



# the UNIGRAM

## The Practice of Welcome

*Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister*

What does it mean to be welcoming? One might think, for example, that a long-time Unitarian Universalist who moved to a new city and joined a new UU church might fit into and feel welcome in their new community rather easily, since they know the ropes. One longtime UU shared with me though his experience, where in his new UU congregation, he showed up at a couple different committee meetings, looking forward to being able to contribute – and immediately felt like an outsider. Everyone assumed that since he was UU, he knew exactly how everything worked in this new congregation, and no one made an effort to try to explain to him “how things were done.” The

difficulty, of course, is that there are wide variations between UU churches, and of course each congregation has its own version of “that’s how we do things around here.” Things which everyone who has been “here” for a while knows how they go, and often assumes that everyone else does too.

Welcoming people into our congregation often isn’t just as simple as a warm greeting to newcomers, or engaging them in conversation during coffee hour, though of course those things are still important. Welcoming new people to our community, even people who have signed the book

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## Welcome! Holding Space for Others

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

When I was serving as an on-call hospital chaplain, I was often called on to simply “hold space” for a patient, family members, or a staff person. In many ways, offering spacious, compassionate presence is of the essence of chaplaincy, of pastoral care, of the work of our lay pastoral associates. Frequently, there is “nothing else” we can do, but in that moment, it is everything that is truly needful.

I remember one late-night call into the emergency department in particular. The woman was young, probably early twenties. She was there alone. She had awakened to find her small baby dead from what was likely SIDS. When I arrived, she was sitting

on the gurney holding her baby and sobbing, her heart cracked open. I introduced myself quietly and expressed my sorrow for the death of her baby. None of which she even heard. The small room was far too full of grief for there to be any room for words. I sat behind her on the gurney and held her while she held her baby. Her sobs vibrated through my own body. I don’t remember how long we sat there. Eventually, she was ready to leave, and I walked her to the door. I could not take away her pain; I could not make the unthinkable right. But I could be with her, alongside her, and that was enough.

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## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services at 9:00 & 11:00 am beginning September 10      September Theme :: Welcome

Sunday, September 3 10:45 am <b>Joel Tishken, Intern Minister</b>	"Welcoming Openness" Are our hands and hearts as open as they could be to the gifts of the universe? Or are they closed and shutting down opportunities and paths of relationship? Together we will explore some symbols and techniques for increasing our openness and maximizing our receptivity to what the universe has to offer us.
Sunday, September 10 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	We begin our first Sunday with two services with Rev. Seth's first sermon on the paradox of welcoming, "Getting Bigger by Getting Smaller." Services will be held at 9am and 11am – please consider coming to support the first service!
Sunday, September 17 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	We Unitarian Universalists are proud of how welcoming we are to people of all different backgrounds, inherent identities, and beliefs. But are there limits to welcoming? We'll explore that question and more.
Sunday, September 24 <b>Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd</b>	Rev. Seth wraps up September's theme of welcome – check your Friday eBlast for topic specifics.

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

Classes at 9:00 & 11:00 am beginning September 10

Sunday, September 3 10:45 am <b>Game Day for all Ages!</b>	Activities will be set-up outside, weather permitting. Come dressed to move!
Sunday, September 10 <b>RE Kick Off!</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> - Today we will begin our Soul Matters multi-age class for grades K and up. Class will be held in the Yellow Room. Childcare will be available for preschool children in the Blue Room. <b>11:00 am</b> - Today we will gather together in our classrooms to share our summer adventures, meet our teachers, and create our classroom covenant.
Sunday, September 17 <b>Curriculum Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> - Join us as we continue our religious exploration! <b>11:00 am</b> - Curriculum Sundays begin!
Sunday, September 24 <b>Curriculum Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 am / 11:00 am</b> - Join us as we continue our religious exploration!

## Adult Religious Exploration Offerings

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 on Sunday mornings. Check out all the offerings below!

Every Sunday, 9:30 am Red Room <b>Adult Discussion Group</b>	This group is a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. Check the weekly eBlast for weekly topics.
Every Sunday, 10:00 am 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, 10:00 am Yellow 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.

## Theme Exploration – Welcome

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 this month is a meditation titled “Guest House” by Sufi mystic Rumi, translated by Coleman Barks:*

This being human is a guesthouse.  
 Every morning is a new arrival.  
 A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
 some momentary awareness comes  
 as an unexpected visitor.  
 Welcome and entertain them all!  
 Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
 who violently sweep your house  
 empty of its furniture,  
 still, treat each guest honorably.  
 [S]he may be clearing you out  
 for some new delight.  
 The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
 meet them at the door laughing,  
 and invite them in.  
 Be grateful for whoever comes,  
 because each has been sent  
 as a guide from beyond.

### Questions for Reflection

Do you spend more time welcoming in gifts or keeping out threats?

Do you notice your ruts? Have you slipped so deeply into routine that you don't even notice anymore? When was the last time you welcomed in something new?

### Suggested Readings

[50 Ways to Open Your World to New Possibilities](#)

By Lori Deschene <https://goo.gl/kUg9XZ>

[Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now](#)

by Rebecca Ann Parker and Robert Hardies

<https://goo.gl/ei1ZY7>

### Spiritual or Reflective Practice

Stretch yourself a little bit, and extend the welcome of our church community to someone in your life who hasn't been before – and invite someone to come to church with you this month. Even if it ends up not being their cup of tea, you will have given the gift of welcoming them into and sharing with them an important part of your life. And perhaps you might welcome them into an experience and a place they find meaningful and more!



### 2017-18 Themes

September – Welcome

October – Story

November – Abundance

December – Hope

January – Intention

February – Perseverance

March – Balance

April – Emergence

May – Risk

June – Blessing

## Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education*

### Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

We will be holding two Religious Education Programs each Sunday, beginning on September 10.

During the first service: Childcare is available for preschool children from 9-10 am, in the Blue Room. A multiage class for grades kindergarten and up will be held in the Yellow Room. We will be using the theme-based curriculum *Soul Matters*, which will correspond with the monthly theme in the service.

During the second service: Curriculum classes for preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be held from 11-12:15. The preschool class begins at 11:00. Children & youth in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, begin in the service with their parents. Following the *Story for All Ages*, classes will begin. Please see the *Religious Education Prospectus for Children & Youth* brochure, for more details on the curriculums each class will be using this year.

The nursery is available every Sunday for infants and toddlers two years of age, beginning at 8:45 and ending at 12:30.

### Coming of Age :: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth

The RE Committee and I look forward to offering *Coming of Age* (COA) for our middle school youth this year! We will meet on Sunday mornings as part of our regular Curriculum Sundays. This special program is designed to mark the transition from childhood to youth. What is a youth? A youth is someone who is not yet an adult, but is not a child either. A youth is someone in middle school or high school. By participating in Coming of Age, we hope that the youth will:

- Assume responsibility for their own physical, mental, and spiritual well-being;
- Gain self-confidence and realize that their feelings are valid and that their opinions matter;
- Expand their vision of the world by allowing them to encounter differing views, cultures, and life experiences;
- Understand they have an important role in their family, their church, and the larger community;
- Deepening their personal value system; and



- Realize they are non-judgmentally accepted in our church community, and that it is a safe place for them to be themselves.

During Coming of Age, we will hold two retreats, watch movies and talk about their spiritual aspects, design a service project, talk about the “big questions” in life, write faith statements, play games, get to know each other, and laugh a lot! All of this will end with a final celebration and community recognition in May. Our facilitators this year are **Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd**, **Zach Enos**, **Amy Shaw**, and **Joel Tishken**.

### Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade youth

We are so pleased to be able to offer the K-2 grade youth “Our Whole Lives” (OWL) Sexuality Education program this year! **Denise** and **Ben Ewing** will be attending training this month to become certified OWL trainers for the K-1/4-6 grade OWL programs.

OWL models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. It helps young children identify their attitudes, values, and feelings about themselves, their sexuality, and others’ sexuality. Participants are guided through an engaging curriculum that addresses age appropriate topics. Our K-2 grade OWL program will begin on October 11, following a Parent/Child Orientation on October 4. A complete description of the OWL curriculum is available on the UUA website.

**Nadine**

## New Intern Minister - Greetings

Greetings members and friends of UUCM! It is a pleasure to be with you for the next ten months as your ministerial intern. Thank you for your delightful welcome. My term started Aug. 15th and will continue through June 15th. I look forward to learning from you all as you contribute to my ministerial maturation. In turn, I hope to contribute to all aspects of UUCM. I am eager to get to know you all and be a part of what makes UUCM such a great community.



I grew up and lived in Racine, Wisconsin through college. After college, I went to graduate school at the Univ. of Texas at Austin and earned a MA and Ph.D. in history, with a specialty in the history of independent African Christianities. It was during my time in Austin that I discovered Unitarian Universalism and I have been a member of UU ever since. I taught African and world history and religions at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia and Washington State University in Pullman, Washington from 2002-2015. My wife, Lee Ann, and I met in Pullman, where she was also a history professor, and we have been together since 2008. We both left university teaching in 2015 in pursuit of new dreams. For me that dream was to pursue UU ministry. The idea of becoming a UU

minister first came to me while living in Austin. But at the time it was easier to continue the professional path I was on. The impulse and dream never went away, however, and I finally decided to make the leap! We moved to Richmond in 2015 for me to attend the Earlham School of Religion. While I have been in seminary, Lee Ann has served as the director of academic programs for the Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County, a job she loves. We are the proud

caretakers of three cats (Apollo, Vulcan, and Vesta) and four guinea pigs (Venus, Juno, Artemis, and Aphrodite), all seven of them humane society adoptees. Theologically Lee Ann and I both identify as religious humanists and nontheist pagans. Our spirituality reinforces our passion for green ethics, environmental and animal justice, and veganism. We're both avid nature-walkers and love living across from Hayes Arboretum in Richmond. Since moving to Richmond, we have been members of First Universalist Church in New Madison, Ohio.

I look forward to a wonderful experience with you all. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your community.

*Joel Tishken*

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## Youth News

### *Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs*

We are kicking off a full year in our Youth Program! Here is our September schedule!

#### **Youth Groups**

September 10, 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th Grade)

September 17, 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
Combined Youth Group (6th-12th Grade)

September 24, 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
High School Youth Group (9th-12th Grade)

#### **Service Journey Events**

September 10, 10:00 – 11:00 am  
First Fundraiser Brunch, in between services

September 24, 9:00 & 11:00 am  
Service Journey Worship Services

## Two Services Begins!

As most of you are probably aware, we voted at our Congregational Meeting last may to try a one-year experiment of adding a second service. That trial period begins on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, when we will offer two identical services at 9:00 am, and 11:00 am, with a social hour in between starting at 10:00 am. We hope everyone can come together to try and support this endeavor of the church, even if you weren't and maybe still aren't a fan of this idea. Adding a second service is the direction we as a church decided to go via a democratic vote, and so now that our course is set for at least this year, we'll need everyone's help to make it successful.

Two areas in particular where we could use your help are in seeding the first service and in supporting our hospitality teams. If you're interested in helping to "seed the first service," or make a commitment to attending the first service on the Sundays you come for the first few months, please contact sign up on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary, or contact our Board President, **Jerry McKean**. If you're willing to step up and help our hospitality teams take on their expanded role of greeting and welcoming members, friends and visitors for two full services, please contact our Board Vice-President, **John Bartlett**.

There are a couple of things to keep in mind as we begin this process. First, it's likely that we'll be working out the kinks for most of September and maybe even the beginning of October. So if something isn't working right the first couple of Sundays, please don't stress out that it's always going to be that way! Let **Rev. Seth** or one of the Worship Associates know, and we'll do our best to try and meet everyone's needs in this new format. We also of course likely won't be able to meet every single person's need, due to time, space and other constraints, but we can't try if we don't know there's a problem. Second, it's highly likely that one of the services, probably the first one, will have lower attendance to begin with. This is to be expected, so there's no need to be anxious about attendance numbers the first couple of months. Big changes like this often take months to gain steam, so hopefully we can reserve judgment until this experiment has had some time to grow, evolve and take root.

In the big picture, this is an exciting time in the life of our church! We are trying a bold experiment that we hope will help us move forward out of this "in-between" size we've been stuck in, between pastoral- and program-sizes, which is a courageous choice to have made. And, there will be other programs and tasks we must address to move forward, so keep an eye out for news and announcements about those.

### Bazaar in the Woods

**Saturday, November 4 • 8:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Questions / Suggestions / Concerns / How to get involved

Contact our Co-Chairs:

**Bruce Craig** [bcraig@bsu.edu](mailto:bcraig@bsu.edu) / 215-8426

**Usha Shivaswamy** [ushashivu@gmail.com](mailto:ushashivu@gmail.com) / 289-5095

**Sue Errington** [errington@comcast.net](mailto:errington@comcast.net) / 282-3581

### Make Your 2017 Bazaar... Spectacular

The UUCM Bazaar is the oldest continuous church bazaar in Muncie. Let's get to work and make this Bazaar spectacular in everything we do! It takes the ENTIRE CHURCH to make this annual event successful.

### What Can You Do?

- Watch for announcements / Contact a Co-Chair to sign up
- ASK for ideas on how to help and you'll soon be swept up in Bazaar excitement!
- *Stockpile* all your goodies to donate to the 2017 Bazaar – ENCORE! Fashion Boutique / Christmas Holiday items / Jewelry / Collectibles / This & That objects / Children's Corner / Tool Shop
- Silent Auction / Dig through your attic, garage, boxes, drawers, and closets TODAY! Do NOT procrastinate! Find your donation, measure it, and write a description. Silent Auction booth outlines its booth space early. When you have donation information, please email or call **Bruce Craig**. The sooner the better!

## From the Committee on Ministries...

Ministry is the broad work of our congregation. Everything we do is part of our ministry to one another and to the community, both within the church and beyond. The work of our Mission and Vision Task Force in 2014-15 gave us a strong base against which to assess how well we are working together to serve the mission of this congregation.

The Committee on Ministries (CoM) is charged with helping the ministry teams within the congregation reflect on and assess our work. We spent the past two years in liaison with each of the church's standing committees (about half of them each year), to assist those various ministries in the processes of educating others and reflecting on their own work and priorities. This fiscal year (2017-18), we will begin a *three-year* committee rotation, prioritizing the standing committees last examined two years ago that might experience *especially* notable growth or change because of the Two Services initiative—which formally begins September 10.

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

These committees will be in year one of our new rotation: Social Justice, Stewardship, Adult Religious Exploration, Pastoral Associates, Membership, and Hospitality.

In an initial meeting early this fall with each UUCM committee listed, a CoM liaison will ask questions to help flesh out the committee's mission, discuss the committee's 2017 annual report/self-assessment, and ask what information committee members would like us to gather for their particular ministry this year. (Each CoM liaison will share a template file that helps to target these fields of information.)

Beginning in January 2018, the gathered information will lead to a series of *Unigram* articles spotlighting each standing committee, as well as a series of focus groups designed to elicit key feedback from the congregation for each committee. Finally, each CoM liaison will use a combination of the committee's goals and the congregants' feedback as the basis for reflection in the final meetings with the committee.

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

## Financial News

You can help our bookkeeper apply your pledge payments and other gifts to the proper account by including a note with your check or by a notation on the memo line (i.e. 2017-18 Pledge, Dedicated Offering, Muncie OUTreach, Food Pantry, etc.). Payments received with no account indication will be applied to the current pledge year/general fund for 2017-18.

Sign up anytime to have automatic payments deducted monthly from your checking or savings account. Forms are available on the website ([Members tab > Forms & Information](#)), on the table in front of the office, or by emailing [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org).

You can also make cash payments on your pledge (or for other giving) and receive an annual statement for tax purposes by using our Cash Donation envelopes found on the table in front of the office. Envelopes can be dropped in the collection baskets or in the lock box in the church office.

Text-to-Give is available on Sunday mornings (easy instructions available in the order of service and on the screen) to contribute to the Loose Offering or Dedicated Offering for that day. We do not accept pledge payments via this method.

**Tax Tip** – Are you facing a required minimum distribution from your IRA that imposes a troublesome tax burden? Consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to UUCM and other favorite charities. For more information, consult your accountant or see IRS Publication 590-B, "Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)."

## The Practice of Welcome

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

and officially become members, even people who are UUs already – it extends beyond the initial embrace. Welcoming is an intention, an attitude, that needs to persist far beyond the initial hellos and deep into our life as a church. If we want to be truly welcoming, we must try to bring an awareness of what those who are not only new to our church, but those who are “newer” might be experiencing. This includes new members, and even extends to longer-term members. For example, this year, for the first time in my tenure, we offered an orientation session for new members to our Board of Trustees, to provide some basic information and resources, give them a chance to ask question, and to help welcome them into their new roles. It’s a practice I hope we continue.

That word, practice, is a key part of this, because I hope we have not only an ongoing awareness of welcome, but also an ongoing \*practice\* of welcome. Having a practice of welcome is important, because it’s easy to make assumptions and miss things, even when we’re trying. Just last week, I was made aware of an opportunity to be welcoming that I missed, when we published only the briefest of invitations to the water ceremony in the eBlast. The text read, “don’t forget to bring water from our summer experiences to share if you like,” which of course only makes sense if you’ve been to the Water Ceremony before and know what it’s like. One of our active friends/not-yet-a-member subsequently posted to our church Facebook group wondering what this water ceremony was all about. In retrospect, duh... even though we do the water ceremony every year, of course newcomers aren’t going to know all about it. But I made an assumption, and missed it in the moment.

As we begin our one-year experiment of offering a second service this year, with its accompanying hope that we will be welcoming a number of new people into our community, I hope we can reflect together as a church community about what it means to be welcoming. Welcoming not just the first and second Sunday that people show up, but welcoming at all the other times too, and welcoming still three months later, and even three years later. Because while our practice of welcoming, skillful or not, will impact the success of

the two services experiment, it also is a reflection of who we are an ethical, spiritual and religious community. And it’s a reflection of how well we live into our values and beliefs. We say we are welcoming to a large variety of people and beliefs, but if we don’t bring awareness and intentionally practice that value of welcoming throughout all aspects of our community life – there’s a good chance we’ll fall short far more than we want to.

So as we go about our days, as we go about our lives, I hope we can be intentional about our practice of welcoming. It matters in the life of our church, and it matters in our individual lives as well. We all experience different levels of being welcomed in new and different places, from homes to businesses to community organizations. My family welcomed a new baby this summer, and we’ve tried to be intentional about that process. As a congregation, in addition to a second service and likely new visitors, we’re in the process of welcoming a new intern minister. Opportunities for welcoming happen all the time, and how we handle them matters, it makes a difference. Hopefully, if we pay attention, both in our church and in our lives, we can handle them skillfully, generously, and graciously more often than not.

I look forward to continuing to explore our theme of Welcome with you this month – see you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**



“Unitarianism” Harshman Panel  
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

## Welcome! Holding Space for Others

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

In part, I learned to do this as an aspect of my professional training. But I have learned the most from the people who have been able to hold space for *me* with skill and grace. I am truly blessed to have had such people in my life, people who have come into my life at the precise time I needed them. I recently saw holding space described this way: "It means that we are willing to walk alongside another person in whatever journey they're on without judging them, making them feel inadequate, trying to fix them, or trying to impact the outcome. When we hold space for other people, we open our hearts, offer unconditional support, and let go of judgment and control." In short, it's being present, fully, unconditionally present, without judgment and without trying to fix the person or situation.

Any of us may be called upon to hold space in this way for others in our family, our friends or colleagues, or even the stranger who is seated next to us on the plane. What guidelines can we keep in mind to help us in such situations?

Holding space, being with someone in this supportive way, does not mean "fixing." This disempowers them and undercuts whatever confidence they have in their ability to find their own solutions, solutions that grow from within them rather than being imposed from outside. Our job is to make a safe space in which they can access their own best wisdom. That wisdom is present, and it will guide them. Yes, of course we can give gentle guidance when asked for or when obviously needed. There are times when someone needs to step in (for example with someone dealing with addiction or considering suicide).

But mostly, we need to allow them to feel safe and supported even when they make what we see as mistakes, *especially* when they make mistakes. People need the kind of safety that allows them to risk making mistakes. Sometimes, perhaps often, the person for whom we are holding space will make a decision we would not make, and that's OK too.

When someone feels this safe, complex emotions, fears, traumatic memories, confusions and more tend to tumble over each other. One of the greatest blessings of being held in strength and grace is that we can allow this jumble of feelings and experiences to surface and receive

our nonjudgmental attention. We can know that this, too, can be accepted. We can allow someone to fall apart and know that because they are held in the strength of another, they will come out the other side more whole.

I'm reminded of the son of a family we were friends with when I was in grad school. A thunderstorm had awakened him in the middle of the night, and he was frightened. After comforting him, as he was preparing to return to his own bed, his dad said to him, "You know, Robert, even when I go back to bed, God is still here with you." Robert thought about this for a moment, and then, with 5-year-old candor, said, "Yes, I know, but sometimes God needs arms and legs." Whether we embrace God-language or not, holding space for another is sacred, holy work.

We can hold space for others only if we are able to give ourselves the same gift. We cannot hold another's pain unless we can hold our own. We need to take care of our own well-being, to practice self-care, however that looks for us. As one writer says, "It is being present, treating yourself with care, consideration, kindness, compassion and love. Hearing the needs of your body and mind, feeling your emotions, and listening to the yearning of your soul. It's a way of being, a lifestyle, a profound choice and a stand you take. It's not a belief system, but is rather a way of being with yourself and meeting your own needs."

This involves

- Accepting our imperfections
- Knowing how and when to say "no" and maintaining healthy boundaries
- Know when we need to ask for support
- Take time for stillness and reflection, prayer, or meditation
- Nurture yourself, every day, in whatever ways work best for you.

Ours is a community in which people hold space for each other. This is an act of welcome, of love, of grace. We'll walk together through the changes that this coming church year will bring. It's going to be a good journey.

**Rev. Julia**

## Sharing Gratitude

*If you have a gratitude you'd like to submit for the next Unigram, please send it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org), subject line "Sharing Gratitude," by September 20.*

### RE Summer Program ~ UU World Travelers

Many thanks to **Jackie Knake** for facilitating our eight summer program sessions! Also, many thanks to our tour guides who shared their knowledge and experiences with our youth! Our tour guides were: **John, Susan, & Sophie Taylor** (Brazil), **Usha Shivaswamy** (India), **Pam Harwood & Coly Tabberson** (Australia), **Jennifer, Kendall, & Carter Hollems** (Mexico), **Lisa Kuriscak** (Spain), **Anne & Paul Stover** (Madagascar), **Julia Corbett-Heymeyer** (Iceland), and **Diane Hill** (Scotland).



### Religious Education Teachers ~ 2017-2018

Many thanks to **Maggie Bartlett, Jamie Butterbaugh, Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Zach Enos, Elsbeth Fritz, Adrienne Gruver, Pam Harwood, Ashley Olibas, Steve Robert, Amy Shaw, Luellen Smucker, Anne Stover, Aryn Sweeney, Susan Taylor, Joel Tishken, Tracy Whelan, and Andrea Wolfe** for volunteering to teach this year in our Religious Education Program for Children & Youth!

### Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Program

Many, many thanks to **Ben & Denise Ewing** for volunteering to become certified last summer for the Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education program for 7-9/10-12 grades. Last year they facilitated our year-long 7-10 grade OWL program, which was a huge success! We had 12 participants in the program! After such a wonderful year, I can hardly find the words to express my appreciation to Ben & Denise for volunteering once again to attend a training this month in Rockford, Illinois, to become certified OWL facilitators for the K-1/4-6 grade programs. They will be leading our K-2 grade OWL program that will begin in October! Thank you!



## Wheel of Life

*If you have a major life event you'd like the church community to be aware of, please submit it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.*

## September 2017 UUCM Calendar

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

### Regular Weekly Events

Worship Services	Sundays	9:00 & 11:00 am
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth	Sundays	9:00 & 11:00 am
Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Muncie UU Pagans	Sundays	10:00 am
Youth Group (no meeting Sept 3)	Sundays	12:30 – 2:00 pm
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesdays	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm
Revival Hour (see web calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

### September Events & Activities

Visitors Q&A	Sunday	Sept 2	12:15 pm
<b>Church Office Closed – Labor Day</b>	Monday	Sept 4	
<b>Church Office Closed – Staff Retreat</b>	Tuesday	Sept 5	
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	Tuesday	Sept 5	7:15 pm
Green Team	Wednesday	Sept 6	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Sept 6	7:30 pm
Property Maintenance Workday	Saturday	Sept 9	9:00 am
Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality	Sunday	Sept 10	10:00 am
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	Sept 10	10:00 am
Service Journey Fundraiser Brunch	Sunday	Sept 10	10:00 am
Roots & Wings :: New Member Class	Sunday	Sept 10	12:30 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Sept 11	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	Sept 13	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Sept 13	7:00 pm
Coming of Age Potluck Dinner	Saturday	Sept 16	6:00 pm
Inquirers Series	Sunday	Sept 17	10:00 am
New Member Signing Ceremony	Sunday	Sept 17	10:30 am
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	Sept 17	12:30 pm
Soup Lunch	Sunday	Sept 17	Noon
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	Sept 20	9:00 am
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Sept 20	6:30 pm
Common Read Book Discussion	Thursday	Sept 21	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Sept 21	7:15 pm
Inquirers Series	Sunday	Sept 24	10:00 am
Membership Committee	Thursday	Sept 28	7:00 pm

### Serving Journey Fundraising Brunch! September 10, 10:00 am

On the kick-off Sunday of two services, join us for Brunch between the services! We will have breakfast casseroles, salad and fruit available. All donations will go to support the High School youth's Service Journey to Arizona and Mexico in June 2018. Celebrate our first Sunday of two services by sharing some fellowship time with those attending both services and supporting this important program!

### Congregational Workday

The Property Maintenance Committee is sponsoring a congregational workday on Saturday, September 9, from 9 am-noon. We will concentrate on outside work, trimming, deadheading, raking—generally improving the looks of the church grounds. Please bring appropriate tools, as our supply is limited. Snacks will be provided along with a chance to get to know people better as we work together. Please come if you can! The rain date will be September 16, same time.

## UUCM Staff & Leadership

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

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

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

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

**Joel Tishken, Intern Minister**

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**Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education**

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**Christie Williams, Office Administrator**

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**Dr. James Helton, Director of Music**

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

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

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

**Megan Wenning, Membership Coordinator**

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

**Matt Davis, Website Administrator**

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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

### Board of Trustees

**Jerry McKean**

President

**Ginny Nilles**

President-Elect

**John Bartlett**

Vice President

**Sharon Seager**

Secretary

**Jennifer Hollems**

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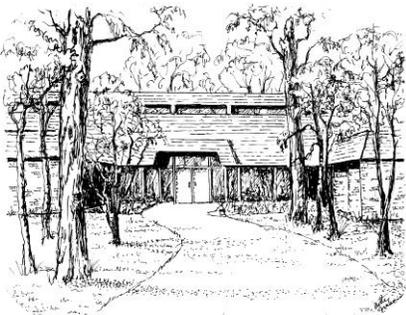
Past President

**Anna Dillinger**

Youth Representative

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive  
Muncie, IN 47304



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