



the UNIGRAM

Change: Hard, Challenging & Scary

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

A good friend of mine got engaged to his girlfriend about ten years ago— both of them were wonderful people, and they were a great match. About six months after their engagement though, he began to exhibit a bizarre string of behaviors that were totally out of character for him. He began to do and say disrespectful – and sometimes outright mean – things to his fiancé. His fiancé didn't get it, and we his friends didn't get it either. We all knew this guy to be a thoughtful considerate person, and he clearly loved his fiancé. So why was he all of a sudden acting like such a jerk?

When some of us tried to talk to him about it, he couldn't explain it or understand it either. He told us he still loved his fiancé, that he was excited to

marry her, he just kept having these inexplicable bursts of anger at her. Finally, thankfully, one of our more insightful friends figured out that his acting out started right after the couple had begun intensive work on planning their wedding, and a lightbulb went off. This realization allowed our friend to become aware of and name some of the deep fears and anxieties he had about marriage. Once he was able to be with and feel those feelings, the destructive and sabotaging behaviors melted away, and he and his fiancé were able to move forward with the wedding planning in a way that was meaningful to them both. Their wedding was awesome, and he and his wife have been happily married

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Change Happens: So How Do We Deal with It?

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

I admit it: I'm more likely to be bothered by change, or the prospect of change, than to be enthusiastic about it. It's instructive that the first version of the preceding sentence read "the threat of change" rather than "the prospect of change." 'Nuf said. Change makes me uneasy; it tends to ratchet up my anxiety. Major changes that affect me directly call out the four horsemen of my own little apocalypse: clammy, queasy, sleepless and shaky. Even if it's "good" change, it's far easier for me to see the possible risks inherent in it than to whole-heartedly celebrate its promises. Not always, to be sure, but typically.

Sometimes, for some of us, change can't come fast enough. I recall how much my daughter, when she was a middle-schooler and even into high school, disliked her unusual first name ("Hinda," named after her four-greats grandmother). She let it be known repeatedly that as soon as she was old enough, she was going to court to have it changed. Then she graduated college and got her first job in the public relations field, which would become her lifelong profession. She soon discovered that having a somewhat unusual name, one that people remembered easily, was quite an asset.

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am September Theme :: Change

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

Sunday, September 4 Joel Tishken	Joel Tishken, a Unitarian Universalist seminarian attending Earlham, will join us as our guest speaker on this Labor Day weekend. The service and sermon will focus on consumption and overconsumption, and how we are morally and ethically called to live in our consumerist culture.
Sunday, September 11 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Seth will kick off our monthly theme of Change, as we reflect on the 15 th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack.
Sunday, September 18 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Seth will lead us in our second service focused on Change, with the plan being to change things up quite a bit. Curious what will change? Come find out!
Sunday, September 25 Two Services Task Force	Our theme of Change concludes with a service led by the Two Services Task Force. We'll discuss change in the context of this significant potential change we're considering as a congregation, as well as how change impacts our lives more broadly.

Religious Education for Children & Youth :: 10:45 am

Sunday, September 4 Game Day!	Join us today for games and fun outside! We will have a water table and bubbles for the little ones, and tables set up for glitter art and paper airplanes - along with games like ring toss, hoops, beanbag toss, and ladder toss.
Sunday, September 11 Volunteer Dedications, RE Kick Off and Open House!	Today we will be dedicating our RE Volunteers in the service and will gather together in our classrooms to share our summer adventures, meet our teachers, and create our classroom covenant.
Sunday, September 18 Curriculum Sundays begin!	Join us as we continue our religious exploration!
Sunday, September 25 Curriculum Sunday	Join us as we continue our religious exploration!

Adult Religious Exploration Offerings :: 9:30 am

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 during the Sunday morning 9:30-10:30 am pre-service slot.

Check out all the offerings below!

Every Sunday – Red Room Adult Discussion Group	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.
2 nd Sunday (beginning Oct.) Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality	Beginning October 9 th , Reverend Julia will lead an adult RE class based on Kathleen Montgomery's edited book, <i>Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality</i> , a collection of essays on various topics relevant to spirituality and aging. The book is available through Skinner House.

Theme Exploration – Change

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 excerpt from Living Beautifully with Uncertainty and Change by Pema Chodron:

“As human beings we share a tendency to scramble for certainty whenever we realize that everything around us is in flux. In difficult times the stress of trying to find solid ground – something predictable and safe to stand on – seems to intensify. But in truth, the very nature of our existence is forever in flux. Everything keeps changing, whether we are of it or not.

What a predicament! We seem doomed to suffer simply because we have a deep-seated fear of how things really are. Our attempts to find lasting pleasure, lasting security, are at odds with the fact that we are part of a dynamic system in which everything and everyone is in process.

So this is where we find ourselves: right in the middle of a dilemma. And it leaves us with some provocative questions: how can we live wholeheartedly in the face of impermanence, knowing that one day we’re going to die? What is it like to realize we can never completely and finally get it all together? Is it possible to increase our tolerance for instability and change? How can we make friends with unpredictability and uncertainty – and embrace them as vehicles to transform our lives?”

Questions for Reflection

How do you relate to change in your life? Are you a fan of change, or resistant to it?

What are some significant changes that have impacted your life? How have you responded to them?

Do you view change as a positive or negative aspect of life?

Are there changes in your life that have been transformational in a positive way? How did those changes come about?

Spiritual Practice or Reflective Practice

Spend a week writing at least one page of stream-of-consciousness writing about change each day. Start each day with a different opening. “Change is...” and fill in the blank one day. “Change is hard because...” another day, “Change is good because...” another day, and you fill in the rest. Once you’ve got your opening few words, don’t think too much about what you’re going to write, just start writing and keep writing, even if the thoughts seem silly at first. You may be surprised at what emerges.

2016-2017 UUCM Themes

September – Change

October – Humility

November – Emotional Intelligence

December – Peace

January – Belonging

February – Power

March – Humanism

April – Identity

May – Ambiguity/Paradox

June – Care of the Soul

Religious Education Corner



Summer seemed to fly by this year! Our summer program was a huge success thanks to the talent and enthusiasm of **Lisa Abner** as the author of our summer curriculum and one of our lead teachers. Our success was enhanced by the awesome **Jackie Knake**, who led five of our eight summer sessions, and by our wonderful team of assistants: **Aryn Sweeney, Andrea Wolfe, Maggie & John Bartlett, Jackson Elvin, Alyssa Farnsworth, and Brandon Mundell**. It is only through the support of such dedicated people, that the RE Summer Program can be offered. Thank you again!

Now the Religious Education Committee turns our enthusiasm to our curriculum year, which will kick off on Sunday, September 11. To prepare for this we are recruiting teams of teachers for each class and will hold our **Teacher Orientation on Thursday, September 8**. We have several openings for teachers; so if you have an interest in helping in our religious education program for children & youth, please contact me. **On Sunday, September 11, we will be dedicating our RE Volunteers** in the service and will gather together in our classrooms to share our summer adventures, meet our teachers, and create our classroom covenant. Following the service we will have **RE Open House**, with tables set up in the fellowship hall with the curriculums that we will be using this year. Our RE Committee will be happy to answer any questions you may have!

We are very pleased to be able to offer two **Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (OWL) programs this year: 4-6 grade OWL and 7-10 grade OWL**. Many thanks to **Denise and Ben Ewing** for volunteering to become trained 7-9/10-12 grade OWL facilitators this September! The facilitators for the 4-6 grade OWL, will be **Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd** and myself. Both programs will begin in October. If you would like more information on these programs, please call or e-mail me at nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org. You will also find information about OWL on the UUCM and UUA websites.

Our **middle and high school youth groups** have great programming planned for the year. With enthusiastic input from our youth, Elizabeth has planned Harry Potter themed overnight programs once a month - in addition to holding separate middle school and high school youth group meetings. Awesome!

I am looking forward to a year full of special programming for our youth! If you would like to be a part of our team of teachers, classroom aides, special event helpers, youth advisors for our youth groups or provide snacks for our OWL classes – I would love to hear from you!

Nadine

Coordinator of Youth Programs UUCM Youth Program Fall Schedule!

After such a successful year with our COA program, and taking into account the wishes of the group, here is our schedule for our fall programming for Middle and High School Youth! Please mark your calendars!

Youth Group meetings are a special time for sharing and connection, for building community, for fun and laughter. We support one another. We are there for each other. We embody the best of religious community. Lunch is provided. As always, we are happy to have parents or youth donate the meal on any Sunday.

Middle School Youth Group Meetings - 6th-8th Grades

Sunday, October 2, 12:30-2pm

Sunday, November 6, 12:30-2pm

High School Youth Group Meetings - 9th-12th Grades

Sunday, October 16, 12:30-2pm

Sunday, November 20, 12:30-2pm

Joint Youth Group Meetings - 6th-12th Grades

Sunday, September 18, 12:30-2pm

Sunday, September 25, 12:30-2pm

Sunday, October 123, 12:30-2pm

Sunday, November 27, 12:30-2pm

Sunday, December 4, 12:30-2pm

Sunday, December 18, 12:30-2pm

Hogwarts Lock-Ins - 6th-12th Grades

(Second Saturdays)

Saturday, Sept. 10, 12noon-Sunday, Sept. 11, 9am

Saturday, October 8-Sunday, October 9, 9am

Saturday, November 12-Sunday, November 13, 9am

Saturday, December 10-Sunday, December 11, 9 am

These events will be full of fun for the most intense fans of the Harry Potter world as well as those who are not that into it. We will have fun activities, games and discussions based on the spiritual themes found in the series. And we will watch the movies!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to be in touch with me at elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org.

Elizabeth

Splinters from the Board

Exploring faith. Practicing Inclusivity. Living Justice.

As the church year begins, I'd like to introduce you to the 2016-17 Board of Trustees and share a bit about what we do and what's coming up.

In addition to the past-president's duty of serving as chair of the Nominating Committee, **Sherry Ware** has committed herself to the Membership Committee this year.

Integrating new & existing members into the life of the congregation and helping them become deeply connected is a high priority of the board; this committee has important work ahead.

As chair of the Program Council, vice-president **Susan Bossung** stays in touch with all the standing committees, and knows about their work and their needs. Last year's monumental task was getting new Hospitality teams populated and trained, so that every Sunday service & coffee hour runs smoothly. This month, Susan reported that RE still needs teachers and aides.

The summer months did not offer our treasurer, **Usha Shivaswamy**, a break from church work. After noting that our property insurance premium had gone up substantially, she began seeking quotes from other insurance companies for comparison. The board will meet next week to review these quotes and choose one.

Sharon Seager, our new secretary, is well-suited to the task. As a historian, she's well aware of the importance of detailed records. I and the other board members really rely on our written minutes to keep track of what's been done.

Our president-elect, **Jerry McKean**, brings past church and civic board experiences to the table. He's a newer member of UUCM, has been involved with other congregations in the past, and has those insights to share with us. As a member of the Two Services Task Force (TSTF), he's been studying church growth issues for the past year. The board has taken on a "group read" this fall, with two books recommended by the TSTF: *The In-Between Church*, and *The Myth of the 200 Barrier*. This plan came out of our board retreat on August 22, a full and fruitful day spent together reflecting and goal-setting.

I attended the UUA General Assembly this summer, for the first time. I really enjoyed the workshops and services, and even the plenary sessions. (It was comforting to see the moderator get tripped up by parliamentary procedure now and then!) One theme that stays with me is the importance

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A Note About Memorial Services and Change

The question arose after a recent memorial service: *have we done away with having an open microphone for sharing of personal reflections?* The question came up in mainly because there was no open microphone at this recent memorial service, and several people had brought prepared remarks they were disappointed to be unable to share. The answer is no, we have not eliminated the possibility of offering an open mic at memorial services – the decision about whether or not to include that is made by each individual family.

What has changed or shifted since my arrival is that when planning memorial services with families, I recommend against offering the opportunity for anyone to speak at an open mic. I make this recommendation primarily because I have seen it go wrong too many times – someone speaking for an inordinate length of time, making everyone uncomfortable, or people sharing things that are actually inappropriate, as but two examples. The biggest problem with an open microphone is that it's hard to impossible to stop people once they've started, at least not without causing significant embarrassment or creating a scene.

I am aware there has been a long tradition of the open microphone at our memorial services, and I know there is tremendous value to what is shared there. My recommendation against is not because I don't see and appreciate the value – I've been to UU memorial services where open microphone opportunities were included, and powerful and beautiful things were shared. I just have also been to UU memorial services where someone the family barely knows has talked for twenty minutes at an open mic, and it is clear that almost everyone in the room wished it had stopped after two.

All that being said, the family's needs and wants are always primary. If families are interested in having people speak, I suggest they consider an intermediate possibility in which they select two or three people to speak, in addition to the eulogy. In the three plus years I've been here, most families who have wanted folks to speak have chosen this option, and have been happy with their decision. Some of those families have chosen to create a time separate from the service for public sharing, which has also been lovely when that's happened. And of course, as previously noted, memorial services belong to the family, not to me or any minister, and so after talking about it and hearing my recommendation and reasons, if a family still wants an open microphone during the service, that is of course what we do.

There are also sometimes other factors that come into play. For example, some families have liked the idea of an open mic, but know that a particular person is going to be there who they do not want speaking, and so choose not to offer the open mic for that reason. The bottom line is that each situation and each family is unique and different, and I work with families, offering my professional advice along the way, to create the service that they feel like is most appropriate and best meets their needs.

If any of you have further questions or concerns about this, I'm happy to talk with you more in depth. My door is always open.

Rev. Seth

Theme Reflections Returns

Rev. Seth's Sunday afternoon Theme Reflection group is convening again this year, meeting on first Sundays (except where noted) for the 2016-2017 church year. The first meeting, on Sunday, September 11th, from 12:30-2pm, will be one of those exceptions due to Labor Day weekend. We will use a connection group model based on deep listening to explore September's theme of Change. The format stays the same, but the theme is different each month, and participants generally report gaining deeper connections with other participants. This group will meet in the Red classroom off the Fellowship Hall. E-mail Rev. Seth at seth@uuchurchmuncie.org with any questions or concerns.

Childcare will be available for the class upon request.

Summer Sunday Wrap-Up

Each summer the Worship Associates plan and manage services for the seven weeks the minister is on vacation/study leave. This year we invited Muncie speakers to share wisdom of six of the world's religions. The seventh service was our traditional July 4th celebration of American documents, with the focus this year on documents related to our state. Since few of us could attend all of these services, here for your contemplation are fragments from each service, which echo UU principles.

The UUCM **Pagan** group kicked off the series with a multi-faceted service in the round, demonstrating the wide range of Pagan beliefs. At the end (just before dancing by anyone who wanted to participate), **Lisa Abner** brought to the center round table a rock, feather, water, and candle to represent the elements that support and shape Life on our beautiful blue planet: earth, air, water, fire. "These gifts remind us of the elements that surround and support us, to symbolize that we are part of the interconnected web of being... Fire is the creative and destructive force in our lives. With the power of Fire, we warm our homes, cook our food, and fuel our passions... but Fire can only exist by consuming something else. It can be a great destructive force, but also the great transformer, maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Like prairie and forest plants require fire to



"Universalism" Harshman Panel
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

complete their life cycles, many of us have risen like new green shoots from the ashes of past experiences to become wiser, more empathic, more intuitive people."

For **Humanists**, there is no assurance that life has any purpose or meaning; it is up to each of us to create that meaning, going so far as finding meaning in life's ineffable (unknowable) qualities. Bill Frederick suggested that the nature of baseball (his passion) provides one path to a human definition of religion. Play a game. Play in the street. Play in the driveway. Teach someone else

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Mark your calendars for our annual **Bazaar in the Woods** :: Saturday, November 5

The Bazaar in the Woods, a celebration of our vibrant community, is our church's largest fundraiser. If you have been a member for some time, you will know what it is all about. If you are new, please ask someone how to get involved in this wonderful project.

First clear some time on your calendar in the week from October 30th to November 5th. Then consider in which capacity you want to help:

- by dividing your houseplants or planting starts
- by culling your book shelves
- by streamlining your clothing stock to contribute to the Encore booth
- by cleaning out your kitchen cabinets to donate items no longer in use
- by reevaluating your decor and your treasures to choose which you could pass on for someone else to enjoy
- by volunteering to prepare for and running the event. A sign-up board will be available in the foyer the beginning of October.

A first meeting with the booth chairs and anyone interested in learning about the event and in being involved is scheduled for Sunday, September 18th, in the sanctuary after the service.

There will be several changes in vendors and locations: **John McKillip** is promoting a new *Tool and Garden Implement Area* in the fellowship hall. Clean out your garages or storage sheds. (Contact John McKillip john1727@comcast.net for tool information or possible pick-ups). *This and That*, the specially priced items from the former flea market, (marked between \$2 and \$12) will also move into that space. Save your less valuable items, such as plastic containers, bedding, and linens, for our Post-Bazaar Rummage Sale, November 12th. (continued on page 9)

UUCM Green Team at the Living Lightly Fair

The Living Lightly Fair has always been popular among us UUs (similar to the Farmers Market also at the Minnetrista Cultural Center - for some similar good, green reasons). This year – Saturday, September 17, 9 am - 4 pm – the Green Team and some UU allies will play a few key roles at the Fair.

1) All day long at the Green Team exhibit in the Green Marketplace we will be telling the story of bringing solar panels to the roof of UUCM and providing quick, introductory information on solar energy installations. Also, we will sell those popular SolarPuffs lighting cubes – to promote renewable energy and also “international social justice” causes. (UUCM will be the only church to have a table in the Green Marketplace.)

2) From 9:00–9:50am **Wayne Meyer** will be one of three “solar panelists” on “Solar Systems for Homeowners and Organizations.” His special emphasis will be on communities of faith and the integral moral dimension of fighting climate change and caring for our Earth.

3) From 1:00-1:50pm Wayne will lead a book discussion of *An Other Kingdom: Departing the Consumer Culture*, by Walter Brueggemann and two others. According to Parker Palmer, “at a time when so many are being left behind by our culture of individualism competition, and consumerism, this book... is a grounded call to compassion and justice.”

As usual, there will be a wide variety of speakers, exhibits, music and art, children’s activities, food, and more. Go to www.livinglightlyfair.org. See you at the Fair on September 17.

subconsciously sabotaging the upcoming changes in our lives, even good changes, because we’re so afraid or anxious about how things will be different.

Now, not all change is bad, or comes with associated losses. If you’ve been stuck in a really unpleasant or negative work environment for a long time, and you change jobs and finally find yourself in a good place – the feeling is usually one of tremendous relief and appreciation. Another example: the company you’re working for decides to give you a pay raise. I can’t imagine any downside to that. But more often, for most of us, even those of us that like change – changes in our lives can bring up negative and challenging feelings. And so it’s unsurprising and understandable, as we’ve been talking this past year as a congregation about the possibility of moving to two services, that we’ve been feeling a fair amount of anxiety, stress, and fear.

My hope as we continue our conversation about this potential change together, is that whatever we ultimately decide, that we can go through this process together with a deep awareness about what we’re feeling, and with a strong grounding in love, hope and connection. Katharine Butler Hathaway wrote, “Then and there I invented this rule for myself to be applied to every decision I might have to make in the future. I would sort out all the arguments and see which belong to fear and which to creativeness, and other things being equal I would make the decision which had the larger number of creative reasons on its side. I think it must be a rule something like this that makes jonquils and crocuses come pushing through the cold mud.”

I hope, and even feel that it’s vitally important, that as much as possible, we engage in conversation and reflection about this very important decision for our congregation from a place of creativity instead of fear. I also hope, as all of us cope with the many inevitable changes we are constantly faced with in life, that we can face the fears, anxieties and stresses that change often brings, so that we can respond to life’s opportunities and challenges out of our best and truest selves.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

Rev. Seth

Change: Hard, Challenging & Scary

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for about eight years.

Change is our theme for September, and changes, even really, really good changes that we’re excited about and want to have happen – like getting married to the love of our lives – even they can sometimes bring up all sorts of difficult feelings for us. The reality is, most change in our lives, even the really, really good ones – never mind the neutral, or even the unpleasant ones – most changes bring up fear or anxiety about losing what is and what has been. Change is hard. Change is scary. It makes us want to run away and hide sometimes. It can even lead to us consciously or

Summer Sunday Wrap-up

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to play. Long for home. And be rescued by baseball from a bad day. It's a season that starts as our long winter is nearly done. We all have a lot to look forward to. So live slow. Because it will all, all of it, go by so fast.

Dukkha, meaning 'incapable of satisfying', is one of the Noble Truths of **Buddhism**. We crave and cling to impermanent states and things; we expect happiness from them, but since they are impermanent, real happiness is unattainable. Rev. Julia reminded us that Buddhist teachings and practices can help us live our imperfect lives, accepting them for what they are, and not wasting our energy wishing it were otherwise. That freed energy can be used to work toward change.

'Tikkum Olam' is a Reform **Judaism** concept about the making of the world, deliberately made imperfect. It is the duty of every one of us to strive to repair our broken world. Regardless of our skills or the level of our abilities, we are obligated to use whatever we have to perfect the world. No one is exempt. Anne Eliades added, "Antisemitism is flowing again in Europe and the rest of the world. We thought that this would never again happen, but it is happening and growing. It is my hope that by knowing each other, people will avoid stereotypes and hatred and we will one day live together in peace and understanding."

Bibi Barami brought us wisdom from **Islam**: If we start holding some lives to a higher value than others, then we have lost the essence of what ultimately makes us human. As Prophet Mohammad said in his last sermon, "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action." We are all human; focusing on our differences only leads to hatred and divide, the opposite of Islam's teachings. If all people were truly just, we would have a peaceful world.

The underlying principle of **Baha'i** is Unity of Mankind...world unity which will reconcile all religions and bring peace and happiness to the entire human world. It will cement together the East and the West, remove forever the foundations of war and upraise the ensign of the Most Great Peace. While Baha'is believe religion is in harmony with science...science alone cannot cure the illness of the body politic or create love and fellowship in human hearts. Neither can patriotism nor racial allegiance

effect a remedy. It must be accomplished solely through the divine bounties and spiritual bestowals which have descended from God.

On July 3 we heard Robert Kennedy's speech in Indianapolis from that awful April day Martin Luther King was assassinated. (Kennedy's calm, reassuring speech is credited with keeping Indianapolis free from racial violence that swept other US cities.)

"What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but is love, and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black."

The closing words of **Bahai'** Becky Burkhardt provide an appropriate challenge to us all: "Through hearing words of truth and wisdom, establishing a vision and then putting that vision into action we can, I believe, effect a change in the world. We can set aside old prejudices and hatred and replace them with a larger, universal view of the brotherhood and unity of the whole human race – beginning right here. What will your vision be? What action will you take?"

Bea Sousa for the Worship Associates



Bazaar in the Woods

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New vendors this year will include *Girly Steel*, a garden sculpture artist, and our beekeeper **Ron Burton** with his honey products among several others.

The food booth will be responding to the great demand for frozen ready meals. Our freezer will be stocked more fully.

Future eBlasts and Sunday announcements will provide additional information in a timely manner.

Your contact for questions and comments will be **Annemarie Voss** at annemarievoss@mac.com or at 765-610-3166.

Change Happens

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Those who are dissatisfied with the current administration are eager for the November elections with the possibility of inaugurating a new era in American government. Others, however, are concerned about what such a change might bring.

The secular humanists in our own congregation want change, while others are content with how things are. For some among us, the prospect of having two services appears as a vast field of possibility, an exciting new development in the life of our beloved community. Others worry about what may happen to the beloved community they value the way it is.

We all experience changes in our individual lives as well, some welcome, some less so. Biologists tell us, in fact, that every seven or so years, our cells have undergone a complete turnover, so that we do not have a single cell within us that we had seven years previously. Children are born; previous generations die. We move. Kids go off to college or find a partner. We or someone we love becomes ill or recovers from what may have seemed an impossible situation. Sometimes change comes slowly, in a controlled fashion, with our assent and cooperation. Other times, it drops on us without warning, leaving us reeling in its wake.

Humanism in its various forms offers ways for living creatively with change, celebrating the pleasant changes, living through the less pleasant ones, and accepting the uncertainty that all change brings. Our own internal resources are greater than we know, and their true greatness becomes apparent as we are challenged. We are also surrounded by a community of others. None of us faces change alone. Family, friends, and helping professionals can all strengthen, support, and guide us. Humanism encourages us to use our capacity for clear-headed thought to examine our expectations and how we think about events in our lives, to see if how we think about change may make our response to it less effective and increase our distress. We can steer our course through it the best way we know how, confident that we have the capacity to do so.

Humankind's various communities of faith and spiritual paths suggest other ways we can deal with change, even welcome it. For some who believe in a personalized God/Goddess, the confidence that this being is in control, that nothing happens outside the will of the divine being, provides comfort, hope and stability. For others, while the divinity does not and cannot control everything, we are

assured of her/his presence with us in whatever we face. For some people who don't believe in a personal God/Goddess, there is an intelligence and order built into the universe that serves somewhat the same function in a less personal way.

For many Hindus, there is an underlying changelessness that grounds the change we experience all around us. Change is in fact illusory in a sense. To the extent that we can be in touch and in tune with this ultimate changelessness, "that which is not born and does not die," we realize that change, and the disruption it can bring, are but *maya*, part of the illusion that distracts and upsets us. It is not real, nor does it touch the inmost core of who we are.

Most Buddhists, by contrast, don't believe there is anything changeless that underlies change. Everything changes, nothing remains the same, and the way to live well in the face of that is simply to accept it. The way to do so is detachment, which is not indifference, but means neither grasping nor pushing against reality as it presents itself to us. We gain nothing by struggling against it or wishing it were not so. Taoists in general agree with this, interpreting change as the pulsing flow of the Tao between the two poles of yin and yang.

Perhaps it is both, change and constancy. "The wind of change forever blown across the tumult of our way" (hymn # 183), and "We are going, heaven knows where we are going, but we know within. And we will get there, heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will" (hymn #1020). Meanwhile, may we accept each day on this fascinating journey we call life as a gift.

Rev. Julia

New Adult Religious Exploration Class

Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung noted that the spiritual tasks of the second half of life are essentially different than those that belong to life's first half. Confusing the two imperils both our psychological and spiritual development.

Beginning October 9th, Reverend Julia will lead an adult RE class at 9:30 the second Sunday of every month based on Kathleen Montgomery's edited book, *Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality*, a collection of essays on various topics relevant to spirituality and aging. The book is available through Skinner House. Come join me for what promises to be a through-provoking and thoughtful reflection on life's second half, its spiritual claims and rewards.

Splinters from the Board

(continued from page 5)

of staying focused on mission & purpose. That focus can give a congregation strength to get through conflicts, energy to stay the course, and inspiration to move beyond the status quo. UUCM completed a Mission & Vision process over a year ago, so we have this statement of purpose to focus on, as well as our UU Seven Principles. The on-going challenge is to truly live this mission. I feel that my fellow board members are deeply devoted to this task, and my hope is that we will make significant progress toward that goal.

With many thanks to Rev. Seth, the board, and the whole congregation for all that you will do this year,

Holly Hanauer, President of the Congregation



The Religious Education Program for Children & Youth is always appreciative of donations of apple juice and cheese crackers for our Sunday morning snack and packaged cookies, crackers, chips, and pretzels for our Middle School and High School Youth Group meetings.

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9:30 am – Red room

September 4 – Climate Change Update

Join us to talk about current events and issues in climate change and environmental impacts.

September 11 – 9/11 – How It Changed Us

The September 11th attacks were 15 years ago, but we're still experiencing their effects today. From personal outlooks to national policy a lot has changed. Leslie Duvall will get us talking about how 9/11 affected our world.

September 18 – In Memory of Ray White

Ray White passed away August 14th. He had a lot of friends and fans at the UUCM and will be missed. We'll take a morning to swap some stories about this discussion group former regular. Bring an anecdote or two and we hope to keep it as cheerful as Ray usually was, though we may touch on going on with life after someone's gone just a little.

September 25 – Theological Relevancy of Multifaith/Interfaith Movements

Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, believes that the future of liberal religion is inherently multifaith. The theme at our recent GA meeting, "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect," endorses that belief as well. As momentum builds for multifaith and interfaith connections and services, one might pause to consider the theological implications of these movements. For some, the movements portend larger congregations, larger budgets, and more resources to support social action. For others, the movements require theological abandonments of principles and beliefs central to their community. Join the Adult RE Discussion Group on Sunday as **Mike Sullivan** leads a discussion on multifaith/interfaith movements and their theological implications.

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," by September 21.

Thank you to all who donated hats, gloves, scarves and mittens for our Mitten Tree. 52 items of winter wear were donated to Muncie's Friends Church. Over half of these items were hand-crafted. Thank you also to **Elsbeth Fritz** who picked up the colorful donations while I was in Northern Indiana with daughter Hannele's family.

~Julie Fritz, Mitten Tree Chairperson



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.



Hannele Fritz birthed Nolan Vaughn Floyd Bertram into his father Jason's hands on January 12th, 2016, at their house in Newton County near Brook, IN. Siblings Erich Michael Robert, 4-½, Beatrix Vita, 2-¼; Uncle Greg, Aunts Gretchen, Elsbeth, Judith; Cousins Lukas, Noah, Emily (Houston); Grandparents Bob & Julie Fritz, are all delighted w/ Nolan's arrival & much in love.

Long-time member **Thomas Brewster** died July 31, 2016. His obituary, written by his twin brother, mentions his love for the Unitarian church of Muncie and for Muncie friends.

Raymond Elliott White, 82, rode off into the sunset on August 14, 2016. He was a member of UUCM since 1983. Family and friends celebrated his life at a memorial service on August 23 at the church.

September 2016 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Weekly Events

Adult Discussion Group	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 (see announcement below)	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesdays	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm
Revival Hour (see web calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

September Events & Activities

Finance Committee	Wednesday	Sept 7	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Sept 7	7:30 pm
RE Teacher Orientation	Thursday	Sept 8	6:30 pm
Youth Group Lock In	Saturday	Sept 10	Noon
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	Sept 11	9:30 am & Noon
Ice Cream Social	Sunday	Sept 11	Noon
Theme Exploration	Sunday	Sept 11	12:30
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Sept 12	7:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	Sept 14	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Sept 14	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Sept 15	7:15 pm
Soup Lunch	Sunday	Sept 18	Noon
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	Sept 18	12:15 PM
Combined Youth Groups	Sunday	Sept 18	12:30 – 2:00 pm
OWL 4-6 Parent Orientation	Tuesday	Sept 20	4:00 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	Sept 21	9:00 am
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Sept 21	6:30 pm
Circle in the Woods	Saturday	Sept 24	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday	Sept 25	9:30 am
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	Sept 25	9:30 am
Combined Youth Groups	Sunday	Sept 25	12:30 – 2:00 pm
Anti-Racism Task Force	Sunday	Sept 25	12:30 pm
OWL 4-6 Parent/Child Orientation	Tuesday	Sept 27	4:00 pm
Fall Retreat at Pokagon State Park	Friday-Sunday	Sept 30 – Oct 2	

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

Ice Cream Social

September 11 is the annual UU Ice Cream Social after the Sunday Service. Brownies, fruit crisps and ice cream with a smorgasbord of toppings will tempt ice cream lovers of all ages.

UU Book Group

The UU church Book group will be meeting at the home of **Annemarie Voss** on Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 pm, to discuss *Charlatan: America's Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam* by Pope Brock.

Fall Retreat at Pokagon State Park

Our annual retreat at Pokagon coming soon!

Mark the date for September 30 – October 2, and plan to join in the fun. Sign up sheets are posted at church. Watch the eBlast for more information.

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

Megan Wenning, Membership Coordinator

megan@uuchurchmuncie.org

Matt Davis, Website Administrator

matt@uuchurchmuncie.org

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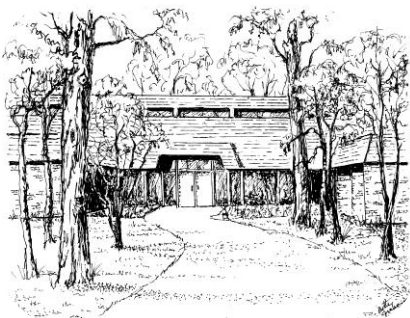
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm | Wednesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive
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We welcome all people without regard to age, race, national origin, ableness, class, sexual orientation, or gender identity.