



# the UNIGRAM

## Ambiguity & Change

*Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister*

One of the things about undergoing a process of change is that it often brings with it a significant period of ambiguity and uncertainty. There are some changes that as fast as flipping a light switch – boom! we’ve made the transition from A to B, light to dark, hot to cold. When we make the decision to create more significant changes in our lives though, things are rarely as clear cut. Usually leaving one job for a new one involves some uncertainty along the way. Entering into a relationship, either at the beginning or as far as marriage, is rarely an unambiguous process. Nor is leaving one, whether a break-up early on, or a divorce down the road. Choosing to go to college, or back to school for a graduate degree, or deciding to have children – these are

all usually considered positive things, but even they involve uncertainty and change along the way for many of us.

So, it should be come as no surprise that for us as a church, when we began a process of looking at the possibility of change by adding a second service, that it brought up experiences and feelings of uncertainty and ambiguity for many of us. And just like when we experience uncertainty and ambiguity in our lives, especially when it relates to change – it can be uncomfortable, scary, and anxiety-producing. While there are some folks who truly do enjoy periods of uncertainty and

*(continued on page 8)*



## In This Issue

<u>Sunday Mornings</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Religious Education News</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Youth Programs</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Splinters from the Board</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Congregational Meeting</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Proposed Bylaw Changes</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Two Services Update</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Service Auction</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Women’s Connection</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Sharing Gratitude</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>May Calendar</u>	<u>11</u>



## Ambiguity and Paradox, Mystery and Language

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

In my previous role as a hospital chaplain here in Muncie, I was with a family gathered at the bedside of a dying family member, keeping vigil as families do at that point. The conversation and associated emotional tenor changed back and forth, sometimes quite rapidly, between sadness, grief and mourning their loved one’s impending death, and laughter, sometimes deep belly laughs, as they brought to mind humorous anecdotes from his life. At one point, one of the daughters looked at me and said something to the effect that “You must think we’re nuts by now with all these conflicting emotions.” I assured her that I thought nothing of the sort, that what they were

experiencing was quite common and indeed healthy.

Another example, closer to home for me: My late husband’s death was one of the most crushing blows life has dealt me. However, it also made it possible for me to be a part of this wonderful community of faith and connection, and to be in ministry, both deeply meaningful aspects of my life now.

When I think about ambiguity and paradox, I immediately think of *mystery* as well. Both ambiguity and paradox invite us to step out of our certainties and the comfort they may provide into the unknown. They ask us

*(continued on page 9)*

## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

**Services begin at 10:45 am      May Theme :: Ambiguity / Paradox**

Sunday, May 4 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	Please join us for this very special Music Appreciation Sunday! Our multi-generational service will feature a variety of musical sharings, mixed with some thoughts for reflection from Rev. Seth.
Sunday, May 14 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	Rev. Seth will lead us in an exploration of where we've been, where we are, and where we might be going, as we examine the difficulties of living with ambiguity and change.
Sunday, May 21 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	Coming together, being together, despite differences, is one of the biggest challenges in community. How we overcome difference to move forward together is a challenge for these times.
Sunday, May 28 <b>Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer</b>	<i>After the Vote.</i> Whatever happens on May 21st, we will need to come together around whatever decision the congregation's democratic process produces. We will need to find ways that all of us can affirm our beloved community, our vibrancy, our continuing commitment to be a clear, steady voice for liberal religion and social justice in Delaware County and beyond. We'll need to dig deep into what brings us here to our church in the woods and remind ourselves why we want to continue to be a part of this community. We will also recognize Memorial Day and the sacrifices it represents.

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

Sunday, May 7 <b>Curriculum Sunday for Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	On this Sunday, religious exploration classes will be held for our preschool through 5 <sup>th</sup> grade youth. Our 6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to attend our special Music Appreciation service in the sanctuary.
Sunday, May 14 <b>Bridging Ceremony Curriculum Sunday</b>	On this Sunday during the service we wish to honor our high school graduates, <b>Lukas Bradford</b> and <b>Hunter Miller!</b>
Sunday, May 21 <b>Curriculum Sunday &amp; All Birthdays Celebration!</b>	Join us as we continue our religious exploration!
Sunday, May 28 <b>Game Day!</b>	Come dressed to move! We will have activities set up outside, weather permitting.

### 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!

Every Sunday – Red Room <b>Adult Discussion Group</b>	This group is s a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. <a href="#">See page 10</a> for weekly topics.
Every Sunday – Violet room <b>Muncie UU Pagans</b>	This is an open discussion group to explore the differences in our pagan traditions. People of any belief are welcome.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Indigo room <b>Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality</b>	<b>Rev. Julia</b> leads an adult RE class based on Kathleen Montgomery's edited book, <i>Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality</i> , a collection of essays on various topics relevant to spirituality and aging. The book is available through Skinner House.

## Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali,  
Director of Religious Education*

### RE Summer Program, July 2-August 20 UU World Travelers

Each week we will “tour” a different country, learning about the culture, religions and history through stories and pictures, ritual and spiritual practice, music and dance, arts and crafts, games and activities, costumes and pictures. Learning is limited only by the imagination. Congregation

members and families are invited to plan and lead a Sunday tour, sharing their knowledge of a country and its religions, bringing to the “travelers” their own experiences, enthusiasm, and maybe even special “show and tell” items they've collected. Since food is always a fun way to experience culture, presenters are invited to bring “ethnic snacks” that carry out the theme.

Classes will meet for eight consecutive Sundays, beginning on July 2, and will run during the Sunday service. The curriculum is designed for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade youth; youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to participate, assist, or attend the service.

**Please consider volunteering to present a class on a country that you have visited OR volunteer to assist one or two of our “UU World Travelers” Summer Sunday classes.** I will post a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary, starting May 21, or you may contact me by email. We need a minimum of two assistants each Sunday, to provide helping hands and smiling faces!

*Nadine*



## Youth Group! Special Times in May!

*Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd,  
Coordinator of Youth Programs*

### Youth Group Meets on Select Tuesdays 6:45-7:30 pm

Due to a very full May schedule, including holidays, we will have Youth Group at a special time in May: 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday nights between Body Life and Choir. Youth are encouraged to attend Body Life. We will gather at 6:45 for a brief time of fellowship and fun!

Tuesday, May 2 - 6:45-7:30 pm

Tuesday, May 16 - 6:45-7:30 pm

Tuesday, May 30 - 6:45-7:30 pm

*Elizabeth*

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.

## Splinters from the Board

### *Exploring faith. Practicing Inclusivity. Living Justice.*

The Board's April meeting was another marathon session, with two special presentations. First, the Freethinker Friendly task force presented their proposal to apply for Freethinker Friendly Congregation status with the UU Humanist Association, which the Board approved. Next, **Lynn Sousa** presented the Finance committee's 2017-18 budget proposal. The Board will meet again on May 3, at 4:00 pm, to continue our budget discussion and finalize a proposal for congregational approval. Please attend the special Budget Discussion meeting after the service on May 14, to get a head start on understanding the decision we will make in the May 21 Congregational Meeting.

As we approach this spring annual meeting, I think about the enormous amount of dedication that is poured into our church community by so many people, year after year. I'm grateful to know and learn from all of you. I also want to acknowledge the challenges and anxiety and conflicts that we've been experiencing. Many great things are happening at UUCM, but it has not been an easy year. I want to share part of an essay by Laila Ibrahim with you, from a collection of meditations called *Bless the Imperfect*:

"I have been going to the same church for a very long

time... In nearly thirty years of relationship, there have been lots of disappointments. Two or three times over the years, I have been so disappointed that I seriously questioned remaining in my congregation... But staying away has never helped me through such times. Rather, coming in closer, telling people about my spiritual crisis – listening, sharing caring and worshipping – have helped me know that this is where I belong even when church is the source of my frustration and disappointment.

Because we are not in church to be with people who want to sing the same music, or rally for the same cause, or attend the same retreats. We are in church to love better. And learning to love better can only happen when we love past our disappointments and return to a place of acceptance and affirmation. This is true in our personal lives, in our work lives, and in our church lives. It is a deep spiritual practice...

There is really only one choice: between imperfect community and no community. Again and again, we are called to choose to commit ourselves to building a more just, more diverse, and yet ever messy and imperfect beloved community."

Thank you for being my imperfect beloved community,  
**Holly Hanauer, President**

### UUA to Elect First Woman as President

Many of us fully expected to have a female president of the United States right now, and were shocked and dismayed as the election results unfolded last November 9. But, as Unitarian Universalists, we're *guaranteed* to have a female UUA president as of June 25, because all three candidates this year are women!

They are Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Rev. Alison Miller, and Rev. Jeanne Pupke. Their profiles have been published in recent UU World issues: Frederick-Gray and Miller in Fall 2016, and Pupke in Winter 2016. Each has an impressive and inspiring resume, and I encourage you to learn about them. Presidential candidate forums are being held at each of the six regional assemblies. Our Mid-America Assembly is April 28-30 in Oak Brook, IL; that forum will be video-taped and will be available a week later at [www.midamericauua.org/ra](http://www.midamericauua.org/ra). (**Rev. Seth, Margaret Reeder, and Iris Chalk** are all taking part in that weekend's Sunday service!) More election coverage is available at [www.uuworld.org/uuavote2017](http://www.uuworld.org/uuavote2017).

UUCM may send five member delegates to General Assembly in June, *or* they may vote online. Congregations may choose to instruct their delegates how to vote, or leave this decision up to each individual. UUCM's Board has chosen to leave it up to the individual; a delegate could then choose to discuss this decision with fellow congregants for their input. Please consider being a delegate! If you're interested, please contact me by May 15; if we have more than five potential delegates, the Board will choose a group that is a representative cross-section of the congregation at our May 17 meeting.

**Holly Hanauer, President**

## May 21 Congregational Meeting

UUCM's annual spring congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, at 12:30 pm. The youth group will be serving a pizza lunch to raise funds for their 2018 Service Journey. Enjoy this meal with friends right after the service and then please plan to attend this important meeting.

If you wish to vote you must check in with the secretary and pick up your voting card. Our By-laws define voting membership as follows: *Article III, Section 2. Persons who have been admitted to membership for at least thirty (30) days, who make a financial pledge to the church and make a good-faith effort to pay it, who donate their time and services, and who attend church services and activities are deemed to be voting members with all rights and privileges. Members who by reason of health have not been able to participate in church affairs and members who by reason of financial hardship have not been able to make a monetary contribution, are nonetheless viewed by the church as being members.*

Please note that a contribution of record for the 365 days preceding this meeting must be received by the church office by May 12 to fulfill the voting member requirement.

The agenda is published below. Absentee ballots will be available upon request to the church office beginning May 5. Completed ballots must be received in the office by **Friday, May 19, at 12:30 pm.**

### UUCM Congregational Business Meeting Agenda Sunday, May 21, 2017 12:30 pm

Call to Order

1. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2016 Congregational Meeting
2. By-Laws Amendments
3. Two Services proposal
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Presentation of the Proposed 2017-2018 Budget
6. Election of Board Officers

Adjournment

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Board of Trustees has proposed the following Bylaw amendments to be voted on at the May 21 congregational meeting. New language is underlined; language to be removed is shown with strikethrough. UUCM's complete Bylaws are available on our website; go to "Members" and then "Governance Documents."

The two substantive changes are to 1) add a Youth Representative position to the Board of Trustees, as is common in many UU congregations, and as is true for the UUA Board of Trustees, and 2) change what constitutes a quorum of board members from "three" to a "majority." Questions about these amendments may be directed to any Board member.

### ARTICLE X

#### Board of Trustees

##### Section 1. Members

The Board shall include the six (6) officers of the congregation, ~~all of whom shall have voting power.~~ An additional Board member representing the youth of the church may serve on the Board, to be elected at the May congregational meeting for a one-year term. The president of the congregation shall be chairperson of the Board. All members of the Board must be members of the church and shall have voting power. In the event the youth representative on the Board is not a member of the church due to the age requirement, that member shall serve in an *ex officio* capacity without voting power until such time as the youth becomes a member of the church and assumes voting power.

##### Section 2. Meetings

A schedule for monthly meetings shall be set by the Board at the beginning of each fiscal year. Additional meetings may be called by the President or upon petition of one (1) or more Board members. ~~Three (3) Board members shall constitute a quorum.~~ A majority of voting Board members shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall preside. In the absence of the President and President-Elect, the Vice-President shall preside. Except for Executive Sessions called to consider personnel and litigation matters, meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

## From the Two Services (Exploration) Task Force

On Sunday, May 7 after the service, the task force will briefly present the finalized proposal for a one-year experiment offering two services. Then there will be a Pros and Cons Forum in the style of a model used at General Assembly meetings of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The hope is that the Forum will reduce the need for extended debate at the Congregation Meeting on May 21. Briefly, here is how the Forum will be run:

- There will be three microphones placed at the front. One for “pro” statements in support, one for “con” statements against, and one for neutral statements or questions.
- Each speaker will start with their name, and then will have up to two minutes to speak. (A timer will be used.)
- Each speaker who makes a statement will be allowed one turn at a microphone. (Questions will not be counted.)
- Speaking turns will pass among the three microphones.
- Speakers are asked to keep their statements respectful in tone.
- Speakers are asked to try to avoid repeating points which have already been raised.
- The whole meeting will be limited to 90 minutes in length.
- We hope you will make every effort to be there for this important meeting.

Also make sure to note these important dates for your calendar: **Week of May 14:** If you know you will not be able to attend the May 21 Congregational Meeting and Vote, contact Christie in the church office to obtain an **absentee ballot**. (Call 765-288-9561 or email [christie@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:christie@uuchurchmuncie.org)). Then make sure to return it to the Church Office - all absentee ballots will need to be *received* by Friday, May 19th at 12:30 pm, to be accepted in accordance with our bylaws which state absentee ballots must be received “a minimum of two (2) days prior to the meeting.”

**Sunday, May 21, 12:30 pm (Sanctuary):** Congregational vote on whether to hold two services as a one-year experiment. The Board has decided that a 60% majority of votes cast will be required to pass. Also, the board has decided it will be an open ballot.

Please visit the task force web page so you can cast an informed vote on May 21: <https://goo.gl/OB8UdE>. If you have not already read the chapters related to church growth, available on the table outside the church office, we strongly encourage you to do so.

## Nominations for Office 2017-2018 Slate

The Nominating Committee is proud to present a strong slate for the congregation’s consideration at the upcoming May 21st Congregational Meeting.

President Elect: **Ginny Nilles**

Vice President: **John Bartlett**

Treasurer: **Jennifer Hollems**

Nominating Committee: **Lisa Kuriscak**

Respectfully submitted,

2016-2017 Nominating Committee  
**Tania Said, Kirsten Smith, Tom Lowe,**  
and **Sherry Ware** (Chair)



“Unitarianism” Harshman Panel  
Photo by Günther Cartwright

### Roots & Wings and New Member Joining Ceremony

Interested in becoming a member? Just looking to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our church? Long-time member looking for a refresher? Everyone is invited to attend our “Roots & Wings” class, which will be offered on Sunday, May 14, at 12:15 pm in the Yellow Room. For those who are interested in becoming members, there will be a New Member Joining Ceremony the following week, Sunday, May 21, at 10:15am in the sanctuary. Attendance at Roots & Wings is generally required before becoming a member – we offer it every month now, so if you can’t make it this month, look for the June dates in the next Unigram!

## Community in Bloom

**2017 Service Auction :: Sunday, June 11**

*Plant Smiles. Grow Laughter. Harvest Love.*



Our Annual Service Auction is a celebration of our community connections and supports our annual fund and programs at a significant level.

The auction features services provided by

members of our congregation and community offered via silent auction to our congregation.

### Won't you help our community bloom? What role can you play?

Join the committee! There are many jobs (big and small) you can help with!

- Logistics
- Communications
- Hospitality
- Administration

### Offer a service for auction! We all have gifts to share!

Offer an experience:

- Guided tour of a favorite museum or historical site
- A themed party at your home
- Delivery of a meal
- Monthly treats
- A custom piece of art
- A private performance
- A class to share a skill you have (knitting, painting, yoga, gardening, etc.)
- Pet care
- Home repair
- Gardening/landscaping

The possibilities are limited only by your imagination!

### Donate an item or gift certificate for a raffle basket!

We'll have themed baskets available for drawings at the event. Can you help us fill them? Do you have connections at a local business that may donate a gift certificate?

Please direct any questions or offerings to Margaret Reeder

[Margaret.reeder@yahoo.com](mailto:Margaret.reeder@yahoo.com)

312.343.0251

## Upcoming Events for Women's Connection @ UUCM

Women's Connection will hold a gathering on Saturday, May 20th, 6pm-8pm at UUCM. We will have a short program and time for connection and ritual, along with a carry-in meal together.

To sign up for the Women's Connection large group gathering in May, please use this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/womensconnectionMaycarryin>

At this gathering, we are focusing on food insecurity for our service activity. If you are able, please bring a donation for the food pantry to help meet some food needs in our congregation and in the larger community.

When you reply about attending, please indicate what dish or food item you are bringing for the shared food carry-in dinner. Those who can donate will donate, but donating is not a requirement for attending! Anyone who cannot donate for any reason is very much welcome. We want you to come if you want to join us!

As part of this event, because we are focused on nurturing each other, everyone able is asked to help clean up at the end of the meeting. We will gather our many hands to make light work and have group instruction on kitchen duties and the sanitizer for anyone who might be unfamiliar or intimidated by the kitchen equipment. Childcare will be available if needed.

Future events: The Women's Connection @ UUCM plans to participate in a Women's Build with Habitat for Humanity as a group in the fall, probably September or October. Stay tuned for more information on that women's build event!

Please contact [janaysander@yahoo.com](mailto:janaysander@yahoo.com) if you have questions about the large group gatherings or the small groups coming in the future.

To sign up for the Women's Connection @ UUCM email list, please send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line or text to: [uucmwomensconnection-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uucmwomensconnection-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## Ambiguity & Change

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

change in general, more often many of us are not huge fans of the process. In uncertain times, we can feel a lack of a sense of control, and while we intellectually know there is much beyond our control, having a sense of control is important. If there is a lot going on in our lives, and many things are changing or feel out of control, the feelings of anxiety can compound. So even just talking about making a significant change here at church, while there is all the uncertainty and difficult things happening with our national government, can easily make everything feel even more stressful.

One thing that can really help during times of transition, or potential transition in our case, is to have plenty of information. Because studies have shown that we human beings have a predisposition to fill in gaps in our knowledge to make a coherent story or narrative, and if we don't have facts, we will often make them up. This isn't a condemnation by any means, it's simple human nature, the basic way our memory works. Unless we have a photographic memory, most of us don't actually remember every moment of every experience, and so we fill in the gaps... usually without being consciously aware we're doing so. Most of the time this strategy works great for us... every once in a while, it leads to misremembering things. In daily life this might lead to an occasional argument with a loved one; it's more serious when we serve as witnesses in a court of law. During times of uncertainty and stress, having a narrative to hold onto can feel even more important – it helps us maintain that sense of control.

Given our need for narrative, I hope as we approach our upcoming vote on May 21<sup>st</sup>, that we can all educate ourselves as much as possible beforehand. Being Unitarian Universalists, I am sure many of us will interpret the facts and the literature differently, and, by voting, we'll be making a joint decision. I also hope we can pay attention to where we have filled in the gaps in the narrative for ourselves, without actually having the right information. One particular example of this is the story I've heard about my motivations. The number of times I've heard it reflected back to me that "you're for adding a second service just to pad your resume" has been surprising to say the least, especially given that it's not true. I was initially unenthusiastic about this idea,

and it was only when I read the literature and did the research with the Two Services Exploration Task Force that I became convinced that adding a second service would be good for the church. I was also fully aware at the time that even considering significant change in a congregation brings up anxiety and stress, and that the task force recommending we consider adding a second service was likely to provoke anxiety and tension in the congregation. So, honestly, if I was just looking to pad my resume, there are other projects I could have pursued that speak directly to me personally, that were less risky, that were less fraught, and that frankly would have been less work. So please, if that's one of the gaps you filled in, I hope you'll consider adjusting your narrative.

And I'll ask also, please join me, as you make your decision about how to vote on adding a second service, please join in me in considering what you think will be best for the whole church, both in the present and in the future. I know that for some of you this isn't your first choice, that you have misgivings, and fears. And it may be that you think it's better for the whole church, present and future, not to try doing this, and I respect that. Many of us though, when looking at the big picture, see trying the addition of a second service for a one-year experiment as a relatively low risk, potential for high rewards way to try and help us get unstuck and through this size transition.

I do hope that as we move through this last month of this process, that we can try and remember that our bonds of connection are more important than anything else, including our differences of opinion, and that we can try our best to remember to always treat each with dignity, honoring each other's inherent worth. We've gone through and are going through a time of uncertainty and ambiguity, regardless of the outcome of the vote. In the end, I hope it makes us stronger.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**



**Ambiguity and Paradox, Mystery and Language****Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer** [\(continued from page 1\)](#)

to look at what we do *not* know, rather than what we do know. Both call us to hold the tension of (seeming) opposites and not rush to choose one over the other. Both ambiguity and paradox, and mystery as well, summon us into a larger universe than we can comprehend rationally, to “stop trying to reduce the incomprehensible to our own petty expectations” (Marjorie Newlin Leaming). If we can do so, we can become more flexible, more open, more willing to live with uncertainty, by being willing to question our ordinary assumptions about how the world and we ourselves are. We can become more open to life as a journey, one undertaken without a detailed navigation program. We can learn to make room in our lives for mystery.

Philip Wheelwright’s book, *The Burning Fountain: A Study in the Language of Symbolism*, first published by Indiana University Press in 1954, has been influential in how I think about language as a poet, as a person to whom spirituality is important, as a minister with occasional responsibility for preaching, and simply as a human being. Wheelwright distinguishes between expressive language and literal language. Both are important, but it’s necessary to understand how each functions, and not to expect one to do the work of the other.

Literal language seeks to explain. Literal language deals with the facts of the matter, or at least with what are taken to be facts. It calls for assent or dissent, agreement or disagreement. This is true whether they are statements of real facts, fake facts or disinformation, or opinions masquerading as facts. Factual/“factual” statements close off discussion and may generate dissention. It’s the language of either-or, and of yes or no.

Expressive language, by contrast, seeks to express rather than to explain. It is the language of mystery, of that which can be expressed but not solved. The metaphorical nature of expressive language opens pathways for creativity, for contemplation and reflection. It is the language of poetry, religion and spirituality. Poetic and religious language, according to Wheelwright, can create genuinely new meaning, and can be “a mode of apprehending, even of creating, new being.” It’s the language of both-and and of maybe or perhaps.

It was interesting to look up synonyms. For ambiguity, I found vagueness, haziness, uncertainty, and doubt, with clarity and certainty given as antonyms. For paradox, the thesaurus offered up inconsistency, absurdity, and contradiction among its list of synonyms, while suggesting normality, usualness, and truth (!) as antonyms. This seems to me clearly biased in favor of the veracity of literal language! It’s also interesting that neither ambiguity nor paradox is included in the drop-down menu of “spiritual themes” on Worship Web, although both appear (under the single heading “paradox and ambiguity”) in the topical indices of both hymns and readings in our gray hymnal.

It’s worth pointing out here that the literalizing of expressive language has been the source of a great deal of misunderstanding in religion. A full discussion of this point would take us too far afield. Arguments over the existence or nonexistence of God and the divinity of Jesus are prime examples.

In closing, I offer for your contemplation one of my favorite instances of both ambiguity and paradox which opens out into mystery. It’s # 685 in the gray hymnal:

What we call a beginning is often the end  
and to make an end is to make a beginning.

The end is where we start from.

We shall not cease from exploration  
and the end of all our exploring  
will be to arrive where we started  
and know the place for the first time. (T.S. Eliot, “The Four Quartets”)

May you welcome mystery!

**Rev. Julia**



## Sharing Gratitude



Every year, **Linda Morton** creates beautiful handcrafted chalices to present to our high school graduates during our Bridging Ceremony in May. Thank you, Linda, for your gift of love and support to our high school youth!

~Nadine Tringali



We just wanted to thank **Jane** and **Wayne Meyer** for the wonderful free family concert that they so generously provided for the Muncie community. Bill Harley, a Grammy winner singer and storyteller gave a heart-warming performance. Thank you for keeping The Folk Tradition alive as well as working with two important community institutions--The Muncie Public Library and Muncie Civic Theater to make possible this event.

~Bill and Linda Morton



Thank you to all of you who came out for A Better Way's Peace Walk! There were at least a dozen of us total. The Social Justice Committee supported this as well. Special thanks go to **Bea Sousa** for her willingness to take on the details of organizing, publicizing, and generally being chief cheerleader. My personal thanks to several of you who trudged along with me for parts of the walk and whose conversation, drumming, fiddling, and tail-wagging dog helped keep my spirits high when my body was tired.

~Rev. Julia

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 May 24.

### Adult Discussion Group

**9:30 am Sundays :: Red room**

**May 4** *National Day of Prayer/National Day of Reason*

**Bill Miller** will lead a discussion how contrasting belief systems are used to help us make meaning of our place in the universe. Seekers find meaning in scientific findings or in religion. Whereas the majority of people are religious, atheists make greater claims of their dependence on reason.

**May 14** *Mothers 2017*

On Mother's Day it seems appropriate to discuss the changing, and non-changing, role of mothers. Please join us for what will be a stimulating hour.

**May 21** *The Opioid Epidemic*

In 2015 more than 52,000 people died of drug overdoses. Nearly two-thirds were linked to opioids like Percocet, OxyContin, heroin, and fentanyl. That's on par with the annual death toll from HIV/AIDS at the peak of the US epidemic, and far more than are killed each year from car accidents or gun violence. That same year Indiana ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the US in OD deaths; 1,245 people died. The state did better than Ohio and Kentucky, which ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the country, respectively. And data from 2016 shows the epidemic has gotten worse. **Leslie Duvall** will lead as we look at this disturbing trend.

**May 28** *Ambiguity/Paradox*

The theme for this month, Ambiguity/Paradox, is possibly a little unclear, maybe confusing, maybe not. (Hopefully, after exploring the theme for the month we'll gain some clarity.) Come talk about your take on it.

## May 2017 UUCM Calendar

Online calendar: <http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org/members/calendar/>

### Regular Weekly Events

Adult Discussion Group	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
Revival Hour (see web calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

### May Events & Activities

Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	Monday	May 1	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesday	May 3	7:30 pm
Board Budget Meeting	Wednesday	May 3	4:00 pm
Finance Committee	Wednesday	May 3	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	May 3	7:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday	May 7	9:30 am
Inquirers Series	Sunday	May 7	9:30 am
Service Journey Fundraiser Lunch	Sunday	May 7	Noon
Visitors Q&A	Sunday	May 7	12:15 pm
Two Services Proposal Discussion	Sunday	May 7	12:15 pm
Theme Reflections	Sunday	May 7	12:30 pm
Annual Report Submission Deadline	Monday	May 8	Noon
Green Team / Beyond Coal	Monday	May 8	6:30 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	May 8	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	May 10	6:00 pm
Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality	Sunday	May 14	9:30 am
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	May 14	9:30 am & Noon
Proposed Budget Discussion	Sunday	May 14	12:15 pm
Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	May 14	12:15 pm
New Member Dinner	Sunday	May 14	5:00 pm
Green Team / Beyond Coal	Monday	May 15	6:30 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	May 17	6:30 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	May 18	7:15 pm
Women's Connection Dinner	Saturday	May 20	6:00 pm
New Member Joining Ceremony	Sunday	May 21	10:15 am
Service Journey Fundraiser Lunch	Sunday	May 21	Noon
<b>Congregational Meeting</b>	Sunday	May 21	12:30 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	May 24	9:00 am
Membership Committee	Thursday	May 25	7:00 pm
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	May 28	9:30 am
Church Office Closed – Memorial Day	Monday	May 29	

### Service Journey

#### Fundraiser Lunches!

Grab some food after church on the 7th and the 21st of May. All of the proceeds will go to support the Youth Group Service Journey Trip to Arizona and Mexico, focusing on immigration justice. Please support this opportunity for them to learn and grow!

Information about this journey can be found here: <http://uucsj.org/journeys/borderlinks/>

### UU Book Group

We will be discussing *The Roundhouse* by Louise Erdrich on Wednesday, May 17, at 7:00 pm, at the home of **Annemarie Voss**. Please note the change of in day of week and week of month.

### National Day of Reason & National Day of Prayer

May 4th is both the National Day of Reason and the National Day of Prayer. A day of reason is a day for all of us to celebrate as Unitarian Universalists, atheists, humanists, theists, agnostics, and polytheists alike - reason is at the core of our faith tradition. For those of us who pray, let us enjoy the time to connect with the broader community in faith.

## UUCM Staff & Leadership

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### Board of Trustees

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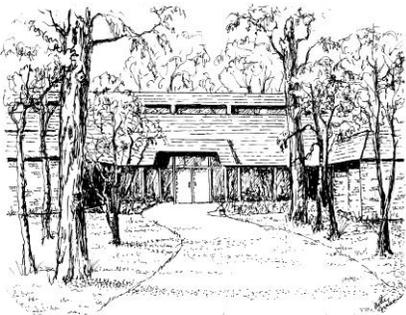
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm | Wednesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive  
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