Ewing24@gmail.com

Jerry McKean, event organizer
jmckean1@comcast.net

Janay Sander, data analysis
janaysander@yahoo.com

Susan Taylor, communications
susantaylor68@hotmail.com

Pastoral Care

Many of you received a letter from the ministers a couple of weeks ago with some updates and reminders about what pastoral care is and where you can seek it in our congregation. We sent this letter out in response to some concerns raised by a Committee on Ministries focus group that there's a significant lack of awareness in some parts of our congregation about pastoral care and where to get it. Given that feedback, and given that our theme last month was Brokenness, we decided to send out a Question & Answer sheet about pastoral care to the congregation.

Formal pastoral care is short-term spiritual counseling, provided either by our ministers or by our Pastoral Associates (to find out more about who the Pastoral Associates are and what they do, check out their page on the church website: <http://goo.gl/PqY0jg>). Of course, we can all also provide care and support to each other in times of hardship as we support one another in the congregation. The letter provided more in-depth information – if you didn't receive one, or if you set it aside to read later and never got back to it, you can still find all the relevant content on our newly updated Pastoral Care page on the church website: <http://goo.gl/8iw8c6>.

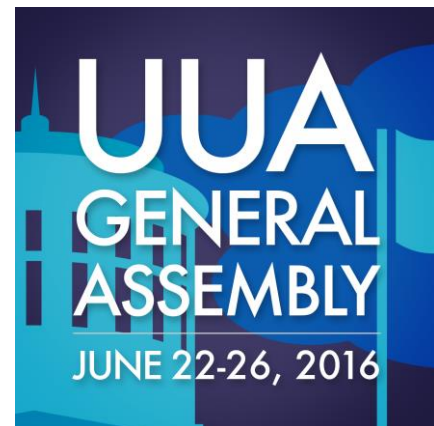
Most importantly, please know that you are never alone! Whether it's Rev. Seth or Rev. Julia, the Pastoral Associates, or another member of the congregation – if you are struggling in any way, and need someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you, we are here for each other.

Special Workshops April 10th and 17th

Please consider staying after the service for one or both of the special workshops we will be offering on after the service in April. Both workshops will be held following the Sunday service in the sanctuary, starting at 12:15 pm.

First, on April 10th, the *National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)* will present **"In Our Own Voice,"** which "is a unique public education program in which presentations consist of two trained speakers sharing their compelling personal stories of living with mental health challenges and achieving recovery." One workshop attendee reported, "I learned more about mental health conditions from these generous people than any book I have read." Please consider attending this workshop and learning more about an important, and under-discussed facet of our human experience.

Second, on April 17th, the Anti-Racism Task Force will present **"Seeing Your Own Horn: Enhancing Our Cultural Awareness,"** a workshop designed and based on parts of the "Intercultural Competency" training that many of us attended back in February. We will utilize visual aids and interactive exercises to explore the many cultures we're part of, and often not aware of. Cultural awareness is an important tool in fighting all different kinds of oppression, not just racism, so we hope you'll come and participate and join us on the journey of making our world a better place for everyone!



General Assembly 2016

Have you ever been to General Assembly (GA), our annual national gathering? If not, you should consider going! If you've been before, you know what a treat it is to gather with Unitarian Universalists from across the country and participate in amazing workshops, lectures and worship. Either way, please consider signing up to attend all or part of GA 2016, which will be held June 22nd-26th in Columbus, OH. The location of GA moves around the country from year to year, so this year it's actually accessible to us driving, only 3 hours away. If you're interested, registration is open now. You can register, and learn more about the programming, logistics and schedule by visiting <http://www.uua.org/ga>, and clicking on the various links on the menu on the left.

Message from the President

Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.

The Budget Process

One of the most important items on the agenda at the upcoming May 22nd Congregational meeting will be the discussion and approval of the budget for next year. I thought that perhaps you should know what it takes to bring a budget proposal to the congregation.

In mid-November, the Finance Committee, chaired by Chuck Austin, initiated the process by sending requests to the Board, Minister, staff, and committees asking for 2016-2017 budget requests.

The Stewardship Committee asked the Finance Committee for a target pledge goal for 2016-2017 and the Finance Committee recommended a goal of \$270,000.

The Finance Committee used the budget requests to compile what they called Request Budget Worksheets, which were discussed at their February meeting. At their March meeting, budget information was again updated and possible budget alternatives were discussed. A special meeting on March 9th was called, when three alternative budgets were discussed and the Finance Committee voted to recommend one of the alternatives to the Board of Trustees at their March 16 meeting.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chuck and Lynn Austin presented the recommended budget to the Board on March 16.

The Board has scheduled an additional meeting in April to discuss the proposed budget recommendation from the Finance Committee. At that time, they will vote for a final proposed budget that will be presented at the May 22nd Congregational Meeting.

Between now and before May 22nd, the proposed budget will be published and presented to members of the congregation for discussion and questions.

So you see, this is quite an involved process. I hope that you will take the time to study the proposed budget and stay to discuss or cast your vote on May 22nd.

P.S. In addition to proposing a 2016-2017 budget, the members of our Finance Committee have been working hard to research and predict future expenses. Thank you **Chuck & Lynn Austin, Jeff Hathaway, Usha Shivaswamy, Lynn Sousa, and Mike Sullivan**. I also serve on the Finance Committee, but they've not given me any big assignments.

Sherry Ware, President of the Congregation



Roots & Wings and New Member Joining Ceremony

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism? Whether you're a visitor, long-term friend, or established member looking for a refresher, everyone is welcome to attend our **"Roots & Wings" class** exploring the basic tenets of Unitarian Universalism. We'll look at a little bit of our history, talk some theology, and go over our expectations of membership. The class will be held Sunday, April 10th from 9:30 to 10:30am in the Indigo Room. Childcare is available, so please don't let that be a barrier. If you're interested in becoming a member, there is a **New Member Joining Ceremony** the following week – Sunday, April 17th at 10:15am in the sanctuary. We strongly encourage you to attend a Roots & Wings class before joining – if you can't make the Roots & Wings class, but would still like to become a member, please contact Rev. Seth to set up an appointment to review the material.



May Day, May Day

2016 Service Auction :: Sunday, May 1

This spring event, to be held immediately after church, promises to be full of fun and excitement! This community event supports the congregation's annual budget while offering an opportunity to share your gifts and enjoy the gifts of your fellow church members. How can you participate?

Donate an item or service! What gifts do you have to share? [Email the church office for a donation form.](#)

- Field trips - guided tours, shopping trips, picnics, birthday parties, golf outings, card parties
- Special meals - dinner delivered to your home, frozen vegan meals,
- Food items - dessert of the month, fresh farm eggs, wine or beer tastings
- Educational events - yoga lessons, golf lessons, music lessons, cooking classes
- Services - baby sitting, landscaping, tech services, handyman help, computer instruction, smartphone lessons, design advice, music for special events

Attend the event and bid!

- Save the date for May 1! Be sure to put it on your calendar!
- Be ready to bid! Think ahead about items or services that you may be interested in- have a vacation coming up? Be ready to bid for house sitting or pet sitting! Interested in learning something new? Keep an eye out for lessons and class offerings!
- Have your checkbook or debit/credit card at the ready. Convenient check out at the event will accept cash, check and cards!

We hope you'll join us to help make this year's service auction a success!

The Finance Committee

From the Committee on Ministries

This is the fifth 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 Finance Committee serves as the financial and budgetary group advising the Board of Trustees and the congregation. The Committee prepares the annual budget for Board review and congregational approval. In addition, we review and monitor church financial management systems and procedures.

On a regular basis, the Finance Committee reports to the Program Council. The congregation learns about our work through financial reports at congregational meetings and occasional news items in the *Unigram*. Further, our Committee members assist the Treasurer in presenting financial information to the congregation.

Another key area of coordination is between the Finance and Stewardship Committees. Together, those committees estimate the income that will be available from each annual pledge drive. Income from pledges is the largest component on the income side of the operating budget; it typically comprises about 85% of all funds available to support the work of the Church. The Finance Committee also solicits budget requests from most committees of the Church, and—drawing upon that information—we work with the Program Council and Board of Trustees in presenting the recommended operating budget each year.

In 2015-16, the committee consists of **Chuck Austin** (Chair), **Lynn Austin**, **Jeff Hathaway**, **Lynn Sousa**, **Mike Sullivan**, **Usha Shivaswamy** (Treasurer), and **Sherry Ware** (Board President). The minister serves as an ex-officio, non-voting member. At the beginning of the next fiscal year, we will move to a system of two-year, staggered terms for the members at large. This will result in appointment of two or three new members each year.

Truth – It's Tricky

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

said she would be if hearing the story from someone else. Yet this was her lived experience – she knew it to be true firsthand, even though it defied her, and most Western understandings of how the science of healing works. I didn't know this classmate overly well, but I did know her a little bit, and from what I did know she seemed a straight-shooter, not like someone who would make something like that up just to get attention. And so it made me wonder then, and it still makes me wonder now – is it true? Is it possible to be healed like that simply by human touch?

If you asked me any given day, is it possible to heal a sprained ankle just by someone touching it, my initial response is likely to be, “no – that's not possible.” My classmate's story was not one of such impact that I carry it around with me as a regular reference point. But when thinking about this month's theme of Truth, it came back to me as a reminder that my understanding of what is “true,” even things that I'm fairly certain about – those beliefs and that knowledge rests on shifting sands.

We don't have to go as “far out” as a mystical healing experience though to find reasons to wrestle with truth. Physics, hard science, offers up its own wrestling – depending on how you observe it, light behaves like a wave, or like particles. The current “ultimate” answer is that light particles have wave-like properties – but the theories are complex and still debated by physicists. The “truth” of the nature of light is not a simple or easily answered one, even with science.

Our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle states that we're on “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” As we continue ever onwards on that journey, and as we explore Truth this month, may we remember that truth is a complicated thing. Ask four eyewitnesses to a crime to describe exactly what they saw, and often they will describe different things, each of them believing their version to be true. While there may be an absolute truth to what

happened, available to us if someone happened to capture the incident on video, for much of life and much of what we believe, there is often no absolute answer.

As we search for truth and meaning, both individually and collectively, both this month and beyond, may we hold our truths lightly, and with humility. Because for all that we “know,” there are often others that “know” differently – sometimes we may be right and they wrong, sometimes they wrong and us right. And sometimes, we can only find a glimpse of the truth together.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

Rev. Seth

Dining for Dollars

Check the board for the newest sign-up sheets!
The Behforouz's Persian Dinner is posted now as is the opportunity to tour the new and redesigned facilities at Westminster and enjoy a glass of wine and dinner with Judith Roepke.

Other events to look for over the next few months:
Mastering the Art of Making Pirogi—April 30
Brew Pub—June 11 German Dinner

Dining for Dollars events are private events hosted by church members as fundraisers for our annual church budget.

- Hosts determine the type of event, date, menu, number of guests, and the contribution per person.
- Hosts' contribution to the church stewardship is the food, drink and labor associated with their event.

You too may offer to host a Dining for Dollars event in 2016!

Contact **Linda Hanson** or **Mary** or **Kirk Robey**.

lhanson43@gmail.com or 284-4551

mrbobthecat@hotmail.com or 348-5604

kirk_robey@hotmail.com

Telling the Truth about Being the Truth

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

how awful the doctor was, and about how my great-grandfather “let it go on.” My great-grandparents realized that Hazel’s dependence on morphine for what quality of life she had was unavoidable, and not blame-worthy. They chose compassion over prejudice, kindness over castigation.

We’ve all heard the comments, or similar ones. To make these more vivid, call to mind the facial expressions that usually accompany these sentiments:

- She just acts odd.
- He’s really weird.
- If those people would just get jobs. [I grew up with this one.]
- What do you expect? She’s old.
- He wouldn’t be an alcoholic if he didn’t choose to be. [and this one]
- He could stop using if he wanted to.
- She would look better if she just exercised and lost weight.
- Well, you know, I mean, he likes boys...
- If he hadn’t smoked, he wouldn’t have gotten cancer.
- He abuses her. She ought to just leave him!
- What did she expect, going out dressed like that?
- Not “he” or “she,” huh? I guess they’re an “it.”

Being the truth is an embodiment of truthfulness about who we are that is more fundamental than *telling* the truth. It’s about integrity, authenticity, “realness.” Truth-telling grows organically out of truth-being. As the list above illustrates far too well, owning the truth of who we are can be frightening. What if we yearn to tell our truth and have no community that supports us as we do so? What if we stand in the truth of who we are and are excluded by others? What if we choose to share the truth of who we are with someone close and important to us, and they reject us?

When we can openly *be* the truth of who we are in our weakness, our vulnerability, our need, we can also claim our strength. When we can acknowledge our brokenness and have those parts of our story heard with compassion and respect, then we find our wholeness and we find the strength to make needed changes. We find self-acceptance in the acceptance of other people. Our relationships, and we ourselves, become richer and fuller. When we can live our own truth, we encourage others to do so as well. We heal, together.

The kinds of prejudice, blame and misunderstanding, as well as outright hatefulness, reflected in the above list of comments highlights why what we do is so important. It is vital that we support organizations such as Second Harvest, Stepping Stones, and A Better Way so that they can maintain and enhance the work they do. It’s important that we educate ourselves, and then help to educate others, about the obstacles our culture places in the way of those with needs and conditions that others deem unacceptable. The work our Racism Task Force does helps Muncie be a better community. Body Life and OUTreach provide places where people can be who they are, can tell their stories, can live their own truth, and find support, safety, and strength.

Be the truth of who you are, as only *you* can be. And be blessed. This is the truth that truly makes us free.

Rev. Julia

The Religious Education Program for Children & Youth is always appreciative of donations of apple juice and cheese crackers for our Sunday morning snack and packaged cookies, crackers, chips, and pretzels for our Middle School and High School Youth Group meetings.

Pre-Service Discussion

9:30 am – Every Sunday – Red Room

April 3 – Beliefs

We all have various beliefs about the world around us, and whether we like it or not - these beliefs describe our perspectives, and inform our behavior. But what is the nature of a belief? Is it a thought? Is it a feeling? Why do we have the particular beliefs we happen to have. Do we choose our beliefs, or do they happen to us? Could we choose to believe differently than we happen to at the present? Is there a difference between “knowing” something to be true - and “believing” it to be true? Discussion led by **Steve Robert**.

April 10 – Taxes

What are our attitudes about paying taxes and about government? How do we feel about supporting the common good of all individuals? What is the basis for these attitudes. How do they fit with our principles: justice, equity and compassion in human relations - the inherent worth and dignity of every person? **Alice Bennett** will lead.

April 17 – Ten Commandments to Avoid Extinction

Michael Dowd, an ordained minister, and Connie Barlow, an acclaimed science writer, have spoken to 2,000+ groups over 13 years, including 440 UU churches. Moreover, their message has always been based on the true marriage of religion and science. *Thank God for Evolution* is their best-known book.

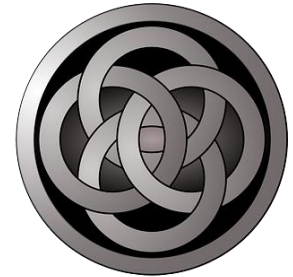
According to Dowd, the unfolding climate crisis has given their work a new focus and urgency Dowd’s 2014 presentation at UUCM on “The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness: Coming Home to Reality” was extremely well-researched, hard-hitting, disturbing and also inspiring. The imagery was just great, whether the subject was natural beauty or human-made desecration. Dowd told it, and showed it, like it is.

He describes his new 20-minute video on “Ten Commandments to Avoid Extinction” as *the single most important thing I’ve created*. Come and see for yourself. There will be plenty to discuss.

April 24 – Truth

We will have an open, unplanned conversation about the UUCM theme – Truth.

Wheel of Life



Michael Mayfield and **Nadine Tringali** joyfully announce the birth of their grandson, **Simon Alexander Mayfield Collins**! He was welcomed into the world on March 23, 2016 by his parents, **Haley Mayfield** and **Brad Collins**.

John Harley Wilkins (also known as J.H. or Jay) died peacefully after a short illness on Tuesday, March 15. He was 94. You might have met John when he attended UUCM with **Sigrid Koehler** and **John Wilkins**.

The Wheel of Life 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 uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.

Assistive Hearing Units

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

Sharing Gratitude

Much thanks and appreciation to our Youth and our Youth Coordinator, **Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd**, for the terrific job they did on the Youth Sunday service at the end of February. The service was inspiring to a great many of us – we're so glad you prepared and led the service for us. Thank you!

My thanks for all your generosity, care and kindness: **Chuck Austin, Nan Barber, Alice Bennett, Carol Gardiner, Lynn Hale, John McKillip, Judy, Tom and Liz Lowe, Bruce Perkins, Cindy Peters, and Paul Stout!** I appreciate all you do and, more importantly, who you are. I am honored that you are in my life. ~Grace L. Reef



We offer a special Thank You to **Gunther Cartwright** for taking staff portraits! We aren't an easy bunch to "capture" and we appreciate your patience and dedication to get the job done in a short time. Thanks, Gunther!! ~The UUCM Staff

A genuine joy. That describes for me the solar system Dedication Celebration on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 28. And so many people deserve a Thank You for it. Here are some of them:

- **Jan and Ron Moore and Kristen Owens** for (already!) another quick and tasty lunch (organizing, cooking, serving, cleaning up, etc.)
- **Ric Dwenger** for a demanding morning and also afternoon of flawless Sights and Sounds work – with some fine singing with guitar added right in the middle
- **Jim Helton** with trumpeter **Zach Enos** for excellent special music
- **Rev. Seth** for expert guidance in the composition of the program and for the special, extra eBlast
- **Jay Moorman**, Communications Chairperson, for able assistance with publicity
- the loyal (and long-suffering!) **Green Team** – **John Taylor, Marnee Cooley, Cheryl LeBlanc, Eleanor Johnson** – for so much on and ongoing support – and especially
- **Holly Hanauer** for original ideas for program content, yellow and orange decorations all around, and thoughtful and inspiring words.
- all the UUs for their enthusiastic presence
- all the other folks gathered there – whoever you are, from near and far - to form a special community of 100+ at 1:30 on that SUNny afternoon, and then the 35+ who stayed till 3:40 for an informative solar workshop led by **Darrell Boggess** and **Phil Teague**
- and of course **Wesley Rice-Snow**, our videography prodigy of *Shifting to Solar at the "Church in the Woods"*
- plus all the folks who later expressed their appreciation, some of them taking time to email us. For example, from a Methodist colleague: *Karen and Ben, because of your program Sunday, bought a hybrid car on Monday! They (and many others) are also considering solar, but this car is a reality.*

All in all, it was a rare – maybe unprecedented – event for UUCM. That's only appropriate, because these are climatological and cultural times when "business as usual" is failing us, very badly. And it's appropriate because Unitarians and Universalists have a proud history of being on the vanguard of progressive social change. Think of abolition, early public health and social work, suffrage and women's rights, civil rights, LGBT rights, and so on. The vanguard can be a demanding position to occupy. I think that may be a reason that has kept our movement numerically small. Anyway, I am so glad to be a part of it.

Finally, the basic underlying message of all our guest speakers was about the same. In my own summary: *Hearty congratulations! I came to help you celebrate. Now I wonder what you're going to do next.*

This SUNlight of ours, We're gonna let it shine! ~Wayne Meyer for the Green Team

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 April 20.

April 2016 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
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesdays	7:00 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

April Events & Activities

Property Maintenance Workday	Saturday	April 2	9:00 am
Two Services Q&A	Sunday	April 3	Noon
Adult RE :: Exploring Spiritual Practices	Sunday	April 3	9:30 am
Adult RE :: Theme Reflections	Sunday	April 3	12:30 pm
Combined Youth Groups	Sunday	April 3	12:30 pm
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	Monday	April 4	7:00 pm
Communications Committee	Tuesday	April 5	6:30 pm
Finance Committee	Wednesday	April 6	5:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	April 6	7:30 pm
Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	April 10	9:30 am
Adult RE :: What Moves Us: UU Theology	Sunday	April 10	9:30 am
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	April 10	9:30 am & Noon
Soup Lunch	Sunday	April 10	Noon
Coming of Age Wilderness Journey Meeting	Sunday	April 10	Noon
NAMI Workshop	Sunday	April 10	12:15 pm
Two Services Cottage Meetings	Sunday	April 10	12:15 pm
Combined Youth Groups	Sunday	April 10	12:30 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	April 11	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	April 13	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	April 13	7:00 pm
UU Book Group	Thursday	April 14	7:00 pm
RE Committee (Children & Youth)	Sunday	April 17	9:30 am
New Member Joining Ceremony	Sunday	April 17	10:15 am
Teacher Appreciation Lunch	Sunday	April 17	Noon
Anti-Oppression Workshop	Sunday	April 17	Noon
Discussion Committee	Sunday	April 17	12:15 pm
Combined Youth Groups	Sunday	April 17	12:30 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	April 20	9:00 am
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	April 20	6:30 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	April 21	7:15 pm
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	April 24	9:30 am
Two Services Cottage Meetings	Sunday	April 24	12:15 pm
Fellowship Committee	Sunday	April 24	12:15 pm
Anti-Racism Task Force	Sunday	April 24	12:15 pm
Circle in the Woods	Saturday	April 30	7:00 pm

Mark Your Calendar

Hospitality Teams

Your participation will help us continue to offer amazing hospitality to visitors and to each other!

1st Sunday – Red Team

2nd Sunday – Orange Team

3rd Sunday – Yellow Team

4th Sunday – Green Team

5th Sunday – Blue Team

Join the Property Maintenance Committee for a congregational workday on **Saturday, April 2** from 9-noon, with a rain date of Saturday, April 9. This event is a great way to socialize with people you may not know while also doing a good deed! Sustenance, in the form of a few snacks, will be available too, so plan to come if you can—always a great time!

The next meeting of the UU Book Group will be Thursday April 14, at 7:00 pm, at the home of **Suzanne Walker**. We will be discussing *the Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman, a work of fiction about the parents of Camille Pissarro, the French Impressionist painter.

Our next **Congregational Meeting** will be Sunday, May 22, at noon. A Budget Information Session is scheduled after the service on Sunday, May 15.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

seth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

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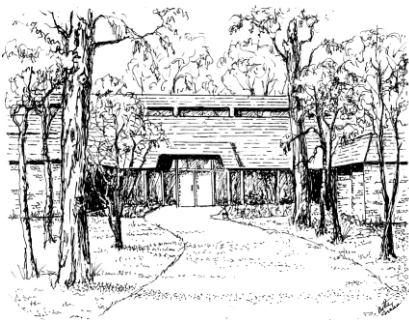
Past President

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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*Exploring faith.
Practicing inclusivity.
Living justice.*

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