



the UNIGRAM

Moving Forward Together

Mary Johnson Robey, President

I like to listen to Ted Talks because they raise such interesting ideas. I recently became aware of a Ted Talk by Isaac Lidsky, "What Reality Are You Creating for Yourself." His premise is that much of our perception of the world is based upon sight which leads us to make faulty assumptions. Humans can only see a very small section of electromagnetic radiation. What if we could change our photoreceptors cells to be able to "see" gamma rays? What would reality look like then? How would this change our perception of reality? This is an interesting idea from a person who is blind and "sees" the world much differently from you and me.

He suggests that sight is a virtual reality. Our brains are influenced by more than light entering through our eyes. Apparently a distant object seems farther away if you are carrying a heavy load. Our brain constructs what it thinks is there. Lidsky states, "What you see is a complex mental construction of your own making, but you experience it passively as a direct representation of the world around you. You create and perpetuate your own reality, your own truth."

(continued on page 4)

In This Issue

Sunday Mornings 2

Religious Education News 3

Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors 4

August Calendar 7

What I Have Learned from the Waters

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

August typically brings the Water Ceremony to our church calendar. This year the ceremony moves to September 9th. Over time, it's undergone changes, but it remains as an important symbol of the connections we cherish as a congregation. It also symbolizes our diversity.

Water has always symbolized connection for me. My understanding is that *all* water is, in the final analysis, connected. The oceans are not locked away from each other but join in one great expanse of ocean that goes by different names in different areas. Rivers flow into bigger rivers, and those into bigger rivers yet, the water from the smallest brook finally making its way to some

sea. And it's all joined in the cycle of evaporating water that returns to the earth as rain and snow. Then there's the connection with our own bodies: We begin life floating in the waters of the amniotic sac. Something like 70% of us is water, and the saltiness of the oceans echoes in the saltiness of our life's blood, in our tears of sorrow and of joy. All living beings must have water, or we will die as all our life processes shut down, unable to continue.

I've liked being around water for as long as I can remember, especially ocean waves and inland waterfalls. I used to live by a river, and I still miss its many moods. A shallow stream in summer's drought, a cracking crystal river of ice in the

(continued on page 5)

Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Service at 10:45 am

Summer Theme :: 2nd UU Source

On August 5th, we conclude our services organized around the second of our six Unitarian Universalist sources, “Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” The six UU sources can be found in the front of the gray hymnal. Check the weekly eBlast for sermon topics for August 12, 19 & 26.

August 5 – “Two Prophets You (Probably) have Never Met,” led by Community Minister, **Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer**. I’m not giving away too much in this description. No last names; I don’t want to send you off on an Internet search! Let’s just say that Ashton and Jo Ann have something to say to us as individuals and to our culture that I think is very important to have said, and to hear. A prophet is often a “whistle-blower,” calling out things that are amiss. Prophetic people identify injustices, issues, and inequalities and then move to solutions. I will tell you this. They are, as one of them says, blowing the whistle on “an ism that affects every one of us.” Come hear about two inspiring people and what they have to say.

August 12 – **Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd** will be preaching for the 2nd Sunday this summer.

August 19 – **Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd** returns to the pulpit after summer vacation and study break.

August 26 – **Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd**

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Classes at 10:45 am

RE Summer Camp continues!

August 5 – Vegemite and Lamingtons :: *Possum Magic* by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas

August 12 – Pancakes :: *Mama Panya’s Pancakes* by Mary and Rich Chamberlain

August 19 – Vegetable Maki Sushi Rolls :: *Hiromi’s Hands* by Lynn Barasch

August 26 – Social Action :: Heifer International fundraiser

Adult Religious Exploration

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 Friday eBlast.

Religious Education Corner

Nadine Tringali
Director of Religious Education

RE Summer Program for Children and Youth Continuing Through August 19

"Books and Cooks" led by **Maggie Bartlett**, is a cultural cooking class built around storybooks from around the world. Each class includes a story, a blessing, cooking, and eating. All of the food is vegetarian and nut-free. This multiage program is geared for grades K-5, but youth in grades 6-12 are very welcome to join us! Preschool youth are also very welcome to join us if accompanied by a parent; childcare for preschool children will be in the Blue Room. Class will begin following the *Story for All Ages*. Our August Program schedule is listed on [page 2](#).

Religious Education Teachers Are Needed!

We have openings for teachers at every grade level. "The essential qualities of a good church school teacher are a love of children, a sense of wonder about life, empathy and the ability to listen, and a willingness more to share who you are than what you know. Above all, teachers are mentors and companions of the children as they undertake their religious journeys in life." - Dr. Barry Andrews.

Our preschool through 5th grade classrooms will be exploring the theme of the month through books and hands-on activities, our middle school youth will be exploring World Religions and visiting other churches, and our high school youth will continue to explore our monthly themes and UU values through a variety of resources. Our goal is to have four teachers on each team (Preschool, K-2, 3-5 grade, MS, HS) so that each teacher needs to only teach one Sunday each month. If you are interested in teaching, please contact me.

Teacher Orientation

Thursday, August 30, 6 – 8:00 pm

Please RSVP to nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org. Dinner will be provided. If childcare is needed, please let me know.

Nadine

Summer Youth Schedule

Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd
Coordinator of Youth Programs

Sunday, August 12, 2 pm

Family Gathering and Ivanhoe's!

We will go together to Ivanhoe's for delicious ice cream on August 12. We will leave the church at 3:00 pm. First at 2:00 pm, Elizabeth, youth and all youth parents will gather to discuss the exciting plans for the coming year. This way we will start the year off all on the same page, excited about what we will be doing together and full of delicious ice cream. Parents, if you'd like to come along as a driver to Ivanhoe's, please reach out.

Elizabeth



Please Save Your Plastic Bottle Caps

We will be working on a high school project in the fall and would like to have a rainbow assortment of plastic bottle caps. A collection box is located in the fellowship hall.

Thank you!

Help Needed for Second Harvest Forward S.T.E.P.S. Dinner on August 16th

The UUCM, under the auspices of the Feed Our Hungry Neighbors (FOHN) Task Force, annually supplies, serves, and cleans up after the August dinner for participants in the Forward S.T.E.P.S. Program. This year we helped with the April dinner as well. Until recently, this was the anti-poverty Circles initiative through Teamwork for Quality Living, and then, after a merger, through Second Harvest. **Forward S.T.E.P.S.** is the new name.

For background: Once each month, participants in Forward S.T.E.P.S. – folks dealing with poverty, their volunteer allies, and staffers from Second Harvest – meet for a dinner and brief program to support the vital, difficult, and complex work of helping people increase their economic self-sufficiency.

It's time to get ready for this summer's S.T.E.P.S. dinner which will be on **Thursday evening, August 16**. Check your email for a SignUp Genius invitation soliciting donations of food, specifically: lasagna, fruit crisps, garlic bread, and grapes. (We've already got our servers lined up.)

If you'd like to help but prefer not to use SignUp Genius, you may also contact **Steve Chalk** directly (at srchalk66@gmail.com). The dinner takes place at First Baptist Church in downtown Muncie. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to stay for the dinner as well!

Thank you so much for considering this important volunteer activity. Members and friends of UUCM have been wonderful about contributing to many important projects combating poverty and food insecurity and this is among them.

Moving Forward Together

Mary Johnson Robey (continued from page 1)

Back in the late 1960s I took Psychology 201 at SUNY at Buffalo. A few classes into the semester a graduate assistant came into class late, walked up to the professor, and started yelling at him. The class then had to answer a written questionnaire. Afterwards we divided into sections to discuss what happened. The conclusion to the experiment was that there was no consensus on what happened with multiple different descriptions.

Do we each have our own reality? If so, how do we as a group merge our individual realities into a collective reality? I believe this year we, as a congregation, will be working to merge our realities. We'll be working on a vision to carry us forward together. My brain tells me I am looking forward to working with you.

"Worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." Helen Keller

Mary

Sharing Gratitude



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."

What I Have Learned from the Waters

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

winter, dark with fallen leaves in fall, a roiling flood in spring, the river was a part of me. I've not had the privilege of living full-time near the water since, but I can still find ways to have the blessings of water in my life. One of my favorite places to walk is along the White River. Tom and I now spend six weeks of the winter at a beachfront cottage by the Atlantic. When I'm there, I never tire of hearing the waves and of watching the colors of the ocean change with the changing light. And I can still find waterfalls to sit by. We have a fountain on our deck where the water sparkles and sings in the sun as it cascades over the (fake) rocks.

The connection of all waters calls to mind the connections we have as individuals in this congregation. As Reverend Seth says in the Water Ceremony liturgy, "Whether it is raindrops gathering to form a pool, groundwater collecting deep beneath the earth that we tap for wells, streams joining to form a river, or rivers flowing into and becoming one with the sea, water seeks water, and comes together to make something bigger than the individual drops.

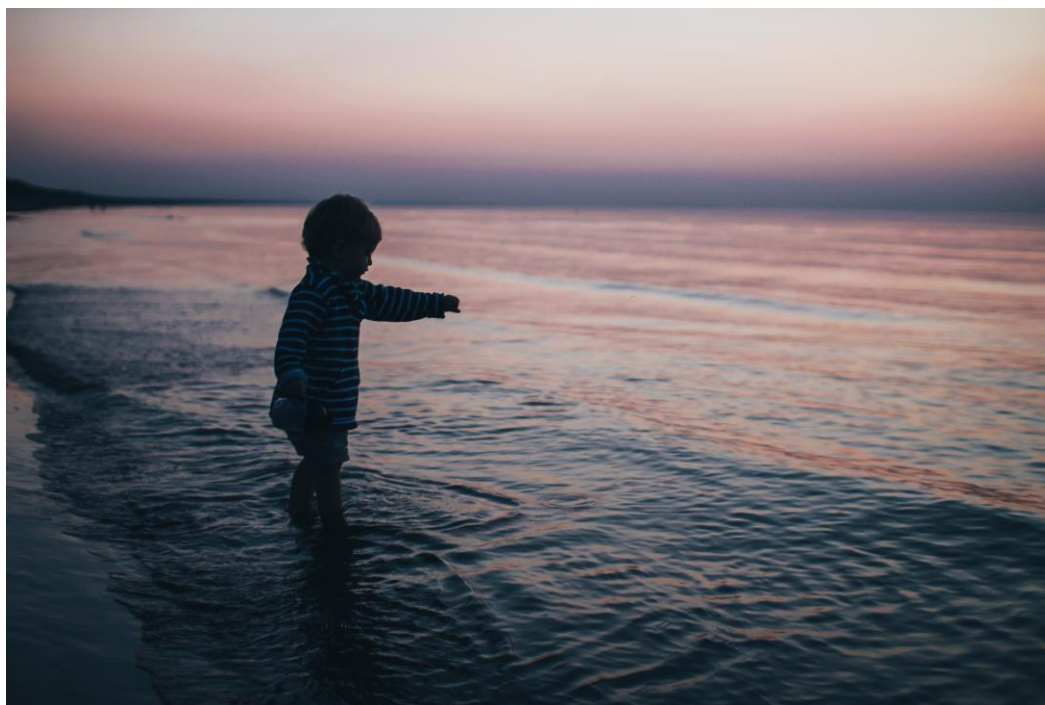
So too do we come together to create a community bigger than our individual selves."

The Water Ceremony also speaks to our individuality, as do the differences reflected in the many forms water takes. Again, from the Water Ceremony itself: "This co-mingling of water, water from different places with different meanings, symbolizes both the many unique qualities, characteristics and skills we each bring to this church community, as well as the many unique beliefs and experiences we bring to share. Just as water from the tap combined with water from the river becomes one, so to do our spirits and our hearts become one when joined together in this loving community.... This water... represents our unity. Not our uniformity, but our unity."

As we move forward into the new church year, may we honor both our uniqueness (even our eccentricities) and our connection. May we embrace our own and each other's individual gifts and remember that together we are more than the sum of our separate selves.

Now I need to go get a glass of water!

Rev. Julia



Thanks Be for These

By Richard S. Gilbert

*For the sound of bow on string,
Of breath over reed,
Of touch on keyboard;*

*For slants of sunlight through windows,
For shimmering shadows on snow,
For the whisper of wind on my face;*

*For the smooth skin of an apple,
For the caress of a collar on my neck;*

*For the prickling of my skin when I am deeply moved,
For the pounding of my heart when I run,
For the peace of soul at day's end;*

*For familiar voices in family rites,
For the faces of friends in laughter and tears,
For the tender human arms that hold me;*

*For the flashes of memories that linger,
For the mysterious moments that beckon,
For the particularity of this instant;*

*For the silence of moon-lit nights,
For the sound of rain on my roof,
Of wind in dry leaves,
Of waves caressing the shore;*

*For the softness of summer breezes,
For the crispness of autumn air,*

*For dark shadows on white snow,
For the resurrection of spring,
For the faithful turning of the seasons;*

*For angular, leafless trees,
For gentle hills rolling in the distance,
For meandering streams seeking an unseen sea;*

*For cornstalks at stiff attention,
And brittle plants bristling past their prime,
For unharvested gardens returning plants to enrich the soil;*

*For the sight of familiar faces,
The sound of our spoken names,
The welcoming embrace of outstretched arms;
For the ritual of friendship,
Reminding us we matter:
Thanks be for these.*

From the UUA Worship Web

August 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
Revival Hour (see online calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

August Events & Activities

Visitors Q&A	Sunday	Aug 5	Noon
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Aug 6	7:30 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Aug 8	6:30 pm
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	Aug 12	10:15 & noon
Mom’s of Young Kids	Sunday	Aug 12	12:15 pm
Youth Group Family Meeting	Sunday	Aug 12	2:00 pm
Youth Group at Ivanhoe’s	Sunday	Aug 12	3:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Aug 14	5:15 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Aug 15	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Aug 16	7:15 pm
RE Committee	Sunday	Aug 19	9:30 am
Ice Cream Social	Sunday	Aug 19	Noon
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	Aug 19	12:15 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	Aug 22	9:00 am
Membership Committee	Thursday	Aug 23	7:00 pm
Sack Lunches for the Soup Kitchen	Sunday	Aug 26	9:30 am
Choir Rehearsals Resume	Tuesday	Aug 28	7:00 pm
RE Teacher Orientation	Thursday	Aug 30	6:00 pm

Church Office Schedule

Monday
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday – Friday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Please note that the office will be closed for an extended Labor Day break August 30 – September 4.

2017-18 Pledge Payments

The 2017-18 Fiscal Year ended on June 30, and final pledge payments are due. Please note the pledge year on all payments (17/18 FY: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 or 18/19 FY: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). Payments with no designation will be applied to the current fiscal year. Contact the church office with questions about your pledge or to make a pledge.

Mark the Date! It’s Time for Ice Cream

August 19 is the annual UU Ice Cream Social after the Sunday service. It’s also Seth’s first Sunday back in the pulpit after his summer break. Let’s celebrate!

Brownies, fruit crisps and ice cream with a smorgasbord of toppings will tempt ice cream lovers of all ages. No charge but your donation in the basket will be happily accepted.

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

Marcel Ramalho, Choir Director

marcel@uuchurchmuncie.org

Jennifer Carey, Membership Coordinator

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 | 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

Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice