



the UNIGRAM

Vulnerability Matters

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

Is anyone out there excited about the idea of being emotionally vulnerable? My guess is that for many if not most of us, the idea of being vulnerable with other people can be a little scary, or even really scary. The very definition of the word means “easily harmed or wounded, either physically or emotionally” – the root word *vulnus* in Latin in fact means “wound.” Easily emotionally wounded... that doesn’t sound like a very fun place to be. Professor, author and shame researcher Brené Brown though challenges us to think of vulnerability differently. She writes, “Regardless of our willingness to do vulnerability, it does us. When we pretend that we can avoid vulnerability we engage in behaviors that are often inconsistent with who we want to be. Experiencing vulnerability isn’t a choice – the only choice we have is how we’re going to respond when we are confronted with

uncertainty, risk, and emotional exposure.”

There are two main points from Brown’s words I want to lift up. The first is the reason that Vulnerability is our theme for the month – as much as some of us may try and avoid it, vulnerability is an essential part of the human experience, whether we want it to be or not. And considering that it can be such a difficult thing for many of us to embrace, vulnerability thus seems like a great topic for us to spend a month exploring together as a religious community.

The second key point is that we have a choice in our response to vulnerability. As human beings, we’re going to experience uncertainty, risk, and emotional exposure in our lives – but it’s not something that happens to us, where we’re passive recipients of this unwanted experience. We have a choice about how to respond

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Vulnerability: The Chosen and the Unchosen

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

When I began thinking about vulnerability, I thought I might have trouble coming up with something. I wanted to stay away from Brené Brown’s work, although she has pretty much written the book on the topic (literally), since Reverend Seth is a big fan of it. After a few minutes brainstorming and writing whatever came to mind, I had my topic.

There is a lot written—some of it quite helpful—about how we can improve our lives and our relationships by choosing to make ourselves vulnerable. We *choose* to be vulnerable when we open ourselves up to other persons, to be authentically ourselves in relationships. Doing so allows for deeper intimacy, greater understanding, more

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Sunday Mornings at UUCM February Worship Theme :: Vulnerability 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 at themes@uuchurchmuncie.org . Our theme for March is Faith.	
Sunday, February 1 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Join us as Rev. Seth kicks off this month's theme of Vulnerability. Our Dedicated Offering Recipient: Muncie YWCA
Sunday, February 8 Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd	Our Dedicated Offering Recipient: Muncie YWCA
Sunday, February 15 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	On this Sunday we celebrate Love with our annual Cookie Communion. The Sanctuary Choir performs.
Sunday, February 22 UUCM Youth	Youth Sunday is a highly creative, intergenerational Sunday service planned and led by our Middle and High School Youth Groups – not to be missed!
Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am	
Sunday, February 1 Curriculum Sunday Boston Bound Bake Sale	All youth will begin in the service with their parents. Classes will begin following the Story for All Ages with Seth. Our 6-8 grade youth will be selling delicious baked goods to go with your coffee this morning. Please be sure to stop by their booth!
Sunday, February 8 Curriculum Sunday	All youth will begin in the service with their parents. Classes will begin following the hymn <i>Spirit of Life</i> . Rev. Seth will visit RE classes today.
Sunday, February 15 Curriculum & Cookie Communion Sunday Boston Bound Soup Luncheon	All youth will begin in the service with their parents. Classes will begin following the Story for All Ages with Nadine. At the end of the service we will return for Cookie Communion. Please plan to stay after the service for our Soup Luncheon! This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our youth, enjoy delicious soup and bread, and help our youth travel to Boston in June!
Sunday, February 22 Youth Sunday Multigenerational Service	This morning we will not be holding religious education classes, as we welcome all ages to remain in the sanctuary for our Youth Sunday service. This service has been created by our middle and high school youth, under the guidance of Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd. Nursery and childcare will be available in the Green and Blue Rooms.
Pre-Service Discussion, 9:30 am, Red classroom	
Sunday, February 1	Local Emergency Shelter and Aid for Women. Our dedicated offering for February will be going to the Muncie YWCA. The YWCA's Niki Fitzgerald will be our guest to tell us some of the ways they help Muncie residents in need.
Sunday, February 8	Monthly Theme Discussion: Vulnerability. We will listen to Dr. Brené Brown's 2010 TED Talk, "The Power of Vulnerability" and discuss her insights into vulnerability, authenticity, and shame.
Sunday, February 15	Connection of Stress Management and Religion. Bill Frederick will present the ins/outs of "Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers." The conversation will include the physiology of our reactions to both stress and to personal religious beliefs. In addition we will discuss the viewpoint of John Kabat-Zinn, author of "Wherever You Go There You Are."
Sunday, February 22	The Seventh-Day Adventists. Lowell Brummett will lead a discussion on this religious group, which influenced the Jehovah's Witnesses, the World Wide Church of God, and David Koresh and the Branch Davidians.

RE Corner **Nadine Tringali, DRE**

In January, our 2-4 grade youth held a popcorn sale to raise funds for a social justice project. Their enthusiasm for this activity was contagious! They popped corn, made signs for their booth, and created popcorn concession boxes to hang around their necks to sell their wares after the service during coffee hour. They chose to raise funds for Heifer International, an organization whose mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. The youth were all very excited to be part of a social justice project, raising funds to support sustainable communities. Thanks to all our popcorn buyers, they were able to raise \$20! With those funds, the class voted to purchase a flock of chickens for a community. One of the youth asked if we could divide the flock and support two communities! It was a joy to work with our youth on such a worthy social justice project!

On the same Sunday, our Boston Bound youth held an awesome Soup Luncheon, serving five different batches of soup and delicious bread! Our Boston travelers are Sarah Bartlett, Taegan Carpenter, Iris Chalk, Anna Dillinger, Charlie Dubree, Jack Elvin, Eloise McKean, and Riley Taylor. This is a great group! Since March 2014 they have been working together raising funds through Bake Sales, the Bazaar, Rent-A-Kid, and Luncheons. As of January, they have raised 63% of the total funds needed toward their trip.. We will be raising the balance needed between February and June 7. Many thanks to all for supporting our Boston Bound fundraisers!

I hope you will join me for our Zentangle workshop on Sunday, February 22, from 12:30-1:30, in the fellowship hall. This workshop is for all ages. Zentangling is a meditative art form, creating repetitive designs called tangles, on small squares of paper. I began Zentangling at our annual DRE May Retreats. We always set up a quiet corner for Zentangling, for use between structured activities. I love sitting with my colleagues, buoyed by their supportive and creative energy, creating art that flows from mind, to pen, to paper. I will have paper, pens, pencils, colored pencils, books to peruse, and many examples of Zentangle designs available at the workshop. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary, so that I will have enough supplies set out for the workshop. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. I will have beverages, crackers, and supplies for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available.

Nadine

Youth Sunday: A Service Not To Be Missed **Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, CYP**

For those of you who attended Youth Sunday last year, I know that you already are marking your calendars for our special service this year. I heard from so many of you how much it made you think and laugh. I heard that it was poignant and deep, while being funny and uplifting. I don't think I need to convince anyone who attended last year that it is a Sunday not to miss.

The reasons why Youth Sunday is an important Sunday to attend extend well beyond how much members and friends of UUCM of all ages will get out of the service, though. Giving our youth the chance to create an entire service themselves says a lot about who we are as a congregation. Showing up to support them and listen to what they have to say to us all sends a powerful message. Our youth are not just the future – they are our present and what is real and important to them matters to us all.

The practice of offering the youth of a congregation the chance to create and lead a service is common in Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country. It is one of the ways in which we show that we believe that what youth have to say is important to us all. It is one of the ways in which we empower them to speak up when they are in situations in which they have less power than others. It is one of the ways in which we celebrate the unique gifts and talents that they offer us. It is a powerful message to them and to the whole community.

All that being said, you especially do not want to miss Youth Sunday this year. After having such fun writing and performing skits as a part of the service last year, this year will be a full scale production that spans the length of the whole service. An intergenerational event, we will explore how to stand up for what you believe in, with the help of some UU super heroes. The youth are dreaming big this year, have developed the entire story themselves and are excited to make scenery and costumes to help the story come alive. I am having a blast just being in the room with them as they work on it. They are such creative and thoughtful people. Believe me, this service will be something to experience.

Come to be inspired! Come to laugh! But most importantly, come to express how integral these youth are to the life of our entire congregation! Come to listen to what they have to share! Just come!

Elizabeth

Message from the President

Nancy C. Behforouz

To improve the quality of our communications and to promote better awareness of the Board's activities, the Board has agreed that we think it would be helpful to have the President share a Unigram article each month sharing news and updates. The goal is to communicate significant matters appearing before the Board and some of the more critical decisions, programs or plans with which we have been involved. The present report covers our activities since last July when our new fiscal year began, and is thus rather lengthy. Think of it as a State of the Church message similar to President's Obama's recent State of the Union Address if you would. Moving forward though, the report will be considerably shorter, just covering the previous month. If you'd like more in depth information, the Board meeting minutes are available on the church website and also can be found in a binder in the church office. Of course, all of the Board members are also happy to talk with you directly about questions or concerns you may have at any time.

Over the last few months we have been, together with Bruce Craig and the Property Maintenance Committee, involved in several issues concerning maintenance and improvement of our building, sanctuary and facilities including purchase and/or installation of a new stove, audio visual equipment, table storage units, improved electrical outlets, infant equipment, new signage as well as cleaning and repair of the Harshman panels and arranging for a technology audit of our electronic communication services.

In the area of human resources, we have started a search, with the help of the Finance committee, for an accountant which will make the job of our treasurer much less difficult and time consuming. We have hired a new web master who after only a few months unfortunately resigned and thus we are now launching a new search.

As a Board we approved and are now functioning under newly revised church documents, namely the Personnel Policy Manual (revised by a special task force chaired by myself) and the Procedure and Policy Manual (revised by Vice President Anne Marie Voss, as chair of the program council). Our Board Secretary, Mary Robey, has chaired a task force and has undertaken a review and overhaul of the church By-laws. The Board-approved proposed changes will be voted on at the UUCM 's Congregational Meeting in May.

We have also reviewed the membership rolls of the church and contacted many who had become inactive. We have also helped to create the Mission and Vision Task Force which is now active. With the help of the Committee on Ministries, we have reviewed the Survey on UUCM Ministries and have responded to the requests of that committee for further examination of the role of the Board as one of the ministries of the Church. We have also made an agreement with the Lifetouch Church Directories and Portraits to create a new photographic directory for us with no cost to the church. Our Board members have also been active in co-chairing the Bazaar (Sherry Ware and Annemarie Voss), planning activities on the Mission and Vision Task Force (Sherry Ware) and serving on the Finance committee (Jim Vincent, Jeff Hathaway, and myself), Nominating Committee (Bill Frederick-Chair) and Investment Committee (Jim Vincent and Bill Frederick). It should also be noted that although Jim Vincent resigned as Treasurer as of October, he has remained as our Accountant until July. In addition, Jeff Hathaway has graciously stepped in as our interim Treasurer, also until July.

As far as our fiscal responsibilities, we have overseen the re-establishment of both the Finance Committee and the Investment Committee and appointed individuals to these committees. Going back to last spring, as part of readjustment of compensation for work done by our employees, we increased the hours for our Office Administrator, Christie Williams, for her added responsibilities as bookkeeper. In August, a modest salary adjustment was made for Bruce Thornburgh, one of our custodians, for additional tasks that he was requested to complete by the Property Maintenance Committee, retroactive to May, 2014. With the guidance of the Treasurer, we oversee the finances of the Church on a monthly basis and were happy to see a report in September of a net income for 2013-2014 of over \$7,000, in part due to contributions and pledges of new members. Considering the outstanding service by our core staff last year, no salary increase for any employees in the 2014-15 budget, and our positive financial status, in October the Board unanimously approved a 1% bonus for each of the core staff as well as the Minister, which amounted to a total of \$1323.00. We also reviewed our insurance coverage for our building and voted to purchase a mandated workman's compensation insurance policy from United Insurance Agencies for a premium of \$888/year as our previous policy had

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Generosity Springs Forth

Being generous makes you feel good. There are so many ways the congregation of the UU Church of Muncie is generous. We give of our time, our energy and our finances. Giving to our church shows what it means in our lives.

The UU Church of Muncie has two dedicated offerings each month going to social justice groups in our community. The Southeast Asian group SAMA meets at our church. We provide a safe haven for LGBTQ youth as well as helping them with food and other basic necessities. Our religious community hosts monthly book discussions, quilting bees, new member orientations, and high school and college groups. We also sponsor a food pantry for nutritionally insecure church members and citizens of Muncie and Delaware County.

In addition to providing physical meeting space, our church community offers members and friends an open forum to grow spiritually and emotionally. What keeps us coming to church week after week? In members' own words, "This church is our family and our community. You don't have to worry about stating our own opinions or asking questions. It is an anchor for being useful in the world. It is a resource of interesting people we don't know yet. It is an opportunity to grow socially and emotionally. Growth doesn't happen in isolation."

What does the UU Church of Muncie mean to you? When we ask for your pledge, think about what the church means to you and be as generous as you can comfortably be. Stewardship season begins in March.

The Stewardship Committee

Flower drawing by Barbara Tweedy

Mission & Vision

Electronic Cottage Meetings & Faith Question

Thank you to everyone who participated in a Mission & Vision Cottage Meeting in the past couple of weeks! We greatly appreciate your time and input – you all shared some great ideas with us that will shape the formation of our new mission and vision statements. We also realize that not everyone who wanted to was able to participate in the in person Cottage Meetings, and so we created a brief online survey for those who still want to participate. If you'd like to fill out the survey, simply go to <http://goo.gl/p8w5i2>, which will take you to the Google Form survey we've created.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: we noticed as we were facilitating the Cottage Meetings conversations that there was an important part of the conversation that was only being discussed tangentially, namely **faith**. We realized we took the time to define faith for the purposes of this process as, "the unique way in which we each make meaning in the world, whether it be faith in nature, faith in other human beings, faith in God, or your own personal variation of faith," but then didn't ask a question specifically about faith. So we'd like EVERYONE, even people who attended a Cottage Meeting in person, to please fill out the survey and at least answer the fourth question. If you didn't attend a Cottage Meeting in person, please fill out the whole survey – we'd love to have your participation.

If you have any questions about the Mission & Vision process, please feel free to contact any of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Mission & Vision Task Force

Lynn Sousa, Rev. Seth, Sherry Ware, Steve Chalk, Amy Shaw, Ginny Nilles, and Lora Repp

Zentangle Workshop

Sunday, February 22, 12:30

All Ages Welcome!

The Zentangle method is an easy to learn, fun, and relaxing way to create beautiful images by drawing simple structured patterns called tangles on a 3.5" square of paper – small enough to finish in a short period of time. A form of artistic meditation, Zentangle is enjoyed all over the world across a wide range of skills, interests and ages. Anyone can do it! **A sign-up sheet is posted in the back of the sanctuary. Please sign up so that we will have enough supplies and table space for everyone.**

2015 Services and Food Auction :: Saturday, February 28

At 5:30 the fun begins with registration and Kirk and Mary Robey will begin to serve our dinner. This year's supper will feature a great Greek dinner!

At 6:00 the Silent Auction begins.

From 7:00 until about 8:30 the rapid-fire Live Auction takes place. Sean Taflinger will be our auctioneer again this year. He's fun and smart and really keeps things moving!

What is the Service Auction? The Service Auction is one of our major fundraisers. It's a great opportunity for you to donate your talents, have fun together, and help raise money for our church.

What happens at the Service Auction? Prior to the event, we ask individuals and businesses to donate services and foods that others will want to bid on. On the big night most of the donations are sold in a "silent auction." While people enjoy food, drinks, and music, they try, by writing bids on bid sheets, to beat out competitors for the items they want. Other donations are placed in the "live auction."

Why are we having a Service Auction? In addition to the money the auction brings in, it enhances our social lives with dinners, recreational outings, and other community-building events.

Is the Service Auction expensive? It doesn't have to be! There is no cost to attend. **Childcare** will be provided if you let us know by **February 14** that you need it. There will be a modest charge for the supper. Whether you have \$20 or \$200 to spend, you will find something to bid on. Even if you don't bid on anything, it's still a fun evening!

What do I need to do? Pick up a **Gold Donation Form** at the Auction Table on Sunday. We need those forms back as soon as possible (no later than February 15) to compile our **catalog** which will be printed and available on February 22 and also be posted online at the church web site.

Also, ask for contributions of services and gift cards/certificates from **businesses** you frequent. Restaurant gift cards are especially popular. Be sure to tell them that we will provide advertising for them, through our web site, auction catalog, and follow-up reporting. Just ask, "Would you be willing to make a donation to my church service auction? It would be a good way to advertise your company!"

What sort of donations do people want to bid on? Here are just a few popular examples from the past. A delivered lasagna dinner. Weekend at a cottage. Canoe trip. Massage. Babysitting. Original songs or poems. Gardening help. Transportation to the airport. Play-party for children. Be creative. We're all good at something—probably many things. **This includes you!**

Roots & Wings Class February 15th & 22nd

If you're interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, or are a long-term member but would like a refresher, please consider attending our Roots & Wings class offered by Rev. Seth. The class will cover Unitarian Universalist theology, history, worship practices, and more, covered over two sessions the last two Sundays in February. Meetings will be Sunday, February 15th, from 12:30 to 2pm in the Indigo Room, and Sunday, February 22nd, from 12:30 to 2pm in the Red Room. If you're interested in becoming a member, we ask that you participate in this class before signing the book. There will be a new member joining ceremony on March 1st, so if you're interested in joining, talk to Rev. Seth, and consider coming to the class!

Introducing Our Newest Members

Let us welcome **Ginna Martin Galliher** and **Luellen Smucker** two of our newest members. They joined our church in November of last year. Ginna and Luellen both find our church community to be warm and welcoming group.

Ginna, a practicing Wiccan, loves "our open format about the deity" and that we don't force theology on our members. Her background includes not only serving in Iraq with the US Army but also earning a culinary degree. Ginna is very proud mother of her three amazing children John, 18, Hunter 10 and Arabella 9 who are currently living out of state. She looks forward to participating more in church activities especially using her culinary skills.

Luellen has been a UU for the last 50 years. She recently moved here from Newark Delaware to be near her daughter Adrienne Gruver and her family who are members of church. Luellen enjoys singing in the church choir and participating in UUCM Book Club. She is also a member of a dinner discussion group and volunteers for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

If you would like to be introduced in the monthly Unigram please contact one of these Welcome Team members: Judy Lowe, Katie Frederick or Suzanne Walker.

Vulnerability: The Chosen and the Unchosen

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heartfelt relationships with families, partners and spouses, significant others and friends, as well as with our church community. Although it can be difficult and scary, letting ourselves be vulnerable in this way ultimately brings with it a sense of peace and relaxation because we're don't need to maintain a façade and our lives are congruent with who we really are. That's *chosen* vulnerability.

There are a host of situations, however, in which we are quite vulnerable without *choosing* to be so. It's this unchosen and usually unwanted vulnerability that I want to focus on. Not only is it unchosen and often undesired, it's frequently unconscious and unrecognized.

To begin at the beginning: We're born wholly vulnerable. There is even a lot that can go wrong before we're born, from the moment egg meets sperm. Once born, we are totally dependent upon others for our every need. We're physiologically vulnerable, too; even our immune system isn't fully up to speed when we're introduced to the world. Only gradually, if everything goes well, do we become less at risk and more able to take care of ourselves. We also come to develop a more richly-textured perspective on life, which (hopefully) cushions us from some of the psychological vulnerability that characterize the earlier phases of human life.

Then at the end—we die completely vulnerable as well. We cannot stop the inexorable process of life evolving into eventual death. We have some control over the length and quality of our life by how well we take care of ourselves, but even that isn't enough. Those in the latter stages of dying often resemble newborn infants in their vulnerability and defenselessness.

In between . . . life. Again, if things go as hoped, over time and with training, education, and the support of caring people and communities, we come to be less inescapably vulnerable. We become more able to make decisions about when and under what circumstances we will choose vulnerability and consciously take risks.

However, for far too many people, there is a level of *unchosen* vulnerability that can follow them throughout their lives. There are many people, many groups, in our society and in others who reach out to these vulnerable populations with healing and hope. Unfortunately, there are also others who take egregious advantage of the vulnerabilities of other people. In a developed and supposedly enlightened civilization such as ours, the list of these groups amazes me by its length (and this likely is not

a complete list):

- children, especially those who are perceived as somehow “different” and thus endure the bullying of their classmates, and others who live in another of the categories below
- women
- African-Americans, especially young black men
- immigrants
- Muslims, those of Middle Eastern heritage, and those who “look ethnic”
- people with physical or mental/behavioral challenges, or both
- old people, especially those who are frail and without a sound support system
- the LGBTQI community, especially trans people
- economically marginalized individuals and families, especially children in these families
- those who are homeless
- those who are food insecure
- People whose lives place them at the intersection of more than one of these vulnerabilities, such as a lesbian African-American woman and her children who are living in poverty and thus food insecure are especially vulnerable
- animals
- the environment itself, the very earth on which we live

What's going on here? That so many are so vulnerable in our culture seems to me to have at least three kinds of roots:

First of all, there are *individuals* who have attitudes that lead to putting other people down, and act out of prejudice, bigotry and intolerance, or simply do not understand. Those who continue to act out of beliefs they were reared with, without thinking about them. To some extent, this is probably everyman and everywoman. It is us. We're often (though not always) more unconscious than malevolent. I can think of a couple of examples I've been caught out on: Using checks rather than cash to keep track of how the monies from our Caring Fund were being disbursed seemed to me to be a good idea until Reverend Seth reminded me that not everyone has a checking account or a relationship with a bank that would allow them to cash a check. I was also brought up short when someone from FOHN

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experience. We have a choice about how to respond to the times life calls on us to be vulnerable – we can choose to be present and available to the moment. This isn't an easy choice of course, it's not just a matter of understanding the concept and flipping a switch inside ourselves, but it's a choice that is possible to cultivate in ourselves over time.

There's a lot more here to talk about – potential questions include: Are we appropriately vulnerable with those closest to us? How do we learn to be more open and present in vulnerable moments? and, What are some of the things that get in the way of us being vulnerable? Instead of treating you to another page of discourse though, I'll just encourage to come join me as we explore the topic this month – on Sunday mornings, in the theme reflection class after church on Feb. 1st, at dinner discussion groups, and elsewhere in our church conversations. Vulnerability is an important topic for us to explore, not only because we experience it by default, but because learning how to handle vulnerability well can transform our lives. I hope you'll participate in the conversation!

love, peace and blessings,

Rev. Seth

Letter from the President (continued from page 4)

unfortunately lapsed for over two years.

Overall, our church is doing very well. Seth and Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd have added much to our Church family over the past year and a half. We are healthy in pledges, on Sunday morning the church is routinely packed, and the Mission and Vision Task force has been very active and successful in instilling an excitement as we formulate our new goals for the congregation and church. Religious education for all age groups is blossoming and our decision to give away two Sunday collections a month to a worthy local cause has resulted in an outstanding response underlining our commitment to social justice in our community. We have not been without some bumps along our way but overall I feel our church serves as a wonderful example of how and what a welcoming, nonjudgemental, pro-active church should be. I am proud to be a member of this church and congregation.

Nancy C. Behforouz

Vulnerability: The Chosen and the Unchosen

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pointed out that dried peas, beans, and lentils (which I regard as delicious dietary staples and a healthy source of non-meat protein) required far more fixing than some people who might need them most have the equipment for, plus it can be difficult to acquire the other ingredients necessary to make them taste good.

Second, however, these individual attitudes have become entrenched as *pervasive cultural attitudes*. I, among many, come from a family in which poverty and joblessness were regarded as moral failings which could be overcome if only the person wanted to do so and would try hard enough.

Finally, these attitudes become translated into *governmental policies that legalize vulnerability* for these populations and for others. They also legitimate it in the minds of those who assume that "legal" and "moral" or "ethical" are the same.

What can we do about it? In the first place, we can be mindful of our own individual attitudes, of the ways in which our upbringing and life experiences have shaped how we regard those who seem different from ourselves. We can work at becoming more conscious. Being a part of a community such as UUCM can help us here, because there are always those who are further along that path in some particular area than we are. There are many opportunities to learn and to grow, to be stretched in a safe and caring environment. We can work to educate ourselves.

We can take part in local efforts in our own congregation and community. Our own Every. Single. Sunday food pantry donations are a great example. So is the work of our PHON group. So is OutReach. Yes, these are in a sense "Band-Aids," are cannot possibly cover the larger wounds of culturally- and legislatively-imposed vulnerability. In the meantime, while we are working toward larger solutions, however, they are very necessary.

Finally, through our own local efforts having a ripple effect, and through our direct influence as we are able to leverage that, we can attempt to address culturally- and governmentally-supported vulnerability on a broader scale. For some of us, that may mean joining with others to demonstrate against such policies. For some, it might mean writing letters or supporting national organizations that address these issues. It may entail working to elect candidates who will work for better policies.

We can all stand on the side of love, beginning close to home.

Rev. Julia

February 2015 UUCM Calendar

Online calendar: <http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org/web/calendar.html>

Regular Weekly Events

Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
Religious Education for Children & Youth	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
High School Youth Group	Sundays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
4U Campus Ministry	Sundays	8:00 – 9:30 pm
BSU Robert Bell Bldg. Rm 112		
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 – 9:00 pm
Revival Hour	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

February Events & Activities

Stewardship Committee	Sunday	Feb 1	9:30 am
Boston Bound Bake Sale	Sunday	Feb 1	Noon
Youth Sunday Planning	Sunday	Feb 1	12:30 – 2:00 pm
Adult RE :: Theme Reflections	Sunday	Feb 1	12:30 – 2:00 pm
Youth Sunday Planning	Tuesday	Feb 3	6:00 pm
Communications Committee	Tuesday	Feb 3	6:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Feb 4	7:30 pm
Finance Committee	Thursday	Feb 5	Noon
Circle in the Woods	Saturday	Feb 7	7:00 pm
Chalice Marketplace :: coffee & other Fair	Sunday	Feb 8	Before & after the service
Trade items for sale			
Adult RE :: Exploring Your Theology	Sunday	Feb 8	12:30 – 2:00 pm
Mission & Vision Task Force	Sunday	Feb 8	3:30 pm
Youth Sunday Planning	Tuesday	Feb 10	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Feb 11	7:00 – 8:30 pm
UU Crafters	Thursday	Feb 12	7:00 – 9:00 pm
RE Committee (Children & Youth)	Sunday	Feb 15	9:30 am
Committee on Ministries Focus Group	Sunday	Feb 15	Noon
Soup Lunch :: Boston Bound Fundraiser	Sunday	Feb 15	Noon
*Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	Feb 15	12:30 – 2:00 pm
Youth Sunday Planning	Tuesday	Feb 17	6:00 pm
Lenten Service & Lunch	Wednesday	Feb 18	Noon
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Feb 18	7:00 – 8:30 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Feb 19	7:15 pm
Youth Sunday Rehearsal	Saturday	Feb 21	2:00 – 4:00 pm
Anti-Racism Task Force	Sunday	Feb 22	9:30 am
Community Service	Sunday	Feb 22	9:30 am
Sack Lunches for Harvest Soup Kitchen			
Adult RE Committee	Sunday	Feb 22	12:15 pm
Pastoral Associates	Sunday	Feb 22	12:15 pm
Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	Feb 22	12:30 – 2:00 pm
*Zentangle Workshop	Sunday	Feb 22	12:30 pm
Lenten Service & Lunch	Wednesday	Feb 25	Noon
Committee on Ministries Focus Group	Thursday	Feb 26	7:00 pm
*Service Auction	Saturday	Feb 28	5:30 pm

* See article in this issue

Bits & Pieces

The **Committee on Ministries** would like to invite anyone interested to participate in a **Focus Group** on Sunday, February 15 at noon. Grab a bowl of soup from the Boston-Bound kids and join us at the tables set up in the sanctuary. We plan to explore several questions about Religious Education and about fellowship activities in the church. Start your thinking for that day by considering the question:

What have been your most meaningful fellowship experiences within our church community?

See you on the 15th!

Any age, any gender is invited to attend the first meeting of a new group at church, **The UU Crafters**, on Thursday, February 12, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, in the Indigo-Violet classrooms.

You're welcome, whether you already know how or want to learn a craft. Please just bring yourself or something that you've crafted for *show and tell* at our first meeting.

Among other things, we may have some folks making crafts for the Bazaar next year or making hats, scarves, or mittens for The Mitten Tree. Or, you may just want to pursue your own craft project in the company of other UUs on the first Thursday of the month.

Come knit, crochet, felt, quilt, embroider, hook rugs, do cross-stitch / needlepoint, or your own craft. We hope to see you on February 12.

Questions or suggestions, please contact: Sherry Ware (717-3766) sherryware04@gmail.com
Holly Hanauer (288-2741)

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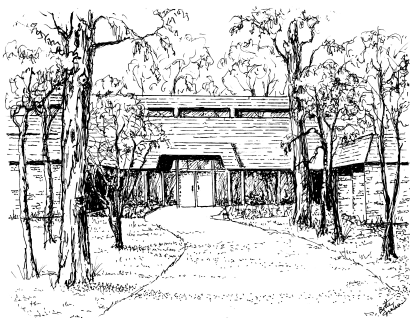
Past President

765.288.9561 | uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org | uuchurchmuncie.org

Office Hours | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:30 pm | Wednesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive
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