



the UNIGRAM

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

It's been quite a year! We saw a new US president elected, a president who is trying to redefine what this nation is and what the presidency is. We discussed, discussed some more, and discussed yet again the prospect of having two services here at UUCM, and voted to try it for a year. Those strike me as the two major things that have occurred from a national and a congregational perspective. There have, of course, been others as well. I, for one, feel like I'm still catching my breath. I want to look back at my columns from 2016-17 as a way of gathering up the past and reflecting on where that past may lead us in the coming year, and what gifts it might offer.

Appropriately for what was to come, we began the church with our September theme, change. And there certainly have been changes. Nonetheless, there are constants as well. As one of our long-term members said to me recently, "This is the most wonderful congregation!" That's a constant for me. As I concluded my September column, it's both, change and constancy. "The wind of change forever blown across the tumult of our way" (hymn # 183), and "We are going, heaven knows where we are going, but we know within. And we will get there, heaven knows how we

will get there, but we know we will" (hymn #1020).

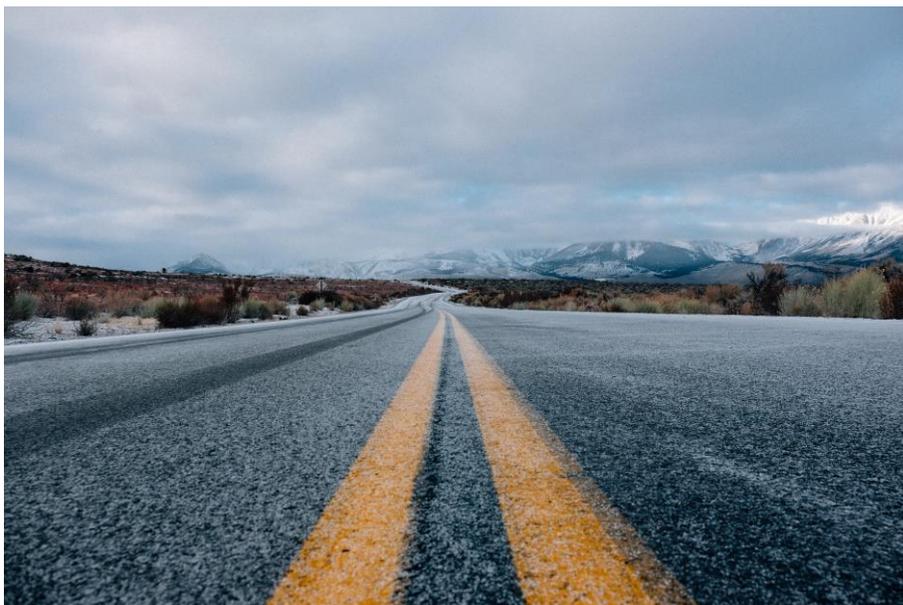
In October, I tried to sort out true humility from false. True humility serves us well through change. It's a sense of perspective, a willingness not only to acknowledge but to affirm joyfully that ours isn't the only point of view, the only preferable lifestyle, the single right belief or whatever. It's an openness to other ways of thinking, of doing, of being. It's a willingness to learn from others, to engage in open, loving encounters and be changed by them. It's a willingness to listen, a generosity of heart and

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am Summer Theme :: Faith in Action

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| Sunday, August 6 Carolyn Meagher and Sue Ellen Braulin, MD, Guest Speakers | <i>“Insuring Reproductive Justice by Assuring Human Rights”</i> Reproductive Justice is the human right to have a baby, the right not to have a baby, and the right to raise your baby in conditions where new life can thrive. The well-known pro-life/pro-choice divide has grossly distorted the understanding of human pregnancy in the public forum. Exploring Reproductive Justice is a way to move beyond that conflict toward a more solid ground for meaningful civil discourse. |
| Sunday, August 13 Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd | From slavery to the prison industrial complex, how might we create real freedom in this country? For a country built on the value of freedom, certain demographics have never known true freedom. We will explore what this means for the freedom of all of us. |
| Sunday, August 20 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd | Join us as Rev. Seth returns to the pulpit after summer study break and paternity leave. |
| Sunday, August 27 Multigenerational Service Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd | <i>Ingathering & Water Ceremony.</i> Please remember to bring a small amount of water to share if you have collected some. The water you bring should be connected to a place, event, or person that has special meaning in your life this past year. |

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

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| Sunday, August 6 UU World Travelers | Anne and Paul Stover will be our “tour guides” for Madagascar! |
| Sunday, August 13 UU World Travelers | Julia Corbett-Heymeyer will be our “tour guide” for Iceland! |
| Sunday, August 20 UU World Travelers | Diane Hill will be our “tour guide” for Scotland! |
| Sunday, August 27 Water Ceremony | Please join us this morning for a special <i>multigenerational service</i> . On multigenerational Sundays, the services are for all ages. Childcare will be available in the Blue Room for preschool & kindergarten youth. |

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 Adult Discussion Group | This group is s a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. Check the eBlast for weekly topics. |
| Every Sunday – Violet room Muncie UU Pagans | This is an open discussion group to explore the differences in our pagan traditions. People of any belief are welcome. |
| 2 nd Sunday – Indigo room Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality | Rev. Julia 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

Our Summer RE Program, *UU World Travelers*, begins!

Our Summer RE Program, facilitated by **Jackie Knake**, continues through August 20! Each week we will "tour" a different country, learning about the culture, religion and history through a variety of activities. The class will run during the Sunday service in the Yellow Room. The curriculum is designed for K-5th grade youth. Youth in 6th-12th grades are invited to participate, assist, or attend the service; preschool youth are welcome to attend with a parent. Childcare will be available in the Blue Room.

Summer RE Program Schedule

August 6 **Anne & Paul Stover**
– Madagascar

August 13 **Julia Corbett-
Heymeyer** – Iceland

August 20 **Diane Hill** - Scotland

Helpers wanted in Childcare

Helpers are needed in the Nursery and Preschool classrooms! This can be on a part-time volunteer basis or a paid position. We are looking for people who are dependable,

compassionate, and have experience with children five years old and under. You will help provide a safe and loving environment focusing on quality childcare for newborns through 5 years of age during the Sunday morning services, as well as for the Adult Religious Education hour from 9:30 to 10:30 on Sunday mornings. Childcare is also needed for 12:30 to 2:30, on Sunday afternoons and other church functions to be determined in the future. Email childcare@uuchurchmuncie.org for more information!



Teachers are needed for our 2017-18 RE Program

We have openings in our Preschool, 3-5 grade, 6-8 grade, and 9-12 grade classes. Please email me if you are interested. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have!

RE Snacks

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.

Nadine

UUCM's Common Read

This fall, during August, September, and October, the congregation will be reading together The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear. This book was the UUA's choice for their 2016-17 Common Read. Its underlying themes of connectedness and solidarity amidst racial and religious differences are ones that all humanity needs to keep learning.

"A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregation by giving diverse people a shared experience, a shared language and a basis for meaningful conversations." 1

The author, Reverend William Barber, "calls for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustice. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent... and do the hard work of coalition building in a fractured and polarized society." 2

Come join us this fall in discussions of our common read, The Third Reconstruction, we will meet from 7 to 9 pm, in the Red room on the following dates:

Tuesday, August 22nd – discuss chapters 1 thru 3
lead by **Ginny Nilles**

Thursday, September 21st – chapters 4 thru 6
lead by **Emily Wornell**

Wednesday, October 18th – chapters 7 thru 9
lead by **Monica James**

Purchase the book for \$10 from **Wayne Meyer** or **Luellen Smucker**, or borrow it from another reader. Happy reading!!

1, 2 - from UUA discussion of the Common Read
at <http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/reading/book.jpg>



2017-18 Themes

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 an upcoming theme, please e-mail them to Rev. Seth seth@uuchurchmuncie.org.

September – Welcome

October – Story

November – Abundance

December – Hope

January – Intention

February – Perseverance

March – Balance

April – Emergence

May – Risk

June – Blessing

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

spirit that invites openness and trust. It offers others a sense of safety. It offers us the ease that comes with not having to be right, with not having to be perfect, with not having to defend ourselves against attacks on our righteousness and rightness.

November's theme, emotional intelligence, led to a reflection on later-in-life marriages and embracing the joy that can come to us after grief. This doesn't apply only to marriages. Some of us are grieving our departure from the familiar one-service pattern of our worship life. Perhaps we will find new joy in the opportunities afforded by the new two-services format.

In December, I wrote about peace. That column seems at least as relevant now as it was then. And I still do not have answers that are either personally satisfactory or offer ways to heal a warring world and disarm our warrior culture. I still believe that a solution must be found, that we cannot let armed conflict remain the go-to solution.

We sang Jason Shelton's "Standing on the Side of Love" in a recent service. It reminded me that he has authorized and seemingly encouraged changing the wording to "answering the call of love" as a way of enhancing congregational awareness of hidden ableism. Doing so enhances the sense of belonging (January's theme) for *all* persons.

February invited us to consider power. Specifically, there is power over and power that we exercise when we walk *alongside* those who are not in positions of power. As the reverend Tom Schade reminds us, there is a creative, sustaining and transforming power that is absolutely trustworthy, and that will sustain us whenever we embrace what is right. What works for peace and justice and love.

There has been, and continues to be, a lot of discussion of humanism (our March theme) and its place in our beloved community. Wherever we are along this spectrum and however we feel about this

issue, now more than ever, we need to stand together against the forces that seek to divide us. All of us stand to lose if the forces of exclusion, oppression, and division prevail. Humanism and healthy religion are fundamentally in accord on this basic point.

April's theme of identity resulted in a somewhat playful recitation of my name changes, but one with a serious point. Identity is both continuous and discontinuous. We do remain in many senses the same person throughout our lives. And yet we change, in ways small and large, in ways known only to us and in ways manifest to nearly everyone we know. This fluidity of identity is a central element that makes up the wondrous adventure we call life. It's why we as Unitarian Universalists value change and growth in our religion and spirituality.

May introduced the theme of ambiguity and paradox. Openness to ambiguity and paradox, and the mystery into which they invite us, means stepping out of our certainties and the comfort they provide, into the unknown. They ask us 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).

June's theme was care of the soul, and I wrote about simple practices that can help us center ourselves and get in touch with the depths of our spirit, however we understand that. I followed that up in July with attention to additional practices that help connect us to community and to a sense of place. The two complement each other. We need both, grounding within ourselves and grounding in our community and place.

And here we are in August. The stores are full of back-to-school supplies, vacation time is winding down, and we're looking forward to a new church year. What's on our horizon? One answer, and an apt one, is we don't know. Life is

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unpredictable. What we do know is “life calls us on,” forward into that fusion of known and unknown. We will move into the implementation phase of our two services experiment. We’ll welcome our incoming intern, Joel Tishkin, and again step into our role as a teaching congregation, a role I think many of us cherish.

Denominationally, we’re being asked to pay attention to where we have not lived up to our calling in terms of diversity and attention to the issues of race, ethnicity and class (as well as others) which continue to divide and isolate us. Changes in our own congregation and in the denomination both call for openness to transformation in the on-going mystery we call “life.” They also remind us of the importance of taking care of ourselves through the process.

I’m excited about the upcoming year, and I hope you are too. As always, Reverend Seth, myself, the Board, our Pastoral Associates, and others in our congregation are available if you want to talk about how to navigate through this unfolding journey.

Rev. Julia

Sharing Gratitude

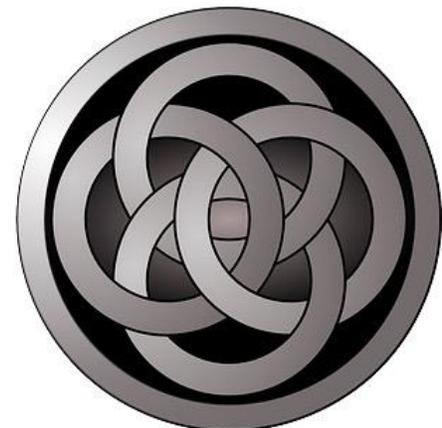


There were so many people who stepped up to take care of the “gusher” that erupted in our Teen Room immediately before our service on July 23rd. There was a lot going on in that service anyway, and it meant a lot to Caroline Sullivan and me to know that our water emergency was being so competently handled. I couldn’t see who all was involved, but there were many. And they stayed late to begin getting things dried out, and on Monday arranged for the problem to be fixed. You did what this congregation does so well and so often—stepped up and took care of what needed to be taken care of. Thank you!! ~**Rev. Julia**

If you have a gratitude you'd like to submit for the next Unigram, please send it to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org, subject line "Sharing Gratitude," by August 23.

Wheel of Life

Rev. Seth and Elizabeth are excited to announce the birth of **Elias James Carrier-Ladd**. Elias was born at 3:29am on Tuesday, July 25th, weighing in at 8 lb. 4 oz. Mom and baby are both healthy and well, and Elias is looking forward to meeting his church family sometime in August!



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.

August 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 |

August Events & Activities

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|----------------|
| Worship Associates | Wednesday | Aug 2 | 7:30 pm |
| Visitors Q&A | Sunday | Aug 6 | 12:15 pm |
| Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force | Monday | Aug 7 | 7:00 pm |
| Pastoral Associates | Wednesday | Aug 9 | 6:00 pm |
| Program Council | Wednesday | Aug 9 | 7:00 pm |
| Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality | Sunday | Aug 13 | 9:30 am |
| Chalice Marketplace | Sunday | Aug 13 | 9:30 am & Noon |
| Fall Retreat Fundraiser Brunch | Sunday | Aug 13 | Noon |
| Social Justice Committee | Monday | Aug 14 | 7:00 pm |
| Investment Committee | Tuesday | Aug 15 | 10:00 am |
| Board of Trustees | Wednesday | Aug 16 | 6:30 pm |
| Committee on Ministries | Thursday | Aug 17 | 7:15 pm |
| Adult Discussion Committee | Sunday | Aug 20 | 12:15 pm |
| Common Read Book Discussion | Tuesday | Aug 22 | 7:00 pm |
| Unigram Submission Deadline | Wednesday | Aug 23 | 9:00 am |
| Sack Lunch Prep for Soup Kitchen | Sunday | Aug 27 | 9:30 am |
| OUTreach Suicide Awareness Lunch | Sunday | Aug 27 | Noon |
| RE Teacher Orientation | Thursday | Aug 31 | 6:00 pm |

The UU book group will be meeting will be at 7:00 pm, on August 10th, at the home of **Luellen Smucker**. We will be discussing *Mary Coin: A Novel*, Marisa Silver. **Susan Bossung** will be the discussion leader.

Summer Office Schedule

Monday
1-4:00 pm

Tuesday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday - Friday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Christie will not be in the office Friday, August 4, and Monday & Tuesday, August 21 & 22.

Mark Your Calendars! 2017 UU Fall Family Retreat

Friday – Sunday,
October 6 – 8
at Pokagon State Park
AND

A Kick-Off Fundraiser to help with retreat costs - come join us for a Pancake Brunch after church on Sunday, August 13!

Come see our retreat pancake team at work!

2016-17 Pledge Payments

The 2016-17 Fiscal Year ended on June 30, and final pledge payments are due. Please be sure to note the pledge year on all payments (16/17 FY: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 or 17/18 FY: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). Payments with no designation will be applied to the current pledge year.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

seth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

julia@uuchurchmuncie.org

Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education

nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org

Christie Williams, Office Administrator

christie@uuchurchmuncie.org

Dr. James Helton, Director of Music

jim@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs

elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Megan Wenning, Membership Coordinator

megan@uuchurchmuncie.org

Matt Davis, Website Administrator

matt@uuchurchmuncie.org

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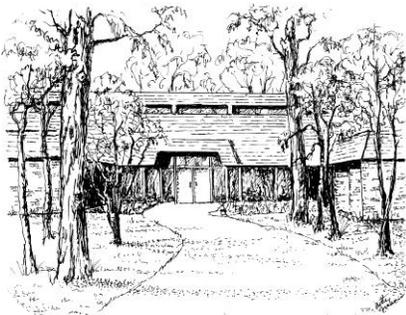
Anna Dillinger

765.288.9561 | uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org | 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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