



the UNIGRAM

Torn & Broken

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

"Stickers, stickers!" shouts the little girl with glee. "Help please! Help please!" She's still a little too young at two to peel them off successfully herself. "Mommy, help please!" Her eyes shine with glee as the stickers come off the sheet, extending her hand eagerly, "Stickers, stickers! Thank you mommy! Stickers!"

The stickers, fresh off the sheet, young, naïve, hoping for a reasonably long life attached to a piece of a paper, or better yet a lunchbox or a three-ring binder or some similarly permanent home, are to be sadly disappointed. Their hopes are raised briefly as they catch glimpse of the calmly waiting sheet of white paper on the table, but, wait! What is this?! The paper should be getting closer, but instead it's getting farther and farther away! Where are we going? ... and then

smack, smoosh, smooth, they're on the front of a pair overalls. A sigh of relief goes out as they begin the adhesion process, walking through each step just as they had trained as young stickers, deliberately fastening each and every part of their carefully tended and guarded undersides to the fabric surface, but then – no! Just as the stick is beginning to take, rudely, unceremoniously, off they go.

The little girl pulls the stickers off her overalls, and in her curious exploring, tears one of them into pieces and crumples the other into a ball. The stickers never saw it coming.

"Mommy, mommy. Broken! Stickers broken! Fix mommy, fix. Fix mommy, fix."

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We Are Broken and Whole: Meditation on a Whelk Shell

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister



boundary of our back yard. My husband Tom had our big black lab/hound dog on a long lead, and she was having a first-rate time exploring. To her, I'm sure the beach and the ocean made an extravagant picnic of smells and sounds. I

We'd been here about a week, and were out for a long walk on the beach that beckoned just beyond the sand dune overgrown with sea grape that formed the

was paying close attention to how I walked, something I have to do these days to move comfortably. We didn't talk much; the crashing waves and the wind were too loud for us to hear each other.

Suddenly, I saw it. Half buried in the damp sand left by the receding tide, a whelk shell. It was a channeled whelk shell, about 6 inches long. Its former occupant, likely long since dead, is characterized as a "very large predatory sea snail." It had sustained its life at the expense of other life. And it was undeniably *broken* by most standards. Time and water and the battering of wind and waves had broken the shell open, probably over a long time, revealing its

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am March Worship Theme :: Brokenness

For more information about this month's theme check out Theme Exploration on [page 3](#).

Sunday, March 6 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	We start off the month with Rev. Seth preaching on March's theme of Brokenness. Most of us live with some form of brokenness in our lives - we'll explore that, and how we can try and find some healing and joy along the way.
Sunday, March 13 Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd	<i>Forgiving the Holy</i> In a world so full of pain and suffering, who or what are we to blame? How do we rectify all the horrors for this world with our Universalism?
Sunday, March 20 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Seth is in the pulpit again, as we continue exploring our theme of Brokenness by taking an in-depth look at domestic violence and how it impacts so many families - and women in particular - in our country, and in our communities. It's also Commitment Sunday - we'll host a special ceremony to honor all of the new members who have joined our church in the past year.
Sunday, March 27 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Seth will be preaching, and leading us in a special multigenerational Easter Sunday service. The Sanctuary Choir will be singing, and there will be balloons and fun for all!
Religious Education for Children & Youth, 10:45 am	
Sunday, March 6 Social Action Sunday	This morning our youth will be making homemade dog and cat treats to sell after the service next Sunday, March 13, to support our locally run animal shelter, the Animal Rescue Fund (ARF).
Sunday, March 13 Curriculum Sunday	Please join us, as we continue our religious exploration!
Sunday, March 20 Curriculum Sunday	Please join us, as we continue our religious exploration!
Sunday, March 27 Multi-Generational Service	This morning we will not be holding classes, as we welcome all ages to remain in the sanctuary. Nursery and childcare for our preschool and kindergarten youth will be available. All parents and children (preschool - 5th grade youth) should gather in the fellowship hall following the service for an Easter egg hunt.
Adult Religious Exploration Offerings, 9:30 am	
Our new mission statement begins by calling us to a continuing exploration of our faith. In pursuit and support of that goal, we are expanding our Adult RE offerings during the Sunday morning 9:30-10:30 am pre-service slot. Check out all the offerings below!	
1 st Sundays – Yellow Room Exploring Spiritual Practices with Rev. Julia	Start your month by investigating a spiritual practice. Engaging in regular spiritual practice is one way we can explore our faith. It's also a good way to strengthen ourselves for practicing inclusivity and living justice.
2 nd Sundays – Yellow Room What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist (UU) Theology with Rev. Elizabeth	Our theology is rich and powerful. Come explore what makes UU theology so life giving and transformative. We will journey together in faith, through shared direct experiences and reflection exercises, readings and lessons, and ethical deliberations.
4 th Sundays – Yellow Room Sharing Circles with the Pastoral Associates	Sharing Circles, based on a model of speaking and listening that affords everyone a safe space in which to speak from their heart, offer us the opportunity to strengthen our faith and form deeper relationships with each other.
Every Sunday – Red Room Pre-Service Discussion	This group is meant as a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. See page 11 for weekly topics.
Every Sunday – Violet room Muncie UU Pagans	This is an open discussion group to explore the differences in our pagan traditions. We will also be discussing the reasons that so many Pagan and Earth-based religions find homes in UU congregations. People of any belief are welcome to attend.

Theme Exploration – Brokenness

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 for this month is an adapted version of "The Inherent Wholeness of Every Being" by Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Erika Hewitt:

We who are Unitarian Universalist not only affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; we also affirm the inherent wholeness of every being -- despite apparent brokenness.

No one reading these words is a stranger to pain, or the knowledge that things break, or break down: promises, friendship, sobriety, hope, communication.... this breaking happens because our human hearts and our very institutions are frail and imperfect. We make mistakes. Life is messy. Brokenness happens.

We're intimately acquainted with brokenness, then, even as we believe that no matter how fractured we are or once were, we can make whole people of ourselves. We are whole at our core, because of the great, unnamable, sometimes inconceivable Love in which we live.

As UUs, we believe that paying attention to something is an act of love; witnessing and naming brokenness is how we begin to heal it... Healing begins when we examine what's in pain, wonder how it occurred, and allow it to teach us... It begins by placing full trust and faith that there is inherent wholeness in every broken situation.

Questions for Reflection

When have you experienced brokenness in your life?
What feelings came up in those situations?

Do you trust and have faith that there is inherent wholeness in every broken situation?

What strategies do you use in your own life to deal with and get through experiences and times of brokenness?

Suggested Reading – Books

Rising Strong by Brené Brown

The Places That Scare You by Pema Chödrön

A Hidden Wholeness by Parker Palmer

Spiritual Practice

Box Breathing – The practice is simple and effective:

- 1) breath in for a 4 count
- 2) hold your breath for a 4 count
- 3) exhale for a 4 count
- 4) hold again for a 4 count, before beginning the next inhale

Repeat as often necessary. Particularly helpful in times of high stress or anxiety; also useful as a meditation technique.

2015-2016 UUCM Themes

September – Forgiveness

October – Inclusivity

November – Grace

December – Waiting

January – Freedom

February – Sexuality

March – Brokenness

April – Truth

May – Creativity



Religious Education Corner

Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education

This month in Religious Education (RE) we have three special Sundays: a Social Action Sunday for all classes, a special third Sunday Multi-Gen event, and a Multigenerational Service on Easter Sunday. Please look over the details below, and welcome to spring!

March 6 – Social Action Sunday to support Animal Rescue Fund

All youth will begin in the service with their parents. Classes will begin following the *Story for All Ages*. This morning our youth will be making homemade dog and cat treats to sell after the service on Sunday, March 13, to support our locally run animal shelter, the Animal Rescue Fund (ARF). ARF provides shelter, medical care, and love for abused, abandoned, neglected, and unwanted animals until permanent homes can be found. If you would like to know more about ARF please check out their website www.munciearf.com.

March 20 – Multi-Gen Event “Mindfulness Coloring”

I am looking forward to our “Mindfulness Coloring” Multi-Gen Event. If you did not have a chance to join us in November, please take a moment to sit with us and simply color. We will have a wide assortment of coloring pages available, from simple to complex. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends!

March 27 – Easter Sunday, Multigenerational Service & Easter Egg Hunt

This morning we will not be holding religious education classes, as we welcome all ages to remain in the sanctuary. Nursery will be available in the Green Room and childcare for our preschool and kindergarten youth will be available in the Blue Room. For our **Easter Egg Hunt**, all parents and children (preschool - 5th grade youth), should gather in the fellowship hall following the service for guidelines and to collect their bags. Our youngest in the nursery will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt in the playground during the service.

Looking toward April

The RE Committee and I look forward to honoring our teachers in the service and celebrating with a *Teacher Appreciation Luncheon*. Our wonderful group of teachers are: **Lisa Abner, Maggie Bartlett, Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Ashley Donnelly, Leslie Duvall, Zach Enos, Crystal Frayer, Elsbeth Fritz, Adrienne Gruver, Sue Guillaud, Holly Hanauer, Pam Harwood, Avery Mayfield, Velvet Miller, Steve Robert, Amy Shaw, Luellen Smucker, Aryn Sweeney, John Taylor, Susan Taylor, and Andrea Wolfe.** Thank you so much for all you do! **Nadine**

March Youth Programs Schedule

Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd,
Coordinator of Youth Programs

Youth Groups

We will have combined youth groups this month on the first and third Sundays following church. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are welcome. We will be focusing on fellowship this month as rest and enjoy all we accomplished creating Youth Sunday.

Sunday, March 6, 12:30-2 pm – Combined Youth Groups (grades 6-12)

Sunday, March 20, 12:30-2 pm – Combined Youth Groups (grades 6-12)

4U: Ball State University Unitarian Universalist Union

Due to spring break, we will only meet once this month on Sunday, March 20 at 8 pm. This makes this meeting all the

more important, so we hope to see everyone there! This would be a great time to bring along any friends who you think might be a good fit for our group. We will surely have a meaningful conversation about brokenness, our theme for this month. Our new room is lovely and a much better fit for our needs!

In general, 4U meets on the first and third Sundays of the month, 8-9:30 pm. This semester we are meeting in the Orr Room (#205) in the Student Center.

Save the Date!

April 8-10 Bridging CON in Bloomington, IN

This CON will surely be an event worth attending. It is open to all high school aged youth (grades 9-12). It will culminate with a bridging ceremony honoring graduating seniors. We'd love to bring a great big group!

Elizabeth

Join us on Sunday, March 6 for the Two Services Task Force Kick-Off Event

Did you know? Due to consistently higher levels of attendance, the board has appointed a Two Services Task Force to investigate whether it makes sense for us to move to offering two services on Sunday morning, and, if so, to bring forward a plan for how to make that move. ***What does this mean? How are we going to proceed?***

To get answers to these concerns and other procedural questions, plan to attend the **Two Services Task Force Kick-Off event**, Sunday, March 6th, after church.

These are the sorts of questions the Task Force will address:

Why are we considering moving to two services?

An increasing number of services in the past year have had attendance which fills 80% or more of our chairs (that's 160 people or more). Eighty percent is widely accepted as the cut-off for comfort levels in the U.S. What that means is that newcomers who arrive and see fewer than 20% of the seats available do not feel that there is room for them in the room (and, by extension, in the congregation).

We are at the point with attendance numbers where, if we do not make a conscious decision whether or not we want to go to two services, we are, in essence, making a decision through inaction.

How will we decide whether we should move to two services?

By having many, many conversations. The Task Force will be organizing Questions, Answers & Concerns sessions (the first one will be held Sunday, March 20th, after the service in the sanctuary) and Cottage Meetings to collect the congregation's opinions, thoughts and ideas. Members of the Task Force will also be visiting church committee meetings, and asking dinner discussion groups to talk and

gather information. In addition, your comments and concerns can be sent directly to the Task Force members at any time. (See contact information at end of article.)

Who will decide whether we move to two services?

The congregation will! After carefully considering the data gathered at cottage meetings, the Task Force will decide if we are going to recommend to the congregation that we pursue two services at this time. If the recommendation is in the affirmative, the task force will formulate a plan to be voted on at the October 2016 Congregational Meeting. A detailed description of the process and timetable will be distributed at the Kick-Off.

What can I do?

Engage in the process by attending meetings and sharing your thoughts and concerns with the Task Force! Start by coming to the Kick-Off on March 6th. And, yes, there will be snacks!

Who is on the Two Services Task Force?

Bea Sousa, co-chair

beals42@gmail.com

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, co-chair

seth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Ben Ewing, secretary

Ben.Ewing24@gmail.com

Jerry McKean, event organizer

jmckean1@comcast.net

Janay Sander, data analysis

janaysander@yahoo.com

Susan Taylor, communications

susantaylor68@hotmail.com

General Assembly 2016

Have you ever been to General Assembly (GA), our annual national gathering? If not, you should consider going! If you've been before, you know what a treat it is to gather with Unitarian Universalists from across the country and participate in amazing workshops, lectures and worship. Either way, please consider signing up to attend all or part of GA 2016, which will be held June 22nd-26th in Columbus, OH. The location of GA moves around the country from year to year, so this year it's actually accessible to us driving, only 3 hours away.

From the UUA website:

The theme for GA 2016 will be Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect. The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General

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Giving for Good to Keep Good Going 2016-2017 Stewardship Campaign



Congratulations – as of February 22 our campaign total is **\$188,781**

We Are Stewards

To those who stayed for Stewardship Sunday, the joyous music and the delicious lunch, thank you for your presence. Of equal importance, we thank you for your pledge gift. To those who were unable to stay, we are sorry you missed the fun and food. However, we still need you to turn in your pledge. Listen to Rev. Seth's sermon on "Giving For Good" for inspiration (<http://goo.gl/y6lhjx>), and then submit your pledge form, please, to the church office.

We Are Passionate in Doing, Caring and Responsibilities

As a faith community, we give numerous hours and much talent. We must be as passionate on our pledge responsibility to the financial sanctity and viability of our church. From new member **Jay Moorman**:

I often ask myself these questions:

Who am I? What do I believe? What am I doing about it?

I was raised much like many others, very specific belief system given to me. I found that as I evolved, those beliefs no longer fit. I read books. I spoke to others. I tried many other traditions. I found my new beliefs and was happy with where I landed. But - in the Midwest, it was fairly isolating. It was hard to share with people. They didn't always seem to understand. I tried to live with that. I told myself it was okay to be relatively alone in this way.

But that meant a few things I didn't expect. I was not growing. I was not serving others.

That is why I need this church.

You inspire me - You challenge me - You love me and my family.

I also believe this city needs this church for much of the same reason. We challenge the status quo - We inspire people that are not able to find a fit - We love those around us. There is magic here. At no point in my membership at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie has anyone asked me what I believe. No label has been put on me by others or by our minister. Because people at the UUCM get it. They don't ask me because it really isn't of importance in our community.

What does matter is: who we are, how we act towards others, and our shared values.

So in this time of Stewardship, I ask you: Who are you? - What do you believe? - And what are you doing about it?

Pledging – Next Round

February 21st was the food, music and fun event. On February 28th, we hope more pledge envelopes come in and fill the golden box – hopefully to the brim.

Current campaign total is \$188,781 * Campaign goal is \$270,000 * Campaign still needed is \$81,219

Who are you? What do you believe/value? And what are you doing about it?

Please pledge generously and we ask that pledges be turned in by February 28.

Thank you: to the members and friends who have committed their financial pledge; all those who plan to make their financial pledge; and to each of you for all that you do for this church.

Message from the President

Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.

Mark Your Calendars

In the past, our spring Congregational Business Meeting has been held immediately after church on the *third* Sunday in May. This year, we've moved it to May 22nd, which is the *fourth* Sunday in May. The agenda will include the presentation of the 2016-17 Budget and the election of officers and committee chairs.

Committees

The Board is still working to get some of our committees up and functioning. In May of 2015, the Board voted to make Fundraising a *Standing Committee*, which means it will report to Program Council. It will be responsible for overseeing special fundraising events. The Fundraising Committee may run these events or *recruit others to do so*. The largest annual fundraiser is the Bazaar—other fundraisers include Dining for Dollars, a service auction, and rummage sales. New ideas are always needed and welcome. Judy Lowe has kindly consented to temporarily help get the Fundraising Committee on its feet. The Fundraising Committee is busy working on a Spring Service Auction.

The Bazaar Committee reports to the Fundraising Committee. Because the Bazaar is an annual event, it is a Special Long-Term Committee. Next year, it will be co-chaired by a group of previous chairs and co-chairs. They will be recruiting people to help oversee various tasks, especially publicity, logistics, consignment booths, and volunteer recruitment. Ideally, at least two members of the Bazaar Committee should be *new people*. If you are

new and want to get to know our wonderful church family, there's no better way than to volunteer to help with the Bazaar, which is held on the first Saturday of November.

And last, but not least, we need to get our Membership Committee—previously called the Welcoming Committee—functioning. It is also a Standing Committee and reports to Program Council. *Here's another good place to volunteer if you are new*. The purpose of the Membership Committee is to create a welcoming and positive church environment, to create a path to membership, and to promote the growth of the congregation both in numbers and in commitment.

Reasons to Get Involved

Before I decided to get more involved in church life, there used to be times when I'd leave a church service or function feeling lonelier than when I arrived. I can tell you that now, after having co-chaired the Bazaar, served on various committees, and joined the Board of Trustees, I no longer feel lonely when I leave.

This is a wonderful community of people and the very best way to get to know them better is to serve with them. If you think that you'd like to serve on the Bazaar committee or the Membership committee, please contact any member of the Board. We'll be happy to help you find ways to serve our community.

Sherry Ware, President of the Congregation



New Member Joining Ceremony Sunday, March 6th, 10:15 am

Are you interested in becoming a member of the church? If so please plan on attending the joining ceremony on Sunday, March 6th, before the service at 10:15am. This short ceremony will be held in the sanctuary, and will include a chalice lighting, readings, and signing the membership book. If you're interested, please contact Rev. Seth ahead of time and let him know you'd like to become a member. If you haven't attended a "Roots & Wings" membership class yet, you're encouraged to do so before becoming a member – it is being offered on Sunday, Feb. 28th, at 9:30am in the Indigo room. If you can't make it on the 28th, but would still like to join on the 6th, contact Rev. Seth to make other arrangements.



New(ish) Membership Coordinator

We realized that we neglected to officially introduce our new Membership Coordinator, **Megan Wenning**, who many of you have hopefully met by now. Megan started with us on Dec. 6th, and has been a tremendous addition to our community ever since, particularly in helping us expand our social media offerings. Megan was born right here in Muncie and went to Central High School. After a short diversion to Japan, she came back and finished her degree at Ball State University, where she graduated with a Bachelors in General Studies with concentrations in English and History. She is excited to be here to help our church grow because it is such a welcoming place in the community. If you haven't met Megan already, take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself on Sunday morning - you'll find her at her usual spot at the Welcome Center, just to the left of the main doors when you walk in, greeting visitors and guests. Welcome Megan - we're excited to have you on board!

Communications Committee

From the Committee on Ministries

This is the fourth in a series of articles about the ministries of our church. Everything we do is part of our ministry to one another and to the community, both within the church and beyond. Each month over the next two years the series will spotlight the work of a committee or task force that contributes to the broader ministry of our congregation.

The communications committee is charged with facilitating communication about our Church internally and sharing our mission to the outside world.

We act as a conduit for all the other committees when they want to broadcast a message of special interest through our website, social media, or local press. If we do our job well, the people of Muncie will know our name and know what we are about!

The team touches many parts of the church communication through the website, Facebook, etc. Our latest project has been helping to publicize the **Special SUNDAY Solar Dedication on February 28** so that we might educate others about solar energy as well as raise attendance at the event. We are currently enlisting the help of the *Star Press* and *Muncie Journal* to publish the event details and date. We are also working on a number of different outlets (some free, some paid) to do the same. We are working with the committee chair, Wayne Meyer, on his approach and plan. Great fun!

Our contribution toward helping our congregation fulfill our Mission and achieve our Vision is to assist committees in teaching the people of Indiana (and many other places) what we are about as a church. We are hopeful our work demonstrates our love and kindness as a congregation and that the church messages encourage those who need a community to find UUCM—or at least have the courage to go on their own search. Seth is our guide and spirit animal. We are happy to have him along for help.

Committee members are **Tom Lowe, Maggie Bartlett, John Bartlett, Jay Moorman** and recently added Queen of all Media, **Megan Wenning**—but we are looking for new recruits!

See last year's Annual Report at <http://goo.gl/cGvGhW>.

Torn & Broken

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

Sadly for both the stickers and for the little girl, not everything that is broken can be fixed.

Fortunately for us human beings, we generally tend to be more resilient in the face of harm and damage in our day-to-day lives than stickers are able to manage in their existence. Much of what comes our way, we're able to just shrug off, move past, or let go. But for most of us, there are moments or experiences or patterns of behavior that impact us in such a way as to cause us to be broken, hurting, or in pain – broken, hurting or in pain in such a way that is not easy to shrug off, move past, or let go. Most of us have some brokenness within us.

This brokenness can live inside in the form of many different kinds of emotions – shame, fear, anxiety, grief and sadness, to name a few. Bundle enough of those together and combine them with a particularly intense negative experience, and we can end up experiencing depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome, or any other number of mental illnesses. Whether they extend to the depth of diagnosable condition or not, most of us have these places inside us, somewhere, that feel like a torn-up, crumpled, discarded sticker. A place where we feel torn apart, with rough, ragged edges, where the pain, or hurt, or fear, or shame sticks to itself and won't let go, all wrapped up in a ball. A place where, as the little girl said, we are "broken."

We are, varyingly, aware and present to that pain constantly, regularly, occasionally, seldom, or not at all. The "not at all" place can be dangerous... because unlike stickers from a book that can simply be thrown in the trash and disappear from our lives forever with the arrival of the garbage truck – our broken areas stay within us, calling out for love and healing. And we ignore them at our peril; ignored brokenness has a tendency to find its way out, sometimes in even uglier ways than the situation that created the brokenness in the first place.

The good news, of course, is that unlike the stickers, when we are torn and broken ourselves, or when we are connecting with our torn and broken places, healing is possible. Sometimes the path is easier, more often the path is harder, but if we are intentional about it, if we take the time that is necessary, healing can happen. Different

strokes for different folks of course – some will seek and find their way forward in therapy, others in meditation, and there are a myriad of meaningful spiritual practices from which to choose. Healing for some can come from books – authors such as shame researcher Brené Brown, Buddhist nun Pema Chödrön, and Quaker spiritualist Parker Palmer share powerful wisdom and advice. Those broken places within us, if we give them the time, attention, and love that is required, can help bring healing about. Because as it turns out, *some things* that are broken *can indeed* be fixed.

As we explore our theme of Brokenness this month, I encourage you to set aside some time and space to be with the any brokenness that resides within you. And if the wound runs deep, you might consider mapping out a plan of how you will work to bring about healing, making use of the healing path that is best suited to you. Because the flip side of brokenness is wholeness, and the journey towards wholeness, while often difficult and challenging – it can be a beautiful one indeed.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

Rev. Seth



Adult Religious Exploration Theme Reflection

Rev. Seth's Sunday afternoon Adult Religious Education will be offered again in March. The Theme Reflections group will meet Sunday, March 6th, from 12:30-2pm, during which we will use a connection group model based on deep listening to explore October's theme of Inclusivity. You do not need to have attended a prior class to come this month, but you will need to bring or go get your own lunch prior to the class starting. This group will meet in the Red classroom off the Fellowship Hall.

We Are Broken and Whole: Meditation on a Whelk Shell

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

interior. Too, the exterior was marked by hundreds of minute holes. I wondered if some miniscule creatures had found a way to burrow into the shell, and why? And did that invasion take place while the shell was home to its snail, or later?

As I walked and meditated on the shell, however, I began to see more deeply. Its very brokenness, the battering it had received in the sea, revealed the intricately geometric internal structure that gives the channeled whelk its name. Without it being “broken,” the richness of the interior would not have been visible. The exterior of an intact shell is lovely—symmetrical, smooth with precise striping and ridging, offering up a quiet beauty. But the broken shell is far more interesting. I appreciate its complexity. I wonder about its story, what forces of nature had marked it, what had happened to the soft flesh of its prior tenant. Had it taken its place in the food chain and become food?

The ocean has always spoken to me of connection. Oceanographers tell us that the five oceans—the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic—are all connected and form an enormous mass of water. There is truly one “world ocean.” Water circulates between the earth’s oceans, atmosphere, and land, involving precipitation as rain and snow, drainage in streams and rivers, and return to the atmosphere by evaporation and transpiration. *All* Earth’s waters are one. I feel this connection deep in my soul, in every cell of my body, when I walk on the beach. When I am near the ocean, I sense deeply the truth of the Buddhist metaphor that each of us, all of us, are waves in the same ocean, arising from that ocean and returning to it. We are one. We are never truly separate.

We are held, connected, no matter what. The whelk shell’s brokenness is every bit as much a part of the sacred wholeness as anything else. Its intricacy, made available to the human eye in and through its brokenness, speaks of the intricacy of the sacred. Like the shell, we, too, are both whole and broken. We are broken in various ways large and small. We are broken by things others have done to us and things we have done to ourselves. We are broken by what we do to others. We are broken as individuals, in our relationships with one another, and with the Transcendent, however we experience that. Our nation is broken. *I* am broken.

At the same time, we are whole, a part of the sacred, contained within its embrace. *I* am whole. There is within every person, every relationship, every situation, a burgeoning wholeness waiting to be tapped. At the deepest heart of everything, there is the sacred. In touching that ocean of sacred wholeness within us and within others, we can grow, together, toward greater wholeness as individuals, as communities, as humankind.

I will, of course, return to my inland home in Indiana, and to the church that helps me know how my life is woven into the sacred. Right now, though, I can’t imagine not having the sea symphony as the soundtrack of my waking and sleeping.

Rev. Julia



Adult Religious Exploration Exploring Your Theology

Rev. Seth’s Exploring Your Theology, a class loosely based on the idea of the old Building Your Own Theology curriculum, will meet Sunday, March 13th from 12:30-2pm, in the Indigo Room. The reason for the name change is that Building Your Own Theology implies a one-time experience, where you build your theology and you’re done. The reality is that our beliefs and theology are constantly evolving, and so it’s good to spend some time every now and then exploring, and hopefully growing and evolving, our beliefs and value systems. Like the Reflections class, you will need to provide for your own lunch during the downtime between the service and the start of the class. We will cover different topics this year than we did last year, so if you came last year and would like to participate again, please feel free to do so.

Pre-Service Discussion

9:30 am – Every Sunday – Red Room

March 6th – Neoliberalism

Wayne Harmon will lead the discussion. Wayne says, "For the past ten or twelve years I have searched for an understanding of why my country and the world had gone crazy. Nothing makes sense. So I collected facts: financial, political, constitutional, ideological, social, geopolitical and whether there is a fatal flaw in our Democracy. I looked to see if there was a change in ideology and if I could document when the change occurred and the results of that change. Lots of facts pointed to one ideology that has been driving our country for the past thirty-five years or so. It is an ideology of failure that we have imposed on other countries, at their expense, and has come home to roost. The change has a label: neoliberalism. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Join us to talk about this interesting subject.

March 13th – How Much Tolerance is Tolerable?

In a classic "South Park" episode the youngsters are found to not be tolerant enough. They are then sent to tolerance camp, and later required to spend time in the tolerance museum. What does this cartoon program have to say about the current world? Where does unreflective tolerance lead us? Does reflective tolerance always lead to intolerance? Discussion leader **Tom Lowe**.

March 20th – The Evolution of God

In 2009, Robert Wright wrote *The Evolution of God*, a materialistic based work which explored the historic emergence and evolution of Abrahamic religions. In this book, Wright hoped to reconcile two kinds of cultural clashes: the seemingly inevitable clash between Abrahamic traditions (especially post 9/11) and the on-going clash between science and religion. His central thesis is that humans create gods that speak to their circumstances; as circumstances change, humanity's concept of god changes. In brief, humanity created god, not the other way around, and the good news is that the evolutionary path of god is toward cooperation and tolerance between cultures--secular and religious.

Join us on Sunday as we discuss Wright's optimistic view of a future non-sum zero world of religious and secular harmony and test our own tolerance for a view that embraces rationality and religiosity. Discussion leader **Mike Sullivan**.

March 27th – Brokenness

The UUCM theme for March "Brokenness" will be discussed in an open, unguided conversation.

General Assembly 2016

(continued from page 5)

Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

There are many wonderful programs and events to consider attending, including

- the opening **Banner Parade** on Wednesday evening
- the **Service of the Living Tradition** on Thursday evening where Rev. Seth will be honored for receiving Final Fellowship
- the **Ware Lecture** on Saturday evening which this year features NPR host of *On Being* Krista Tippett
- and the **Sunday morning worship service**, led this year by Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd (yes, related to Revs. Seth & Elizabeth – their sister-in-law)

If you plan attend the full conference, you might consider applying to our Board of Trustees to be an official **Delegate to GA** from our church, which would mean you could vote on the official business of the denomination in the business meeting sessions. Scholarship money is available from the UUA to help pay for registration costs, with first-time attendees given highest priority. If you don't want pay to register, the Service of the Living Tradition and the Sunday morning worship service are open to the public free of charge.

If you're interested, mark the dates on your calendar now – registration opens March 1st. You can learn more about the programming, logistics and schedule by visiting <http://www.uua.org/ga>, and clicking on the various links on the menu on the left.

Sharing Gratitude

Stewardship's Gratitude Shout Out

Giving a Shout Out to these wonderful folks who helped make Stewardship Sunday a big success:

- A beautiful feast pulled together by **Caroline Sullivan**, **Ginny Nilles**, **Susan Calvin**, **Lisa Dwenger**, **John McKillip**, **Jan Moore**, and **Ron Moore**
- Such lovely songs sung by **Vanessa Ament**, **Linda Hanson**, **Lynn Austin**, and **Linda Hanson**
- Accomplished musician **Jim Helton**
- Beautiful door prize basket designed by **Judy Lowe**
- Sharing their story of what UUCM means to them from **Jay Moorman** and **Adrienne Gruver**
- Sound system / PowerPoint expertise **Ben Ewing**
- Consummate Master of Ceremonies **Bill Frederick**



Thanks to each of you! We couldn't have done it without you!

~**The Stewardship Committee**

And **Rev. Seth** adds a shout out in turn to the **Stewardship Committee**, for all they have done and will continue to do to make this year's stewardship campaign a giant success. Thank you!

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



Wheel of Life

The Wheel of Life will host short, two-three sentence long summaries of major life events and transitions that have happened or will be happening shortly to members and friends of the church. Examples of appropriate items for submission include births, graduations, marriages, plans to move away, significant illnesses, or deaths. If you have a major life event you'd like the church community to be aware of, please submit it to the Wheel of Life section of the Unigram at uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.

March 2016 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Weekly Events

Pre-Service Discussion	Sundays	9:30 am
Muncie UU Pagans	Sundays	9:30 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
Religious Education for Children & Youth	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesdays	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 – 9:00 pm
Revival Hour (see web calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

March Events & Activities

Stewardship Committee	Tuesday	March 1	4:00 pm
Communications Committee	Tuesday	March 1	6:30 pm
Finance Committee	Wednesday	March 2	5:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	March 2	7:30 pm
Dining for Dollars :: Tagines of Morocco	Saturday	March 5	6:00 pm
Adult RE :: Exploring Spiritual Practices	Sunday	March 6	9:30 am
New Member Joining Ceremony	Sunday	March 6	10:15 am
Two Services Task Force Kickoff	Sunday	March 6	Noon
Adult RE :: Theme Reflections	Sunday	March 6	12:30 pm
Board Planning Meeting	Monday	March 7	Noon
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	Monday	March 7	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	March 9	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	March 9	7:00 pm
UU Book Group	Thursday	March 10	7:00 pm
Adult RE :: What Moves Us: UU Theology	Sunday	March 13	9:30 am
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	March 13	9:30 am & Noon
Soup Lunch	Sunday	March 13	Noon
Adult RE :: Exploring Your Theology	Sunday	March 13	12:30 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	March 14	7:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	March 16	6:30 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	March 17	7:15 pm
OUTreach Fundraiser	Saturday	March 19	7:00 pm
Circle in the Woods	Saturday	March 19	7:00 pm
RE Committee (Children & Youth)	Sunday	March 20	9:30 am
Multi-Gen Event :: Mindfulness Coloring	Sunday	March 20	Noon
Two Services Q&A	Sunday	March 20	Noon
Discussion Committee	Sunday	March 20	12:15 pm
4U at BSU Student Center, Rm 205	Sunday	March 20	8:00 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	March 23	9:00 am
Committee on Community Ministry	Thursday	March 24	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday	March 27	9:30 am
Adult RE :: Listening Circles	Sunday	March 27	9:30 am
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	March 27	9:30 am
Fellowship Committee	Sunday	March 27	12:15 pm
Anti-Racism Task Force	Sunday	March 27	12:15 pm

Mark Your Calendar

Hospitality Teams

Your participation will help us continue to offer amazing hospitality to visitors and to each other!

1st Sunday – Red Team

2nd Sunday – Orange Team

3rd Sunday – Yellow Team

4th Sunday – Green Team

5th Sunday – Blue Team

The **Church Office** will be closed March 3, 4 and 7.

Our Whole Lives for K-2nd grade continues on Tuesdays at 4:30 through March 22.

Save the Date!

Service Auction

Sunday, May 1
following the service

Singing is good for the body and soul. Join the choir!

The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, and we always follow these sessions with some mighty fine refreshments!

Contact Jim Helton

jim@uuchurchmuncie.org

**Our next
Congregational Meeting
will be
Sunday, May 22, at noon.**

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

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Christie Williams, Office Administrator

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Dr. James Helton, Director of Music

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Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs

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Megan Wenning, Membership Coordinator

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Matt Davis, Website Administrator

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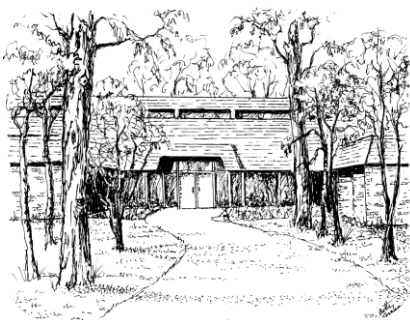
Past President

765.288.9561 | uucm@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

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