



# the UNIGRAM

## Seeing with Humility

*Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister*

Sitting, on a nice green lawn outside the Salt Lake City, UT convention center at General Assembly 2009, was one of many moments where I have been gifted with someone else's wisdom in a way that has helped me see and understand the world with greater clarity. I had been talking with a friend of mine, Tomoko, when I said something that I thought demonstrated what an evolved human being I was. "I don't see color, I see people." The distressed look on Tomoko's face was immediate. I don't remember her exact response, but it quickly moved to "we need to have a serious conversation." Serious enough that she took me outside, and sat me down in a shady spot on the nice green lawn.

I would love to report that she, a person of color, offered me some guidance about how to be a better ally in my anti-racism, anti-oppression work, and that I heard her immediately, shifted my position, and thanked her for helping me deepen my understanding. Unfortunately, I argued. "But I don't see color. I don't see age either – I treat everybody the same, regardless of their age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity... it's not a race thing for me, I see people as people." The problem of course, is that her point wasn't that I was making it a race thing, it's that all those

(continued on page 8)

\*\*\*\*\*

## In This Issue

<u>Sunday Mornings</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Theme Exploration</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Religious Education News</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Splinters from the Board</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Summer Seminary</u>	<u>6</u>
by Iris Chalk	
<u>Sharing Gratitude</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>September Calendar</u>	<u>11</u>

\*\*\*\*\*

## Just Don't Do It!

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

We're all-too-familiar with the Nike slogan, "Just do it!" Get out there and DO something. Reverend Seth's sermon on August 19<sup>th</sup>, "Controlled by the Clock," touched off reflections for me that might well be summarized with the slogan "Just *Don't* Do It!"

In the interest of full disclosure, I function best when I have a fair amount of structure in my life, and this often leads me to make a to-do list. Then the list takes on a life of its own and can generate feelings of "I have to get these things done. And I don't have time to get them all done!" On the other hand, I also cherish my unstructured time. Especially as I've matured, become

more comfortable with myself, and learned better how to manage life with chronic pain, "down time" has taken on greater importance for me.

I realize how fortunate I am. Not everyone has the privilege of having as much flexibility with their time as I do. We're all at somewhat different stages in our lives. The days our grandchildren stay with us remind me that those with children have far less control over their time than I do. Caregivers may have to struggle to find even a few hours. Many people are financially unable to retire, or even semi-retire. Farmers, especially those who have livestock, can't easily take a day off; cows and pigs must eat and be watered, and the barn be mucked out!

(continued on page 9)

## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

**Service at 10:45 am**

**September Theme :: Vision**

Our September theme of Vision invites us to consider what it means to see – to see with greater clarity our own vision for life, and to see other people’s perspectives as well. This month will also bring a variety of special services, beginning on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> with our Water Ceremony/Ingathering service. Everyone is encourage to bring a small portion of water from their summer experiences to share during the service. The following Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Volunteer Dedication ceremony, where we honor our Board members, Committee Chairs, and Sunday morning Religious Educaiton Teachers for this church year. Finally, Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> will see our youth who went on the Service Journey trip last spring to the Arizona-Mexico border create and lead a service sharing about their experience and the realities of our struggles with immigration in our country.

September 2 – Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd

September 9, 16, 23, 30 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

**Classes at 10:45 am**

### **September 2 – Game Day!**

Join us today for games and fun outside! We will have bubbles, chalk art and tables set up for glitter art and paper airplanes - along with games like horse shoes, ring toss, and beanbag toss.

### **September 9 – Multigenerational Service, “Water Ceremony” and Boston Bound Luncheon fundraiser**

Our Multi-Gen Services are for all ages. There will be childcare available for preschool and kindergarten children in the Blue Room. Please join us for lunch following the service. Our Boston Bound youth will be serving delicious soups and breads.

### **September 16 – Volunteer Dedication and RE Kick Off!**

Today we will be dedicating our RE Volunteers in the service and will gather together in our classrooms to share our summer adventures, meet our teachers, and create our classroom covenants.

### **September 23 & 30 – Curriculum Sundays**

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.

Every Sunday, 9:30 am  
Red Room  
**Adult Discussion Group**

This group is a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. You’ll find weekly topics in the eBlast.

## Theme Exploration – Vision

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 an excerpt from “The Prophetic Imagination” by Walter Brueggemann:*

“The prophet engages in futuring fantasy. The prophet does not ask if the vision can be implemented, for questions of implementation are of no consequence until the vision can be imagined. The imagination must come before the implementation. Our culture is competent to implement almost anything and to imagine almost nothing. The same royal consciousness that make it possible to implement anything and everything is the one that shrinks imagination because imagination is a danger. Thus every totalitarian regime is frightened of the artist. It is the vocation of the prophet to keep alive the ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing futures alternative to the single one the king wants to urge as the only thinkable one.”

### Questions for Reflection

How have you tried to manifest your vision in the world successfully? (an idea that you have had, that has taken shape and been implemented for example)

Are there periods in your life when you have lacked vision? What were the circumstances?

What prevents you from “seeing?” What helps you/supports you to gain clarity of vision?

How do you respond when others do not share your vision? How do you respond when they do?

### Resources for Going Deeper

**Poem – Sweet Darkness** by David Whyte  
<https://onbeing.org/blog/sweet-darkness/>

**Video – How to See the World Like Malcolm Gladwell**  
<https://bigthink.com/videos/big-think-interview-with-malcolm-gladwell>

### Spiritual or Reflective Practice

We’ve all heard of companies writing vision statements, but we rarely write one for ourselves. Use this month to fix that. Simple, clear and memorable statements of vision inspire us, help clarify our choices and motivate us to get out of bed each morning. Without them, we wander. With them, we choose and shape our own path. It’s one of the best gifts we can give to ourselves. If writing isn’t for you, make it visual representation of it! This popular technique is called vision-boarding.

*The material in this article is sourced directly from our Soul Matters theme packets.*

## 2018-2019 UUCM Themes

**September:** Vision

**October:** Sanctuary

**November:** Memory

**December:** Mystery

**January:** Possibility

**February:** Trust

**March:** Journey

**April:** Wholeness

**May:** Curiosity

**June:** Beauty

## Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali*  
*Director of Religious Education*

Summer flew by once again! Our summer program of "Books & Cooks" was a success thanks to the talent and enthusiasm of **Maggie and Madison Bartlett!** Each Summer Sunday included a story and hands-on cooking skills, creating delicious recipes with our children and youth to experience and enjoy!

Please mark your calendars for our **September 9, Boston Bound Soup Luncheon fundraiser.** Our youth will be traveling to Boston in June to visit the UUA headquarters, UU Churches, and walk the Freedom Trail, along with many other adventures!

We will be holding monthly fundraising luncheons and bake sales, and will have a booth at our UUCM Bazaar. This year at our Boston Bazaar Booth, we will be selling Christmas ornaments with pictures of four of our Hartmann stained glass windows.

Now the Religious Education Committee turns our enthusiasm to our curriculum year, which will kick off on Sunday, September 16. We have openings for teachers in our preschool, middle school, and high school classes. If you are interested in our teaching or assisting in our religious education program for children & youth, please contact me. **On Sunday, September 16, we will be dedicating our RE Volunteers** in the service and will gather together in our classrooms to share our summer adventures, meet our teachers, and create our classroom covenants.

We are very pleased to offer the **10-12 grade Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (OWL) program this year.** The facilitators for this program are **Denise & Ben Ewing.** A letter will be going out to all eligible families with information and scheduling details. You will also find information about OWL on the UUCM and UUA websites.

**Please save your plastic bottle caps.** We will be working on a high school project this Fall, and would like to have a rainbow assortment of plastic bottle caps. A collection box is located in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

*Nadine*

## Summer Youth Schedule

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

Please mark your calendars for Youth Sunday! October 14! This is a big change from our usual time in February and we are excited to start the year off with this central part of our programming.

Below you will find the programming schedule for September and October. This year will be full of wonderful opportunities for our youth to continue to grow and connect. If you would like to be added to the parents email list, please email Elizabeth [elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org).

*September 8, 1 pm - September 9, 10 am*

### **Youth Sunday Planning Lock-In**

*September 16, 12:30-2 pm*

### **Youth Sunday Planning**

*September 23, 12:30-2 pm*

### **Youth Sunday Planning**

*September 21, 7:30 pm*

**The Christians at Muncie Civic Theatre.** Join us to see this thought-provoking play together. Please RSVP to Elizabeth by September 7, so that tickets can be purchased.

*September 30, 12:30-2 pm*

### **Youth Sunday Planning**

*October 13, 2-4 pm*

### **Youth Sunday Rehearsal**

*October 14, 10:45 am*

### **Youth Sunday Service**

*October 26, 5-10 pm*

**First COA Redux Evening.** This exciting program will kick off in October and run every other month throughout the year. We will revisit the major themes of Coming of Age with fresh eyes to discuss the ways in which our thinking has evolved and reflect on our own growth. We will conclude the program by revising (or writing) our faith statements.

*October 28, 12:30 - 2 pm*

### **Combined Youth Group**

*Elizabeth*

# Splinters from the Board

*Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.*

## Trust

I usually don't respond to one source of information immediately. I ask the same question over and over to hear the different answers and then try to find the common thread to explore. Lately I have been hearing a common thread from members of the congregation, our minister, and a UUA General Assembly workshop on "Board Development for These Times." The question for me became who is this Brené Brown and what is she talking about?

Brené Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston where she holds the Huffington Endowed Chair. Her areas of study are courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy. She has published several books and offers videos on a variety of topics. The topic, though, that drew me in is trust.

Dr. Brown explains trust by using the analogy of a jar of marbles. Each time we act in a manner of trust, a marble gets added to our jar; as we act in a manner of distrust, a marble gets taken out of our jar. One might think that trust is made or destroyed in grand moments, but Brown claims trust is built in very small moments. When you go to a funeral, when you ask for help when you need it, when you remember a name of a person and the events of their life then you get to add marbles to your trust jar.

Dr. Brown has developed an acronym as a model for trust building: BRAVING.

**B: Boundaries** - I can trust you if you are clear about your boundaries and hold true to them. You must also be clear about my boundaries and respect them.

**R: Reliability** - I can only trust you if you always do what you say you will do.

**A: Accountability** - I can trust you and myself if when a mistake is made we both own it, apologize, and make amends.

**V: Vault** - I can trust you if what I share with you, you hold in confidence and you can trust me if what you share with me, I hold in confidence. Perhaps even more important though is I see you also hold the confidences of others.

**I: Integrity** - Trust is also choosing courage over comfort; right over fun or what's easy; practicing your values.

**N: Non-judgment** - I can trust you if I can fall apart and struggle without being judged by you. I can trust myself if I can ask for help without harshly judging myself.

**G: Generosity** - And finally I can trust you if you always assume the most generous thing about my actions even if you don't understand them at first.

Trust has been expressed as an issue for our congregation in the recent Listening Sessions and Suggestion meeting. It seemed natural to think about our group in terms of have we lost trust with each other; can we trust each other again; how do we build this trust. But...then I started to think of this trust idea in terms of me. Am I a trustworthy person? Maybe, sometimes. Can I be better at this trust idea? Absolutely. Do I trust myself enough to trust you? Perhaps.

Brown quotes Charles Feltman (not the hot dog guy but the professional leadership and organizational coach) to define trust as choosing to make something important to you vulnerable to the actions of someone else. The Board of Trustees (word play intended :-)) will be meeting at a retreat soon and will be considering this idea of trust – for ourselves, for each member of the Board, for the Board as a whole, for us the congregation. How can we fill our collective jar of marbles together? I think it will be an interesting discussion as we move forward.

For more information, *Braving the Wilderness*, Brené Brown, and <https://brenebrown.com/videos/anatomy-trust-video/>

"Ginny!" said Mr. Weasley, flabbergasted. "Haven't I taught you anything? What have I always told you? Never trust anything that can think for itself if you can't see where it keeps its brain?"

— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

**Mary Johnson Robey, president**

## My Experience at Summer Seminary

*Iris Chalk*

Over the summer during the last week of July, I had the incredible opportunity to attend Summer Seminary in Chicago—a program for Unitarian Universalist (UU) youth to explore what it would be like to be a religious professional. I went in to this week with fairly high expectations—I’ll admit—and still I experienced so much more than I could have ever expected.

The first day we all arrived we were brought in to a small lounge on the fourth floor of University Center, where we would be staying. As more and more people started to arrive, polite and timid conversations began to turn in to more relaxed exchanges as we began to play some fun icebreaker games. Even though I knew none of these people before this, within the first half hour of our shared time we quickly began bonding over favorite breakfast foods and funny little anecdotes we were sharing. I could sense some sort of community forming.

Once the first full day began, we launched right in to sessions and spiritual practices. That morning we sang the hymn “Gathered Here” in a round as we sat in a circle with our eyes closed, and a funny and beautiful thing happened: we all stopped singing at the same time without direction or knowledge that the people surrounding us were going to stop. This moment was a sign to many of us that we were a part of something amazing.

We would walk over to one of the two UU seminaries, Meadville Lombard Theological School, a couple times a day for the first few days to attend different sessions led by UU religious professionals. There were sessions on theology, the history of our faith, religious education, chaplaincy, preaching, and more. Now I shouldn’t speak for all of my Summer Seminary friends, but for me, all of these sessions led by exceptional faith leaders offered so much knowledge, inspiration, and insight. I came home with a notebook half-full of scribbly but enthusiastic notes, ideas, and curiosities about myself, this faith community, and

what exactly it is I wish to do with all of my passion for Unitarian Universalism.

A part of Summer Seminary I cherished in particular was the system that the staff organized of “care groups.” These were groups of five students and one staff member where we would reflect on our day and how we were feeling, what we were thinking, and so on. We would check up on one another, made sure everyone made it to meals, and best of all, we planned and lead worship one evening for the rest of the students and staff. We worked together, brought our diverse range of experiences, perspectives, attitudes, and visions, and created a time of sacredness and storytelling in which we all connected on such a unique, spiritual level that, in my mind, could never truly be replicated.

We had very structured days that were laid out fairly similarly up until Saturday. That was the day where we were given prompts in the morning for homilies that we later had a four-hour window to write. After sitting with the prompt for a few hours, we spread out throughout University Center and wrote our homilies. That night, we took the train to Unity Temple—a Unitarian Universalist church built by Frank Lloyd Wright. We gawked plenty at the fantastic architecture, hung out, and sang some hymns as we prepared to read our homilies for one another. One by one, we went on the pulpit and spoke our truths as our classmates and faith leaders listened attentively. The next morning we went to another church, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Chicago, where we led the service for that morning. Five of us, including myself, shared our homilies during the service and others offered readings throughout. On both Saturday night and Sunday morning, I felt so immensely proud to be a part of such a courageous and compassionate group of UU youth.

*(continued on page 10)*

## Within This Instant

By Thomas Rhodes

Within the space of an instant, you can  
 make a first impression  
 show gratitude,  
 kiss,  
 change your mind,  
 wipe away a tear,  
 live, and die.

It only takes a minute to  
 write a note,  
 tell a joke,  
 change a diaper,  
 sing a song,  
 or be still.

Within an hour you can  
 share a meal,  
 run an errand,  
 make a cake, or make love,  
 attend a parade,  
 or balance your checkbook.  
 (Sometimes.)

It takes a day to  
 paint a room,  
 feed a crowd,  
 visit relatives,  
 read a book,  
 rest.

If you commit a year, you can  
 write a book,  
 plant and harvest a crop,  
 become a parent,  
 change your life.

And with your lifetime,  
 and with your life,  
 you can, and you will,  
 change the world.



Turn scarlet, leaves!  
 Spin earth!  
 Tumble the shadows into dawn,  
 The morning out of night;  
 Spill stars across these skies  
 And hide them with the suns.

Teach me to turn  
 My sullen sense toward marvel.

Let green and red  
 And dark and day  
 Concur with the returning life  
 I am.

*Raymond J. Baughan*

From the UUA Worship Web

## Seeing with Humility

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

differences I was naming, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity – they do matter. Of course we want to recognize and honor that everyone is a human being, and that there is much we share in common. But what I had a very hard time seeing in the moment, was that people of color, elders, and LGBTQ folks, among many others, have very different experiences of the world because of their inherent identities.

For me to treat a person of color the same as I would a white person ignores the fact that they have almost certainly experienced racism regularly in their lives in our country, while white people have the privilege of not having to experience that. For me to treat a woman the same as a man ignores, and erases the fact they experience sexism in ways that men do not. I wish I could say that despite my arguing, by the end of the conversation, Tomoko had helped me shift my understanding. Unfortunately, my unconscious white privilege exerted itself, and instead of working hard to hear what a person of color was telling me, a white person, about their experience of racism in the moment, it took several more similar conversations in different settings, some reading, and further reflection before I finally got there.

I share this learning experience now because it reflects an important component of our September theme of vision. Often when we talk about a person or organization “having vision,” we talk about the need to be strong, clear and confident. Which is true – our visions for our lives and our organizations do need to be strong, clear and confident if we’re going to be effective in the world. We also, however, need to make sure that we are opening to seeing other peoples’ perspectives, so that our own perspective can grow and evolve.

If we hold our own perspective and opinion too tightly, are too rigid in holding on to them exactly the way they are, we deprive ourselves of the opportunity to grow and learn. If possible, when encountering people and perspectives who are different from us, approaching those conversations with *curiosity* and *humility* is more likely to lead us to greater clarity than simply holding fast to what we already understand to be true. Curiosity plus humility helps us gain greater clarity.

Now I imagine that at least a few of you might be thinking that a suggestion of humility from me might sound a little hypocritical, given that I have a reputation for having strong opinions, and for not being afraid to advocate for them. This quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson illustrates part of where I have been coming from:

“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with his shadow on the wall. Speak what you think now in hard words, and to-morrow speak what to-morrow thinks in hard words again, though it contradict every thing you said today.”

This passage reflects my past approach to wrestling with different viewpoints – I argued my position hard, right up until the point where you changed my mind. Now I’m much more mindful that this can come across as not listening to the other person, especially if my mind does not end up changed, and so it comes across that all I’ve done is argue. Now, I’m able to see more of the white, male privilege with which Emerson speaks.

I used to think there was a happy middle ground, one that embraced both sides of the coin, where we could in a balanced way offer our strong opinions while also listening carefully to another’s perspective. Increasingly, I’m aware that I and we are better off when we can tilt towards leading with listening. I certainly would have been better off in my conversation with Tomoko, and learned an important piece of wisdom more quickly, if I had done a better job of listening with curiosity and humility. I got there eventually, and her sharing helped that process, but it could have happened much sooner. I continue to strive to greater openness to my conversations with you and with everyone, and I hope that goal is something we can all consider this month. Yes, it is good and necessary to have a strong vision for ourselves, our lives, and our communities. And, we will grow stronger and deeper together if we can approach different perspectives than our own with curiosity and humility.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**



**Just Don't Do It!****Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer** (continued from page 1)

Other factors are even more complex. Our culture equates busyness with importance. If I'm always short on time because I'm so busy, if I can't possibly get done in a day all I need to do, I and my "doings" must be important, right? It's become commonplace to respond to "how are you?" not only with the automatic "fine" or "ok," but with "busy." Employers increasingly expect their employees to be connected to work 24/7, because we now have the digital capability to do so. Some people use the analgesic drug of busyness to shield themselves from feelings they aren't yet ready to feel.

Time seems different depending on what I'm doing. I experience time differently when I'm focused on completing a single, big project than I do when I'm going through my list and ticking off a dozen little miscellaneous things. A former colleague of mine describes the latter as feeling as if she is "being nibbled to death by ducks." Both can be equally satisfying for me. Working on a big project is wonderful, finishing it even better, but checking off the dusting, watering the plants, and brushing the dog's teeth feels great too!

Reverend Seth cited Jewish rabbi and scholar Abraham Joshua Heschel's book, *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man* in his sermon, noting the Jewish Sabbath is a sanctuary in *time*. I'd like to share a few things that help me create sanctuaries in time for myself. These things help me loosen the grip of time's tortuous tyranny over my life.

I start my day by taking time for a cup of coffee and "just sitting." Some of you have undoubtedly heard me joke about my "coffee meditation," but that time is genuinely a form of meditation for me. What surrounds me very much depends on the season and the sunrise times, so it helps me stay attuned to a more natural rhythm than the clock provides. Weather permitting, I sit outside. If not, inside near an open window suffices. Now, it's dark and night sounds still abound—late summer insects mostly, with the occasional owl call. The one cardinal who is always the first bird has usually sung before I finish.

As much as I can, I try to stay focused on whatever I'm doing, without thinking about what comes next. I frequently need to stop and take a few breaths to bring myself back into the present moment. I've used breathing as a focus for meditation for enough years now that doing so comes naturally and usually works.

When I finish working for the day, which I try to do by 4:00 or so, I take the extra few minutes to straighten my study so that disarrayed leftovers from the day before don't greet me in the morning. And I close the cover on my day planner. Yes, it does require a little extra time, and a little more to get things out again to continue the project the morning, but it's worth it for the sense of completing one day's work and starting fresh the next day. I try very hard to have all screens off by late afternoon as well, although that's harder. I make an exception for personal reading I do on my tablet!

I do try to maintain Sunday as a Sabbath time. I don't schedule things for after church in the afternoon or evening. Of course, sometimes that doesn't work, but it's always my goal. My plan is to have that time for myself or to do something with Tom.

One of the things I've realized more in thinking about time and loosening its hold on us is that one of the things I appreciate most about the annual trek Tom and I make to Florida in January and February is the way in which the sea, without any effort on my part, changes my sense of time. Ocean time is different. The rhythmic wash of the waves and the rise and fall of the tides replace the "ceaseless flow of endless time" marching relentlessly forward.

In response to Reverend Seth's sermon, I'd like to pose a challenge to all of us: In the coming weeks, pick one thing you can do that might help shift your own relationship to time. Then do it. If the first one you choose doesn't turn out to work as well as you thought it would, pick a different one. Enjoy!

If you want some suggestions, this website developed by the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, a project of the Lilly Endowment, has some good prompts to suggest ideas: <http://www.practicingourfaith.org/keeping-sabbath-ways-practice-ideas>.

In closing, I propose an additional verse to the hymn we sang that same Sunday, "When the Spirit Says Do" (# 1024):

You got to rest when the Spirit says rest!  
 You got to rest when the Spirit says rest!  
 When the Spirit says rest, you got to rest, oh Lord!  
 You got to rest when the Spirit says rest!

Blessed Sabbath Time!

**Rev. Julia**

## Gratitude

My thanks and gratitude to the Worship Associates, **Bea Sousa, Brandon Mundell, Caroline Sullivan, Diane Hill, Iris Chalk, Karen Moorman, and Lisa Kuriscak**, for organizing and leading our summer services. They did a wonderful job creating a variety of services around the chosen theme of “prophetic words of people,” based on one of our six sources, and I’ve heard lots of positive feedback since I’ve returned. Thank you for tending with such great care to this important part of our shared religious life.

Many thanks also to **Bill Frederick** – Bill stepped down from Worship Associates in June after many years of humorous and thoughtful service. We’ll miss you Bill! ~**Rev. Seth**

*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.”*



## My Experience at Summer Seminary

**Iris Chalk**

(continued from page 6)

I gained so much insight through hearing my peers preach their homilies – insight about how to thoroughly live the values of our faith, about how courageous love can transform the world, about how the power of youth’s voices can make a beautiful, lasting impact in our communities. My homily was centered around the concept that we are all ministers, in some way. We all provide some sort of ministry within the world, towards our friends, family members, fellow church congregants, wider communities and so on. What inspired me most to go in this direction was being in ministry with all of the people from Summer Seminary. They provided me with the realization that whatever it is I end up doing, it will be some sort of ministry.

As Monday morning approached, we were all preparing ourselves to say goodbye to one another. During youth led worship where the theme was “goodbyes,” and during the closing ceremony led by the staff, many, many, many tears were shed as we all prepared to physically depart from that beloved community of love, trust, and connection.

My time at Summer Seminary was one of the most transformational experiences of my life. I was able to delve deeper into my values, my hopes, my fears, and I was able to form relationships with incredible UU youth from all over. One of the many things I took away from this week is that when you get the chance to build and be a part of a community that cherishes your voice and values, that challenges you to think and feel deeper, and that restores your faith in the goodness and strength of this diverse world we live in - that that community never truly leaves you and you never truly leave it. I may never be in the same place again with the nineteen other youth who I met through Summer Seminary, but we will always have that beloved community resting somewhere deep inside us.

I would like to express my immense gratitude to this church community, for providing both financial and spiritual support to me for this trip. Thank you so, so much. My experience at Summer Seminary opened up so many different paths in the world of religious professionalism that I feel inspired to explore, and I can’t wait to keep exploring my part in our wonderful faith tradition.

## September 2018 UUCM Calendar

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

### Regular Weekly Events

Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth	Sundays	10:45 am
Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
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 online 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	Noon
Church Office Closed :: Labor Day	Mon-Tue	Sept 3-4	
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors	Tuesday	Sept 4	7:15 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Sept 5	7:00 pm
Board Retreat	Saturday	Sept 8	9:00 am
Youth Group Lock-In :: Youth Sunday Planning	Saturday	Sept 8	1:00 pm
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	Sept 9	10:15 & noon
Boston Bound Lunch Fundraiser	Sunday	Sept 9	Noon
Roots & Wings :: New Member Class	Sunday	Sept 9	12:15 pm
Moms of Young Kids	Sunday	Sept 9	12:15 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Sept 10	7:30 pm
Stewardship Committee	Tuesday	Sept 11	3:30 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Sept 11	5:15 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Sept 12	6:30 pm
New Member Signing Ceremony	Sunday	Sept 16	10:15 am
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	Sept 16	12:15 pm
Youth Sunday Planning Session	Sunday	Sept 16	12:30 pm
Church Office Closed :: Staff Retreat	Tuesday	Sept 18	
Unigram Submission Deadline :: October Issue	Wednesday	Sept 19	9:00 am
Program Council	Wednesday	Sept 19	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Sept 20	7:15 pm
Youth Group at Civic Theatre	Friday	Sept 21	7:30 pm
RE Committee (Children & Youth)	Sunday	Sept 23	9:30 am
Fall Retreat Fundraiser Brunch	Sunday	Sept 23	Noon
OWL 10-12 Orientation	Sunday	Sept 23	12:30 pm
Youth Sunday Planning Session	Sunday	Sept 23	12:30 pm
Membership Committee	Thursday	Sept 27	7:00 pm
OWL 10-12 Orientation	Saturday	Sept 29	1:00 pm
Sack Lunches for Soup Kitchen of Muncie	Sunday	Sept 30	9:30 am
Youth Sunday Planning Session	Sunday	Sept 30	12:30 pm



### UU Annual Fall Family Retreat

**Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7**

Join us this year for our annual and much loved by many, UU Fall Family

Retreat at beautiful Pokagon State Park's Group Camp on the shore of Lake James in northern Indiana!

More information and a sign-up sheet, will be available at church as well as a table to ask questions, especially if you have never attended before. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a relaxing fall weekend, and to get to know fellow UUs, UU families and friends better. More information can also be obtained by calling or texting **Jan Mundell** at 765-730-9554.

### Choir!

The choir reignited on August 28! If you like to sing, you are welcome to join us!!

Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00, followed by light refreshments. Feel free to contact **Jim**

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

**Marcel**

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

if you have questions.

## 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)

**Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education**

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

**Christie Williams, Office Administrator**

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

**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)

**Marcel Ramalho, Choir Director**

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

**Jennifer Carey, Membership Coordinator**

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

### Board of Trustees

**Mary Johnson Robey**

President

**Caroline Sullivan**

President Elect

**John Bartlett**

Vice President

**Brandon Mundell**

Secretary

**Jennifer Hollems**

Treasurer

**Jerry McKean**

Past President

765.288.9561 | [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) | [www.uuchurchmuncie.org](http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org)

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

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive  
Muncie, IN 47304



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit 635  
Muncie, IN

Return Service  
Requested

**DATED MATERIAL**